



October 11, 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am so excited that you are interested in getting your children involved in the Youth Ministry of Grace Community Church.

Here are five things for you to think about as you consider joining us:

FEAR: Transitioning into a new group of people or a new church can be a very scary thing. Teenagers are in constant flux - changing schools, friends, teachers, and on top of that, they are changing themselves! I want you to know that those feelings and experiences are natural and real. We hope and seek to make sure that our Youth Ministry becomes a place to escape those fears by being a safe place where there are adults and other kids who will care about your child.

FUN: We want students to have a good time in our ministry. A lot of students use the word “boring” when they describe church. Because of this, we attempt to shatter the stereotype that church is boring. We try hard to make sure your child will have a blast with us every time we are together.

FAITH: Our primary goal is to help students and their families mature in their faith. We take this very seriously and will be implementing a defined strategy with quality programs that assist students in their spiritual growth. Our goal is the same goal God has for all Christians and that is to grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ. I want to emphasize the word “assist” because I know that one’s spiritual growth isn’t solely dependent on our student ministry.

FINISH: It is one of my biggest desires to see youth finish high school strong in their faith. The years spent in Middle and High School are pivotal, and we want to help make the most of this time so your child can have the tools to continue developing a strong faith even after they have graduated from our ministry.

FRIENDS: “Students become like the people they hang out with.” Even though you may not like to hear these words, I’ve seen that truth played out over and over again. To finish strong, good friends are vital and it is something we strive to help provide. Hopefully, we will be providing not just friends with the peers of your children, but younger and older students, as well as adults who care for your child as well!

Our core program for high school students meets weekly on Sunday nights from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at our Sr. Pastor’s home at 639 Smith Ridge Rd. in New Canaan. We play some games, eat dinner, and have a message that challenges our relationships with Christ and one another. Our core program for Middle School (6th through 8th grade) meets on Sunday afternoon directly after our worship service at The Garage on 19 Vitti St. in New Canaan. We play games, eat lunch and have an interactive Bible lesson to learn more about the Bible and God.

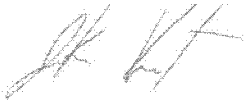
Included in this packet, you will also find a couple of things to help you get your child involved in our programs.

First, you will find the **medical form** for our ministry. It is one of my goals that we do everything in our power to provide a safe environment for all children. This form is one way to help ensure that we are doing that. This form will be required for your child to participate in any events but will be kept confidential. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to me either through the mail, at church, or at youth group.

Second, you will find a copy of our calendar. On top of our weekly programs we have tried to put together a number of monthly events that will help build relationships. Sometimes the events are strictly fun in nature and other times they are geared towards spiritual growth or service.

Again, I am very excited that you are interested in getting involved with the Youth Ministry of Grace Community Church. Please feel free to contact me any time at jake@gracecommunity.info or at the church office at 203-966-7600.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Kircher', written in a cursive style.

Jake Kircher
Youth Pastor