

112th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah

Report of Youth Ministry

Youth ministry in the Diocese of Utah strives to provide opportunities for young people to gather together for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth and to support parishes in strengthening their ministries with young people.

Junior and Senior High Youth Events, Spring 2016-Spring 2017:

1. Utah Diocesan Convention – April , 2016. There were four youth delegates, as well as 2 alternates that attended and helped out with our Youth Ministry/Camp Tuttle booth. The youth learned about policies and procedures of how the Diocese is managed. In the evening we enjoyed going to a movie and running through the water fountains at the Gateway.
2. Our 1st New Beginnings Retreat in Utah! - May, 2016 at The Cathedral of St. Mark's (50 people involved). We had our junior/senior high youth, as well as youth leaders and adult representatives all participating in New Beginnings. We also had 6 youth and leaders join us from Florida to help kick start this event. This is a community building event that is offered to our junior high youth, and lead by our high school youth. Adult representatives from parishes around the diocese joined in on the activities and discussions. Participants met new friends from across the diocese and enjoyed skits, music and participated in small group activities and discussions. These activities focused on self, friends, parents, siblings, school, God's love and prayer.
3. Happening High School Youth Retreat – November, 2016 at St. Paul's church in Salt Lake City. (25 senior high youth attended). This was our 2nd annual Happening Retreat in Utah! It was organized and led by our high school youth. It was a fun, spiritual filled weekend that brought our youth and leaders closer together. The weekend consisted of some small group discussions and fun activities. There were youth participating from all over the diocese including the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, as well as from our Latino congregations
4. Junior and Senior High Christmas Party – December 2016 at Gallivan Ice skating rink (27 junior and senior High youth attended). The scenery was beautiful, with ice skaters and Christmas lights and music down town Salt Lake City.
5. Winter Youth Event 2017 –“Cold Hands, Warm Heart” - February 25-21, 2016 at Camp Tuttle (34 junior and senior high youth). The youth talked about how they can help others who are less fortunate, and to be grateful for all they have. Heartfelt cards were made and wrapped with gloves that will be given to those in need. They enjoyed outdoor snow activities such as snowshoeing, skiing, snowboarding and sledding.
6. “Soup, Serve and Sing” – February, 2017 at St. Mark's Towers. Some of our youth and camp counselors had a wonderful evening spreading joy through music, and serving hot soup. The guests of St. Mark's Towers were happy to join in the singing, and had many song requests.

7. Chili Cook Off and Bingo Night Fundraiser – March 5th, 2017 was held at St. James Church. We had a great turn out, and had lots of fun raising funds to help the youth cover their registration costs for EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) this summer.
8. We are currently holding planning and training meetings with our high school youth to prepare for our New Beginnings Junior High Youth Retreat in April, 2017. We have a lot of youth that are involved and would like to become youth leaders who will help organize and lead this event. Many of them participated in our Happening event in 2016.

Upcoming events in 2017-2018:

- New Beginnings Junior High Youth Retreat - April 28-30 at St. Stephen's Church. This is a community building event that is offered to our junior high youth, and lead by our high school youth. We also invite adult representatives from each parish to join in on the activities and discussions.
- Planning and training meetings for our high school youth leading New Beginnings Retreat.
- EYE – Episcopal Youth Event - July 10-14, 2017, will be held in Oklahoma. We have 21 very excited high school youth, who are intent on earning funds to help with their registration costs through fundraisers.
- “Cinco de Mayo” fundraiser at St. Stephen's church, on May 5th to raise funds for our youth attending EYE. This fundraiser will offer music, dancing, and good Mexican food.
- Junior and Senior High Fall Retreat – October, 2017 at Camp Tuttle
- Possibly another Happening retreat in November, 2017
- Junior and Senior High Christmas party – December, 2017
- Junior and Senior High Winter Retreat – February, 2018 at Camp Tuttle
- Possibly another New Beginnings Retreat – Spring 2018

Ongoing Goals:

1. Build a youth leadership team to help with Happenings and New Beginnings youth retreats
2. Continue to coordinate diocesan-wide events for junior and senior high youth
3. Continue to recruit camp counselors to staff the diocesan youth events
4. Maintain up to date contact information for youth ministry contacts at each parish
5. Maintain a diocesan database of youth at each parish and continue to expand youth and parent email lists to facilitate distribution of information
6. Continue to involve youth delegates at Diocesan Convention

Submitted by

Karen Gleeson

Youth Ministry Coordinator/Camp Tuttle Liaison