

KINDA-REGULAR ST. MARY'S YOUTH NEWSLETTER

What you want to know, whether you know it or not.

Volume 4; Issue 1

17 August 2006

St Mary's Youth Kick off in Style

WELCOME MATT PRESSON!

We are thrilled to share with you that St. Mary's has brought Matt Presson on staff as our new full-time Youth Minister! Matt will be joining us beginning September 1. Many of you already know Matt since he has been at St. Mary's this past year singing in the choir, helping out with many youth events, traveling with us on the Katrina Relief Trip, and as an adult sponsor for our Heifer Project trip this summer. Matt is no newcomer to St. Mary's or the St. Mary's youth community! But we are more than excited to welcome him to his new position as Youth Minister.

You can find Matt in the office at St. Mary's (703.527.6800) or by email at Matthew.Presson@stmarysarlington.org after September 1. He is excited to be a part of the youth community at St. Mary's and especially to have a ton of fun in the year ahead. Both Jenn and MaryBeth Emerson will be around to support Matt as needed since there are over 200

youth at St. Mary's. Thus, Matt will look forward to your help too in order to make the year ahead the best one yet! Woohoo!

Want to know a bit more about Matt?

"Greetings! I am so excited to be joining the staff at St. Mary's! Some of you may know very little about me, so here's me in a nutshell: I was born in Richmond, VA, and grew up as a parishioner of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, where I was very active as a chorister and an acolyte. Once all of the t's are crossed and the lowercase i's and j's are dotted, this December, I will receive my B.A. in Music with a minor in Religious Studies from VCU. I am a classically trained singer and multi-instrumentalist, an amateur carpenter, an avid reader, a habitual morning person, and an enthusiast for vegetarian cooking. A few of my favourite things: colour: indigo, band: Eddie from Ohio, Bible passage: Micah 6:8, thing to do on a Sunday afternoon: youth group. Peace and grace be with you! —Matt"

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Events to Plan on Now!

There are certain events you can be sure to count on. These events ("Events you can count on" for short) happen at youth group, because they are fun and because fun people like you like to do them. Hint...hint...

A big advantage of these "Events you can Count on" is that, like when you received the first two newsletters, you can **put them on your calendar NOW**. So, **flip open this newsletter and write these events down somewhere now. And count on them!**

LOCK-IN NEWS UPDATE: SEPT 22-23

This is an event you don't want to miss! This Fall our lock-in will begin at St. Mary's and then move to Ultrazone Laser Tag where we will have the run of the entire building until 8am! Have you ever wanted to play laser tag at 3am or an awesome game of Sardines in the laser tag maze? Bring your friends!

The Lock-in begins Friday, September 22 at 9pm with pizza and fun at St. Mary's and

ends 8am Saturday, September 23 at Ultrazone. This is an event you don't want to miss!

In order for you and your friends to join us for this awesome event, you must sign up by calling or talking to Matt or Jenn (703-527-6800) no later than Sunday, Sept 17.

Be there!

St. Mary's Kinda-Regular Youth Newsletter

The Kinda-Regular is published semi-randomly, except during really slow or busy times.

Subscriptions are free to all those who attend at least one youth group event a semester. Others may subscribe by sending \$100 in cash to the editor's home address in a plain brown envelope.

St. Mary's Youth: Better than a Techno-Dance Party.

Many thanks to The Rev. John Ohmer for the newsletters he produced in the mid-90s.

PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE

This Fall we will kick off Pizza with a Purpose on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 7-8:30pm. This will be a great time to gather over pizza and talk about our faith and issues we face today. Fr. Merrow, The Rev. Jenn Strawbridge, MaryBeth Emerson, and Matt Presson, as well as some special guests, will gather with us for these Wednesdays together. All are welcome for these fun, relaxed, faith-filled gatherings. Bring your own questions, too! We will kick off Pizza with a Purpose beginning Wednesday, September 20 from 7-8:30pm. We hope to see you there!



NEED SERVICE HOURS?

Every Wednesday this Fall, beginning Wednesday, September 12, all youth are welcome to join us from 5-7pm to help out around St. Mary's and earn service hours (or just have some fun doing service!). Help with youth mailings, website updates, preparations for Sundays, and many other fun activities that help us keep things going here at St. Mary's. Interested in more information? Want to sign up and commit to coming by on Wednesday afternoons? Contact Matt at Matthew.Presson@stmarysarlington.org or Jenn at Jennifer.Strawbridge@stmarysarlington.org or both of them at 703.527.6800.

CONFIRMATION THIS FALL

Confirmation classes start up once again this fall! We will be meeting on Thursday nights from 5:30-7pm (with dinner) beginning Thursday, September 14. Confirmation classes are offered for all youth in 7th grade and above. Confirmation is a wonderful time for our young people to "confirm" their baptism and decide to give themselves to God in Jesus Christ. Preparation for Confirmation is a spiritual journey that involves a large amount of time and preparation both inside and outside the classroom. If you are interested in signing up or would like more information, please contact Jenn at Jennifer.Strawbridge@stmarysarlington.org.

Confirmation will take place with Bishop Peter J. Lee at St. Mary's on Sunday, November 19 at both the 9am and 11:15am services. The youth who participated in the Confirmation classes this past Spring will be confirmed at the 11:15am service; the youth who will participate in Confirmation classes this Fall will be confirmed at the 9am service. Receptions will follow each service. We have over 55 youth being confirmed this year, plus many adults, too! November 19 will be a glorious day indeed!

Reminder note to our young persons who completed the confirmation classes this spring: Don't forget to make up any classes you missed!

JR HIGH WEEKENDS AT SHRINE MONT

This year we hope to return to Shrine Mont for the great fun of 8th Grade Weekend and 6th/7th Grade Weekend! Join together with youth from all over the Diocese for a weekend of fabulous fun at Shrine Mont!

This year 8th Grade Weekend is Friday, September 29 through Sunday, October 1. The cost for the weekend is \$100 and forms are available online and will also be in your mailbox. Return them to Matt

by Sunday, September 17—that is the final deadline!

This year 6th/7th Grade Weekend is Friday, November 10-Sunday, November 12. The cost for the weekend is \$120 and forms are available online and soon in your mailbox. Return them to Matt by Sunday, October 22—that is the final deadline!

And don't forget, scholarships are available—just talk to Matt. AND, PARENTS are NEEDED to be ADULT SPONSORS to make these weekends possible!

EVENTS YOU CAN COUNT ON

READ THIS: This is just a foretaste of other events that will come about in the months ahead, however, this is what has already planned already! If you want to make these events, be sure to write them down somewhere now, tell your parents about them now, so that the day will be free for this event!

Events Already Scheduled.....

Confirmation Classes begin on Thursday nights from 5:30-7pm beginning Thursday, September 14

FRIDAY, SEPT 1	4-8pm	SENIOR HIGH POOL PARTY—RSVP to JENN
THURSDAY, SEPT 7	7-8pm	CAFFEINE AND CONVERSATION (Lee-Harrison Starbucks)
SUNDAY, SEPT 10	10:15-11am	YOUTH FORUMS KICK-OFF (Sr High: Youth Loft; 6th Grade: Classroom; 7th Grade: Vestry; 8th Grade: Chapel)
	7:30pm	MANDATORY MEETING FOR PARENTS OF ALL YOUTH!
SUNDAY, SEPT 17	10:15am	YOUTH FORUMS CONTINUE FESTIVAL OF BOOTHS—See Matt to help out with the Youth Booth! <u>LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR THE LOCK-IN!</u> <u>LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR 8th GRADE WEEKEND AT SHRINE MONT!</u>
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20	7-8:30pm	PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE AT ST MARY'S!
FRIDAY, SEPT 22	9pm-	YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN AT ST MARY'S—ENDING AT ULTRAZONE LASERTAG!
SATURDAY, SEPT 23	8am	
SUNDAY, SEPT 24		NO YOUTH GROUP DUE TO LOCK-IN
FRIDAY, SEPT 29		8TH GRADE WEEKEND AT SHRINE MONT!
SUNDAY, OCT 1		
SUNDAY, OCT 1	12:15pm	SR HIGH BRUNCH BUNCH FOLLOWING THE 11:15 SERVICE NO YOUTH GROUPS DUE TO EVENSONG
THURSDAY, OCT 5	7-8pm	CAFFEINE AND CONVERSATION (Lee-Harrison Starbucks)
SUNDAY, OCT 8	PM	YOUTH GROUP SERVICE PROJECT
SUNDAY, OCT 15		NO YOUTH GROUP—ALL PARISH PICNIC at the SHAFRAN FARM!
WEDNESDAY, OCT 18	7-8:30pm	PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE AT ST MARY'S
SUNDAY, OCT 22	6-7:30pm	FIRST JR HIGH YOUTH GROUP with DINNER
	7-8:30pm	FIRST SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP with DINNER <u>LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR 6th/7th GRADE WEEKEND AT SHRINE MONT!</u>
SUNDAY, OCT 29	6pm	ALL-HALLOW'S EVE PARTY—YOUTH GROUP!!!
THURSDAY, NOV 2	7-8pm	CAFFEINE AND CONVERSATION (Lee-Harrison Starbucks)
SATURDAY, NOV 4		RAKE N'RUN SERVICE PROJECT!
SUNDAY, NOV 5	12:15pm	SR HIGH BRUNCH BUNCH FOLLOWING THE 11:15 SERVICE NO YOUTH GROUP DUE TO ALL-SAINTS EVENSONG
FRIDAY, NOV 10-		JR HIGH (6th & 7th GRADE) WEEKEND AT SHRINE MONT!
SUNDAY, NOV 12		

FALL EDITION

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PARENTS

MANDATORY PARENTS MEETING: SUNDAY, Sept 10 at 7:30pm

Information about the year ahead including Youth Group, pilgrimages to England, Confirmation, Youth forums, and most importantly, meet Matt Presson, our new Youth Minister! **BRING YOUR CALENDARS!**

Parents, your help is needed with the following this FALL:

- *One Parent each week to support our Youth Forum Teachers (Jr High)
- *Dinner Sign up for Youth Group each week
- *Drivers for Youth Group events, beginning with our lock-in at Laser Tag
- *Adult Sponsors for our Lock-in—at least 4 more sponsors are needed to make this possible!

PARENT NEEDED:

We are seeking a parent who is willing to coordinate our dinner schedule for Youth Group on Sunday nights. Sign-ups for dinner will be at the parent meeting. Thus, this task will include sending email reminders to the parent's cooking each week and making sure that replacements are found if one parent is unable to cook when they signed up to cook. Minimal time required. Interested? Contact Matt or Jenn at 703.527.6800.

Remember to check our website:

www.stmarysarlington.org ⇒ Youth

This website includes a weekly schedule and necessary forms, a section on mission trips and confirmation, and a section for parents including sign-up schedules and permission/release forms. Don't forget this great source of information at your fingertips!