



Oreland Presbyterian Church
Youth Ministry
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Wednesday April 16th, 2008

Greetings!

Spring is here! It's great to see the changes in the trees and the warmer weather. As the seasons are changing, so are some things in the Sr. High ministry here at OPC.

Our purpose is written on the left of this letter head, on all of our publications, and even shows up on our trip t-shirts. It is our desire to fulfill this purpose as we seek to impact lives for Jesus Christ. All of our activities, events, trips, everything about this ministry goes back to this purpose and the Scripture that it's been assembled from. Sometimes as we look at the ministry we find that there may be a new way to accomplish this purpose and to better meet the needs of the students. We are at one of those points now.

So just like the weather, its time for a change. Sr. High is moving to a new ministry format. Starting at the end of the month we are going to be organizing Small Groups that will comprise the Sr. High Youth Ministry. Our hope is that we can better accomplish our purpose by creating smaller, relationally based groups for the purposes of continuing to encourage one another in our faith. What this means an incredibly unique opportunity for you to be a part of a group of friends and leaders who love and care for you.

Now there's a lot to this change, so let me use the trusty bullet point method to flesh out some of the details.

- o The small groups will be led by two leaders
- o They will meet once a week at OPC, at someone's house, or out and about some where
- o The meeting day and times will be decided by the group
- o While groups will cover similar topics, the discussion points will vary based on the needs and desires of the group
- o How the groups run and operate will vary slightly from group to group as the group figures out its needs.
- o Each group will contain the following elements: Fellowship, Fun, Bible Study, Prayer, activities and more.
- o These groups are designed to be a point of encouragement, accountability and support.

Dividing into small groups doesn't mean that you won't get to hang out with the others in the youth ministry. We'll gather together as a whole group once a month for an event centered around fun and fellowship, worship, service or some combination of those and more. And of course we will still be heading to Fun in the Son, Son Servants and Tel Hai. We're hoping that this change will help bring about unity in the small groups as well as the larger group as a whole.

So what does this mean for you?

- o It means that we are no longer meeting on Sunday Nights.
- o It means that the groups are going to meet for 10-12 weeks starting at the end of the month running up till our summer program starts up.
- o It means that you need to get connected to a small group. There's a response card included in this letter, fill it out and drop it in the mail back to me and let me

The Purpose of the O.P.C. Youth Ministry is to introduce Jesus Christ to others and openly welcome them to share and grow in a personal relationship with Him based on His teachings.

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know that you want to be involved. Or email me at george@orelandpres.org. Or fill out the contact form on our website. Or call me. Something, just let me know you want in on this.

- o It means that you'll be hearing from a leader after you sign up to get you set-up and connected to the group.
- o It means that its time to be a part of something amazing. Our world is filled with shallow relationships based on the surface of our everyday lives. An opportunity is presenting itself for you to be apart of a group that means something, in a place where you are going to be able to relate with people on a very level, to be cared for and to care for others, all while getting to know God more. Honestly, it is pretty amazing.

I can't tell you how excited I am for all of this. The leadership and I have spent much time in prayer and discussion as we have studied and decided what we should be doing as we go forward. And we're thrilled with where God is leading us.

I know this letter is getting long, but I want to take a moment to address the fact that this letter is going to be read by people who aren't involved with our ministry, if you are one of them and have read this far, then I'm glad. Maybe you'll be willing to go further on. You may be on our mailing list because you used to come, or came to Pepper, or your parents put you on there. Somehow, you are connected to this ministry. Let me encourage you to try this out. We are relational creatures and we need to be connected to people. Regardless of where we are in life and faith, we need people in our lives. Think about it, take a chance and give it a go. I think you'll be pretty surprised. Besides, it's only for a couple months; you may be surprised what happens in your life. Don't want to go it alone? Find a friend and drag them along.

So this letter is getting long and I've already had to shrink the font once to keep it all on the front and back of the page. As I close a couple other things to note:

- Don't wait or hesitate to sign up for these small groups, we want to get them rolling ASAP.
- Contact me with any questions about any of these changes, I would love to talk through all of this with you.
- Check out my blog (everyone needs one of those these days, right?) there you'll find a lot going on in the youth group, my thoughts, and pics and video from recent things.
- We're moving away from paper mailers and newsletters so keep an eye on the website. Email me if you want to know when updates come along.
- Sign up for summer trips, spots are disappearing and space is incredibly limited.

Even with two full pages of writing there's still more going on and more changes coming, so keep an eye on the web, on the mail and look for skywriting. Spring is here and we're ready!

In Him,

George Major III
Director of Youth Ministry