



NEWSLETTER

The Purpose of Youth Ministry

We are excited that the Lord has led Josh McClure to be our new youth pastor! He'll assume his role at the beginning of the new year. As Josh prepares for youth ministry at Brushy Fork, it is important that we remind ourselves what the purpose of youth ministry is. Let's take a moment to think about these things together.



Here are two purposes of youth ministry for us to consider as we prepare to welcome Josh:

1) It's about Discipling Young People

One of the primary purposes of a youth group is to help current students grow in their faith. The main job that any youth pastor should focus on is teaching the students the Word of God and helping them incorporate its truths into their lives. After all, the word "pastor" means "shepherd," and one of the main jobs of a shepherd is to *feed* the sheep. A youth pastor should feed the students the Word of God, and help them apply it to their lives. Why is this the primary purpose, you might ask? Because it's the Word of God that has the power to transform lives. Nothing else has that kind of power.

Now, believe me, our youth will do some fun things. We have at least one event scheduled for

them each month of the year. But what we need to remember is that while fun events are important, it is ultimately not any event that will transform a young person's life. Only the Word of God can do that.

2) It's about Assisting Parents

Another important task of a youth pastor is assisting parents in their task of "bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). We need to emphasize the word "assist" here. Parents are the primary ones responsible for the spiritual nurturing of their children. Having a youth pastor does not mean that parents can take a break from that responsibility and let the youth pastor do all the work for them. Even when a church has a youth pastor, the parents are still the primary teachers and spiritual guides for their kids. The youth pastor, then, should be viewed as an *assistant* to the parents. He is there to help you teach your children and to help you guide them through life with biblical wisdom.

With these things in mind, let's pray that God would do a work within our youth ministry, and use our new youth pastor in that process.

Blessings in Christ, Pastor Grant



INTRODUCING OUR NEW YOUTH PASTOR, JOSH McCLURE!



Here are some words from Josh to our church family concerning his ministry among us:

BFBC Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you again so much for this awesome opportunity to serve you and the youth of this church. I look forward to growing with you as we worship and serve our Lord. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead with our youth. I hope to get to know them soon so that I can help them grow in their knowledge and understanding of God's Word and grow in their relationships with Christ.

However, I can't do it alone.

The biggest source of influence in a young person's life is in the home. I will have them for only around 2-3 hours a week. The rest of the time they are in school or at home. You have the greater amount of time to have an impact. Encourage your youth in their quiet time. Ask them what they have been reading recently. You don't have to drill them with a pop quiz, but a little interest in what they have read and have to say about it can lead to bigger conversations. Encourage them to get involved in Sunday School and / or Wednesday nights.

I look forward to getting to know you all in the coming months.

In Christ,

Josh McClure

We are very happy to announce that on Sunday morning, November 28th, our church voted to call Josh McClure to be our youth pastor. Josh has come to us from Ryker's Ridge Baptist Church in Madison, IN. He holds a degree in Biblical and Theological Studies from Boyce Bible College in Louisville, KY. At the beginning of the new year, Josh will begin his ministry among the youth here at Brushy Fork. We are looking forward with great anticipation to the ways God will use him in the lives of young people and their families who are already a part of our church, as well as others who live in our community. Please be in prayer for Josh and for the youth ministry.



CHRISTMAS:

Celebrating “Immanuel”—“God with Us”



Christmas is a time for celebrating the fact that in Christ Jesus, God is present with us. The prophet Isaiah foretold of a time when God would forgive the sins of his people—the sins that separated them from him. Isaiah said that when this time came, the Lord would give the people a sign: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14),” which means “God with us.”

When Jesus was born, the gospel writer, Matthew, remembered this passage from Isaiah, and wrote the following about Jesus’ birth to the virgin Mary: “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet” (Matthew 1:22). Jesus’ birth to Mary meant that God was now, in the little town of Bethlehem, keeping his promise to save his people from their sins, so that they could be reconciled to him.

The apostle John makes it clear that when Jesus was born, the *divine* Son of God (the second person of the Trinity) was becoming *man*. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1)” writes

John. Then he goes on to say, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us;

and we saw his glory, glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Jesus is fully God, but he became fully man, that he might fully redeem mankind from its sin.

If Jesus were not fully *God*, then he would not be “*God with us*.” If Jesus were not fully *man*, then he would not be “*God with us*.” But Jesus is both, so he can truly be “*Immanuel*”—“*God with us*.” Praise God that he “so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever would believe in him would not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Let’s remember these great truths during this Christmas season.

Upcoming Events

December 11

On this Saturday, our youth group is taking a trip to the Festival of Lights at the Cincinnati Zoo. Cost is \$20. The van will pull out at 3:30 and be back around 9:30.

December 18

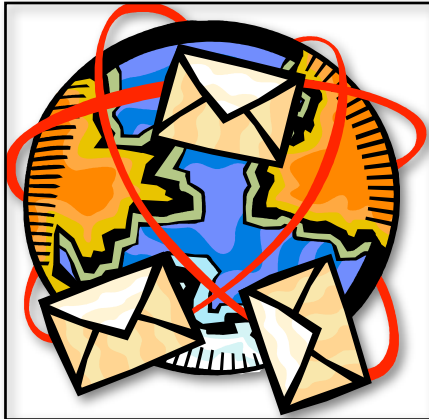
On this Saturday, our youth are having a Christmas party at the pastor’s house. They are to bring a \$5 gift to exchange.

December 26

There will be no evening service on the Sunday after Christmas.



PEOPLE WHO'D LOVE TO RECEIVE MAIL



Josh McClure

455 RC Ct
Madison, IN 47250

Josh McClure is our new youth pastor. Let's show him that we are thankful for him and are

praying for his ministry to us at BFBC.

Janet Darnold

9221 E Tate Ridge Rd
Madison, IN 47250

Mrs. Janet had a stroke a couple of weeks ago and is recovering in Swiss Villa nursing home. Let's remind her that her church family loves her and has her in our prayers.

If you have names you'd like to add, please call the church at 839-3430 (leave a message if no answer).

Areas of Service

Deacon of the Month

Ron Downing (427-2540)

Church Cleaning

Roberta Konkle and Karen Miller

Nursery Workers

Dec. 5 — Ingrid Peters

Dec. 12 — Volunteer Welcome

Dec. 19 — Melisa Gaines

Dec. 26 — Rosemary Jessup

Nursing Home Visitation

December 26 — meet at the church at 1:45pm.