

# Parent & Youth *focus*

FINDING WAYS TO CONNECT PARENTS AND YOUTH TOGETHER | LOOKING AT YOUTH CULTURE TODAY

## Explore your faith!

Wednesday nights in the Refuge at 6:30. All youth are invited to join us this August for Youth Alpha, a study where we are exploring the Christian faith. We have talked about some of the basics of the faith thus far, and this month will be looking at how to hear God, resisting temptation, the Holy Spirit, the Church, and sharing the good news with others. All students grades 6-12 are welcome!. See you there!

**youthalpha.**

## YOUTH STATS:

Teen participation in spiritual activities is on the decline. Sunday school attendance, small group participation, evangelism by teens, reading sacred texts, church giving, and prayer are at an all-time low according to a recent Barna study. Only 45% of Christian teens explained their faith to someone with different beliefs in the last year, down from 63% in 1997.

## Youth Group News

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Tim. 4:12*

This summer has been a busy and exciting one for the youth group! We have continued to meet on Wednesday nights, had our first youth VBS experience (lots of fun!) and just got back from Grand Oaks Camp. We took 5 students, 2 adults, and 1 junior cabin leader with us to camp. It was exciting to watch the youth growing in their relationship with God throughout the weekend. We also enjoyed the many amenities and activities offered at the camp, including a great swimming pool, mini golf, and basketball. One member of our group re-dedicated her life to Christ, and we all re-

joice with her in that decision! The kids came back from camp with a renewed sense of the importance of evangelism, so in the fall, we will be working on evangelism training during our youth time on Wednesday nights. If you haven't been coming regularly to youth group, this would be a great time start! We have a good time playing games and the Wii, but also have some in-depth Bible study times that are very rewarding for all of us. Bring your friends, come eat some popcorn with us, and check out the newly painted Refuge!

## A Very Veggie FAMILY DRIVE-IN THEATER!



It's time for another movie night! Escape the heat in our air-conditioned "theater". Freshly made movie-theater popcorn and lots of fun to be had by all. Bring lawn chairs, sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows and join us for a night of family fun.

August 14th. 6:45 pm at the Rehoboth Baptist Church gym  
A Veggie Tales Double-Feature!

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY CALENDAR



**Aug. 14 Family Drive-in Theater**—Veggie Tales! Outside games and then a family-friendly movie at the Rehoboth Baptist Church gym 6:45 pm, movie starts at 7:15. Movie-theater popcorn!

**Aug. 29 Worship in the Park**—Please join us at the Rotary Park amphitheater or our annual Worship in the Park! Lunch will be served at the lower shelter following the service.

**Sept. 1 Back to School Bash!** - Let's kick off the new school year in style! Food, fun, and games! Wednesday night at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

## Did you know...

While 72% of all teenagers pray in a given week, only 33% attend youth group...and 31% read the Bible at least once a week. 48% attend church regularly.

Those numbers don't just include born-again Christian teens, but all teenagers in the U.S.

## Back to School Bash!

Kick off the new school-year with food, friends, and fun!

September 1, 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Hot dogs, games, and an intro to fall children's and youth activities.

### Invite your friends!

## Parents Corner

**Facebook: friend or foe?** In this era of social networking, most of us have some variety of social networking account, whether it is Facebook, Twitter, or MySpace. If you have teenagers, your kids are on them as well. Do you know what your kids are doing on these sites? Are you, personally, using these sites in ways that set good examples for your kids?

Some things all parents should be aware of when it comes to online activity:

- Privacy: Your child's account should not be publically accessible. Help them check to make sure it is only viewable by people they know.
- Age limits: If your child is under age 14, they are too young to have a Facebook account according to Facebook's rules. Are you allowing or encouraging your child to disregard rules? Set a good example here!
- Appropriateness of material: The things we say and do online reflect who we are. Do your status updates, posts, and even the games you play online reflect your Christian worldview? Do they represent our church in a way that is positive and uplifting? Be cautious in what you say and post on your profile—it represents not only you, but also the God we follow!
- Passwords—do you have access to your child's accounts? Let your student know that you will be checking on their online activity. There is free online accountability and parental control software available. It's not only okay to be your child's "friend" on Facebook—it's a good idea!

There are lots of advantages to social networking, but it's also important that we conduct ourselves as Christians online, not just off. Help your child learn about online safety and accountability!

