

Youth Report to the 223rd Annual Diocesan Convention
www.newjerseyyouth.org

Youth Events are open to all 6th through 12th grade young people. We held eleven youth events and four adult training events in 2006. We started 2006 with the

47th Annual Bishop's Ball.

Welcome Home! (Matthew 10:40)

We celebrated with the Hip Hop Eucharist featuring the Hip Hop E-Mass from the South Bronx, N.Y.

\$3,500 was raised and sent to Episcopal Relief and Development through ticket sales and purchases of ad's in the program book.

Youth at Convention

20 youth in grades 6th through 12th joined convention as pages. Also, 3 youth were voted by their peers to be delegates, with full vote and voice. What a tremendous opportunity for our young people to see the Episcopal Church at work.

Happening # 19 & #20

This program is a renewal in faith weekend. Led by youth for youth with the assistance of lay adults and clergy.

The Senior Retreat

A Work of God (Ephesians 2:10)

This weekend was for graduating seniors from high school only. The weekend was held at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove. Together we asked the hard questions about the future and how to find God in a time of excitement and confusion.

Spring Youth Event

Inherit the Blessing (1 Peter 3:9)

We discussed what it means to us as Christians and seekers of God when we are faced with violence and threats. How not to "repay evil for evil".

National Happening Leadership Conference

Diocese of New Jersey hosted the National Happening Leadership Conference at Rider University. 125 Young people gathered from all over the country to share their faith through this Episcopal Program.

El Salvador

8 Youth and 4 adults traveled to our companion diocese. While there we painted St. Mateo's Episcopal school and held three bible schools for the local children. Also we prayed, played and became partners in Jesus Christ with the youth who hosted us.

Fall Youth Event

Just Cause (Isaiah 1:17)

We looked at what God's justice looks like and how do we find our place in Jesus Christ's invitation to forgiveness and redemption. We looked outward into the world we live in to learn what our roles as followers of Christ are.

T.L.C. Day (Together, Learning, Caring)

So we, who are many, are one body in Christ (Romans 12:5)

This was our third year that we spent a day with the residents at the Evergreens in Moorestown, N.J. Together we worshipped, played, ate and made many new friends. Over 50 youth and their adult leaders joined in this one day out reach program.

Winterlight # 31

I will Build You a House (1 Samuel 7:27-28)

15 youth and 5 adults traveled to Kanuga Camp and Conference Center in Hendersonville, N.C. to join with teenagers from all across the country over Christmas break to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adult Workshops

Four adult workshops were held to encourage and support the adults in the Diocese who minister to and with our young people. The Rev. Phil Wiehe led discussion on “dumb things churches do and how to avoid them” and Paula Larke lead “ministry with at risk youth. Media and Youth Ministry was lead by Paul Canady, Deputy of Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Washington. Karen Mosley-Mattox, Director Of Youth Ministries at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Charlotte, N.C. spoke about “No apology Required” when intentionally making God the focus at youth group.

Youth Council

26 youth and 14 adults made up this years youth council. This group of dedicated and hard working people, planned, participated and practiced their faith at each of our events. Without their dedication and commitment these youth events could not be such a huge success.

We ask that you encourage the youth in your parish to participate in as many Diocesan Youth Events as they can. We ask that you continue to uphold each of these events and our young people in your prayers.

Faithfully Submitted,

Ms. Cass*e Otten, Youth Chair to Youth Council
The Rev. Deacon Debra Clarke, Program Assistant for Youth Ministry
Canon Kepner Short, Director of Youth Ministry