



LifeBlood Youth Ministries

LIFE happens here through the blood of Jesus Christ

A ministry of Warrensburg First Church of the Nazarene

A community of students and leaders who are seeking to experience LIFE together, through the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Warrensburg First Church of the Nazarene Teen Parent Handbook 2007-2008

Our Year Long Theme Verse



Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.

Romans 12:5b NLT

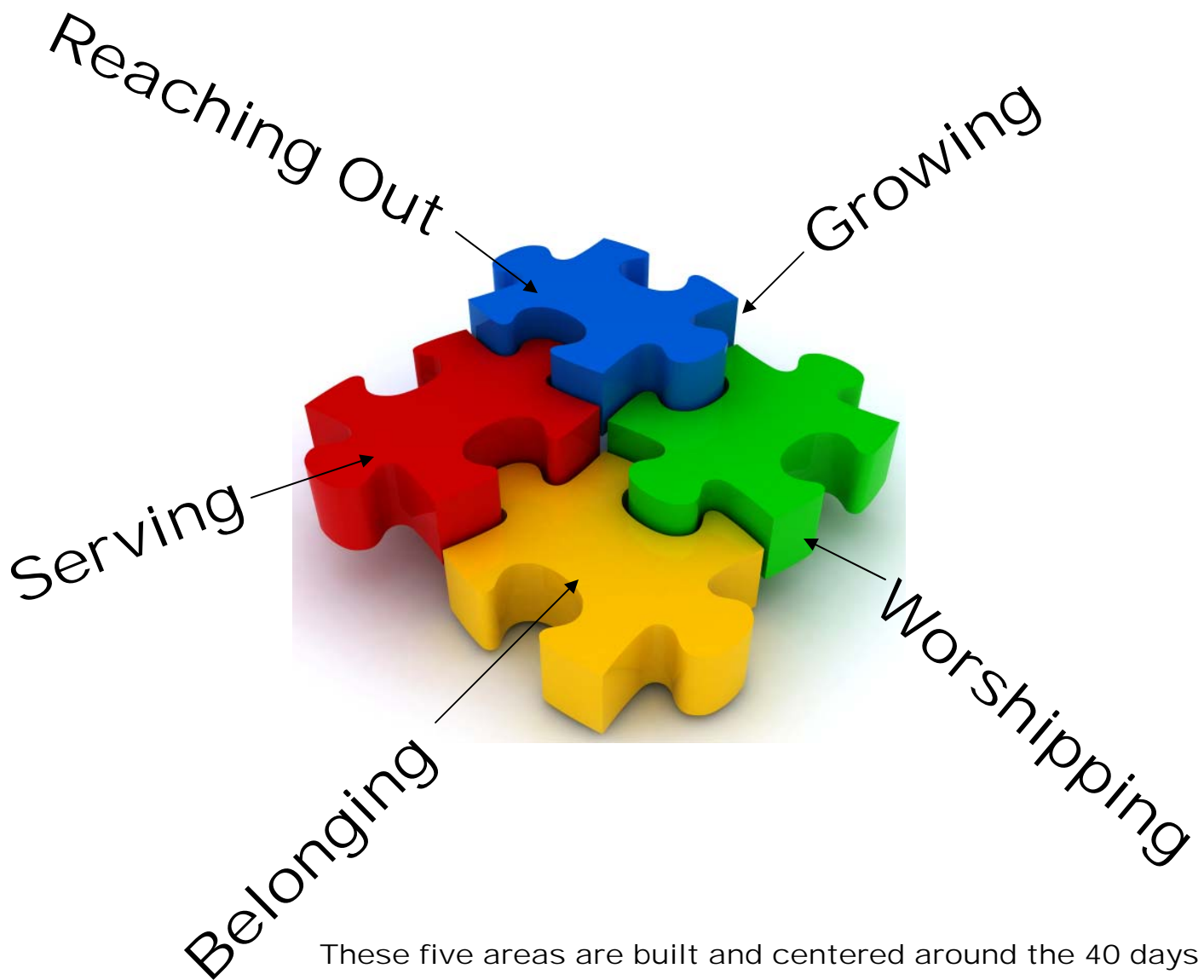


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During the course of the year, students will be shaped in 5 areas which fit into the vision for our church, LIFE Happens Here. Helping them to “Get it together.”



These five areas are built and centered around the 40 days of community campaign and it's ideals. We will be creating a rounded ministry to give students exposure in every area.

Philosophy of Ministry



My philosophy of ministry is pretty straightforward. I desire to be an active part of my teens lives, being an assistant to their parents in raising them to know the Lord. There are some components of this that I ascribe to in my daily ministry walk.

Authenticity. I always strive to up front and realistic about everything. I find that being a straight shooter helps me and parents get to the core of issues much faster than if I beat around the bush. I also strive to be authentic in the fact that I am human, and as a result am going to make some mistakes!

Involvement. I like to be involved with my kids. I love to watch sporting events, attend plays and concerts. I also love to just sit and veg with them, or get my butt kicked in Halo or some other video game. I desire to be a person that they know will be there, and can be comfortable with.

Parental support. The reality of the situation is that I am with your kids maybe 5 hours a week. You are with them ALL the time. A major portion of my job is to support you as parents as you walk through raising your teen. I am here to be a help and a resource for you. I in no way desire to be a parent to your teen.

Fun. One of the major roadblocks for me becoming a Christian earlier in life was that I found church and youth group to be MAJORLY boring. God is ANYTHING but boring when I read Scripture. I try to translate that into the things that I plan so we can have some fun and fellowship in the Lord together. That being said:

Christ and Scripture centered. Last, but CERTAINLY not least is the whole reason we do the things we do. Jesus. I work because of what I know He offers us as people. I work on my personal relationship with Him, and work to show kids Christ and where He is in their lives. A major part of that of course is Scripture. I work to show my kids the teaching of Christ and God the father through relating passages to their lives. I work to show them that the Bible is TOTALLY still relevant to them today.

Open Door: I keep an open door for parents. Communication must be able to flow freely to work and to succeed. Parents, would you please covenant with me that if you have an issue or a problem that you will come to me and speak with me about it? I covenant that I will genuinely listen to you, be open to what you have to say and respond in an appropriate fashion. Please come and talk with me when you like.

Bringing the Pieces of Ministry together



Whole blood has several components to make it the amazing substance that it is.

Whole Blood Consists of Red Blood Cells, which carry oxygen and nutrients to the body, White Blood Cells, which fight off infection and disease, and Platelets which aid in the healing process by helping to close wounds.

Red Blood Cell Element: Carrying the Breath of God through His Word to our bodies, supplying it with the essential nutrients of living a Holy life.

- 1. LifeBlood Bible Quiz Team.** Teens get an in depth look at Scripture as they work to memorize and learn to answer questions about specific areas of the Bible. Practice for this happen on Sunday evenings. Bryon and Mandy Harness are the Directing Sponsors.
- 2. Transfusion—Our Wednesday night program.** Out with our old selves, in with our new lives in Christ. Wednesday nights will be follow up teaching from the services on Sunday, as well as giving an injection of fun and fellowship so it becomes a safe place for kids to bring friends with them.

White Blood Cell Element: Strengthening our bodies against spiritual sickness and disease. Building our bodies to be ready for ministry.

- 1. DE, the Discipleship Experiment.** This is an ultra small group study which will happen 4 times a year. There is room for 5 students in each period in which it happens. DE is an experiential small group study which challenges teens to put Christ first in their lives for 30 days. The first session will happen after the holidays this year. This is a 100% participation study. Students **MUST** commit to being at ALL sessions, plus doing ALL assigned home devotions and studies.
- 2. Mission Trip.** By learning to serve others, we learn that being Disciples of Christ means that everything is not about us. By serving others, we stave off one of the favorite tools of the enemy. Selfishness and self centered thinking.

Platelet Element: Giving opportunity for God to heal wounds, to fill the gap in our souls.

- 1. Spring Retreat—Jason Ellsworth will lead worship and Ryan Giffin will speak to us as we retreat from our ordinary days to experience God at Camp CUMCITO in Warsaw, MO.** Retreats allow us time to simply lay things open to God to let Him do what He will. It also gives us time to get away and gain perspective on issues in our lives.
- 2. District Camp at Youthfront—An outstanding time of being with Jesus.** YouthFront gives a unique space in which to have tons of fun worshipping the Lord with 200 other teens. This is one of the highlights of our year along with the mission trip experience.

Year Long Ministry Focus Layout

Subject to change according to need and guidance of God

September through the Beginning of November

40 Days of Community. We will look at "Getting it Right Together". This is a church wide campaign which we will be an integral part of.

End of November through December

Advent. We will walk through advent with the church, covering the Biblical story of the birth of Christ from a teenage point of view. Mary and Joseph were little more than teens themselves when they made the journey. We will take this point of view as we walk through it.

January through the beginning of February

Forward in Faith. The church as a whole will be undertaking a forward in faith campaign as we look to the future in improving our facility. This is a tentative date and will be dictated by when Pastor Bob thinks it is appropriate that we move forward with this.

February

30 Hour Famine. The entire church will be taking part in what is called the 30 hour famine. This campaign is to raise awareness of hunger issues in the world. Every second a child dies somewhere from hunger. In America, we are the only country where hunger is an economic issue, meaning that there is plenty to eat, but some people simply do not have the money to do so. We will be looking to serve our community through angel food, raising money and collecting food to deliver and handout to people who are in need.

March

Lent. The biggest part of the church year for us. We will study the days leading up to the crucifixion, taking a hard look at what it would have been like there if we had been living then. We will push our teens towards putting themselves in the shoes of the disciples, really trying to understand the events in the scriptures and how they all fit together.

April

Life between the weekends. Pastor Bob in his preaching series will take a look at Christ in life outside of being inside the church building. We will buddy up with this and take a deeper look at what it means to NOT be a Sunday Christian.

Year Long Ministry Focus Layout CONT.

Subject to change according to need and guidance of God

May

Purity. This will be an age level push. The Junior High kids will get an introductory look at purity. They will have a curriculum built to teach about the call to be pure in all aspects of life. The Senior High kids will take a deeper look at issues of intimacy, and what it really means to save themselves for the person that they are to marry. We will hold a parents meeting before this to discuss the curriculum.

June—September

TBD We will release an update to this document as we get closer to this time.

How to communicate with Pastor Ray

Cell: 913-522-0639

Home: 660-530-4284

Email: Pastorraydog@gmail.com

(this will be different soon, I will inform of the change.)

Coming in Late October: <http://www.lifebloodyouth.net>

Get forms, updates and information about the youth ministry here at First Naz! All online, all available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Expectations on Parents

As your youth pastor, I have some expectations on you as a parent. Working with your teen is a two way street in which we must communicate to succeed. Below you will find some expectations I have of you.

1. **Communication.** I find that almost 100% of conflict could be averted if communication had happened in an open and honest way. The fact of the matter is that people make mistakes, we are imperfect! If we can talk about the mistakes and how to avoid them in the future, we can really move forward in growth and love. I ask you to covenant with me that you will communicate openly with me. I understand that trust takes time, and I seek to earn that trust. There is nothing that can kill a ministry faster than things that go unsaid or people unable to communicate with each other their issues.
2. **Involvement.** I cannot do this alone, nor do I desire to. As a parent, I would like for you to do at least one event per year per child. This means be a sponsor for an event, run a fundraiser, host a party at your home etc. There is nothing better than a youth ministry with parents involved. They know what their children are up to in the church, and they show that they care about what happens. Please check the calendar for events you could be involved in. Please note, I am in desperate need of female sponsors to be involved long term. Please speak to me if you are available. There are some requirements to this, so please come talk with me.
3. **Talk to your teens.** Talk about what they are into, ask questions, then really listen to their answers, get to know their likes and dislikes, show them that you are confident in them. Show that you respect that they are becoming adults slowly throughout their teenage years. Ask them about youth group, about church and their faith. Help them to realize that their faith **MUST** be their own, because they will not survive as adults without it.
4. **PRAY.** Hardest one. Yet the easiest. Please pray for me, please pray for your teen or teens, please pray for the other teens in the group, please pray for the other teen's parents, please pray for yourselves. Pray for everything and everyone that has to do with this ministry!

Calendar of events for Lifeblood

October

27th—Teen Harvest Party at Nowlins. Get ready for fun food and fellowship! Capture the flag in the dark! Cost per student \$5.00

31st—Trunk or Treat. We will transform our parking lot at the church into a safe Trick or Treat venue for the neighborhood kids. Dress up in costumer (nothing scary), decorate the trunk of you car and get ready to love on some kids!

November

3rd –Olathe Quizzing tournament. Lifeblood Quiz team goes to Olathe to compete!

9th-10th KCD Breakaway. All night traveling lockin with 1000 teens! Cost per student is around \$20.

24th—Flag Football! One of the best ways to celebrate Thanksgiving is pounding the pigskin on the field! Come to the church ready for some football! All are welcome, will be either flag or touch.

December

1st—Plaza visit. Dinner at Gojo's Japanese steak house. We will visit the Plaza to see the lights, as well as shop. We will finish the night at Gojo's Japanese steak house! Cost per teen for the event is between \$15.00—\$20.00 for dinner. Depending on what they order. Very affordable price for the type of meal.

8th—District Quiz #3

15th—Teen Christmas Party at Pastor Ray and Melissa's house! No cost for this event, bring a \$5 gift to exchange wrapped creatively.

January

12th—District Quiz #4

19th—Girls Nite Out

26th—Guys Nite Out

Calendar of events for Lifeblood

February

9th—District Quiz #5

16th—Stupid Cupid Party

23rd-24th—30 Hour Famine Weekend

March

7th-8th Momentum and District Quiz Finals

22nd—Easter Egg Hunt

April

4-6th Spring Retreat! With Lawrence and Dundee Hills churches

17-19 MAX and Worlds of Fun Night

26th—Just Because night, a night of hanging out and games just because at Walters home.

May

3rd—Free Dog Wash Fundraiser

10th—Progressive Dinner

17th—Mall Mission

31st—Free BBQ Day Fundraiser

June

9-14th District Camp at Youth Front

28th—Drive In Move Night

Calendar of events for Lifeblood

July

28th—August 2nd **TENTATIVE DATE—Mission Trip Location TBD**

August

4-5th—District NYI Rally and District NYI Convention

Please note: All dates are subject to change, I do not change easily or on a whim and I do notify if I do so. There may be other events added, again I will notify if this happens. I will release information on each event at least two weeks out so parents know what is needed.