

Youth Ministry Listening Session Minutes
Strategic Planning Committee
Saint Michael and All Angels
Sunday, May 15, 2005 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
There were forty-nine communicants in attendance.

1. What do we appreciate most about the current SMAA program and content?

Johnny Mitchell, Madelyn Brinkley, Amy Meaux, Mission trips!!, School visits at lunchtime, Small group Bible Studies, Confirmation Class Retreats

2. What would you most like to see changed in the current program?

Increase the number of school visits to all the campuses. Create opportunities for visitation off-campus for those schools that do not permit youth ministers to visit those campuses. (St. Mark's, Hockaday)

Increase the number of mission trip to accommodate the various school schedules.

Increase the number of small group Bible Studies. (David Turner) Make them coed and school specific. (Mike Rollins, Blair Shaw) Make them same sex and intermingle schools. Make the Bible Studies open to all students so that no one feels excluded. (Christine Schuepbach)

Offer lock-ins, lock-outs, FUN activities, and retreats for all ages – not just Confirmation classes! (Betsy Katz)

Remove parents from teaching roles in the high school grades. Give high school students choices for Sunday School. (Charles Sartain)

Update our website.

Let's NOT treat our youth as second-class citizens. Mentor our young people by giving them jobs/responsibility. Teach them how to become adults within the church community. Give them ownership. (Hill Martin)

Consider a high school mentoring program whereby high school students adopt middle school students. Ask the high school students for a 2-year commitment.

Consider using the Journey to Adulthood curriculum. It is an outstanding program and has enjoyed great success in many parishes. (Betsy Katz)

Remove youth programs from Sunday evenings (This is the only rest day for students.) and place the youth meetings on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Let the family mission trip(s) become the hallmark of SMAA Youth Ministry.

Permit these opportunities to ministry be our area of excellence.

We miss Sam Crabtree!

Consider how we can incorporate the youth ministry positions into the permanent budget.

Youth House! A place to meet, pray, serve, play, rest and study for our youth. (Leslie Davis)

Recruit college students from Canterbury House to become youth leaders and teachers.

Place the youth on the Search Committee.

3. What are the most exciting, fulfilling experiences you have had with past programs, ministries, and activities at SMAA?

A college student who has served as a youth rep to the Vestry along with Austin Collins gave these suggestions.

She loved serving on the Vestry. She recommends renewing that position.

Have more mission trips. Offer "solid" Bible Studies. Be very careful whom we hire as youth ministers.

4. Can you name some truly excellent programs or initiatives at other churches which you've experienced or heard about from others?

Watermark Church, HPPC

5. What would cause you to increase your participation and to be excited about doing so?

Offer small group Bible Studies that are open to everyone and are warm and welcoming to all students. (Christine Schuepbach).

6. Overall, how effective is the current program at SMAA within this ministry?

Contact the YOUTH that have left our parish to get their feedback.