

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

June 2023



Gone Fishing! | Steve Pausch

This month, I would like you to think about teenagers and what they do with their time. They have their whole life in front of them and a lot of choices and decisions are coming their way, but what are they doing now?

You have probably seen a teenager working at a burger joint. Many teens have jobs. Teens are often involved in sports with practices and games taking up a lot of their time. Sometimes, you see teens hanging out at the local park. Many teens spend a lot of time playing video games with friends and people over the internet. Teens spend an exorbitant amount of time on social media. Many teens have hobbies they like to be engaged in and have more time for them in summer.

One of the ways we connect with teens at YFC is to be around them and get involved in their lives by asking questions, listening and helping to direct them. We go to sporting events; we often stop at a local restaurant to see a teen working and say hi; we run many programs at our teen center in Brunswick. However, quite often the unexpected, unplanned times with teens can be the most fruitful.

The Pond: At our home we have a pond that was there when we bought it, and a friend re-excavated a few years back creating a great place to gather. We have teens over all the time to fish and swim, and have groups from church and family over regularly. Many teens have an open invitation to stop by and fish whenever they want, and it is not uncommon to have teens fishing several nights a week. These fishing times often turn into times of discussion about life, future, and struggles.

One such night, a high school senior that I do not know very well stopped by to fish.

While fishing together, a wide array of topics came up from girlfriend to graduation and even working for his grandfather. The time got away as we caught bluegill and bass and talked as the evening became night. This young man does not come from a church background and has had a difficult family at times and he shared all that as we fished. We talked about how God made the different types of fish, and He created all we know (a foreign concept to him) and that He sent His son to the earth. This ordinary evening of just stopping by to fish turned into a spiritual appointment with future fishing talks to come. This young man is not an isolated case, we have talks around the pond all the time with teens about all kinds of things. I guess that is why Jesus said... “I will make you fishers of men.”



Matthew 4:18-20, As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. “Come follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” And at once they left their nets and followed him....

This summer I may be putting the “**Gone Fishing**” sign on the door a lot more often.

Student Spotlight: Joey | Matt Mountjoy

I’m glad to get to share with you an interview with one of our graduating seniors that we have been able to get to know over the past year. Joey is a unique guy that I’ve enjoyed watching grow out of his shell. He is someone who struggled with fitting in and dealing with anger. But, I’ve seen him learn to handle stressful situations and go from being a quiet guy to someone cracking jokes in front of groups, and showing off his “heavy metal throat vocal” skills. Because he lives very close to The Garage, we have also had the unique chance to get to know his dad, and we’ve been able to use different connections to help provide some things to help their family out! Joey is not real public guy or a man of many words, so I was excited that he agreed to share with everyone a little bit about himself and his time with us at The Garage.

How long have you been coming to The Garage?

“I guess its been a little over a year or so”

What first brought you to The Garage?

“I was at a point where I guess I had a lot of questions about life and we get to talk about that kind of stuff, so that was cool”

What is your favorite aspect of attending the regular weekly Garage Meetings?

“Spending time with friends, and I guess just meeting cool people.”

What is your favorite thing that we have done at the Garage?

“The swords! Those were cool, that was a lot of fun!” (A few weeks back we broke out some old foam LARPing swords and held a series of battles competing for a grand champion while playing medieval style music in the background. I have to agree, it was a pretty fun time!)

Have you been changed by attending the Garage, and how?

“Yeah, it’s definitely helped me out. I’ve gotten better at being able to deal with hard situations and like walk away. And it’s helped me with socializing”

As Joey has just graduated please be praying for him as he is looking to move into the next phase of life and is beginning a job search. Pray that he is able to have confidence in the interviews that he goes into and is able to find a good fit for him.

It Takes a Village! | Laurie Beal

Our Wadsworth YFC site is continually blessed by groups and individuals that want to come alongside us and help in a variety of ways. We are so blessed by these partnerships and the people that take time out of their days to help us at Garage Ministry!

One of the groups has been making an impact EVERY month! A small community group from Grace Church that gathers weekly has designated one of their weekly meetings as a Garage clean up night. They come and organize baby clothes and prom dresses and bring in and sort through donations and clean our cafe ..and pitch in and help in any area that we need help!



This has been an amazing blessing because there are always tasks each month that we need help completing.



Another group that came recently was a third-grade class from Northside Christian Academy. The kids, along with their teachers and parents, organized all the shoes, by size in the prom boutique and swept our outside parking lot and sorted and put away baby

clothes in our teen parents store! This crew had big energy and we were so thankful for all they completed.

Keller Williams Realty company once again came in May! Their crew arrived early with big smiles, big hearts and ready to work hard! Their biggest project they tackled was spreading 15 tons of gravel in our picnic table area so we won't have to worry any more about weeds and upkeep in that area! They also deep cleaned our cafe and weeded and spread mulch in all our flower beds and created a new mulch area around our sign! (Now our neighbor, Alan, who graciously mows for us will only have our tree lawn to mow!) Thank you Keller Williams team for the hard work, the gravel and mulch and taking an entire day to bless us! And thanks to KC Gravel who gave them a discount for the gravel and mulch!



All of these tasks not only help us stay organized and clean, they also free up even more time that we can devote to hanging out with the teens whom God brings to our lot! If your group or team or company or family wants to jump in and make an impact, please let us know! We always have ideas, and we also LOVE when others have cool ideas to bring our way! It truly takes a village!

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." Hebrews 13:16

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