UCC STUDENT MINISTRIES

Newsletter

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BLESSING BALL

(This Wednesday, The entire youth group, Nov. 11th in the youth wing do not miss it!) In September of 1975, a new youth minister introduced himself on a Sunday morning bible class, James Trent. I was a freshman in high school. I had not participated much with the youth group through my Junior high years. I went to a couple of bible studies in Jr. High, a hayride which helped me meet a friend Karl Lillie. But our main goal was to antagonize the other students by tossing hay around. That did not endear me to my peers. My brother and I also attended a leadership class during the summer for young men but again, just sporadically. I usually sit in the back with my brother, but we did not talk much, nor did we make many friends at church. I was not really into church or the youth group. I made a lot of conclusions about the youth group that included me sitting on the edges. Then came the morning of our first meeting with the new youth minister. He held a large nerf ball in his hand. He said, "This is a blessing ball" Once you receive this ball I want you to share who has been a blessing to you in this room and why?" I was taken back, because I never spoke in class, I tried to stay hidden in the background. I quickly scanned the room, I only knew one other person, Karl. But Karl received the ball before me. And he said my name, I was really touched, we had only gotten into trouble together on the Hayride. I in turned handed the ball back to Karl. That was the beginning of a long friendship, he taught me how to play ping pong and Risk, I spent the nights at his house, and I was suddenly interested in going to church. A turning point for me. So, when I began youth minister in 1983, I said, I have to do the blessing ball. (continued on the back)



We had over 24 pots of soup, and raised over 4600

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 11 — **Blessing Ball**
Youth Wing 6-8 p.m.

NOV 15 — **Bible Bowl**
Youth Wing 9:30-10:45 a.m.

NOV 15 — **Worship**
8 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m.

NOV 21 — **Thanksgiving boxes**
9-a.m. to noon

NOV 18 — **Youth 4 the city**
6-8 p./m. special guest!

When Thanksgiving came around, I bought a nerf ball and we tossed it around to people who had been a blessing to us. In 1991, I could not find the nerf ball I had been using, so I asked Larry Hawkins to pick up one and bring it over to the Coalson's house. He showed up with a volleyball and a sharpie. Larry said, "I thought this was a good idea to have them sign a ball so we would have a record of who was there" It was a great idea. We have balls dating back to 1992, because I gave the 1991 ball away to a family that lost their son in a car wreck, Joe, D Herman. This long-standing tradition has always been a blessing for me, I hope it is for you as well. It will start you on an incredible journey of faith!

Thanksgiving and Lights

If you would like to help carry out thanksgiving boxes to the car of those receiving a box, on Saturday, Nov. 2, please sign up in the lobby of the church.There is a sign-up sheet there along with other jobs and needs. We will be passing them out between 9 a.m. and noon. There is no delivery of boxes just working at the church building. There are lots of opportunities to serve this time of year. On Saturday, December 5th we will be setting up the light show at the church. This requires a lot of volunteers because we put out over 10,000 lights. This is also from 9- noon and we invite the boy scouts to help as well. Please consider giving back to the community with these two service projects!

News and Notes (11/11 – 11/17)

Wednesday - Blessing Ball 6-8 p.m.
Sunday – Bible Bowl 9:30 a.m. Acts 19-21
Sunday – Worship 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.
Monday – MS visitation with homeschool.
Tuesday – HS Movie Night (last one)
November 18 – special guest Joel Soumar!
November 20 – Sorting Thanksgiving boxes
November 21 – Passing out Boxes 9-noon.
Dec 5 – Setting up Christmas Lights

Birthdays

Ezra Cobleigh will celebrate his birthday on Sunday, November 15, Darion Williams celebrate on Monday, November 16, please wish these two a wonderful week!

Parent Page

Next Wednesday, November 18, we do have a special guest, Joel Soumar, who is trying out for my position as youth minister at UCC. This is our second candidate, and we do encourage the teens to be here that night because we need their feedback. We had a good turn out for Chris several weeks ago, so we need the same for Joel.Parents are welcomed as well. He will be teaching and leading the class on Wednesday night. There will not be any youth group activities the week of spring break. No class on November 25, we will be starting back up on December 2. The middle school will be having a party that day in the middle school room, so they will be starting at 6 a.m. However, the high school will meet at their regular time and place. On December 9th, the high school will have their party at Dion's Pizza and then December 16 we will have Christmas caroling so we are inviting everyone out that evening from 6-8 p.m. We will be at the Johnson's home 5411 Four Winds Pl at 7 p.m. to eat a meal and have hot chocolate. Some wonderful things ahead, thanks for all your support! BTW we raised over 4600 at the stone soup fundraiser, great job with everyone that pitched in to help with soups and desserts! David



