

PITTSBURGH YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Pittsburgh Youth Initiative had a year full of outreach, service, and worship opportunities.

Prayers on the Wall – during last year’s convention, youth offered a chance for passersby to write their prayers on the gate wall of Trinity Cathedral. The prayers remained on the wall for nearly a week before rain washed them away. It was a great way to share faith with the community as diocesan business was done inside.

Shepherd’s Heart – In December, youth from Christ Church, North Hills; St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park; St. Thomas, Oakmont; and St. Peter’s, Brentwood served a Sunday night dinner to the less fortunate at Shepherd’s Heart in Uptown. This is a popular service project we wish we could do more often, but the schedule at the shelter fills up quickly each year.

Snow Camp – In February, there was an option to attend Snow Camp, an event hosted by Teen Quest in Somerset, PA. Several of our young people attended and had such a great time with other youth from around the area.

Heinz Chapel worship – Some of our older teens went to worship at Heinz Chapel in March. Fr. Philip Wainwright leads a weekly worship service for the college students in the chapel. This gave the teens a taste of worship options during their upcoming college years.

Senior Send-off – Bishop McConnell honored eight high school graduates during a dinner held at Christ Church, North Hills, in May.

L.O.C.A. party – The League of Christian Avengers, made up of youth at Calvary, East Liberty, invited youth from throughout the diocese for a pizza party and discussion of topics affecting teens today.

Highland Educational Project – St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon youth went on their annual trip to “HEP” in June. The project is an ecumenical outreach agency in McDowell County, West Virginia, serving families and individuals requiring multiple types of assistance.

E.Y.E. – Five youth, two adults and Bishop McConnell attended the Episcopal Youth Event in Philadelphia in July. Youth from 81 dioceses attended, trading pins and developing friendships; worshipping with the Presiding Bishop, and touring historic parishes in the city. Pittsburgh’s delegation was unable to stay for the “Three Days of Urban Mission” option.

Calvary Camp Work Weekend – PYI kicks off the program year with the annual trip to Calvary Camp to prepare the facilities for the winter. Work weekends aren’t only about “work” but also getting to know one another and worshipping together.

Calvary Camp/PYI at the Pirate Game – On September 21, the two organizations gathered for the final home game in the Pirates season.

Finally, it should be noted that Victoria O’Brien has left her position as co-director of youth ministry for the diocese. She was a founding member of PYI and co-director for three years. Vickie has done a great deal for youth around the diocese and at her home parish of Christ Church, North Hills, and we owe her a debt of gratitude. Thanks Vickie!

Submitted by:
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