

## Youth Department Staff Team



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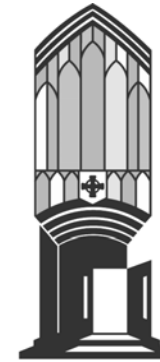
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**FAIRMOUNT**  
Presbyterian Church

## Youth Department Handbook

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Associate Pastor for  
Congregational Life and Faith Formation

**Kurt Zitzner**

Director of Youth Ministries  
Church Office: 216-321-5800 ext. 123  
Kurt's Cell: 216-402-0289

**Website**

[www.AwesomeYouth.info](http://www.AwesomeYouth.info)

## Mission Opportunities

**Interfaith Hospitality Network:** This program hosts homeless families four times a year, for one week at a time. Youth volunteers are always needed for babysitting, interacting with youth, serving food, helping out in whatever way possible.

**Bethany Church Soup Kitchen:** Confirmation Class (9th graders) serve meals once a month at Bethany Church.

**Food Drive:** Each Thanksgiving students coordinate a can/food drive to benefit area Food Bank

**Christmas Jesus Gifts:** At Christmas students shop for and wrap presents for children in Cleveland

**Project Renewal:** An opportunity for elderly and handicapped residents of the city to have a day out focusing on worship and fellowship. Meets one Saturday a month.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Participate in sponsoring and building homes with volunteers and local low-income families. There are many opportunities for high school aged youth to get involved here.

**Summer Mission Trip:** Each summer, our youth department organizes a mission trip planned for high school students (those students entering 9th grade through graduating 12th grade). Recent summer trips have been to Kentucky, Mississippi, Dominican Republic, New York City among others.



*“Church is not some place we go to get away from it all – church is the place we go to make sense of it all.”*

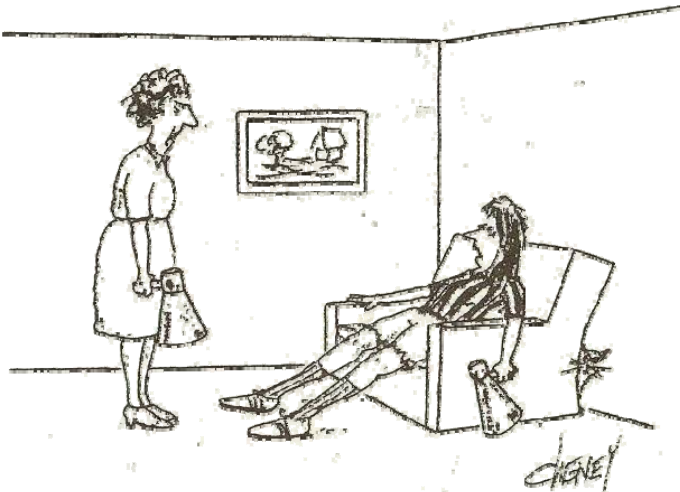
*Anonymous*

## Parent's Page

At Fairmount we hope to be a resource for youth and their families during the extraordinarily unique adolescent years. Thankfully, no two children are exactly alike -- life would be pretty boring if they were. That being said, sometimes parenting youth can be interesting because just when you think you understand your child BAM they change.

It doesn't take a psychologist nor a scientific study to prove parenting teens is no easy task, but many parents forget the idea that you are NOT alone! There are many families struggling with the same issues - - Communication with Teens, Getting Teens Interested in Church, Honesty Issues, Sibling Rivalries, Spirituality and Family Life, College Counseling, and many others.

We look forward to partnering with you as we seek to live more fully into the promise we make at Baptism to nurturer the faith of our youth and their families.



It's no use, Mom . . . we're not communicating.

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## Welcome Aboard

If you're looking for a church which welcomes youth with open arms, you have found it! Upon your first visit to Fairmount, you will see youth are more than just the future of our congregation; they are the church now! We have thriving choral and bell choirs, youth help teach Sunday school classes, they usher and greet on Sunday mornings and some of them even lead as Elders and Deacons. We also organizes a variety of social and mission activities including lock-ins, retreats, mission trips, camping and canoe trips and a whole host of other fun outings.



Want more info? Check out our website where you can find info regarding:

- Middle School
- High School
- Photo Albums
- Calendar
- Youth Staff
- Youth Room
- Parent Area

We believe living a Christian life is more about the journey and fellowship, than the destination. Whether you're a firm believer in Christ as the Savior or you're full of questions about your faith... you're always welcome at Fairmount! We can't wait to meet you in person this Sunday!

Peace,

Eric and Kurt

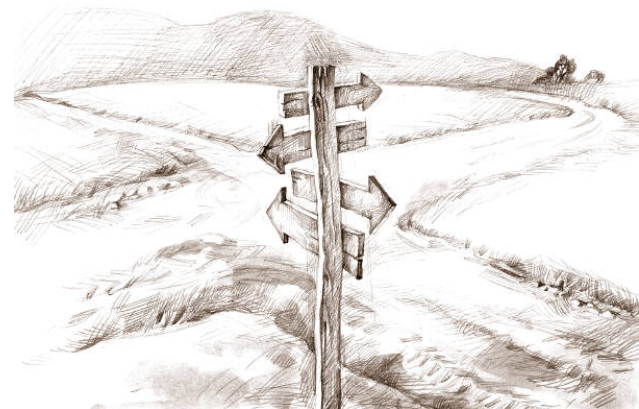


## Life's Crossroads

Feeling confused? Wondering which road to take? Need some direction, help, focus? If so, call someone at Fairmount! We have highly qualified staff and volunteers looking forward to helping youth and their families through rough times.

Fairmount also has highly qualified Stephen Ministers available for Youth, Adults, Children or anyone else in need of counseling. Contact any of our Program Staff for details. In addition we can offer referrals to other professionals in youth and family counseling.

Call 216-321-5800.



## Choirs

### Youth Choir (Grades 2 – 7)

**Thursday Evenings, 6:00pm**

**Directed By:**

*Bob Moncrief, Minister of Music*

The Fairmount Youth Choir is for children from the ages of 2nd through 7th grades. This choir sings in church twice a month and in special seasonal services. In addition, they may also participate with The Fairmount Choir in larger choral works and in the Fairmount Music Series. They also present a youth musical each spring. Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. Thursday is preceded by a light supper.

### Cantate Choir (Grades 8 – College)

**Thursday Evenings, 6:45 pm**

**Directed by:**

*Bob Moncrief, Minister of Music*

The Cantate Choir is open to young people in the eighth grade through college age. We rehearse on Thursdays at 6:45 p.m. and sing in church twice a month, as well as for special seasonal services.

### Carillon Bells (All Youth)

**Thursday Evenings, 7:30 pm**

**Directed by:**

*Amy Carlson, Bell Choir Director*

The Carillon Bells is open to all youth. No prior experience necessary! Contact Amy Carlson for details.

## Fairmount's Vision

Vision 100: Fairmount's Next Journey  
A Growth Plan Based on Your Vision and God's Will

**Origin:** The 2005 Growth Task Force Report; the 2006 Session Framework Process; the 2006-2007 Congregational Visioning Process.

**Goal:** Our goal is to discover where God calls us to put our spiritual energy in Christ's name

**Themes:**

- Members of the congregation access God in different ways and we honor these differences;
- The congregation is responsible for deepening and widening Fairmount's spiritual reach;
- Change will be incremental and carefully monitored to preserve our fundamental character and strengths and to protect against a sense of loss;
- The ministry we do with each other and the ministry we do in the larger world are one and the same and are mutually reinforcing. |
- Our plan will grow and evolve as we gain experience and discern God's will for us.

**Connecting**  
To strengthen member  
and our ministry  
to each other, we will:

Reach out to members who  
disengage

Strengthen small group  
relationships

Hire staff to coordinate  
activities for fellowship  
and sharing

Challenge members to  
minister to each other  
by making a difference in  
another's life

Communicate with members in  
a compelling way

Engage members continually

Organize diversity council to  
ensure inclusiveness

**Inviting**  
To reach out to those who  
would benefit from worship  
with us, we will:

Establish a compelling marketing  
plan

Adopt consistent design system for  
our communications

Enhance our web communications

Adopt a comprehensive  
visitor-welcoming program

Strengthen our ministry to  
families/children

Strengthen our ministry to  
youth and their families

Embrace our inclusiveness

Maintain our presence through  
mission and community leadership

**Renewing**  
To deepen our faith and  
spiritual understanding,  
we will:

Develop an alternate  
worship service

Expand basis for spiritual  
growth

Enhance variety of Bible  
study opportunities

Establish Faith Formation  
Council to oversee member  
education

Enhance leadership

## Youth Ministry Mission and Goals

Youth Ministries at Fairmount Presbyterian Church are a diverse ways and means for any youths, within or outside the Fairmount church family, grade seven through seniors in high school, regardless of their place in their faith journeys, to come together in fellowship with Jesus Christ and each other, to foster growth in spirit and relationships, to use of God-given talents, and to serve through ministry and mission.

### Objectives of Youth Ministries

1. To provide engagement and participation of youth in **the over all life and ministry** of the congregation.
2. To engage youth in the **planning and implementation** of their own ministries.
3. To provide **open safe places, spaces, activities, and fellowships** to be one's self and to explore and grow in the Christian faith.
4. To **engage youths' talents, capabilities, and skills** in doing ministry and mission.
5. To provide youth with **diverse opportunities** (choices) for fellowship, education, use of talents, spiritual growth, worship, and service in mission.
6. To offer opportunities for youth to **develop significant and lasting relationships** with adults (including parents) and younger children.

## Faith Matters

**Senior High, Young Adults, Adults (Grades 10 – ?)**  
Sunday Mornings  
9:30am – 10:30am

We will meet each Sunday morning at 9:30am in the Chapel. This group is open to adults and post-confirmation youth. Its focus is on current issues which challenge Christians to be faithful and respond in meaningful ways. Watch the Sunday bulletin for the topics for the next week. It is our goal to provide various perspectives on issues from newspapers, periodicals and informed speakers.

The class places a focus on issues of the community or the world while discussing and seeking to apply Christian values to our response as faithful followers of our Lord. Seasonal studies are also provided during Advent and Lenten seasons.

Gospel According to the Simpsons, and do a lectionary study which relates to the worship service sermon topics.

## CHEER

**Senior High (Grades 9 – 12)**

Sunday Evenings

6:45pm – 8:45pm

The name of Fairmount's 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade fellowship club is taken from the Gospel of John (16:33), "In the world you have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Through discussions, guest speakers, games, parties, meals, prayers, and just plain old fun, we explore our Christian calling together.

CHEER is a time set aside each week for our youth to grow in relationship with God, others and self. Together we play games, engage in biblical imagination, we participate in the life of the church, do local mission work, weekend retreats, , develop a connection to the wider world, go white water rafting, and so much more. We have fun, but more than anything we try to create space for us to hear God's still small voice.



Friends and guests are always welcome!

## The Café / Youth Room

**All Youth (Grades 7 - 12)**

Sunday Mornings

9:15am – 9:30am

With the help of many of our youth, parents, youth advisors and friends we've put together one of the best Youth Rooms in Cleveland! We can't thank our members and those non-members that contributed to the room.



The room is open all day on Sundays (except during the worship services) and during the week after school come on by anytime. We've got everything



from basketball, to pool table, to ping pong, to Nintendo Wii, to big TV, a loft, surround sound, a kitchen area, and more! What are you waiting for... seriously... stop by and see live! The café is open Sunday Mornings from 9:15am-9:30am with juice, cocoa, donuts, and all sorts of good eats!

Kevin Benton, a senior at Shaker Heights High School, will be doing a special project here this school year to improve the Youth Room and other spaces around the church. Interested in helping with that? If so, contact Kurt and he'll hook you up with Kevin.



## Breakfast Club

### Middle School (Grades 7 and 8)

Sunday Mornings  
9:30am-10:30am

A fun interactive Sunday morning discussion group with videos, games, the Gospel According to Harry Potter and the Simpson's, lectionary studies, etc. The class will be a discussion group where youth will get to talk about stuff that interests them today and where God is active in it.

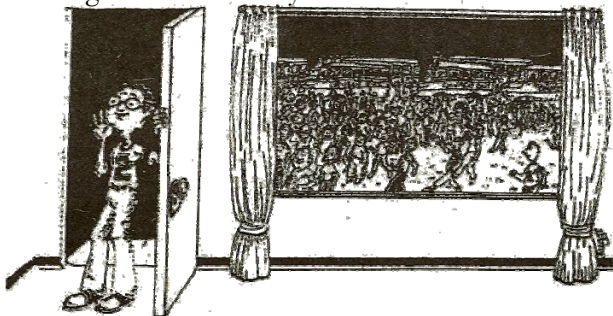
## God Squad

### Middle School (Grades 7 and 8)

Sunday Afternoons  
3:00pm – 5:00pm

God Squad focuses on spiritual growth by offering teens a well balanced program that seeks to support their spiritual and personal growth, including opportunities for recreation, bible study, fellowship, mission work, social justice activities, WhirlyBall, skiing, bowling, and a variety of other weekly events. We hope during this two year period youth will begin to get a sense of who they are and begin to look at what they believe.

Friends and guests are always welcome!



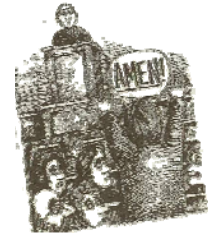
*"The home, Mom... say, did I tell you we're having Youth Fellowship over here tonight?"*

## Confirmation Class

### Grade 9

Sunday Mornings  
9:30am – 10:30am

This class engages our 9<sup>th</sup> grade youth in conversations about and practices of discipleship. During the year our Confirmands will stretch their theological muscles as we discuss the Bible, church history, worship, sacraments, and about other faith traditions. We see this as an integral part of a person's faith journey. Confirmation class involves participation in the worship services, mission projects, and weekend retreats with CHEER (the senior high youth group). Each student is partnered with a mentor.



On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, all Confirmands will be invited to profess their faith and join Fairmount Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA). Through the years these professions have been represented by written words, works of art, personal movies, and pieces of music.

## SHiFT

### Senior High (Grades 10 – 12)

Sunday Mornings  
9:30am – 10:30am

SHiFT stands for our Senior High Faith Talk. This group gathers on Sunday mornings (*I know, that just sounds early*) to discuss God and God's activity in the world. Our way into this conversation will alternate throughout the year. We will use movies like Hotel Rwanda and Evan Almighty and biblical characters like Abraham, Sarah, Hannah, Paul and others. We'll also look at the