



The S.H.O.E (Youth Group) *September-May* - THE S.H.O.E. (Servant Hearts Open Eyes) meets Sunday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. These activities are structured gatherings that are usually based on a theme that often inspires games, devotion, discussion, and all around good fellowship. These activities are designed with an end goal of building our students faith through fellowship and exposure to the scriptures in relation to current everyday issues that teens face.

Open Youth Room (OYR) *September-May* - OYR meets Wednesday after school from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Youth Room (3rd floor of the Administration Building.) This gathering is designed solely to provide a safe place for students to socialize, do home work, and unwind from the midweek stresses of being a teenager. There is no structure or purpose other than the freedom for them to be themselves and to build relationships in a safe setting.

Sunday School - Sunday School meets after Sunday morning worship at 11:00 a.m. The kids split into age groups (6th-8th grade, 9th-12 grade) to engage in Scripture-based discussion.

ANNUAL EVENTS

There are two annual events that are designed to embody the foundations that our youth program is built on. Our Dinner Theater Production usually in early spring and our Work Camp trip which usually occurs in late June.

Dinner Theater - Our Youth put on an annual Dinner Theater performance to raise money for our Work Camp. These productions have always proven to be successful on many levels. We always have nice a turnout from the community who receive a good meal and a fun show. Our students grow much closer and gain confidence in themselves and each other by working together to serve and entertain the community. The support for the Youth Ministry at Hiland grows during this time as the Hiland family pulls together to share their love and experiences with the youth as the production is pulled together.

Work Camp - Our senior high students (anyone who has completed 8th grade -12th grade) have the opportunity to participate in our Work Camp. We try to do something different each year whether it be location, or type of service. The point is to spend a week together in service to the Kingdom. This event is a “pinnacle event” in many of our student’s faith journeys and lives. The students and leaders experience much growth through working side by side to serve others, worshiping together, and many other built-in growth experiences. One aspect of work camp that is often overlooked because all of the “growth” is that it is just plain fun to go on these trips and work alongside each other.

Mission Possible - This is an opportunity that our Junior High students have to become exposed to mission through a structured program that Crestfield Camp and Conference Center has put together that immerses the students into several different types of mission. In past years we have served with World Vision, Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, the Red Cross, City Rescue Mission, and Shenango on the Green to name a few. This program is well run and has proven to be a great time for the students who participate.

LIVING THE FAITH

We have several activities that we participate in that are excellent in helping our students develop a sense of personal enrichment – regular participation in local mission agencies, retreats focused on spiritual growth, and leadership conferences. We always try to look for new opportunities for our students to encounter new faith experiences.

Pleasant Valley Shelter - We travel to the North Side of Pittsburgh once every other month to serve dinner to gentlemen staying at the Pleasant Valley Shelter. This provides an opportunity for our youth to work together while encountering the truth of other people's difficult circumstances. Many of our students have had real attitude-changing experiences through this wonderful opportunity to serve.

Retreats - We have participated in many retreats over the years varying the venues and experiences. Retreats like Laurelville and Jumonville that are sponsored by the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation. Other facilities are Crestfield Camp and Conference Center, Teen quest, and more. All of these retreats are focused on providing an experience for young people to grow in their faith.

Conferences - We encourage the students to participate in the Trinity Youth Conference (TYC) which is a week-long leadership conference for youth and young adults. This conference is focused on leadership and spiritual growth. It has proven to be a life changing experience for many who participate.

Relationship Building - Along with all of our faith building experiences we are deliberate in modeling behavior that encourages our young people to support each other in their school and extracurricular activities. Many of our volunteer leaders are regulars at school plays, musicals, concerts, sporting events, etc. We also encourage students to support each other by going to these events and cheering each other on. This helps to build relationships and break down barriers that might otherwise remain due to cliques and stereotypes. We really try to love each other!

Changes! - There will be two small but useful changes made in regards to the youth programs. The first is that there will now be a sign in / sign out procedure to assure that Students are arriving and departing safely from all S.H.O.E. events. Parents / guardians / and carpoolers will be asked to sign in and sign out which ever student they brought or are picking up to each event. Secondly we are hoping to offer a contemporary worship prior to youth group once a month beginning in October and that schedule will be published soon.

Anyone can always find out what the event details and calendar looks like at www.hilandchurch.org. Also feel free to "like" Hiland on FACEBOOK to get updates.

