

January 10, 2018

Dear Youth,

We invite you to check out the youth page on Colosse's website ([www.ColosseBaptistChurch.COM](http://www.ColosseBaptistChurch.COM)) to see all of the exciting events that the youth ministry team is planning for 2018.

Colosse's youth mission statement is:

*Focusing on God alone  
Serving others through Christ  
Reaching the lost for Christ  
Connecting with God's people  
Equipping students with the Word.*

Please be aware that all of the events are planned with a focus to help you accept Christ as your Savior and to grow as a Christian. Although we recognize that you may not be able to attend every event that is planned, we encourage you to commit to doing your best to not miss an opportunity to:

- 1) Focus on God through our Bible studies,
- 2) Serve others through our mission opportunities,
- 3) Learn how to mentor and help other students,
- 4) Lead a Bible study,
- 5) Be bold and willing to share how God has worked in your life, and

We recognize that our group consists of students from grades seven to twelve and that a seventh grade student does not have the maturity level of a student getting ready to go off to college. This makes it especially important for you (if you are a younger student) to do your best to work and listen to the older more experienced students. If you are one of the older students, it is important that you learn to mentor and help the younger students. We encourage you to be a leader and help others grow in their commitment and service to Christ by setting an example for others to follow.

The annual youth mission is a special time for each of you to share your faith and help others. During this week, it is critical that you respect each other as we spend an entire week living, eating, traveling, and working together.

Many of the events on our calendar are annual events and while it may not seem that big of a deal to miss an event and we understand that there will be times when missing an event just can't be helped; be mindful that the success of our youth ministry, youth concert and youth mission trip requires a commitment from you to participate as much as possible.

We are asking that you recognize the importance of attending worship services, Sunday School and Wednesday nights activities. We encourage you to participate as much as possible in planned mission opportunities and fun fellowship events. It is important that you are growing in your faith and your love for one another. Jesus said. "As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John

13:34-35. How can you expect to point the world to Christ if you can't love others in your youth group? Remember, when you love someone you should want to spend time with them, encourage them, and help them.

It is disheartening to your youth ministry team, to have students who haven't actively participated during the year and then want to get involved only when it is time for the youth concert or youth mission trip. This puts the youth ministry team in a difficult position because we don't want any of you to miss singing in the youth concert or missing out on the wonderful things that are experienced each year as part of the mission trip. However, we want our mission team to be Christ-centered and committed to building God's kingdom. It is also disheartening to return from a mission trip and many of you don't feel the need to stay connected to the youth group or a church until it is time to begin youth choir practices in January.

We need you to be committed to work with us. Allowing you to perform in the youth concert or go on the mission trip when you haven't been committed to practices or events, sends a message to those who have attended that it isn't important to participate or be committed to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we encourage you to do everything you can to ensure you stay connected. A lot of planning goes into events and we would appreciate you responding in such a way that we can plan for food, transportation and chaperones. Please let your "yes" be "yes" and your "no" be "no" and be as committed to God's team as you are to sports, dance and school teams.

We also recognize that many of our events have a cost associated with them and we do our best to keep the cost as low as possible. In reviewing the events that may create a financial burden for your family, please consider asking for money as your birthday that you can use to help offset the cost of Overnight Ski Trip, Mini-mission beach retreat, etc. or find ways to earn the money by doing chores for your family/neighborhood. However, please don't let the cost of an event keep you from participating in an event that could be a life-changing event for you. Please contact the youth director to discuss alternative options to cover the cost of an event.

Please feel free to contact any member of Colosse's Ministry Team for assistance or more information and let's work together for you to:

1. Become a strong leader today,
2. Develop a bold faith that will sustain you during difficult times, and
3. Learn the true joy of living the life that God planned for you.

Your youth ministry team,

Rose Rice, Director  
Regina Gresham  
Kerri Bailey  
Robin Custalow  
Robbie Sparks  
Mark Rice

Dawnie Smith (Youth Choir Director)  
Karen Kidd  
Wendy Tepper  
Samantha Stone  
Richard Mitchell  
Timmy Metzger

***Let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18***