

January 10, 2018

Dear Parents,

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

Our mission statement for Colosse's youth is:

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

As you can see, all of the events are planned with a focus to help our students accept Christ as their Savior and to grow as a Christian. Although not everyone can attend every event that is planned, we encourage you to work with Colosse's Youth Ministry Team to ensure your student won't miss an opportunity to:

- 1) Focus on God through our Bible studies,
- 2) Serve others through our mission opportunities,
- 3) Learn how to teach a Sunday School class,
- 4) Be bold and willing to share how God has worked in their life, and
- 5) Be a mentor to our younger students.

We recognize that our youth group consists of students going into the seventh grade that may lack the maturity of a student going into the twelfth grade. This makes it especially important for our students to learn to work together to grow in their commitment and service to Christ be an example that our younger students can look up to and follow.

The annual youth mission is a special time to share their faith and help others. During this week, it is critical that our students 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; the success of our youth ministry, youth concert and youth mission trip requires a commitment for your sons and daughters to participate as much as possible.

We are asking that you encourage your student to attend worship services, Sunday School and Wednesday nights activities. We also ask that you encourage them to participate in planned mission opportunities and fun fellowship events. It is important that we as a youth ministry team are growing in our faith and our 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 we expect to point the world to Christ if we can't love each other? When you love someone you want to spend time with them, encourage them, and help them.

It is disheartening to the youth ministry team, to have students who haven't actively participated during the year and 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 our students to miss singing in the youth concert or missing out on the wonderful things that are experienced each year as part of our mission trip; however, we need our mission team to be Christ-centered and committed to building God's kingdom (on our mission trip, in our church, and in our community).

We need committed students and parents to work with us. Allowing someone to perform in the youth concert or go on the mission trip that hasn't committed the time to practices or attending 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 your student stays connected to our youth group and a church. A lot of planning goes into events and we would appreciate your student responding in such a way that we can plan for food, transportation and chaperones. We as youth leaders ask that you help your student to let their "yes" be "yes" and their "no" be "no" and you encourage them to be as committed to God's team as they are to sports, dance and school teams.

We 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 require you to budget or set aside money for an event, please consider giving your student money for their birthday that can be used toward the Overnight Ski Trip, Mini-mission beach retreat, etc. or allow them to earn the money by doing chores for you or for others in your family/neighborhood. Please don't let the cost of an event keep your student from participating in an event that could be a life-changing event for them. 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 to help our students:

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

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