

YOUTH DEPARTMENT 2019 UPDATES & SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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UPDATES

At this time the Youth Department is revamping its procedures, events, leadership roles, internal groups, and more. So far our changes are moving in a positive direction. For a long time it was difficult to execute a number of goals because there was simply not enough volunteers to help with transportation and certain activities. This contributed to a number of issues as follows:

- a. Some Youth without access to transportation could not attend Youth Group. My husband and I were only able to drop a few home each week
- b. Activities narrowed - with one leader only so much or certain things could be done at a given time.
- c. Youth group could not be divided for age appropriate topics as all were taught in one group with one leader.
- d. Youth group could not be divided by gender for activities that tailor to male or female.
- e. Our youth especially males were not able to do as much sporting events as planned.
- f. No replacement for me on days I was called to special meetings, changes, or took sick. Therefore Youth Group would be cancelled or subject to different days to make up time.

SOLUTION

Recently Mr. Chris Burrows offered to help our department in any area needed. With this offer we propose that he helps with the following:

- a. Transportation by using the church bus when needed
- b. Coach basketball as he is a professional coach, and he will lead other sporting events.
- c. Do special activities with the group in the event I am busy with the paper work and administrative aspects of our Department.
- d. Spend quality time with the males of our department.
- e. Help me to further emphasize disciplines.

RECENT PROGRESS (with credit to team effort)

- a. The Handbell Choir is still active under the direction of Dr. Linda Lightbourne where I assist.
- b. Official basketball team has been formed January 2019 (current year) under the direction of Mr. Chris Burrows.
- c. Renewal of Youth Ensemble under the direction of Mrs. Giavanna Knowles-Rolle (me)
- d. Transportation expected to be available in 2 weeks upon approval that Mr. Burrows, Ms. Karen Johnsons, and Mr. Cleveland Walker Jr. can drive the church bus when needed for the purpose of Youth activities.
- e. Time to plan more dynamic activities for Youth Group and Children's Chapel as this process already began.
- f. More Youth Sundays and youth involvement in general services – Now building choir work, and more readings and skits since there is more time and less worry with help on board
- g. Time to prepare more sermons, and develop workshops (process began).

NORMAL ACTIVITIES - SUCCESSFUL

1. Children's Chapel
2. Youth Group
3. Special Youth Sundays

YOUTH DEPARTMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2019

FEBRUARY

The month of February is dedicated to love.

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16TH at 7pm – 6th annual Valentine Dinner hosted by the EPIC Youth Department, Sir. Durward Knowles Auditorium. Tickets \$25 available now. Please support. SEE YOU THERE!!!!

As chairman of the Bahamas Conference of the Methodist Church -Children Youth & Young Adult Board, there is a schedule of Youth events put together by our team. Such events will keep most churches busy as it relates to our young people. Please see proposed schedule of events (some dates are subject to change based on Conference decisions and the concerns of individual churches):

MARCH

The month of March will be called "**MARCH MANIA**" as we go into a mania mode for Basketball. Each church is expected to put together a basketball team starting now, and begin practice immediately especially during the month of March. This sport is more appropriate for Youth and Young Adults, so please use discretion for children. Tournaments will be held:

MARCH 16TH & 23RD - Registration fee \$3 dollars per person.

APRIL

The month of April will be called "**APRIL PRAISE**" as we dedicate this month to Praise and worship. Individual churches are expected to prepare groups and individuals to perform music, dance, readings / poetry, and other forms of praise and worship.

APRIL 12TH – Children's Concert, (Youth and Young Adults are encouraged to support)

APRIL 27TH - Youth and Young Adult Praise and Worship (Children encouraged to support)

MAY

The Month of May is dedicated to the BCMC Spiritual Growth and Omnifest events. This Month is called "**Spiritual Growth**". Events are usually held during the last 2 weeks of the month. Exact dates for events will be issued by the Conference Office but please expect the following:

YOUTH NIGHT – This night includes great participation by youth of our Conference

OMNIFEST – A day of games and sports: Sac Race, Tug of War etc. Volley Ball and Softball, Art and Craft, foods, and movie.

JULY

This month will be called "**JAMMIN JULY**", as all of our churches come together and enjoy an awesome 2 (two) weeks at Camp Symonette in Eleuthera. The help of Youth Leaders, Youth, and Young Adults would be greatly appreciated. Camp will be held:

JULY 13th - 20th for ages 8 - 11

JULY 20TH - 27TH for ages 12 - 16

JUNE & AUGUST

Due to the summer camp for July, we advise churches to host Vacation Bible School (VBS) in June and August. However, those not able to go to the camp can focus on offering VBS in his or her individual churches in order to accommodate other persons that may not attend the camp. We would like for our Methodist Churches to remain active in all regions. Please submit dates that your church will host VBS so this information can be shared in advance.

OCTOBER - "YOUTH MONTH" (designated by the Bahamas Ministry of Youth)

Once again we will participate in the Ministry of Youth National Youth March (date will be issued). It is also National Children's Month - designate a Sunday for children and youth to lead.

Start the process of selecting and preparing youth for various awards and events for Youth Month. For e.g.- Youth in Parliament, Outstanding Youth Award, etc. See Criteria on the Ministry's website where you can also debrief on what the month is about:

<https://www.celebrateyouthbahamas.org/2018-national-youth-month>.

Events organized by our team to be posted on the Ministry's Calendar of youth events:

OCTOBER 19 - Methodist Youth community service drive (let us select a project together)

OCTOBER 26 - Maze and hunt game to be done in a designated safe area of each Region.

Note: There will be a few more fundraisers other than the Valentine Dinner. However, the Department needs time to focus on all of the activities ahead. With that in mind we have a back sale During the month of March, and a car wash for April.