

YouthNews

FRANKSVILLE UMC YOUTH GROUP/NOVEMBER 2009/VOL. 2

NOTHING GOOD?!

It's finally here! The season in the Christian year where we get to hurry up and wait! That's right, Advent is here and there is nothing to do but sit and wait for Christmas. Right? Not quite.

Advent is a really important time in the Christian calendar because it is the beginning of a new year in the church. That's right, we get to celebrate the New Year early! (What up!) But instead of waiting for a 6-ton ball to drop high above Time Square, we as Christians wait for the birth of a tiny baby who brings with him the promise of new life.

We tell this story every year--Mary (at least eight and a half months preggers) and Joe, a young couple for Nazareth, take their donkey and head to Jerusalem to participate in the mandatory census called for by Caesar Augustus. And wouldn't you know it, that little bugger Jesus decides this trip would be a good time to be born. So the young couple tried to find a hotel...all of which just so happened to be full (probably because of the census) so they got stuck in the barn behind a Bethlehem inn...sketchy. But it was in that barn that the Savior was born.



Like I said, we all pretty much know this story. Or have at least heard something like it before. But there is so much we don't often talk about in church. For example... Did you know that Mary was probably around 13 or 14 years old?

Granted 14 was a lot "older" then than it is now (meaning it was common practice to get married and start a family at that age), but come on! That's crazy! Not only that, but she wasn't married yet! So Mary, the mother of Jesus, was 14, unmarried, and (to quote 'Juno') her "ego was preggo." Not the best of situations by today's standards.

If that weren't enough, nobody thought to highly of Nazareth. In fact, at one point in the Bible someone asks..."Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?!" Do you know of any place like that? Think of any place that you might associate with that question... Downtown Racine? South-side Chicago? Basically what I am getting at is that people thought Nazareth was a hole... a ghetto... the slums... get my drift? Basically, if people held the same position towards unwed, teen mothers then that some people do today, we might not be that surprised that a girl from "there" got knocked-up.

The long and short is this. The baby Jesus was born to an unwed teenaged mother from the wrong part of town. Why would God want us to wait for such a baby? More than that, why would God even pick Mary to have the Savior in the first place?!

THE CALENDAR

12.03 Youth Night
6-8:00pm

12.06 **Dessert Auction**
After second service

12.10 Youth Night
6-8:00pm

12.13 Confirmation
3-8:30p

12.17 Youth Night
6-8:00pm

12.24 Christmas Eve
Services at 4pm and 11pm

12.31 New Years Eve
No Youth Group, See you in 2010!

Jan.07.10
Youth Night- With Audrey & Dani!
6-8:00pm

Jan.14.10
Youth Night - Audrey & Dani!
6-8:00pm

Jan.20.10
NEW NIGHT - Youth Night!
6-8:00pm

Jan.24.10
Confirmation - Date change!
2-7:00pm

Jan.27.10
NEW NIGHT - Youth Night!
6-8:00pm

MEET: [MAGGIE SULLIVAN]!



Name: Maggie Sullivan

School/Grade: McKinley - 6th

Favorite Color: Baby Blue

Favorite Animal: Bottlenose Dolphin

Wants to meet: Robert Pattinson

Favorite Book: Breaking Dawn by
Stephanie Meyer

Favorite Christmas Song: Prince of
Peace

Music I Like

Owl City

Black Eyed Peas

Taylor Swift

Sean Kingston

Movies I Like

New Moon

She's The Man

Twilight

When you think about it, the miraculous hope of Christmas is within all of these seemingly unfavorable parts of the story.

God didn't call the powerful, the rich, and the appropriately wed, to bring the Good News to the world, he called a poor girl from a rough neighborhood. God didn't send a powerful demi-God, superhero, vampire, or werewolf to save us from our plight... God sent a baby. God asked someone very much like, well, you and me. This is such an amazing part of the story because it is from the humble beginnings of God that we receiving

--Jonathan

-- A NOTE ABOUT JANUARY --

Because of a graduation requirement, I will be out of the country from January 4-17. So, Audrey Seitz and Dani Anderegg will be stepping up and taking over youth group while I am gone!! I am really excited that they have agreed to do this and I think you all will have a blast!

Also in January, and also because of school, Youth Night will move to WEDNESDAYS. This will start WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20.

And finally, if you have been paying attention, you'll notice that this means that Confirmation must change for January as well. So, Confirmation will now meet ON JANUARY 24 from 2:00-7:00 pm.

I really appreciate your understanding on all this. I love you all, but I also really, really want to graduate in May.

--Jonathan

FEATURING: YOU!

Send Jonathan your work via email at franksvilleyouth@gmail.com with "Featuring" in the subject line or bring a digital copy of your work with you to church. Can't make a digital copy? Talk to Jonathan and we'll work something out!

All written work must be between 200 and 1000 words. All work will be pre-read before publication to ensure appropriateness.

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Thoughts? Questions? Rants? Raves?
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