

Youth News - February 2019, by Chandra Hillman

Reflecting on the past month-The youth and I started out the year by writing new faith statements. This gives us a chance to reflect on how deep our faith is and to examine how it has changed over the past year; did our faith weaken or did it get stronger? We started writing the faith statements last year and I plan to continue it each new calendar year. Last year's seniors who wrote faith statements will receive theirs in the mail. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance in what we do not see" ~ Hebrews 11:1

With our Bible study lessons on Sunday mornings, we finished up lesson 4 and skipped over to lesson 6; Self-Sabotage-The Habits That Rob Our Future. In this lesson, we read about destructive habits that sabotage us and in Colossians 1:9-11 we discussed the heart changes that we can use to rid ourselves of these harmful habits. We learned how to pray powerfully and how important it is to have a consistent prayer life. Verse 10 reminds us that we live to fully please God by serving others and how our lives can be changed by learning about God's holiness. Ultimately, if we begin the habit of praying through the Scriptures we can live with a pure and strong identity.

At our youth planning meeting, we discussed upcoming events for January and February as we enjoyed some pizza and laughter.

A group of youth kids spent two Wednesday evenings over at the YOP house. Earl Hillman helped the boys start tearing down wallpaper in what we will be making into our War Room. While the boys were busy being wallpaper warriors, the girls and I made 41 Valentines for the residents at the nursing home and assisted living.

T-shirts were purchased for all the youth group members to wear when we do any kind of group activity so we can be identified by others as the youth of Peace. At our last planning meeting in 2018, two youth group members picked out a design and a Bible verse to go on the T-shirts. 1 Timothy 4:12 was the Bible verse chosen. This is just one of the many things the youth is able to do because of the amazing support shown to them by all of your kindness and generosity.

After the annual meeting the youth served a little over 100 people with a pulled pork meal. A BIG thanks to Earl Hillman for preparing the pork served at the meal which was delicious! A thank you goes out to the parents for their support in helping donate the items for the meal. Another thanks goes to the youth for their time in serving and last a tremendous thanks of gratitude to our congregational members for their continuous support, it is so greatly appreciated by all of us. We are pleased to report a total of \$588 raised.

Looking ahead at the new month- On "Souper" Bowl Sunday, the youth will take up donations for the local pantries in Thayer and Nuckolls county.

The youth decided to do a pizza fund-raiser and have filled 42 pizza orders. The pizzas will be freshly made and ready to be picked up after church on February 3rd. Donations from last month's meal, the pizza fund-raiser and the Lenten meals are going towards youth activities and this summer's mission trip, which is currently undecided where that will be at this time.

On Sunday, February 10th, the youth will be delivering Valentines for the residents at Parkview Haven and Meadowlark Heights as their service project. After church we will have our youth planning meeting, following that we will be delivering meals to two congregational families as another Random Act of Kindness.

We are looking at some dates to meet up with the other youth groups in Deshler to make freezer meals and go bowling. Our next lesson is Altered Images-Changing Who We Are To Fit In, from Romans 12.

We remember Jaide Miller, as she would have celebrated her birthday on February 13th. Our hearts still ache with sadness and tears overflow. Jaide is so dearly missed! Hugs and kisses are being sent to Heaven!

"Birthday in Heaven"

*I see the tears you are crying
And the pain that's in your eyes
But please don't be sad
Because love never dies.*

*So please celebrate my birthday
Filled with memories and love
Just close your eyes and realize
I'm celebrating in Heaven above.*