



# THE 4:11



*Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4:11*

## MAY 2009

It hit us about a month ago as we were making our way up to the Youth Lounge on a Sunday morning that our time at Trinity Church was coming to a close. To be honest we weren't really expecting it and we weren't really ready for it. It was quite sobering to think that on May 3rd we would make the trek from Trinity Church back to Decatur for the last time. That short car ride has been a special time for us. We often spend that time catching up on what happened at PYC and reflecting on and appreciating all the ways God is at work at Trinity. Recently the car ride has been a time to reflect over the past three years and to remember all that we have experienced with you.



To say that we have loved and cherished our time with you here would be an understatement. Over the past three years you have invited us into the very sacred space that is your lives. We have gathered around table together to share meals, conversations, stories, and life. We have gone on trips, traveled many hours together, eaten some good food, eaten some bad food, stayed up late, shared in Bible study, Sunday night PYC, Church school, and worshiped together. We have been constantly amazed at how much you do, from school work, church activities, to theater, dance, sports, and more. Know that we respect you and are inspired by you each and every week.

To be able to be here with you and to share in the community of faith God has called us has been an honor and a pleasure. You welcomed us with open arms and have embraced us throughout our entire time here. A lot has changed in three years, and we have gone through it together. We are grateful for the ways that you have supported us, cared for us, and loved us. Please know that we love you too.

We have never been very good at saying goodbyes, and so here it doesn't seem fitting to say goodbye. It isn't quite in our nature to not see you again, and so we look forward to all the places and ways that our paths will cross again in the future. Know that we will keep in touch and will keep you in our prayers. It's been awesome!

Peace and Love,

Sarah and Matthew

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**YOUTH SUNDAY AND**  
**FALL PARENT/YOUTH FALL**  
**KICK-OFF**  
**AUGUST 23.**

# Trinity PYC Mission & Values

In February 40 youth and adults worked in conjunction with Youth Ministry Architects vision a mission statement and values to guide our youth ministry program. Below is what was presented to the Session during it's April meeting:

## MISSION STATEMENT

The youth ministry of Trinity Presbyterian Church seeks to nurture youth and their families, to engage their hearts and minds, and to equip them for a lifelong faith that embodies God's transforming love through Jesus Christ.

## VALUES

God encounter us, both individually and in community, as

1. We respond to God's Spirit through thoughtful reflection, lively questioning, and warm fellowship.
2. We honor God through worship, grounded in the love of Jesus Christ.
3. We seek to address human needs through acts of compassion and social action.
4. We share leadership as youth and adults together.
5. We live with an enthusiasm and joy that spills over into our congregation and community.
6. We strive to create authentic community that makes room for the full range of human emotions.
7. We welcome, celebrate and respect the diversity of all God's children.

## JUNIOR HIGH CHURCH SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION UPDATE

During it's April meeting, the Youth Ministry Renovation Committee made the following decisions that affects the junior high church school program. With last year's decision to revamp the senior high church school program, it has been decided to move the year we confirm Trinity's youth to their 8th-grade year. The current 6th graders, the Class of 2015, will go through confirmation during the 2011-2012 school year.

At the end of the confirmation experience the class will take a pilgrimage somewhere in the United States. A pilgrimage is a long journey or search of great moral significance. Sometimes it is a journey to a sacred place or shrine of importance in regard to a person's beliefs and faith. Details of this program are in the planning stages.

The current sixth-grade church school curriculum, learning what other's believe, will be moved to the 7th-grade year. During the 6th-grade year, we will spend the year learning about ourselves, others, and our identity in Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions, please contact John Ryan or any member of the Renovation Committee.



Harrison Reeves .....	5/1
May Collins Woollcott .....	5/7
Wheeler Sutton .....	5/10
Ashley Hurst.....	5/13
Sarah Ruffner .....	5/14
Nina Montgomery .....	5/14
Sam Yntema .....	5/15
Madeleine Moseley .....	5/17
Collins Speed.....	5/17
Caroline McKinley .....	5/20
Leigh Ann McKinley.....	5/20
Thomas Black.....	5/26
Adrienne Fuerst.....	5/26

## May Doughnuts

May 3-	Ferguson Famil
May 10-	Crosswell Famil
May 17-	Kerman Family

**May 3, 2009**  
jr. & sr. high youth

**IT'S BACK!**

# **BRIDGE NIGHT**

Featuring the  
World's Longest  
Slip-N-Slide

**5:00 to 6:30 pm**  
junior high youth

**6 to 8 pm**  
senior high youth

## HOW TIMES FLIES

It seems like just yesterday we were gathering in the Gym following Youth Sunday for our Fall Parent/Youth Kick-Off. It's hard to believe how far we've come since the fall. There seems to be a renewed sense and vigor for the youth program. I am excited about the growth of us as individuals and as a group. We've come a long way, baby!

Some of the significant events that I recall from the past year include:

- The 6th grade mission trip to Charlotte
- A new senior high church school program
- Grace groups meeting during PYC
- Our Agape meal in the winter
- Hearing Rodger Nishioka's words of wisdom
- Thanksgiving baskets at the Agape Center
- Feeding of the 5000!

Seeing how far we've come, I know how far we have to go! As you scan over this newsletter, you'll read about some of the exciting changes that will be in store for us in the fall. As we look to move out of the renovation process in August into a permanent committee structure I am confident that all the hard work we've done this year will continue as we respond to the needs of youth and honor Trinity's unique witness and presence in the city of Atlanta.

I am grateful for all of Matthew's hard work this year to strengthen the Sunday night program and am grateful for his vision and care of Trinity's young people. As Matthew closes his 3 year internship at Trinity, I know I will not be the only one to miss him. My earliest memory of Matthew is meeting him in the middle of the night at the Duval Home for the junior high mission trip. I bet he was wondering what he was getting himself into!

Since we're talking about change, let me give you another exciting change. Starting in June, Wendy Cochran will have an expanded role at the church. She'll be around this summer and will be working more hours in the fall. Watch for details in the Summer PYC newsletter.

We can never replace Matthew and Sarah, and I know we'll feel their presence in the youth program for years to come. What a year! Thanks be to God!! We'll see you at Bridge Sunday, May 3. Peace,

JR

## *Congratulations to our 2009 Confirmation Class*

Isabelle Babb  
Charlie Carroll  
Claire Coleman  
Caroline Edwards  
Charlie Hamilton  
Emma Higgins  
Evelyn Hobbs  
Drew James  
Clarke Long  
Connor McCarthy  
Austin McCartney  
Katherine Merritt  
Isabel Odom  
Jamey O'Shaughnessey  
Corey Richards  
Haley Stancil  
Alex Thorne  
Gabi Vesey  
Christopher West  
Hayden Wyatt



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