

# MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRIES

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ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

ISSUE ONE



*Fun times were had by all (leaders included) on the Middle School Ski Trip*

## Middle School Ski Trip

by Sarah Warren

Have you ever had a weekend, full of thrills, excitement and memories shared with good friends? The Middle School Ski Trip was all of that packed in one cold, January weekend. On the trip we had tons of fun with the variety of activities we did.

When I first heard there was going to be another ski trip this year, I didn't even consider going. I thought, I don't know how to ski, so what's the point in going? Boy, am I glad I went. Eventually I was persuaded by friends to go and I was so excited. I did have some doubts about going. Knowing me I knew I was going to have an accident, but fortunately there were lessons available for us. I was glad I was going to learn something new.



We all met up at the Henning House on a Friday afternoon with all of our bags and smiling faces ready to have a fun-filled weekend. So we boarded the vans and away we were on our way to Hidden Valley Ski Resort. When we arrived at the house we were staying at, we were all told the rules and guidelines

to start with. Then we all gathered and got our snow gear on and were ready for the biggest snowball fight ever. That night was a blast and I was having so much fun already.

The next morning after we had all eaten breakfast, we headed for the resort already to start skiing for the day. In the group we had some experienced skiers, and some inexperienced skiers. For the inexperienced skiers we all stayed on the bunny slope before our lessons started. We all split into groups and set off with our instructors to learn how to ski. After that the whole group met up for lunch in the resort and then all went our ways after we ate. The rest of the day was spent skiing, snowboarding, or chilling out with friends. I have to say I thank everyone who encouraged me to go up the bigger slopes and face my fear. Everyone on the trip had a blast, even though we all had some times where we fell or needed help.

That evening we all headed back to the house for dinner and a night of games and football. We all enjoyed movies, football, a dip in the hot tub, snowball fights and hot cocoa. The next morning

was spent packing up our bags and cleaning the rooms. Once that was all done, we had a small little church service where we all gathered and shared our experience. We shared God moments and we heard some memorable stories and some scriptures about what it is to have good times and a blessing to have a fun time. I think all of us middle school students were shown some GRACE from all the leaders. They provided for us a weekend of fun and happiness that we didn't really deserve, but they wanted to provide us with that fun weekend.

I think we can all say we had a weekend of bonding with other, also love, and making amazing memories we will all look back on. Also, we were spending quite a bit of time with God even while doing something like skiing. On the way home I thought to myself, three days ago I had huge doubts about going on this trip, but I am so happy I did, because I was with friends and had the best time ever. The weekend was defiantly life-changing in ways that we can always look back on. So I don't think any of us regret that weekend—it was amazing in so many ways!

# What Pulse Means To Me

by Jordan McClain

It was the fifth **Pulse** of the year and as we all made our way upstairs to hear Doug Raeder speak I thought about how in such a short amount of time everyone had already become really close. We all cared for each other and wanted the best for one another. Everyone one was welcoming and I always got a special feeling of comfort, like I could really be myself with this group.

That day was a special day...one of the girls, Rachel, was about to move to another country. Doug told us all to join together and everyone would lay hands on Rachel. We prayed for her well-being and safety, and we thanked God for what a great person Rachel is. As we prayed I could feel God's presence with us. It was such a powerful and over-whelming experience. Tears streamed down everyone's face as we all hugged each other after we ended in

prayer. We were all there to comfort each other, as always. **Pulse** helped me make friends that I can go to when I need a shoulder to lean on and I know those friends can always help point me in the right direction because each one of them has God in their hearts. **Pulse** has become one big welcoming family, and we are always looking for more brothers and sister to join us in our walk with the Lord.

*"My favorite part of **Pulse** is that it allows us to come together with people who are completely different from us, but at the same time we are all there to seek one thing... the love of Christ. **Pulse** helped me develop a relationship with Christ alongside of kids my age, but also have a blast while doing it."*



*The above photos are from our annual **Mystery Trip**. If you aren't in them, you missed an awesome experience. Join us next year!*

## Upcoming Events

### Pulse

Every Sunday evening, starting Sunday, September 7, middle school students (6th-8th) are invited to an optional dinner from 6:15 to 7 p.m. in the Henning House. From there, students are plugged-in to a program from 7 to 8 p.m. that consists of an assortment of team building games. They are then given the opportunity to hear a Christ-centered relevant message. This is our primary evening program for middle school students to get involved in to strengthen or begin their relationship with Christ as well as to hang out with friends.

### Club 678

Club 678 is a Sunday school class for all students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Each week we dig into the scriptures to learn about the giants of faith, how to live as Christians and the life and work of Jesus Christ. We meet on the second floor of Henning House every Sunday morning at 10:15.

### VAULT

The VAULT is a new Sunday morning event that will meet in the basement of the Henning House during the 10:15 hour every week. We will be looking at and answering some hard questions of our faith. This is open to students in 6 to 8th grade.

### Middle School Girls Bible

#### Study (launches August 27)

Every Wednesday after school from 3:30 to 4:30 all middle school girls are invited to gather on the first floor of the Henning House for bible study. This time is designed for girls to spend time with their friends, enjoy some snacks and take a refreshing and unique look at the bible. All middle school girls are encouraged to come.

### Middle School Boy's

#### Bible Study (launches September 8)

Every Monday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. all middle

## Fall Launch is Sept. 7

school boys are invited to gather at Ron McCormick's house. This time is intended for boys to dig a little deeper in to their relationship with Christ.

### Revolve Tour

This trip is open to all girls in grades 6 to 12 and is a part of Women of Faith tour. Dates for the trip are September 14 to 15. Contact Carrie Raeder for more information.

### Fall Family Festival

Halloween is great fun! Add to that fun by coming out on October 31st to the church parking lot for live music by Six Chasing Seven, fun games and don't forget candy!

### A Trip to the Pool

Kalahari water park resort is calling our name. We traveled last year to Castaway Bay and this year it is time for Kalahari resort. The dates are November 21 to 22. Cost is \$90 and includes meals and two days at the water park.

### Light up Night

We will be serving hot chocolate to our friends and neighbors. Stop by the Henning House to have some fun and get warmed up. Friday, December 5.

### Christmas Party

Last year was our first Christmas party. Make sure you don't miss out on the fun and games. Oh yeah, there will be some great prizes again. Sunday, December 14, 6:15 to 8.

### Middle School Ski Trip

January 23rd to 25th we will be returning to the slopes once again. If you learned how to ski last year, this year you can hone your skills. If you have never tried skiing, still come out and learn. Lessons are available for you to learn a new sport. The cost of the trip is \$150 includes housing, meals, and skiing.