

# Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene

## Activities and Announcements 05.24.09

### **MEMORIAL DAY ALL CHURCH DINNER TODAY!...**

Please join us TODAY for an All Church baked potato and grilled chicken dinner immediately following the morning worship service. Thank you to the McNeills and the Williams for their hard work preparing the meal. Everyone is welcome!

**WEDNESDAY DINNERS...** If you are planning on coming to the meal this Wednesday at 5:45PM, please sign up in the Friendship Folder or email the church office with the number of attendees, so we can make sure there is enough for everyone! The cost is \$3 per person or \$10 per family. Drinks and wireless Internet will be available until 7:45 PM. We will not have Wednesday dinners in June & July. The dinners will resume in August.

### **BE A PART OF SUMMER KIDS CLUB AT FIRST INDIAN CHURCH!...**

First Indian Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to the kids in their neighborhood and offering a fun, educational, and Christ-centered program each Monday and Wednesday from June 8-August 5. We need YOUR help! If you are available to help with tutoring or coordinating any of the following subjects or have equipment or teaching supplies for these subjects- we need you! Subjects include: reading comprehension, math, science, health, art and music. Sessions will be held from 12:00-3:00pm. For more info, please contact Teri Inman at [teriinman@cox.net](mailto:teriinman@cox.net) or 204-8800.

**LIFE HURTS, GOD HEALS IS BACK!...** Over the summer, Life Hurts God Heals will be meeting in an 8 week format, starting May 28 and lasting through August 6. Life Hurts God Heals is a program for students based on 8 Biblical Principles that follow the Beatitudes found in Matthew. This curriculum is designed as a tool to help students work through their hurts, habits, and hang-ups – including, but not limited to, alcohol or drug addiction, abuse, guilt, anger, and grief. We meet in a large group setting first for a lesson then break up into age and gender specific small groups to spend time answering questions and working through the lesson. Life Hurts God Heals is not a place for students to be "fixed," but it is a place where they can feel safe to be themselves and be open about the struggles they face. Life Hurts God Heals meets every **Thursday night, beginning May 28, in the mid-high room.** The mid-high room will be open at 6:30PM for conversation and fellowship and the program meets from 7 - 8:30PM. For questions, please contact Kristin Moyer at 843-9588.

**BE READY FOR THE START OF VBS AND GRAB A PIZZA LUNCH TO GO!...** VBS starts Sunday, June 7 and it might be a real time crunch to think about lunch. We have a solution – Pizza to Go! That's right – you can get a 1-topping pizza, salad in a bag and a 2-liter bottle of pop for only \$20. If you want two pizzas, just add another \$10! The pizza will be from Pizza Hut. **We'll have the pizzas ready after morning worship service on June 7.** This fundraiser is to help our "Beyond the Budget" focus on CR/Literacy nursery care, spiritual direction and OKC First Centennial Celebration-Jubilee 2010. Contact Paula

Meder or Teri Inman for more details.

**ALABASTER BOXES ARE IN!...** Pick up your Alabaster box outside of the sanctuary today and start saving your change! Together, we can help fund the construction of churches, schools, medical facilities, and homes for missionaries and national workers. We will have our Alabaster march later this summer!

**RESURRECTION STORIES...** Our hearts have been stirred in the past few Sunday worship sermons as people have shared their testimonies of resurrection. Of course, we can't get to hear everyone's story on Sundays. If you are interested in sharing God's resurrection power in your life, please email Paula Meder at [paulameder@gmail.com](mailto:paulameder@gmail.com).

**NWO DISTRICT CHILDREN'S CAMP...** will be held at Camp Bond in Tishomingo, OK.

**Camper Registration** forms are located on the children's information board by the Children's Church room. If you are interested in being a **Camp Counselor**, applications are located in the tray on Pastor Lisa's office door.

#### **Camp dates & cost:**

Primary camp (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>) July 13-15, cost is \$120.

Junior camp (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>) July 15-17, cost is \$120.

Preteen camp (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>) July 13-17, cost is \$140.

If you would like to sponsor a child to camp please note your checks: NWO District Children's Camp- your support will be greatly appreciated!

**THE BRESEE SOCIETY...** is a group of people who desire to grow spiritually by offering assistance to those who are in need and suffering. We will begin this ministry by delivering groceries and visiting with people one night during the week. We hope to gain friendship with these people in our community. We will provide them with help for their most basic needs and offer them information on how to obtain more permanent assistance. The dates and times will vary with each group of volunteer's schedules. If you are interested in this type of ministry and would like to sign up to be a volunteer, please contact: Lance Schmitz: [lanceschmitz@gmail.com](mailto:lanceschmitz@gmail.com), 476-2633, or Christina Copeland: [christinamcopeland@gmail.com](mailto:christinamcopeland@gmail.com), 639-0018.

**THE NURSERY NEEDS YOU!...** We are in need of a couple of individuals who would be interested in being a Room Coordinator in our crawler room on Sunday mornings. This would be for Sunday school and the church hour. If you are interested in working even one Sunday per month, please contact us and let us know. We would be happy to visit with you and see if we could coordinate which Sunday of the month would work for you. Ideally we would like to find two individuals who would be willing to work every other Sunday to provide consistency for the kids. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Dayna Stark at 642-6750 or 948-1901, or you can contact Pastor Lisa at 823-0444.

*Zambia Vending Machines: at the South end of the South hall.*

*Designated smoking area: outside the South doors of the South hall . Celebrate Recovery Information: outside the Green Room South entrance*

# Understanding Gen-Next

## Gen-Next: Who Are We?

The next generation of Nazarenes can be summed up in one word: Passion.



As young Christians, we live in an entirely different age than 100 years ago. In a world where instant and constant communication between people on different continents is possible, we, as young Nazarenes, have the potential to greatly influence lives around the world. Recognize the magnitude of our potential and don't dismiss the value of our participation in the universal Church's mission. We are a vast and untapped resource waiting to be used.

At first glance we can seem apathetic, uncaring, listless and disrespectful. But this is a facade, emotional armor protecting us from those who don't truly care for us.

To understand youth today, first understand our social environment – the messages we get from the media, and the worldview we absorb through contact with other cultures forces us to grow up too fast.

In some parts of the world, our parents spend more time on their careers than they do trying to understand and nurture us; the media assaults us constantly with sex, violence, and alcohol, and then wonders, "What is wrong with today's youth?" in the same breath. Others of us suffer poverty, illness and abandonment. The Church many times does not see or understand the environment in which we live, and only wonders, "What is wrong with today's youth?" Few try to see the world through our eyes.

The hardships of growing up in today's world drive us to find solace in each other. We separate ourselves from mainstream society because we do not expect most adults to "be there" for us. So instead, we turn to one another – friends become family, and we watch adults with untrusting eyes.

Too many people are put off by the way we act within our own sub-culture without attempting to understand why we live the way we do. You cannot push us away and then fault us for being distant.

But if one thing can be said of us, we are passionate. We don't do anything halfway. We often commit utterly to everything we do. So the question our church needs to ask itself is not, "How can we make youth passionate?" but, "How can we provide a Christ-like foundation for the passion that already exists?"



**The first step** towards igniting this passion is to "be there." "Being there" is essential to any relationship with us. We need you to be someone we can count on, someone who cares about us, who shows an interest in our lives, who means what you say. We need you to make your face familiar and trusted.

**Second**, if you want us to be passionate about something, you have to be passionate about it, too. We demand authenticity. If you want to lead us anywhere, you must go first, and be as transparently passionate about it as you want us to be.

**Third**, we long for community – to be a part of something bigger than ourselves. Ask one of us what makes youth gatherings or camps such amazing spiritual experiences and most will tell you that it is being among many other Christian brothers and sisters from different places, which helps us understand we are part of a bigger story. Being with other Christians gives us a sense of belonging.



For more information, please consult the following works.

*Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church* by Kenda Creasy Dean

*Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers* by Chap Clark

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