

Testimonials Are Us

Winter Blitz 2015

Here's great news! Centenary's Youth numbered about 35 (plus chaperones) at this year's KY Annual Conference Winter Blitz. One definition of blitz is "a sudden, energetic, and concerted effort." Well, according to our youth, their blitz experience was just that and they loved every minute of it.

"It was awesome," smiled Caroline Husband when asked about Winter Blitz. "Spending a weekend together, learning how to be together, and getting along fine. We bonded a lot and had a lot of fun." Caroline explained the activities were primarily held at Broadbent Arena with our youth "camping out" at St.

Paul's United Methodist Church. Their mission project was a service day at the Wesley House in Louisville and included painting and straightening the facility.



Centenary's Youth Won First Place for having the most young people in attendance at the 2015 Winter Blitz. Great work, youth, parents and chaperones!



Centenary Youth share a special bond with each other and their Savior. L-R: Connor Goodwin, Raley Suter, Trinedy Searcy, Katelyn Rice, Kaden Schooler, Sammy Hood, Gentry Gaither, Melissa Sternberg, Brandon Hobbs and Tristen Schooler.

The bonding Caroline appreciated wasn't just with Centenary's youth but with some of the other youth and youth leaders that attended Winter Blitz. Some 1,600 participated in the three day event that included worship music that had youth jumping in the aisles praising their Lord. The keynote speaker/rapper, Pastor Fred Lynch, grabbed the attention of his audience not only with his exciting preaching but with his tragic story made beautiful through the love of Christ.

One message Caroline noted that resonated with the young women in attendance was to recognize the beauty God saw in their uniqueness. The "you" that each teen is "could

never be more beautiful”, says the accomplished pianist, jazz musician and CUMC Youth Band member. “We should be confident, not insecure,” says Caroline in their unique and wonderful beauty. Caroline, who like so many of our youth members, has grown up in Centenary has an appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of the church. She feels, “since I have grown up in Centenary, I have this sense of family that surrounds me. A family that knows and loves me. Something I think I would be unable to find in a larger church.”

The Schooler twins, Tristen and Kaden, understand Caroline’s feelings. “Our youth group is really close. We enjoy each other; especially those of us who grew up in Centenary,” explains Kaden. “Chilling.” pipes in fellow Centenary ‘old-timer’, Brandon Hobbs. Expanding his thoughts, “sitting there talking, enjoying each other’s company”, wherever they are together is one of the things that Brandon appreciates. Comaradre is a blessing Centenary’s youth share with other teens from different local churches who do not have Wednesday night programming. Amelia Woolery, a junior, comes from Simpsonville United Methodist Church to share in fellowship with Centenary’s youth not only on Wednesday night but in outings like Winter Blitz.

The Close Encounter Theme of this year’s Winter Blitz gave the youth a feeling of being “in touch with God”. Tristen spoke for the group saying she, “loved to get into the music and liked to sing.” Kaden recalled the speaker (Pastor Lynch) “brought his personal story into the message using rap. It was really cool to do that.” The message listeners took away was that a “Close Encounter” with anyone who knows God can change lives. “It can change everthing”, says Kaden.

Caroline noted that Winter Blitz and other get-aways the youth have had together has given them a chance to grow their friendships. She and the other youth appreciate the adult leaders who accompanied them on Winter Blitz. The four youth call their chaperones, “super cool, great people, really nice”. They appreciated the fact that many of them they had “grown up with” and they let the youth “be ourselves”. They appreciated the love and support of their Winter Blitz leaders: Teresa Barnes, Kurt Smith, Trisha Hobbs, Leslie Hobbs, Jenny Gardner, Xaq Matthews and youth director, Matt Bell. Saturday night meal team included Annie Gardner, Robin Chandler, Don Tracey, Gretchen Gayle, Amy Waggener, Rob and Karen Martion.



Centenary Pals, Autumn Wall, Sabrina Pratt, Jordan Knipp having some fun at Winter Blitz.

Testimonials Are Us! Testify to the times you have been blessed by your walk with Christ. Share your experience(s) so others may be enlightened or elevated. You do not have to write your testimony to share it. Let us know the God-incident you want to tell and someone will help you capture the experience. Call the office and leave your contact information so we can help you share your testimony or email us at centenary.testimonials@twc.com. Your walk can bring others to a closer walk with our Savior. See more testimonials when you visit Centenary’s website: <http://shelbyvillemethodist.com/#/new-here/testimonials>.



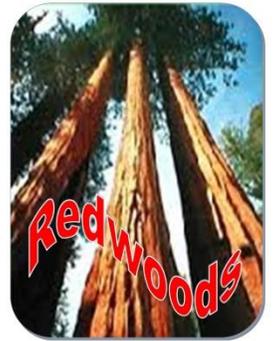
You're Invited

Join the ladies of Centenary wanting to serve with United Methodist Women around the world to make a difference. Circle your calendar to attend an organizational meeting of Centenary's "New Circle", 7PM, Thursday February 19, 2015, Centenary room 206. The "New Circle" (an interim name) is being created to give those whose

daytime schedules are too busy to meet and serve, an opportunity to work monthly with other United Methodist women to grow in Christ. The "New Circle" needs your support and passion for Christ centered ministry.

The "New Circle" can select the ministries it wishes to support and to expand as part of the United Methodist Women working for "Justice Through Service and Advocacy". To learn more about becoming a part of a service organization that represents United Methodist Women call Linda Sanford, 502-330-9524 or Bonnie Burks Gray, 503-633-6941.

Life Group, Redwoods, next meeting is 10AM, Monday, February 2nd, Duanne Puckett's home, 136 Cheyenne Drive. Geri Roberts will have the devotional. Want to learn more about Redwoods, call Bonnie Burks Gray 633-6941.



Save the Date: March 22nd
BABY
SHOWER

The Bells are ringing in an addition to their family. Honor Sarah with a Baby Shower 3 – 5PM, March 22, in Centenary's Fellowship Hall.