



G. S. Youth United

Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

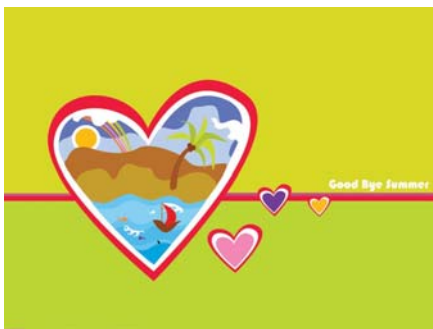


Goodbye Summer by Veronica Murray, Editor

As the swimsuits go back into their drawers and the backpacks come out of the closet, the youth here at Good Shepherd sadly say goodbye to the amazing and fun summer that they have had this past year. There has been many events that we have been blessed to put on these past few months, from Water Olympics to Camp Emmaus to the end of summer bonfire. The youth certainly have had a lot to do to keep their faith alive! This summer has certainly taught me how to keep my faith alive. I love hanging out with all my "church friends", as most people will refer to them as, but in reality they are my best friends. Friends that will always have my back through thick and thin, there to share my happiness when I triumph, and there to help me back up when I fall in the darkness. As a lot of the youth on the Core Team will tell you, one of the best experiences of the summer was Camp Emmaus 2011 - "Discover Jesus Christ-The Way". It not only relit my fire for God, but it made it super easy to keep my faith burning even stronger and brighter when I got home. I gained a

huge support system through my peers, parents, young adults, and Pat Clasby, that I am comfortable with. If I ever have a problem, I could go to any one of them and I would be safe and could get what I needed out of the situation. Other than Camp, my last summer before I graduate has inspired me just though the smaller things, like just going to mass, helping family around the house, giving a small compliment, getting a small compliment, it all adds up and one word or action can honestly brighten someone's whole day. So one goal I have going into the new school year is to always say a "Hello!" or "How are you doing?" to everyone I see, to at least acknowledge their presence and the precious life that they have. Another thing I rediscovered this summer is that God is with us always, no matter how terrible we THINK we are, no matter what we have done, He is always here. He will always forgive us and will take us back with open arms every single time we lose our way. This summer I

found my favorite bible verse, Matthew 28:20, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This verse really speaks to me. It is kind of a simple verse but when I read this verse I feel God's love for me burning in my heart. And SURELY I am with you always, I have never been more sure of anything in my life. It is such a comfort knowing that I will always have Him with me until I die and go and meet him face to face in heaven, that in every decision I make he is here watching me, guiding me to do the right thing. So as the fun of summer starts to fade away, and the nostalgia of the new school year starting kicks in, I pray that even though school is starting we do not put God on the back burner, let's not let Him fade as summer does, but keep Him first in our lives and continue down the path that God has laid down in front of us. I hope everyone has a safe and fun transition back into school. God Bless! <3



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End of Summer Bonfire

by Austin Ledesma

The bonfire this year was definitely a night to remember! Camp Emmaus was a life changing experience for many people. It was a place to connect with God, grow in our faith, and make plenty of new friends! I'm sure if you ask any of the youth (or even adults that went), coming home was not the easiest thing to do. The transition of coming back to reality is always a tough one, but with our strong faith we are

able to overcome all obstacles. This year's bonfire was a great way to just hang out and reconnect with everyone that we met. Pat Clasby did a great job this year of keeping everyone safe and making it a good time. There were many activities such as a great game of volleyball, one intense game of football, and a small yet fun game of soccer. It was a nice time to take a walk with a couple of friends and catch up since camp. Jed Banayat did an awesome job at cooking everyone delicious hamburgers and hot

dogs. The fire Pat got going for all of us was a nice touch as well! It made it a whole lot easier for everyone to make smores. It was a relaxing time where we could sit around and sing worship songs and laugh. Memories were made that night. From the boys sneaking off for "bro talk" to walking by the water sharing stories about life in general. This bonfire made it very easy for our youth to keep in touch with other parishes and other people who share the same strong faith as all of us here at Good Shepherd.



A fun game of volleyball



Youth at end of summer bonfire



Chefs Jed Banayat and Kris Bognot



Emmaus Boulevard Night

by Monica Bolanos

For some attendees of this past month's Camp Emmaus, those five days of retreat at Whispering Winds seemed long gone after only a week—but lucky for them, Camp Emmaus' very own Emmaus Boulevard had a comeback performance to restore that spiritual high that could be felt at camp inside Good Shepherd Parish.

Emmaus Boulevard—formerly known as The Camp Emmaus Band—consists of our very own Pat Clasby (Good Shepherd), Lailani

Gatchalian (San Rafael Parish), VJ Brien (Mission San Diego de Alcalá), Joyce Mendez (Most Precious Parish – Chula Vista), Mark Jacob (another one of our own at Good Shepherd) and Jed Banayat (also Good Shepherd and St. Charles), all of whom are either youth ministers or part of the young adult ministry of their respective parishes. Their combined talents brought together a slew of music that, along with the voices of the 80+ people that attended, filled our church with beautiful songs praising our Lord. The music ranged from popular hymns (“You Are Holy/Prince of Peace”) to so-

called secular songs (“Perfect” by P!nk and “Stitch by Stitch” by Javier Colon), concluding with “Mighty to Save”.

The concert provided youths from Camp Emmaus the opportunity to reconnect with each other as well as with friends brought as guests. Regardless of who attended camp or not, one thing's for certain—for two hours, everyone was united as a community of faith, gathered to praise and thank our Saviour for our blessings through the power of music.

“Those who sing, pray twice.”

– St. Augustine



Water Olympics by Arin Pena

Nothing feels better during a hot summer than spending time with friends and water. The Water Olympics was some good ole fun with water filled buckets, water balloons, Super Soakers, water guns, and friends. Core Team's Community Life task group put the event together and supplied it with the necessities for watery fun while Pat Clasby chaperoned it. This fun event was located in the grass field behind Good

Shepard School. A large tarp was set out as a slip and slide. Everyone was able to slide across it at least once and boy was that fun.

After spending some time around the tarp with water guns, Super Soakers and buckets, it was game time. Pat Clasby was the referee for each game. Teams were picked by captains. The first game was about filling up a bucket with a sponge. The next game involved four blindfolded teammates from each team searching for a water gun. Then there was a

break for lunch, which involved pizza and water. Afterwards it was the last game of the day. This involved a lot of water balloons and the whole field. Everyone had to throw the water balloons at the opposite teams to get other players out. The team with the most players standing won.

At the end of all the wet fun, everyone helped pack up and cleaned the field. It was a fun-filled day that was well-deserved during this hot summer.



Youth on slip and slide



Youth playing sponge game



Youth hanging out at Water Olympics



Witness talk by Alex Gopez



Young Adults



Youth Ministers



Last day of camp



Youth at mass



Small group time



Camp Emmaus—A Rookie’s Perspective by Arin Pena

August 7 through 11 was Camp Emmaus for the Core Team. To me, it was probably the best week in a long time. At first, I thought it would be like all of the other retreats, like Pre-Con and Confirmation, that I've been to. But after the first night I was getting into what was

going on. All of the different parishes grouped around us and I was able to meet a lot of nice and friendly people. I was able to really get into my faith with all the people around me, who were just as enthusiastic as I was. I was even able to be a part of the talent show. Everyone was supportive as an audience. It was a great experience.

As a rookie, this had been the best Camp Emmaus I've ever been too. I absolutely loved the experience and I wish I could enjoy it over and over again. I'll never forget the memories that were made or the people I met and befriended. I wouldn't trade anything for the world that one week. It was the best ever.



Married, single, and religious life Q&A session



Youth bonding at the pool



Young adults and adults at camp



Youth at mass



Youth at morning prayer



Learning to swing dance



Camp Emmaus—A Veteran’s Perspective by Frank Ningala

Hello all! Camp Emmaus 2011 was probably one of the best things to happen to me during my whole summer vacation. It was different entering it as a veteran, because I remember my first year we had so much support from the veterans that were there, and they guided us rookies around. But now, as the veteran, I took on that

role of being a leader (what I learned from the previous camp and year) into play. I felt that my job this year at camp was to help inspire those first timers and to draw them into their faith. I must tell you, I was truly inspired by each and every one of those individuals that attend the camp, especially during Reconciliation. Just seeing all the love that everyone showed to one another was truly amazing. You could really feel the love

of God at that time. From the meals throughout the day, to large group and small group time, to parish group time, to mass, and to the talks in the cabins at night, Camp Emmaus 2011 was definitely a defining moment in my life and will forever be a memory that I will cherish. I love all that attended camp, and it was such a pleasant time.

Senior Spotlights

We asked graduating seniors from the **Class of 2012** a few questions about their faith. Read their inspirational responses! As each young person transitions to the world of adulthood, we pray for continued blessings for all of them!

Senior Spotlight - Mark Celones

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- The Merry Go Round of Life (Howl's Moving Castle) - by Joe Hisaishi

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- 1 John 4:18 – "There is no fear in love; perfect love drives out all fear. So then, love has not been made perfect in anyone who is afraid, because fear has to do with punishment." Following God in faith is a tricky thing, because the brighter the light, the deeper the shadow; along with good things, you will experience and see terrible things as well. Sometimes, you can't do anything about it, and that naturally causes fear. There's no doubt that at some point in life, you will fall into darkness and fear. However, as a quote from Kingdom Hearts goes, "The heart may be weak. And sometimes, it may even give in. But I've learned that deep down there's a light that never goes out!" Where there's light, there's darkness, so don't be afraid and use the thing that's above both: love.



Senior Spotlight - Kayla Solano

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- Unashamed by Starfield

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- "God grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference."



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Senior Spotlight - Meghan Edgeworth

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- Light Up the Sky by The After
- God Gave Me You by Dave Barnes

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- My favorite inspirational saying is, "God won't give you something you can't handle." I love this saying because whenever I feel doubt within myself I can come to this and know that there is a reason why I'm here and that I can get through it. Knowing that God has my back I can do anything. For me it gives that extra push I need.



Senior Spotlight - Monique Breillatt

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- Bread of Heaven by Jesse Manibusan
- Thank You by The Katinas

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- Proverbs 3:5 – "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Jeremiah 29:11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

These two verses are my favorite because they both are saying that the Lord will always be there for me, no matter what the circumstances are. The Lord always has plans for me and I just have to trust in him that I will go down the right path. He will always be in my life to guide me through every problem or situation I am in. He will always love me for who I am, no matter what decision I choose to make. He will always be there for me.



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Senior Spotlight - Ashley Hight

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- I have many songs that I love and inspire me in so many ways. But one of my favorite artists is Kirk Franklin. I would say my top five songs by him are: I Smile, Imagine Me, I Am, Before I Die and Brighter Day.

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- I have many favorite bible verses, but one of my all-time favorite is Psalm 27:1 and 14 because it reminds me that with the Lord on my side, I shall not be afraid. Let your heart be filled with courage and be strong.



Senior Spotlight - Josh Hight

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- Prayin' for You and Take Me as I Am, both by Lecrae

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- Ephesians 2:8-10. I first saw this quote when I was listening to the "Take Me as I Am" song and fell in love with it. It just reminds me of all God has done for me and why I'm really here on Core Team...because on Him.



Senior Spotlights

We asked graduating seniors from the **Class of 2012** a few questions about their faith. Read their inspirational responses! As each young person transitions to the world of adulthood, we pray for continued blessings for all of them!

Senior Spotlight - Karen Tran

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- Hungry by Kathryn Scott

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- Philippians 4:13 because it really motivates me. Whenever I hear it, I remember that with my faith I can accomplish anything. There are many situations where I feel like the challenge I am faced with is impossible to overcome, but then I remember that through Christ I can do anything because he gives me the power. He has created a plan for me and wants me to succeed in life, and through my belief in Him, everything is possible.



Senior Spotlight - Nicole Suarez

What is your favorite song that inspires your faith?

- As cliché as it might be, "Footprints in the Sand" by Leona Lewis is the song that most inspires my faith.

Do you have a favorite Bible Verse or inspirational saying/quote that you can share?

- Romans 8:31





Setting the Example by Stephanie Bucao

When people think of Good Shepherd Youth Ministry, they think of Pat Clasby. When I think of Good Shepherd Youth Ministry, I think of Pat, as well the Good Shepherd Youth Core Team! The Good Shepherd Youth Core Team is comprised of a select group of 50, or more, young church goers who devote their time to help foster many other young Catholics in their faith and create a stronger bond with God. Many of the members may strike as familiar faces to the Catholic community, because all the members have attended the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes as well. With every team comes a “team leader”. Well in this large group of leaders, one was especially discerned to become this year’s core team president. With that in mind, I would like to bring up the lovely, Jasmine Rodriguez. Jasmine has been a part of core team for almost 3 years and is also a member of the Praise and Worship (PAW) task group. Alongside Jasmine, we have this year’s vice president, Jasmine Olalia, who has been a part of core team since last year and is also a fellow member of PAW. Helping these two maintaining status quo is the young Kayla Solano reigning as the team’s secretary. With each core team member working diligently around the clock, there is one girl to capture each and every moment and that’s

Janine Bayulot, who is this year’s core team historian. Enhancing the faith of the youth may sound uninteresting, but the core team members work nonetheless to provide a fun experience to every young person. However, in order to maintain all this fun, the team is divided into five separate task groups. The task groups include: Justice and Service, Community Life, Newsletter, PAW, and a new addition to the team, Hospitality. Each of the different task groups work on various projects that help nurture the faith of the many Pre-Confirmation



Core Team 2011-2012

and Confirmation students. For each task group comes a chair, or group leader. First we have Justice and Service led by Catherine Larson. Justice and Service organizes many of the justice and service projects that Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation youth are highly encouraged to take part in. Members of this task group go out and search for non-profit organizations that are in need of extra help. Next we have Community Life led by Joshua Hight. This group’s main objective is to organize and promote fun and exciting events for

the entire community to take part in. Moving on we have Newsletter led by Veronica Murray. Like journalism, Newsletter updates the community about different topics surrounding the youth ministry and church. Then we have Praise and Worship, or better known as PAW. This year PAW has been divided into two subgroups, Praise, and you guessed it, Worship! With two subgroups comes two task group chairs, Carlo Escudero and Karen Tran. Finally, as mentioned earlier, we have the newest task group, Hospitality led by Trisha Maatubang. Hospitality members welcome and set the environment for many of the youth group events.

Each member on this team greatly exemplifies the youth ministry bible verse, “Let no one look down upon you because of your youth, but be an example for the believer in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12. As stated in the verse, allow no one to think that because you are young, you are unable to become a good influence to others. Let others see that with your strong, growing faith you are capable of setting one of the best examples of what a Catholic should be. That is what has brought each member on this team. They all have showcased, through their faith, what it takes to become a true leader. With this I present to you this year’s 2011-2012 Good Shepherd Youth Core Team.



National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) - Called to Glory

by Monique Breillatt

The National Catholic Youth Conference, also known as NCYC, will be in Indianapolis on November 17- 19th. NCYC is an exciting three-day experience of empowerment and prayer for Catholic youth and adults. During the three days, everyone will have opportunities for liturgy, reconciliation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer & worship and much more. NCYC is a place where Catholics come together to share their faith with one another. There are about 20,000 teenagers

who have attended NCYC in the past; about 12 youth from Good Shepherd will be attending this year.



The youth attending NCYC from Good Shepherd have had many fundraisers to help find their way to Indianapolis. They had fundraisers like

a Movie Night, Bunko, and the most recent fundraiser, Super Buckets, at the end of every mass. The next fundraiser to help the youth is the Talent Showcase on October 1st. All the youth are very excited to go NCYC this year and any donation to help them out will be greatly appreciated. On behalf of everyone attending NCYC from Good Shepherd, we would like to say thank you very much for all your help, support, and your generous donations. Everyone will be in our prayers as we take this journey to the National Catholic Youth Conference. Thank you and God Bless!



Movie Night

by Franz Manalansan

On Wednesday, July 27th, Good Shepherd Parish hosted a double feature movie night. It was among one of the summer events hosted by the Core Team to help fundraise for the 12 youth from Good Shepherd who wish to attend NCYC. NCYC is the National Catholic Youth Conference and is being hosted in Indianapolis. As the trip itself is expensive, the youth are fundraising whenever they can. The concessions stand sold snacks, geared towards

raising money for the trip, and raised over \$400 in one night.

The two movies shown were voted on by those attending beforehand. The first was Disney's Tangled and the second film was I am Number Four. Although the concessions stand was for raising money, the attendees weren't just Core Team youth. The movie night was attended by a variety of youth, or those who were a part of youth ministry. Previous Confirmation students, some Pre-Con youth, as well as young adults went. The hall had been slightly redecorated with some

couches, armchairs, as well as the standard chairs and tables. Personally, I had a fun time just hanging out with everyone, and the youth, as an audience, made watching both the movies a fun experience. That night was the first time for me to watch either of those movies, and some of the comments my friends made, as well as the moments that make you go "aww" were perfect with this group. Movie night was not only a success for raising money for the NCYC trip, but a good way to spend time with other youth.



Youth selling concessions at Movie Night





Bunko by Veronica Murray

The one of the many fun events to go to this summer was Bunko! The Core Team put on Bunko with the Women's Club here at Good Shepherd as a fundraiser for the youth going to NCYC, the National Catholic Youth Conference! Bunko is a game of dice, played in rounds. Players take turns rolling the dice and try to score as many points as possible to win each round. Players score points by rolling three dice and trying to match the number they're supposed to roll for that round. For example, the first round you try to roll 1's, the second round you try to roll 2's, etc. They get a point for each die that rolls the number, and if



Carlo Escudero playing Bunko

all three roll the number they get a BUNKO and score 21 points. Players can also score 5 points for rolling three of a kind of any other number and they get to keep rolling as long as they score at least one point with each roll. Once they fail to score they pass the dice to their left and the opposing team gets a chance to score, since Bunko is played at tables of four in competing teams of two. At the end of the round players change seats, the winners at each of the tables move up a table, and the losers stay at their current table. Players also switch partners at the end of the round, so you never play with the same partner twice in a row. During play, players track the number of rounds they win and lose as a team, and the number of Bunkos scored individually, on their personal scorecard. At the end of the night the person with the

most wins, Stephen Pollmann, won a Starbucks Card, the person with the most losses, Modesta, won a Harbor Cruise, and the person with the most Bunkoes, Reggie Badua, won movie tickets. There was also a raffle for everyone that bought a playing card. Winners included Cedric Villanueva - \$25 Red Lobster gift card, Meghan Edgeworth - \$15 Jamba Juice gift card, Sharon B. - \$15 Olive Garden gift card, Joncy R. - \$10 Starbucks gift card, and Lu Benaguura - Baskin Robbins gift card. Even Father Michael stopped by and rolled the dice with us! It was a real fun event that was a huge success and brought in \$879.96 for the youth going to NCYC!



A fun game of Bunko



Upcoming Events by Austin Ledesma

Good Shepherd Parish tries to come up with as many community activities as possible for all the youth to attend. They are great ways to make new friends and have a good time! In the next few months there are plenty of upcoming events for everyone to come to. Pre-Con orientation will be on **September 11th** for all the new youth coming into Confirmation preparations for them to learn to ropes and get prepared for the year. Confirmation orientation will be on **September 18th** so that the youth who are

getting ready to get Confirmed can know what they will be expecting and the schedule of the year. There will be a talent show on October 8th that everyone should come out to and show what they got! It'll be a fun night full of singing, dancing and other amazing talents people have to share. Auditions will be on **September 13th and 20th**. Pre-Con will be having their retreat on the weekend of **October 28-30th**; it will be a weekend where the kids can get away and really connect with God and grow in their faith. They will also have a retreat reunion on **November 8th** where they can look at all the pictures, and sing all the wor-

ship songs they learned while remembering the good time they had. We will also be having an All Night Party on **December 2nd** that all youth should come to. There will be games, bowling, movies, food, and friends! No reason you shouldn't all attend! Justice and service trips will be happening all throughout the year; Catherine Larsen will have all the information on that. So there are plenty of ways to stay connected to the Church, whether you are a youth, young adult, or adult you are all welcome to come and join! The more the merrier!



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For information regarding upcoming events, go to
www.goodshepherd youth.net/events.htm

Please note that all off-site activities need a signed permission slip.

<u>UPCOMING EVENTS</u>	<u>DATE (S)</u>
Pre-Confirmation Orientation	September 11
Confirmation Orientation	September 18
Talent Show Auditions	September 13, 20
Talent Show	October 8
Pre-Confirmation Retreat	October 28-30
Pre-Confirmation Retreat Reunion	November 8
All Night Party	December 2



Back to School by Stephanie Bucao

Break out those textbooks kids, because class is in session! That's right everyone it's that time of year and school is back! As summer begins to dwindle down, students race back and forth from store to store searching for school supplies and maybe a completely new wardrobe! For most students, going back to school is a drag and the only upside is being able to see friends

again after a long summer. Despite this dilemma, many other students involve themselves in sports, clubs, and other outside activities, such as volunteering and church. However, going back to school can also have quite an effect on their faith. With school come the numerous amount of school work, peer pressure, and many other things that could cause a young Catholic to break away from their faith.

Luckily, for those young Catholics, throughout the school year are the Faith Formation groups for Kindergarten to 8th graders, as well as the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes for high school students. Alright everyone, I hope you all have a great first day of school and to those who have already started, hope school has been going great so far!