

Pilgrimage

Dear Parents and Youth:

Pilgrimage is a very exciting and spiritual time for our youth to celebrate their faith with several hundred other Methodist youth.

Our Schedule:

Friday, November 7, 2003

Meet at Church at 6:30 PM

Pick youth up around 10:30 PM at Church

Saturday, November 8, 2003

Meet at Church at 8:45 AM

**During the daytime we will participate in NO Hungry Neighbors Walk/Run
We will get lunch as a tailgate party. We will be participating in a Gleaning
Project after lunch. We will then travel to homes near the church so we can
clean up and we will eat dinner at a designated place. Youth should bring
\$10.00 to cover the cost for lunch and dinner.**

Travel back to Crown by 6:30 PM

Pick youth up around 11:00 PM at Church

Sunday, November 9, 2003

Meet at Church at 8:30 AM

Pick youth up around 12:30 PM at Church

Our youth will be very tired after a long and exciting weekend. We will expect the youth to be on their best behavior. Youth are to wear appropriate attire. Please remember that this is a Christian event. If inappropriate behavior or clothing is present then parents will be called to pick youth up at that time. Please remember to wear old clothing on Saturday, as we will be in fields doing our gleaning project. Youth may want to bring some money so they may purchase either CD's, tapes, and T-shirts at the Crown during the weekend. My cell phone # is (910) 603-0265 in case of an emergency. Amy-Jo is on the message on this cell phone. If you have any questions, or can assist with this event, please feel free to contact me this week at (910) 867-5983.

God Bless,

Mrs. Elaine

ADULT SUPERVISION

There is to be **ONE ADULT** for every **SEVEN YOUTH** in each group. Patience, cooperation, understanding, kindness, graciousness and **CAREFUL SUPERVISION** by adult leaders with youth groups will result in an incredible experience at Pilgrimage for everyone. We give thanks for and appreciate the time given by adults to accompany youth groups to this event as well as the example of Christian community and respect provided and modeled in adult conduct and leadership. These characteristics of careful adult supervision apply not only to the Crown Coliseum facility for Pilgrimage but also to the hotels where groups stay and to other locations visited during the weekend. Please help us to leave a loving and positive impression upon the employees and residents of Cumberland County.

We have the tremendous blessing of being in the Crown Coliseum for this year's event; however, that means a larger facility over which to supervise the youth. The Pilgrimage planning team (only 12 adults) cannot begin to provide supervision for the thousands of youth present. The adults with each group **must supervise** and watch over the young people in their care over this weekend and in this expanded facility area. Please instruct youth and all group participants not to go beyond any curtained off areas or any areas marked "restricted access." The planning team asks adult leaders to know where the youth in your group are at all times. Trips to the bathroom and concession stands should be made before the worship sessions begin, during breaks or after the worship sessions conclude unless it is a serious emergency. No such trips should be made while the speaker is speaking.

The Pilgrimage experience best nurtures the seeds of faith planted and gives nourishment for the bearing of fruit when adult leaders process, reflect upon and discuss the experience with youth. Some suggestions are enclosed to offer guidance to this time. Advance preparation for this time and for Pilgrimage in general in terms of Bible study and prayer will bring abundant blessings. Specific session Scripture passages will be included in the packets picked up upon check-in to Pilgrimage. (They are not available at this printing.)

EXPECTATIONS

As a result of the wonderful response we have had to Pilgrimage we expect a large number of youth and adults to be present. With the blessing of a large attendance, we celebrate the dynamics of a large group experience and invite the groups and group leaders in attendance to give assistance to influencing these dynamics for the well-being and good of all involved by exercising:

Respect for our speaker, music and worship leaders in participation in praise and song at the appropriate time and attentive listening when someone is speaking on stage;

Patience in traffic in the parking lot and in lines for concessions and restrooms and food and hotel registration;

Cooperation as groups are being seated after sessions begin and youth make trips to the restrooms during the sessions;

Understanding for varying degrees of supervision among group leaders and of the large group dynamic of limited interaction with other groups;

Courtesy in finding seating for your group **without unfairly saving seats**;

Kindness in asking others to sit down or refrain from talking during sessions; and

Tolerance as volume is needed to assure that all can hear and that locations in the Crown vary in the volume level.

Please note: ALL pagers, cell phones, and other such devices are asked to be placed on silent or vibrate mode during the sessions. Only authorized members of the Pilgrimage planning team and Crown personnel are to have and use walkie-talkies or other such devices.

During the sessions youth (and adults) are asked to refrain from using walkmans, CD or mini-disc players and the like. **NO** lighters or laser lights are permitted!

ABOUT PARKING

The primary entrance for Pilgrimage is the **North** Entrance. Vehicles may enter the Crown Complex at Gate 4 off East Mountain Road for the West Entrance parking lot. (Entrance to the West and North parking lots may(?) be available off Business Hwy 301 by the Auditorium/Arena). Access to the North Entrance by Owen Dr/Wilkes Rd then turning onto Coliseum Dr is also available.

Please display the enclosed parking pass on the front dashboard of the vehicle. This will help the parking attendants direct you to the parking for Pilgrimage. If additional parking passes are needed - please notify us immediately. Additional parking passes will also be available at Pilgrimage upon check-in.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES AT PILGRIMAGE 2003

An offering for Youth Service Fund and Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief will be taken on Sunday morning. A limited number of YSF T-shirts will be available for purchase at the YSF table (short sleeves are \$10 each, 3/4 sleeves are \$15 each and sweatshirts are \$20).

Cokesbury will have a store of resources available for purchase. The Cokesbury store will feature gift items, Bibles, devotional books, T-shirts and UMYF program and idea resources. (Resources purchased for local church use may be charged to church accounts). The Cokesbury store will be in the East Entrance lobby on Friday night and Saturday.

Chris Hughes and Lane Davis (*Days of Lot*) will also have CD/cassettes available for purchase.

Concession stands will be open during the gathering on Friday night, the break on Saturday morning and the gathering and break on Saturday night. Popcorn, nachos, soft drinks and candy will be available - no hot foods will be available. These concessions are run by the Crown food service and are more expensive (we have NO control over this!). **NEW this year:** Box lunches at a special price are available from the Crown concession/food service if pre-arranged. Contact Jason Close or his assistant Stephanie at 910-486-7700 to make reservations and arrangements for box lunches.

Interline will have a display table with resources in Christian music available. Other display tables may be found along the concourse from the North Entrance to the East Lobby to the Hospitality Suites doorway.

SECURITY

Crown Coliseum security personnel will unlock the North Entrance doors generally one hour before the program begins. They will inspect persons entering the Crown Coliseum for items not allowed. The following are NOT allowed: strollers, weapons, and food or beverage from outside the Crown. Umbrellas may be allowed in but should be handled and stored carefully so as not to be a tripping hazard inside the Coliseum.

SPECIAL REQUESTS OF EACH YOUTH GROUP

We invite each youth group to prepare and wear at PILGRIMAGE special nametags that represent your group. Making these name tags is an opportunity for creative expression in your group. By wearing these name tags at PILGRIMAGE we can better get to know one another!

Any youth groups with specially designed T-shirts for your youth group or church are invited to wear those T-shirts as a group on Saturday morning or at some other time during PILGRIMAGE.

A WORD ABOUT THE SCHEDULE

Our schedule includes 4 sessions with our guest speaker and a breakout session on Saturday evening. The breakout session title is "Takin' It To The Streets." The presentation will take place in the Crown. Youth groups are invited to enter into discussion from this presentation Saturday evening and back at home after the event. Specific discussion guides will be provided in the packets picked up at check-in for Pilgrimage. For advance preparation to the breakout session please see the enclosed description under BREAKOUT SESSION below.

BREAKOUT SESSION

At the beginning of our time together on Saturday evening, there will be a presentation "Taking It to the Streets" from the No Hungry Neighbors Initiative. For the past year and continuing into next year, the North Carolina Conference United Methodist Church is emphasizing and taking part in a mission initiative to have no one in our state going hungry or living without adequate food. We want to work toward having no hungry neighbors in answer to the call of Christ (Matthew 25:37-40). This Breakout Session will consider the facts about hungry people in our state, what hunger looks like, how we see the face of Christ in another, and how we can respond. There will be an opening presentation with a theme song "Distressing Disguise" followed by three stories, each one with guided discussion among those seated closest to you, and a conclusion and charge to respond. The Breakout Session will leave groups with "so what?" - what can we do to have no hungry neighbors and to see the face of Christ in each person we meet? Further materials will be provided in group leader packets at Pilgrimage for further study, discussion and action/response after returning home from Pilgrimage.

MORE ABOUT THE RUN/WALK

The Run/Walk for No Hungry Neighbors will be held on Saturday immediately following the morning worship session, approximately 12:00pm. A two-mile route will be set-up in the parking lot of the Crown Coliseum Complex. It is the expectation of the Pilgrimage Planning Team that all participants at Pilgrimage physically capable will participate in the Run/Walk. Groups will be dismissed by sections from the Crown Coliseum to complete the run/walk and are asked to return to their seats until everyone has participated and the run/walk is complete. **There will be no movement of vehicles in the parking lot from the time the run/walk starts until the run/walk is complete!!!** - for the safety of all those who participate. Cooperation from everyone will be most appreciated.

Covenant of Conduct for Conference Youth Events (Youth)

In order to contribute to a Christian community, I agree to...

1. Act responsibly and with consideration of others.
2. Respect the property and privacy of others.
3. Participate in the full program of the event and to abide by all of the schedule for the event.
4. Wear shoes for my own protection.
5. Wear appropriate, modest clothing. T-shirts and sleeveless shirts that extend below the waist over the top of shorts/pants/skirt and dresses or shorts that are longer than thumb fingertip length (when arms are placed at your side) are appropriate and modest clothing for females. Note: Halter tops, promiscuous spaghetti strap tank tops, tube tops, strapless or backless tops, one shoulder/slant/ "Wilma" type and crop tops are NOT appropriate. Short, short dresses/shorts are NOT appropriate. For males - pants and shorts worn at waist and upper hip level are appropriate - sagging pants/shorts are not. T-shirts and sports type tank tops are appropriate - "wifebeaters" and such undershirts are not. T-shirts and caps with offensive, inappropriate slogans or sayings are not appropriate.
6. Refrain from use of alcoholic beverages or drugs.
7. Refrain from the use of profanity, vulgar and derogatory language.
8. Respect the living quarters of the opposite sex by not entering them.
9. Remain at the event site unless securing the permission of the Conference Youth Coordinator or one of the Deans. My vehicle will remain parked until departure at the end of the event. Note: Leaving an event early or for a particular time and purpose requires written permission from the parent/guardian. This written permission is to be turned in upon check-in/registration at the event.
10. Not smoke at Conference youth events.
11. Be quiet enough after dorm groups so as not to bother others who may be ready to sleep. I will not leave the dorm after dorm group. I will refrain from making noise in halls or from windows.
12. Give proper care of all host property. Any damages for which I am deemed responsible I will make payment for the repair or replacement.
13. Leave facilities used in better shape than which I found them.
14. Not use cell phones, pagers, walkie-talkies, or tape/CD/mini-disc players with headphones during programs and scheduled activities.
15. Abide by the indicated arrival time for the event (not arriving early).

As a participant, I make this covenant of conduct.

Participant Signature

Any breach of this covenant of conduct that presents unresolved problems within the community may, upon the discretion of the Conference Youth Coordinator and/or Deans, result in being sent home!

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Permission Slip/Emergency Contact
for Pilgrimage

I, _____ give my permission for _____ to be transported to and from each event during the weekend of November 8th - November 10th. I have been given a list of the weekends activities by my youth. In case of an emergency I may be reached at the following number(s)

_____.

Child's Name _____

Parent's Name _____

If your child has any special needs please list below:

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____