

While it may seem like there has been little going on with the youth at Mariners, there's been a lot of prayer and planning, (and even some fun activities) this summer and fall. Now we're ready to start being more intentional about connection, growth and service with our youth.

Recently, I had a parent/leader meeting and shared the current status of student ministries and shared thoughts on where we want to go. I also shared the needs for support in each of those areas. For those that were there, THANK YOU. For those that weren't, if you are interested, I would love to go over this presentation with you. Just give me a call or email and let me know when we can get together.

Here are some key areas we are either enhancing or starting. We want you to be involved in these activities. Obviously we understand you are pulled in many directions, and choices always will need to be made.

We are moving the Sunday evening service back to Saturday night. This is not specifically about student ministries but has some benefits I'll discuss later. One of the really cool things we heard from the students was that they don't want a student focused church service. They want a church service that they go to. This is an extremely mature statement. The students want to be part of the church family worship experience.

We are going to begin a large group youth gathering on Saturday night, after the worship service. This will be for both middle school and high school students. Middle school students will meet in a separate room from high school students. While we will continually adjust the structure of this gathering, it will start out with snack and gathering time, fellowship/icebreaker/game time, (this is where we will split into middle/high school groups) talk/teach time, and group discussion time. What we are creating is a place for the youth to belong, to know and be known. We need a fun and fellowship component intentional teach, and hang-out and "so-what" time. It needs to be an environment that students are comfortable inviting their non-church friends to. Over time, I would love for this event to be student led.

Our Growth Groups are a key component of what we believe and do as a church. They are up and growing for you. We have awesome group leaders who are shepherding our groups. Check the calendar on our website for times and locations ([www.marinerscc.org](http://www.marinerscc.org)). Here is a table summarizing the current schedule.

Group	Day	Time	Location
Middle School Boys	Tuesday	7:00-8:00	Church
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	Wednesday	7:00-8:00	Rupert's house
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	Thursday	6:00-7:30	Barmore's house
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Girls	Thursday	7:00-8:00	Lovette's house
High School Boys	Wednesday	7:00-8:30	Lim's house
High School Girls	Tuesday	6:30-8:00	Forbes' house

We have many opportunities for you to serve the local church, our community, our region and the world. We encourage you to get involved in service. We have some exciting service trips coming up. They will be announced shortly and will always be on our calendar. A couple of upcoming events are the City Impact Meal Delivery on Nov 15 (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) and Center for Student Missions (Dec 19-21). Both of these service opportunities are available for students and families.

There is momentum building in Student Ministries. I am excited to see what God is doing in the lives of His students in (t)His world.

God Bless,

Craig