

2015 Children & Youth Ministry Report

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

As I write my report, Laurelville summer camps and Kansas City 2015 convention are over. I am thankful for opportunities like camp and convention that can stretch and grow our children and youth. Our theme for summer camp was "Walking in God's Story" and for convention "On the Way", both using the scripture from Luke, the road to Emmaus. I am thankful that we worship a God who continues to walk with us on the road, even when we don't always recognize him and that He continues to reveal himself in the simple task of breaking bread together. Being a community together is of utmost importance in our faith journey. We can't be church alone, relationships are so important and hearing the voice of children and youth is what I believe will continue to shape us as a church. Too many times the voices of the young are silenced and children are not allowed to ask hard questions or share their doubts. But as I have conversations with youth at camps and conventions, their voices want to be heard and need to be heard. Youth really desire that their voices be heard and that congregations need to realize that decisions they make affect the youth, so they would like to speak but are too often silenced. So I encourage us all to sit and listen, and to give our young people a voice, it might get messy and we may not always agree, but Jesus will reveal himself if we allow him. For me Jesus often shows up in the words from a young person. That's the community I desire to be a part of and want our youth to be a part of. It is very exciting for me that two youth sit on the Leadership Council of AMC, it gives me hope that we are listening.

I am excited that the children and youth from AMC have the opportunity to build relationships from a very young age. This is a great way to strengthen friendships across conference and to encourage each other as we journey together. Summer Camp is an important part of this, and other youth programs available are Follower's Retreat, Sr. High SnoKamp, and Jr. High Retreat. Helping to planning many of these activities is the AMC Youth Cabinet.

Working with the Youth Cabinet of Allegheny Conference is a highlight in my ministry. It is a place where I can help to mentor leadership in the youth and encourage them to be the church of today. The following are will be serving on the youth cabinet for the next year.

2015-2016 Youth Cabinet

Emily Kaltreider, Chairperson (Stahl) **Hannah Bodes** (Springs)

Olivia Tennefoss (Grace Fellowship) **Mary Twigg** (Pinto)

Jacob Horsley (Stahl)

John Tennefoss, Adult Rep (Grace Fellowship)

Thanks to all of you who take the time and energy to hang out with the children and youth in your church. It is time well spent and I know it will bless your lives as much as it blesses their lives.

Joy Cotchen, Minister of Children and Youth