



## Canyon Hills Presbyterian Church

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December 26, 2011

Dear Parents and Youth,

With the major holiday season coming to a close it is already time to start thinking about summer, actually it is a little on the late side, so if we want to participate in some exceptional summer conferences now is the time to make our plans and send in deposits.

I can't believe it has been almost 4 years since the last group from our church attended a Montreat Youth Conference! Earlier this fall I met with several students from our youth council and they unanimously voted to pursue Montreat as our summer destination. As has become our tradition we are also including a mission/service portion to our trip, this year in Philadelphia at Broad Street Church and then a quick stop in New York City before our return home.

I believe this will be an extraordinary opportunity for our youth this summer. The trip is guaranteed to be exceptional, one that will be full of memories and opportunities to grow as a faithful Christian. Summer conferences and mission projects are ***important components*** in your child's spiritual development that will provide tools and memories that will last many years into their adult life and perhaps beyond.

The Montreat Conference Center is a National Conference Center for the Presbyterian Church located in Montreat, North Carolina just outside Asheville. Each summer the center hosts 6 amazing weeks of summer youth conferences for more than 5,000 youth. Additionally, they are offering discounted prices for our group due to the distance we need to travel.

Broad Street Ministry is an alternative new church development in Philadelphia that began in 2005 with the support of many area Presbyterian Churches. BSM seeks to be dynamic in its expression of worship, embracing those both on the margins of faith and those who have enjoyed the embrace of the church. Their purpose is to worship and pray and explore faith, extend lavish hospitality to each and all and to work for a more compassionate and just city and world. Each summer they host dozens of youth groups through their Summer Immersion Program.

In 2012 the Montreat Youth Conference, week 6, is set for July 29-August 4, 2012. The Broad Street Ministry Summer Immersion program for our group will be August 5 to 9, 2012 and then we will take the train to New York City for some tourism before we depart for home on August 12, 2012. As in the past participants may choose to attend one or both weeks.

Tentative travel arrangements will include flights to North Carolina for the Montreat Youth Conference, trains or vans to Philadelphia, train to New York and flights home to So. Cal. Final travel arrangements will be made after we receive deposits from participants.

The cost of the conference itself (including the conference fee, lodging and meals) with an early registration discount is approximately \$500.00 per person. Fees for Broad Street Ministry Summer immersion is \$275 per person. Transportation to and from the conference will be an additional cost. Through some generous gifts from several church members and frugal budgeting we hope to cover the cost of transportation for each participant but this may require a bit of fund-raising on everyone's part as well. To make sure we are being fiscally responsible the cost for both weeks is \$850 per student (less if you are only attending one of the weeks). If you compare to school trips that are half the length this cost is a bargain!

For our youth to take advantage of this incredible summer conference opportunity, we must send our completed group registration package with our estimated number of participants and a non-refundable deposit to Montreat, North Carolina and Broad Street Ministries no later than January 28, 2012. To make an accurate estimate I need you to act now! Included with this letter is a Summer Conference & Service Brochure and a Registration/Commitment form. Please take time to read through the brochure and respond using the enclosed forms.

Finally, you or your student may know of other youth who would like to attend this conference with our group, so please contact our church office with their name and address and we will rush this information to them.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lissa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Lissa Smith