

EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH TRINITY'S YOUTH MINISTRY! COME JOIN US!

A Word from Rebekah Saveland, Trinity's Director of Youth & Family Ministries

In my 17 months here I have come to know our youth, youth parents, youth volunteers & staff, and student leaders as an amazing, dynamic, and committed group of believers who have created an amazing place for our youth to call home! A theme running through this last year has been learning together how to connect better with God, each other, and our community as followers of Christ. Connection has been our focus and is the theme that has driven us.

As we've connected with middle and high school students our youth ministry staff and our student leaders together, with the help of our pastors, have worked to re-brand our youth ministry. We desired a new & distinct identity that will help all students who attend our gatherings feel included. We want our youth ministry to be a place where all students -- the students who are members of Trinity, students from churches that don't have a youth ministry, churches who partner with us weekly for youth ministry (First UMC Gainesville), ministries that join with us for special events (LOF at Faith Mission), and students who have no other connection to a church-can feel completely at home and a part of our group. We want to have a clear identity where everyone feels included in the awesome work God is doing!

In discerning our new identity we keep being brought back to connection, how we're connected together in our faith, just like a bridge connects over water. I'm so excited to share that Trinity's youth ministry will be known as **The Bridge Youth Ministries!** (This is so fitting also because middle & high school is a time that bridges us from childhood to adulthood, that often includes some rough waters.) Above you can see our cool new logo!!

Along with our over-arching name of **The Bridge** we are renaming other aspects of our youth ministry to fit our theme of connection over water:

- **The Well:** Our Sunday night 5:30-7:30pm youth group meetings in the Youth Building are a place where a lot of youth gather weekly to be filled up and to pour out themselves in worship, learning, and service to God.
- Deep Dive Student Leadership: Our student leadership teams, Inhale (middle school) and Exhale (high school), meet twice a month on Wednesday nights to learn, plan, and fellowship together.
- **Anchor Groups:** Our small groups: Girls & Guys Nights once a month (each) on Wednesday night, Friday Breakfast at Bagel Bakery Fridays 7:15-8:30am, and Gaming Group Fridays 7-9pm.
- **Lighthouse:** The new expression of youth in worship through helping lead worship by singing, playing instruments, reading Scripture, working in the tech booth, etc at the 9:30 Modern Worship Service and at The Well. They meet every Sunday 4-5pm in the Worship Center. All 7th 12th graders are invited join!

I'm so excited for the future of The Bridge Youth Ministries and feel so fortunate to call Trinity my home. I pray that this new identity we are finding as The Bridge Youth Ministries of Trinity will help us connect deeper with many more young people and will continue to build God's kingdom here! Thank you for your prayer & support of the awesome work God is doing among us. We hope to see you all soon at an upcoming youth activity!



PHOTO FROM OUR JULY 2019 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO PANAMA CITY, FL FOR HURRICANE MICHAEL RELIEF

A Word about Lighthouse from Keven Braswell, Lighthouse Director & Modern Worship Leader

LIGHTHOUSE is Trinity's new expression of Youth involvement in worship. Lighthouse gives youth many avenues for involvement in the worship experience on both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings including singing, playing an instrument, helping out in the tech booth, reading a scripture, praying, drama, art, reading a poem, and just about anything that can be used to glorify God. Our vision for Lighthouse is a ministry where youth who are passionate about worship can find their way to serve their church (even those without an inclination to sing).

We will live out this vision in a variety of ways, including the use of small teams of youth that rotate serving in the 9:30am Modern Worship Service and Sunday nights at The Well (our weekly youth group meetings), as well as ensembles of students singing in worship. (We will meet every Sunday 4-5pm in the Worship Center for rehearsal) These teams will be responsible for helping make the worship experience as great as it can be.

Our hope is that working on teams who are actively serving in worship will give students ownership of a worship movement while equipping them with the tools to spread the light of Christ not only to the Trinity community but also their communities at school, their sports teams, their drama departments, their bands, their friends, and their families. John 8:12 reads, "Jesus spoke to the people saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won't walk in darkness but will have the light of life'." Through Lighthouse, our students are being equipped and empowered to be voices that guide those they connect with to the light of Christ. We want their faith to be so real and their joy so obvious that all who see them will come to know Christ.

We are so excited to share Lighthouse with you all and hope that you are excited about seeing and supporting the youth serving in worship in new ways!

-Keven Braswell

-Rebekah Saveland

TRINITY YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES STAFF: REBEKAH SAVELAND (DIRECTOR), AUDREY METCALF (YOUTH MINISTRY ASSISTANT)
LIGHTHOUSE STAFF: KEVEN BRASWELL (DIRECTOR & MODERN WORSHIP LEADER), ANDREW MANKIN (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)