

Fall Newsletter

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What is CREDO?

Credo is the name of the youth ministry at COGS. The word CREDO is Greek for "I Believe". The youth picked this name because they feel it describes what their youth ministry is about...believing in Jesus Christ.

There is something for all kinds of youth at CREDO. For those who like to play games or just hang out, we have our MONDAY OPEN HOURS from 6-9P. Sometimes we meet in homes and sometimes at the youth room, so check the Youth Calendar. For those who like to think and dig deeper into the Bible, core values, issues and their beliefs, we have the WED. BIBLE STUDY from 6-8P beginning with a snack supper. For those who like mission, games, service activities and creative worship we have our SUNDAY CREDO from 4-6P. During the summer we also have monthly Lunch Bunch and Mystery Trips.

Upcoming Events:
Talent and Auction: a fundraiser for missions. Oct. 12th.
3rd-5th grade Lock-in on Oct. 24th.
Christmas Lock-in on Dec. 19th.

The **Mission statement** for CREDO (who we are) is: a serving group where everyone knows your name.

The **Vision statement** for CREDO (what we want to accomplish) seeks to welcome others to join us in fun, learning, worship and service.

New Youth Assistant Director Jazzes up the Program

We are excited to add Katy Cato to our staff as a part-time Youth Assistant Director. Katy grew up in this church and was very active in its youth program and now returns to jazz up the program with her gifts and skills. She brings awesome relationship skills and playfulness to the program as well as her experiences in mission. We are very excited about how she will increase the depth of our youth program. Please take time to encourage and congratulate her on joining the staff!

THANKS CHURCH FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING CAMPS!



The high ropes challenge course teaches trust and teamwork.



Small groups ROCK!



Camps help youth grow spiritually!

Each year our church helps pay half of the way for active youth to attend camp. This year we sent 13 to the Sr. High Leadership camp (CYME; pictures above)

We sent 3 to JEM, the Jr. High Leadership camp. We sent 5 to Tween's Discover (6th grade camp), 1 to Day-spring and 6 youth attended Sr. High

District camp. The youth are grateful to have this time for spiritual renewal, growth and fellowship! Thank you for your support!

When asked what camp meant to them, youth said: *"It was the best experience ever and it helped me get closer to God and others."...* *"Camp is a second home, where you become FAMILY with people completely different than you while at the same time being exactly the same as you."*



Hayden was the speaker for worship. The youth led this moving worship experience

**OOZE
FEST**



Alex, Sawyer, Becka and Gram prepare the mud for Ooze Fest.

OOZE FEST BIG SUCCESS

Once again UMC GS was overrun with youth and mud. Youth were everywhere, in the mud pit, playing mud volleyball, playing football, eating hot dogs and worshipping. We had approximately 250 youth and adults again this year, with several smaller churches coming who had not previously attended.



Praying for awesome worship and fellowship before the other churches arrive.



Can you recognize who is in this picture?



Mud volleyball was a new addition to Ooze Fest this year. It was definitely a hit!

Bible Study this summer and Fall

Movies and the Bible, what do they have to do with each other?

This summer, the youth viewed popular movies as a way of developing their faith. We watched a movie and examined Christian issues, as well as having

TAG time (Time Alone with God; a time in which they journal on questions related to the movie).

Some examples are: 1) Cars : discussed what true friendship is and how pride can turn friends off;

Chicken Little: discussed how to deal with expectations of others; Magic in the Water" discussed standing up for what you believe in.

We also took a week off from movies and had a Bible Quiz Bowl.

Fall Bible studies are: Generation Change (Financial Peace for youth) and a Teamwork Bible study (helping youth see the importance of working together through games and study of various characters in the Bible)

Games and Action

What would a youth group be without games. During our Open Hours, Sunday Nights and Bible Study times we have played all kinds of exciting and energetic games, like human tic-tac-toe, blind volleyball, Battle of the Sexes and Puno. We also enjoy basketball, dodge ball, soccer, ping pong, Wii, Guitar Hero and regular volleyball. Games are an active way to build fellowship and bonding within the youth group. Not to mention, they are just plain FUN!



Alex Kessler slides off the "slip-n-slide" during the Labor Day pool party at the Baker's home.

Nicky Kazerooni and Colby Adams enjoy floating and wrestling at the Baker pool.



Worship

Worship is defined as a time of praising God and being in the presence of God. Worship this year has taken place in many locations, for example the fire pit on the South 40 and the Labyrinth. Worship has included singing, praying, listening to God speak through nature, and being "cleansed" through water balloons and hoses. Some of our devotions have been inside the

youth room, at Cotton-Eyed Joes and outside at various places on our church property.

At Ooze Fest the youth praise band, with some of the adult praise team members, youth speakers and leaders of a special anointing service blessed over 250 youth from north and south OKC.

On World Communion Sunday

the youth will be hosting an emergent worship service for the entire church.

At the Christmas Lock-in, the youth will lead a worship for their friends and members of our youth group.

Worship youth style is creative, unique, dynamic and energetic...and mostly...all about God!

Serving

The youth serve in many ways and many places. They serve the church through weed eating the Labyrinth and planting flower beds, hosting the 3rd-5th graders for a lock-

in and leading games at the Fall Festival. They serve the community through buying kitchen items for Martha's house and supplying the pulpit at other churches. They serve in

the state through mission trips to places like GW Exotic Animal Park.

They serve in our country through mission trips, like the one to McAllen Texas.



Carly and Becka anointed youth to go forth and be leaders at Ooze Fest Worship

Youth in Leadership

COGS youth are leaders in the District, Conference and Jurisdiction. We have youth who have led events for North and South OKC youth. We have youth who serve on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries and

help plan CYME as well as state wide youth events, Alyssa Baker is a Jurisdictional Youth Delegate which means that she represents Oklahoma in the Southwest Jurisdiction. We also have youth who have served on

Chrysalis teams and in the background. These leadership opportunities as well as serving on COGS Council on Youth Ministries are teaching our youth to be leaders both now and in the future.

Along with leadership opportunities, we have 7 youth who are certified lay speakers and can fill the pulpit when pastors are on vacation or absent. Let's continue to support our youth in leadership!

COGS Mission Trip 2008



Dalton Childers and Matt Martin are doing the difficult job of ripping off the old shingles. What you don't see are the holes in the roof where they are sitting!

Cathy Childers, Alyssa Baker, Natasha Davis and Rachel Plautz lead games with youth at the Pharr UMC Children's program.



Ronna Ross and Becka Plautz touched up paint around the doors and windows. We were unable to paint the whole house, but were told the next team would do that.



Becka Plautz, Carly Childers, Eric Genheimer and Cathy Childers are hard at work clearing brush. There were several large dumpster loads of brush and shingles that we cleared from the yard.



McAllen, Texas

Alyssa Baker and Gram Shoemake are busy putting shingles on as we near the end of our work week.



Gram Shoemake and Carly Childers get Becca Plautz with a water balloon, while Alex Barnard looks on. This was one of the group bonding games played.

Meredith Glover, Bradley Ray and Alyssa Baker laugh as someone gets slammed with cards in a Puno game.



Time for some rest and relaxation riding the waves at Padre Island.

A great way to end an awesome mission trip!



Fundraising at OU games and the Dinner Theater: fun and raises money for mission trips

Ryan has a great smile for the customers!



Morgan and Dawn are fixing hot dogs.



Derek hurrying to get needed supplies to the stand



Alyssa, Becka and Cathy give service with a smile!



The crew of the Starship Destiny prepares to go on their mission.



Success, the crew learns about God, creation and Jesus Christ. Their final word: "live long and perspire"