



From the Heart of Youth Ministry

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Uth Beat

From a Youth Pastor's Heart: 152 Beats Per Minute

That's the rate my doctor counted my baby's heart rate to be at my last checkup. "That's good," she said. And while my baby's body grows and heart races on at 152 beats every minute, I can feel myself gradually slowing down, able to do less before feeling tired—meanwhile the ministry load doesn't skip a beat! But my joy in trying to keep up with all these young lives that are beating faster than mine has been to experience the ways that the children and youth have eagerly shared in the excitement and expectation of a new baby right along with me.

It has become a regular ritual at WINGS that anytime I am up front speaking to the children, someone in the group (usually Desi or Sadie Snyder) finally can't contain it anymore and pipes up, "She's pregnant!" followed by choruses of "You're having a baby!" and other confirmations of this news that still hasn't become "old news" after almost 3 months of knowing about it. I often get questions like: "Will you bring the baby with you to WINGS?" "Will I be able to hold it?" and "Can I be your babysitter?" They are also very eager to give gender predictions and name suggestions (guessing contest coming in January!).

Kids are also very observant of changes in my size. The other day sisters Celeste and Emoni stopped by my house to ask to borrow a bike, and Celeste stated matter-of-factly, "Tara,

you're getting a tum-tum!" Her older sister quickly chastised her, "She's not getting a tum-tum, she's getting a *tummy*." There must be some slang term difference I'm unaware of... But tum-tum or tummy, many youth are drawn to touch it—from Meea's finger "pokes" every Sunday to try to see if it

will move, to Julie's little hands rubbing it all over! We just started being able to feel the kicks last week, so soon it should be often and strong enough that the kids will be able to share in that excitement too.

I will also be very pregnant just in time to be able to play the pregnant Mary traveling to Bethlehem as we share the Christmas story at WINGS—but as Pastor Bill laments, not timed close enough to have a baby Jesus (or better yet, a live BIRTH) for a living nativity. Still, it will be a clear picture to the kids (and me!) of the call of Advent to WAIT in expectation for what is coming.

A couple weeks ago a WINGS volunteer shared that when she asked for prayer requests in her group, Liz Snyder (7th grader with developmental delays who attends Ida Sue) said, "Tara and Denver are having a baby. We should pray for them." Thanks to all of you who share in our expectation and excitement, and pray for us in this new adventure!

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Recent and Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays

Send a card, write a note, and thank God for their lives!

- October 25—Doug Fisher, BreakAway
- October 31—Diane Hostetler, Staff
- November 6—Tara Steiner, Staff



Our baby's foot and 5 toes, starting to work quite well for kicking!

Introducing the new OMC Bike Rack! Brought to you by: Willie Miller & BreakAway

This Thursday, 11 junior high kids pitched in and took turns drilling, sawing, putting in screws, and painting, and completed the 2-part work project we set out to do—to build a bike rack for the church so that bikes don't need to be thrown down all over the lawn, and to build cornhole sets to auction off and raise the money to pay for the bike rack. The 2 cornhole games will be on display in the fellowship hall to check out close-up, and available for silent auction bidding on Sunday, November 1st, during the Fall Fellowship meal after church. Any money earned above the cost of the bike rack and cornhole materials will go towards BreakAway's Christmas giving projects.



Seth proudly initiates the finished bike rack with the first bike parked, along with project designer and organizer, Willie.

Below, Breakaway boys work together to saw the durable poly-fiber boards.



Alyssa and Emily paint their pretty pink corn hole boards (much to the dismay of the boys!). The boys decided to go with an "abstract art" splatter paint theme for their boards.



Upcoming Fall Events!

WINGS FallFest!

This Tuesday, October 27th, kids in grades K-5 are invited to a celebration of God's beautiful season of fall, complete with apples, pumpkins, leaves, and more! Invite a new friend who's never been to WINGS to win great fall prizes!



Next Sunday, November 1st
Fall Fellowship Meal and
Pumpkin Carving Contest!

Chili/Taco Salad Bar, and
delicious autumn desserts!

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