

From the Heart of Youth Ministry

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Uth Beat

Kids Get Creative at the Make-a-Gift Event

In the spirit of the "One Gift One Change Challenge," Footprints recently sponsored a first-time event especially for kids. The purpose: to give children from the church and the community an opportunity to **CREATE** their own unique Christmas gifts for their families, so that they don't have to worry about spending money to buy gifts at a store. The event was free, with each child receiving a certain number of tickets that they could decide how to "spend" on the various craft projects.

In addition to the Footprints youth, many other adults stepped up to help make all the gift stations a reality.

On behalf of Footprints and the 24 children who participated, we'd like to thank these volunteers:

- Beth and Wayne Ressler, candy-making station
- Allison Seymour, Mary Esther Schmid, and Louise Miller, fleece clothing sewing station
- Katie and Ryan Immel, ornament station
- Bev Squirrel, Christmas card and gift tag station
- Rhoda Steiner, decoupage art station



Bev encourages creativity as Kayla, Adriane, and Sadie use scrapbooking materials to create Christmas cards.



A "Gift Advisor" helps Yasmine decide what she'd like to make for the people on her list.



At the gift wrapping station, Steve and Han help Seif neatly package a scarf. As all the kids finished up gifts towards the end, this station was really kept hopping!



Amos Bixler (with help from dad) works on creating a tree ornament that will include a photo of himself in the frame.



Bill and Mallory work on designing her photo button pin on the computer.



Mary Esther and Louise ready at their machines to sew mittens and hats.

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Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays

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

- December 30—Nathan Kalopodis, WINGS

WINGS Families Enjoy a Delicious Christmas Banquet Feast (Thanks to the Wonderful Kitchen Volunteers!)

Forty-Five hungry WINGS children, parents, siblings, and staff went home satisfied this Tuesday after a festive Christmas banquet meal including turkey and ham, mashed potatoes, corn, peas, Joy's cinnamon applesauce, LaVonne's rolls, and Jane Steiner and Martha Miller's amazing pumpkin pies! Banquet attendees were

also presented with a drama of the angel's message to the shepherds and their sheep about the birth of the "Great Shepherd,"



performed by our Junior high helpers; a picture slideshow from the year put together by Gary Steiner; and special gifts



from WINGS presented to each child. We owe a huge applause to Sherm and LaVonne Amstutz who took charge of organizing and preparing the meal, along with Marion Beyeler and Ann

Burkholder who came during the night to help with set-up and serving, and others in their Sunday school class who gave



donations towards the meal. Also, thanks to Joy Yoder, the tables were beautifully decorated and received many compliments! Thank you to all of the volunteers and staff who contributed, and to all the families who attended, once again making our Christmas event a great success!

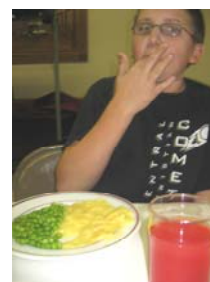
One of our Junior High helpers takes dessert orders for a packed table. The junior highers served as waiters and waitresses for the evening.



BreakAway Serves up a Christmas Party Full of Surprises!

Why do Junior High kids love a mystery dinner? Because they can make a mess, and play with their food, and no one can tell them to use better manners—because that's just what you have to do when you find out that you ordered your scalloped potatoes and applesauce with no silverware!

Our mystery meal featured items such as "Angel Choir," "Baby in a Manger," and "No Room in the Inn." Youth had to request to be served each of the items during either the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd course of the meal, without knowing what those items would turn out to be (a favorite result was when some got to eat dessert first!). Special thanks to our meal servers Nancy, Jan, and Sharon (and others who donated towards the meal)! Another surprise was our BreakAway Christmas gift—the start of a music-lending library, which will allow youth to borrow, listen to, and trade for new Christian music, as an alternative to some of the secular bands they are familiar with.



Doug Fisher licks his fingers clean after using the hands-on method...



...while Alexander Seymour takes the face-first approach.