

From the Heart of Youth Ministry

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Uth Beat

Celebrating the "WINS" of WINGS 2009!

The WINGS Family Christmas Banquet, and our annual WINGS staff reunion are two year-end events when we intentionally take the time to stop and look back on the past year and celebrate all the great things that have happened. We especially want to be sure to celebrate the accomplishments of our kids, and the dedication of our volunteers throughout the year. So I'd like to invite all of you to celebrate in these great WINS with all of us at WINGS!

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WINGS 2009 Attendance and Behavior Awards:

- 1st place: Liz Snyder, attended 40 out of 46 nights of WINGS without a behavior warning!
- 2nd place (tie): Adriane Farver and Julie Immel, attended 39 out of 46 nights of WINGS without a behavior warning!
- 3rd place (tie): Logan Snyder and Bonita Snyder, attended 34 out of 46 nights of WINGS without a behavior warning!

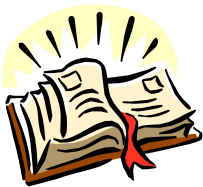


Upcoming Youth Ministry Birthdays

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

- January 27— Brooklyn Aubrey, BreakAway

WINGS Fall Bible Memory Verse (Psalm 100) Awards:



- Kindergarten/1st/2nd graders who recited at least 80% of their required verses without errors: Julie Immel, Sadie Snyder, Nathan Farver, Desi Snyder, and Nate Kalopodis
- 3rd graders and up who recited at least 70% of their required verses without errors: Josh Squirrell and Adriane Farver

WINGS "Volunteer Hall of Fame" Inductees (Each received a customized long-sleeved t-shirt declaring their level of achievement!):

- Staff who have served over 50 nights at WINGS: Sharla Miller, Renae Miller, Donna Horst
- Staff who have served over 100 nights: Sara Anderson, Denver Steiner, Larry Fretwell
- Staff who has served too many years to count the days, but we're guessing over 300: Gary Steiner



Highlights of the Footprints New Year's Eve-eve-eve Party

31 youth and adults from our own Footprints and Chestnut Ridge had an early New Year's celebration on Monday night, Dec. 28. Kudos go to our own Ross Robart for bringing about 7 new (to us) friends!! We had a great time bowling, doing an activity at Walmart in Massillon, eating at IHOP, and playing games back at the church. Around the midnight hour, we spent time in our Orrville Mennonite Sanctuary where Pastor Bill led a devotional and prayer, challenging all of us to consider changing this year from trying to fit Jesus into our lives to wrapping our lives around Jesus. We are extremely grateful to the Lord for safety in travel and activity and for the fellowship we experienced.



Upcoming Spiritual Growth Opportunities for Our Youth (that YOU can be praying for!)



Both the BreakAway Jr. High Youth, and the Footprints High School Youth will be given opportunities next weekend to experience God in a personal and challenging way, through retreats. BreakAway will be attending the Jr. High Retreat at Camp Luz, Friday through Sunday, and Footprints will have their own annual winter retreat at Inspiration Hills, Sunday to Monday. We appreciate your prayers for both of these groups as they engage in fellowship and learning together, and specifically for:

- **BREAKAWAY:** Pray for adults Diane Hostetler, Jeff Fisher, and John Michaels as they chaperone the jr. highers over the weekend; pray that God's message through guest speaker Don Bartlette, about loving others with differences, will engage and challenge the youth to new levels in their faith walk; and finally for safety for all involved, as they play and participate in winter-related activities.
- **FOOTPRINTS:** Pray for both our youth and leaders and the youth and leaders of Chestnut Ridge as they join to play, pray, and process God's Word together; and guest speaker Ken Wengerd as he shares about "the Cross," which offers us connection with God in our suffering, and invites us to healing. This is yet another way that we are focusing on this year's theme from Galatians 2:20 of understanding that our lives are not our own but are to be lived by faith in Jesus.

Recognizing Renae: Our Rainbow Rooster Recipient for 2009!

Last year, a prestigious WINGS volunteer award was initiated, called "The Rainbow Rooster Award" (trophy shown here). This honor is awarded by nominations made by other fellow staff, who select the one WINGS staff member whom they think most deserves recognition for "showing the true colors of Children's Ministry."



For the 2009 WINGS year, the award was given to Renae Miller, who makes the drive to WINGS each week (often with a van full of jr. high



helpers) from Millersburg. Renae has been a part of WINGS since October 2007. Other staff had these things to say about Renae:

"I nominate Renae, she is such a dedicated servant, and so loving, and has patience that sometimes puts me to shame."

"I think Renae should get it. She's always with the kids and has a smile on her face. She does a wonderful job."