

## **The Youth Department of Second Baptist Church Southwest Washington, D.C.**

The Youth Department of Second Baptist Church Southwest provides Christ-centered recreational and learning experiences for our young people. We want our youth to develop spiritually and learn to use Christian principles in all aspects of their lives. We also want them to meet and be friends with other young people who have said “Yes” to Christ.

Under its current director, the Youth Department has sponsored a variety of notable and exciting projects. Annually there is a Boys All-Night Lockup and a Girls All-Night Lockup. The Boys LockUp is a night of fun-filled activities that are centered on the development of godly character and building integrity among the boys. They are taught to cook, finance and business principles, and most importantly, they are given a clear presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Recently, the men and boys traveled to Walnut Farm in Mt. Holly, Virginia for a fishing trip.



Boys fishing trip, Mt. Holly, Virginia

There have been a variety of themes for the Girls Lockup. In 2008, the young ladies arrived to a castle fashionably late to receive tiaras and rare *diamonds*. On this night, every girl was a princess. The night included manicures, makeovers and chocolate facials. Ms. District of Columbia 2007 visited and taught the girls what it means to be a princess inside and out.

Our youth are involved in a variety of mission activities. We packed and distributed more than 40 bags of food for distribution during Southwest Community Day in 2009. We pack and distribute groceries ourselves several

There have been a variety of themes for the Girls Lockup. In 2008, the young ladies arrived to a castle fashionably late to receive tiaras and rare *diamonds*. On this night, every girl was a princess. The night included manicures, makeovers and chocolate facials. Ms. District of Columbia 2007 visited and taught the girls what it means to be a princess inside and out.



Girls with Ms. Ashley Edwards, 2007 Ms. Black District of Columbia and Ms. D.C. Galaxy 2009



Preparation of grocery bags for distribution throughout community.

times during the year as a way to help the community and for the youth to earn community service hours.

We sponsor annually The Hazel M. Gardner Youth Talent Extravaganza. This is a grand occasion at our church where the youth showcase their talents for the congregation in a special service. It is named for our Church Organist Emerita who has served our church for more than 62 years. It was her vision to have the church become a venue where our children could show and utilize their talents. This service takes on many themes. In 2008, we joined with the Sunday School to present a "Night of a Thousand Stars." It was a formal event in which the youth dressed in formal attire, rode in a limousine, and arrived to a red carpet where pictures were taken and interviews were given and videotaped. During the worship service, the young people performed their talents and awards were given for Honor Roll and participation in service projects. After the service, there was a formal sit-down dinner.

Our annual Oratorical Contests have helped youth to master public speaking skills and prepared them for competitions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. First place winners deliver their addresses to the Second Baptist congregation during Sunday morning worship services.



For three years, the Youth Department sponsored a Saturday afternoon reading improvement program. As part of the program, we participated in the annual African American Read-Ins held in February, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.



Youth Department at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello

We have travelled to destinations close to home such as the Great Blacks in Wax Museum and Port Discovery in Baltimore and Luray Caverns and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia. But, we have also travelled to far-away places. In 2003, we cruised through Alaska, via Vancouver,

British Columbia. While in Vancouver, we participated in a Paper Cup Ministry which feeds homeless youth on Saturday evenings. It is sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Vancouver where we also worshipped on the Sunday before the cruise. In 2006, a small delegation taught Vacation Bible School in Nova Scotia. We also traveled to Nassau Bahamas in 2006, to participate in the Centricruise Mission Program. Our youth worked in orphanages and help to paint classrooms in a middle school.



Vacation Bible School in Nova Scotia



Arrival in Nassau



Second Baptist teens are regular participants in the Lott Carey Youth Seminar held annually at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. There they attend worship services and bible classes, participate in community service projects and sing with the Lott Carey choir.

We have also attended the Progressive National Baptist Convention in recent years participating in classes, youth activities and the choir. A small delegation of Second Baptist Youth combined a college tour with attendance at the Convention which was held in Louisville, Kentucky in 2009. They were able to stop at Frostburg State University, the University of West Virginia, West Virginia State University and Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. During other years, we have combined the Convention with trips to Disneyworld and the Six Flags theme park in Atlanta.



Over the years, the Youth Department has sponsored a variety of retreats, jamborees, workshops and summer camps, including spiritual and academic enrichment camp, photography camp, and sailing camp. Recreational activities include ski trips as well as attendance at local sports events. During certain years, our youth have participated in the Areawide Christian Athletic Basketball Ministry with several of our deacons serving as coaches.



Second Baptist Youth at Verizon Center Wizards Game and National Park

Second Baptist Youth can be seen throughout the church and in the community participating in worship services and providing assistance.



Vacation Bible School Parade 2008