



Capital News
Capital Campaign Committee
March 11, 2024

Caring for God's House - Together



Our Youth

As part of our appreciation for groups using our church over the last year, we have highlighted an assortment of adult groups who have made use of our church building. This month we focus on the RRPC Scholarship Committee and the Children and Youth of RRPC

The Men's Breakfast this month heard presentations from Dave Shambach and Don Underwood about the value of the RRPC youth programs, which is the rare youth group within the Presbytery that meets regularly! We delved into the RRPC annual reports that related to our youth program and present them to you here. Our thanks to the adults who work with the youth and who raise funds for the program.

Scholarship Committee, Don Underwood

'Scholarships of GRACE' are awarded to any youth who was active in our church

during their high school years and who is furthering their education through a certificate program or college. The scholarships are awarded to individuals for up to 5 years (and the years need not be consecutive nor do the youths have to start their education immediately after high school graduation).

2023 was the 10th year we have awarded scholarships to youth in our church. In those 10 years we have awarded \$49,250 to 26 individuals. In 2023 the base scholarship was increased to \$600/year/student because of inflation. Scholarships are awarded in June or July of each year. In 2023, scholarships were awarded to 8 youth. Because of the generous support of our congregation during 2022 - 2023 fund raising year, the 2023 scholarships were increased, one time, to \$650 for a total of \$5,200 in scholarships. Our annual fundraisers are Soup 'To Go', 50's Drive in Diner, Fall Festival (craft fair/carnival, bake sale, silent auction), and Thanksgiving Pies.

These scholarships are our way of letting the youth of our church know that they are still part of our church family after high school graduation. We wish them success as they pursue careers of their choice, and we want to give them some help.

Laura Gonzales and Don Underwood
Scholarship Committee Co-Chairs

Faith Formation For Children and Youth Committee, Dave Shambach

The Children and Youth of RRPC continued to serve and be served during 2024.

Pastor Kathy continues to set the tone by placing a strong emphasis on this ministry. During the course of the year, the leadership team of Pastor Kathy, Birgitta Gustafson, yours truly, and as needed, John Husler, have helped chart a course of weekly gatherings for the youth. Elder Liz Bushma has helped with mission projects, Sharon Hovey and Verona Schmidt have given advice on an ongoing banner project, and Gerald Tafoya has helped provide team-building sessions. We are grateful to parents and members who have provided meals for us as well.

The elementary school group known as "the Fishers" (their idea for the name inspired by Jesus' command to be "fishers of people") has seen Pastor Kathy assemble leadership help from several parents, active church members, and Music Director Nancy Leffler. Each has helped the new group to joyfully work together to learn about the Bible, make crafts for the church and for their families in accordance with the Biblical stories. The "Fishers" have also participated in worship as acolytes and as musicians.

Youth Group members (Middle School-through-High School age) have served as ushers, have led worship on Christmas Eve and in May, as well as participating

musically in worship services. They have participated in Presbytery Youth Retreats at Ghost Ranch and Menaul School. They have assembled kits for those on the southern border and for families at Haven House, and helped Haven House with their Easter egg hunt at Haynes Park. They sponsored the Souper Bowl Sunday collection that raised \$425 for Storehouse West. They assisted in the "50's Diner" and Fall Festival Scholarship Committee events, and the Blessing of the Pets. They are the only regularly-meeting group in Presbytery. The group of between 5-10 on a given Sunday alternates fellowship, learning and service opportunities throughout the winter, spring, and fall months, and truly has fun!

The nature of our church's faith formation has changed a bit to reflect the realities of life. Our core elementary group has found the monthly Saturday morning gatherings more do-able than Sunday School. Our youth have always been active in school and extended families' activities, and have more recently faced the challenges of weekend work schedules.

We head into 2024 anticipating the graduation of three seniors and changes in leadership. One such change will be a new person chairing this committee; I have had the privilege of doing so for 6 years. My tenure on Session has concluded, but I have promised to stay active in Children and Youth leadership (including those "Dad jokes"!)

In a reflection to Session in November, I noted how we have guided the grandchildren of charter members and have seen our graduates go into the military, attain recognition for their efforts in high school and college, and then take their place in the working world. To the leaders, committee members, parents, and the congregation at large, thank you for helping to lead "the little children to come unto Jesus."

Dave Shambach, Faith Formation Elder, 2018-2023

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1
Thank you for your support!

The Capital Campaign Committee -- Betty, Elaine, Leah, Pat, Denise, Sue, and Bob

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