

EYC 2023-2024

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Welcome!

Dear Parents,

The spiritual development of youth and teens is important to St. John's and has long been a vibrant and meaningful program at our church. One of the reasons for this is our commitment to the faith formation of everyone from infants to seniors. As parents we know how important it is for our children to grow up with a developed sense of faith that they can rely on as an adult. Having a mature faith helps give each of us a bedrock of stability in challenging times, as well as a sense of love and fulfillment in times of joy and celebration. In order to help our youth in their own unique faith journeys, we have developed a program that is a mix of both social and faith development. This program creates a safe space where youth can be vulnerable and open with one another and the adults who help to shepherd them through these formative years of their life. It also creates an environment that is fun with lots of activities, games, and adventures that are sure to attract kids of all ages. Finally, and most importantly, this program teaches our youth about Christ and gives them opportunities of service to live out their faith in real and meaning ways. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or anyone on our youth ministry team.

Faithfully,
Peter Floyd
Rector





What is EYC?

Youth ministry at St. John's serves youth in grades 6 through 12 through worship, service, giving, loving, learning, and praying! Our ministry is led by The Rev. Richard Clark, Associate Rector for Youth Ministry, and Rachel Shelton, our Youth Minister but more importantly- a team 13 volunteers who work to meet the needs of the youth who participate in our EYC program on a weekly basis.

The first element of our youth program is the sense of community and Christian fellowship created in our weekly EYC meetings. While much of our time together is spent in fun and laughter, we also create a nurturing environment in which our youth learn to share and express the love of Christ to one another. We extend our Christian fellowship to any youth, regardless of their denomination, so that all who come may feel welcome and see Christ in action. We prioritize fellowship and relationships between students by hosting fun events, going on retreats, and bringing youth outside of their comfort zones. We also value leader/student relationships so that youth feel as though they have an adult that they trust + can help guide them on their faith journey, even beyond their senior year!

The second element of our youth program is the spiritual development of the individual through worship, service, Bible study, and education. Our nightly programming offers a time of devotion, a lesson, and response in small groups. Our youth serve St. John's as acolytes, chalice bearers, members of the choir and bell choir, youth leaders in diocesan events, and as delegates to the diocesan convention. Youth also serve as Junior Advisors, on our Design Teams, The Vestry of St. John's, and on our Youth Committee as well. Through these activities, students have the opportunity to experience God's call and love in their own lives.

The final element of our youth program is the service and mission work that our youth do locally, nationally, and even internationally. From serving our local church, people in our community, our state, and even our annual Fill the Bowl Event where last year we raised over 30,000 dollars to feed children in Tanzania through *Thrive Global*, formerly *The Lunch Project*. Our students recognize the needs of others and always jump at the opportunity to help out where they can (while having a lot of fun along the way!)

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young; be an example to all believers in what you teach, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." 1 Timothy 4:12



"GET THE WORD OUT. TEACH ALL THESE THINGS. AND DON'T LET ANYONE PUT YOU DOWN BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG. TEACH BELIEVERS WITH YOUR LIFE: BY WORD, BY Demeanor, BY LOVE, BY FAITH, BY INTEGRITY. STAY AT YOUR POST READING SCRIPTURE, GIVING COUNSEL, TEACHING. AND THAT SPECIAL GIFT OF MINISTRY YOU WERE GIVEN WHEN THE LEADERS OF THE CHURCH LAID HANDS ON YOU AND PRAYED—KEEP THAT DUSTED OFF AND IN USE" / 1 TIMOTHY 4:11-14 MSG VERSION

A letter from Rachel 2023-2024, let's do this!

Hello!!! I am so glad you are here. Gearing up for another year together! I want to start out by saying thank you to everyone who makes this ministry possible- we would not be able to make EYC happen without the help from our volunteers + parents, THANK YOU for all that you do to support our program. As you all know, we have a wonderful group of students, full of energy + great ideas that should be celebrated. EYC is a place for them to be safe, learn about themselves and their faith, and to grow up feeling supported + loved. We have so many great things coming up this year! We are going to dig deeper into our faith and our community than we ever have before. We are going to seek out God's heart for us and for the direction of our lives.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind can imagine, what GOD does for those who love Him."
1 Corinthians 2:9

As someone who grew up in the Church and attended youth group all of my life, I thought that I was comfortable in who I was and who Jesus is but when you get to college + your young adult life (and I'm sure beyond) you rely so heavily on what you were taught in places like youth groups and you rely on those people who helped you along the way! That is why I do what I do, because I know what others did for me. I also know what Jesus did for me and when you know that, there's no other response but to worship. We hope to give students a space to do so, on their level. Always encouraging them to ask questions, dive deeper, press in, serve others, get to know those around them, and have a little fun along the way! We believe that we serve a God who deserves to be worshiped, but also a God who speaks to us + we cannot wait to see what God has for us this year!

A letter from Rich

This Fall begins another full and exciting year at St. John's EYC. EYC stands for Episcopal Youth Community. SJEYC '23-'24 offers more fun and opportunities for us to grow as a beloved community of youth and adults who work with youth, living and reflecting our Christian hope and life together in Charlotte.

Our understanding of God's love for us, as well as our love of God and each other, begins to blossom in September, grows tall during Fall, matures warmly during Winter, and bears lasting fruit in our lives during Spring as school winds out and Summer begins.

Youth do not need to be a member of St. John's or be an Episcopalian to attend EYC, so invite classmates and friends who want to have fun and be part of a faith community with fellowship, learning, and Christian love. Our first Fall Sunday of EYC will be Sunday, September 17th at 6PM.

Great things are going to happen at SJEYC '23-24...so come as y'all are! It's so much fun being together, engaging in faith.

In Christ,
Rich+



Safe-church Training & Background Checks

The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of North Carolina requires all adults volunteering with youth to pass a background check and to complete a safety program called "Safe Church." This training is important in familiarizing the volunteer with church policies and procedures that are applicable to all of our youth events and activities. All of our volunteers are required to complete our Diocesan Safe Church courses listed below prior to interacting with any students.

This training is now administered online through a company called *Praesidium Academy* and must be completed by all adults who volunteer with our youth program. This ensures a safe environment for all students who participate weekly + attend overnight retreats.

Please let us know if you have any questions!

Covenant & Expectations

No possession or use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.

No fighting, weapons, lighters, or explosives.

No offensive or immodest clothing worn by students or volunteers.

No sexual activity or contact.

No purpling.

All are welcome in, and part of, the group.

Respect property and possessions of others.

Respect the social and emotional safety of others.

Respect one another, advisors, and any space we're in (the Church, off campus events, retreat centers, etc.)

Respect and comply with programming schedules and cleaning/cooking duties when on Retreats.

All students will sign the Covenant upon registration, included in their "EYC Registration Form."



EYC calendar Fall 2023

* means that dinner will be served!

SEP

10 Youth Volunteer Meeting
6:30 PM w/ Fellowship
Dinner out following!

17 EYC Student & Parent Orientation following the 10:15 AM service

EYC Kickoff Cookout *
6:00 - 7:30 PM

24 EYC LEARN *
6:00-7:30 PM

OCT

1 EYC SERVES
6:00-7:30 PM - dinner out following!

8 EYC OFF CAMPUS- Monster Mini Golf! *
6:00-8:00 PM

13-15 Fall Retreat- MEN & WOMEN OF GOD
Montreat Retreat Center

22 EYC LEARN *
6:00-7:30 PM

29 EYC SERVES
Trunk - or - Treat at SJE

NOV

5 EYC LEARN *
6:00-7:30 PM

12 EYC SERVES
6:00-7:30 PM - dinner out following!

19 EYC Friendsgiving! *
MINUTE TO WIN IT
6:00-7:30 PM

26 EYC OFF CAMPUS
Meet @ Ben + Jerrys next to SJE at 7:30 PM- Ice cream on us!

DEC

3 EYC LEARN *
6:00-7:30 PM

8 Winter Lock-in @ St. John's! *
Beginning Friday @ 6:00 PM + Pick up Saturday before 9 AM

EYC things to know Fall 2023

*if you ever have any questions about EYC events, feel free to check our Facebook (facebook.com/sjeyc), Instagram (@sjeyc_charlotte), or website (stje.org/youth-and-teens).

JUNIOR ADVISORS

September 17th Junior Advisor Application Opens
Junior Advisor Applications due **October 1st** by midnight!

October 4th Junior Advisor Fellowship 6-8 PM
All JA's must attend the Fall Retreat - **October 13-15**

November 6th Mid Semester Check-in Dinner 6-8 PM
Prep + Plan the Winter Lock-in as a team- All JA's must attend- **December 8-9**

ADVISORS

Advisor Meeting w/ Fellowship Dinner out following!
September 10 @ 6:30 PM

Mid Semester Check in + Planning Meeting -
October 22 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Advisor Christmas Party!
December 13 6:00 - 8:30 PM

MISSION TEAM

Interest Meeting **October 8th** following the 10:15 AM service
Mission Team Applications due **October 25**

Mission Team Meeting - Mandatory **October 29** following the 10:15 AM service

Trunk-or-Treat Fundraiser - **October 29**

Wreath + Autobell GC's for sale **November 1 - December 2**

Parent's Night Out Fundraiser **December 10, 11, 12 6:00 - 8:30**

ETC.

September 17th Fall Retreat Registration Opens & Student + Parent Orientation following the 10:15 AM service in the Youth Room

November 19th Winter Lock-in Registration Opens

(Our SPRING CALENDAR is finalized at the end of the year and distributed at the Winter Lock-in!)

OUR 2023-2024 VOLUNTEERS

middle school girls

Jackie John 704-562-9179
jaclynjohn@gmail.com

Allison Sellers 704-542-4685
allison.sellers@bellsouth.net

6 & 7th grade guys

Chris Williams 704-359-7073
cgw0618@gmail.com

8th & 9th grade guys

John Shaw 980-355-2227
johnshaw@gmail.com

Jim Riddle 704-619-0465
riddlejj@bellsouth.net

10-12th grade guys-

Cabell Sheild 704-441-4015
cabs.sheild@gmail.com

Jeff Melando (704) 975-8574
jrmelando@gmail.com

John Chittick 704-502-6716
johnfchittick@gmail.com

Ryan Shine 704-906-2005
ryan.shine@gmail.com

AJ John 704-650-6019
ajbluedevilspanthers@gmail.com

9-11th grade girls

Jenna Chittick 704-953-2889
jennachittick1@gmail.com

senior girls

Catey Fisher 704-910-9281
catey.victoria@gmail.com

Kelsey Melando 910-269-8668
kdmelando@gmail.com

Junior Advisors

Ellie Shine
Hannah Hochstrasser

RESOURCES



NEWSLETTER- our weekly newsletter comes out every Thursday at noon. we share photos, recaps, and announcements about upcoming events. here is the QR code to register your email!



GROUP ME- we use the app group me to communicate in a large group message with our volunteers! you can find this on the app store + we will add you to it via your phone number! let us know if you need assistance with this app.



INSTAGRAM- @sjeyc_charlotte / follow us!



FACEBOOK- www.facebook.com/sjeyc



WEBSITE- www.stje.org/youth-and-teens



CONTACT US- Rachel Shelton / rachel@stje.org / 843-384-4628
Rich Clark / rich@stje.org / 504-330-6368
Peter Floyd / peter@stje.org / 704-620-0315



Scan here to pay for meals for the YEAR!
120\$ per student!



Youth Education Hour (Formation) and Confirmation

This year we will have one class for youth education hour- held at 9:15 in room 304/305. If you would like to be confirmed in the Spring, these classes are mandatory! If you are looking for Christian Education, these classes are recommended for you! ALL students 6th-12th may attend these classes. Even if you are already confirmed or won't be for another year or two- you will find value in this class. This time will be filled with numerous topics and conversations about the Church, our faith in Jesus, and our life as a believer.

(The third floor will be unavailable on Sunday mornings, other than room 304/305.)

We believe there is great value in attending confirmation class (Sunday school), being a regular EYC attendee, and consistent in church attendance for an all-encompassing life of faith!

September 17 -Brief Orientation following the EYC Meeting (room 304/305)

September 24 -Class 1

October 1 -Class 2

(All Confirmands are encouraged to attend EYC Serves 6:00-7:30 PM)

October 8 -Class 3

October 15 - No class.

(All Confirmands are encouraged to attend the EYC Fall Retreat)

October 22 -Class 4

October 29 -Class 5

November 5 -Class 6

November 12 -Class 7

(All Confirmands are encouraged to attend EYC Serves 6:00-7:30 PM)

November 19 -Class 8

(All Confirmands are encouraged to attend EYC Friendsgiving)

November 26- No confirmation class, happy Thanksgiving!

End of Confirmation Classes for the semester- we will continue beginning in January!

Regular Sunday school will continue through December 10th!



NOTES

*we cannot
wait for
ANOTHER YEAR
together!
woo!*

FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

RACHEL SHELTON / RACHEL@STJE.ORG / 843-384-4628

RICH CLARK / RICH@STJE.ORG / 504-330-6368

PETER FLOYD / PETER@STJE.ORG / 704-366-3034



Come as you are
Engage in faith



Saint John's Episcopal Church