

2006-2007
St. Mark's
Student Ministry
Handbook

*Our mission is committed to building positive relationships that challenge youth of Murfreesboro to **Investigate** Christianity, **Grow** in the knowledge, **Mature** in their faith, and **Discover** and **Fulfill** God's purpose for their life.*

Building Relationships, Building Disciples.

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

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Introduction — *“Building relationships... building disciples”*

Our purpose is to build friendships with students so that we can share Christ with each of them and to ultimately see them grow and mature as followers of Jesus. In order to reach the number of students that I believe God would have us reach, we need to have a good plan, a well coordinated staff, and people who are doing the right things for the right reasons. This manual has been prepared so our parents, a significant part of our team, can have a road map we are using to build a good foundation.

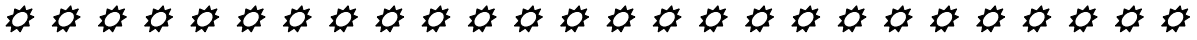
More importantly, though, we know that no ministry is successful just because it is well planned and organized, or because I wrote this nifty manual!! We are serving a living God whose work is dynamic in our lives and in the lives of the students we are serving. Key to our success is our own relationship with Jesus Christ. Prayer, regular study of God’s Word, openness to the work of the Holy Spirit, and personal integrity are more crucial factors in good ministry than knowing the right answers from some book or manual. As Oswald Chambers says, “My worth to God in public is what I am in private.” May you and I be called “good and faithful servants” when someday we stand before the Lord in heaven!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers of St. Mark’s Student Ministry, you are much appreciated.

Rev. Kirk Dana
Minister with Students

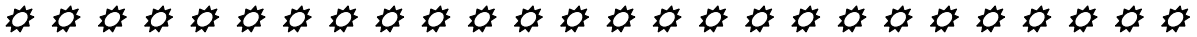


St. Mark's United Methodist Church Student Ministries



Vision

St. Mark's Student Ministries are committed to building Positive relationships that challenge youth to **INVESTIGATE** Christianity, **GROW** in their knowledge, **MATURE** in their faith, and **DISCOVER** and **FULFILL** God's purpose for their life.

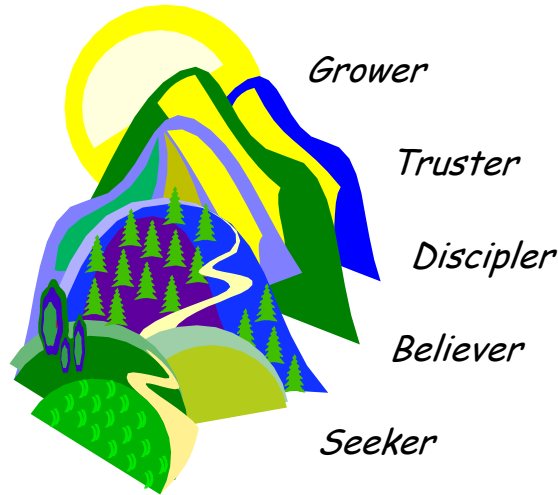


The Mountain

"Don't imagine us leaders to be something we aren't.
We are servants of Christ, not masters."

Youth Servant Team

Serve Jesus by leading peers over the Mountain, the hands and feet of ministry, a group of youth who are committed to be the servant-leaders of the Student Ministries of St. Mark's. The team works directly in planning and implementing both weekly and special event ministries to impact their peers for Christ.



Lay Youth Ministers (Volunteer Adults)

Build relationships with youth, lead small groups, and serve as models for Christ-like walk. Care for and mentor a small group of youth through weekly contacts and interaction at each youth event.

YOUTH STAFF

Overall ministry and maintains vision of Student Ministries. The Youth Staff envision, empower, and equip both students and adults for ministry.

Philosophy of Ministry

A philosophy of ministry is the “why” behind the “what” of what we do. Our philosophy is the framework for how we choose to organize our program and how we choose to direct the efforts of our staff. The ministry philosophy that drives our program here at St. Mark’s is made up of five key elements.

1. Our *ministry* is a relational ministry.

At the heart of our work is the desire to build relationships between-

- ❖ students and God
- ❖ staff and students
- ❖ students and students
- ❖ staff and parents

We want to model our ministry after Jesus’ example of building relationships between Himself and His disciples (students to God), between the disciples and the crowds they would minister to (staff to students), and in helping establish loving and caring relationships between Jesus’ followers (students to students).

2. Our *ministry* is a team ministry.

We bring to this work a variety of God-given gifts and abilities (I Corinthians 12, Romans 12) that we will join together to work as a healthy body. We are committed to helping each of us achieve our best within the Body of Christ. There will be few solo ministries, no superstars, and no one left to struggle on alone during tough times. We will work together in team relationships.

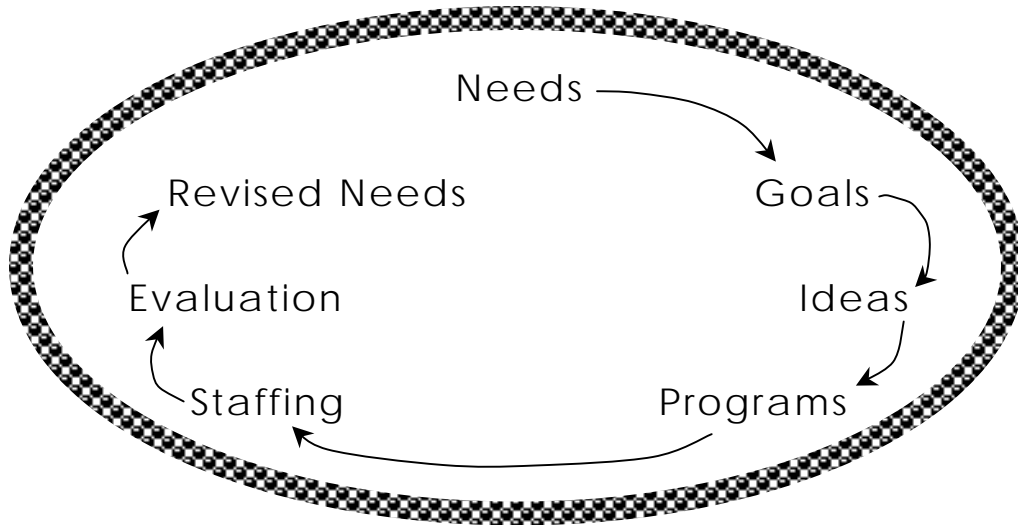


3. Our *ministry* is a discipling *ministry*.

We will play games, have activities that are fun, and laugh a lot, but our purpose will always be directed toward building disciples for Jesus Christ. We want to develop students who are serious about walking with Jesus in obedience, faithfulness, and love.

4. Our *ministry* is a needs-based *ministry*.

We strategize our program planning using the cycle of ministry diagram below.



5. Our *ministry* is an equipping *ministry*.

Ephesians 4 tells us that the work of the ministers is to develop believers who do the work of the ministry. We are seeking to unleash our lay staff and our students to work in areas of ministry that God has called them to, not asking them to be faithful to programs or structures we have developed.



Mission Statement “Building Relationships . . . Building Disciples”

*Our mission is committed to building positive relationships that challenge youth of Murfreesboro to **INVESTIGATE** Christianity, **GROW** in their knowledge, **MATURE** in their faith, and **DISCOVER** and **FULFILL** God’s purpose for their life.*










Our mission requires that our adult ministry staff (both lay and paid) will put a premium on building friendships with students. As Jesus built friendships with his 12 disciples (John 15:14-16) and with the woman at the well (John 4:1-26), so too will we build relationships that lead to disciple-making.

Our ministry is structured to develop spiritual maturity in students. Spiritual maturity is difficult to define and cannot be measured precisely, but it can be identified by certain qualities and characteristics. We choose to pursue our mission by developing ministries that produce students who are growing in the qualities and values we have defined as the *Description of a Discipled Student (DDS)*.

Description of a Discipled Student

“. . . but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.” (Luke 6:40)

A Discipled Student is one who . . .

-  knows and loves Jesus as Savior and Lord
(John 1:12; Matthew 22:37 - 39; Acts 16:30 - 31)
-  understands and relies on God’s grace and forgiveness
(Ephesians 2:8 - 9; I John 1:8 -2:2)
-  reads the Bible and prays regularly
(II Timothy 3:16 - 17; II Peter 1:20 - 21; I Thessalonians 5:17)
-  who is able to share his/her faith and explain God’s plan of salvation
(Romans Road)
-  is active in serving both the Body of Christ as well as the world
(James 2:26; Ephesians 2:10)
-  knows the basics of the faith and doctrines from Scripture
(John 10:28 - 30; I Timothy 2:5)
-  knows how to, and is active in disciplining younger believers
(II Timothy 2:2)
has chosen a moral, ethical and holy lifestyle
(II Timothy 2:22)
-  loves and shows care and respect for others
(John 13:34 - 35; I Corinthians 13:4 - 8)
-  is daily seeking to become more like Jesus
(Philippians 2:3 - 8; Philippians 3:10)

How we will disciple and teach students so they will develop the characteristics of our DDS

To help students know and love Jesus as Savior and Lord, we will

- ◆ give the salvation message at least once a month in Sunday morning class.
- ◆ have regular outreach events and camps where the gospel is presented.
- ◆ have staff personally challenge students with the gospel through relationships.

To help students understand and rely on God's grace and forgiveness, we will

- ◆ teach grace and forgiveness as a "Great Bible Themes" subject.
- ◆ extend grace by our non-judgmental and accepting words, actions, and prayers.

To help students read the Bible and pray regularly, we will

- ◆ encourage Bible reading by having students give testimonies of how it helped them.
- ◆ verbally encourage it often during teaching times.
- ◆ teach "how to" in our Sunday morning class.
- ◆ make Bible reading and prayer a key part of discipleship.
- ◆ make time to pray as a group a priority in Bible Studies, discipleship and staff meetings.

To help students share their faith and be able to explain God's plan of salvation, we will

- ◆ teach "how to" in Sunday morning class.
- ◆ do a one day "Peer to Peer CPR" class each year. (CPR = Cultivate, Plant, Reap)
- ◆ encourage student testimonies.

To help students serve the Body of Christ as well as the world, we will

- ◆ collect an offering in Sunday morning class and encourage 100% participation.
- ◆ do student mission trips.
- ◆ do local service projects.
- ◆ encourage students to participate in church ministries like usher crew and childcare.
- ◆ have students responsible for picking up room, setting up things, etc.

To help students know the basics of the faith and doctrines from Scripture, we will

- ◆ teach a "Great Bible Themes" series in Sunday morning class.
- ◆ cover basics and doctrine in discipleship.
- ◆ check knowledge by testing. "You can't do what you can't remember. . ."
- ◆ encourage them to take notes from classes, sermons, and personal Bible study.

To help students understand and actively disciple younger believer, we will

- ◆ encourage each student to be discipled by someone older.
- ◆ teach discipleship as a Biblical idea and as the norm for believers.
- ◆ teach a “how to” disciple class for students and staff.

To help students choose a moral, ethical and holy lifestyle, we will

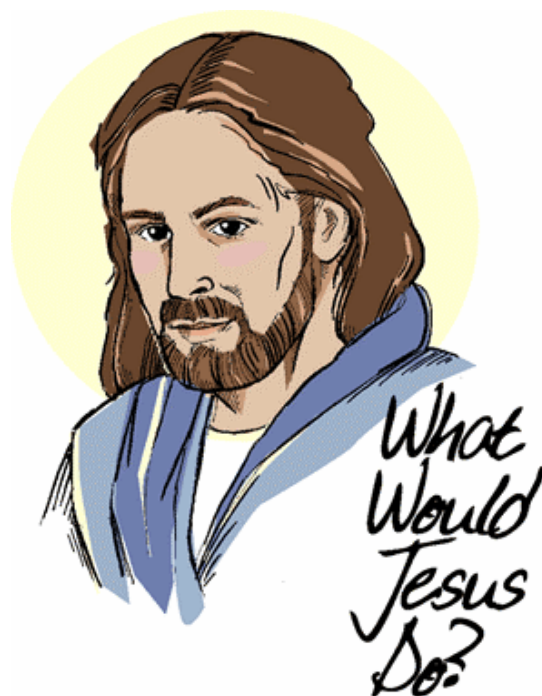
- ◆ teach on “sex and dating.”
- ◆ teach the Scriptures on honesty, integrity, and absolute moral truth.
- ◆ challenge students to live lives separated from worldliness.
- ◆ teach the pursuit of holiness (II Timothy 2:22).
- ◆ teach on “The Lie” (Romans 1:18 - 25) and how to avoid it.

To help students love and show care and respect for others, we will

- ◆ encourage staff to always speak to and about students with respect.
- ◆ encourage staff and other students to affirm one another.
- ◆ teach about love as a choice.

To help students become more like Jesus on a daily basis, we will

- ◆ teach more about how to live the Christian life.
- ◆ often ask the question “What would Jesus do?” making it common to group awareness.



Discipline Policy

“Blessed is the man you discipline, O Lord, the man you teach from you law. . .” Psalm 94:12

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Hebrews 12:11

A GOOD DISCIPLINE POLICY CONSISTS OF:

1. Love and limits.
2. Grace and truth.
3. Affirmation and correction.
4. Support and boundaries.

A DISCIPLINE POLICY WORKS BEST:

1. When those in authority discipline **positively**, without anger and without embarrassing the students or destroying their dignity.
2. When the youth are fully informed of the rules and understand the consequences of breaking the rules.
3. When the parents support the youth leadership.
4. When youth events are properly supervised (a ratio of 1 adult to 7 youth is used for events and trips).

DISCIPLINE POLICY FOR ST. MARK’S STUDENT MINISTRY:

1. All youth are expected to attend and participate in the activities being offered at the time. They should either be in the Banquet Room or Youth Center, not just “hanging out” or around the building. Youth are also expected to attend activities specific to their age group.
2. Youth will be warned twice, then asked to leave if they disrupt youth activities by talking, passing notes or any other action that shows disrespect towards God, other youth or adult leaders. Any youth removed from youth activities will have their parents notified.
3. All opinions are welcome, whether you agree with them or not.
4. All people attending youth functions should be youth grades 7-12.
5. No PDA (public display of affection) is allowed on any youth group function.
6. We prohibit the use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products at any church sponsored activity, for both youth and adults.
7. Adults are expected to follow the rules, just as the youth are.
8. Dress should be modest. T-shirts should be in good taste (no Big Johnson, South Park, beer or cigarette t-shirts please).
9. One piece swimsuits should be worn at all church functions and trips. If you have a two-piece, you must wear a t-shirt over it. Students WILL NOT be allowed to drive on any church sponsored activity - if you choose to drive - you WILL NOT be considered a part of the group from starting to stopping point.
10. Youth and adults are expected to take care of all church property. Any person who willingly destroys or damages property will be expected to reimburse the church its cost.
11. ONLY Christian music will be played in the Youth Center and on the church vehicles.
12. Lack of finances WILL NOT be the sole factor in keeping youth from participation in any event. Financial arrangements can be made through the Student Office.

Student Ministry General Philosophy

- ◆ We support the parents, the teenager’s PRIMARY Spiritual authority.
- ◆ We support each teenager’s family as the priority in his/her life. The Student Ministry will be in partnership with each family.
- ◆ We are a “holistic” ministry. We will strive to meet physical, emotional, social, mental and spiritual needs in every student.
- ◆ Lack of finances Will NOT be the sole factor in keeping any young person from participating in any youth event. Financial arrangements can be made through the Student office.

Mission Statement: *The Mission of St. Mark’s Ministry is to grow together while serving God and setting a Christian example for the community. Through teamwork we will show true fellowship (Koinonia) by welcoming others with our love, respect, and support*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday:

Worship	8:30, 9:50, and 11:00 a.m.
Morning Experience	9:45 a.m.
Youth Choir	4:00 p.m.
Youth Center Opens	5:00 p.m.
Snack Supper	5:00-5:30 p.m.
Main Event	5:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

Wed. Night Together	5:30 p.m.
24/7/52 Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Youth Center Closes	8:00 p.m.

ST. MARK’S STUDENT MINISTRIES

Worship	Retreats	Summer Events	UMYF
Bible Stories	Praise	Sunday Morning	Trips
Drama	Choir	Missions	Scouting
Confirmation	Sharing Groups	Plus, much, much MORE	

SAFETY/LIABILITY REGULATIONS

- ◆ Youth will not be allowed to drive on any youth functions.
- ◆ Youth must wear seat belts while riding in private vehicles.
- ◆ Youth will not be left unattended at the church.
- ◆ We will notify you of any accident involving your youth, no matter how small.
- ◆ Please do not leave your teens here when no adults are present.

ADULT LEADERSHIP

- ◆ All adult leaders participate in on-going training throughout the year.
- ◆ All adult leaders are screened and interviewed.
- ◆ All adult leaders fill out an extensive application.
- ◆ Adult leadership meet every Sunday for 30 minutes before youth.

Sunday Night Weekly Meeting “Main Event” 7th – 12th grades

This large gathering includes open gym and youth center, plus plenty of fun, small groups, worship and service. We meet every Sunday night 5:00 - 7:30. Check in monthly calendar for special events and/or change of time.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT- 24/7 BIBLE STUDY FOR GRADES 7 - 12

This fun and high-energy night includes creative games, “family group” discussions, and Bible Study. We meet every Wednesday night 6:30-7:30.

SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE W/GRADE LEVEL CLASSES 7-8, 9-10, 11-12

Students gather each Sunday morning to enjoy a look into how the Bible can be applied to their everyday life. We meet every Sunday morning 9:45.

STUDENT ‘BRANCH’ GROUPS

. . . meet together through the week to provide support and encouragement and to challenge each other in their spiritual journey.

FUN, FUN, FUN

St. Mark’s Student Ministries have many fun retreats, special events, trips for mid and high school youth. Join us for the next event!

HOW DO WE GET OUR TEENS INVOLVED W/ST. MARK’S STUDENT MINISTRY?

1. Pray for your young person. God loves your young person and wants to help.
2. Talk with your teen about getting involved. Discuss any fears or concerns.
3. Contact the student staff or one of the lay youth ministers. We may be able to help you by contacting your teen ahead of time welcoming them to their first event. You can reach Rev. Kirk Dana by calling his office 893-5271.
4. Choose the best first event. The Weekly Sunday Night Main Event and Wednesday Night 24/7 Bible Study are good meetings for first-timers. We also have several fun events throughout the year that are especially designed for welcoming new youth.
5. Meet a friend at the “First Time Event” if possible. Everyone (including adults) has some fear about going somewhere new. Meeting or bringing a friend can help ease some of this fear.

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church Student Ministries
Medical Release/General Permission Form**

Date of Birth _____

Name _____ Date _____
(last) (first) (middle)

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City/Zip _____ Student Phone _____

Social Security # _____

School you attend _____ Grade _____

Email Address _____

Mother/Guardian Name _____ Work Place _____ Work # _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Father/Guardian Name _____ Work Place _____ Work # _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

List any medications, foods, insect stings or other things to which you are allergic _____

Medications currently taking _____

List any health problems or concerns _____

Medical Insurance Company (please attach copy of Health Plan card if available)

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Policy # _____ Identification or group # _____

Physicians name _____ Phone _____

Dentists name _____ Phone # _____

In the event of an emergency or non-emergency situation in which medical treatment is required we will contact one of the persons listed above. If unsuccessful in contacting the persons listed, consent/permission is given for treatment considered appropriate.

Further, and unless specified otherwise, consent/permission is hereby given to all accompanying adult volunteer leaders to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for, and to permit appropriate medical care (under recommendations of qualified medical personnel).

I understand that St. Mark's United Methodist Church does not carry accident or medical insurance on those youth and/or adults participating. I agree that my insurance company will be used for such medical care, and I am aware that the medical provider for any medical treatment not covered by my insurance may bill me. I understand that if I do not have medical insurance coverage I am responsible for the payment of any medical bills.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____ (to be signed in presence of a notary)

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____

Signature of Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

Personally Known _____ OR Produced Identification _____

Type of Identification Produced _____

**General Permission Form
And
Rules of Behavior for Trip Participants**

As parent/legal guardian of _____, I give my permission for his/her involvement in activities and events of St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, TN.

I consent to the use of any video images, photographs, audio recording or any other visual or audio reproduction that may be taken of the subject of this release during the activity/event to be used, distributed, or shown as St. Mark's UMC sees fit. For no, please initial here_____

I understand that all reasonable safety precautions will be taken at all times by St. Mark's United Methodist Church and its agents during the events or activities. I understand the possibility of unforeseen hazards and know the inherent possibility of risk for the subject of this form.

All students and adults are expected to follow these rules of behavior. Failure to abide by this code may result in the individual being required to call their parents/guardians to pick them up at parent/guardian expense.

- 1) Respect the property of our church, the places we visit and other people's belongings.
- 2) At no time be in possession of or be under the influence of illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco products during any Youth event.
- 3) Show respect for each other by listening, loving and nurturing at all times.
- 4) Participate fully in all attended events and abide by group decisions.
- 5) Reflect Christ to all who see us (NO public display of affection, NO physical or verbal fighting, NO profane or obscene language).
- 6) Clothing should be modest and appropriate. No shirts that advertise use of alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco products should be worn.

The subject and I have reviewed the rules of behavior together and agree that the subject of this release will abide by them. We also acknowledge that if the subject of the release has to return home early for discipline violation(s) it will be at my expense.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)_____

Parent/Guardian signature_____

Student Name (please print)_____

Student signature_____

FUNDRAISER GUIDELINES

**St. Mark's Student Ministry will be having
3 FUNDRAISERS**

for the year 2006-2007 that your teen may participate in:



1. *Spaghetti Dinner/Auction*

This fundraiser is to benefit our "Community Children's Christmas Party" in December. It will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5th.

Teens and parents will be needed to work and also to donate auction items and services. For more info, to help or donate, contact Ginger Ingle (890-3823) or Carlene Hurst (895-9828).



2. *Ugly Mug Coffee Sale* (Jan/Feb 2007)

Every teen will have an opportunity to sell coffee and hot chocolate this Fall through the Ugly Mug Company in Memphis. Upon completion of the event, they will receive monetary credit based on their total sales.

All monies will be kept in an account here at the church. Monies may be used for any St. Mark's event only and **MUST** be used by Dec. 31, 2007 when all accounts are cleared for the next year. Any unused monies will be used for the next year's mission trip.



3. *Mission Trip Stock Sale* We will have one stock sale for mission trips. Participating teens will need to raise \$200.00 of stock-selling them at \$20.00 per share. Parents may also choose just to donate that amount to the trip as it is a tax-deduction.

2006 Fall Big Events

- September 29 - 30 Fall Retreat
- October 1 No UMYF - Fall Break
- October 28 Corn Maze Trip
- November 5 Lunch/Auction to benefit Community Children's
Christmas Party
- November 26 No UMYF
- December 3 Tree of Special Wishes begins
- December 9 Community Children's Christmas Party
- Dec. 24 & 31 No UMYF
- Dec. 27 - 31 8th - 12th grade Ski Trip to Winter Park, CO

2007 Spring Big Events

- January 14 Trip to Let It Shine
- Jan. 26-28 Winter Retreat @ Hillmont Camp
- February 18 Trip to Climb Nashville
- March 18 & 25 Spring Break - No UMYF
- April 8 6:30 a.m. Youth Easter Sunrise Service
- May 6 Youth Sunday
- May 20 Graduating Senior Sunday / Senior Banquet
- TBA SONlight Choir tour
- July 7 - 15 7th - 12th Grade Trip to Youth 2007