

2007 Annual Report Get Drenched Team Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team

"Someone is on the way who is so much more able than me. I'm not fit to untie his sandals. **I've dipped you in the water, but he will drench you with God's Spirit.**"

from Good As New: A Radical Retelling of the Scriptures by John Henson

We have continued to focus on our guiding theme and core values which are part of our Get Drenched team name. We continue to feel called to dive into people's lives and ministries; equip, empower, refresh, and connect leaders, youth and young adults; and finally celebrate the many and varied ways that God is working in and through people and ministries around New England. During the past year there have been many opportunities to continue to live into this calling. We spent a great deal of time on a Congregational Resource to help people explore and develop core values for their ministry. This resource will be available June 2008.

Diving In/Connecting/Networking

- Volunteer Database consisting of over 160 people involved in youth, young adult or family ministry. This database is growing all the time.
- Our e-newsletter became a blog in 2007. In order to provide opportunities for consultation online and opportunities to share experiences we created <http://getdrenched.wordpress.com>
- Consulting/Visitation: Steve Kennedy, Ministry Specialist Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry, consulted with a number of congregations. Other members of the team have also consulted with many congregations throughout the synod. Our vision for future consultations is to create teams of people that would be trained to go out 2x2 into congregations and conferences to assist them with discerning their ministry opportunities and working through ministry challenges.
- Building Relationships between Ministries: The team, with Steve Kennedy's help continues to build bridges between ministries such as Project Connect, Campus Ministry, Calumet, the Lutheran Student Movement, Hammonasset, and others. The team has also built bridges regionally and nationally through the ELCA Youth Ministry Network and through SYMBOL, the Synodical Youth workers network. Steve attended the 2007 ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza.
- Lutheran Youth Organization: Our team began conversations with youth and adults about lifting up the Lutheran Youth Organization in new ways within our synod. In December a group of youth and adults gathered to talk about Mission Area LYO organizations led by youth and accompanied by adults.

Equip & Empower

- Website, www.getdrenched.org still has great resources and information about the team and how to contact us.
- In February Heidi Jakoby attended "Mapping Gifts Intensive Workshop" presented by the ELCA Division for Vocation and Education. Luther K. Snow the author of *The Power of Asset Mapping: How Your Congregation Can Act on its Gifts*, led this two day

experience. After this training Heidi led a workshop at the June Synod Assembly and in October she trained 12 people in the synod to assist congregations in using this process to energize their ministries. Please contact the team for more information.

- Got RAM? Discover God's gifts for the thicket of Youth Ministry: Genesis 22:1-14, was held in April. This event was an opportunity to talk about the cultural shift that is happening in these ministries, share resources and ideas that work, begin to identify leaders throughout the synod and celebrate ministries that are bearing great fruit. This was a fun and educational event where youth and adults participated side by side.
- We assisted in identifying a youth to attend the Lutheran Youth Organization's Council of Synod LYO Presidents (CSLYOPs) where youth from around the country gathered to learn, and share ideas.

Refresh

- Steve Kennedy led a Ministry Renewal Retreat at Calumet in March 2007, the first of its kind. We hope to provide many more opportunities like this. We feel it is of vital importance that we create spaces within ministry for the rest and renewal of leaders.
- The Labyrinth purchased by the team in 2006 has been used several times throughout the year. If you've never walked a labyrinth, we encourage you to try it. Due to the popularity of the labyrinth the team purchased a second smaller one for use throughout the synod.

The team has been present at many events and has had an opportunity to learn from and connect with people doing great ministry throughout the synod. We have had a presence at the following events: Calumet Leadership weekend; Project Connect Annual Meeting; Lutheran Student Movement Retreat; Synod Assembly; Hammonasset; Spring and Fall Flings; Bishop's Convocation; ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza; The Gathering in the East; Mapping Assets Train the Trainer Event; LYO CSLYOP's; National SYMBOL Meeting; Synod Staff Retreat; Will Our Children Be Good Stewards Conference; just to name a few. It has been a joy for the team to get to know the wonderful people of God who are involved in these ministries all over our synod and learning all the wonderful things that are happening. We look forward to ministering with each of you in the year to come! We also want to thank the many people who helped make 2007 a wonderful year for Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry in New England, it takes all of us!

The Drenched Team

Sara Anderson, Liz Eide, Heidi Jakoby, Steve Kennedy, Karl Ogren, and Stephanie Smith