

Focus on Stewardship: Youth

Lily: Good Morning! Emily and I have been going to Third our entire lives and are currently part of the youth program. We participate in Sunday night youth group, mission experiences, and youth conferences.

Emily: By going to Sunday night youth each week, we have gotten to bond with each other and form long lasting connections. Each night we have choir, dinner, and then fellowship where we get to discuss our faith and learn more about our beliefs. Part of our learning is participating in care groups where we check in with 5 to 10 other people about our lives and our faith.

Lily: Also on Sunday nights we sometimes participate in mission work involving baking for dining room ministry and creating tie blankets to give to children at Strong Memorial Hospital. Most recently we had a mission trip in Rochester where we were able to become more familiar with programs in our own city such as Foodlink and Cameron Community Ministries. This work allowed us to become more aware of the ways we can help out in our own community, and it even inspired some youth to continue this volunteer work on their own during the year. Through our work on Sunday nights and mission trips we are able to make a difference.

Emily: We also have great opportunities to go on retreats and meet many Presbyterians from different backgrounds. This past summer, we went to Montreat Conference Center in North Carolina and enjoyed a week with 1,300 other youth while growing in our faith while participating in small groups, worship services and music. Triennium is another conference that happens every three years where 5,000 youth gather together from many countries. It was a powerful experience to worship with such a large and diverse group of Presbyterians. The youth are going again to Triennium this year and are already getting excited. These are the types of trips where we are able to focus solely on our faith without distractions from our other commitments.

Lily: We are so thankful for our experience growing up in this wonderful church community. We have found a support system that we are truly lucky to have. We are so excited for youth this year, and especially looking forward to the youth led worship service on November 22 at 10:45!