

Barnhardt Baptist Church Youth Ministry

Parent Handbook

Table of Contents

Welcome

Meet the Youth Pastor

Philosophy of Youth Ministry

Specific Ministries-Sunday School

Specific Ministries-Youth Night



Activity Guidelines

Standards of Conduct

Dress Guidelines

Church Contact Information

Youth Staff

Welcome

Welcome to Barnhardt Youth Ministry! This handbook is designed to inform you of what our ministry here is all about!

We use the acronym, **SHAPE**, to describe our work here. Just as the potter shapes the clay, so God the Father wants to shape our lives. We here at Barnhardt Baptist Church, want to be used by God, to help in shaping the life of your young person.

Salvation-We want to guide them into a relationship with Christ.

Honor-We want to teach them how to honor and worship God.

Associate-We want to give them an opportunity to fellowship with other young Believers.

Prepare-We want to instruct them and disciple them from God's inerrant and Holy Word.

Evangelize-We want to train them to "Go Tell"

What we are:

We are a family-based youth program that wants to assist families in producing Christ-like young people. We want to provide young people with the opportunity to find out who they are in Christ as well as whom God wants them to be. This is done in a loving Christian environment where we provide opportunities for service and fellowship. We emphasize a personal relationship with Christ, as well as making God's Word preeminent in all we do.

What we are not:

We are not your child's parent. God has given you that great responsibility. We will never try to take your place in the life of your young person, and trust you will never try to give it to us. We are here to complement you in this great responsibility.

We are not entertainers or baby sitters. While many other youth ministries with different philosophies place an emphasis on the activities they can offer, we do not. We offer activities as a means to accomplishing our goal of producing Christ-like young people.

Snapshot

Currently we have 26 teens on the roster at Barnhardt Baptist Church. They are all in the Bedford county school system. They attend either Staunton middle or Staunton high school.

Organization

Senior High- Division of the youth group comprised of 9-12 graders. This division is used for designation for services and activities.

Junior High- Division of the youth group comprised of 7th and 8th graders.

Youth staff- Adult lay workers that assist the Youth Pastor in the youth ministry. They are referred to as "youth leaders".

Youth Pastor- Rev. Steven Harrelson has been led by God to lead the Youth ministries at Barnhardt Baptist Church.

Meet the Youth Pastor

Hey there! My name is Steven Harrelson and I'm excited about being the Youth Pastor at Barnhardt Baptist Church. In June of 1995, I was invited to go to church by a co-worker in Raleigh, N.C. That Sunday morning I heard the Gospel for the first time and I immediately responded. When I heard that God loved me so much that He sent his only Son Jesus to die for all of my sins, what could I do with a love like that but embrace it. On that Sunday morning, I asked Jesus Christ to be my Savior.

Within the next few weeks, I felt God calling me into the ministry. In the course of time, God led me to go to school to receive formal training.

God's choice for my training was Piedmont Baptist College in Winston-Salem, N.C. While there, the Lord taught me much about doctrine and theology, but He taught me as well about going deeper with Him. He showed me that book knowledge is important and essential, but nothing is a substitute for those precious times where it is just you and God, where He Himself softly speaks to your spirit through His word and you begin to understand what being a mature and Spirit-led Christian is all about. It was at Piedmont where I met the most wonderful woman in the whole world, Hannah Faith Bryant. It's an interesting story of how the Lord brought us together. Ask me sometime when you have a couple of hours and I'll share it with you over a cup of coffee. Suffice it to say, she is my match in every way and she is my best friend. She is also very excited about working with the youth, especially the young ladies. Anyway, we graduated in 2004. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Bible and Pastoral Theology and

my wife has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. She will be teaching 3rd grade this year at Mineral Springs Christian School.

My first Youth Pastorate was at Cornatzer Baptist Church in Mocksville, N.C. We had a great ministry with the youth there in Mocksville, however we knew that the Lord wanted us in full-time ministry. God led us here to Barnhardt Baptist Church, and we already have developed a love for these teenagers. We are going to have a lot of fun this year, but we desire to always bring everything back to Christ and His pre-eminence.

Biblical Youth Philosophy

Five Areas of Healthy Youth Ministry as adapted from "*Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*", by Doug Fields

- I. **Worship.** This is celebrating God's presence and honoring Him with our lifestyle. It is the reason that God created us. It is a focused time of turning our attention to God and God alone and magnifying Him. We are to live in this way by offering up ourselves as living sacrifices to God. (Romans 12:1)

- II. **Discipleship**. This is the process of building up, training, and strengthening believers in their goal of being like Christ. We must train teens to move on to maturity (Hebrews 6:1), and be a stable, growing, and obedient disciple of Christ. They are the church of tomorrow.

- III. **Fellowship**. This is the concept of coming together as believers to rejoice, encourage each other, help bear each other's burdens, and to practice the church ordinances. We are to be a family (Ephesians 2: 19). Of course the youth group is part of the Church and so we must extend the ministry of Awana, and when these teens get saved, they should be brought into the fellowship of the Church.

- IV. **Evangelism**. This is sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who do not have a relationship with Him yet. God uses His people to fulfill the Great Commission and to be His witnesses (Acts: 1:8).

- V. **Ministry**. This can be defined as meeting the needs of others with the love of Christ. We should help develop the Spiritual gifts of these young people and let them know that Ministry is not just something that adults do. Ministry has no age limitations.

Our prayer should be to develop a Youth Ministry around these five principles. If any of these areas are lacking, then we will not be what we could be. We want to reach as many as possible for Christ. – Steven and Hannah Harrelson

Purpose of Youth Ministry

The purpose of Youth Ministry is to develop mature Christian adults through the process of Discipleship. The Youth Ministry represents the Church of tomorrow.

The Point of Youth Ministry

- A. The Point of Salvation (Romans 10:9,10)
 - 1. Realize that you are a sinner.
 - 2. Recognize that Christ died for your sin.
 - 3. Repent of your sin.
 - 4. Receive Jesus Christ as your Savior.

- B. The Point of Surrender (Romans 12: 1-2)
 - 1. Jesus Christ gave His life for you.

2. You should live your life for Him.

C. The Point of Study (II Timothy 2:15)

1. Have a daily quiet time with God alone.
2. Spend time reading God's Word.
3. Have an effective Prayer Time.

D. The Point of Separation (Romans 12:1-2)

1. Be different from unsaved people.
2. Be different from ungodly practices.

E. The Point of being Soul-Burdened (Matt. 5:14-16)

1. Have a burden for lost souls headed for Hell.
2. Have a godly witness in front of the lost.

F. The Point of Service (Col. 3:23-24)

1. Be ministering in the Church for God.
2. Be ministering with all your heart.

The Plan of Youth Ministry

I. Worship

We want to teach the youth to worship by actively doing so on Youth night, Sunday services, and by living a life that pleases God.

II. Discipleship

We desire to make disciples of these young people in accord with the Great Commission of our Lord. This will be accomplished through formal group discipleship, individual discipleship, and informal discipleship (hanging out).

III. Fellowship

We believe that it is important that Young Christians have the ability to be around each other, especially in light of all the pressures they face in school. That is why we have monthly youth activities, 2 large activities per year, summer camp, youth retreats, and weekly Youth meetings.

IV. Evangelism

It is important in Youth Ministry to train them to be bold in their witness for Christ. There are 2 types of evangelism 1. Lifestyle Evangelism and

2. Verbal Evangelism. Both of these must be practiced in order to be effective. We teach these teens to live out their Christianity and to be ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within them. We will participate in tract distribution and short-term mission trips.

V. Ministry

Ministry is accomplished when the people of God use their Spiritual Gifts to bless the Body of Christ. We will show these teens how to identify their spiritual gifts and put them into practice at Barnhardt Baptist Church. We will also have neighborhood outreaches and Christian Service projects.

The People of Youth Ministry

A. The Parents

1. The **Home** is the primary institution as set forth by God.

2. The **Parents** have the greatest responsibility and accountability of teaching and bringing up their children in the way of the Lord-not a church Youth Group.

B. The Pastor

1. The Pastor is God's man called to be the Shepherd of the entire church, including the Youth Group.
2. The Pastor is an active advisor to the Youth Pastor and has final approval or veto of any function.
3. The Pastor is concerned with the spiritual development of the Youth department as a ministry of the church.

C. The Youth Pastor

1. A Man called of God to the specific area of Youth Ministry.
2. The Youth Pastor is concerned with developing the young people around the 5 areas of healthy youth ministry.
3. The Youth Pastor is concerned with the training of the Youth leaders so that

they can effectively minister to the teens.

D. The Youth Leaders

1. The Youth Leaders are to assist the Youth Pastor in the discipleship of young people.
2. The Youth leaders are given a small group of teens so they can disciple them effectively.

C. The Whole Church

* The Church is to love the youth

1. Live Godly.
2. Offer support and prayers.
3. Volunteer to help disciple.
4. Encourage the teens verbally.

Specific Ministries

Sunday School

When: Sundays at 10:00 am

Where: Upper Room

What to bring: Bible, pen, paper

The Sunday School is invaluable in church ministry and it is essential in youth ministry. This is the time when we study God's Word together as a group and have interesting feedback and discussion in a relaxed atmosphere. We usually have an informal breakfast with coffee. There is nothing fancy about it however we do promise that it will be a good time of solid Bible teaching. This is also a time where we take prayer requests and discuss any needs that the group has. The curriculum is from Union Gospel Press Christian Life Series. We have a different focus every quarter. We are finishing up a series now entitled "Called to be a Christian Community from 1st and 2nd Corinthians. Our Sunday school is currently for grades 7-12. In time, we will split the Junior and Senior High.

Youth Night

When: Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 pm (September-May)

(June-August) 6:45-8:00 pm

Where: Teen Department (Downstairs)

What to bring: Bible, pen, paper

Who: 7-12 graders

A. Time Structure

6:00-6:30 Game Time

6:30-7:00 Announcements, Snacks, Singing

7:00-7:30 Message

7:30-8:00 DT (discipleship time)

B. Description of Events

Game Time: This is a time where the group will come together for the purpose of building unity. We will play sports, act crazy, get messy, burn energy, and in general just have a good time.

Announcement Time: This is the time when the group will be kept up to date on upcoming events, get something to eat, and through singing, allow the Lord to prepare our hearts for worship.

Message Time: This is the focal point of the evening. During this time, the Word of God is always opened and I challenge the group with

what God has laid on my heart. This year, Lord willing, we will study the Life of Christ. It is during this time that God will challenge these young people in many different areas of life. There is no greater subject to teach about than Christ because He is the author and finisher of our faith. We look forward to many decisions being made this year.

Discipleship Time: In DT, each teen is part of a small group led by 2 youth leaders. During this time, the teen will learn a Bible verse, share specific needs, take prayer requests, and will have a focused time of prayer. All of this revolves around the Bible lesson. It is a good opportunity to develop relationships and accountability with other teens and a close relationship with the leaders. We strongly encourage an open, honest relationship between each parent and their teen's DT leaders.

Special Events

Summer Camp: This event takes place at the end of July every summer. This year we went to

Camp Deer Lake in Mebane, N.C. It is for ages 8-18. They run junior camp and teen camp the same week, however it is two separate camps. We like this camp because of its fun and excellent spiritual emphasis.

Neighborhood Bible Time: This is a great group that comes out for a week and the kids have a blast with them. They provide a child evangelist and a youth evangelist. This is for preschool through high school. Last year we had many decisions made for the Lord. This is a great time for evangelistic outreach and fun.

Fall Festival: This is a special day set aside for families in the Stewartville area. We have games, attractions, entertainment, free food, and much more. This is also a great neighborhood outreach.

Youth Retreat: This takes place in late winter/early spring. This is a focused time when Barnhardt Baptist Church and several other like-minded churches come together for prayer, preaching, and... well... we do have fun too.

Last year, I told them if we had a certain number of teens to go, I would let them shave my head. You know, if you put enough lotion on, it's not that bad!

Main Events: We have two main events per year. One is in the Summer and the other in the Winter. On a monthly basis, we try hard to keep the cost of activities down. These events are ones that your teen should save for. This summer we went to Kings Dominion.

Ministry Projects: These projects are a great opportunity to teach your teen to be a servant for Christ. This fall we have the teens scheduled to help at the Rescue Mission in November and to participate in a special Christmas project. There may be other projects for either the elderly in our church or community that we participate in as well.

Youth Services: This is where the teens perform every function in a Sunday evening service. They will do the music, offering,

announcements, preaching, everything. We will look forward to these.

Mission Trips: These are trips that the teens will go on that will either be state side or overseas. They will be done through missionaries that our church supports already. We want to be a help to our missionaries and extend the ministry of our church as much as possible. The teens will have to meet strict guidelines in order to go on these trips as well as raise support like any missionary would. (We don't want you to pay for their way).

College Tour: Every Fall and Spring we will take the high school teens to tour Christian Colleges and Universities. At Barnhardt, we believe that Christian education should be encouraged, and so we want to give them the opportunity to be exposed to these schools. This Fall, we will be going to Piedmont Baptist College in Winston-Salem, N.C. My wife and I graduated from there as well as the Pastor and his wife. In the Spring, we will go to Bob Jones University and Crown College.

Youth Rally: In April, we attend the Roanoke Youth Rally. Barnhardt helps sponsor this event. Last year we rented out the Roanoke YMCA and had a great time with Youth Evangelist Tom Farrell.

Monthly Activities: These activities are usually toward the end of the month but not always. They are typically inexpensive and very well attended. They are a tool that we use to help reach your teen and get them involved in our ministry. They provide good Christian fun and fellowship time.

SHAPE Guidelines

One of the goals of Barnhardt Baptist Church is to give God the glory in everything we say and do (Ephesians 1:6,12). It is the responsibility of Christians to do everything "decently and in order" (I. Cor. 14:40). On this basis, the Youth department has established some guidelines for the youth ministry.

Activity Guidelines

Before youth activities, I will review **for the teens** five ways to have a **B.L.A.S.T.** on this youth activity. These also apply to each one of our meeting times. They are:

Better have a good time! This activity will provide lots of opportunities to have a good time, so if you have a rotten time, it's your fault!
☺

Leave some things behind! You don't need these things to have a good time: bad attitude, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, headphones, cassette & C.D. players and Cell phones. If you have any of these, please give them to Pastor Steve or Hannah, and they will return them to you at the end of the activity. Not having these things helps us to keep our environment safe, controlled and Christ-centered.

Avoid physical contact! We want to encourage godly, Christ-honoring encounters

between guys and girls. Therefore, we will not allow any physical contact (no touching). The opposite sex does not need to touch to have a blast on this activity.

Stay together! Please stay together on activities! We are responsible to God and to your parents for you. If we don't come back with you, your parents will not be happy! Please stay with the group at all times. With safety in mind, teens will not be allowed to drive separately to youth activities unless they have permission from the Youth Pastor.

Testimony Each believer has a testimony to uphold for Jesus Christ. Please be careful what you say and do on this activity. You not only represent your parents and our church, but you represent our Savior. Let's give God a good name through the way we live on this activity!

Standards of Conduct

It is very important to the youth department that all of the teens that come through the doors of our church feel safe. We want them to be themselves and to know that we both love and accept them. We want them to have the freedom to openly worship. The following are goals that each of us should put into practice in our everyday lives, but especially during youth meetings. We cannot control the atmosphere at home or school, but we can at church.

1. **We will seek to bring honor and glory to God in all we do. (I Cor. 10:31)**
 - Come with an attitude of worship
2. **We will seek to love the Lord! (Matt. 22:36-38)**
 - Come with a willingness to obey God
3. **We will seek to love each other! (Matt. 22:38-40)**
 - By not touching other peoples things
 - By leaving the place we go, better than we found it

- By obeying the leaders God has placed over us
 - By addressing problems with an attitude of love
4. **We will avoid physical contact (P.C.) while with the group, guarding our testimony at all times. (I. Thes. 4:4-8)**
 - No hand holding
 - No smooching
 5. **We will guard our speech. (Eph. 4:29-32)**
 - No gossip
 - No name calling
 - No foul language
 6. **We will allow others to learn and listen to God by not being a distraction during lessons and worship! (I. Cor. 10:32-33)**
 - Bring our Bibles
 - Not passing notes
 - Keeping quiet so others can listen

Discipline

When a young person disobeys these guidelines, we will do the following:

1. Take them to this sheet and have them review it
 2. If they were disruptive during the Lesson time, they will receive **one** warning. The next time they disrupt, they will be sent upstairs to sit in the service with the adults.
- Our goal is not to be cruel or mean, but to teach them respect for others. When they act up, they are being selfish and keeping others from worshipping the Lord. Parents, if you can help in this area, we would greatly appreciate it.

Dress Guidelines

One of the areas that is a constant discussion point and sometimes a battle line, is the issue of dress. We will do our best to outline the Biblical principles as well as the church's guidelines on this issue. Your assistance and support in this area is greatly appreciated.

Biblical Principles

1. **MODESTY.** This means decency in a manner not to lead astray; not drawing attention to the physical body, but to our countenance (face) and Christ's purity; Not being showy or attempting to bring attention to one's self. (I Tim. 2:9-10).
2. **STUMBLINGBLOCK.** This means to do anything to cause our Christian brothers or sisters in Christ to sin. We are not to wear clothing that may encourage others to lust or have impure thoughts. (Romans 14:12-13)
3. **DISTINCTION.** This means easy to tell apart. First, ladies need to look like ladies, and guys need to look like guys. There needs to be a distinction. (I. Cor. 11:14-15). Secondly, Christians need to live and dress in such a way that distinguishes them from the world. (John 15:19) We are IN the world, but are not to be OF the world.
4. **APPROPRIATENESS.** This is not spelled out in Scripture, yet it is one of the most important guidelines to follow. This means suitable or compatible. Certain types of clothing are

appropriate for certain activities. Bed time requires bed clothes, and play time requires play clothes. Similarly, our church services and certain activities, require certain attire.

2. Avoid wearing clothing that is short, tight, or low cut. This includes: tank tops, midriffs and low cut tops.
3. Wear the best that you have for Sunday Services.

Note to Parents:

Just like you we want what is best for your child. With any institution that contains human beings, not everyone will agree on absolutely everything. However, we all will have to give account before God on how well we performed the duty that He called us to perform. The opinions and guidelines set forth in this handbook are written as a result of the leading of the Holy Spirit in my life and how God wants me to lead this youth group. As Hannah and I want to be used by God to help make your teen the man/woman that God wants them to be, we ask that you support us and these guidelines that we have established.

Contact Information

Church Guidelines

The following guidelines are meant for our regularly attending young people. We will NEVER force these upon a visitor, and will love and accept everyone no matter how they are dressed. However, for our regular young people, the youth staff reserves the right to ask them to change their outfit if it is immodest or inappropriate.

Church Services

1. Please do not wear shorts during Youth Night that are above the knee. T-shirts and jeans are preferred.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need clarification of a matter, please do not hesitate to call me or any of the Youth Staff. Let's work together to develop mature Christian adults that love God and serve Him!

Rev. Steven L. Harrelson

Steven and Hannah Harrelson
1083 Oddfellows Rd.
Vinton, Va. 24179

Phone: (540) 890-2701

Barnhardt Baptist Church Address

Barnhardt Baptist Church
1033 Brittle st.
Goodview, Va. 24095

Phone: (540) 890-2076

E-Mail: Barnhardtbaptist@verizon.net

Youth Pastor Address

SHAPE Youth Staff

The Youth Ministry of Barnhardt Baptist Church could NOT function without the dedicated staff of lay-workers to assist us---Thank you guys.

Kay Peery

Jeremy White

Amanda White

Debbie Olmstead



