



## September 2009 – Hudson United Methodist Church Youth Fellowship Newsletter

### Foster Pure Speech by the Taming of the Tongue

Gossip and rumors are other temptations of the tongue we all face. Teenagers, whose world revolves around social relationships, are especially vulnerable to idle talk about others. Gossips thrive on false intimacy and control, using words as weapons to intimidate. Parents shouldn't ignore or make allowances for gossipy behavior. Instead, show how rumors, judgments and verbal jabs inflict real hurt. Most importantly, set an example through your own words and conversations. It will be easier for teenagers to steer clear of profanity and gossip when you do the same. Read on for more helpful ideas.

Profanity conveys strong emotions, and strong emotions are the norm when you're a teenager. Foul language has become almost mainstream for many kids, who are desensitized to the use of curse words as a social lubricant. Making teenagers aware of their language—and what God thinks about it—is a good first step toward restoring civility and respect. Next, give kids alternative, attention-grabbing, harmless words that can substitute for expression of joy or anger. Then challenge teenagers to use only "prayer" words; if they wouldn't use a word in conversation with God, it isn't appropriate in other contexts.

For being such a small body part, our tongues sure get us into big trouble. As James 3:8 says, "No one can tame the tongue." That doesn't mean we shouldn't try, however. God commands his followers not only to avoid profanity and cursing but also to use our words to uplift and encourage.



## Great Questions to Ask Your Kids

**Harness the power of speech to touch base with your teenagers about the use of words.**

1. Why are words so powerful? What impressions do you form about people by listening to them talk?
2. What effects have gossip and swearing had on your relationships with friends? Do they affect how you choose friends? Why or why not?
3. What do your words say about your character? about your relationship with Jesus?
4. What sins of the tongue do you struggle with the most, and why? How can you avoid future temptations?



## Focus on Prayer

### PRAY THAT:

1. Your teenagers will realize the power of their words and harness that power for good, not evil.
2. Your teenagers will show love through their words—love for others by not spreading gossip, and love for God by not misusing his name.
3. Your family will speak kindly of each other, with words that affirm, respect, and include.
4. Other people will know that your family and your teenagers are Christians by what comes out of their mouths.

### Verse of the Month

**“Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.” (Ephesians 4:29)**

God not only instructs us to avoid coarse language and gossip; he also lets us know what should be pouring out of our mouths instead. Because our words reflect what’s in our hearts, they should be gracious, loving, and uplifting. People should notice our faith just by listening to us.

## What’s Up With Kids

**The small-group study guide *Guy Talk, Girl Talk* contains a chapter on gossip called “Can You Keep a Secret?” Use the insights from this excerpt to overcome a destructive habit.**

Gossip isn’t only a modern-day problem. It was occurring in the early church, too. So many people have been hurt by gossip. But Scripture offers advice and hope for silencing this sin. For example, Proverbs 20:19 tells us how to choose friends, saying the quality of a friendship will be determined by how much a person talks. And Matthew 5:23-26 instructs us about the correct way to handle conflict. Instead of gossiping, we should go directly to the person and work out our problem. Here are three Bible-based tips for learning to keep a secret:



**1. Realize the root of gossip is about your character.** The very act of gossip goes deeper than the surface; it describes the heart of the person sharing it. When we share secrets that friends have confided in us or talk about what we “heard,” it’s often because we know that attention will be diverted away from us. We need to examine our hearts before anyone will be able to keep a secret.

**2. Understand that gossip always leads to pain.** Gossip never...EVER...leads to good, even when it comes in the form of a prayer request! Whether the pain is minor or deep, gossip hurts those it’s about and those who are spreading it.

**3. Acknowledge that great friendships can come out of making a commitment to stay gossip-free.** Finding a friend you can trust is one of the best joys in life. We all need close friends, and close friendships can develop only in the safety of knowing that what you share in private will stay private.

## **See You At the Pole 2009 – Engage.**

**See You At The Pole, or SYATP, is very simple – we gather with other Christians on Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> to pray. It is a National Day of Prayer for Students – asking God to work on our campus, our friends and families. We will begin our morning at 7:30 a.m. at Hudson UMC with a Pancake Breakfast provided by the Youth Leaders. At 8:30 we will walk as a group over to the flagpole outside of Hudson High School and pray together silently before school begins. Our youth are welcome and encouraged to bring friends to be a part of this event.**

***“Go and pray for me and for the people...” 2 Kings 11:13a***

**Time – 7:30 a.m. for Pancake Breakfast, walk over to the high school at 8:30 a.m. and pray just before 9:00**

**Place – Hudson UMC and Hudson High School**

**Plan – Arrive at Hudson UMC at 7:30 a.m. , eat pancakes with our youth group and walk over to Hudson High School at 8:30 a.m. to pray before the day begins at 9:00 a.m.**

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**Youth Group Themes, Events and Leaders!**

**Hudson UMC’s Adult Youth Leaders for 2009: Terri Johnson, Amanda Alafi, Kumba Alafi, Rick Schmeichel, Rachel Baum, Katie Kelly, Bill Centrello and Sarah Hennessey**

**Time and Place: Youth Group takes place every Sunday evening, unless otherwise noted, at Hudson UMC from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. If your family needs assistance in transportation, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah or the other Youth Leaders. Each evening will begin with “catching-up”/hanging-out, followed by intentional topical conversations, snack (We are Methodist, after all...) and end with games.**

### **Youth Group Nights and Topics**

**September 13th – Mail Call!**

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – The Scoop on God**

**September 27<sup>th</sup> – The Scoop on Jesus**

**October 4<sup>th</sup> – The Gospel: Know It (And just what does that mean, anyway!?)**

**October 11<sup>th</sup> – Youth Group Outing (Event To-Be-Announced)**

**Junior High and Senior High: Unless otherwise noted, the Junior and Senior High will have separate gatherings with their respective leaders. We will have some time all together at the end of our Sunday Evenings.**

**Radically Active Disciples (RAD) Leaders and Events: Our leaders for R.A.D. for 2009-2010 are Sherry Mulcahey, Shari Barton and Karyn Stusek. R.A.D. will meet the first Sunday of every month, beginning with September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. R.A.D. is a program designed for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders; all are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend or two!**

# September 2009

## Hudson UMC Youth Group, Aldersgate and Radically Active Disciples Schedule

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    | 1                                                                                  | 2                                                                                                    | 3                                                                                  | 4  | 5                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                    | 7:45 – 8:45<br>Breakfast                                                                             | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.                                                                   |    |                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                    | Club @<br>Panera for<br>Hudson Sr.<br>High                                                           | - > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office                     |    |                                                                                     |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 7  | 8                                                                                  | 9                                                                                                    | 10                                                                                 | 11 | 12                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |    |                                                                                    | 7:45 – 8:45<br>Breakfast<br>Club @<br>Panera (Sr.<br>High)                                           | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office |    |                                                                                     |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 14 | 15                                                                                 | 16                                                                                                   | 17                                                                                 | 18 | 19                                                                                  |
| Rally Day!<br>9:00, 11:15<br>- Service<br>10:00 -<br>Sunday<br>School<br>5 p.m. -<br>Aldersgate<br>Choir (6 <sup>th</sup> -<br>12 <sup>th</sup> grade)<br>6:30 - 8:30<br>p.m. -<br>Junior High,<br>Senior High<br>Youth Group<br>and<br>Radically<br>Active<br>Disciples |    | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office | 7:45 – 8:45<br>Breakfast<br>Club @<br>Panera                                                         | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office |    |                                                                                     |
| 20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 21 | 22                                                                                 | 23                                                                                                   | 24                                                                                 | 25 | 26                                                                                  |
| 5 p.m. -<br>Aldersgate<br>Choir<br>6:30 - 8:30<br>p.m. -<br>Junior and<br>Senior High<br>Youth Group                                                                                                                                                                     |    | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office | See You At<br>the Pole:<br>National<br>Day of<br>Prayer for<br>Students<br>7:30 a.m. @<br>Hudson UMC | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office |    | 10 a.m. -<br>Meet at<br>Hudson UMC<br>then Apple<br>Picking at<br>Patterson<br>Farm |
| 27                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 28 | 29                                                                                 | 30                                                                                                   |                                                                                    |    |                                                                                     |
| 11:15 -<br>Aldersgate<br>Service<br>5 p.m. -<br>Aldersgate<br>6:30-8:30<br>Youth Group                                                                                                                                                                                   |    | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office |                                                                                                      | 3 - 4:30<br>p.m.<br>- > Drop-In<br>After School<br>Hang-Outs<br>in Youth<br>Office |    |                                                                                     |