

## What is a YSF??

What is a ysf? After checking your dictionary, you'll soon discover a ysf is not a noun, verb or even an adjective. Ysf is not even a word!

YSF is an acronym, standing for Youth Service Fund. This is an organization in the United Methodist Church which helps youth to serve other youth. Youth work together to raise funds to support various youth ministries on local, conference and global church levels.

In our conference, YSF sponsors delegates to travel on the annual Mission of Peace, a mission trip to a different country each year. It also helps to give a discount to first-time youth attendees to our annual winter retreat at Casowasco. YSF also helps fund jurisdictional and global ministries.

To accomplish this awesome goal of youth serving other youth, YSF holds several fundraisers. YSF's fundraisers are much more creative and a lot more fun than selling cookie dough for your school's chess club! (Even though the cookie dough fundraiser is a favorite of your great Aunt Betty's, there are more exciting things for youth!) At our retreat YSF holds an auction, offers table setting and clearing services, rents couches and so much more!

Just because YSF is a fundraising organization does not mean it goes door to door selling products. YSF raises funds in the most untraditional ways; we've held pudding eating contests and even raised funds to have some of our leaders shave their beards!

As crazy as the YSF events are, they all help support youth in ministry. Whether you are paying to have your table set for breakfast, participating in an all-you-can-eat contest or bidding on an auction item, your dollars are helping youth show Christ's love to others!

## Youth 2007!

Save the date! This coming summer, THOUSANDS of United Methodist Youth will attend "SPLAT" - Youth 2007. The event will be July 11-15 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Youth from NCNY are figuring out how to travel together. Check out the website at [www.youth2007.org](http://www.youth2007.org), and stay tuned for more information about the NCNY youth plans to attend this event!

## 4Word07 in Liverpool!

Our third gathering of 4 conferences of over 600 youth will happen April 27-29 2007 at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool. The event is \$95 plus meals. You'll need an adult chaperone to accompany your youth group, or you can have a chaperone provided for you courtesy of our NCNY CCYM. Check out our website: [www.4wordyouth.org](http://www.4wordyouth.org) for all the latest news.

## Adult Leader news!

1) I can still accept applications for CCYMers. You can find the application on our website: [www.ncnyumc.org/ccym](http://www.ncnyumc.org/ccym). CCYM (Conference Council on Youth Ministries) is our conference youth body consisting of 9-12 graders around the conference. We've had one meeting already, but we are still open for new applications. We meet 4 times a year, plus at special events. If you want information, let me know. Please, encourage your youth to apply. Our youth are also available to come to your church and talk about the CCYM program. If you'd like us to visit, please contact me for information.

2) Mark your calendars for our upcoming events: Our Winter Retreat at Casowasco is February 9-11. Our theme this year is "Light the Fire" - Registration forms are online for this event too. Please note: This year, the Winter Retreat will be open to 7-12 graders, with special groups for older and younger youth. There will not be a Summer Retreat this year, due to other events in the CCYM calendar, so make sure to join us in February!!

3) 4Word07 - Our gathering of over 600 youth from 4 conferences is April 27-29 at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool. Cost is \$95. Registrations will be available in the November Connections: FYG Leaf - and will soon be on the CCYM website. Note: If you have one or two youth who want to attend this event, but don't have a chaperone available to attend as well, please contact me, and we will arrange CCYM Adult Leader chaperones for your youth.

4) YOUTH2007 - Every four years, the youth of the UMC gather for a HUGE event. Youth2007 is July 11-15 in Greensboro, NC. We are making arrangements for a group to travel together from NCNY. Check out the Youth2007 website at [www.youth2007.org](http://www.youth2007.org) for all the details. You can 1) Make your registration plans on your own, travel on your own. 2) Register your group on your own, but travel together with other conference youth. 3) Contact me directly to complete registration, and travel with the conference youth. Whatever you choose, I ask you to please let me know if you have youth attending. This is a great youth opportunity, please consider sending youth!

5) We are always in need of additional adult advisors who want to help us at our meetings and events. If you are interested, please email me: [beth@bethquick.com](mailto:beth@bethquick.com) or give me a call - 315-363-1921.

6) We now have an e-mail database for many of our youth workers. If you are not receiving these emails, and want to be added, again, please call or email me.

Peace and Blessings,

Beth Quick, conference youth coordinator

## Light the Fire - Winter Retreat 2007

Tired of this cold Central New York weather? Learn to live in Christ, who will warm you from the inside out. CCYM Winter Retreat 2007, Feb. 9-11, will focus on rekindling the fire for Christ through power, love, and self-discipline. This retreat, now open to grades 7-12, will offer workshops on how to keep Christ's flame blazing, fun and games with other CNY youth, music, fellowship, and powerful keynote messages.

Come worship God, and learn what it takes to light the fire. Please note: There is no summer rally this year, so make sure you get to Casowasco for the Winter Retreat!!

Cost: \$105 for youth and adult chaperones. \$65 for family group leaders. Bring a first-time friend and get a \$10 discount for you and your friend!

### CCYM Youth Registration/Medical Form

Retreat Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please place an "x" on applicable discounts

Youth : \_\_\_\_\_ Full Price \_\_\_\_\_ YSF First-Timer Discount \_\_\_\_\_

Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Observer \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Family Group leader \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ M/F \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City & State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Medical information/medications being taken \_\_\_\_\_

Medical insurance carrier \_\_\_\_\_ Insured's name \_\_\_\_\_

Policy/group number \_\_\_\_\_

This section must be signed by parent or guardian:

I hereby register my child and give him/her permission to participate in all related activities. I give permission to release my child's name, address, and e-mail address to other people participating in the program. I give permission for still/video pictures of my child to be used for promotional purposes. In case of accident or illness, the site administration has my permission to secure emergency medical care for my child, as needed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form, along with your full payment, to:

Winter Retreat (check payable to CCRM): Casowasco, 158 Casowasco Dr., Moravia NY 13118.

Registrations can also be emailed to [ncnycas@swns.net](mailto:ncnycas@swns.net) or faxed to 315-364-7636.

DC Seminar (check payable to NCNY Conference): Rev. Dave Hays, P.O. Box 728, Moravia NY 13118.

Registrations can also be emailed to [dbhays@juno.com](mailto:dbhays@juno.com) or faxed to 315-497-3119.

## A Devotion

Hey everyone, it's Cayla Griffin again from Lansing and once again I am the devotional leader. It's a brand new year and in honor of the "Light the Fire" theme for our winter retreat I chose to relate my devotional to that. This scripture comes from Hebrews 12: 5-6:

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as his son."

I feel that we as Christians sometime think that God may be punishing us, or disciplining us for an unjust reason. Our first reaction is to turn away because we feel that we are unloved, but we need to remember that God disciplines us because he wants the best for us. As we recall God gave his only son, for us. As we go from day to day keep God's word in your heart and keep his fire burning our hearts. Amen.

God's Peace,  
Cayla Griffin

## Join Us!!

by CCYM chair Erica Porter

Calling all Youth! CCYM invites you to join us for this year's events. What is CCYM you ask? These four letters stand for Conference Council on Youth Ministries. I, Erica Porter, am the chair for the North Central New York Conference. With that said, let me explain what CCYM is all about.

CCYM is here for you. That's right, YOU!! We are a group of high school kids that like to plan events for God. What kind of event am I talking about? Well, for an entire weekend a bunch of teenagers gather together to praise the Lord. You will meet kids from all over the state and make friends that will last a lifetime. We worship, laugh, dance, sing, pray, learn, and grow together. It is impossible not to have a good time! We have tons of events planned for this year for you to attend. Refer to other FYG leaf articles to learn more about this year's Winter Retreat (now open to 7th-12th graders), 4WORD07, D.C. Seminar, Youth 2007, and Mission of Peace. We're not planning to have a summer retreat so sign up for the Winter Retreat today!!

If you are indeed interested you can always check us out at [www.ncnyumc.org/ccym/](http://www.ncnyumc.org/ccym/)

## DC Seminar (Theme TBD)

for Youth in Grades 9-12

April 15-20, 2007 in Washington, D.C.

If you think it would be fun to spend spring break in Washington with 40 deeply committed Christian youth who want to make friends that are friends forever—then you need to sign up for DC Seminar!

This trip is the brainstorm of our own conference youth council. We've asked the UMC General Board of Church and Society to put this thing together, just for us. They're the group of social activists who work on behalf of the church to make a difference in the world. And they said yes! They must be insane. But we're gonna be there!

The DC Seminar is a mind-opening, faith-deepening, life-changing experience. It's also a blast! We meet right across the street (we're not kidding) from the United States Senate. We sleep out in a youth hostel, eat out at a famous Mexican restaurant, tour the Smithsonian, see the memorials, and dress up for a group date at the theater. Our fearless leader is Rev. Dave Hays, who has done this sort of thing like forever, and if you have questions, you can contact him at [pastordbhays@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordbhays@yahoo.com) or at 315-497-2783. We're gonna have the kind of week that will change your life!

Now, the details. You'll need a check for \$360. That covers everything - registration, charter bus, theater tickets, lodging, and meals. Most churches will help with the money! You will also need \$60 cash (for lunches on the run) plus some souvenir money (if you want souvenirs, but that's up to you). A non-refundable deposit of \$160 is due February 15, and the balance is due by March 15.

Adults: we need some cool adults as family group leaders, and we'll let you go at half-price (\$180).

What do you need to do now? Sign up! Download the registration form from our website or use the one here that you use for retreats. Everybody gets an automatic scholarship (which we've already built in) from the conference; there is no additional YSF discount. You'll meet the other youth at orientation on the first night, at Dave's church in Moravia. We spend the night there, and then our bus leaves (early!) the next morning. It's gonna be great!

### FOR YOUTH ADVISORS, ADULTS AND PARENTS

This is one of the most exciting programs our conference offers for youth. The DC Seminar is put together just for NCNY youth by the UMC General Board of Church and Society. Our youth pick a topic that is burning in the hearts of youth today, and ask social activists who work on behalf of churches to help us learn about it. It is a mind-opening, faith-deepening, life-changing experience.

We rent a charter bus, meet across the street (literally) from the United States Congress, sleep in a youth hostel, eat at a famous Mexican restaurant, tour the Smithsonian, see the National Cathedral, and take in a night at the theater. It is the kind of experience that helps youth connect events in the world with matters of faith. They make lots of Christian friends, and remember the week in DC for a lifetime. Past topics have included things like: religious hatred in the world, the influence of media on teen values, establishing good relationships with the opposite sex, substance abuse, teenage depression, and the supposed freedom of religious expression in the schools. Adults are needed to serve as family group leaders; your cost for the week is only \$180.

The leader of this program for the past 12 years is Rev. Dave Hays, and you can contact him for more information at 315-497-2783, or at [pastordbhays@yahoo.com](mailto:pastordbhays@yahoo.com).

## Mission of Peace 2007-08 to Cuba

It's that time of year again! Time to think about applying to be a delegate on the Northeastern Jurisdictional Council on Youth Ministries Mission of Peace. This year's trip will go to Cuba in December 2007/January 2008. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for high school students to travel abroad, experience a different culture, meet Christians across the globe, learn more about oneself, and witness to one's faith.

Here are some more details for you as you consider this important journey:

### What is Mission of Peace?

The Mission of Peace is a yearly journey of discovery and Shalom to nations in our global community sponsored by the Northeast Jurisdiction Council on Youth Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Each year, every Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in the Northeastern Jurisdiction may select up to three youth to

share in this experience. On each MOP, participants worship in churches, meet youth in churches and civic organizations and share with people who have a similar longing for peace and understanding.

### What does the trip include?

- round trip air service from 'home' airport
- accommodations in all cities
- full board: breakfast, lunch, dinner
- all transportation during the trip
- all transfers, tips, taxes, and handling fees
- services of local guides
- family group leaders (adult advisors)
- tour, museums, and program fees

### How much does it cost?

This year's trip to Cuba will cost approximately \$4,500. Payments are due in increments on 6/15, 8/1, 9/15, and 11/1 before the trip. Youth must raise their own funds through resources in the local

church, district, conference, etc. The North Central New York CCYM also provides \$150 scholarships to each delegate selected for the trip.

### What are the dates of the trip?

The approximate dates are Dec. 27, 2007 to Jan. 14, 2008.

### What are my responsibilities if I apply?

Delegates commit to sharing their experience at least five times with churches or other groups. Delegates also commit to pre-travel prayer, study, and preparation on their own. Delegates must also keep a journal during the trip. Participants are also asked to sign a "Covenant of Conduct" which is created together during an orientation time at the beginning of the trip.

### How do I apply?

You need to fill out the "youth application" form below and sign the agreement. Also, with this page, please respond

to the following questions (use additional sheets of paper to answer, please)

1. Give a brief statement on how you understand yourself as a Christian Peacemaker.
2. Describe your activities in your local church, district, conference, jurisdiction and the general church.
3. Describe your travel experiences that would relate to the Mission of Peace.
4. Describe your participation in school and community activities, and other groups outside the church.
5. Describe why you want to experience the Mission of Peace.

In addition, you need three letters of reference, one from your pastor, one from your youth advisor or church school teacher and one from a high school teacher or an adult outside your church.

Candidates for the MOP will be interviewed in March by a team of youth and adults.

### Mission of Peace to Cuba - Dec 27 2007 - Jan 14 2008

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade While on Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Local Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Years at this Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement:

I agree to fulfill pre-travel study requirements. I agree to maintain a travel journal. I agree to share my MOP experiences with at least five churches/civic groups. I have read the MOP purpose statement, requirements, and payment schedule. I promise to honor the MOP purpose/requirements and deadlines if I am selected as a participant in the MOP.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_