

THE BETHANY MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Macon Bethany SDA Church



Communications Spreading the News

Sis. Octavia Lindsay, Communications Leader
Sis. Rolandria (Shay) Tolbert, Assistant

Hello Church Family! The Communications Department is excited to bring you a monthly newsletter to help keep you in the know of events taking place within the church. We will cover events happening at Bethany, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and spotlight a ministry in the church. Our church is buzzing with excitement as the department leaders start laying out plans for 2024. There are some exciting things happening at Bethany, so don't miss out!

IN THIS ISSUE

COMMUNICATIONS
SPREADING THE NEWS

DEPARTMENTAL
SPOTLIGHT - BETHANY
YOUTH MINISTRIES

BETHANY YOUTH
COUNCIL: PROVIDING
CHRIST-CENTERED
GROWTH EXPERIENCES

AYM PROGRAM IS BACK

PATHFINDERS ON THE
MOVE: CAMPOREE 2024
GILLETTE, WYOMING

YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS
FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH

AND MORE

Departmental Spotlight | Bethany Youth Ministries

For this first edition, the Church Department being featured is **Bethany Youth Ministries!** The Youth Ministries will be guided by the efforts and deep work of the **Youth Council, also known as YCo.** YCo includes AYM, Children's Ministry, Pathfinders & Adventurers, and Youth Church. The Council has the leaders of all of the aforementioned ministries and four members-at-large. There's something for every child, youth, and young adult to get involved in. If interested in participating, complete the [Macon Bethany Youth Interest Form](#) (see page 7) to let the Youth Council know your interests! In this feature, learn more about the various youth departments, their leaders, and upcoming events.



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Macon, GA 31204



maconbethany.org



youtube.com/
BethanyMacon



478.746.0202



facebook.com/
MaconBethanySDA



JOIN OUR GROUPME:
SCAN ME

Bethany Parents & Youth, SCAN to receive NEWS from Youth Council (YCo) via TEXT.

YCo includes: AYM, Youth Church, Children’s Ministry, Pathfinders & Adventurers

Bethany Youth Council: Providing Christ-Centered Growth Experiences

By Sis. Alison Nooks, MBA, MA, Chair of Youth Council & Youth Church Leader

This year, **Bethany’s Youth Council (YCo)** is fired up and excited for the future. Since the worldwide pandemic, churches throughout the nation have had to figure out how to get back to some level of normalcy. In many churches, families have opted for a virtual setting and countless congregations have struggled to find a balance between a ministry “reset” and maximizing success. In many places, Children’s and Youth Ministries have taken a significant hit as many churches are still working to bring back families to the hallowed halls of churches. Bethany can certainly relate to all of these struggles. With that said, our **Bethany Youth Council has been meeting and strategizing on how to begin to re-establish strong youth ministries and programming and provide a premier experience for Bethany’s youth, young adults, and children.** As a council, we are hopeful that our plan for **regular, consistent, and Christ-centered growth experiences will be the key.**

Continued to page 3

CREDITS: JAN. 27 YOUTH CHURCH PHOTO BY SIS. ALISON NOOKS - TOP: KAYDENCE N. AND MIDDLE: SIS. GLADYS PLESS, INTERIM PATHFINDER LEADER/ADVENTURER LEADER





Bethany Youth Council: Providing Christ-Centered Growth Experiences

Continued from page 2

From a **vibrant Youth Church** with inspiring stories, to an **AYM (Adventist Youth Ministries) restart and monthly Church Socials**, to an **inviting Children’s Ministry** (Lower Division Sabbath School with a **NEW 9:30 am start**, VBS, and more), to **eager Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs** to include **Pathfinders gearing up for the 2024 Camporee in Gillette, Wyoming (August 5-11, 2024)** - Bethany Youth Ministries, **under the Bethany Youth Council**, - is engaged and ready to go!



Church family: parents, guardians, members, and ministry leaders - join us on this journey. We need your support and participation. We give God praise for the possibilities and his promises. See you along the way.



For questions, contact: Text in YCo’s GROUP Me or contact Sis. Alison Nooks, Youth Council Chair & Youth Church Leader, at bethanysdayouthchurch@gmail.com or call/text 478-9YC-0884.

CREDITS: JAN. 27 YOUTH CHURCH PARTICIPANTS, CHILDREN’S STORY, AND LUNCH; TOP LEFT PHOTO BY SIS. ROLANDRIA (SHAY) TOLBERT; TWO BOTTOM LEFT PHOTOS BY SIS. ALISON NOOKS

AYM PROGRAM IS BACK!

By Alison Nooks, MBA, MA

We are excited to say, “AYM is BACK!” January 27, 2024, was the first AYM afternoon program since before the COVID 2019 pandemic. It was amazing to have a full day of events focused on youth, young adults, and children. After Youth Church, lunch, a Pathfinders and Adventurers parent/guardian meeting, and a children’s activity, AYM began!

These AYM programs will traditionally take place on the 2nd and 4th Sabbath afternoons. Also on many 2nd Saturday nights (and possibly some Sundays when the time changes), there will be church socials. Listen to the weekly One Call Now message so that you don’t miss anything. **AYM programs will be focused on engagement, connection, involvement, and the spiritual enrichment of all our children, youth and young adults.**

Continued to page 4

CREDITS: JAN. 27 AYM; PHOTOS BY SIS. ALISON NOOKS; TOP PICTURE: JALEN LINDSAY, ASSISTANT AYM LEADER (ON THE LEFT) AND SIS. JANNEEN BROWN, AYM LEADER (ON THE RIGHT)



AYM PROGRAM IS BACK

Continued from page 3

Join us again on **Feb. 10** and **again Feb. 24**- both approximately an hour before sunset- for AYM. Likewise, join in after AYM on **Feb. 10 from 6-8 pm for a "Board Game Extravaganza" Church Social**. Bring your family and favorite board game, Adventist Youth Ministries will provide the snacks (feel free to bring some of your own to share)! We are also excited about our leaders- **Sis. Janneen Brown, AYM Leader**, and **Bro. Jalen Lindsay, Assistant AYM leader (pictured on page 3)**. Please support their efforts!

Finally, remember Adventist Youth Ministries is broader than simply programs Sabbath Afternoon. It is all-encompassing and also - in a broader way, serves ALL children, youth, and young adults on **three levels**:

- Adventurer Club - 4-9 Years Old
- Pathfinder Club - 10-15 Years Old
- Senior Youth/Young Adults- 16-30+ (traditionally viewed as ending at 35)

Also note, at the 2001 World Youth Leadership Convention a charge was given to the General Conference Youth Department to add a **NEW LEVEL** for ages 16-21 called the **Ambassador Club**. This DOES not replace AYM/AYS but would help to fortify efforts for senior youth and young adults. LEARN more: <http://tinyurl.com/gcyouthmin>

UPCOMING EVENTS: Feb. & Mar.

- **Feb. 10** - AYM @5pm
- **Feb. 10** - Church Social @6-8pm - BOARD Game Extravaganza - Bring your favorite game
- **Feb. 11**- PF & ADV Mtg. -@11am-1pm
- **Feb. 24** - Youth Church, Ally Henry, Speaker
- **Feb. 24** - PF & ADV Honors*
- **Feb. 24** - AYM @5:30pm
- **Mar. 9** - AYM @5:30pm
- **Mar. 9** - Movie Night @6:45pm
- **Mar. 10** - PF & ADV Mtg. @11am-1pm*
- **Mar. 23** - Youth Church, @6:30PM
- **Mar. 23**: AYM @6:30PM

* After church (until AYM)
PF - Pathfinders
ADV- Adventurers



Bethany Pathfinders Gearing Up for the 2024 Camporee

Pathfinders are gearing up for Gillette, Wyoming and over 50,000 Pathfinders to arrive for the August 5-11 event. Bethany has a delegation who will be attending, led by **Sis. Gladys Pless**, Interim Pathfinder Leader (Deputy Director) and Adventurer Leader. Sis. Pless is asking that ALL parents, guardians, and youth get connected and support this effort as they gear up for fundraisers and club meetings. See pages 6 & 7.

Pathfinder and Adventurer Club Meetings will start **Feb. 11 from 11am to 1pm**. Meetings will be on 2nd Sundays and Honor sessions will be on 4th Sabbaths after church until AYM. Thank you for your support.

For questions, see **Sis. Gladys Pless**, Adventurer Leader and Interim Pathfinder Director (& Deputy Director) or email: bethanysdapathfinders@gmail.com

PATHFINDERS & ADVENTURERS MEETING

FEBRUARY 11, 11AM-1PM

TURN REGISTRATION IN TODAY!

FORMS & FUNDS MUST BE IN TO PARTICIPATE!

PAPERWORK & \$25 DUES FOR YOUTH |

\$15 FOR ADULT COUNSELORS/STAFF



Please place DUES in Tithes Envelope (add note how to apply funds) OR PAY online at maconbethany.org. Click "Giving" and "add categories" and select accordingly.

QUESTIONS? *See Sis. G. Pless*

or EMAIL bethanysdapathfinders@gmail.com

SCAN FORMS NOW **PATHFINDER & ADVENTURERS REGISTRATION**

1



YOUTH INTEREST FORM

SCAN CODE

2



PATHFINDER CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SCAN CODE

3



ADVENTURE CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

SCAN CODE




CREDITS: JAN. 27 YOUTH CHURCH PARTICIPANTS; TOP TWO PHOTOS FROM AV STREAMED SERVICE (SEE MACON BETHANY YOUTUBE), TOP: JORDAN TOLBERT, MIDDLE: CHEYENNE LEWIS, BOTTOM: SIS. ALISON NOOKS



THE NEXT BETHANY
YOUTH CHURCH
 A "BLACK HISTORY"
 EDITION" WILL BE
FEB. 24

AYM@5PM
 PATHFINDERS HONORS MEETING
 AFTER CHURCH UNTIL AYM
 *PARENTS, PLEASE PACK
 A LUNCH FOR YOUR YOUTH!

SIGN UP
 POST IN the Youth Council *GROUP ME OR*
 CALL or TEXT SIS. NOOKS @ **478-992-0884**

YCo
 YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Council (YCo) Members

- ALISON NOOKS**
 Chair, Youth Council
 Youth Church Leader
- ANNIKA PINK**
 Assistant Chair, Youth Council
 Children's Ministry Leader
- JANNEEN BROWN**
 AYM Leader
- GLADYS PLESS**
 Adventurer Leader
 Deputy Pathfinder Director
 (Currently Interim Pathfinder Leader)
- D'AMONTA JOHNSON**
 Member-at-Large
- ROLANDRIA (SHAY) TOLBERT**
 Member-at-Large
- GREGORY ALBERT**
 Member-at-Large
- WANDA MCNAIR**
 Member-at-Large
- CONTACT:**
 bethanysdayouthchurch@gmail.com
 478.9YC.0884 (call or text)



CREDITS: TOP THROWBACK PHOTO: YOUTH CHURCH (CIRCA 1997-2002), PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRK AND ALISON NOOKS; MIDDLE PHOTO BY ALISON NOOKS: WOMEN'S MINISTRY DAY, MAY 2023-YOUTH CHURCH MEMBERS "ALL GROWN UP;" BOTTOM PHOTO BY ROLANDRIA TOLBERT: YOUTH CHURCH 2023

FEBRUARY 10

AYM+ 5PM

YCo
YOUTH COUNCIL

CHURCH SOCIAL BOARD GAME

Extravaganza

6-8PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE GAME
& SNACK PROVIDED BY AYM

A Night for Family Fun

Audiovisual Logo Contest

By Sis. Octavia Lindsay

Get your creative juices flowing and design a logo for the Audiovisual team polo shirts. All logos are **due in by February 24, 2024**, to Bro. Dwonn Finney for your chance to win a \$50 grand prize. You may also email it to him at techdept@maconbethany.org.



CREDITS: BETHANY AUDIOVISUAL TEAM- PHOTO COURTESY OF BRO. DWONN FINNEY, LEADER

What's Most Important

By Sis. Octavia Lindsay

As we seek to become the church that Christ intended and be the church that prepares people for the next advent of Christ, we seek to take every opportunity we can to remind people that Jesus is indeed coming again. Everything we do should be done with that promise in mind.

We look forward to you joining us for our weekly worship service which begins at 9:15am for adults and 9:30am for children and youth and Divine Worship at 11am. If you plan to join us in person, we can't wait to see you. If you cannot be in person, please join us virtually. Scan the QR Code to your right with your phone.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day, the night cometh, when no man can work John 9:4



QR CODE CHURCH YOUTUBE

SCAN CODE



Would you like to **SPONSOR** a YCo event OR meal? If so, text Sis. Nooks at 478-994-0884

Questions? Contact the Communications Team:
Sis. Octavia Lindsay, Leader
Sis. Rolandria Pless, Assistant
bethanycommdept@gmail.com

