



EYC means Episcopal Youth Community, which is how we build our youth program: a community or family within our church that welcomes all youth from 7th to 12th grade. Below is an overview of our programming for this fall, including weekly, monthly, and yearly offerings.

Our youth announcements and sign-up information are emailed every other week. The Youth Newsletter is the best way to find out the details of what is happening in our Youth Community, also by checking on our Instagram and Facebook. If you have questions about our Saint Stephen's Youth Programs or want to receive our Newsletter, don't hesitate to contact our Director of Youth Ministries, Taylor McLemore ([taylor@ssechurch.org](mailto:taylor@ssechurch.org)). We are excited about this year's journey and cannot wait to see you there!

The Youth Ministry at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church accepts, serves, and encourages youth of all different perspectives, helping them to do Christ's work in the world by becoming their true selves. Everyone is welcome at Saint Stephen's, so encourage your youth to bring friends to all events. Remember, this is the newest moment in your life, so go out there and share some love!

## **Sunday Morning Formation – Sunday School**

This formational time happens between our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. It is open to everyone, even friends or family who may not attend our parish! Sunday School Events will be from 10:10–11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings in our youth building, Carpenter Hall. We have two groups that meet: Junior High grades 7th through 9th and Senior High grades 10th through 12th. Each group meets in their assigned room on the second floor of Carpenter Hall.

## **Sunday Night Events (also known as EYC or Youth Group)**

Although EYC describes our whole community, it also represents our fellowship time on Sunday nights. We cover all our basics on Sunday nights, and our primary purpose is to have fun, get to know each other, and get to know our faith. EYC happens from 5:00–8:00 p.m. and can be summarized as a youth gathering for fellowship, Dinner, program, and worship, as well as an occasional outreach activity or fun outing in the area. A parent or volunteer provides dinner, and adult advisors and youth staff are present.

## **Weekly Small Groups & Wednesday Night Live**

This year, we will continue weekly small groups in separate cohorts, divided by grade. 7th, 8th, and 9th grades will continue to meet at Chick-fil-A at 6–7 p.m., now on Wednesday nights!

Then, the 10th and 11th grades will have a separate group from our 12th-grade seniors. These groups will meet thrice a month and take a break on the weeks of parish-wide Wednesday night dinners, often hosted in the Parish Hall.

We have so much fun on Wednesday nights and look forward to seeing you there!

## **Confirmation – for 9th and 10th graders**

We are excited to continue our confirmation classes, and things are moving fast! Confirmation Sunday is November 5 at the 9 a.m. service. We still have much information to cover before then. We will be spending intentional time together as we discuss topics in depth. We also have a Confirmation Retreat **on October 22, 2023**, to help teach programs and have one-on-one sessions.

## **Diocesan Involvement:**

### **Happening, Awakenings, Christmas Conference, and More!**

The Saint Stephen's Youth love supporting our Diocese and all the offerings throughout the year. There are spiritual weekend retreats where youth can go through the weekend once and experience God's love in a big way. They can also serve as youth leaders on staff during these events. Happening is for 10th-12th grade youth, and Awakenings is for 7th-8th grade youth with high schoolers who can serve as staff. Our Diocese also has several events for middle and high-school-aged youth throughout the year. To learn more about the upcoming events for this year with the Diocese of Alabama, visit their website, [www.dioala.org](http://www.dioala.org), and find the Youth Ministries page.

## **2022-2023 Big Youth Events!**

Watch out for important dates through our newsletter emails, like our yearly High School Ski Trip in January over MLK Weekend, intergenerational events in our parish, our EYC Retreat at Camp McDowell over Labor Day Weekend, monthly special events and, of course, our first Youth Sunday of the school year on November 19!