

Diocesan Youth Council

The Diocesan Youth Council had a very active year in 2007. The year started with the Epiphany Feast of Lights youth event and service at St. Mary's Cathedral in January. A service project for Hope House was completed during the youth event, and two significant changes were made in the service: it was changed from an Evensong service to a Eucharist, and it was the first time a youth (Andrew Jehl from Church of the Holy Communion) gave the homily. In April, the DYC sponsored "Episcopalooza" (aka: Spring Fling) at St. John's for Jr. High youth. This very popular event saw youth from all over the diocese coming together to play games, bowl, and moon bounce late into the evening.

In August, the DYC started its program year with the annual "DYC Fall Kick-off" at St. Columba Conference Center, which included a heat-beating round of water Olympics. "I am the vine and you are the branches" was the theme of the "Bishop's Bash" retreat at Lakeshore United Methodist Assembly on Kentucky Lake in November. This retreat for Sr. High youth is an opportunity for the youth to spend a weekend enjoying a series of skits, discussions with the Bishop, and the ever-famous "Bishop's Bowl" football game. Talk topics during the weekend were based on passages from the 15th chapter of John's Gospel. Mike Peterson from North Carolina and Trip Gintz from St. John's provided music. The next week, youth Ben Khouri and Philip George attended a Province IV Youth Network meeting in Lexington, KY.

The DYC consists of: Anna Talley, Bailey Bethel, Ezra Elam, and May Todd from Calvary, Memphis; Ben Khouri, Elizabeth Holt, Shelton Hollis and Aaron Law from Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis; Laura Dickerson from St. Andrew's, Collierville; Rachael Mercer from Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis; AJ Boren from St. Luke's, Jackson. Adult sponsors are John Denton and Ellen Coleman from Calvary Church, Memphis; Beth Powell from St. George's, Germantown; Susan Nelson and the Rev. Canon René Somodevilla from St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis.