

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES REPORT
to the CONSISTORY of RICHVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

I attended the CE meeting on Tuesday June 4th at 6:30pm at the church. This meeting set the stage for much of my June endeavors and workload. Of course VBS was the main imminent subject! However, I consistently searched for youth to serve during our Youth Service on Sunday, June 16th. Last minute confirmations were successful. I have also tried to encourage others to participate in Children's Church for the Summer months. I've used various methods to promote this opportunity, i.e. Messenger, calls, in person, etc. This is a very difficult task to fulfill each week. However, we've been blessed & fortunate to have one or two step up to cover this ministry at various times.

RISE did not meet this month due to graduations and a "plethora plate" of senior high stuff, so we had to cancel. I am in the reevaluating stage of looking at our next, upcoming RISE candidates to replace our college departing participants.

Needless to say, VBS has been the explosion portion for the month of June. I've been working closely with CE and Pastor -w- to accomplish our goal for the weekend of July 12th. This year will appear to be a skeleton crew of volunteers. I've discovered many vacations and other priorities have pushed their way into focus versus our event. I have promoted and prodded passionately and lovingly. I am also reaching out to the folks who attended the Egg Hunt as a reminder and invitation. I love the personal touch! I also attended the VBS workday on Saturday, June 15th at 10am. Even during the rigors of ministry these days, I have been very faithful in my efforts! With that said, I sometimes feel we are experiencing the birth pangs of Matt. 24 as a church.

Understanding this, I plan to be present at our new Cards & Games ministry on Thursday, July 11th from 1-3 pm. I want to be a support and encouragement to our older adults and families! I also plan to help the night before to set up if needed.

As previously mentioned in last month's report, I'm still trying to connect with The Gables of Canton as an alternate outreach facility for our youth & families to visit and get acquainted. I've tried on two attempts, but there have been changes in the activities director's position, so I plan to follow up and make a visit in person.

Respected submitted,
Gary Bickel
Director of Youth & Family Ministries