



# Youth Ministry

Church of God in Michigan  
4212 Alpha Street, Lansing, Michigan 48910-0711  
800-369-5890 [www.choginmi.org/youthministry.html](http://www.choginmi.org/youthministry.html)

October 27, 2011

Dear friends,

The Church of God State Youth Winter Retreat will be here before we know it! The planning Task Force has begun praying for a snowy, fantastic New Year's weekend- Dec. 30-Jan. 1. This will be our 38th annual Church of God Winter Retreat using the Springhill Camp facilities in Evert, Michigan.

We're thrilled to have as our speaker this year- Pastor Steve Van Fossen, from Schererville, Indiana. Pastor Steve and his wife Marcey have six children whom Steve lovingly calls the modern day "Brady Bunch". Steve is an Anderson University graduate who felt God calling him throughout High School, but wasn't sure what He wanted. Today he ministers with the philosophy that every person is born with a desire and need of a Savior. His relationship with Him is real and meaningful, so he wants to present Him in a real and meaningful way too. When he has the time, Steve has lots of interests- especially his huge Stars Wars collection!

Our praise leaders for the weekend will be "Sanctified". They are a Worship Band that began as a worship team in 2008. They each are students at Grace Bible College in Grand Rapids studying in the Worship Arts program. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere of worship where we can freely praise God for who He is and what He has done in our lives. Collectively they have played for several camp retreats, church services and have lead worship venues such as Rock the Coast. Individually they are involved in music through Church Worship Teams, jazz ensembles, and vocal groups.

Springhill's housing, food and recreation opportunities are great! We will have use of their beautiful auditorium for services, swimming pool, gym, extreme sports area, huge tubing hill, and much more. We are hoping to have many churches join us for the first time this January. Each group must have adult chaperones for male and female youth (you determine the appropriate number).

## Weekend Needs & Notes:

1. **Each person will need to bring: a sleeping bag, pillow, lots of warm clothes, and/or snow clothes, Bible, toiletries, a swimsuit, and towels. Optional are cross-country skis and snow boards.**
2. **We want to include your youths' talents in the services - singing, instruments, drama... Talk to your kids!!!**
3. **The camp forbids smoking, alcohol, and illegal use of drugs.**
4. **Every group must bring medical authorization forms for your group, signed by the parents, in case of any emergencies. What you use for other events during the year is adequate. The local hospital in Reed City requires these.**

An exciting opportunity:

Last year Springhill gave us the great opportunity to help college students or young adults of that age attend our weekend and also help YOU by adding chaperones at a great price. They are offering this plan to us again. I can have up to 12 young adults that are at least 18 years old come and only pay \$60 per person instead of the \$99. To get this reduced rate, they would be responsible for working with the students during Saturday afternoon activity time. They would be giving a total of 4-6 hours, which would include the training time Friday evening when they arrive. This is before our opening service. We had 8 take advantage of this opportunity last year and they enjoyed the experience. SO- the first 12 that let me know during registration get this chance! I would ask that the initial \$49 be paid like everyone else & that the final payment of \$11 would be paid at camp.

## Saturday Afternoon Free Time:

These are the fees for free time activities that have a cost:

Horse back riding	\$10.00 for 1 hour slots
Cross country skiing rental	\$3.00 for 1 1/2 hrs.
Ice skate rental	\$1.00 for 1 1/2 hrs.
NEW: A \$5.00 pass will allow all afternoon use of the climbing wall & giant's ladder!	
Indoor climbing wall	\$5.00 (includes all the gear)
Giants Ladder	
Paintball	\$10.00 + a fee for refills

**Tubing, swimming, basketball, ping pong, air hockey, & broom hockey are free.** The camp does have pop, candy, books, & shirts for sale their Trading Post.

Registration for the weekend will be from 7:00-8:00 PM on Friday & the retreat will conclude after lunch on Sunday. **There will be one more letter with additional information about schedules, sports, & fun competitions sent to the churches that register.**

## Location of Camp: (Ewart is west of Clare, MI)

Just west of Ewart, on the corner of 95th & Highway 10, there is a lighted SpringHill Camp sign (just after the Super 8) Turn north & go 2 miles. Turn left at the 2nd camp sign. Go through the pines & proceed to the right. We will be holding registration in the dining hall.

## Cost:

The cost is \$99.00 per person- a great deal for 2 night's lodging, 5 meals, New Year's Eve pizza party, all programming & most of the recreation! **A deposit of \$49.00 per person is due by December 9. (\$59 if after Dec. 9) The remainder of \$50.00 per person is due upon arrival at camp. (Total cost for the weekend is \$99 pp if registered before Dec. 9 & \$109. if received after Dec.9.) No deposits can be refunded after December 21.**

If you have any questions, please call or e-mail me.

*Connie Graham*

**Director of Youth Ministry for the Church of God in MI**  
**(989) 835-9262 or cell (989) 600-0339**  
[cmyersgraham@chartermi.net](mailto:cmyersgraham@chartermi.net)

# WINTER RETREAT

**December 30, 2011 - January 1, 2012**

## **FRIDAY, December 30**

7:00-8:00 Registration, getting settled in, game room open  
Ticket purchase in dining hall  
8:30 Getting acquainted, & weekend kick-off- auditorium  
9:45 Counselors' Meeting- Summit Room- by game room  
9:45 Game room, gym open, tubing  
11:45 In your room!  
12:15 Lights out!

## **SATURDAY, December 31**

8:30-9:30 Serving breakfast- dining hall (trading post is open noon- 6:00)  
10:00-11:30 Singing & sharing with Pastor Steve & "Sanctified"- auditorium  
11:30-12:30 Serving Lunch- dining hall & game room open  
12:30-5:00 Activity time- horse riding, pool, skiing, contests, tubing,  
gym, game room , paintball (trading post will be open too)  
5:15-6:30 Serving supper- dining hall  
7:15 Singing & sharing with Pastor Steve & "Sanctified"- auditorium  
Group sharing time & communion  
9:45 Game room, gym open!  
11:00-1:00 A.M. Tubing, Pool open, Pizza,  
Midnight New Year's Celebration- watch the ball drop & prayer-dining hall  
1:15 A.M. In your Room!  
1:30 A.M. Lights out & sleeping!

## **SUNDAY, January 1**

8:45-9:30 Serving breakfast- dining hall (trading post isn't open today)  
9:30 Broomball Finals- Skating Rink  
10:15- 11:45 Singing & sharing with Pastor Steve & "Sanctified"- auditorium  
12:00-1:00 Serving lunch- dining hall  
Pack & clean up & say your good-byes!

**PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR ALL EVENTS.**

**GET INVOLVED AND YOU WILL HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND!**



# State Youth Winter Retreat

December 30, 2011 - January 1, 2012

SpringHill Camp; Evart, Michigan



Steve Van Fossen



For further questions please call or e-mail:  
Connie Graham, Director of Youth Ministry  
(989) 835-9262 or cell (989) 600-0339;  
[cmyersgraham@chartermi.net](mailto:cmyersgraham@chartermi.net)



**Youth Event**  
Sponsored by  
Church of God in Michigan  
[www.choginmi.org](http://www.choginmi.org)