

## STRATEGIC PLANNING PRIORITY: Create a Robust Student Ministry

*We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. – 1 Thessalonians 2:8*

### Overview

Over the past few years All Saints Student Ministry has worked to establish a firm foundation with a gifted group of committed volunteers. We recognize many areas for growth that, with increased focus and attention, will transform into the robust student ministry that our teenagers, families, and church need.

**With the addition of new staff, volunteers, activities, and resources, we will build a healthy, thriving, and sustainable ministry to foster a deep love of Christ in our students. ASC Student Ministry will aim to present Jesus Christ to our students and walk alongside as they process the Good News, to the end that they might come to know Him and know they are deeply loved by Him. We will meet this message of love with encouragement to glorify God as witnesses and through service, sharing His light in their schools and families and further in the Church and the World.**

### Five-Year Goals

#### **Within Student Ministry**

- **Provide each student with a clear and firm identity** as a follower and disciple of Jesus to ready the students for the rest of their lives.
- **Build a strong, active, and connected community** where students have real and fruitful friendships with each other, born out of a shared love for Jesus (or at the very least, an interest in Him).
- **Build intergenerational relationships** – all students to have multiple adult Christian role models; older students may serve younger children as role models and occasional teachers (e.g. leading middle school CLUB).
- **Build an intangible ‘buzz’ around student ministry** (a place where students want to be!) – A place for fun and joy, but also an important part of students’ lives that is life-giving, supportive, safe, and accepting where they are loved and valued. An environment where they can be themselves in a world with so much pressure to be someone else.

#### **Within All Saints Church**

- **Attract new students and families to All Saints** – become a key element of what makes ASC desirable to members of the community.
- **Engage every All Saints middle and high school student** in some way (no ‘lost sheep’).

## Core Initiatives

### Education & Fellowship

- **Continue and Expand our Sunday morning programs** (CLUB and CREW meetings).
- **Expand our current schedule of events for fun and fellowship** (e.g., laser tag, broomball, snow tubing) in quantity and structure, to attract new students and encourage current students to invite friends.
- **Host regular gatherings ('CREW Nights')** at parishioners' houses for fun/fellowship.
- **Launch Small Groups** – Bible and book studies for students (e.g., HS girls book club).

### Special Events

- **Expand youth outreach opportunities**, in collaboration with Mission & Outreach team, to the end that each student will have/develop a heart for serving God's people and discover the joy in service.
- **Offer a range of options for Summer involvement** – Current Opportunities: Leading Vacation Bible School, Dominican Republic mission trip; Exploring for Summer 2020: Summer Lights Weeklong DC Mission, Pittsburgh Project (middle school), FOCUS Camp (weeklong Christian summer camp).
- **Explore annual CLUB and/or CREW retreats.**
- **Launch events for students and their families** to navigate the challenges, stresses, and pressures that our students face every day, in a way that is real, relevant, and encourages dialogue (e.g. social media).

### Within the Greater All Saints Community

- **Offer a diverse range of opportunities around ASC** to engage students with different interests (e.g. theater, roles in Sunday services, choir, sports & games, etc.)
- **Revamp confirmation classes** for a more structured process, engaging both students and parents.
- **Engage the ASC congregation** to prevent a student ministry 'vacuum' – communicate upcoming events and celebrate outcomes of recent events; proactively seek engagement and feedback.

### Supporting Initiatives

- **Collaborate with youth programs at other parishes and Christian organizations** to host joint events/programs and gain greater perspective for our own ministry.
- **Increase Volunteer Support** – Essential to our ministry, expand on our current gifted and committed volunteer team and better support them in their ministry to our students.
- **Gather student input and feedback** both to better grow and maintain a more fun, appealing ministry and to foster an element of personal ownership/investment from our students.

# Current Programs

## Sunday Morning

### **CLUB**

Meeting every Sunday morning from 9-10am, "CLUB" is our core space for education and fellowship for students in grades 5-7. We begin each Sunday with free time to hang out or play games and have a light breakfast. After a group game, we read scripture together and leaders walk the group through the passage while guiding a discussion on Jesus' love and grace.

### **CREW**

The counterpart to "CLUB", "CREW" meets at the same time on Sunday mornings for grades 8-12. CREW has a slightly more in-depth study of scripture each week, but often discuss the same passages as CLUB. We are pursuing creating opportunities for older CREW members to assist in leading CLUB as one opportunity to experience leadership while sharing the Gospel with others.

## Monthly Events

### **CREW Nights**

"CREW Nights" are a relatively new initiative to provide a space for fellowship among our 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Hosted by generous parishioners, they provide a break from the busyness of school and extracurriculars during which our students can have a meal as they relax and spend time together and with our leaders.

### **Recurring Combined CLUB & CREW Events**

Each month of the school year we host stand-alone events for our entire Student Ministry. These are fun and exciting events that many students look forward to each year. They are a great opportunity for our students, volunteers, and staff to grow closer together and feel connected. Events like these are instrumental to the relational ministry that we are always pursuing. We hosted **Laser Tag** in September, a trip to **Butler's Orchard** in November, and a Student Ministry **Christmas Party & gift exchange** in December. Coming up, we will be playing **Broomball** at a local ice rink in January (tonight) and go **Snow Tubing** in February.

### **Small Groups**

Small Groups provide a space for education and fellowship in a more intimate and personal setting. In smaller, more casual groups than our other events, students and leaders grow closer as they spend time together and explore scripture or faith-based books. Since it began in mid-Fall, our CREW Girls Small Group has thrived. Led and hosted by volunteer Sydney Jordan, they meet twice a month for dinner and a discussion of Heather Holleman's book *Chosen for Christ*. We are actively pursuing creating a CREW (high school) Guys Small Group, as well as CLUB (middle school) Guys and Girls Small Groups. We hope to start meeting in the coming months.

### **Service Opportunities**

Little Lights, Operation Angel Tree, Rebuilding Together

## Trips and Camps

### **Dominican Republic Mission Trip**

For the past seven summers, All Saints has partnered with Dr. Silvia Martinez and The Luke Society in Santo Domingo for short-term missions trips. Offered to older students and adults, we serve side-by-side in a ministry to the poorest communities in and around the city of Santo Domingo. Building schools, feeding centers and homes. Assisting with feeding programs and day camps for the children. Dr. Silvia is also a supported partner with ASC Global Missions.

### **The Pittsburgh Project**

A week-long urban work week, The Pittsburgh Project strives to uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners in and around the great Pittsburgh area. Each summer All Saints has sent a team of middle schoolers and adult leaders to serve in this Gospel-centered organization. Doing light construction during the day, hearing the Good

News of Jesus Christ followed by lots of fun and games each evening – this has been a highlight for many students the past number of years.

### **All Saints Parish Retreat**

Taking 200+ All Saints parishioners an hour and a half away to Sandy Cove for an intergenerational retreat has been a big win for our community. Families get a chance to get to know one another a deeper level all while being encouraged and challenged spiritually from the words and insight from a top-notch guest speaker. We envision creating a more focused student ministry component to future retreats all while maintaining the family connections our church continually strives to foster.

### **Summer Lights Weeklong Mission Trip ([www.littlelights.org](http://www.littlelights.org))**

In the coming years, we would like to participate in Little Lights' summer mission to give an opportunity to serve those in need in our own backyard. We are currently working with Missions and Outreach to explore a CREW Summer Lights week, potentially as early as Summer 2020. Founded in 1994 by Steve Park, Little Lights is a non-profit organization that empowers underserved youth and families in Washington, D.C. through practical assistance, racial reconciliation, and the love of Christ.

## Other

### **Confirmation Class**

The Confirmation process has been redesigned for our students that wish to be confirmed this year. With the input and personal experience from our clergy and ministry staff, we have created a promising plan that will include active involvement from each member of our clergy and Student Ministry staff, as well as parent involvement at home. In addition to our four classroom meetings, the process will involve a handful of supplemental experiences including a fieldtrip and a brief meeting with Father Ed.

### **Pancake Supper**

On Shrove Tuesday each year, our family and student ministry programs host our (now famous) Pancake Supper. Part fellowship, part summer missions fund-raiser, part pre-Lent carb loading, we serve over 300 people from our community in two hours! This year it will take place on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Numerical Data

- 140 Students** On our All Saints mailing list (grades 5 – 12).
- 89 Families** With middle and/or high school children we serve on a regular basis.
- 30 Students** Attended summer missions (Dominican Republic and/or The Pittsburgh Project) the past two summers.
- 60 VBS Leaders** Middle and high school students from All Saints Church and our greater community who helped make the summer VBS programs run successfully by leading crews of elementary-aged children throughout our week-long VBS day camps.
- 20 Volunteers** Adult volunteer leaders who have led, served and/or pitched in to some extent the past 24 months with our student ministry programs.

### **2019 Student Ministry Team Committee Members**

We are thankful to the following parishioners for their support and participation in the All Saints Student Ministry Team: Tony D'Emidio, Edward Neufville, Robbie Boone, Stefan Awad, Sam and Sydney Jordan and Lori Shore.