



February 25, 2021

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to report that we will be returning to Youth Sunday School, beginning March 7 at 9:30am! If this year has revealed anything about our students, it's that they absolutely crave socialization, and that they also crave substantial exploration of God's word!

We've been meeting on Wednesday's for grade-specific study of the Holy Word of God. If you're not familiar with the 5-year *Exploration of Scripture* plan that we've put together, it goes like this. Our newest members of the student ministry - 6<sup>th</sup> grade - begin with us by studying *The Beginning*, an overview of Genesis through Exodus and the prophets. Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders move on to study *The Ministry of Christ* through the Gospel accounts of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Eighth grade moves on to study *The Attributes of God*, God's personality and hard-to-fathom characteristics.

Our high school students continue the exploration of scripture by taking on the book of Hebrews in their 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade years - tracing Jesus Christ throughout the Old Testament by way of Hebrews. The Student Ministry's capstone years are, of course, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, in which they focus on the book of Ephesians, and what it means to truly be one *Living on Mission*!

This is what your students have been engaged in while with us on Wednesday evenings. I've appreciated hearing from so many of you parents who have taken the time to share the positive feedback that you're getting from your students. Now, with Sunday School for youth restarting, I'm even more excited about how the Lord will make His impression on the hearts and minds of our students!

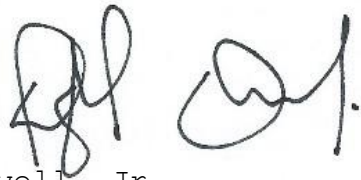
Also, on March 7, from 6 to 7:30, we will resume our once monthly Sunday evening activities. This will be a time for our students to gather and socialize with music, games, and light refreshments. Please be aware that these *Game On!* Evenings will be once monthly, and not necessarily the first Sunday of the month. We will do our

best to consider monthly calendars, volunteer availability, and dates that will allow for the greatest number of student participation. To keep informed of current events and general Student Ministry information, visit our redesigned Student Ministries page of the church website, [smithmemorial.org/student-ministries](http://smithmemorial.org/student-ministries). Also, if you are not getting our text messages with timely notifications of gatherings and events, text the phrase **student77** to the phone number **81010**.

The activity on March 7 is a Knock-out basketball tournament. Students are not required to play, and are more than welcome to come to just hang out. If a student does wish to play, we ask that they bring a basketball from home if they own one. This will help us control the spread of germs in our COVID world. Though no mitigation strategy is perfect, Knock-out basketball is just about as safe as it gets!

Thank you for continuing to trust us with your student. I can assure you - as with myself and Sara - each one of our faithful adult leaders recognizes the great responsibility before us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greg Dowell, Jr.', written in a cursive style.

D. Greg Dowell, Jr.  
SMBC Director of Student Ministries