



## WOODSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH YOUTH MINISTRY

### POLICIES 1999-2000

The challenge of rearing good godly children looms over most parents as a difficult and sometimes "hopeless" endeavor. Our youth ministry here at Woodside seeks to be a tool use as an aid in bringing up their children to the glory of God. With that in mind, we have prepared this manual of youth philosophy and practice. Our prayer is that the material here printed will help you as parents and us as youth workers to consider and understand the underlying principles that govern our youth ministry here at Woodside Baptist Church.



### PART 1 PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

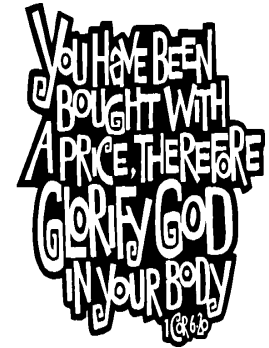
#### PURPOSE OF THE WOODSIDE BAPTIST YOUTH MINISTRY

**LET'S GET STARTED!**



I would like to see our teenagers consumed with a desire to glorify

God in everything they do. (1 Cor. 10:31) Nothing in life is more valuable than to be used of God. It is my purpose as Youth Pastor to turn our teens' hearts to their parents and to the Lord. (Malachi 4:6; Luke 1:17) Young people respond to consistency when observed in the life of those who show genuine concern. It would give me great joy to see our teens developed spiritually to such an extent that they are mighty in spirit, faithful in service to God, consistent in the scriptures and in prayer, burdened for souls, and walking in the spirit.



#### GOALS:

1. Meet with parents on a regular bases. (at least 4 times a year) It is my goal to have a close working relationship with the parents. I would like to be an aid to them in raising godly children.
2. To make my Pastor a success.
3. Re-establish a Ruth-Esther and Billy Sunday Club. These are discipleship clubs.
4. Take teens on a Gospel Outreach trip every other year.
5. To have a National Youth Leadership Holiness Conference.
6. To have a National Quizzing tournament every year at Woodside.
7. To Have a Summer Camp and Winter Camp each year.
8. Choir tours for the High School age young people once every other year.
9. Start a Tape Library for teens.

10. Start a Teen Book Library.
11. Start a youth newsletter.
12. Start a parent-teen newsletter.
13. Develop a Teen Parent Manual.
14. Win first place at AACCS with Bible Quizzing.
15. To have two college trips each year. One going north and one going south.
16. Build a strong, trained, and faithful Youth Staff.
17. To start a separate Junior High ministry.

## PART II GENERAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES:

#### THEIR IMPORTANCE-

Through participation in youth activities teens form lasting friendships. The young person who is consistently permitted to elect whether or not to attend an activity, and consistently elects not to attend, is the young person that will cut himself off from the quality friendships he desperately needs during the "peer pressured" years. The "left out feeling" soon follows, leading the teen to conclude that Christian kids don't care about him. In reality, he has chosen not to be around them. With this in mind, we should make every



attempt to enlist the attendance of our young people at all activities.

**THEIR PURPOSE-** we make every attempt to structure our activities so as to appeal to regular attendees and visitors alike. It's important that the Christian teen sense pride in his youth group and in the activities it provides so that he can confidently invite friends. Activities do have a very definite purpose in our overall youth program as we seek to evangelize the lost, and to edify and encourage the Christian through fellowship.

**THEIR FREQUENCY-** Normally we will have one major activity a month during the school year. We also have one youth rally each month. We offer special Christian service opportunities each month as well.

### SINGSPIRATIONS

Singspirations are normally held monthly on Sunday evenings, fitting into the schedule of school and related activities. They follow the evening service and offer a time of fellowship and fun. Singspirations also afford our teens encouragement and strength for the week ahead by their participation in the praise choruses and testimonies proclaiming God's faithfulness.



Normally, our sings are held in various homes of our teens, hosted by that family. Otherwise, we make use of the Youth Pastors home, which is well equipped for such purposes.

## **SUPER SCRUB**

Super Scrub is our once a year fund raiser for the teens. This activity involves both the parent and the teen.



Usually on the first weekend in June every summer we have a car wash, which is called super scrub. The money raised goes towards youth related activities, and the purpose is to lighten the financial load for the parents. The way super scrub works is basically like this: A teen goes out into his neighborhood, or to his friends and family and asks them to sponsor him so much money per car that we wash collectively as a group. Our goal each year has been 1000 cars. For the past 6 years we have met that goal every time. Once an individual sponsors a teenager he is obligated to pay that teen when the teen completes the car wash. That money goes into that individual teens account to be used only by that teen throughout the year for youth activities. As the teen collects more and more pledges the more money he will have in his account to use for activities throughout the year. The teens will be given pledge sheets for this

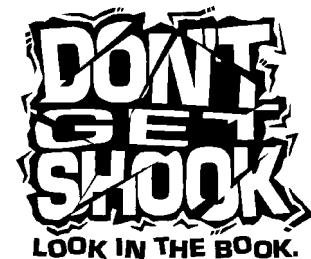
fundraiser. Pledges can only be raised in a 3 week period before the car wash.

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A FUND RAISER FOR YOUR TEEN, THEREFORE PARENTS MUST BE PRESENT AT THE CAR WASH AND HELP THEIR TEEN WASH CARS ALL DAY. IF YOU RAISE PLEDGES BUT DO NOT WASH CARS YOU DO NOT GET THE MONEY pledged to you. IF YOU RAISE PLEDGES BUT DO NOT HAVE YOUR PARENTS PRESENT AT THE CAR WASH YOU DO NOT RECEIVE YOUR PLEDGES.**

The reason for the parent involvement is for quality control and also because super scrub is a huge responsibility and we need all the help we can get. All super scrub money is held in one account at Aurora National Bank. Each individual account is kept in a ledger and additions and subtractions are made from the individual accounts much like a checking account. The youth pastor's wife keeps the books and must be notified at least 3 working days in advance for any money needed for an activity from your super scrub account.

## **BIBLE STUDIES**

If we are to see Godly teens doing God's work, it's obvious that they must have dynamic Bible studies. Our youth Bible



studies have various purposes, but all center on the fact that the Bible is our sole source of faith and practice. These Bible studies are structured so that every young person gets involved and has ample opportunity to learn and ask questions in an informal atmosphere.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

By the very nature of the Sunday School hour two things are stressed. The first 15 minutes are used for announcements and developing enthusiasm for upcoming events. The remainder of the hour we discuss doctrinal matters from the Word such as Bible survey, character studies, book studies, topical studies, etc.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

We discuss practical issues on Wednesday evenings. The senior high is doing a book study on Revelations (the end times). The junior highers are doing character studies of people in the Bible. During the school year we do a peer accountability program and during the summer we do a team competition program. We take surveys periodically to determine the matters needing to be discussed.

#### CAMP

The camp ministry has been greatly blessed of God in helping young people make decision both for salvation and for dedication. A week away from the influence of the radio, television, and the pressures of every day life, combined with the daily ministering of the Holy Spirit through the ministries at the camp can mightily be used of God. Much of what God has planted throughout the year can be harvested during camp. We strongly recommend that every parent encourage his/her child to participate annually in our camping program.

#### CHRISTIAN SERVICE

We want our teens to have ample opportunities to serve the Lord during the school year and not just on summer mission trips.

Some of the available opportunities are teaching in Children's church, puppet presentations for Awana and



children's church, ushering, Awana, Church nursery, Choir nursery, visitation and tract distribution, nursing home meetings, visiting shut-ins, singing in the adult choir, and playing an offertory.

By encouraging our teens to getting involved in these opportunities, they will experience the blessing of serving the Lord and will continue the rest of their lives to do so.

## **COMPETITION**

The youth ministry incorporates various levels of competition, sometimes developing enthusiasm, always developing character, and always keeping proper perspective. Our teens are reminded consistently to "remember what we're here for" - that is to deflect the glory to God and give God the glory. The teens are challenged to have a spirit of excellence at whatever they do. (Phil.3:14).

## **COUNSELING**

Proverbs 11:14 informs us that "where no counsel is the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." As parents, pastors, teachers, and youth workers, we have a great opportunity and responsibility to make ourselves available and approachable so that we may offer our youth godly counsel. The youth pastor and youth workers seek to initiate regularly one on one

talks through which the help can be given. These times are beneficial for youth and youth worker alike.

## **COLLEGES**

There are obviously many Christian colleges offering a wide range of educational opportunities suitable for the Christian young person. Unfortunately, not all-Christian colleges maintain a consistent Biblical stand. Great care should be taken by parent and teen in considering these institutions. Information regarding Christian colleges is available with the pastor or youth pastor. We do urge young people to prayerfully consider at least one year of Bible college training, whatever their vocation. In the college years the young person often establishes his philosophy of life.

We take college tours to Bob Jones University, Pensacola Christian College, Northland Baptist Bible College, and Maranatha Baptist Bible College. These tours are usually taken in the month of November.

## **DATING**

We live in a society that puts a lot of pressure on teens to have a boyfriend/girlfriend, "going out" relationship. Teens are pressured to think that there's something wrong with them if they don't have



this kind of a relationship with the opposite sex. Unfortunately, some teens have compromised their Christian values to fit into the world's mold of boyfriend/girlfriend relationship.

Having worked with teens for some time, I have observed what I call the "vicious dating cycle." Normally, the relationship starts out being based on infatuation that moves to going steady or going out; which after a while leads to strong emotional attachment. Once a couple reaches this stage, a variety of problems come into the relationship, which inevitably leads to the couple breaking up. Then the cycle is repeated with someone else or the couple gets back together again. This type of a relationship can devastate a teenager spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically.

When comparing dating to friendship one learns a lot. Dating tends to be exclusive and reclusive, while friendships are inclusive. Dating is usually romantic or leads there, while friendships are not. Lovers are normally face to face, absorbed in each other; friends are side by side absorbed in some common interest. Dating raises expectations of physical responses, friendship arouses only relational expectations of trustworthiness and sympathy.

We encourage our teens to have good friendships and not steady boyfriend/girlfriend relationships. I Timothy

5:2 teaches that young people are to look at the opposite sex as their spiritual sisters or brothers in the Lord, and that these relationships are to be "with all purity." When teens get the perspective that God wants them to have of the opposite sex, they can be free to enjoy one another as friends and not have the pressure of going steady or going out.

## DEVOTIONS

In order for our young people to be "workmen that needeth not be ashamed," they must be having meaningful, consistent, daily devotions



(2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 119:9-11) Success apart from the Word of God is impossible. We seek to guide teens in making the personal applications of the truths of the Scriptures (Josh. 1:8).

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY:

Scripture memory is a vital part of any Christian's walk, and the Scripture memory habits formed in the earlier years will influence the life for years to come. Bible Quizzing on Sunday nights is the scripture memory program that we mainly use.

## BIBLE QUIZ TEAM



Bible quizzing is a year around program for all ages. Every Sunday night at 5 pm the teens (7-12 grade) meet for Bible Quizzing up in the balcony. The teen who does well in Bible Quizzing is the teen who studies the passage of scripture during the week. The top quizzers are those who give 30 minutes a day to memorizing the passage of scripture.

How does Bible Quizzing work? You may get a complete copy of rules from the youth pastor but basically it works like this: First a question is asked from the passage of scripture. The question is a who, what, where, when, how, type of question, not an interpretive type of question. The quizzers, when they think they know the answer jump from the electronic pad, and if they are the first off the pad, they will get to answer the question. If the question is answered correctly then that quizzer gains 20 points, if it is answered incorrectly then the quizzer is given an error and the same question is asked again to the remaining quizzers. Teams compete against teams and the top teams win awards and prizes. This is the best way I have found to get young people to memorize large portions of Gods word at one time. It is not easy to memorize Gods word, but quizzing makes it fun and exciting. Our goal is that the quizzer will live the Word of God they memorize.

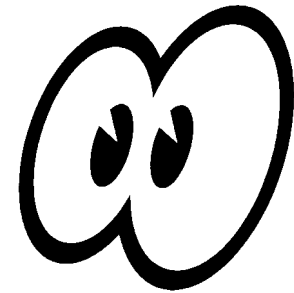
National Bible Quiz Team is for those quizzers who commit large portions of the day to Bible memory. The national Bible quiz team travels nationally competing against other Bible quiz teams. This team is for the elite and dedicated Bible quizzer. The commitment to the national quiz team is not only a time commitment but a financial commitment as well. The national quiz team must be willing to travel to the tournaments we go to each year. We go to 3 Bible Quiz Tournaments a year. One of our goals is to win first place in the nation at the America Association of Christian Schools in Greenville South Carolina.

## DISCIPLINE

“He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.” (Prov. 17:15).

Discipline is an unavoidable element in the youth program of Woodside. We make an effort in the youth ministry to keep the rules to a minimum, yet consistent in application. In the event that a discipline situation does arise, our youth workers are trained to seek a counseling opportunity through it. Steps taken in administering discipline are as follows:

1. Isolate the offender. (This is done so as not to embarrass the person or the group.)



2. Identify the Problem. (To allow for confrontation, confession, and cleansing.)
3. Incorporate the procedure. (It may be a simple reprimand, a stern rebuke, or immediately contacting the parent.)
4. Inform the parent. Depending on the severity of the confrontation, the youth pastor will within a short time seek out the parents of the teen, discuss the problem, seek good communication, and address how the problem was handled.

## DRIVERS

All teens will ride the vans or bus to and from the activities, unless specific arrangements have been worked out well ahead of that given activity. For insurance reasons we seek not to use teens in driving capacities. All driving must be done in accordance with the laws.



## FINANCES

Woodside makes every attempt to provide the best quality activity for the least amount of money. Our desire is that all young people are able to participate at all activities. Sometimes our youth budget subsidizes our activities, other times our activities are free.

Somewhere, somehow, we will find part or all of the money necessary to allow a young person to attend our activities if it is financially impossible for them to come otherwise.

## HOST HOMES

Because of the frequency of Singspirations, activities and Bible studies, we are constantly in need of host homes. Anyone can volunteer to "Host" a youth function. Most often we encourage "Host Homes" to provide refreshments, other times we only need "floor space." Anyone interested in hosting our young people should contact the youth pastor or put it in writing to the Church Office.

## MEALS

Young people will always be informed when meals are provided. They will also be informed when we will be stopping en-route to an activity. As a rule, we always stop at "fast food" restaurants. Sack lunches are always appropriate when our youth group plans to stop to eat; in fact, many choose to "sack it"



and save their money for other things during the activity.

## MISSIONS TRIPS

The mission trip is perhaps the greatest tool we have for fulfilling the purpose of our youth program. Through an accountability program teens qualify to go on the trip. It combines enjoyment with service, and shows the youth the practical challenge of serving Christ. The trips normally are conducted in the summer. Each year the destination may differ from the previous year. There is no better place to build tomorrow's Christian leaders than on the mission field.



## MUSIC

We serve a holy, majestic, unfathomable God who by His very being commands our respect and adoration. One of the greatest attacks being led against our young people today is in the area of music. Music can be one of our greatest vehicles whereby we exalt and worship the Lord, yet at the same time Satan loves counterfeiting it, taking away from the glory of the Lord. We must teach our youth Biblical discernment regarding their music.



Developing musical discernment comes as we emphasize three basic principles:

1. The words of the song bear the message. Acts 2:25-31
2. The music itself bears the message. Exodus 32:15-18
3. The musician bears the message. Col. 3:16; James 3:1

Music played or performed in any youth function must be in conformity to the guidelines established for music in the "Music Philosophy and policy" handout established by Pastor Scott.

If you desire more good information on the area of music discernment see the supplement on "Contemporary Christian Music" by Bill Gothard or get the tape series on music by Pastor Scott .

## SPONSORS

The ministry of our youth sponsors is essential to the success of our youth ministry. Youth sponsors are encouraged to determine what areas of service they feel most burdened for in the youth ministry and develop that ministry to its fullest potential. Areas in which they serve

include: prayer, visitation, activities, Sunday School, Bible Quizzing, driving, counseling, etc.

Sponsors are expected to attend the weekly youth staff meeting on Wednesday nights at 6 pm.

### **SUGGESTIONS**



Suggestions from parents are both sought after and appreciated. If you have a suggestion you would like to make, contact the Youth Pastor by phone at his home or by email or by calling the church and leaving a message for him with the church secretary. Any suggestion will be regarded with the utmost consideration.

## **PART III GENERAL GUIDELINES**

### **WHAT TO WEAR**

Because the Bible exhorts us to be modest in our apparel (1 Tim. 2:9), modesty stands as the primary request regarding clothing for all activities. We have found that by applying this "modesty" principle consistently an atmosphere is developed within the youth meetings

which is pure, wholesome, fun, and very definitely used of God.

### **SERVICES**

We like to see our young people dress sharp for services held in the church auditorium. We encourage the ladies to wear dresses and the guys to wear slacks and a dress shirt. Most of our young men wear suits and ties, which I believe is a mark of maturity in the Lord.

### **CASUAL**

Wednesday evenings and most activities are considered casual times for which informal clothing is most appropriate. We do ask that the modesty principle be considered, particularly regarding the tightness of the clothing. For Wednesday night church we prefer that the young men do not wear shorts. Shorts for young men are ok at activities if the youth pastor has said that shorts can be worn, but please all shorts must be to the knee in length. We want our young ladies to wear culottes that are full and come down over the knee. Dresses or skirts are ok for Wednesday night teen service but when it comes time for game time dresses may not be modest. We ask that the young ladies not wear jeans or pants to an activity unless called for, then we allow the

young ladies to wear warm ups or loose fitting ski bibs.

### **SWIMMING**

Girls and guys will not be swimming together on church sponsored activities. We believe mixed swimming is really mixed immodesty. Immodesty is wrong and one of the causes for defrauding your brother (1 Thes. 4:3-6)

### **SERVICE PARTICIPATION**

When teens participate in the church service, the girls ought to wear dresses and the guys should be in slacks and shirt, and tie.

## **CONDUCT**

In order to fulfill the overall purpose for our youth ministry, it is necessary that we establish certain means of conduct. The world is watching (Heb. 12:1-3), and any misconduct by an individual will adversely affect the testimony of our church and our youth group, but most importantly our Lord.

### **OTHERS**

Under no circumstances should the rights of others be violated, either verbally or physically. This means we must not cut others down, make

fun of others, humiliate others, or damage others' property.

### **AUTHORITY**

Respect for authority should be maintained at all times (Heb. 13:7; 1 Peter 5:5).

### **LANGUAGE**

Swearing, minced oaths, innuendoes, connotative words, dirty jokes, etc. will not be tolerated. (James 3:1-13).

### **HORSEPLAY**

It is inevitable that teens tease and tussle; however, care must be given that feelings are not hurt or tempers flared. Wrestling should be discouraged, particularly when physical harm is possible and anger is being induced. Fighting will not be tolerated.

When the following violations occur, young people will be dismissed from the activity:

1. Drug Usage
2. Drinking
3. Smoking
4. Fighting
5. Vandalism
6. Stealing
7. Sexual misconduct

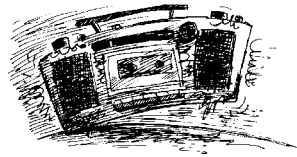
## LUGGAGE

On most out of town activities, the young person can bring one sleeping bag, one garment bag, one suitcase, and one overnight bag unless otherwise specified. All luggage should be clearly marked and easily identified. It is best to send inexpensive luggage and also to make sure that there is no danger of the suitcase opening en-route.



## RADIO

Because of the great difficulty in monitoring radio usage, radios are not to be brought to any youth function. Good tapes and fun tapes are frequently played during activities and on trips on the tape or CD player in the bus or van. The Youth Pastor is held accountable in this area. From time to time the youth pastor will allow young people to check their CDs and tapes before leaving on a long road trip so that a teen may listen to his Walkman while on the bus. Any music magazines or books taken on a trip must be checked with the youth pastor before bringing it on the trip.



## WHAT TO BRING

On our out of town activities, the young people are encouraged to bring the following:

Sleeping gear  
Bible, notebook, pen  
Sack lunches if desired  
Recreational clothing  
School type clothing  
Toiletry items

Spending money  
Necessary medications  
Snacks  
Table games  
recreational equipment

### **Please do not bring the following:**

Radios and TVs  
Immodest clothing  
Expensive jewelry  
Fire works  
be weapons

Walkman  
improper reading  
excessive amounts of money  
Dangerous items that could