

Youth Devotional

I want to thank Randy and Amy O'Bryan for opening up their home and hosting the youth devotional last Sunday evening. We had a really good number in attendance. I also want to thank John and Paula Harrington and Leslie and Bettie Bean for helping.

Last week I attended a youth minister's retreat hosted by the Greymere church of Christ in Columbia, TN. Each time I have gone it has been a tremendous blessing to me. There are many classes that are provided and a time spent each evening in prayer. I was privileged to be one of the teachers this year. My two classes were "Thriving (Surviving) as a Single Minister" and "Developing and Programming a Heart of Service".

The retreat was a tremendous encouragement to me. There were over forty men who have dedicated their lives to serving the Lord by ministering to teenagers. One of the most uplifting parts of the retreat was a panel discussion with four men who have been in youth ministry over 20 years. Their wisdom, enthusiasm, love for the Lord, and love for teens was evident in presentations and answering of questions. It is said that the average stay of a youth minister is 18 months, so to see these men who have continued in faithful service for this long is encouraging.

I am very appreciative of Rusty Pettus, the youth minister at the Greymere church of Christ, for putting this program together each year. The elders from Greymere who oversee this work and attend the sessions. The members of that congregation that cooked us breakfast each morning and fed us lunch.

I am also thankful for our elders allowing me the time away so I could attend and speak.

I look forward to seeing each of you this Sunday for Bible School and worship.

In Him,

Craig