



February 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

The Student Ministry High School Winter Retreat is coming up quickly: February 10-12. This retreat is designed to be a time when we escape the distractions of our day to day lives, turn down the volume of the business, and quiet ourselves before God in order to know him better and better understand how he wants us to live. Student will spend time in personal prayer, reflection, and devotions as well as time together studying the Bible, worshipping, cooking, and playing games. We'll be working through a video Bible series called "Canvas" which focuses on the masterpiece God is creating both in the universe as a whole and on the small canvas of each of our lives.

The Winter Retreat will be held at the Sassafras House in Ocean City, NJ (12<sup>th</sup> and Central). We will be meeting at the church to leave for the retreat on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We are planning to return home on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Please do not get to the church earlier than 6:00 as we will not be prepared to begin loading and checking them in. In the same vein, please try to be here at 5:00 to pick your son or daughter up on Sunday. Drop-off and pick-up will be in the main church lot. In the event of an emergency, you can call my cell phone at 484.904.3913

You will find included with this letter several items: **(1)** a Medical Release; **(2)** a list of the guidelines for the weekend; and **(3)** a list of what each student should and should not bring on the retreat. On the rear of the Medical Release, there is a spot for you and your daughter/son to sign acknowledging that you and your child have reviewed the guidelines and know what they need to bring and what they are not permitted to bring on the retreat. Please return this form along with any balance due for the retreat no later than the day we leave for the weekend. **Also, please note that we are asking that no student bring a cell phone on the retreat.** We believe that one of the primary purposes of retreats like these are for us to "unplug" and get away so we can focus on God and what He wants to do in our lives. Cell phones with all of their capabilities to text, listen to music, tweet, check Facebook, etc. create more noise than ever (please know that we're not saying that they are wrong or evil — simply that we want to "unplug" on this weekend) and sometimes they can keep us from fully hearing what God is trying to say to us because we get so distracted. Parents, we are asking you to help us with this. Please check with your son or daughter to make sure that they do not bring their phone. If they are caught with one, it will be confiscated by a leader and not returned until we see you on Sunday to hand it back. If there is an extenuating circumstance that requires your son or daughter to have a phone for the weekend, please contact me before we leave so we can make arrangements. You can always get a hold of your son or daughter in the event of an emergency on the weekend by calling my cell. Thank you for your help in enforcing this guideline, as well as all of the others listed.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of entering into the discipling process of your son or daughter with you . If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mickey Donahue  
Student Ministry Coordinator

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*Loving God. Loving Others.*

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