



Teens venture to youth conference

FBTeens trek to Valley Forge Baptist Temple to hear Jim Schettler

by Jenneth, senior

Directly after school on Halloween afternoon, seven teenagers loaded up into the church van to travel to Valley Forge Baptist Church to hear a team from West Coast Baptist College preach to teenagers—one of the speakers being the beloved Jim Schettler.

“I enjoyed the messages a lot. I felt like each one was speaking directly to me, and it was great to see the adjustments in my life as well as the effects in the lives of others who went,” said Victoria, junior.

The road trip to the hotel was surprisingly one of the highlights of the weekend. Because of the few teenagers in the van, there was room to spread out, take a nap, and do homework.



The teen bus load tries its best to dress up for Halloween night after a stop at Wal-Mart and a trip to Chick-Fil-Á.

photos by Mrs. Boyd, Teen Leader

“The bus rides were so much fun! I slept a ton, then sang with a few other people until we couldn’t stand the sound anymore,” said Annie, junior.

After reaching their destination, the group checked into the hotel and snatched up free Halloween candy in the main lobby.

“We hit the jackpot!” Mrs. Boyd exclaimed upon discovery and quickly snapped an Instagram selfie with one of the teenagers.

Because the services times weren’t for another hour, the Boyds took the group to Kohl’s where some of the girls found a giant Olaf snowman—much to the delight of Victoria—and proceeded to chase her around the store with it until she agreed to pose for a group photo with it.

“I. Hate. *Frozen*,” she said, quite venomously.

At last the teens filed into the beautiful church’s pews and listened to several stirring messages and Biblical sessions from Jim Schettler and the West Coast team. Although the messages were long and in quick succession, the teens learned the importance of giving their lives to Christ.

After the services the group returned to the hotel to gorge themselves with more Halloween candy (which the girls then tried to burn off by running in the work-out room) and retired to their rooms.

The next morning the teens returned to Valley Forge to listen to another string of messages from West Coast—during which

Seth, freshman home school student, realized God was calling him into the ministry.

“We all had a great time at the Higher Student Summit Conference,” said Seth. “We all received something, whether through the words God told the preachers to say, or through the words the Holy Spirit imprinted on our hearts, which will affect and benefit our lives forever.”

Upon returning home, half the bus played an exciting game of “Ninety-Nine Bottles of Coke on the Wall” to pass the time, then slept the rest of the way.

Every member of the youth conference group agreed the trip was worth the exchange of the October weekend and now have a handful of lasting memories to keep with them.

Access denied

What to do when an intruder emerges on FBTA grounds

by Isaac, senior

On Nov. 7, students participated in the first FBTA lockdown (aka: CODE RED). Shortly after the announcement of “code red” over the intercom, teachers hastily covered the windows and prompted their students to ready themselves and take cover. FBTA’s staff has been trained to take the necessary precautions when an intruder is on campus.

It is important, while the lockdown is underway, that teachers and students communicate with one another in an orderly fashion to promote survival efficiency. When asked “What did you think about the CODE RED drill?” many students expressed themselves accordingly.

“I thought that the person coming in was trying to take us, but it was the policeman so I was fine,” said Ryan, K5.

“[It felt] scary. I felt it was real, but I was prepared,” said Karalyn, 1st grade.

“I heard a noise outside, but I was brave,” said Tim, 1st grade.

“It was a good thing to experience just in case something [bad] ever really happens,” said Jay, 8th grade.

And truth be told, CODE RED is a good thing to practice, such as in the case of an unplanned mass assault like that of Sandy Hook Elementary. Executing these drills consistently will become muscle memory for students and teachers, so when an actual incident arises, the skills practiced can be executed 110%.

“But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one,” Paul says in II Thessalonians 3:3. As a Christian,



Kindergarteners sit in silence sheltered from danger photo by Isaac, senior

facing the challenges dished out by the world is nerve-racking and stressful; therefore, there is a need for a dependence on God to guide us during these times of undesirable intensity. Ultimately, all we can do is have faith that God will carry us through in our time of need, for the Lord will guard against “the evil one.”

Code red drill

Preparing for the worst

by Anita Darby, Staff

Anyone who is in charge of emergency preparedness for a school has a daunting task. It is a task that you know you have to do, but you hope you never have to use what you learn.

Police Officer J.T. Frey, West Springfield Police Office; First Sergeant Ruben Castilla, Prince William Co. Police Office; and retired FBI Agent Jim Lyle were an incredible resource in assisting FBTA with the task of doing a “Code Red” drill. Bringing together these personnel dramatically increased our ability to communicate between the agencies while also making planning a lot easier.

As with most projects, what made this drill so successful was the dedicated teamwork. Whether it was the teachers’ enthusiasm to make sure they were doing everything correctly; the students talking about what they needed to do and how society has changed; Mrs. Niggel making sure she had everything ready for beginning the drill; or Mr. Bradford ensuring everyone was given the information needed — everyone did his part.

Within a minute after the drill was announced, the building looked like no one was there. As Police Officer J.T. Frey and Lt. Chris Edmunds from the West Springfield Police Department started opening each door, they were amazed at how well the teachers and the students did with being quiet.

The Bible says to do everything “decently and in order” even when it comes to preparing for the worst. We pray we never have to do an official “Code Red,” but if we do, we know we have done our best to prepare.



ODACS Regions Realigned

Virginia divided into 4-regions

Christian schools in Virginia have been realigned into 4 regions for ODACS competition purposes. FBT is still in the North Region, but now we will be competing at the regional level with the following schools:

- Crossroads Christian Academy, Bailey’s Crossroads
- Engleside Christian School, Alexandria
- Heritage Christian School, Woodbridge
- Keystone Christian Academy, Berryville
- Leesburg Christian School, Leesburg
- Temple Baptist School, Herndon



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Ten students participate in ODACS Band Festival Concert

Students join a two-day band festival with an ensemble of other musicians from ODACS schools

by Rebecca, senior

Immediately after school on Thursday, November 20, ten students from orchestra loaded a van and headed down to Faith Baptist School in Fredericksburg to the ODACS annual Band and Choir Festival.

Nick Kozar, from Pensacola Christian College, conducted the Symphonic Band. Guest conductors included Seth Haines, former Faith band director whose bands have won the AACS competition twice; and Mac and Beth Lynch. Mac Lynch is the former music director of The Wilds, well-known for arranging and writing numerous songs. Some of the songs he has composed include: "The Steps of a Good Man," "But Continue Thou," and "May the Lord Find Us Faithful."

This is the first year the academy has taken a group down to participate in the annual concert. The ten students that participated made up part of the woodwind, brass, and percussion sections of the school orchestra. Students went through an audition process (sight-

reading, prepared piece, scales) for seating placements.

"My favorite part was being able to come together with people we normally compete against and just work on challenging music together," said Alexis, sophomore.

The bands and choir are made up of people from several schools. Other schools that participated included Bethel, Engleside, Great Hope, Landmark, Morgantown, Temple, and Valley. The event is put together by the band directors from the schools.

"The band directors set up the auditions. Each band director took a section and did the seating placements," said Mrs. Castilla, music director; she placed the saxophone section.

Thursday night and Friday consisted of rigorous practice schedules. Two hours of band practices were combined with ten-minute breaks and choir practices. Practice on Thursday night and all-day Friday culminated in a final concert at 7 p.m. on Friday night.

"It was great to put together a concert and be a part of a huge band," said Josh, junior.

Nick Kozar conducted the Symphonic Band. Guest conductors included Seth Haines, former Faith band director whose bands have won the AACS competition twice.



Some of the symphonic band pieces and selections included an Olympic John Williams-styled piece, a march, and a patriotic piece from Japan.

"I loved the music choices and how our conductor was really practical with music theory," said Annie, junior.

Some of the concert band pieces highlighted the percussion by using nontraditional elements. Effects included banging on trashcans and tapping stands with pencils.

"The trash cans are such a simple instrument, but they produced cool sounds. It was fun working with the tight

schedules: the crunch time and deadline made it a lot of fun," said Hart, 8th grade.

The link to the video of the full concert can be found at <http://vaodacs.com/odacs-band-and-choir-festival/>

"I enjoyed listening to directors rehearse, and it was very exciting to see students performing in the concert," said Mrs. Castilla. Hopes are that we may be able to bring choir along with band next year to the festival. Next year is the twentieth anniversary of the Band and Choir Festival, and plans include inviting an extra special guest conductor and having a piece expressly commissioned for the ODACS band.



New Student Profile Senpear

Senpear shares a little bit about himself

by Haven, sophomore

Senpear is a fifteen-year-old sophomore who has recently joined Fairfax Baptist Temple Academy. Senpear's parents were born in Ethiopia, and he was born here in the U.S. Senpear has one little brother in 8th grade and a large extended family.

"I have lots of cousins that I have never even met!" said Senpear.

Senpear previously attended for five years before coming to FBTA.

Some of Senpear's hobbies include playing soccer, playing video games, and reading God's Word. In his spare time, he enjoys sleeping and thinking about life. Senpear also loves eating American foods, especially pizza, and playing card games..

Some of Senpear's dislikes would include ice skating and the movie "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid." Senpear strongly dislikes eating salad.

"I think of it like eating grass," says Senpear.

He also has a special dislike for football because he recently dislocated his finger while playing the sport during P.E. class.

Senpear has a very big sense of humor. The next time you get a chance to talk to him, you are sure to have a good laugh. He is a very interesting person who is sure to brighten your day.



Dan, senior, contemplates the tiny bones of the hand as he attempts to put it all in order.

photos by Victoria, junior

No bones about it

Mr. Niggel's anatomy class work their fingers to the bone while putting George together

by Victoria, junior

Every year Mr. Niggel drags out the literal bag of bones commonly referred to as George. The typical task is to have each team of anatomy and physiology students assemble the skeleton for a test grade. This year was no different.

Three boxes containing "George" were placed onto the science lab tables. The goal: put every single bone in its proper place by memory. Thursday and Friday were spent figuring out where all the little pieces belonged with the help of the infamous coloring sheets, as well as Mr. Niggel's three-dimensional, rotating skeleton app.

Putting the bones together is beneficial for visualizing what is inside your body. It helps the students to really understand the structure and build of the human body.

"It took a bit of trial and error, but eventually we got it. I can't say I love anatomy, but it's a class I'll never forget," said Nathan, junior.

"Actually handling the bones is a lot better than just learning it out of the book. It's 3-D," said Mr. Niggel, anatomy and physiology teacher.

Originally, the students were tested over this knowledge individually; however, Mr. Niggel prayed on the plight of his anatomy students and was led to give them partners – most likely after reading the account of God taking a rib from Adam to make a help-meet for him. Though initially thought to be difficult, this exercise proved to be more of a teamwork, time-management skill-builder.

"It really helps people going into the medical field which is what I want to do. My favorite part was having a partner so I didn't have to do it alone," said Millie, junior.

All things considered, this year's Georges turned out pretty well. After looking at three skeletons with messed-up spines, backward feet, and reversed scapulas, it is safe to say that each student has a deeper appreciation for the organized, creative genius of God.



Students attempt a few "humerus" arrangements before getting down to business.

Honor Roll

1st Quarter — 2014-2015

	A Honor Roll	A/B Honor Roll
1st Grade	Alaina Daniel Becky Karalyn Kailie Timothy Ella	Harrison Joseph Ciara Victoria Angel Joshua Julian
2nd Grade	Ben Angela Sarah Emma Paris Melanie	Madison Daniel
3rd Grade	Jackson Zachary	Carol Kevin Aislinn Isabella Gabriella Gee Hun
4th Grade	Reem Gabrielle	Daniel Daniel Aaliyah
5th Grade	Matthew Amy	Shakti Heath Kenneth
6th Grade	Priscilla Soriya Ashley	Julia Andrew Savannah
7th Grade		Joshua Haston Henry
8th Grade	Dhananjaya Caleb	Connor Julie Cindy
9th Grade	Enoch	
10th Grade	Carlie Haven	Ben Diana Ricky Arianna
11th Grade		Annie Victoria
12th Grade	Madison Rebecca Veronica	Dan Jenneth Susannah