

Welcome to the fall, parents!

I don't know about you but the summer months sure did fly by! Our HILL high school ministry team spent the summer planning for this upcoming school year, in particular this fall, and we feel like we have a number of SOLID ways to help *connect your son or daughter to CHRIST and HIS community for a lifetime!* In this fall edition of the *HILL happenings* you will find information about:

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The HILL

The HILL is our weekly gathering on Sunday nights from 6:00–8:15pm in the Youth Ministry wing at Chapel HILL. This is a time for students to gather together for FELLOWSHIP with their peers, FUN, WORSHIP through song, WORSHIP through the WORD, and other opportunities to connect with GOD. The HILL is open to all students who desire to grow in their relationships with GOD, their friends, leaders, to worship JESUS and have tons of FUN. It is also highly encouraged for students to bring a friend! On September 7th from 3:00–8:00pm at the Hesters' house, we are having what is simply being called “the PARTY.” This event is an all-area–

wide-fall-kickoff event. We will be joining forces with Harbor Covenant Church, Gig Harbor Young Life, Believers Fellowship and Harbor Christian Center. It will be a great event to kick off the new school year and help set the stage for partnering with these other churches and Gig Harbor Young Life! We have a number of events lined up for this school year to do together as a larger group ...
UNITY!

WILDHORSE 08

It has been a number of years since we have done a fall retreat but, this fall is different. From October 9th-12th, we have the AWESOME opportunity to partner with Gig Harbor Young Life, Harbor Christian Center and possibly Harbor Covenant Church for a SPECTACULAR fall retreat at [Wildhorse Canyon](#) in Eastern Oregon. This extended weekend will cost \$199 and will serve to set the stage for an amazing school year spiritually for your son or daughter. Your student won't want to miss this amazing weekend of FUN, relevant BIBLE teaching, awesome WORSHIP, FRIENDS + making NEW friends, all at one of the most beautiful settings around. So grab a brochure from me, Katie or Kirsten and get registered! You can also go online to the [HILL website](#) for more information or to register.

S-Groups

NEW to the HILL high school ministry this fall is S-Groups! What are they? An S-group [STUDY GROUP] is a group of HS students [mixed genders and grades] with an adult leader [or two] that will meet for a set amount of weeks to STUDY various subjects/topics all under the guise of GOD'S Word. On September 7th [SUPER Sunday] we will be starting our very first S-Group! It

will be meeting during the ten five seven service up in the board room in the main church offices. The study will be led by Bill Palmer and Peggy Porter and will be called TRUTH, KNOWLEDGE and FAITH. The study will include such topics as *Does GOD Exist, Evil and Sin, Man's Way VS GOD'S Way* and other exciting and pertinent issues that will help students understand the basics of Christianity. The study will meet for 9 weeks starting on September 7th. We hope to have a variety of S-groups [with varying subjects/topics with different leaders] running at any given time throughout the year in hopes that this will enable ALL students to be connected to the HILL high school ministry. Please contact [me](#) or [Katie](#) or check the [HILL website](#) for more information.

D-Groups

The heartbeat of the HILL is what we call D-groups: a small group of students with an adult leader [or two] getting together on a weekly basis for Bible study, prayer, encouragement and 'doing life together.' One of our primary goals is to see every student in our ministry connected to other students in this way. The fall is a fantastic time for your student to connect with a group, so if your student is interested, please contact Brad or Katie or have your student contact us. At the moment we are working on using our website as an exciting tool to help connect students to a D-group and better help them get involved. On the *D-Groups* page [it is still under construction] on our website you will find tons of detailed information about the groups; days and times they meet, what they are studying, who the leader[s] are, and much more. You will also be able to find out which adults are currently looking to start a group or which groups are looking to grow. One of the best ways to get in a group is to start a NEW one. Ask your student who they would like to be in a group with, and have them 'rally the troops.' Then, have your student contact me or Katie and we will

connect them with a willing adult leader [or two]. This is the perfect time of year to get into a group, and I would love nothing more than to connect your son or daughter with a group or help them start a new group! We have a number of new leaders who are looking for students to join their group, so please contact Brad if interested!

LIFE Hurts ... GOD Heals

LIFE Hurts ... GOD Heals is a Christian recovery program created specifically for teenagers who have experienced pain or addiction including: drinking, cutting, pornography, eating disorders, troubled family dynamics, etc. Thousands of students from all across the country have gone through this study and have been encouraged and changed. All high school students are welcome. All of us have pain in our lives and LHGH can help. Please keep your eyes peeled for more information on LHGH, or you can contact [Stacia Pew](#) at 253.853.0279.

Volunteer Opportunities

Without volunteers our high school ministry would NOT be able to function. I am happy to say that GOD has richly blessed this ministry with fabulous volunteers that absolutely LOVE students and LOVE hanging out with them. Even though we have an AMAZING group of adult volunteers, there are still many other ways that a person can help even if he or she doesn't want to be involved on a weekly basis. One of our major goals for this fall is to build a team of volunteers to help with ALL THINGS FOOD on Sunday nights at the HILL. This would mean; prepping food, purchasing food, making the food, getting the Diner set up to serve the food and then serving and selling the food to students and adults. If you

are interested in being a part of the HILL FOOD TEAM, or helping behind the scenes or on a small scale level, please contact [Kirsten Gallacher](#) or 253.853.0275 for more information. We would LOVE your help and would LOVE connecting you to the HILL family!

YMCA Teen Late Nite

The local YMCA here in Gig Harbor opens its doors to local high school students the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday of each month from 9:30pm-12:00am. We have just finished our first FULL year of Late Nite, and on September 19th, we will launch into our second year. We have some exciting ideas for Late Nite this year, so please encourage your student to get involved in this awesome opportunity to participate in a variety of athletic and non-athletic activities. The YMCA desires that this time would provide safe and positive activities on Friday nights and encourage Christian values in our local teen community. I (Brad) work at the YMCA each Friday night at Late Nite and love it! Please have your students bring one piece of identification with them when they come ... they DO NOT need to be a member of the YMCA to attend.

1st Wednesday PRAYER Walk

The first Wednesday PRAYER Walk is a time to gather at the Gig Harbor waterfront and pray for our middle school and high school ministries. Everyone is welcome: parents, grandparents, leaders or anyone interested in the middle or high school ministries! Every first Wednesday of the month at 8:00am [we moved it a little later this year!] we come together at the top of the Finholm staircase, grab our prayer cards and walk and pray together for God's blessing and specific prayer requests. Both DJ Rippl and I will have given specific prayer requests that are on our hearts related to the MS

and HS ministries. Please consider joining us for this short hour of asking GOD for great things to happen for and through our students! If you have questions, please call [Tiffany Moore](#) at 253.858.8724.

New and Improved High School Website

It has been a long time coming, but our official HILL website is complete and being updated on a weekly [sometimes daily] basis. Follow the link [here](#) to check it out and find out what is happening in our high school ministry. Please note: we will continue to keep in touch with you and your students via email along with the website. We will also still be updating our [MYSPACE](#) page and our [FACEBOOK](#) page to help keep students informed.

Katie Lemon

As you may or may not know, the high school and middle school ministries here at Chapel HILL are blessed to serve alongside two full-time interns. For the past 8 months, our high school ministry has been in search of a new intern. Well, after months of searching GOD has finally brought us KATIE LEMON! We are blessed to have Katie join our team and we know you are going to LOVE her as we have quickly come to LOVE her! She is an amazing person and has already added SO MUCH to our high school team! Here is a short bit about who she is: *Hi! I'm Katie Lemon. I grew up on Mercer Island, and I'm excited to call Gig Harbor my new home; I love the water! I graduated from Seattle Pacific University in June with a degree in Educational Ministries and minors in Youth Ministries and Christian Scriptures. I love drinking coffee, baking, getting to know people, having deep theological discussions, and seeing how God uses people to change the*

world. I am excited that God has led me to Chapel HILL to be the High School Ministries Intern; I can't wait to see what He does next! I can't say enough about how excited we are to have Katie join the team. If you haven't met her you will definitely want to do so ... and quickly I might add!

As usual, if you have any questions about any of our programs, the HILL on Sunday nights, D-groups, S-groups or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact us!

Thank you so much for being such supportive parents! We are here to partner with you as we seek to stretch, walk alongside and love students on their journeys with Jesus. It is our mission to see *every student connected to CHRIST and HIS community for a lifetime.* It is our honor and privilege to be a part of your children's lives.

GRACE and PEACE,

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