



Christian Life Skills (CLS) Praise & Petitions Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 2017

Christian Life Skills Initiates Bible Camp!



Where Are They Now? The Impact of CLS....



2005 Rite of Passage Celebration: Vanae Hicks, Alexis Spenser and Aimee Thompson

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This newsletter chronicles the 15 year journey of Union Baptist Church's partnership with CLS. This site has seen the most youth complete The Christian Life Skills Rite of Passage and remain active in congregational life with a solid Christian testimony into adult life.

St. James Bible Camp

This summer, CLS will operate a Bible Camp on the beautiful 10 acres of St. James Church, Penn Hills. Since January of 2016, the St. James congregation has welcomed CLS by providing physical accommodations for the CLS office, curriculum trainings, and Board of Directors meetings. Please see the attached fliers for more details regarding the St. James Bible Camp. The camp will use the CLS curriculum and will provide Certificates of Leadership Training and Community Service for teens.

As Christian Life Skills embraces 30 years of ministry, we are in the process of breaking new ground

The Long View...

Barbara Rogers

Founder and Director, CLS

Life Changing Impact

Initiated with full support and enthusiasm under the leadership of the late Rev. Maurice Doss, and continued with excellent support by Rev. Robert Tedder, Union Baptist Church of Swissvale, has seen the most youth complete the Christian Rite of Passage and remain as active young adults in congregational life with a solid Christian testimony.

We are thankful for Ms. LaVerne Stotts, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Christian Life Skills and longstanding Administrator of CLS at Union Baptist Church. As Mentor Coordinator, and Site Trainer, she has powerfully advocated for the spiritual growth of youth.

The Christian Life Skills training provides spiritual anchoring in ways other aspects of congregational life have not.

You will read the personal testimonies of three young adults who completed CLS twelve years ago, where they are now, and how CLS influenced their lives.

CLS Curriculum

In recent years we have struggled with the expensive, tedious, and time consuming task of preparing the CLS curriculum for publication. Volunteers and modestly paid individuals have persisted in the enormous task of editing the 27 book series. With the cost of publishing approaching \$30,000.00, we invite your continued help and support as part of our resources must pay for support services--editing and layout, before the material goes to the publisher. Request for the CLS curriculum from Australia, Africa, South America and various parts of the US have made it necessary to get the materials professionally published.

Moving Forward through Prayer

We praise God for the progress we have made over the years.

Please pray for our ongoing fundraising efforts and the resources needed to complete the curriculum publishing project in a timely manner.

Please pray for the St. James Bible Camp that it will be a great blessing in the lives of many children, youth and families; that seed will be sown in many hearts with a hunger for God and a commitment to serve and please Him!



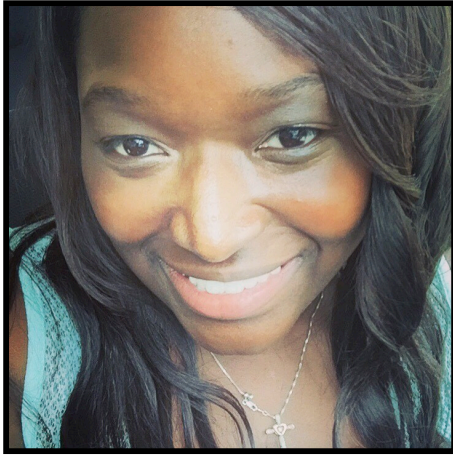
Youth need multiple opportunities to connect with each other in order to explore human relationships safely.



All engaged in meaningful conversation leading to a deeper walk with God.

Personal Testimonials

Alexis Spencer



1. What was your mindset and attitude before going through Christian Life Skills?

At that time of my life I was very involved in my church. I was a leader on the youth team. I was excited and on fire for God.

2. How did your mindset and attitude change as a direct result of Christian Life Skills?

As a direct result of Christian life skill I believe that I became a more focused and directed follower of God. I learned how to set boundaries and to better care for myself and my own relationship with God.

3. Have you made a definite decision to live for Christ and serve Him in every aspect of your life?

Yes indeed. I won't see another day without Him no matter the trial.

4. What specific lessons did you learn in Christian Life Skills that have helped you in specific ways in your life?

I believe that all the skills and tools I learned in CLS are utilized every day in my life. One specific lesson I feel that has stuck with me would be the self-care and time management component. I believe that I'm able to be more effective in the tasks and assignments I take on because of this skill. I'm able to say "no" when needed to allow myself to be the best at the tasks I have in hand and lead more effectively

5. Tell us a little about your hobbies, career, and education

During this phase of my life I have the pleasure to work and build in the field of physical therapy. I am a licensed Physical Therapist Assistant with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science. I received my degrees from CCAC and Chatham University. I enjoy outdoor activities, good food, and fellowship with people. This would explain my passion for the youth where I am a leader on the CLS team at my church. While I am in many things at my church, like the usher board, fellowship ministry, and our women's group, SHOUT, my main hobby is investing in the lives of others and sharing the love as God did.

Aimee Thompson

Youth group was my outlet. It was my escape from my home life. So whenever the church had something for folks my age to do I was there. When my mentors first mentioned that they had a new class for us the first thing I did was ask my friends to see if they were going. I thought this would be another class on a different day, not thinking I would walk away almost 10+years later still using the valuable information that I was given back then.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

This scripture has always and forever will be my rock and foundation. It keeps me grounded and if it wasn't for CLS I wouldn't have the foundation I have now.❖



Personal Testimonials (cont'd)

Vanae Hicks



Before participating in Christian Life Skills, I had a distrust of adults. I believed this stemmed from my parent's divorce and poor guidance and support from teachers.

Joining Christian Life Skills created some consistency in my life which helped me build bonds with others. I truly didn't appreciate all that I learned until years later when I was able to reflect on how much I've grown spiritually. I made a commitment to live for Christ.

I am still a work in progress but I have a solid spiritual foundation that Christian Life Skills instilled in me. I am privileged to possess the knowledge I've gained to assist me daily. One of the lessons that stood out to me the most was how to set goals and achieve dreams. I learned to include and trust God in my decision making and that setting goals requires faith.

I am now a lead teacher at Carlow University's Early Learning Center and I just received a Master's in Early Childhood Education. Overall, Christian Life Skills awarded me aspirations to work hard and the confidence to do better in all areas of my life. I am thankful that I participated in this program.

Photo Gallery



Current enrollees in Christian Life Skills at Union Baptist Church



Good clean fun for youth at CLS outing



Exercise to keep the body fit. CLS teaches wholeness in living for Christ.

You Are Invited to St. James Bible Camp!

Location: 11524 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, 15235 (Opposite McDonald's)

*In partnership with Christian Life
Skills, Inc.*

*August 21 – 25, 2017 8:30 a.m.
– 5:30 p.m.*

God's Word – My Guide!



Campers: Ages 4 - 14 Welcome!
Campers Ages 14-18 Welcome for Leadership Training!

***Bible Study, Music, Christian Step & Dance, Drama, Spoken Word,
Rap, Poetry, Writing for Camp Newspaper, Arts & Crafts, Games &
Sports, Educational Activities, Mentoring, Water Play!***

If you are interested, please contact us!

Campers ages 4-14: 1 child \$35.00 per week, 2nd child \$30.00, 3rd child \$25.00

**Campers ages 14-18: Free of charge if wanting Enrollment in the Leadership Training
Activities and Community Service Certificate Program.**

Scholarships/discounts available if needed.

**Deadline for enrolling is July 31, 2017. Enrollment fee must be paid by the deadline.
Checks are to be made payable to: Christian Life Skills, Inc. Learn more about
Christian Life Skills, Inc. at www.christianlifeskills.com. Take the winding road to St.
James Church, 11524 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, PA 15235, on the opposite side
from McDonald's. See the cross on the hillside; then travel up the winding hill to the
church and its wonderful 10 acre campsite.**

See Reverse Side for Details

Complete this section if you are enrolling in St. James Bible Camp.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **zip** _____

Age _____ **Grade in school in fall** _____ **Birthdate** _____

School you attend _____

Phone: _____ **Email** _____

Parents' Names _____

Phone _____ **Phone** _____ **Work** _____

Emergency contact person: _____

Phone _____ **Phone** _____ **Work** _____

Allergies and other medical Precautions: _____

Health insurance in case of emergency: _____

Insurance #: _____

Tell us what activities you would like to do to at camp (4) Music ____ (5) Arts & Crafts ____
(6) Rap ____ (7) Sports ____ (8) Games ____ (9) Spoken Word ____ (10) Poetry ____ (11) Drama ____
(12) Educational Activities ____ (13) Being a Helper ____ (14) Learning to be a leader ____

Enrollment fee is due at the time you enroll your student – on or before July 31st, 2017, with check made payable to Christian Life Skills, Inc. No Fee for 14 – 18 if enrolled in The Leadership Training and Community Service Certificate Program.

St. James Bible Camp is an “electronics free zone.” Phones and all other electronics may only be used in emergencies or as part of the Bible Camp curriculum. Please leave such items at home. If brought to camp, they will be locked in the camp office until the end of the day. Parents needing to speak to a camper may call the camp office at: 412-242-2300. Our policy is: Be kind, be safe, help others, keep things neat, clean & healthy. Amount of Camp fee enclosed: _____

Please sign below: I have read and accept the camp policy and rules. I understand that not respecting camp policy & rules could result in not remaining in camp:

Parent: _____

Camper: _____

You may bring your completed registration to St. James Church any Sunday between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or, you may mail it to: Christian Life Skills, Inc. Post Office Box 8146, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. For more information contact: Barbara W. Rogers, 412-889-4065 or clsmp86@gmail.com.

Please Join the St. James Bible Camp

Team!

Location: 11524 Frankstown Road, Penn Hills, 15235-(Opposite McDonald's)

*In partnership with Christian Life
Skills, Inc.*

August 21 – 25, 2017 8:30 a.m.

– 5:30 p.m.

God's Word – My Guide!

Bible Study, Music, Christian Step & Dance, Drama, Spoken Word, Rap, Poetry, Writing for Camp Newspaper, Arts & Crafts, Games & Sports, Educational Activities, Mentoring, Water Play!

If you are interested in helping and have your clearances or are willing to get your clearances, please contact us!

Name: _____

Address: _____ zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Please tell us what you would like to do to help our camp: (1) help with activities ____ (2) help prepare and serve food ____ (3) teach Bible classes, age ____ (4) music ____ (5) Arts & Crafts ____ (6) Rap ____ (7) Sports ____ (8) Games ____ (9) Spoken Word ____ (10) Poetry ____ (11) Drama ____, (12) Educational Activities ____ (13) Cleanup & Organization ____ (14) Where needed _____

*Adults/Counselors may donate 1 or more hours daily __, half days __ full days __, or full week __

*Your role: _____

For more information or to return this paper, please contact: Barbara W. Rogers, 412-244-0912, 412-889-4065, or rogersbw3@gmail.com. Or, mail to St. James Episcopal Church, 11524 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

Please see reverse side for more details.

Please note the following:

1. Planning sessions and preparation for the St. James Bible Camp will be ongoing. Phone meetings periodic meetings at the church will be utilized to clarify roles, responsibilities, and provide updates and progress reports on our respective tasks. As a team this is important so that we remain current with each other.
2. An immediate task is to locate more team helpers. Please contact me or have people contact me if they are interested in helping. All adults will be volunteers. Senior counselors, ages 16 – 21 may be eligible for a very modest honorarium and a Certificate of Appreciation. Junior Counselors, ages 14 – 18 will attend camp free of charge and will receive a Certificate of Appreciation for Community Service. Counselors-in-Training, ages 14 – 18, will receive Leadership Training Certificates and community for helping the younger children.
3. Adults with clearances are needed. Those who do not have them will be assisted in acquiring them.
4. Help with accessing government or donated food for breakfast, lunch, snack time
5. Identify adults who will give:

Planning and preparation time but cannot help during camp. _____

Willing to help with camp on a limited basis:

1 hour daily _____

2 hours daily _____

Half day morning : 8 – 1 _____

Half day afternoon : 1 – 6 _____

Half day midday : 10:30 – 3:30 _____

Full time, all day : 8:30 – 5:30 _____

All Day, All Week – 5 days, 8:30 – 5:30 _____

Name: _____

Address _____ zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Best time to call _____

Are you a Christian? _____ Have you asked Jesus to come into your heart? _____

