

Transit 2012

I am beginning a new ministry within our Student Ministry at Westhill which I am so excited about. Over the past several years I have been really thinking of ways we can help kids remain connected to the church following High School. The national average tells us between 60 and 70 % of church kids will walk away from their faith before they graduate from college. I believe there are several reasons this is happening. However, instead of just stating problems I want to talk about solutions. I want to help equip parents to better disciple their own children. I also want to help teenagers connect and develop relationships with other adults in the church, to encourage them and help them to bridge the gap from high school to college. This is where TRANSIT will come in. Transit will be focused around several key transitional times in the life of a teenager. First, the move from 5th to 6th grade. This is a huge jump in adolescences. The second big jump is from 8th to 9th grade with the transition from Jr High to High School. The next major transition is moving from Junior year into Senior Year. The final major transition comes as they make the jump from High School to college. Now, of course, there are other milestones that will occur along the way but I want to really focus on these four times.

My plan is to begin this new ministry this May with the students who are finishing 5th grade and moving into 6th grade. We are going to have a special weekend designed for parents and their students. We will spend time worshiping together as families; and praying over each other, helping to equip parents and students for this huge time of transition. The weekend will end for the new 6th graders with a Rite of Passage Ceremony. We will be asking each incoming 6th grader to invite 3 or 4 significant adults of their gender along, with their parents to join us for the ceremony. During this ceremony the adults which the student has invited will share some positive character attributes they see in the student and each adult will give the student a special charge. The ceremony will be built around 6 key topics, FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, PURITY, INTEGRITY & FAMILY. To close the ceremony I will give these adults a special charge to walk with these students through Jr. High and High School. The mentor's goal becomes helping in their transition into college and career and make sure they get connected to a church. My desire is this relationship is one that will last a lifetime.

So here is where you come in. I want to make this a very special weekend for these students and parents. I want to give the parents several resources for marriage and parenting. I want to provide the students with a few resources on their level as they begin this new phase of life as well as a nice certificate commemorating the ceremony and signed by the adults who are committing to walk with them. We are also going to provide 2 meals for these families, dinner on Friday night and Breakfast on Saturday morning. To do this effectively we need some money. This is an unbudgeted item and with budgets cut backs over the last couple years I do not really have an area to pull these funds from. My dream is to be able to do four of these weekends each year for the 4 transitional times I spoke of. For the first weekend the cost comes out to around \$40 per family for the books and resources, (approximately \$360 for the 9 families) and around \$350 for the weekend for all food. I am anticipating the cost for the weekend to be around \$700. Please consider partnering with us in this new ministry opportunity. If you might be interested in helping to fund these types of weekends or would like more information please come and talk to me, I would love to share more about the dreams I have for these weekends. Thank you!

Because of the Cross,



WESTHILL
Student Ministry

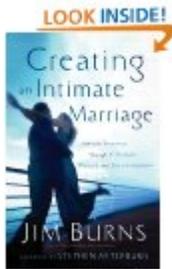
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Here is a list of the resources I would like to provide each family during our weekend together.



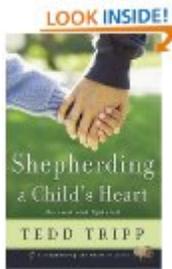
The Space Between: A Parent's Guide to Teenage Development (Youth Specialties)

by Walt Mueller (Paperback)



Creating an Intimate Marriage: Rekindle Romance Through Affection, Warmth and Encouragement

by Jim Burns (Paperback)



Shepherding a Child's Heart

by Tedd Tripp (Paperback)



Surviving Middle School



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