

Behind the Lines

The Ministry Update of Nate and Shelly Ardle

Allowing Leaders to Lead

Fall Highlights

- ◆ 4000 spiritual interest questionnaires filled out
- ◆ 200 students (mostly freshmen) at our first meeting
- ◆ 180 at our annual Barndance

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fall Retreat is Oct. 2-4. This is a very important weekend as students are challenged in their walk with God, form deeper relationships, and have a fun time away from campus.
- ◆ Faith Week, emphasizing evangelism on campus is Oct. 5-9.
- ◆ A large outreach about the reliability of the Bible on Thursday, Oct. 8

The fall has begun! 40,000 students have descended on Ann Arbor—turning a sleepy summer town into a bustling hive of activity.

As always, we jump right in, looking to meet new students and involve them in our ministry. From a large group meeting, to small group Bible studies, to tailgates and barn dances, we want to give students a place to be known by others and continue to pursue their relationship with God.

While we, as staff, are an important part of the ministry—mentoring students, training, giving direction, and doing numerous other critical activities—it is our student leaders who allow us to connect with hundreds of students across campus.

In the past we wanted each of our student leaders to do it all, from leading a Bible study, to sharing their faith, to organizing social events, to forming discipleship relationships with younger students. We began to realize that our leaders had neither the time or the necessary natural and spiritual gifts to do all of these things well.

This fall we began to implement the most radical change in our leadership structure since I came to Michigan ten years ago.

Specific Leadership Roles

1. Evangelism Coordinator
2. Bible Study Facilitator
3. Discipler
4. Community Facilitator
5. Administrator

While we want all of our students being involved in evangelism and discipleship in the broad sense, these specific roles will allow them to operate more often in areas in which God has gifted them.

Evangelism Coordinator

Organizes evangelistic efforts, motivates and trains others in evangelism, and focuses more time personally on evangelism

Bible Study Facilitator

Prepares for and leads the small group weekly Bible study in their ministry area

Discipler

Involved in spiritual/personal development and evangelism with 2-3 other students

Community Facilitator

Facilitates relational connection within the group

Administrator

Handles details and helps the other roles to accomplish their jobs

Please pray that God would use our leaders greatly in the lives of other students as they seek to minister to others in the ways God has gifted them.

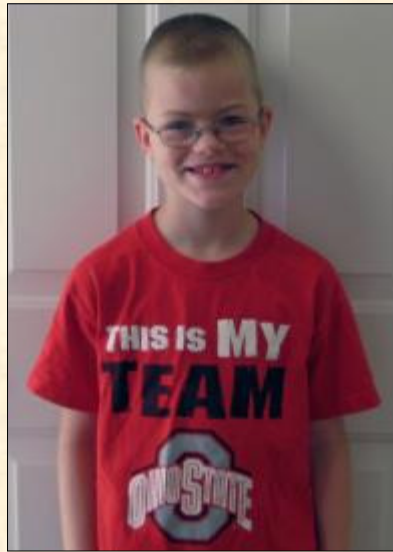


Our Barndance serves as a non-threatening event for students to be connected with us. Our hope is that they will then be more willing to go away with us for fall retreat which is much more important for their growth.

Kids' Column

I really like facts. And I have so many more that I will share with you after going to Washington, D.C. I got to read the maps for everyone. It is good to be in AWANA again. Since this is my second year in T&T I can tell Lauren all about what to expect. It is good to be back in the routine of school again. I just don't like the homework.

Andrew



I had a fun time with friends at my slumber party. Being 8 has been good so far. I got to meet my great-aunt's cat Smokey while we were in Washington, D.C. And Aunt Bonnie has a little spinning wheel that I really liked. We are studying the Roman Empire in school. But my favorite is the models of the body that we are making—the head and the mouth so far.

Lauren



Did you know that you have to do work in kindergarten? I sure didn't like that idea at first—why can't I just paint with water like Caleb? But math is actually kind of fun. I am learning my letters and numbers and have been learning about the sun and the moon. Sparks is fun—I got my vest last week. I know the award I want but Lauren said I don't get it until after 2nd grade. That is soooooo far away!

LINDSEY

My friend Michael and I get to play while our sisters are in school. Sometimes I help Lindsey with her school, but it is fun to play the computer by myself. And I am finally in Cubbies at church. After watching everyone else go last year it is finally my turn. It is fun and Cubbie Bear makes me laugh.

Caleb



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