

Youth Group

A generous and faith-filled team

The Youth Group was a huge help over the Christmas season. They did a wonderful job taking on responsibilities in the planning and execution of the **Annual Christmas Pageant** as well as serving over 200 at the Christmas Family Dinner! They are called upon on occasion to help with Congregational events including hosting the Christmas Family Reception and more recently helping with the setup of the Taste of the Nations.

They are great role models for our younger children and were very involved in guiding the younger members of the Church School in the Christmas Family Eve Service. They are involved on a regular basis in the Worship Service and often asked to usher as well as read the lesson.

Our Youth Group enjoyed a wonderful weekend in January at the **Annual Youth Retreat**. The theme this year was "Staying Grounded with God as Your Coach". Our guest speaker, Joe Smith, from Hockey Ministries did a great job and many of our young people felt they could relate to some of Joe's life experiences living as a Christian in a sports environment. He talked about the challenges in staying true to your faith in an often faithless world, and in his particular experience – the world of professional hockey.

Our Youth counsellors did a great job in leading discussions, singing, planning games and activities and making certain all the young people in attendance felt welcome and enjoyed themselves to the fullest. Due to poor snow conditions, we were unable to cross country ski, but did manage to walk along the snowshoe path to the Bois de Liesse Park Welcome Center to toast marshmallows over a fire pit and try their hand at ice carving. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were delighted that Glenn, Hannah and Rowan Chestnutt joined us and stayed for the day.

The Youth Group did an outstanding job fund raising for the "**Coldest Night Of The Year**" which took place on Saturday, February 25. It was rainy, windy and cold, but that did not dampen their spirits as they walked the 5 km in support of the St. James Center that tends to many of Montreal's homeless. Thanks to the generosity of our very caring and supportive Congregation, to date they have raised over \$3,800!!

Events coming up are the **Coffee House** which will take place in April as we team up with Mission and Outreach for a combined special evening.

The Youth Group will also once again be preparing and leading the **Easter Morning Sunrise** Service.

Congratulations to **Julia Rochford** and **Sophia Bucket** - debutantes at the St. Andrews Ball and Luca Cristofaro was a very dashing escort!!

We welcome all young people in Grades 6 through 11, who might like to join this energetic, friendly and fun group - please contact us at 450-689-4379 or email grammy.shani@sympatico.ca.

*Art and Sharon Dworzak,
Youth Group Leaders*



The Youth Group Retreat gave lots of opportunity for discussions.



The St. Andrew's Ball had two beautiful debutantes from our Youth Group!