

HAPPENING



“EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HAPPENING AND MORE!”

<http://www.edusc.org/youth-events/happening.html>

What Is Happening?

Happening is a weekend event for youth which focuses on encountering Christ within community and learning how to strengthen our relationship with Christ and each other. The weekend's structure is based on a National program with local flavor and traditions. Since each weekend is basically the same program, with variations due to the individuals who make up the staff, a youth only “makes” one Happening weekend, but can participate as a staff member at subsequent weekends.

How Are Decisions Made About The Happening Program?

The Happening Committee consists of youth and adults who have attended a Happening weekend. This committee meets before each weekend to select leadership for the next event and to evaluate the previous event. They also make policy decisions in conjunction with the Diocese of Upper SC Youth Programs, and set dates for subsequent meetings, weekends, reunions and staff training days.

Who Should Attend Happening?

You must be in grades 10-12 to attend. Presently we accept registrations for 30 candidates. *Happeners* must have the support of their clergy, a sponsor, and their parent(s) as part of the registration process. *Happeners* are also asked to sign and live by the Diocese of Upper SC Youth Community Covenant while at Happening.

What Information Can I Find On The Web Site?

- ✦ Applications for candidates and staff
- ✦ Lists of candidates and staff (about two weeks prior to each weekend)
- ✦ More detailed information about the program

When Should A Happening Application Be Submitted?

Any person interested in attending a Happening should submit a completed application as soon as deciding to attend. All applications, though, must be in by the registration deadline.

What Does A Sponsor Do For A Happening Candidate?

The sponsor helps to coordinate the entire process of their candidate's attendance at Happening. Sponsor responsibilities include: helping with the candidate's transportation arrangements to and from the Bishop Gravatt Center, communicating with the candidate's parents, priest, and other persons, significant to the candidate, about writing Caritas and their attendance at the Sending Forth liturgy on Sunday afternoon, attending the Sending Forth liturgy, writing Caritas for all the *Happeners*, and continual prayers for the *Happeners* and staff. Sponsorship of a candidate is not just a signature on a line, but a serious commitment. Sponsorship begins long before the actual Happening weekend and continues after the weekend is over. The sponsor is pledging to support the spiritual growth of their candidate. The sponsor promises to be there, to answer questions, to search for answers, and to listen.

Is There Scholarship Money Available?

Yes, there is a Happening scholarship fund. We ask that you first attempt to get funding through your family and/or local church. Your priest is the best place to start when seeking local funding. Once you have exhausted these sources and you still need money to meet the registration cost, contact the Canon for Christian Formation to arrange for scholarship assistance. As with all youth events in the diocese the basic policy for scholarship assistance is that the person or their family contributes 1/3, their congregation contributes 1/3, and the diocese also 1/3. Other arrangements are possible as no person should be kept from attending youth programs due to financial difficulties.

How Is The Staff Chosen?

When the time comes to choose staff for an upcoming Happening, the applications that have been received by the deadline are given to the Youth Rector for that weekend. The Youth Rector meets with their Big Brother/Sister and reviews staff applications. They then contact prospective staff members. Staff members are chosen based on their participation in local church activities and youth programs, gifts and abilities, and the needs of the weekend. There are two (2) staff meetings prior to the Happening event and staff members must attend both to remain on staff. Staff members chosen must complete the online Happening Registration Form and make full payment within one week after being chosen. Scholarship funds are also available for staff members.

What Is GIC?

GIC stands for Growing in Christ and is a special part of the staff for the Happening weekend. Their support and servant ministry are vital to the weekend. Members of GIC include the Past Youth Rector and Past Big Brother/Sister as leadership and those selected to serve on this team. These persons must attend the two (2) staff meetings to remain on GIC and must be present at the Bishop Gravatt Center from mid-day on Saturday through the Sending Forth liturgy on Sunday. They provide prayer support, set up and clean up roles, and do some intense work on continuing their journey of faith through Bible study and discussions. They are unknown to the candidates until greeting them on Sunday morning.

What Is Caritas?

Caritas is the support of the whole Happening community in our area and around the world in prayer and sacrifice to be used by God to "move" the candidates from where they are to where God wants them to be. It is what each *Happener* takes on as his extra commitment to the candidates on a weekend in remembering them by name in daily prayers, by extra attendance at worship services at which time the candidates are offered up in prayer, by sacrifices done with the candidates in mind such as fasting for certain periods of time, by giving up certain habits, or by taking on extra disciplines (Bible reading, study, devotional, prayer, etc.). **Special gifts are not part of the definition of Caritas.** Personal notes which tell the candidates of the prayer and sacrifice of the Happening community are encouraged. Sometimes a small gift is slipped into the envelope with the note. Any gifts for the candidate which would not easily fit into a letter-size envelope should be given to the candidates after the Sending Forth service on Sunday evening.

What Is a Happening Reunion?

Happening Reunions are one-day events, which occur after each Happening. At the Reunion, *Happeners* gather to renew friendships, to sing, to make Caritas bags and placemats for the next Happening, to eat, and to share in the Holy Eucharist. You will be notified of Happening Reunions dates and locations.

What If I Move Or Change My E-Mail Address?

Please send all changes regarding your contact information to Happening, 1115 Marion Street, Columbia SC 29201 or jhartley@edusc.org .

For further questions or information, please contact:

The Rev. Jimmy Hartley
Canon for Christian Formation, Congregational Vitality
and Missional Communities
1115 Marion Street
Columbia, SC 29201
803-771-7800, X104
jhartley@edusc.org