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Thank you all for your patience as we envisioned a new kind of Youth Ministry at St. Paul's! After prayerful discernment and conversations with multiple advisors, we will be changing the structure of youth group from twice-monthly meetings to small-group projects. My job is to foster a love of God that will carry youth through life's stages. This means that I will be taking time to get to know the youth and plugging them into projects and groups that will be of interest to them, sparking creativity and spirituality. Sometimes these projects will be facilitated by me, sometimes they will be facilitated by others. The individual or group will work to accomplish their project at a time and place that is convenient to those involved. Projects may include activities such as re-designing the Christmas camel, creating a youth Instagram account, preparing for college/life after high school, establishing a praise band, etc. While I have many ideas for project topics, what really matters is what your youth find interesting.

In addition to these project groups, there will be occasional large group activities or all-church events for fun and social time. These will always be announced at least one month in advance and are open to all youth and friends of youth!

Youth Ministry doesn't just happen; youth don't come to church on their own*, so I'm asking for your support as their parents and trusted advisors. The value they place in their faith will most likely mirror your own. I'm well aware of the crazy schedules youth (and you) have to maintain and I know church can feel like just another activity on the calendar, but the habits formed here will define their faith for years after and faith changes the way we interact with the world around us, for the better.

I invite any families or youth to find me on a Sunday morning to talk about spirituality, project ideas, or just to get to know each other better. I also encourage anyone who uses Facebook to join our Youth Ministry group (www.facebook.com/groups/SPUMCYOUTH), which is linked to the St. Paul's Facebook page. In this group, I'll post reminders for youth activities and other interesting or funny topics relevant to youth and/or Christianity.

Blessings,

Alexa Allmann
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*I was an exception to this statement, having only really attended church starting in high school when I was able to drive myself, since my family is not religious. I'd be happy to share my experience with anyone, if curious.