Teri Chalker

Confirmation

let’s shake things up!

Teri.chalker@cor.org  913-544-0287
www.cor.org/confirmation
Who I am?

Why I do what I do?

What about you?

Teri.chalker@cor.org  913-544-0287
www.cor.org/confirmation
Mission of Ministry Shift
What is your Mission?

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’” Jeremiah 29:11
The Basics:

• Sundays: Sept. 27\textsuperscript{th}-Feb. 28\textsuperscript{th}- 12 class sessions, 4 experience weeks
• 8th-12th grades
• Registration
• Fees & Scholarships
• Small groups have 2-3 lay leader mentors and junior mentors
• Socials- small and large group
• Mission
Format

- 10:30-11:00—Large Group time - Message
  Speakers found at: Vimeo.com/album/2411480
- 11:05-12:00—Small Group time
- 12:00-12:15-- Worship

Teri.chalker@cor.org  913-544-0287
www.cor.org/confirmation
Requirements:

- Acolyte or usher 4 services
- Can not miss more than 4
- Attendance at kick-off, retreat and ceremony is mandatory
- One church activity
- Mission

Teri.chalker@cor.org  913-544-0287
www.cor.org/confirmation
Curriculum - How and Why

- Where does it come from?
- Use of video and hands on activities
- Compass points
- Student AND parent homework

Teri.chalker@cor.org  913-544-0287
www.cor.org/confirmation
Weekly Schedule

- Student Parent kick off
- God and the Old Testament
- Who is Jesus?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Exp. Week: Attend church together
- Sin and Salvation
- What is a Christian?
- What is a United Methodist?
- Exp. Week: visit another UM Church
- Christmas Lesson/Party
- The Bible
- Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines
- What does it mean to serve?
- Exp. Week: Q and A with Pastor Adam
- Sharing my Faith with others
- What does God expect of me? Week 8
- Exp. Week: Prayer walk/Game show week
- Retreat and Ceremony
Change is the only constant

- 7th to 8th grade
- 2 half time sessions to now one session
- Culture of change takes time
- To change you need:
  - Research/data support
  - Personal stories
  - Someone in your corner
  - PRAYER and TRUST
Shake things up! Let’s focus!

- Focus on Mission
- Focus on Family involvement
- Focus on Connection after
Shake things up 1: Mission

- Lesson on Mission followed by serving
- Serve at least once as a small group
- Weekly offering
  - Adopting an agency
  - Make it fun!
- Invite the parents
Shake things up 2:

Partnering with families
Let’s think about....

- Parents know their children/youth better than we do.
- Parents have more “teachable moments” with their children/youth than we do.
- Formation is more than education – it is the learning and experience of faith in and through the folds and creases of everyday life.
- The course of daily life is the primary classroom for faith exploration, testing and practice.
‘If we truly desire to be more effective in seeing the lives of our students transformed into the likeness of Christ, the greatest resource we have is the greatest influence in their lives – their parents. We should never underestimate the power of parents in the spiritual formation of their children. If spiritual formation is the key – and we believe it is – parents are too valuable to leave out of the equation.

- Jim Burns & Mike DeVries (authors of Partnering with Parents in Youth Ministry)
‘Nothing has more power to influence a teenager’s life – for good or ill – than home and family. Every youth ministry hour spent equipping parents to nurture faith in their teenagers is like giving money to public television: Your gift is almost always doubled by a matching grant. Parents will always out influence even a great youth leader.

Rick Lawrence (editor of Group mag for 26 years)
Rollie Martinson- ‘Presently, parents take their kids to church so the church can do the lion’s share of the faith teaching. We’ve got it backward. The kids should take their parents to church to be equipped to nurture faith and life skills in their children and return home ready to shape their kid’s faith.’

Rollie Martinson (faculty Luther Seminary Professor of Children and Family)
‘If parents aren’t integrated into kid’s faith development, it’s a miracle if their young people continue in the life of the church after confirmation.’

Ben Freudenburg – (author of family friendly church)
Involving families

- Student and family kick off mandatory
- Parent Guides
- Family homework
- Prayer cards
- Volunteer spots
- Mentoring
- Going on Mission
- Retreat night
- Parent Letter
Shake things up 3: It’s a Journey!

Weekly serving
Mentor connections
Small group ministry!
“I used to be afraid of failing at something that really mattered to me, but now I'm more afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter.”

— Bob Goff, Love Does: Discover a Secretly Incredible Life in an Ordinary World