

Back to school, leaves are changing, welcome to fall! Here's an update from us!

GRANT DODSON

Wow, September already! To be really honest with you, I'm glad that summer is over, and we're officially into the fall season! Don't get me wrong, summer was amazing! Whether it was the incredible week of camp that we had with 16 awesome youth up at Muskoka Woods, the great holidays I enjoyed with my family and friends, or the catching up I got to do with former students who were home from school for the summer, the reality is that summer was incredible! However, I have to be really honest with you, as awesome as all that stuff was, I'm genuinely pumped about this coming year!



Psalms 5:3 - Listen to my voice in the morning, LORD. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly.

I'm waiting expectantly for some pretty amazing things to happen this year, and I hope you are too! We have an amazing team in Stratford, and I'm so honored to be a part of it, and can't wait to see all the things God does through YFC/Youth Unlimited this year! I invite you to come alongside and partner with us – with your time, your finances, and your prayers!

SHANE WIEBE

New year, new hope, same great God. Summer was packed with opportunities to see God's grace at work: getting to pray with a student who had "never prayed before", taking a group of kids to Muskoka Woods to experience God in nature, leading music for a week at Muskoka Bible Centre with Angela, Josiah and Joelle, and even finishing up renovations to our beautiful office space (we've already had the joy of gathering in the new space to pray with Stratford's youth leaders, something the last office simply didn't have room for). Furthermore, the summer kicked off with a career highlight: in June I was credentialed at our National Conference in Quebec City! What a joy to 'cross the stage' with a dozen other YFC staff like me - committed to seeing every young person living fully in Christ. So as a new school year commences, and a massive amalgamation brings new complexities to high school life in Stratford, there's gratitude in my heart and a spring in my step: once more we have open doors to go in and work with students one-on-one, run lunch time programs, and serve teachers and administrators. Praise God!



SUZI HIGGINS

Reflecting on the Summer Months - Matthew 11:28

As sad as it is to say goodbye to summer, I'm very excited for the autumn months ahead. Now that school is back we will have the opportunity to reconnect with students we haven't seen since June and continue to build relationships.



I do love summer though and not just because it is beach weather! We at YFC continue working through the summer despite the fact that school is not in session. The summer months for us are slower and the days tend to bring about a more relaxed schedule for us.

This is good! Admittedly by the time school is out I am tired! The school season is full of long days, overnight camps and retreats, and just the busyness of our programming. During the summer months we get to press the rest button. We spend time evaluating the past year, planning for the new year and reconnecting with past students who are home from school, among other things. The pace is more relaxed. Jesus' words in Matthew 11 remind me to lean in and enjoy the 'rest' or change of pace. And I do...with Him!

KATE HEYEN

This summer has been a really cool preview of what a joy it is to share the gospel with students! Isaiah 55:2-3,11 says; "Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." This passage has been near to my heart this summer for two reasons: we are able to share God's word with students knowing that it will accomplish His purpose in their lives; it also reminds me of the sustenance and rest that we find in listening to God's voice and word. Leading a camp this summer was an amazing opportunity to engage youth in God's word as well as dive in more myself, and I am looking forward to having more of these opportunities as God leads me through the support-raising process. Thank you for your prayers and support as I continue this journey in faith!



**BUY A CHRISTMAS TURKEY,
SUPPORT A GREAT
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION!**

While it's still only early October, we all know that Christmas will be here before we know it! Plan ahead and order a Christmas turkey from YFC/ Youth Unlimited Stratford. Not only will you get a delicious turkey for you and your family, but you'll also get a tax receipt for \$75, and will be supporting a great local organization at the same time. Or, you can donate your turkey to a local family in need, and you would receive a tax receipt for the full \$100.

To order yours, fill out and mail in the enclosed turkey order form/ donation slip. Orders must be placed by Sunday December 8th, and turkeys will be delivered with a smile on Monday December 16th!



**MARCH BREAK FLORIDA TRIP
MARCH 14-21, 2020**

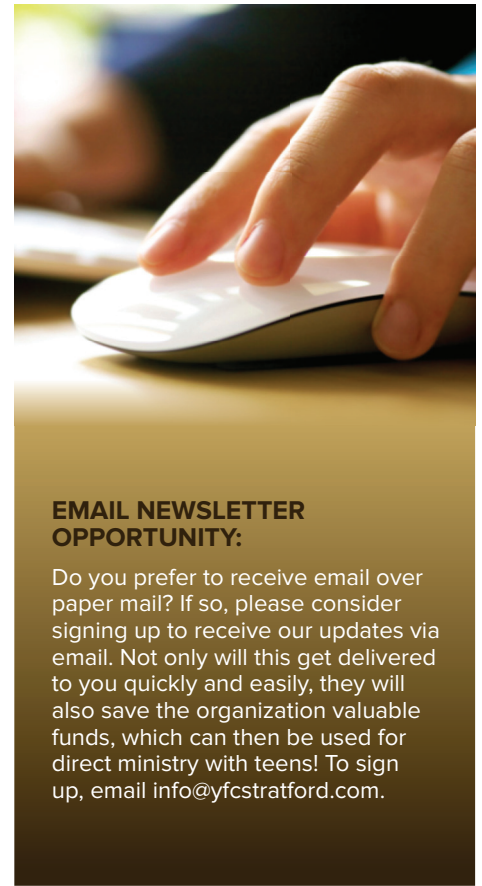
It's only fall, but we all know winter is coming, so why not start planning for March Break! Open to all students in grades 9 and higher, this weeklong trip to Florida is the perfect option for the youth in your life, and would make for a fantastic Christmas gift! For more information, call (519-272-1614) or email (info@yfcstratford.com) our office.

**FUNDRAISING
SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Monday October 21st, 5:30 & 7:00 Seatings, Madelyn's Diner

Tickets only \$15/adults, \$5/kids (12 & under), \$35 for a family of 2 adults & 2 kids.

If you'd like to support the event, but can't make it, please consider making a \$35 donation towards the event. You will receive a full tax receipt, and your donation will purchase tickets for a family of four from Stratford. For tickets or more information, contact the YFC office (info@yfcstratford.com, 519-272-1614) or visit www.yfcstratford.com/events/spaghetti-dinner to order your tickets or make a donation online.



**EMAIL NEWSLETTER
OPPORTUNITY:**

Do you prefer to receive email over paper mail? If so, please consider signing up to receive our updates via email. Not only will this get delivered to you quickly and easily, they will also save the organization valuable funds, which can then be used for direct ministry with teens! To sign up, email info@yfcstratford.com.



STRATFORD



GET CONNECTED



142 Ontario St. Stratford, ON N5A 3H2 • 519.272.1614, info@yfcstratford.com

www.yfcstratford.com  YFC/Youth Unlimited Stratford  @yfcstratford