

**Midway Heights Baptist Church Youth – Year in Review 2019**  
**Columbia, Missouri**  
**Boone County**

A year of learning, growth and memories is how 2019 could be described for the Midway Heights Baptist Church youth group. It was the first full-year that Pastor Nick was the youth pastor which meant several changes and new activities. The youth group moved into a new youthroom, attended two conferences, sent four students to church camp, baptized three students and had two commit their lives to follow Jesus. It was a year of growth in many different areas.

In January, MHBC youth kicked off the year with a brand-new Sunday morning Bible Study. The youth solidified their new meeting style, with all students together on Sunday mornings. The Bible Study was focused around a central theme of living a life for Jesus. January also included a service project where we painted our youth room and a game night for the students. Overall, the month was a lot of fun and helped launch a great year.

As the move was made in February, one of the biggest events of the year was coming up. Our annual Disciple Now with churches from Hallsville, Moberly, Salisbury and Centralia occurred in Moberly. While we were snowed out Friday night, February 15<sup>th</sup>, we were able to get together on Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> for an all-day session. We had 12 students join us with two guests who would eventually become consistent members our student ministry. Lots of good questions were asked and Pastor Nick tore up some of the student in basketball. We listened to Matt Mars from Kansas City speak and saw comedian Paul May perform. Sunday Mornings and Wednesday resumed as normal and we made continued process on our new youth space. The youth leaders met and began laying down carpet which would take a couple nights of work.

March was another great month for our youth as we took four junior students to Kansas City for the middle-school only, Believe conference. We stayed with Grace Community Church

in Smithville, Missouri and joined them for the duration of the conference. We learned what it meant to have our identity rooted in Jesus and learned exactly who we were in Christ. Progress continued on the youth space and we had a first Friday event that took place at SkyZone with over 23 students showing up.

April was the month that we finally moved into our new youth space with a game night celebration. The youth space was utilized quickly and there were a lot of fun things to do. We had a great Easter celebration at our church and were able to baptize one of our students who had committed her life to Jesus the previous year, it was a really exciting time.

May brought a month to celebrate the last few weeks of school! We hosted a freedom Friday at Midway golf and games. Our students raced go-karts, played mini-golf, spent time together and enjoyed the evening. It was a fantastic way to celebrate school being out. We had about 15 students join us for the evening of fun. We also geared up for Super Summer for the first time which would happen in June.

June was the last month we would meet for the summer, we would move to a summer schedule that would focus on more fun events on Wednesday night and meeting a little bit less. Summer is a busy time for students and we wanted to make sure they knew that we understand what life can bring. In June, we went to Super Summer. We took four students, two girls and two boys. At camp, they all participated in the activities, games and fun and we even had one student give their life to Jesus. This was an exciting moment for us and we were so glad that camp was a fun week. When we came back from camp, we hosted a worship night with members from the Salt Company, a local college ministry. The worship night was well attended and we were thankful for the support of the local ministry to come help us out.

July was a month of growth as well. We hosted a soap hockey tournament with three local churches and they had a great time. We had about 50 students playing on three “rinks” but they were actually tarps. As we continued on in the month, we hosted another worship night which was led by a local worship leader and the speaker was one of my closest friends, Garrett Greenfield. They did a great job even though they spoke to a small crowd. The final thing we did in July was our Columbia scavenger hunt. Our students went all over Columbia and had to take a selfie at various places. They had ten clues and one hour to complete the challenge. The final stop was Dunkin Donuts and every one who participated was bought a sonic shake at the end of the evening. It was a hit, we had four cars with three students each participating.

August wrapped up our summer with a game night and a night of prayer. The entire church participated in the night of prayer by going to all the schools that our students go to and prayed for them and their school year. The third week of August was the week that we resumed our normal Wednesday night Bible Study and we had about seven students.

We moved to our fall schedule in September and continued our lesson plans. September was when we hosted a back-to-school bash with a oversized slip and slide for our students. It was our only event in September as we had already done a lot and had a few more events planned during the year. However, September was the month when we baptized two of our students who joined us at camp and were ready to be baptized.

October was the last month where we had full participating from our students as we had four high-school girls join us for a conference in Kansas City. We had a great time at the conference, learning more about staying focused on Jesus and eating some great food. The rest of October we just continued our normal programming and this continued through November.

We had one final big event in December to celebrate Christmas together. We hosted a progressive dinner, with stops at four church member houses to eat more than our stomachs could handle. We had it all, appetizers, entrée desserts and popcorn. We watched the movie elf and made great memories to end the year.

Looking back, Midway Heights Baptist Church had a great 2019. There were many moments of fun and growth. We shifted our focus in 2020 from event-driven to service and discipleship. This was a need to root our students in their faith and to teach our students to serve others.







