



# Ripple Newsletter

Ripple: An Ecumenical Youth Ministry Cooperative In Chittenden County

## The Cutting Edge of Youth Ministry

Ever discover a band or a show before they make it big? Bragging rights include being able to say, "Hey, man, I was listening to them before they were picked up by the big label!" Last year Glee surprised everyone, including the creators, and had some eye-popping ratings! Well, season one of Ripple also had fabulous ratings and we have quite the local following! But don't worry, we haven't sold out to the big time yet so you still have time to earn those bragging rights! ;-)

Consider this, last year this time Ripple was still just an idea and now we are a community that loves, laughs, serves, and learns together.

Ripple is a youth ministry that bring together 6th - 12th graders from several different congregations in the Burlington area so that we can create a vibrant and sustainable ministry by pooling our resources. This is the first youth ministry cooperative in existence and like other co-ops, the yield benefits all of the members. We keep our kids connected to their

home congregations and give them the tools that they need to navigate the critical part of their faith journey that takes them from childhood's literal faith to abstract discerning adult faith. We offer parents a place to come together to talk about the perils of raising teens in a crazy world. And churches have the next generation of their leaders trained and motivated to keep the mission of spreading God's love and peace alive.

This fall we will continue to empower our young people to create peace within themselves, their families, their other relationships, their communities, and the world.

Join us for the journey. This is the cutting edge of youth ministry and it dates back to the first youth pastor who inspired his disciples to follow him into new and exciting ways of living in the world. What are you waiting for? Jump in! The living water's great! Make it Ripple!

Peace,

*Rachel Stampul*

## Kick-Off Night is September 7th!

What is Ripple all about? Come tonight to find out, make some new friends, and start making it ripple! We never quite know how one small action, inspired by love to bring about peace, might ripple out and change the world! How are you making peaceful actions happen in the world today? Learn and experience ways to create peace within yourself, your families, your other relationships

(like friends and significant others), your communities, and your world! Youth group is about changing the world and you can make it happen!

**Games, activities, and ice cream sundaes** are the name of the game this week! Come and join the fun and find out why you should come to Ripple all season long!!

Fall Edition

Sept. - Dec. 2010



Making it Ripple all fall!

### Special points of interest:

- Find out who are Peer Ministers are this year and what they have to say about our upcoming youth group meetings! Profiles inside!
- Ripple Fall Retreat on October 1st -2nd! Games! Service! Friends! Fun!
- A whole season of Ripple youth group covering topics from building self-confidence to world homelessness!

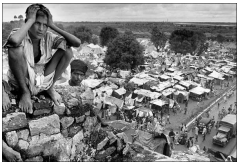
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## Youth Group September 21st World Homelessness: Think Globally, Act Globally, too.

What do you know about world homelessness? I care about homelessness



because I see a lot of related things to it on the news. I see it in my own backyard and I

**Think outside the cardboard box. Save Sunday 10/10/10 to remember and do something with your church about world homelessness!**

also see the people who cause it or just let it happen like it is nothing. I write songs and a lot of them are about things like that in life. We might have a guest speaker come in this week to talk with us about homelessness around the world. Why is this an issue and how can we help?

- Noah Smith, 16

*My name is Noah. I am 16 and a Junior at CVU. I am from Shelburne United Methodist Church. I enjoy playing music, listening to music, writing music, and pretty much anything else that has to do with music. I also believe in God and enjoy doing what I think he wants me to do in this life.*

## Youth Group October 5th Supporting Our Deployed Troops: Helping Create Peace Despite War

What is one of the main goals of troops in a war? It is to ensure peace in a dangerous place. They do this through a lot of means which aren't so peaceful, but they also do it through small and large actions of peace. Giving a small child in a warring area a ball, holding conversations with civilians in the area. These are both ways of peaceful encounter. A lot of hostile things happen in wars, but also, a lot of unknown peaceful actions go unsaid and unshared. If these peaceful moments were to be shared, a lot of new opinions would be shed upon wars and more troops would be inspired to make a peaceful transition with civilians

and the law enforcement of the warring country. This could possibly lead to treaties, alliances, and friendships; all of which are beneficial at a time of war. What if wars could be ended sooner if we supported our troops' peaceful efforts and taught them to love peace before they ever head off to war?

- Dylan Austin, 16

*My name is Dylan. I'm a Junior at Burlington High School and I attend Ascension Lutheran Church. I'm a future Marine and later on in life I'm going to be an elementary school teacher. I like to play ultimate and football. Reading is one of*

*my favorite things to do. My favorite series is the Eragon epic and I also like The Looking Glass War series.*

**What is one of the main goals of troops in a war? It is to ensure peace in a dangerous place...**

**What if wars could be ended sooner if we supported our troops' peaceful efforts and taught them to love peace before they ever head off to war?**

## Ripple Fall Retreat October 1st - 2nd

Join your Ripple friends for an overnight with a purpose! We'll play games, get to know one another, and complete a service project along the way! 6th - 12th graders invited! Location still to be confirmed (but it will be held at one of our participating Ripple churches!)

Come out for an evening of Ripple style fun and join us in the morning for some hands on good work!

Sign up for the Ripple Fall Retreat soon! Download a registration form or get one at youth group and bring that and a \$30 registration fee with you to Ripple or mail it in to:

Ripple  
95 Allen Road  
S. Burlington, VT 05403

Register by September 21st!  
Space is limited!

Ripple Retreat



*I'm name Alyssa Zajan. I am a sophomore at BHS and I go to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Colchester. I'm a member of the BHS drama club and of the Vermont Youth Orchestra chorus. My hobbies include dancing, singing, and acting.*

Alyssa will be the Peer Minister in charge of the Ripple Fall Retreat!





## Youth Group October 19th Self-confidence: Making and Taking off Masks

Masks. No, not the things you wear on Halloween held on with a cheap rubber band. The ones that cover who you really are: like the quiet mask, the angry mask, and they annoying little twerp mask. Taking off these masks helps us get to know each other better and helps us build our own self-confidence. So join us for an evening of making and taking

off masks... and CAKE!

- Philip Holt, 13

*My name is **Philip**. I'm in 8th grade, go to FHTMS in South Burlington, and am a member of Faith United Methodist Church. That's where the classifications end. I enjoy summer biathlons, skiing, video games, lacrosse, target shooting,*

*sledding, model rocketry, writing, reading, and Monty Python. You can't put me in a box. As a matter of fact I would get out and stand on the box!*



**What masks are you wearing? Are they scary or sweet? And are you afraid to take them off?**

## Youth Group November 2nd Water: A World Justice Problem

Do you sometimes resent yourself for taking long showers? I bet you don't even think about it very often. Most people don't realize that water is just as large of a problem worldwide as home-

lessness and hunger are. Have you ever asked yourself how to help people who don't have access to clean drinking water? You can't hold a food drive and it's often not on a local scale. All over the world people are dying from a lack of clean water. Each day of thousands of children die from an illness caused by dirty or contaminated water. In Vermont we hardly think about leaving the water running while brushing our teeth, washing our cars, doing half loads of laundry, or standing an extra minute or two in the shower. Have you ever thought about what a difference that water would make to a community who

bathe, wash dishes and clothes, water livestock, and drink all in the same water source? Something has to be changed. What will you do to even out the flow?

- Sarah Sturm, 15

*I'm **Sarah**. I'm a sophomore at Essex High School and attend Ascension Lutheran Church. In my increasingly limited spare time I enjoy knitting, hanging out at the library, going to 4-H meetings, reading, tap dancing, and playing my oboe.*



But let justice roll down like waters... Amos 5:24

## Youth Group November 16th Dealing With Conflicting Values at Home

Do you have to deal with [challenges] at home? Do you not see eye to eye with your parents? Need some help making sense of your parent's craziness? Dealing with parents is tricky almost always and it takes work from both sides to achieve cohesion. Come out tonight to learn some ways to navigate value differences with your parents. You might not agree with them, but understanding where

they are coming from and helping them to understand your point of view may help create some peace at home.

- Isaac Spone, 16



Butting heads much?

*Hello, I'm **Isaac** and I will be telling you about myself. I'm 16 and I am a junior at Burlington High School. When I'm not doing homework or out at Ripple, I'm playing ultimate frisbee or Scholar's Bowl. On Sundays I attend Ascension Lutheran Church.*





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Ascension Lutheran Church  
95 Allen Road  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
Church Phone: 802-862-8866  
Rachel's Cell: 802-881-3768  
E-mail: RachelStampul@gmail.com  
Website: ripplevt.ning.com



## Making it Ripple on Tuesdays!

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:45  
Ripple Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:45  
Drop-in Parent Support/Discussion Group.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00  
Leadership Team Planning Meetings

5th Tuesdays (when they occur) will be special events like Pizza Putt or bowling or skiing or whatever!

**We're on the Web!**  
**ripplevt.ning.com**

## Youth Group December 7th How to Deal With Obnoxious People... Like Bullies

I doubt you can honestly say that you have never come across a bully or other obnoxious person. Maybe you have been bullied yourself or seen it done to a friend. What do you do in those situations? How do you handle the obnoxious people that come into your life? Join us as we talk about how to deal with obnoxious people—like bullies. Come away with tools you can use!

- Sarah Keizer, 26, adult volunteer

*My name is Sarah and I am an adult volunteer with Ripple. I am 26 and work in Special Ed at the Shelburne Community School. I attend a few churches but mainly Trinity Episcopal Church. I love reading, music and animals. Walking the dogs is one of my favorite things to do. I like to scrapbook. I love working with youth of all ages. Ripple is a big part of who I am.*

**"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me." ... yeah right.**

## Youth Group Christmas Party December 21st

Will it be an open mike with a Christmas theme? Will it be a dance? Will it be a secret santa gift grab? We don't know yet, but I can guarantee that, whatever it will be, it will be fun! Get jingling and come on out for the joy of the season Ripple style! Join us as we celebrate the birth of a revolutionary leader who got angry at the religious institution that he was brought up in and called them to make a change in the

world and themselves by loving the world. How will you make Jesus' message of love ripple out into the world this Christmas season?

- Rachel Stampul, 32

*My name is Rachel and I am the youth pastor of Ripple. I attend many churches in the area by nature of my job and I enjoy that immensely! I love to sing and play my guitar, read, bike, hike, lay in the sun, and*

*talk to people about deep thoughts and questions. My husband and I have two lovely daughters aged 6 and 8 and we love going on adventures together as a family. Everyday that I feel like I've helped create peace is a good one. Ripple isn't just what I do for work, it is my way of life! Make it Ripple!*



**Christmas Party!**