

The Youth Initiative at Broad Street Ministry

Broadening faith and service in Philadelphia.



It's Official!

A Word from Our New Coordinator



Hello, hello! Devin here, making my first appearance in the BSM Youth Initiative Newsletter! I arrived back in the states from Lusaka, Zambia one month ago, spent some blessed time with friends and family in Erie, PA and Wooster, OH, and

Spring 2015

Table of Contents

[Introducing Summer Staff 2015!](#)

[Announcing Fall 2015 Weekends](#)

[A New College Opportunity! It's Official!](#)

[A Successful Spring Already](#)

Quick Links

[Our Website](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Email Us](#)

Introducing Summer Staff 2015!

It is with joy that we announce our Youth Initiative 2015 Summer Staff! We had a large pool of applicants, and we are thrilled to welcome our bright and shining staffers. We will have two returning staff: Frances Greenlee (Summers '13, '14) heralding from UrbanPromise in Camden,



have now settled into my new home in Philly! I am beyond excited to be here.

Gracie graciously worked very hard to map out my first couple of weeks here, and I have officially transitioned into the role of Coordinator. Philadelphia misses Gracie's hard work and care already, but we wish her all the best in Nashville!

I've already had the pleasure of corresponding with some of our adult leaders who will be joining us this summer. I am thrilled to work with and to meet everyone, so please feel free to contact me if you have the slightest or largest question regarding the Youth Initiative and Alternative Breaks this summer or in the future!

Wishing you all the best (and warmth!) this spring!

Love and peace,

Devin Johns

A Successful Spring Already An Alternative Break and Weekend Recap

The Youth Initiative was proud to host 55 participants from the FISH youth group of State College Presbyterian Church in State College, PA for an Alternative Break this spring. With us for a week in March, this energetic and engaged group served throughout the city as well as here at Broad Street Ministry. In our evening program we focused on the gift and power of storytelling as a way to connect to each other. Using the story of Jesus



and the Samaritan woman at the well, we asked ourselves: What are the stories of Philadelphia? What are the stories of the people we meet? What does the biblical story share with us? What are our stories?

Thank you, FISH, for taking your Spring Break to come serve and be changed by Philly!

We were also excited to have Next Generation Disciples, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod of ELCA, and Newtown Presbyterian Church joining us for a quick weekend retreat April 24-25. We utilized our senses to embody God in the city and in our work, and accomplished a great deal in just a day and a half! It was such a joy to host all three groups.

To all our Spring 2015 participants - Thank you! You bring life, energy, and faith to us, and we cannot wait to see you all again!

NJ and Sarah Leser (Summer '14) fresh out of the University of Virginia. Joining Frances and Sarah will be Aubree Brown from Spelman College, Sarah Mohler from Eastern University, Chadwick Smith from the College of Wooster, and Peter Billings from Princeton Theological Seminary. Wishing these young and energetic adults the best as they complete their school years and projects, and anxiously awaiting their arrival in Philly on June 1. They will undergo two weeks of training and planning sessions to be beyond ready to welcome our first Youth Initiative participants on June 14!

Announcing Fall 2015 Weekends

The time has come for us to open registration for our Fall 2015 weekend dates. We will be hosting groups for the Friday overnight and evening worship, and a Saturday workday the following weekends:

- October 2-3
- October 23-24
- November 13-14
- December 4-5

Email Devin for more information and to register your group!

A New College Opportunity!

With past interest from college groups, we are trying something new! We are opening registration for a winter Alternative Break.

The dates are Sunday, January 10 - Thursday, January 14. This is a great

opportunity for college campus ministries and other college-aged groups to engage in theological reflection and urban poverty during their winter breaks! Email [Devin](#) for more information.

Please visit our website at <http://broadstreetministry.org/youth-initiative/>.
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