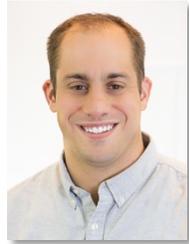




STUDENT MINISTRY REPORT

Brandon Sanford | Student Ministry Director

This year was very significant for the Student Ministry. Every week, we saw hundreds of students engage in our environments focused on evangelism and discipleship. It was even more encouraging to see the students have a passion and desire to grow in Christ and take on leadership roles, specifically with the High School Student Impact Team and our “high school intern” roles. We saw God bring over 100 new students to the ministry programming, and some of those students became influential leaders on a weekly basis.



In his first full year as Associate Director, Brian Rooney was the key leader for the middle school ministry. God has developed Brian’s skills and gifts as he continues to lead the volunteers and students.

Finally, Brandon partnered with Mark Woof at the Simsbury Campus to begin plans and programs for the students there. Volunteers Cody Varkal (Valley Bristol) and David Muench (Valley Simsbury) led the student groups regularly at those locations.

One area that stood out to us this year was how many young men in Student Ministry developed leadership skills. We saw many guys get baptized. One shared his story about how even though he had been attending events, he did not see the importance of knowing Jesus personally and obeying Him. At the High School Winter Retreat, God opened his eyes and he made a commitment to follow Jesus, and was baptized soon after the retreat. He is now leading his peers and is a crucial leader in high school.

Another example: One young man’s family recently began attending, but he was not excited about his parents’ commitment. Then, God softened his heart and he confessed his sins and sought Jesus. He got baptized, and his mother reflected about the transformation that God had done in his life. These are just a couple examples of how God is raising up young men and women who are passionate for Him and His Kingdom, and wanting to make a difference in the Hartford and Litchfield counties.

Looking forward, we are excited to see what God will do through new Valley Bristol Campus Pastor Andrew Southwick, as he partners with Cody and Brandon to serve students there. Also, we are looking forward to Valley Simsbury’s new office space – a location that will allow for more opportunities to reach students. In the coming year, we hope to bring better communication to parents and clarify the vision and values of Student Ministry so as we partner with parents in discipling their children.