

SRC STUDENT

NEWS

LETTING GO & TRUSTING GOD

A few weeks ago we surprised our Bahamas Mission Team with a trip to iFly Trapeze for some character-forming, faith-stretching, team-building fun. In our conversations afterward, we discussed how the trapeze was a great metaphor of life in Christ. Here are a few of the parallels we observed.

Mystery. Just like we did not know what we were doing until we arrived that Saturday morning, many times God doesn't tell us what's around the next corner in our journey with Him. If He did we most likely would not go and would miss out on so many of the adventures He leads us into.

Fear. When many of our team members first saw what we were going to be doing, their first reaction was, "No way. I'm not doing it." How many times do we round the bend on our journey with God and see the challenge in front of us and respond in fear?

Faith. Then the employees from iFly came around and put harnesses on everyone, and assured us that we could do it. They were seeking to infuse us with faith. When we are confronted with mystery and fear on our journey with Christ, we must remind ourselves that "nothing is impossible with God" (Luke 1:37) (Matthew 17:20), and that we "can do all things through Christ who gives us strength" (Philippians 4:13).

Listening & Obeying. Next we were given instructions and told that if we would follow the instructions carefully, doing what we were told, everything would be fine. In Luke 11:28, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Proverbs 4:20-22) We were also warned that if we didn't listen and obey, it could result in problems, even injuries. In Deuteronomy 28 God spells out the blessings for obeying the terms of His covenant in 14 verses. He then spends 54 verses spelling out the curses that could happen if they disobey. Our loving

Heavenly Father not only tells us the blessings we will experience when we choose to obey Him, He also loves us enough to warn us of the consequences of not obeying.

Challenge & Discomfort. Even after we understood what was before us, it was still scary the moment we had to climb the ladder and jump off the edge. God is less interested in our comfort and happiness than in our growth and maturity, so He often leads us to do things we don't want to do in order to stretch us.

Encouragement. When each one of us got to the ledge, there was a moment of fear and we were tempted to turn back. In that moment, what a blessing to hear the voices of our teammates shouting words of encouragement to us. In our journey with Christ, we need people who will encourage us and hold us accountable when we want to quit. We need people who will cheer for us to continue moving forward in God. (Hebrews 10:25)

Trust. In that moment of panic, we also heard the voices of the employees telling us to simply listen and obey and trust their experience and the equipment. God has given us His Holy Spirit to whisper into our hearts that we can trust the wisdom of God, and that He is present with us in this journey. (John 14 & 16)

Assurance. Finally, we were connected to safety lines, and even if the worst case scenario were to play out and we missed the bar or did not get our timing right for the catch, we knew that below us was a big safety net to catch us. God is sovereign, and even when we make mistakes, His grace and love are there to catch us when we fall. We know that we can learn from our mistakes and we can get up and go again. "And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purposes" (Romans 8:28).



Join Our Adult Leadership Team!
shelterrockchurch.com/students



Bahamas 2014
Mission Team
Training @
iFly Trapeze

MEET A VOLUNTEER



Meet **George Lightfoot**, one of our Awesome SRC Student Ministries Adult Youth Workers.

Where do you work? I am a Locomotive Engineer on the Long Island Rail Road. (He drives the trains! How cool is that?!)

Favorite TV show/movie: Deadliest Catch & Saving Private Ryan.

Hobby/Leisure Activity: Building models, mountain biking/hiking, photography, going to the movies, car shows to see old cars, road trips. I love exploring nature, especially remote places, like the desert.

How long at SRC? I've been attending SRC Manhasset for 1 1/2 years.

Favorite Bible verse: *"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today"* (Matthew 6:34).

Coolest place you've ever been: Utah is my favorite state, but if I had to pick one place it would be the overlook at Toroweap on the north rim of the Grand Canyon.



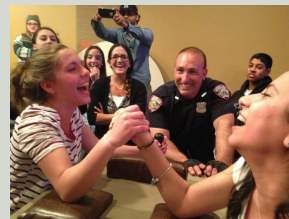
ARM WRESTLING CHAMP'S CHALLENGE



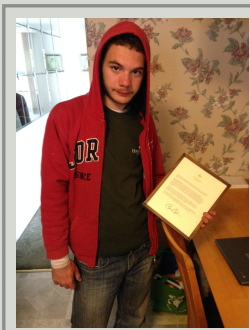
On April 27th, former Rikers Island prison guard Vince Vetere was on **Good Morning America**. A week later he was at **Shelter Rock Church** sharing his testimony with our students. Vetere is a legendary arm wrestling champion who has won an incredible 98% of over 100 arm wrestling matches. More importantly he is a devoted



follower of Jesus, praying before every match and using his experiences as opportunities to share the love of Christ with people. He came to SRC to encourage us to live passionately for Jesus, seeking to walk in holiness and purity with God. He challenged us with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' *Competitor's Creed* which emphasizes Christian character in the midst of competition. He also taught us arm wrestling techniques and we all had a great time practicing on each other. Even some of our pastors and parents got in on the action! What a fun night!



STUDENTS IN THE NEWS



Congratulations to 9th grader Andrew Matinale on receiving the Presidential Award for Volunteering in honor of his serving over 120 hours at Horseability at Suny Old Westbury. When he received his award, Andrew made sure those who presented it to him knew that God is the One who has given him the desire and strength to serve. We're proud of you Andrew!



Congratulations to 11th grader Aaron Tomlinson on becoming a probationary fire fighter in the Manhasset Fire Department. He has the 2nd highest percentage or emergency call responses. This summer he is taking a class as he continues to work toward full certification.





Families Matters!

We value family! God has designed the family as the primary context in which children are to receive spiritual training. Our job as the church is to come along side of you in that effort and to provide opportunities to be equipped and experiences in which relationships can be nurtured. Here are a few things we have done over the past couple of months to encourage and empower family. We know everyone is busy, but we make time for what is important to us, so as you see these events in our weekly Student Ministry Update e-mails, make sure you take advantage of them. (If you are not receiving our Updates each Wednesday, please let julia@shelterrockchurch.com know.)

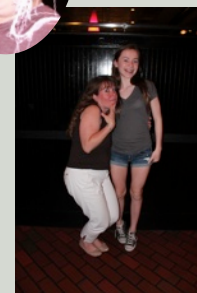
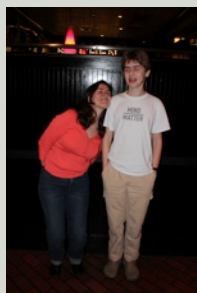
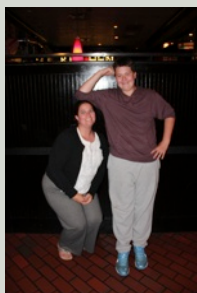
Parenting Meetings

In April we offered parents the chance to come in and meet with our staff and adult leaders in something akin to a reverse Parent-Teacher Conference to simply share how their children are doing and how we can pray for and partner with them in helping their children take next steps in their faith development. Here are some of the feedback comments we received:

"Thank you so much for having the interest and for taking the time to meet with me and discuss my son's walk with God. It was just amazing that all the leaders were there to learn more about my son and pray for him. It felt really special. Thank you for investing in him as well as in the other students in the youth group. We can only plant the seeds and wait for God to send the rain. We shall one day see the fruits."

"Thank you so much for the 'parent conference' last week. It was incredibly encouraging. I felt like I had an army supporting me as a parent. Not only was it inspiring to see so many leaders invested in my children's lives, but you took time to listen to us by asking, 'How can we serve your family? How can we support you?' I'm sorry for any parent who missed out on the opportunity because it was a huge shot of encouragement. I hope you continue this because it will be a blessing for many."

"I really appreciated the opportunity to meet. It was nice to be able to hear what's happening in Student Ministries and be able to tell you what's going on at home. It is my hope that we can partner together to help my daughter build her faith. Thanks for the chance to speak. I think it's a great idea and would welcome it on a regular basis."



Parenting Seminar with Duffy Robbins

"Earlier this spring parents were invited to a seminar led by Duffy Robbins. We knew he was a hit this past winter with the kids at Winter Fest, but we did not know he'd be such an inspiration to parents. My husband and I found ourselves validated in the struggle of persevering in parenting, as well as inspired and humored by the stories we heard that night. I would encourage every parent to take advantage of opportunities like this!" - Donna Brady

"I was able to attend the Parenting Seminar with Duffy and came away encouraged and reminded that being the parent of two teenagers is not supposed to be easy. A few principles I came away with were as follows: Listen when your kids are willing to talk, and progress does not always look like progress - we need to have faith in the middle of the difficulty, trusting that God has the best interests of our family in mind." - Pastor Jerry O'Sullivan



Bridge Jr. High Mom-Kids Fun Night

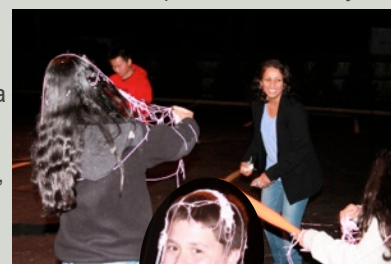
A night of great food, relationship-building, and fun no one will forget!

"It was such a special treat to be able to stop and take a break from the school week madness and connect with my girl and other moms. Many thanks to Student Ministries and our Silly String Team!" - Annu Benjamin



"What a fun night out with the kids and moms! I really enjoyed meeting some new people and seeing people from SRC Manhasset I don't get to see often. The best part was when my son interviewed me and got to know what makes me Janice and not just what makes me Mom. Thanks for a great time out. We can often forget how precious and important those times can be, so I really appreciate the focus and reminder to Carpe diem with my kids."

- Janice LaRocca



Summer 2014

July

6-12 - Nassau, Bahamas Mission
20 - Bahamas Reunion BBQ, Location TBD
24 - Movie Night 7-10pm, Syosset
26 - Church Baptism, North Hempstead Beach Park
31 - Pool Party 1-4pm, Dantona Home

August

7 - Dance Night 7-9:30pm, Syosset
13 - 6 Flags Great Adventure
16 - SRC Family Ducks Game
21 - Waterballoon Capture the Flag 1-4pm, Syosset

Monday Morning Bible Study

A serious Bible study for those who want to drill down deeper into the Word of God this summer.
e-mail kevin@shelterrockchurch.com for details.
10-11:30am

**SHELTER
ROCK**
students

Submissions

We want to share your stories, art, poems, devotional thoughts... here in the Newsletter. e-mail submissions to: kevin@shelterrockchurch.com

Prayer Requests

How can we pray for you? Send your prayer requests & praise reports to: kevin@shelterrockchurch.com

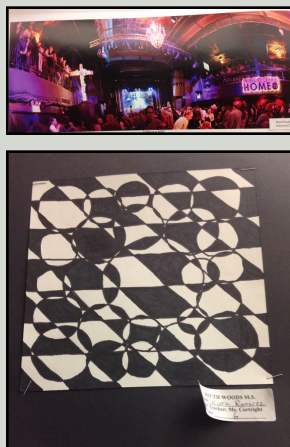
SRC STUDENT ARTWORK

SUPPORTING SRC STUDENTS ON CAMPUS & IN COMMUNITY



Send us your Schedules!

Sports, Concerts, Plays, etc. We would love to come support you!
kevin@shelterrockchurch.com



End of Year Party

MIKE'S MINUTE



Recently, in our Sunday morning classes we've been talking about knowing the difference between having God on a list of priorities, and having God inside of every single priority and activity that we

take part in. When we keep connecting with God on his own separate spot on a list of activities to do daily, we can often forget or just become too lazy to put him at the top of the list.

We've been really running with the idea that God shouldn't just be another thing on your list, or another notch on your belt of the things that you take part in every day, but rather He should be central in every activity that you participate in. 2 Corinthians 5:9 says, **"So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him."** This means that in everything on that list that we have to tackle daily, we will put God in the center, seeking to please Him in order to further the kingdom of God through our actions in our schools, homes, workplaces, on our teams, online, in our conversations, etc.

-Michael Fenimore

REN'S RAP

Following Jesus isn't easy. When you are trying to live for Christ some people may look at you funny, they may avoid you because they don't understand you or make fun of you because you care about things they don't think are important. Sometimes in their wrong understanding of what it means to be a Christian they try to hold you accountable to being a perfect human being, which, of course none of us are.

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, it often means life gets harder, but the good news is that while it isn't always easy, it is worth it and you don't have to try and live your life for Christ on your own. Romans 8:11 says, ***"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you."*** That's a lot of power! And the Spirit is in us to convict us of sin and help us to live for God.

Just as a gardener takes weeds out of their garden so it is healthy and beautiful, God is within you calling you to pull out the weeds of sin. Weeds can be big or they can seem little and like they're not a big deal, but if you don't deal with them, over time they can create a disaster. Don't compromise who you are because everyone else is doing it or just because you're curious. Yes, we learn from making mistakes, but learning from others mistakes is much better than making mistakes yourself. Be wise and get the weeds out before they cause you harm. Respond to the Holy Spirit in your life.

- Ren Jainarine



PK'S PIECE

I recently spoke in church about wisdom. One of the things I suggested is that the size of your vision determines the strength of your wisdom and the significance of your impact. Let me break that statement down for you.

If your vision is only as big as today, you will make decisions solely based on what feels good and makes you happy in the moment with little regard for the consequences of your actions. If your vision is as big as this lifetime, you will live according to the wisdom and values of this world. You will make decisions based on your goals for the next 75 years or so. For example, this world defines success in terms of money, so you might be willing to sacrifice some things you want to do today because you are thinking about something bigger down the road. Rather than spending \$100 that you receive, you put it in savings because you want to buy a car or have money to retire one day. This is good, but I would suggest to you that your vision is still too small. I want you to expand your vision beyond this lifetime. I want you to see that you have been created by God to live forever, and that the decisions you make today have an impact for all eternity. But you have to invest in that which will last into eternity.

When you die, you will not be able to take your money or your possessions with you. Jesus said, *"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be"* (Matthew 6:19-21). Invest your life in things that matter to God. Help people discover the forgiveness, hope, healing, and eternal life found only in a relationship with Christ. Stand up for the cause of justice and what is right and true because they represent the heart of God and what He cares about. When you live your life for what matters to God, you can know that your life has meaning and the impact of your life will reverberate throughout eternity. C.T. Studd said, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last."

- Pastor Kevin Mahaffy



DEVOTIONAL

by
Volunteer
Tom Knight

As I write this, it's Memorial Day weekend, a great time to challenge ourselves to take inspiration from our U.S. service people and our conversations in Youth Group to think about courage

in the choices we make as Christians, especially the choice to put Christ first in our lives. Our beloved American service people trust our country's elected leaders to act wisely in deploying them as they wittingly put themselves in harm's way to fulfill the mission of protecting the United States' interests and its citizens. Ultimately, our service people cannot avoid the reality that they may be required to make sacrifices that are profound, including the loss of their earthly lives. The faith and courage they demonstrate in just making the choice to serve in the first place are remarkable.

We've been learning in our groups on Sunday mornings that true faith in Jesus is also an "all

in" proposition. It can feel like an impossible leap of courage to abandon my belief that "I know best" and to commit all my choices and current ambitions to Christ. In John 11: 1-16 Jesus spoke to his disciples about a decision he was making to undertake a hazardous trip to see Lazarus despite the disciples' very practical concern for his safety. To help them understand His actions, He used the metaphor of a person trying to navigate in the darkness of night versus the light of day to demonstrate the folly of using one's own, human understanding to make important decisions instead of committing to seek and follow God's will.

Major Tim Vakoc, a Christian, US Army Chaplain who served in the Iraq conflict suffered a traumatic brain injury resulting from an enemy IUD on May 29, 2004, the 12th anniversary of his ordination. In a letter to his sister, sent several months before his injury, he summed up his full faith and trust in Christ beautifully: "The safest place for me to be is in the center of God's will, and if that is in the line of fire, that is where I will be." Tim passed away on June 20, 2009, and while he was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, his decision to live a



committed, faithful life of Christian service resulted in a far more important legacy, the inspiration of many to examine their own faith and commitment.

Tim Vakoc's example is extreme but how can we relate Tim's experience to our own and be inspired by his example?



SHELTER ROCK CHURCH

STUDENT MINISTRIES

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