



January 2013

Happy New Year to you!

This is the second SPUD e-letter, and the first of 2013! I hope you are looking forward to this New Year and are excited for what God will do in our churches this year.

The SPUD Working Group are praying that God will work powerfully through what we have planned this year. Our goal is to see young people throughout our land engaging in their churches, playing a meaningful role in their congregations.

Training Night : Thursday 17th January 2013

The SPUD calendar begins next week with our Grow Your Own SPUDs training evening. This event is for ministers, elders and youth leaders who may want to run the Grow Your Own SPUDs programme in their church. It will be a very relaxed and fun evening, a very active evening and hopefully an encouraging evening.

Seaview Presbyterian Church, 7:30pm. £3 per person inc., refreshments & CD resource pack

Book by Friday 11th January at www.pciyac.org or email spud@pciyac.org

Members of the Working Group have already led a number of Grow Your Own SPUDs sessions over the last few months in various locations. Young people from five churches met in East Belfast to think about how they can get more involved in their congregations, young people at Bannside spent time during their youth fellowship working through parts of the Grow Your Own SPUDs programme.

There are other Grow Your Own SPUDs evenings planned and the Working Group are looking forward to going to the congregations and leading the sessions.

Blue Book Overnight

Later in the year we will be having our Blue Book Overnight. This overnight will be a chance for young people to look at issues that appear in this year's General Assembly reports, to think about how they would respond to them and then plan what they may want to say at this year's General Assembly. Part of the programme will be to think about how our denomination is structured, with this hopefully helping those there to see why it is important to be involved in their local congregation and the denomination at large.

This Blue Book Overnight is open to any young person who wishes to come but spaces are limited.

26th– 27th April 2013, Exodus Centre, Coleraine. £15 per person.
Contact spud@pciyac.org for more information

The end of the SPUD year will be this years General Assembly in Londonderry/Derry in June. The SPUD Working Group are hoping to put on some events for young people based around the General Assembly sessions. Our hope is that our friends in the North West will be able to play a part in these.

As you can see there are plenty of things to be excited about and plenty of opportunities for young people to be involved with PCI!

Often at the start of extra features on a DVD you see that the opinions expressed in any interviews or in any commentaries are those of the individuals involved and do not represent the position of the company making the DVD.

It is important to remember that vision of SPUD is to give young people a way to have their voice heard throughout the denomination. Often people speak of a 'SPUD young person' but really we should speak of a young person in their own right. They may be involved with SPUD or have attended a SPUD event and the Working Group want young people in our denomination to be seen for what they are, young people.

The voices of young people matter, the varying voices of young people matter. As we all know, every young person is unique; the opinions of young people are wide ranging but all opinions are equally important.

The SPUD Working Group want the voices of young people throughout our denomination being heard and we hope our events over the next few months will allow this to happen.

Let's pray for His blessing and His guidance in the days and weeks ahead. May He bless all our congregations.

God bless,
Andy Downey
SPUD Convenor, on behalf of the SPUD Working Group