

## TRIENNium 2016 BLOG

**Megan Pratt.** Presbyterian Youth Triennium really opened my eyes to the limitlessness of God's careful watch, constant protection, and unconditional and never-ending love. Through small group and in delegation time when we would split up into our travel groups, I got to hear so many people's testimonies of when they were going through difficult times, losing hope, trying to figure out why such hardships were falling upon them. Right as they were getting to their breaking point, God gave them a sign of his love and their lives began to turn around. By seeing what these people were able to overcome and how they have strived since, sparked joy within me knowing that God truly loves and cares for everyone. I know how I personally have grown stronger, more patient, more understanding, and deeper in my faith due to my own hardship, and it is crazy to see the difference in me. To know that all of those people I met had that same revelation is absolutely amazing especially knowing that God was behind all of it. These stories have inspired me to go out and help others who are struggling to discover that things will turn around for them, because God has a plan for each and every one of us. I want to go and help with mission and service projects in the city to spread God's love. After I get settled into the college life at Sam Houston State University, I plan to get involved and volunteer at the local food pantry. It may seem like a small task, but Triennium taught me that by serving the Lord by helping others, what I do doesn't have be world changing or shown off to everyone. But as long as it makes a difference and helps those who need it, I'm also helping myself by growing kinder and more loving.

**Tonie Sahn.** My trip to Triennium was amazing. From the moment that I arrived to the airport, I knew that I was a part of something great. I got to know other youth from the Presbytery that I had never spoken to before. Seeing all of my peers come together for one purpose of expressing our love of God and our willingness to be representatives for our home really made me proud to call myself a member of this church. The conference itself was truly a one of a kind experience. Worshiping with 4,000 other Presbyterian youth in such an impactful way is something that can hardly be described. The amount of love in that auditorium was simply astounding. It is a perfect example of how incredible the sense of community is at Triennium. That sense of tight knit closeness was also shown through our small groups. Meeting people from across the country and getting to exchange ideas back and forth was so insightful. These people were a true reflection of the Presbyterian youth in the United States. Overall, Triennium was an incredible and enlightening experience. An opportunity to attend as a youth, chaperone, or leader should never be turned down. This is a conference that I will remember for the rest of my life, and one that constantly has and will continue to inspire me to be an advocate of change in our world.

**Preston Windham.** Triennium was an amazing experience and an event I will remember forever. Being able to travel with friends from my church and also from our delegation was great because we were able to grow long time friendships and memories at the start of the trip. The Purdue campus was beautiful and a great place to have this event. One of the main things I liked about Triennium was the worship and rec time. The worship blew me away with the amount of people and how everyone was involved in the activities. I am used to being in a small church with attending members that are a lot older than me. Having thousands of other youths around me from all over the country was astonishing. I was blessed to have the best pastors and speakers preach at worship while listening and learning. They were very aspiring and energetic. I liked how they had a different person speak every day so you were able to hear different stories and lessons but still staying on the same subject. Rec time was a great time and we did a lot of different activities. Being able to explore a different college campus was also fun and interesting. It was a very large campus so you got good exercise walking around everywhere. Meeting people from all over the country was phenomenal. Collecting different states pens was very fun, and I was able to fill up all my spots on my lanyard. I made many new friends from just walking around and talking to people. I was also able to see friends I met at Mo-Ranch and we were able to stick together and be loud Texans together! Throughout all of this my faith in God grew substantially. Being surrounded by good Christians and people I was able to see God in many places working with us to become a perfect community. Everyone was there for the same reason and we were all having a wonderful time learning about Christ together. Learning new Bible scriptures and reviewing others I already know revived my faith also. Being helpful and kind to people is what I will take away from Triennium. I will take what I learned and practice it at home and school. I will also share with others and tell them how great Triennium is. I would highly recommend Triennium to everyone. I am sad I will not be able to go again as a youth, but maybe someday I will be able to go as an adult!

**Melanie Wertz.** My most impacting moments at Triennium were the worship, delegation travel group, and recreation time. The atmosphere of over four thousand people worshipping together was amazing. Everyone was singing, being silly and having a fun time worshipping the Lord. Our delegation travel group was even better. The discussions were open and the kindness in my group allowed me to feel comfortable and grow close with my small group members. It was great getting to know and grow in faith with so many new people. During our recreation time we got to strengthen our relationships even more with one another with games and energizers. This Triennium experience, especially with my delegation travel group, helped me understand God's faith in me to serve him. I will continue to Go and Do Likewise as the theme said by continuing to be unafraid in my faith and showing God's love to others in my school.