#### **Annual Youth Events:**

The youth do various events, conferences, and camps each year. The following events occur annually:

# **January**

#### **Hot Hearts at Ford Park:**

Students can expect a high-energy weekend on the level of many mainstream events held in larger cities, with professional production values in sound, lighting and video. Hot Hearts is also known for combining the messages of the most effective student communicators with performances from some of the most popular Christian music artists.

## **February**

#### Midwinter:

Midwinter is the Texas Conference's winter retreat for students. Held at Lakeview and/or Forest Glenn, Lakeview is a great time for students to reconnect with God during a weekend in February. Students spend time worshiping with a band, listening to a speaker, growing in small groups, using camp recreation facilities, and more.

## Summer

#### **UM Army:**

UM Army is a 7-day camp where participants combine their strengths to provide free home repairs for low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners who are physically or financially unable to make needed repairs. The work at U.M. ARMY provides an opportunity to practice Christian faith and love through action. The worship and devotional materials provide opportunities for spiritual development, learning, and discussion

### Big Stuf in Panama City Beach, FL:

Big Stuf is a camp with quality Biblical teaching, passionate worship, and a beautiful place to be with God. Their mission and vision is to inspire students to live life with Jesus by creating experiences that will make a difference in the lives of students.

## **December**

### **Children's Christmas Musical Fundraiser:**

The youth prepare, serve, and clean up a meal that takes place before the Children's Christmas Musical each year. The proceeds from the night go to the Angels & Elves Shopping Trip each year.

### **Angels & Elves Shopping Trip:**

Beforehand, we contact local schools for names of a students needing some extra love and help for Christmas. We get sizes, wish lists and all kinds of information before the big shopping day for the whole family. One child from the family, the "angel," gets to come shop with us, picking out all the goodies to surprise their family. We secretly get some goodies for that child too. On shopping day, we divide our youth and chaperones into groups, "the Elves." Each group goes and picks the Angel up at their house, brings them shopping, returns to the church with the Angel and all the goodies. There, we tell them the real reason for Christmas and why we bought things for them, play games, and feed them while we have teams wrap all the surprises in a separate area. At the end of the night, we return the Angel to their family where they get to deliver wrapped gifts to their family. We also have a bag of household necessities like cleaning supplies or paper goods we deliver as well. This has been the longest continuing youth mission or possibly any mission our church has done. We know our youth have done this probably 40 years, but I haven't found anyone who remembers an exact date. Many of us know we did it when we were youth and base the date from that. The youth raise the money throughout the year doing fundraisers to raise the money for this event.