



[Hello from Northern Ireland!](#)

September 29, 2009, 1:20 pm

BLOG FROM AMY WILSON-STAYTON



Most of our group in the Belfast Airport

It has been about a month since I first arrived in Belfast. Because of our busy schedules, time passes very quickly here. To give you an idea of what life is like for me in Belfast, here is a break-down of a typical week.

Monday: YAV meeting with Doug (our site coordinator) and the other volunteers in downtown Belfast. This usually involves breakfast and lunch and some type of group activity. Activities can be anything from structured reflection time to a group outing.

Tuesday: On Tuesdays I work at The Link Family and Community Centre. The Link is a youth drop-in started by Regent Street Presbyterian Church in Netownards, Northern Ireland. The main purpose of The Link is to be an intentional Christian presence in the community. One of the ways The Link fulfills that purpose is by providing a healthy environment where children and youth can have fun and be kids.

Children and youth here have especially been affected by the long years of fighting between Protestants and Catholics (or the "Troubles" as people here refer to them). Although there is an agreement to "peace", many paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland are still recruiting, and youth are usually targets. If you'd like to learn more about the The Link, go here: www.thelinkcentre.org.

Wednesday: On Wednesdays I work at Regent Street Presbyterian Church. There I am involved with the youth and children's ministries. As mentioned above, Regent Street is the church that started

The Link.



"The Cabin" where the youth meet



THE LINK

Thursday and Friday: On both these days I'm back at The Link. Below are some more pictures. **If it seems like there aren't many kids in the pictures, it's because only a few of them have parental consent to have their picture taken.

We usually have from 18-25 kids at a time during drop-ins.

Saturday: Saturday is a free day! The past few Saturdays have been spent exploring St. George's Market in downtown Belfast with the other YAVs.



Regent Street Presbyterian Church

Sunday: Sunday morning activities vary according to the Sunday. Some days I assist with children’s Sunday School (which takes place during worship, unlike back in the States) and other days I attend morning worship with everyone else. After church, I am usually taken back to a church member’s house for Sunday lunch. (which is delicious, but usually involves 2-3 different types of potato dishes... all in one meal. 😊) People have been so friendly and hospitable; they really try to make you feel at home!

Sunday afternoon is free and in the evenings, I help lead Youth Group from 7-9PM.

I hope this has given everyone some idea of what I’ve been doing for the past month or so! I am going to try and keep posting here at least once a month, maybe more. (We’ll see... :)). Many thanks to everyone who has supported me, whether financially, spiritually, or emotionally, etc. This year wouldn’t be possible if it weren’t for you!



Symbol of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland



Ryan and Gordy, my two co-workers



Pool Room and Coffee Bar Area



Stuart, playing pool