

Children, Youth, and Family Programs

2008-09

Children's Sunday School –age 3 through 5th grade

Sunday school is available on Sunday mornings following the 9am service. The children gather downstairs in the gathering room to hear a Godly Play story before they move to their classrooms.

Celebrating Our Faith Through the Arts – C.O.F.T.A – grades 4th - 12th

Meets most Wednesday's in the St. Bernard room from 6pm – 7:30. COFTA is a program designed to engage young people in the worship arts. COFTA will include preparation of drama for worship, skits, art, and music that will be used through out the year in various venues. The Christmas Play (parent/child information meeting Nov. 5th / 6-7:30) will be part of this program. COFTA does not meet on Nov. 26th, Dec. 24th & 31st, Feb. 18th, March 18th. Last Wed. of program is May 20th.

Junior High Youth Education Program – JR. YEP – grades 6th - 8th

Jr. youth meet Sunday Mornings following the 9am service in the St. Angelico room. The youth along with their leader will be using a lectionary based curriculum.

Senior High Youth Education Program- SR. YEP – grades 9th - 12th Sr. youth meet Sunday Mornings following the 9am service in the St. Bernard room. The youth along with their leaders will be focusing on a variety of our subjects that define our Episcopal Identity and our Christian Faith. (**Sept. & Oct.** Prayer Book, Liturgy, Worship, Church Seasons), (**Nov.** Sacraments), (**Dec.** Our Gifts & Enrichment Project presentations) (**Jan.** Anglican Identity, Church History & Gov't), (**Feb.** Scripture, Old & New), (**March** - Prayer), (**April** – Creeds), and (**May** - the Mission of the Church).

1st Year Confirmation – begins at grade 9 Parent/youth meeting Sun. Sept. 14 @ 10am

Youth will make a commitment to a year long process of attending the Sunday Morning Sr. YEP and engaging in an interest project once a month. Those in confirmation will also be required to attend the Maundy Thursday Overnight. They are also encouraged to attend TEC and participate on the summer youth mission trip.

2nd Year Confirmation – youth who have completed the 1st yr. confirmation

Parent/youth/mentor meeting Wed. Sept. 17 @ 7:30pm

Youth who have completed the 1st year confirmation will be partnered with a mentor from the St. John's congregation. The youth and mentor will meet monthly to share their faith journey and share in questions and wonderings with the aid of a Journal/I Will with God's Help. Those in confirmation will also be required to attend the Maundy Thursday Overnight. They are also encouraged to attend TEC and participate on the summer youth mission trip. At the end of the 2 year process the youth have the opportunity to decide if they are ready to be confirmed. Regional Confirmation May 9th @ 11am, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral. All youth regardless of their decision will participate in a May 3rd (noon) Banquet celebrating their commitment to the journey.

Youth Overnights and Special Youth Events

Through out the school season there will be a number of events that will be overnights and special events that will take place inside and outside of St. John's. TEC, Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf,

Advent Overnight, Bigger & Better Treasure Hunt, Annual Meeting Overnight, Jan. Diocesan Youth Acolyte Festival, Diocesan Youth Music Festival, Maundy Thursday Overnight,

Teens Encounter Christ – TEC – grades 9th – 12th (October 17-19 & March 27-29)

A weekend retreat is offered in the fall and spring for youth to deepen their faith and journey with a larger group of youth on a Christian Journey. It is highly recommended that High School Youth attend at least one of these weekends.

Vacation Bible School- VBS- age 3 through 5th grade – (June 15-19) 10am – 12:30pm

VBS is a week long (M-F) opportunity for children to engage in the Christian Story and community building through stories, crafts, music, and other creative play.

Vacation Bible School – For ALL- VBS FOR ALL (Sunday's in July 12, 19, 26)

Following the 10am service children, youth, and adults gather for food, fun, and faith. Through stories, conversation, projects, music, and creative activities, we all share our faith stories. This VBS opportunity ends at 1:30pm on these Sunday's. Parents are encouraged to participate with their children. This is an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors. You can attend 1 Sun. or all 3.

Families In Christ- FAMILIES INC.

Families Inc. offers a number of specific family activities through out the year. They are designed especially for families with younger children (birth through grade 5). **Oct. 11th** Lendt's Pumpkin Patch Hayride, **December 6th** Greening of the church and Cerenity Home Caroling, **February 18** Mardi Gras Celebration and Pot Luck,

Inter-generational Programs

Through out the year and usually on Sunday mornings in between the services, there will be activities that will engage all of our members in a faith formation project. **Oct. 26th** Trick or Treat for the Food Shelf (10am), **Nov. 30th** Advent Event (10am), **Jan. 18th** Annual Meeting (10am), **March 18th** St. Patrick's Celebration & Dinner (5:30pm), **April 10th** Good Friday Stations of the Cross (10am), **July's** VBS for All.

Youth Mission Trip – grades (fall 2009) 9th – 12th & Grad (July 6th – 11th)

Youth will be participating in a trip that will be more local this year. Every other year we go out of state for a mission trip and this year will be an in state trip. Our trip has not yet been planned and we will be gathering for special meetings to plan the trip and to plan fundraising opportunities. An initial mission trip planning meeting will be part of our Dec. 6th youth overnight.

Episcopal Youth Music Camp – grades (fall 2009) 3rd – 12th (Aug. 9th – 16th)

EYMC is an overnight camp that takes place at Camp Heartland in Willow River, MN. Youth from all over the Episcopal Diocese of MN, participate in the week. They rehearse choral music for the Feb. Youth Music Festival, practice instruments in ensembles, and get a chance to learn about music theater. All of the youth are engaged in a faith formation program each day along with their music activities. More information and pictures can be found at www.episcopal-youth-music.org

Adult Education

Adult Education is available on Sundays and Wed. during times when the children and youth also have education and faith formation activities. It is an opportunity for Adults to also engage in their own faith formation.