

| Christian Education for Children |

Coming Events for Children:

December 17th Family Caroling
December 18th Christmas Pageant @ 10am service
December 25th NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 1st NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 8th Sunday School Resumes

Children's Sunday School Update:

Children are learning how to connect what we do in Sunday School -- with what we do in church -- with how we live in our wider lives. We have about 23 children attending on Sunday mornings.

Our **Godly Play 1** class has been exploring CREATION and NOAH AND THE GREAT FLOOD.

Godly Play 2 has been experiencing our beautiful desert box...and some desert stories...like Moses on Mt. Sinai and God's gift to us of 10 Best Ways for living.

In the **Learning Lab**, children have been doing *map studies*. They have mapped the seasons of the liturgical year. They have learned the map of the circle of the Holy Eucharist. They have looked at the globe and our felt floor map of the Holy Land--to get a context of **where in the world** the stories they will be hearing in the Winter- term--take place. They have dissected the library of books called THE HOLY BIBLE so they will know **where in the bible** the stories come from that they will be learning.

Once a month, all of the Sunday School children get to meet with our Mr. Foxwell-- for extended music time together.

Parents have begun meeting regularly, under the guidance of Cindy and Jimmy Sisson, for their own support and formation. Thank you to Cindy and Jimmy for this important ministry to families! From time to time this community will sponsor social events geared toward the needs of young families. In December they will participate in an intergeneration caroling event. Together they are going to host a coffee hour.

J2A Update:

We are moving to mostly stand- alone programming for Sunday morning --because many kids cannot come regularly due to travel sports or other activities or due to shared custody situations that don't allow them to be here.

We are looking for their time at All Saints, **when they are able to land**, to be a place of welcome, a place where they can be real, a place to be invited to go beyond themselves in their thinking and a place to get support for the nurturance of a spiritual life.

We have about 15 names on our roster. Of those we have a group of about 7 that meet regularly. Last year we had 7 of our young people graduate from high school and this year we have 5 -- new 7th graders-- in the group . We are doing the work of settling in as a **new** community.

We dressed as Saints to host a **Saints' Day** event in Pinder Hall for all of the Sunday School children. It was a wonderful opportunity for our teens to minister to their younger church family members...and wonderful parents of young children moved in to help...even donning costumes themselves. Children moved between 12 Saint Stations to hear some about the Saint's story, to receive a symbolic sticker and Saint' autograph. We ended with a piñata which Saint Nicholas provided: a sack filled with candy!

We packed and delivered "Christmas boxes" filled with school supplies, toys and hygiene products as part of Samaritan's Purse: Operation Christmas Child. We delivered them to the local drop site for all local churches from which they will be shipped by containers and delivered to impoverished children around the world.

We hosted the Annual Advent Wreath Making breakfast...the proceeds will go to our outreach efforts. We are in the process of exploring mission trip options for the Spring.

Segar has graciously continued to facilitate a group for parents of teens. This meets the 3rd Sunday of every month.

The most celebrated element for us as mentors is the relationships that have developed between the young people. The youth have connections together outside of church. They will sit with one another in church frequently. There is a spirit of playfulness and affection. They will now pray in the group...and have gradually begun to reveal some of their personal struggles. This feels pretty significant-- in that the lives of young people these days are often about ruthless schedules of **doing**...without

opportunity and support for **being** and **deep connecting**.
This is a wonderful gift for our church to give.

Families with Young Children News

Christian Formation for Families with Young Children, Sunday Mornings during regular Sunday School in the Library.

Join us for fellowship, parenting support and study.

ADULT CLASS CALENDAR

Sunday/9:00-9:55 a.m., in Baines Hall

Advent Series

Advent and Its Saints—Then, Now and Forever

What is the history of our Advent season? Why do we observe its ancient rituals? Who are the saints of Advent? Explore these questions during the Advent season with the Rev. Dr. Stanley Sawyer and the Rev. Dr. Mark Engdahl on:

Dec. 9 Advent series

Dec. 11 Advent series

Dec. 18 Advent series

Dec. 25 Christmas Day -- NO CLASS

Jan. 1 New Years Day -- NO CLASS

New Year's Series

“Resolved—To Live our best Life”

It's quite traditional to make resolutions for the New Year, but what if you considered the New Year as an opportunity to go deeper into that spiritual place within and connect more fully with God? The Christian Formation Commission will be bringing you a variety of speakers to help you start your New Year in a spiritually committed manner. To start the series Jan Kibler will talk about a variety of spiritual practices—one or more which you may wish to consider trying in the New Year. Other topics in this series include renewing your spirit through the practice of forgiveness, recognizing your financial resources as a gift from God (and the implications of that), respecting the Earth and its resources, and improving your relationships, including having kindness and respect for yourself (relieving your stress). Come join us on this journey of renewal!

Jan. 8 **Taking on a Spiritual Practice-** Jan Kibler

Jan. 15 **To Err is Human, to Forgive a Little more Difficult-** Jerry Caravas

Jan. 22 **God is My Financial Co-Planner-**Lou Paulson

Jan. 29 **Reduce Your Stress, Relieve Your Spirit-** Rebecca & Kim Nielsen

...To continue into February

WEEKDAY SMALL GROUPS

JAN'S BIBLE STUDY IN THE LIBRARY, WEDNESDAYS, 10 AM

This fall we begin “Christianity”, our 4th in the series of “The World’s Great Religions”. All are invited to join us for a thirty-minute lecture by a professor, who is an expert in the field, followed by a stimulating discussion and then lunch if you wish.

--NO CLASS IN DECEMBER--

Jan 4 Lecture 11 – Christianity and Culture

Jan 11 Lecture 12 – Tensions and Possibilities

Jan 18 Movie

Jan 25 Visit Christian Church

**“The Story of Art” with Sister Wendy is taking a hiatus while we present a serious topic that asks the question—
“How could evil take over an intelligent, western European country?”**

Presenting

“A History of Hitler’s Empire”

With Thomas Childers, Ph.d., Univ. of Pennsylvania

A 12 -lecture Learning Company video series

TUESDAYS, 7 PM , at the Kibler home

-NO TUES EVENING CLASS IN DECEMBER-

Jan 3 **1 – Third Reich, Hitler and 20th Century**

Jan 10 **2 – First World War and its Legacy**

Jan 17 **3 – Weimar Republic and Rise of the Nazi Party**

Jan 24 **4 - The Twenties and the Great Depression**

Jan 31 **5 – The Nazi breakthrough**

JANUARY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 6th

7 p.m., Baines Hall

“The Maltese Falcon” 1941, starring Humphrey Bogart as Dashiell Hammett’s definitive private eye, Sam Spade.

Please keep in mind the following:

★Movie Night is first Friday of each month, 7 p.m.

★Please put your name on the sign-up sheet in

Narthex. If you forget, call Jane no later than day

before at 412-4540 or 478-6080.

★Suggested donation is \$3 per person.

★You are welcome to bring an hors d'oeuvres,

soft drink or wine to share.

★Short discussion will follow each presentation.

★Due to wine being served and some film content,

adults only please.