

## CHRIST CHURCH: FAMILY FAITH FORMATION



transforming  generosity  
with children

When our children were young and church school was not in session, my husband would sit at one end of the pew and I would sit at the other end with our children between us filling the entire pew. If any child's behavior crossed the line, they'd be "invited" to move to the other side of a parent. The strategy worked for years most of the time. When our children's (or my own!) behavior fell short, there was an unspoken appreciation for our family's presence and an acceptance of our children's antics from the people surrounding us. I could feel it. That carried our family through the terrible twos and well beyond.

One of the things our children loved doing was taking turns putting the family's envelope in the collection plate as it passed by. I have a confession to make. I'm pretty sure I never talked with our children about what the church offering was all about. But even if I did, it was probably a very simple "the church needs our money to keep it going" or "we give because God wants us to be generous." So much of my own formation surrounding worship focused on prayer, the creeds, Baptism, and the Eucharist. I don't remember talking about the offering. I definitely don't remember my parents sharing with me why or how they chose to make a financial pledge to a faith community even though I know they did.

All of this has been on my mind in this season of Stewardship. As I've been searching for ways to engage children and families in the topic, I found this helpful definition: Stewardship means helping take care of the church and the world on behalf of God. The question is not just "How can we teach stewardship to children," but "How can we encourage children to continually respond to God's creation by caring and enjoying what God has given them, personally and in the world around them?"

I admit, I have more work to do in this area even with my now older children who are ready to engage in this question from a different place. The good news is that children have already a sense of wonder and an attitude of abundance that adults easily lose sight of. I hope you will join me and have a conversation with your children about how you use your God-given gifts and how you are called, personally, to be generous. One way to start is by asking, "How do you think God wants us to take care of the church?" and "What can we do to help take care of God's world?"

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### Here's what's happening this Sunday for children and youth:

- Childcare will be offered for children 0-3 during the 10:00am service in Room 113. (continued...)

- Church School for children Pre-K through Grade 5 will meet this Sunday at 9:45 am.
  - There will be no Middle or High School Youth Groups meeting this Sunday.
  - The Confirmation group will meet at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.
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## Youth Group News

**Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th graders):** The Middle School Youth Group spent last Sunday talking about the cost of food and how to Support our Neighbors in Need. Many thanks to Steve Taylor who made a guest appearance! The Middle School Youth Group will meet next on November 18th. Students in grades 6-8 are invited to join at any time. The MS Youth schedule may be found [here](#). Remember, any meeting can be your first youth group meeting! If you have any questions please [contact Kathy Serrano](#).



**High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12):** The high school youth group will not be meeting this week. Save the date for our next meeting on Sunday, November 18 at 11:30. We will be headed out to lunch as a group for our friendsgiving celebration. Details to follow next week. Any and all high school youth are welcome to join us at any time! If you have any questions please [contact Hannah Whitlock](#).

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Questions about our programs for children and youth? Contact [Rev. Jen Vath](#) or 978-475-0529 x21.

Click to download the [2018-19 Church School Calendar](#) and the [new Children's Ministries brochure](#).

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## Registration for Church School and Youth Groups is ongoing

If you haven't done so already, please register for Sunday School by completing this printable form for [Sunday School](#) or use this [online](#) form. Register for Youth Groups by completing this printable [Youth Group](#) form or use the [Youth Group Online](#) form.

If you use the printable form, you can get it to us by:

- bringing it with you to church and giving it to your child's teacher
- scanning and e-mailing it to [Mary Ann Lennon](#)
- mailing it to Christ Church, 25 Central St., Andover 01810