

Subject: New From St. Francis Episcopal Church
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November 13, 2013

Children's Ministry

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 19:14*

What Should We Do About Children's Ministry?

Of course, this is a very important area of ministry. I have been asked that question a few times since starting here at St. Francis seven months ago. The vestry has talked about it also at its last meeting. Often this question comes up out of anxiety about survival. "If we do not get some young families with children our church will die," is implied in one way or another. While that is true, it really is not a helpful motivation for developing any ministry. Let me suggest another way.

Who Is Called To Children's Ministry?

Instead of asking, "how will we survive without children's ministry," it is more fruitful to begin by asking "how can children's ministry spring from the ways we are thriving as a fellowship". Usually that question will lead us to a person who is already called by God to minister with children (notice I wrote "with instead of "to"). The fellowship then works to equip and encourage that person in ministry to children, helps to build a team of people to work with that person, and floods that ministry area with prayer. We will not be able to hold that kind of ministry back.

How Do We Proceed From Here?

We pray! We bring these requests to God:

1. We ask God to show us where He is already working in the lives of children in the surrounding area and how we can join in with that work
2. We ask God to provide the person who is called to minister with children.
This is the person who would choose to minister with children above anything else.
3. We ask God to continue to form us into the kind of fellowship that will richly equip people who called to such a level of ministry.
4. We ask God to show us which families and children in the area He is preparing to join with us.
5. Finally we ask God to show us what kind of ministry would make the

gospel plausible to
these families with young children.

We will be praying this way every Sunday at the prayers of the people. Join me in praying individually during the week for the same thing.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, November 17, 2013 worship at 10:00am

Wednesday, November 27, 2013 Caritas at Christ Church, Short Pump
5:30pm

A Mission Trip is planned for March 8, 2014-March 15, 2014. We will be taking a team to help with the continued clean up and rebuilding for those who were hit by Hurricane Sandy last year. More information is available from Jenna Nelson at jnelson561@gmail.com

Contribute to Typhoon relief in the Philippines through Episcopal Relief and Development. You may contribute through their website www.episcopalrelief.org. Go to the disaster relief fund section.

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sunset Grille that all of the employees would be healthy, strong and live very fruitful lives.

Metropolitan Richmond

For persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy marriages; for constructive, safe and caring households for the fringing up and nurturing of children and caring for the elderly; for advocates who put their lives on the line for the sake of others; for all who fight for the rights of others who cannot fight for themselves.

Diocese of Virginia

For the congregations and clergy of St. Paul's on-the-Hill, Winchester; St. Luke's, Simeon; Emmanuel, Harrisonburg

Grace and Peace,
John Maher

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