

Children's Ministries News

St. Thomas Church, Newark, DE

March/April/May 2017

Exciting things continue to happen in Children's Ministries over the next few months. Here are the highlights. Please read carefully and find out how your family can be involved!!



A Lenten Lock-in

Eleven of St. Thomas' 4th -6th graders and three grownups gathered on the evening of March 10 for a tween lock-in. Everyone had a great time. The tweens started their evening with a craft that helped the environment: they decorated reusable water bottles to take the place of disposable water bottles. Other activities for the evening included Design Your Own Pizza for dinner, making cross necklaces, a journey through the Interactive Stations of the Cross, movies, lots of popcorn, a little sleep, Design Your Own Pancake for breakfast and even an impromptu pillow fight!



Regular Weekly Children's Worship

We will meet weekly for children's worship (Sunday School) from 9:30 to 11:10 in the Undercroft. The only exceptions will be March 26, Easter Sunday on April 16, and Family Church Sundays on April 30 and May 28. Here is a typical schedule of our worship time.

9:30-9:45	Building the Circle/Getting Ready	10-15 minutes
9:45-10:05	The Lesson and Wondering	20 minutes
10:05-10:30	Individual Response Time	25 minutes
10:30-10:35	Putting Things Away/Cleanup	5 minutes
10:35-10:45	Bible Reading	10 minutes
10:45-10:55	Great Thanksgiving/Prayers	10 minutes
10:55-11:05	Feast	10 minutes
11:05-11:10	Blessing	5 minutes

*Times are approximate, will vary with age of children, size of class, time of year, and special circumstances.



Family Church Sunday

March 26, April 30, and May 28 are Family Church Sundays. On these days, there is no separate children's worship time. Families should plan to attend their chosen regular service together as a family. Father Paul will be delivering a grab bag sermon. The children and youth are also invited to serve as ushers, readers and communion assistants during the 10:30 service. Please encourage and support your children's participation in the service in whatever way he or she is interested. Let Belinda Young-Payne know who is interested. Readings can be provided early and training is available for any service role.



Palm Sunday Children's Story

On April 9, parents are invited to join us to experience one of the most powerful Godly Play stories of the year. The Holy Week Story will be told at 9:45am in the preschool classroom of the Undercroft for all who wish to hear it.



Good Friday at St. David's

St. David's on Grubb Road in Wilmington is once again offering a Walk to Easter which is a great event that lets children experience Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Easter via interactive, hands on activities. This event is being held on Good Friday. Check the Children's Ministries bulletin board in the Great Hall at St. Thomas or speak to Belinda with questions or to get a registration form. It would be fun to get a group of families to attend this event together. St David's is also seeking volunteers to help with the event.



Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, April 16, there will be an Easter egg hunt and special goodies available after the 10:30 service. Everyone is welcome to attend! Toddlers to children aged 5 years will hunt in the courtyard. Children ages 6 -11 will hunt in the Grove. Each family is asked to bring at least 10 eggs per child, filled with age appropriate edible or nonedible items. In addition, each child should bring a basket or bag to use in the hunt. Don't worry we'll have extras for anyone who forgets!



Annual Children's Ministries Family Brunch

April 30 is the day of our annual Family Brunch. On this day, families of children and youth and whoever else would like to join us are invited to gather in the Great Hall at 9:30 for a potluck brunch. Each family is asked to bring something to share (eggs, breakfast casseroles, meats, bagels, muffins, fruit, etc.). A signup sheet will be posted after Easter so that families can sign up for what they would like to bring. Beverages will be provided. After the brunch, the children will then attend the 10:30 service with their parents.



Last Day of Regular Sunday School/First Day of Summer Children's Worship

The last day for Sunday School in our regular program year will be May 21. Summer Children's Worship during the 10:30 service will begin on June 11.



Vacation Bible School

This year, we will be joining St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to provide vacation bible school to our own children, those of the Brookside community, and children and families from the larger community of Newark and Bear. We are not sure yet if other churches will be joining us. At the first VBS planning meeting on the 11th, we chose a curriculum called Mega Sports Camp: Conquer the Day. The main theme will be "In all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37, NIV). I'm really excited about it because sports are really popular with kids nowadays and should be a great draw. The sports focused on are basketball, soccer and cheerleading. We are also hoping to have enough volunteers to offer a non-sports option like cooking.

Stay tuned for more information about the next planning meeting is so you can attend if interested and about the dates for the event. Also, please consider bringing your children, attending yourself, being involved as a teacher, activity leader or helper, or donating money or supplies. For questions or to volunteer, call or e-mail Belinda Young-Payne at 302-388-4017 or belmar43aol.com.