

Children's Ministries News
St. Thomas Church, Newark, DE
June/July/August 2017

As we anxiously await the end of the school year and the advent of summer, exciting things continue to happen in Children's Ministries. Here are the highlights. Please read carefully and find out how your family can be involved!!



Annual Pentecost Picnic

Our annual Pentecost Parish Picnic will take place on June 4 after the 10:30 service. Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring friends. St. Thomas will provide hamburgers, veggie burgers and hot dogs as well as paper products and drinks. There will be games and activities for all ages. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to help set up, clean up and help facilitate games. We also **NEED YOU** to bring a side dish or dessert to complete our celebration meal. (Donations will also be accepted toward the cost of the entrees and paper products.) Signup sheets to get an estimate of how many people are coming, who can help with setup and/or cleanup, and who is bringing what will be on the Great Hall door beginning on May 1. You are welcome to bring chairs or picnic blankets for your comfort and enjoyment. Thanks in advance for your help in creating another great fellowship opportunity for our St. Thomas family!! Please feel free to e-mail Belinda at belmar43@aol.com or call me at 302-832-8834 with questions or to volunteer to help plan or facilitate the picnic.



Family Church Sunday

June 4 and June 11 will be 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.



Summer Children's Worship at St. Thomas: Son Treasure Island

Summer Children's Worship for children 3 years and older will begin on June 25 and run through August 20 during the 10:30 service. Children are invited to join the children's worship leader in the Undercroft between 10:25 and 11:10. The children will then rejoin their families during the Peace. Our theme this year is Son Treasure Island: Discovering God's Love. Throughout the

summer we will have fun engaging in stories, art, drama, music and games while learning about the Greatest Treasure ever: God's Love. Check out I Corinthians 13!

Parents and older family members are encouraged to sign up to assist with children's worship a one or two Sundays this summer.



Vacation Bible School

St. Thomas will again be joining our friends at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church to provide vacation bible school to our own children and those of the Brookside community. Our theme this year is Mega Sports Camp: Conquer the Day! VBS will be held in the evenings of July 30-August 3 from 5:30pm -8:30 pm. (Registration begins at 5:00 on July 30.) I'm really excited about it because sports are really popular with kids nowadays and should be a great draw. The sports we will focus on are soccer and cheerleading. There will be a preschool component that covers sports basics. Each evening will include rallies, music and drama, sports practice and scrimmages, bible lessons and a light meal. This is a great opportunity for ecumenical fellowship and outreach for adults and children as well as a great way to provide fun and education to our children.

Please consider bringing your children, being involved as a volunteer, and/or donating money or supplies. We are currently looking for older teens or adults to be huddle coaches who will accompany groups of children from one activity to another, head coaches for soccer and cheerleading, a rally coach//music coach and an actor to be Mega, our VBS mascot. If you would like to donate or loan materials, the list of supplies needed this year includes the following so far: soccer balls, pinneys, small and large sports cones, stopwatch, bases, CD players, pompoms, tennis balls, bean bags, playground balls, painters tape, duct tape. A complete list of supplies needed will be posted on the Great Hall door when available. For questions or to volunteer, call or e-mail Belinda Young-Payne.



Look Ahead to September:

Regular Children's Worship will begin again on September 10 for children 18 months to 6th grade. Sunday School normally runs from 9:30 to 11:10. Registration for Sunday School will begin at 9:15 in the Great Hall on September 10.



Other Special Requests:

- Please consider becoming a member of St. Thomas Children's Worship Team next program year. Teaching involves an average commitment of two Sundays a month and an hour or two of preparation the week you are the lead teacher. This ministry is an act of both giving and receiving. The children teach and inspire us as much as we do them. Trainings for Godly Play and Living the Good News for anyone who needs it will be held in August. If you feel called to be a part of children's ministry in any way, please speak to Belinda Young-Payne.
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- If you have any photographs of our children or youth engaging in any activities at St Thomas over the past year or so, we would love to have them for our Children and Youth Ministries bulletin board in the Great Hall.



Children's Ministries Contact Information

- Please contact Belinda Young-Payne or any of the Children's Worship Team Leaders with any questions or comments you may have about any of our activities
- Belinda can be reached at 302-832-8834, 302-388-4017, or belmar43@aol.com.