

**Annual Report to the Parish
Christian Formation 2008
January 25, 2009**

2008 Summary

Based on parish feedback to the vestry regarding Christian Education and growing our membership, some changes were made in the Sunday School schedule:

Children in the Intermediate and Middle School classes (grades 4 and up) now meet for Sunday School before church at 9 a.m, and continue to attend worship service in church with their respective families.

Children in grades K-3 now attend the beginning of each church service with their families, and leave at the second hymn with their teachers to go to Sunday School (10 – 11 a.m.)

These changes have resulted in more consistent attendance, and newcomers to the church can easily see the importance of children to our parish. This change has been well-received by parishioners, and the children report to their parents that they enjoy being a small part of the adult worship service.

Also, in the interest of growing our Christian Education program, the vestry voted to increase the compensation of Joanne Flatley, commensurate with her new responsibilities as Coordinator of Christian Education at St. Mary's. These new responsibilities now include coordination of all Christian Education efforts to ensure effective communication with the Junior Choir and Acolyte branches of Christian Formation for our youth at St. Mary's. St. Mary's now has 24 acolytes ranging from 3rd grade – 11th grade.

Joanne continues to teach two Sunday School classes each week, collaborating with Susan Walko to ensure continuity across the curriculum for our elementary school-age children. She also communicates with Jeffrey Hughes and Peter Chase who coordinate activities for the older students in middle school and beyond. Plans for a Spring 2009 Confirmation group from St. Mary's are underway (date TBA). She and Susan Walko have introduced some exciting new curriculum supplements/materials published by The Upper Room.

Christian Education Classes and Attendance Record

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd I - taught by Susan Walko
Pre-K– K (3-6 year-olds)
8 registered students, 6 attend consistently

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd II – taught by Joanne Flatley
Grades 1-3 (6-9 year-olds)
6 registered students; 4 attend consistently

Intermediate Curriculum – taught by Joanne Flatley
Grades 4-6 (9-11 year-olds)
7 registered students, 5 attend consistently

Pre-Confirmation/Confirmation Class - taught by Jeffrey Hughes & Peter Chase
Grades 6 & up (ages 11 and up)
6 students registered; 4 attend consistently

Postconfirmation Youth - taught by Jeffrey Hughes and Peter Chase
Grades 9 & up (ages 14 and up)
This group is sufficiently small to be integrated with the Middle School and up youth group.

Some additional activities for our youth in 2008 have included:

- Youth Participation at Cathedral on the Common
- Blessing of the Animals
- Welcome Back Barbecue in September - Children's Games w/ Ice Cream truck
- Special thanks to Joanne Flatley and Susan Walko for supervising these games and distributing the grand prize!
- Youth participation in the Reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday
- June 15th Poems read by Sunday School
- Advent wreath-making in the Parish Hall on the Sunday after Thanksgiving
- Production of a video for the Family Christmas Eve Service, commemorating Jesus's birth with a birthday party and narrated by Sunday School students. Special thanks to Galen Chase for her professional assistance in producing this video! Copies of the video were distributed in "birthday goody bags" to all participants and their families as they left the service on Christmas Eve.
- Youth volunteers at the Miracle Kitchen in Framingham

Adult Forums on Sundays included:

- Three Coffee and Connections Forums
- Christian Education
- Outreach
- Worship at St. Mary's
- Alan Klump spoke about environmental stewardship
- Talk on El Salvador
- Music and Worship
- Children without Borders

Respectfully submitted,

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Vestry Liaison for Christian Education