

Children's Ministries

During the first half of the Sunday School year, we offered Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to our younger parishioners, age 3 through grade 3, divided into two levels for instruction purposes. We continue to offer two levels of instructions; however, preschool and kindergarten children hear the Christian message through Godly Play. Our Godly Play teachers include Alex de la Lama, Lissy Rooney, Robin Twiss, Robyn Sohne, Ruth Weber, and Susan Heinz. I lead grades 1-3 through Seasons of the Spirit, as Kathy Clark, Pat Robell, and Jim Cooper do for our 4th and 5th graders. The Jubilate Choir, formerly Joyful Noise, is led by Pat Robell.

The past year has brought many blessings and changes for Children's Ministries. Here is a summary highlighting some of those:

- The time schedule changed back in the spring in the hopes that our families with small children would be able to attend Sunday School either after the 8:00 service or before the 10:00 service. This model did not prove to be as satisfactory as we had hoped; therefore, effective January 10, 2010, we are returning to the model we used previously. The children's Jubilate Choir will meet at 9:30 in the music room and Sunday school for preschool through 5th grade will be held at 10:00 coinciding with the 10:00 worship service. Children will be led into the worship service at the Peace to rejoin their families so that they can celebrate the Eucharist together.
- This past summer Vacation Bible School was a huge success. We had 87 children registered and 30+ volunteers. The funding needed to support VBS was provided by the church, registration fees, and donations. Approximately 47% of the church's portion was returned to the church after expenses were deducted. We hope this year to raise the funds needed solely from registration fees and donations.
- We have a consistent smiling face in the nursery every Sunday. Her name is Anne. She and I are working together to make the nursery as inviting as possible for our youngest parishioners, infant through age 3.
- Our children's choir changed its name from Joyful Noise to Jubilate Choir. This choir is a cooperative effort between children from our parish and children from the Day School. This choir leads worship approximately every 2-3 months and is always a wonderful blessing that enhances our worship experience.
- This year we also went electronic, to the greatest extent possible, in our information delivery to our children and their families. We hope this has been well received as it has helped us cut our delivery costs to a minimum.
- Our Christmas season had many opportunities for our families to worship together, through preparation at our Advent workshop, caroling, and the Christmas pageant.

While I have been an hourly employee for the past seven years, I was offered and accepted the part-time position as Director of Children's Ministries in June. It has been one of my greatest joys to serve in this position. I pray that God will draw our families into his loving embrace and increase our enrollment as we work to make our Sunday school the best possible program for our children and their families. It takes the time and dedication of a lot of people and, while I don't think I can name them all individually, I do want to say thank you to each one.