

# Christian Formation

**Chairperson:** Charlette Preslar, (619) 435-4561, formtion@christchurchcoronado.org

**Members:** Anne Bridgers, Nancy Funk, Christie Tugend, Jamie Glorieux, Allison Morrissey, Genny Butenshon, John Funk, Devon James, Amy James

**Meeting dates & times:** Varied based upon need

## **Purpose/Mission/Responsibilities:**

- Connecting the children of Christ Church to their faith and their church
- Enhancing family life by providing events that partner generations and ages
- Encourage crossover between Christ Church parishioners and Christ Church Day School families
- Scheduling, training and coordinating volunteers for Family First, Sunday Supper, Nursery Care, Acolytes, Youth Group and more.

## **Major Accomplishments:**

- Organization and facilitation of mission trip with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Mexico. Which included diocesan wide fundraising efforts
- Middle School Mission Trip with the Sierra Service Project serving those in need in Imperial Beach and National City
- Youth retreat at Camp Stevens – Annual epiphany retreat at Camp Stevens with youth from all over the diocese. 12 Christ Church youth in grades 6-12 went on the trip. The theme this year was “Reality Check” and talked about putting God first in our lives
- Camp Create! This weeklong, full day Vacation Bible School focused on creating faith through the mediums of art, music, and drama. 44 children in grades 2-5 participated in activities around, “PRAISE! The how, why and when we praise God”. In addition to Christ Church children, we also welcomed children from the community, as well as St. Luke’s North Park. New this year were counselors coming from the St. Luke’s youth group in addition to the Christ Church youth group
- Family First Sunday – this once monthly whole family approach to Sunday school continues to thrive. Regular attendance is between 16 and 22 children. The goal continues to be bringing all of the children of Christ Church to church at the same time. Church friends are so important! Families are increasingly busy, so having the opportunity to really focus on getting here on one specific Sunday eases some of the guilt associated with not being able to attend every week. This hour long program focuses on scripture, art, and drama
- Sunday Supper - a service that is held in Hinde Hall. After the service we have dinner all together. This offering has an average of 40 people in attendance with an age range of 2-90
- Kids Praise! – a new offering began on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. Children in grades 1-5 sing, dance, and play rhythm games at 10:00 a.m. in Hinde Hall. The Kids Praise choir sang during the 10:00 a.m. service on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. They will perform again in the Spring
- Sunday morning Adult Forums took a hiatus in the last part of 2019. Consistent forums return during Lent of 2020

- Dia de los Muertos – a traditional altar was set by the Christ Church Day School students in the back of the church. Students and parishioners brought pictures of their deceased family members to be included on the altar
- This past year's Wednesday evening Lenten program focused on "Practicing Love in Lent". During the Sunday morning forums, the parish went on a "Journey through the Holy Land". Both programs were led by Rev. Anne Bridgers. This year we also hosted a Passover Meal with more than 65 parishioners in attendance.
- Participated in The Great Kindness Challenge, a national event focusing on creating a culture of kindness in our schools. The students of Christ Church Day School, and Christ Church parishioners completed over 1100 acts of kindness during the course of the week.

**Our ministry is truly focused on the theme of "We are Family."** We care for youth, families and all of the members of our congregation. We provide opportunities for connection, fellowship, spiritual development, outreach, and love. We continually look for ways to welcome others, provide connection between our church, our school, and the world outside our doors. Connection and relationships are paramount to our ministry and we continue to strengthen the bonds of our Christ Church family.

#### **Challenges:**

One of the main challenges in Christian Formation is helping children and youth transition into adult people of faith. This year we expanded that relationship by enlisting new mentors for both Family First and the Youth Group. These willing and kind hearted people are not related to the children and youth in the program. Seeing how adults express their faith and value the thoughts and ideas of children significantly contributes to children and youth transitioning into adults who participate in their faith communities.

#### **Summary:**

2020 provided opportunities both for nurturing fledgling programs and implementing new ones. Kids Praise! Has helped enrich family offerings and is providing children a joyful way to connect to faith through music.

This year we will be sending four youth from our parish to The Episcopal Youth Event in Washington D.C. There they will join with 2000 youth from all over the world for a three day leadership conference with leaders from the wider church, including Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

It is wonderful to look back at all of the ways "We are Family"! I am excited for all of the opportunities presented in 2020.