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Youth and  
Family  
Ministries

Christ Church  
Georgetown

2018 - 2019



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# Worship, Education, Formation and Fellowship

A group of approximately ten young people, mostly teenagers, are posing on a grassy hill. They are dressed in casual summer attire like t-shirts and shorts. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The group is arranged in two rows, with some standing and one person sitting in the front.

At Christ Church, Georgetown, we are committed to upholding the promise we make to children at their Baptism: “To do all in our power to support them in their life in Christ.” This begins in worship, where we believe a child’s faith grows through prayer, song, and sacrament. Children are welcome in all of our services, along with the energy (and sometimes, sound) they bring!

Baptized children may receive the Eucharist, and as children grow we encourage them to participate even more fully in our corporate

worship. Outside worship services, we aim to provide each young person with opportunities to meet God in scripture, church traditions, service, and the fellowship of a loving Christian community.

Finally, we believe that faith is learned and practiced at home as much as it is at church, and so we seek to provide parents and caregivers with the confidence and support they need to navigate the challenges and joys of raising children in the Christian life and faith.

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## Worship

We believe that worship is enriched by the presence and participation of children of all ages. All are invited to visit the worship resource display at the back of the church. Nursery care is also available for children three years of age and younger in the Parish Hall at 3116 O Street from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Sunday.

Our 9:00 a.m. Sunday liturgy features a children's homily and is enlivened by youth participation. Young people serve as acolytes, lectors, ushers, and oblation bearers.



## Youth Choir

Children who have reached a first-grade reading level are warmly invited to be part of our Youth Choir. No prior musical experience is necessary. The Youth Choir meets monthly on Tuesday evenings for a light supper and rehearsal, and leads 9:00 a.m. worship the following Sunday.

Youth Choir Rehearsals for 2018-2019 will be on September 18, October 23, November 13, December 18, January 15, February 19, March 19, and May 14.

Youth Choir Sundays for 2018-2019 will be on September 23, October 28, November 18, January 20, February 24, March 24, and May 19 (Youth Sunday). The Youth Choir will also sing at the Christmas Pageant.

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## Sunday School

Sunday School classes for children age three and older begin at 10:00 when children and teachers all process from the 9:00 service to gather for a short Opening Assembly in the Parish Hall Auditorium. Children are then dismissed to their classes where teachers lead them in age-appropriate Bible study, prayer, lively activities, and crafts.

Preschoolers and Kindergarteners use the Godly Play curriculum, a Montessori-style class in which teachers tell stories from the Bible and invite children to "wonder" and respond to them.

1st - 3rd Graders follow our Sunday lectionary readings, learning more about one of the stories read in church each week.

4th - 5th Graders study the Bible chronologically, delving into familiar stories to more deeply understand their context.

6th - 7th Graders use the Weaving God's Promises curriculum to deepen their understanding of lectionary texts and church history.

8th - 9th Graders learn church practices and theology alongside a richer exploration of Biblical texts in alternating units through the year.

10th - 12th Graders gather the last Sunday of each month in the Auditorium for discussion and fellowship. This year sessions will focus on "Big Questions" of our faith.



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## Youth Formation

Our Youth Ministry seeks to support preteens and teens in developing an engaged faith and nuanced spirituality. On Sunday mornings and beyond, Christ Church invites middle and high schoolers to ask bigger questions, grow deeper relationships with peers and mentors in the church, and live more fully in response to Christ's call to serve our neighbors. In addition to Sunday classes and regularly scheduled opportunities for fellowship, Christ Church's Youth Ministry includes:

**Confirmation:** Beginning in 9th grade, baptized students are invited to consider making an adult statement of faith through Confirmation. Young people are presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation at Washington National Cathedral in May. Six preparation sessions are held each year on Sunday evenings. Students wishing to be confirmed must attend five of these sessions.

**Youth Pilgrimage:** Every other year, 9th and 10th graders have the opportunity to make a Pilgrimage: a week of prayer, fellowship, and reflection on Christian history and God's work in their own lives. Youth participants choose their destination, raise a third of trip costs, and spend the year prior preparing for their trip.

**Service Trip:** Alternating years with the Youth Pilgrimage, all 9th to 12th graders are invited to participate in a week long service trip with a mission focus. These trips provide an opportunity to put faith into action through volunteer service. Sites vary from year to year, and youth meet throughout the program year to plan.

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## Parent Formation

A significant portion of children's faith development takes place within the context of the home. To support parents in the Christian formation of their child(ren), Christ Church offers programs on Sundays and week-nights throughout the year including:

**Good News!:** A monthly newsletter that updates parents about Sunday School and Youth and Family events.

Periodic parent education and formation programs with featured speakers on Sunday mornings during the ten o'clock hour.

Seasonal family nights that provide fellowship and fun activities for parishioners of all ages.

An intergenerational evening program during Lent including supper and a speaker series for adults and a children's program focused on finding spirituality in classic children's literature.

An annual instructed Eucharist class for parents and preschoolers/kindergarteners.

**Babywise:** A group for new parents to share the joys and challenges of raising Christian children in our complex and complicated world.



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## Get Involved

The 2018-2019 Christ Church Youth and Family Ministries Committee includes Ted Jackson (chair), Katherine Brown, Dana Harris, Martha Miller, Molly Peacock, Linda Range, Craig Stouffer, Whitney Rosenthal, James Wise, Rita Yoe (Youth Missioner), and the Reverend Elizabeth Keeler (Assistant to the Rector).

To learn more about any of our Youth and Family programs, register for Sunday School, or learn more about volunteering with children's or youth ministries, contact Rita Yoe, Christ Church Youth Missioner at 202-333-6677; [rita@christchurchgeorgetown.org](mailto:rita@christchurchgeorgetown.org).



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## Year Highlights

Sunday, September 9: Homecoming Sunday Service (10:00) and Urban Picnic (11:30)

Sunday, September 16: Blessing of the Backpacks and Teacher Commissioning (9:00 Service)

Sunday, September 16: Sunday School Kickoff with Bicentennial Art Project (10:00)

Sunday, October 7: Blessing of the Animals (4:00 p.m.)

Friday, October 26: Pumpkins, Prayers, and Pizza (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

Sunday, November 4: All Saints Procession (8:45 a.m.)

Sunday, December 2: Advent All-In with Wreath-making (10:00 a.m.)

Friday, December 21: Christmas Pageant and Reception (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

Friday, February 1: Family Hymn-Sing and Potluck (6:00 p.m.)

Sunday, March 3: Church House of Pancakes, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 10: Lenten All-In (10:00 a.m.)

Tuesdays in Lent (March and April): Intergenerational Lenten Series (6:30 to 8:00 p.m.)

Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday Procession (8:45 a.m.)

Sunday, May 19: Youth Sunday (9:00 a.m.) and Sunday School Closing Celebration (10:00 a.m.)

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