

The Mission of St. Paul's
is to worship God,
bring all into a loving
relationship with Jesus Christ,
and equip all for ministry.



CHILDREN'S AND
YOUTH MINISTRY



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BLESSING VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

Matthew 18:3-5

[Jesus] said: *“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*

 Show me your ways, Lord;
People *teach me your paths.*

Let us pray.

Father, we thank you for the gift of children and youth and for calling these volunteers to care for them.
Empower them to be faithful teachers and guardians.

Fill them with confidence as they do the work you have given them to do.
For they work in your name.

Inspire us to support them in this important ministry
And to follow their example of love.

In the name of this congregation I commission you as workers in the Children’s and Youth Ministries and ask God to bless you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



CHILDREN’S VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering with the children’s ministry please contact our Children’s Ministry Coordinator, Cindy Guevart, at children@stpaulsmboro.org.

Catechists: Trained teachers in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

Children’s Church: Assist Jerry Redditt and Sudi Luboniecki in Children’s Church during the 8:30 am service.

Curriculum Planners: Work with Cindy to prepare for programs such as the Lenten Meditations Program or the True Vine Retreat.

Special Events: Assist in preparing for special events such as the Advent Party, the Mardi Gras Party, or the Easter Egg Hunt.

Clerical or Hand Work: Prepare mailings such as the Family Newsletter, update groups in Realm, cutting and laminating, repairing or creating materials for catechesis.

Club 3-4-5: Chaperone an outing of our Club 3-4-5 community.

Volunteer Appreciation: Help show our volunteers how much we appreciate them with a yearly event.

Vacation Bible School: There are innumerable ways to assist at VBS each year. From preparing supplies or spaces to organization to working with children, there is a job for everyone.

Prayer Board: Match children and youth to intercessors and work with Cindy to maintain the prayer boards.

Christmas Pageant: Work with DeeDee Tidwell and Cindy Guevart on our annual Christmas Pageant.

Organization and Cleaning: Aid in light cleaning and organization of our children’s spaces including our atria and storage closets; laundry of materials from pageant or catechesis.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in volunteering with the youth ministry please contact Dale Tipps at daletipps@gmail.com.

Retreat Planners

The youth go on two or three retreats every year. You could help by getting a head-count, making reservations, helping with travel plans, and collecting fees.

Worship Liaison

Our parish worship calendar includes some services specifically involving youth, such as the annual Rite 13 ceremony and Confirmation. You would help make sure the youth and their parents get all the details of these services and help ensure their participation. The Worship Liaison would also be responsible for scheduling youth to be readers in the Sunday morning services approximately once a month. You might also assist the youth in their monthly (mostly) task of writing the Prayers of the People.

Special Event Coordinator

You could help us with our Youth/Parent dinner, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and other events. This may involve anything from taking reservations and picking up a catered meal to recruiting and scheduling volunteers.

Communications/Administrative

Pretty much what it sounds like. You can help us by emailing, calling, or sending other types of messages about upcoming events. You might also help maintain and update rosters, forms, and payment records.

Supplies Buyer

If you like to shop, you can do it for the youth. We need supplies ranging from food and drink to cups and napkins. Once we let you know what we need, you can just pick up the Youth credit card at the office and hit the marketplace.

Host an Event at Your Home

Pool parties, Christmas parties, bonfires, or whatever the youth might enjoy: if you have a place that would be a good spot for a youth event, let



us know! If you can't provide more than the location, don't worry, other volunteers can help with the feeding and care of Episcopal youth.

Volunteer Appreciation

Many of our volunteers put a lot of time and work into the youth program. Wouldn't you like to do something for them? It need not be elaborate, but you could help show them how much the parish appreciates their work once or twice a year.

Letter/Package Ministry

After youth graduate from the program, many of them go away to college or to other adventures. We'd like to remind them that St. Paul's loves and misses them. You could help by organizing and sending them a few letters and small packages from the parish.

Prayer Board Coordinator

You've seen the Prayer Board in the parish hall with the pictures of the youth. We ask the members of St. Paul's to commit to praying for one child or youth for the year. You could help Cindy Guevart update our Children and Youth Prayer Boards and match intercessors with our youth.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH VOLUNTEER MINISTRY EXPECTATIONS:

- **Be a Faithful Attender of Sunday Worship.** We cannot expect our children and youth to be faithful to church if we cannot be faithful.
- **Pray daily for St. Paul's children and youth ministries.** We believe in prayer. We expect our volunteers to pray daily for the children and youth ministries and their own ministry to the children and youth.
- **Follow through on responsibilities.** We encourage our volunteers to attend and participate in events as much as possible. This includes arriving to events and classes on time.
- **Model Christian behavior.** Our children and youth will model the behavior of our leaders and volunteers. We seek to create an environment of community, acceptance, and encouragement. This includes avoiding gossip and slander, and destructive criticism of other volunteers or the church leadership.
- **Get to Know Our Children and Youth.** We want our volunteers to know the children and youth at a personal level as they seek to recognize and foster their individual gifts. Personal mentoring is prioritized over programming. Within the youth ministry our goal is for the youth to have five personal relationships with adult church members outside their family.
- **Ask, Don't Tell.** Asking volunteers, children and youth for help instead of telling them to help is highly preferred and encouraged. When possible we use positive language, rather than negative. We expect our children, youth, and fellow volunteers to be treated with dignity and respect.
- **Attend Training and Volunteers Meetings.** Ministry to our children and youth is a team effort. Volunteers gather on a regular basis to plan and check-in with one another and receive training.
- **Offer Suggestions for Improvement.** We love hearing feedback from our children and youth volunteers. We expect our volunteers to direct suggestions to clergy and staff.



- **Build Relationships with Parents.** The primary spiritual leaders of children and youth are his or her parents. We seek to partner and equip the parents of our children and youth by building a solid relationship with parents throughout the year.
- **Completion of Safeguarding God's Children Training.** We expect our volunteers to respect the boundaries presented in our Safeguarding training. This protects our volunteers as well as our children and youth.

QUALITIES NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

- Reasonably knowledgeable, and believes in and supports the teachings of the Episcopal Church
- Comfortable relating to children, genuinely likes and respects children, and understands their developmental levels
- Demonstrates integrity: is able to make a commitment and follow through
- Has a sense of humor and a positive attitude
- Conveys a passion to see children grow in their interest and fulfillment of God's plan
- Is flexible and willing to try new things! Plans with children are often fluid and change depending on the group of children
- Is trustworthy; must be of good character and reputation and works well with other volunteers
- Maintains appropriate, professional boundaries with children
- Continues their lifelong formation in the Christian faith

QUALITIES NEEDED FOR YOUTH MINISTRY:

- Reasonably knowledgeable, and believes in and supports the teachings of the Episcopal Church
- Comfortable relating to young people, genuinely likes and respects teens, and understands their developmental levels
- Willing to serve, able to make a commitment and follow through
- Has a sense of humor (it helps!)
- Is trustworthy; must be of good character, reputation, background, and record
- Maintains appropriate, professional boundaries with youth
- Continues their lifelong formation in the Christian faith.