

# Growing Up At Christ Church

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature,  
and in favor with God and men.”

Luke 2:52



*Why did you search for me?  
Did you not know I had  
to be in my father's house?*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**WELCOME TO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT CHRIST CHURCH**  
**WHERE JESUS AND KIDS COME FIRST**

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

I believe growing up at Christ Church is such a blessing. My two grown children had grown up here when I was called to Children's Ministry and they continue to have very fond memories of this dear old church. It was a safe place for them, a second home where they knew they were loved by their church family and Jesus. I love this church. I didn't grow up here, but knew from the beginning twenty three years ago, that it was a place with a good heart centered in Christ due to those who had gone on long before me and those who were still in leadership. I also love this church because it has always made ministry to children a first priority following the command of Jesus to "let the little children come" to Him.

I pray those of you with children and grandchildren will do whatever you can to bring your children to Sunday School and church as often as possible. Over the years, I have had the privilege of seeing a generation grow up here. I have seen what an actual difference it makes in the lives of children to attend church and Sunday School on a regular basis. There is so much love put into what we do for the children. Don't let them miss out! We have wonderfully committed men and women in leadership in Children's Ministry who are called to present Jesus to our children each week. I pray your children will be able to reap the benefits of that love that is so graciously given.

Once again, Children's Ministry has always been and will continue to be a priority at Christ Church. I pray you will also make it a priority in your life and that of your children. What we offer has eternal significance.

With Gratitude and Love In Christ,  
Halleta Heinrich  
*Director of Children's Ministry*



## OUR PHILOSOPHY OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*"Let the little children come to me..."*

*Matthew 19:14*

Those who minister to children at Christ Episcopal Church are obedient to the loving command of Jesus to "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Both children and adults involved in Children's Ministry are mutually blessed as we carry out the vision of the church "...to know Christ and to make Him known" through:

- \*Worshipping together
- \*Learning together
- \*Celebrating the Life of Christ together
- \*Reaching out to others with the love of Christ.

The main goal of Children's Ministry is to bring children to Christ through Sunday School, Chapels, Special Events and Projects. Through these programs, Christ is made known in the telling of God's story in scripture and the sharing of the life of Christ in us through our witness to the world.

As children are brought to Christ, those adults who minister to them are brought closer to Him through this relationship with the "little ones" to whom "the kingdom of heaven belongs". The spirituality of each child is respected and nurtured as adults involved with them are encouraged to "...change and become like little children..." in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, as Jesus taught. (Matthew 18:1-3)

Our Children's Chapels enable both pre-school and elementary children to worship at their own level through scriptural learning, praise in song, and shared prayer. Chapel is the place for large group celebrations of our faith and teaching of the traditions of the Episcopal Church as we walk through the church year together.

Sunday School is the heart of our program where relationships are built and scripture is taught in a small group atmosphere facilitated through teaching teams at each level. Special Events are seasonal celebrations of the life of Christ. Special programs and projects such as Vacation Bible School and Advent and Lent Outreach projects serve to further build our relationship with each other and the community by allowing Christ to reach out to others through us.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY SCHEDULE AND LOCATIONS  
IN THE FAMILY MINISTRY CENTER**

**SUNDAY LOCATIONS:**

**Nurseries**

Infants - 18 months Room 104 & 105  
Toddlers and Twos Room 106

**Children's Chapel**

Second Floor Chapel

**Sunday School Classes**

*Age and Grade Level as of September 1, 2011*

**Good Shepherd Sunday School**

Level I A Atrium (3 yr. olds – Kindergarten) Room 204  
Level I B Atrium (3 year olds – Kindergarten) Room 201  
Level II Atrium (1st and 2nd grade) Room 208

**Village of God's Children Sunday School**

3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades  
Opening Gathering – Room 303  
Activity and Small Group Break Out Rooms – 301, 302, 303

*\* It is Christ Church Safety Policy that all children be accompanied to by parents or guardians to class, chapel or choir locations upon arrival and be released only to parent/guardians at conclusion of these events.*

Insert Map

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
2011 – 2012**

August 28 – Rally Day/Parish Picnic Fall Kick-Off

September 4 – “Princess and the Pop Star” Veggie Tales Event

September 11 – Fall Sunday School Begins

September 14 – “Blessing” Wednesday Evening Program Begins

October – Christmas Pageant Practice Begins

October 30 – Children’s All Saints Celebration

November – SAMM Shelter Christmas Gift Project Begins

November 27 – “Hanging of the Greens” Decorating of the Parish Hall

December 3 – All Cast Christmas Pageant Practice

December 4 – Christmas Pageant Presented

January 8 – Children’s Epiphany Celebration

February – Children’s Communion Class Begins

April 6 – Children’s Good Friday Retreat

April 7 – Easter Egg Hunt and Liturgy of Light

April 8 – Easter Sunday Flowering of the Cross

June 3 – Summer Sunday School Begins

June 25 – 29 – Vacation Bible School

## FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN

### **Children's Ministry Safety Guidelines - Arrival and Pick Up Procedures**

We are fortunate to be able to offer a full Christian formation experience including a wide variety of Sunday School classes, Chapels and Children's Choirs for all ages of children. For the safety of our children present at Christ Church, the following Safety Guidelines involving arrival and pick up procedures are spelled out intentionally for parents, guardians, and others entrusted to the care of our children.

#### **At All Times:**

Children are to be accompanied to all nurseries, classes, chapels, weekday choirs and events by parents or guardians upon arrival for each Church sponsored event. A check-in policy is in place in each nursery and pre-school class location for infants – kindergarten age children with name of child, parents/guardian, and their location during church event.

\*Children are not to ride elevators unless accompanied by an adult.

\*Children can only be released to parents or guardians. Parent/guardians should meet children at release locations.

Our requirement is to have a minimum of 2 teachers or staff personnel in each classroom location on all occasions to aid in the safety of our children. Parents are asked to respond positively to requests to help in Chapels and Sunday School, so adequate supervision of children can always exist.

#### **Sunday Mornings:**

Children's Chapels including age group ranging from 3 year olds through 5th grade will be accompanied by Chapel Leaders and Church staff personnel to join parents for Holy Communion during the 10:15 AM service. Parents should watch for their children at this time to help in their safe return to your care.

Sunday School children will be accompanied by their teachers at 10:10 AM to Chapel located on the second floor of the Family Ministry Center. Chapel and nursery staff will bring this age group into the 10:15 AM service at announcement time to join their parents/guardians for Holy Communion. Parents should watch for their children at this time to aid in their safe return to their care.

Sunday School concludes at 10:10 AM. Parents not desiring for their children to participate in Children's Chapel should pick up their children no later than 10:10 AM in their class locations.

**PRE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
**FOR CHILDREN 3 YEARS - KINDERGARTEN**

Level I Atrium Classrooms 201 and 204

Welcome to pre-school Good Shepherd Sunday School. Good Shepherd Sunday School is Christ-centered, Bible-centered, and child-centered, with the added plus of introducing pre-schoolers to the sacraments and liturgy of our church. The aim of pre-school Good Shepherd Sunday School is to help the children develop a personal relationship with Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and to realize his unconditional love for them. The pre-school class is a loving sheepfold where children take care of their learning environment, learn about the life of Christ and his teachings from the Bible, pray together, and begin to understand the traditions of the church.

The foundation of God's great and unconditional love for each child is laid through the cornerstone of teachings from the Gospel of John of Jesus as the Good Shepherd along with Biblical teachings on the life of Jesus and his teachings in the parables. The children learn to walk through the life of Jesus by celebrations and teachings on the Church Year. They learn about God's love for them through teachings on Baptism and Holy Communion. All of this is done in a child-friendly, hands-on environment which we call the Atrium.

Lead Teacher: Rebecca Facile

*You are invited to come help or observe in your child's Sunday School class any Sunday. You will be blessed by the experience.*



## LESSONS PRESENTED IN PRESCHOOL GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SCHOOL

### **Bible Teaching on the Life of Jesus:**

Jesus Our Good Shepherd  
Mary Finds Out She's Going to be the Mother of Jesus  
Mary and Elizabeth Visit  
The Birth of Jesus  
The Shepherds Adore Baby Jesus  
The Three Kings Visit Baby Jesus  
Mary and Joseph Take Baby Jesus to the Temple  
Old Testament Prophecies of the Coming of Christ  
Psalm of the Good Shepherd  
The Last Supper  
Pentecost and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

### **Parables of Jesus:**

The Parable of the Found Sheep  
The Parable of the Mustard Seed  
The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price  
The Parable of the Yeast/Leaven  
The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

### **Prayer:**

Children set prayer table and choose prayers for worship each Sunday.

### **Celebrations:**

Advent  
Christmas  
Epiphany  
Lent  
Celebration of the Last Supper  
Easter Liturgy of Light  
Pentecost

### **Geography:**

The globe in relation to the Holy Land  
The geography of the land of Jesus – Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem  
The geography of the land of Jesus -Three dimensional map

### **Traditions of the Church:**

Altar  
Seasonal colors of the church year  
Calendar of the church year  
Introductions to the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism

**FIRST AND SECOND GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD LEVEL II**

Level II Atrium Classroom – 208

The second level of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd builds upon the foundation of God's unconditional love presented in Level I for preschoolers. The children in first and second grade are learning to read and write and becoming more social, so these new developments affect the second level. Children work in groups building community with each other. The True Vine parable from the Gospel of John is the cornerstone of Level II. Children live into the teaching that Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches abiding in Him in order to live, thrive, and bear fruit in our lives.

The children prepare worship for Prayer Table time, learn the books of the Bible, continue to learn more about the historical life of Jesus and His teachings. They learn from the beginning about God's plan of salvation through Christ and refer to this often as a reference to all other teachings. Because the children are now well aware of God's great love for them, they are ready to learn about his laws which are given out of love. They learn that God's ultimate act of love is the gift of himself through Jesus Christ. Teachings on the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion are expanded as a foundation for the children's Communion Class offered to this age group in the Winter/Spring term.

Lead Teachers: Carmen Lewenthal, Jennifer Rose, & Halleta Heinrich

*You are invited to come help or observe in your child's Sunday School class any Sunday. You will be blessed by the experience.*



**LESSONS PRESENTED IN FIRST AND SECOND GRADE**  
**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

**Bible Teachings and the Life of Jesus:**

The Books of the Bible  
The Lord's Prayer  
Old Testament Prophecies Pointing to the Coming of Christ  
Angel Gabriel Announces that Mary will be the Mother of Jesus  
Mary and Elizabeth Visit  
The Birth of Jesus  
The Shepherds Adore Baby Jesus  
The Three Kings Visit Baby Jesus  
Mary and Joseph Take Baby Jesus to the Temple  
Mary, Joseph and Jesus Escape to Egypt  
Psalm of the Good Shepherd  
The Last Supper  
The Empty Tomb  
Pentecost  
Gifts of the Holy Spirit  
The Summary of the Law  
Helps for Living a Godly Life

**Parables of Jesus:**

The Parable of the Good Shepherd  
The Parable of the True Vine  
The Parable of the Good Shepherd and the Found Sheep  
The Parable of the Good Shepherd and the Wolf and the Hireling  
The Parable of the Mustard Seed  
The Parable of the Pearl of Great Price  
The Parable of the Yeast/Leaven  
The Parable of the Hidden Treasure  
The Parable of the Good Samaritan  
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector  
The Parable of the Found Coin  
The Parable of the Insistent Friend  
The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids  
The Parable of the Wedding Feast  
The Parable of the Sower

**Prayer:**

Children set prayer table and choose prayers and hymns for worship each Sunday.  
Group prayer – children plan prayer service using Bible and Prayer Book each Sunday.

**Celebrations:**

Advent  
Christmas  
Epiphany  
Lent  
Celebration of the Last Supper  
Easter Liturgy of Light  
Pentecost

**Geography:**

The geography of the land of Jesus  
The city of Jerusalem

**Traditions of the Church:**

Altar  
Seasonal colors of the church year  
Calendar of the church year  
Holy Communion  
Baptism



VILLAGE OF GOD'S CHILDREN UPPER ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL  
A STUDY OF ACTS  
FOR THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

Classrooms 301, 302, and 303

A strong foundation has been laid by Catechesis of the Good Shepherd by the time our children reach the upper elementary grades. Now it's time to really learn how to use the Bible and dig into it as the guiding light of our lives. The Village of God's Children Sunday School is committed to the thorough education of our children in God's Word while also supporting Biblical learning with related hands on activities supportive of Bible teachings. Our goal is to make sure that every child who participates in Sunday School graduates from Children's Ministry with a comfortable working knowledge of the Bible.

A different book of the Bible is studied each year with cross references to other parts of the Bible. This year the children will be led through the Book of Acts as they learn about the early Christian Church through the recordings of the Acts of the Apostles. Related fields trips, arts and crafts, and outreach projects related to the chapters of Acts will enrich the learning.

Lead Teachers: Mary Ellen and Stephen Archer



**THE EARLY CHURCH**  
**LESSONS FROM ACTS AND THE EPISTLES**

- Intro/Acts 1 Preparation for Pentecost
- Acts 2 The Day of Pentecost
- Acts 3-7 Early Establishment of the Church in Jerusalem
- Acts 8:1-9:30 Philip's Ministry and Paul's Conversion
- Acts 9:31-12:25 Peter's Ministry to the Gentiles
- Acts 13 Sending the First Missionaries
- Acts 14 Conclusion of Paul's first Missionary Journey
- Acts 15:1-35 The First Church Council Meeting at Jerusalem
- Hebrews 1:1-2:4 The letter to the Hebrews
- Hebrews 2:5-4:13 The Necessity of Belief in Christ to Enter His Rest
- Hebrews 4:14-6:20 The High Priesthood of Jesus & Call to Maturity
- Hebrews 7-10 The Superiority of Christ's High Priesthood
- Hebrews 11-13 The Life, Teachings, and Admonitions of Faith
- Hebrews 15:36-18:22 Paul's Second Missionary Journey
- I Thessalonians Paul's First letter to the Thessalonians
- II Thessalonians
- Acts 18:23-21:15 The Third Missionary Journey
- I Corinthians
- I Corinthians 8-16
- II Corinthians 1-7
- II Corinthians 8-13
- Ephesians 1
- Ephesians 2-3 The Believer's Position in the Body of Christ
- Ephesians 4:1-6:9 The Believer's Conduct
- Ephesians 6:10-24 The Conflict of the Church
- James 1-2
- James 3-5
- I Peter 1-2
- I Peter 3-5
- II Peter and Jude

## CHILDREN'S CHAPEL FOR 3 YEAR OLDS THROUGH FIFTH GRADERS

### Second Floor Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel is a special place at Christ Church where all ages of children gather to worship God in a way suited to their age. An order of worship is followed each Sunday and modeled after the same order of worship followed by parents in the regular church service. Praise songs are sung, prayers are lifted up and interactive sermons are presented based on the lectionary gospel lesson and seasonal celebrations of the year.

Junior Acolytes composed of older elementary age children help lead the service as well as adult Chapel Leaders. Chapel is a happy gathering where children learn to feel comfortable with and value the Anglican tradition of worship. Children join parents in the church for Holy Communion at announcement time.



### CHILDREN'S SPECIAL EVENTS

We love to have parties for Jesus here at Christ Church all year long as we celebrate his life as part of the seasons of the Church Year. From the Family Advent Event to the Christmas Pageant, from the Epiphany Celebration to the Easter Egg Hunt and the All Saints Celebration, we party a lot. It is party with a purpose as the life of Jesus is the center of each event.

Special Events Coordinators: Gretchen Duggan and Dee Dee Boone

## OTHER OFFERINGS

### Children's Communion Class First and Second Graders

A Children's Communion Preparation Class is offered each Spring semester for first and second graders. This class is not a requirement for the receiving of Holy communion, but an enriching experience designed to help children better understand the gift of the resurrected life Jesus gives each of us in participating in the celebration of Communion. The class is held over eight Sundays during Sunday School hour and culminates in a Communion Retreat the Saturday before the Communion Celebration Sunday. The children play an active role in the Communion Sunday Celebration service which honors class participants and their parents. Parents are asked to serve as helpers on a rotating basis in the class, on the retreat, and in the planning of the Communion Celebration. A Parent/Child Orientation for the class will take place in early February and classes will begin soon afterwards. The Communion Retreat and Celebration will take place in one of the weekends following Easter Sunday.

### Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Fellowship Events

Fun fellowship activities are planned during the year for our upper elementary children in order to create a bond of friendship that will carry them over to the Youth Ministry and the teen years. Most of these activities occur on Sunday after the 10:15 church service. Children meet in the early fall for a combination Pizza Party and Junior Acolyte Training where they are given the opportunity to choose and plan at least six off campus activities that include lunch.



## **Junior Acolytes Third, Forth and Fifth Graders**

Our third, fourth and fifth graders have the opportunity to serve as Junior Acolytes in Children's Chapel services. They are provided with training at the beginning of fall and are then scheduled to acolyte in the 10:15 Children's Chapel service on a rotating basis. This experience helps to prepare these older children for service as acolytes in the main church service when they enter the sixth grade. Junior Acolytes help provide an example of worship leadership to the younger children and add to the beauty and ritual of Children's Chapel. This is a wonderful experience for the children!

### **Agape Trail – Life Lessons in Love for God and Our Neighbors For Transitioning Fifth Graders Coming in Winter/Spring**

Agape Trail - Life Lessons in Love for God and Our Neighbors will be offered to fifth graders second semester. Thanks are given to friends at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio who have created this special program to help transition fifth graders to the challenging middle school years with God's commandments of love at it's center. The Greatest Commandment "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and the Second Commandment "Love your neighbor as your self" taught by Jesus in Matthew 22:37-39 form the scriptural basis of this program.

Many fun and creative activities reinforcing Bible teachings will be part of each class. The class will conclude with a meaningful weekend retreat. Fifth graders are encouraged to invite friends to join them in this important life-changing experience which will prepare them spiritually for their coming teen years.

*\* We encourage all Christ Church members to participate in Children's Ministry. We always welcome more Sunday School Teachers, Chapel Leaders, and Special Events Team members. Please contact Director of Children's Ministry Halletha Heinrich at the church at 210 736 3132 or halletah@cecsa.or if you want to volunteer or have any questions.*