

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

The Children's Ministry Team continues to evolve as a network for lay people and clergy who are involved in Christian formation for young people in the diocese.

Some highlights of the year include:

- The *Feed My Sheep* newsletter. Published approximately every other month and a source for program and resource suggestions, this publication also serves as a platform for individual parishes to share their children's ministry stories in hopes that these stories might inspire other congregations.
- Regular lunches, approximately every other month, to allow participants the opportunity to discuss face-to-face the successes and challenges of their various ministry programs. This year, we occasionally welcomed new participants, including the bishop. In addition to being a forum in which to share resources, the chance to form networked relationships with one another creates a stronger sense of community and purpose that in turn benefits our congregations.
- Ongoing support and expansion of our Pinterest boards. Our Prayer and Liturgy Board was mentioned as a helpful resource by the National Association of Episcopal Schools *Network* newsletter, April 2016 edition!
- A strong diocesan presence at the Forma conference in Philadelphia in January. Lisa Brown from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Susan Roth from Calvary; the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler; Canon Kim Karashin; and Joyce Donadee from St. Brendan's, all attended. Lisa Brown presented a workshop on "The Seven Types of Prayer" with Jamie Coats from the Society of St. John the Evangelist.
- A Godly Play workshop, sponsored by the diocese, offered at St. Brendan's.

A learning opportunity for the Children's Ministry Team was the attempt to organize an Acolyte Festival. Although ultimately postponed because of logistical challenges, we learned a few important points:

- Acolyte coordinators are eager to connect with one another, both to learn and to share from one another's programs.
- Acolyte coordinators and youth acolyte participants are not necessarily connected to other aspects of children and youth ministry, and we need to be intentional in how they are included.

We hope to re-schedule the Acolyte Festival this year, offering it at a time and place that allows full participation by diocesan children and youth who participate in this ministry.

Finally, we hope to expand the scope of the Children's Ministry Team in the coming year to include diocesan members who support youth ministry programs so that we might consider formation of young people as a continuum, not as separate ministry areas. We are currently considering whether the existing structure and timings of our gatherings and communications will sufficiently meet the needs of youth ministry, or if we need to modify our approach.

In the coming year, we hope to offer additional workshops and formation opportunities for both lay people and clergy so that they might continually grow in their own faith and understanding.

Respectfully submitted,
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Children's Ministry Team Coordinator