

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

It has been a privilege to serve as the coordinator for the Children's Ministry Team (CMT) of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Over the past few years, it has been encouraging to witness collegial relationships build between formation practitioners, both clergy and lay, from parishes across the diocese through gatherings, workshops, and contributions to the *Feed My Sheep* newsletter. I hope that, through these efforts, formation practitioners will be more likely to seek each other's support and inspiration through every season of the church year.

Some accomplishments of the CMT:

- At the 2016 Diocesan Convention, each parish was presented with a Spark Story Bible. These bibles can be used in any formation activity with children, and it was also suggested that parishes consider purchasing additional Story Bibles to place in their pews as a sign of welcome to any young people attending worship.
- Two issues of *Feed My Sheep* highlighted seasonally appropriate ministry practices as suggested by formation practitioners from parishes across the diocese.
- I attended the Forma conference in Anaheim, California, and presented a workshop there.
- The children of the diocese collaborated to create an altar cloth as a gift for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to celebrate "The Jesus Movement" as part of his pilgrimage here in February. Seventeen parishes participated by inviting children with painted feet to walk a length of cloth. The material was then assembled into an altar cloth and presented to the Presiding Bishop at a special youth event at Holy Cross, Homewood, which preceded the Absalom Jones Day worship celebration. A picture of the children presenting the Presiding Bishop with the altar cloth was used as a banner image for The Episcopal Church's Facebook page. Special thanks go to Joyce Donadee and Deacon Linda Wilson who assisted in distributing craft materials and in collecting the completed footprint cloths.
- As of this writing, a Godly Play workshop is scheduled to be held at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and registration includes formation leaders from different denominations.
- A number of parishes in the diocese offered VBS programs for the first time in many years, exploring new ways to extend their community engagement and reach.

Although my day-to-day ministry has moved in a different direction and I have stepped back from my role with the CMT, I will continue to hold the Children's Ministry Team, diocesan formation practitioners, and the young people of the diocese in my prayers.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Brown