

# St. Mark's Episcopal Church

*The Reverend Elizabeth Zarelli Turner, Rector*

*The Reverend Bert Baetz, Curate*

August 4, 2008

Dear St. Mark's Parents,

The 2008-2009 Christian Formation programs for our children will begin on **Sunday, September 7**. Please take a moment to fill in the Church School Registration form included in this file and return it by **Rally Day, Sunday, August 24** so we can make sure that your child is placed in the correct classroom and that our information is current.

Following are descriptions of the Nursery and Church School classes provided for St. Mark's children. Classes are held from 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. on Sunday mornings.



St. Mark's **Nursery** for crawling babies and children up to three years of age is located in Classroom C in the main building. Nursery staff works hard to provide a safe, comfortable place for our younger children to play during services and the education hour.



The **Godly Play** class is offered to Pre-Kindergartners and Kindergartners. In the carefully structured Godly Play classroom, children have freedom to explore their own faith. Using simple figures to tell the stories of God in a worshipful setting, children are able to experience and praise God. After hearing the stories in the Godly Play circle, children participate in the stories, bringing their experiences into their play and art work. By transforming the class into a sacred time and space with rituals of worship, their experience is "one of mystery, awe, and wonder," instead of one in which God is explained and interpreted for them.



**Workshop Rotation** for 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders is a curriculum based on the Rotational Learning Model and the Multiple Intelligences Theory. At the core of the program is the understanding that the greatest learning occurs when we experience ideas through several intelligences, including verbal, logical, visual, physical, musical, social and independent or self-reflection learning styles. Children will be grouped by grade level. Each group will rotate through one of the workshops each Sunday during a three to four week session to experience the same story in Art, Drama, Cooking, Science, Games, Computer and Music Workshops. The workshops will be held in various locations around the church buildings so children will need to visit the Workshop Rotation information display in the Parish Hall before heading to a classroom.



A **6<sup>th</sup> grade class** will meet in the school building during the fall while Confirmation Class for 7<sup>th</sup> graders is held. After the bishop's visit on October 26, the class will join the Youth Class.



**Confirmation Class** for 7<sup>th</sup> graders and older teens interested in being confirmed will meet with our seminarian, Mary Ann Huston, and the Rev. Bert Baetz. Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, October 26. Students are asked to attend faithfully all of the classes to prepare for this important public statement of commitment to the promises made at their baptisms. More detailed information has been mailed out to families.



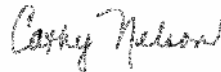
The **Youth Class** for 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with our Youth Director, Susie Comer. After Confirmation on October 26, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will join the class. The group will continue to explore different facets of their Christian lives through discussion, Bible study and activities. This group will also meet for **Youth Group** two Sundays a month.

Children aged four through six years are invited to the Common Room for **Children's Chapel** at both the 9:00 and the 11:00 a.m. services. The children join their parents in the sanctuary at the peace.

St. Mark's also offers many other ways for our children to participate in the life of the community, such as serving as an acolyte, usher, youth lector or chorister, so plan to join us for Rally Day to learn more about these opportunities!

I am looking forward to another wonderful year - thanks to your commitment to and support of this thriving ministry. I look forward to seeing you on **Rally Day, August 24**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Nelson".

Cathy Nelson  
Director of Christian Formation