

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

3 Maple St. Framingham, MA

www.standrewsframma.org

(508)875-5095

2009-2010 Parent Fact Sheet

FYC Social Group: Families with Young Children meet on frequent Sundays, 4-6 PM, for low-key fun and fellowship! Our emphasis is: No fuss! A picnic, potlucks, whatever's easiest; that's our motto.

Nursery Care: St. Andrew's provides care for children up to age 4 every Sunday from 9 through the 10 AM church service. At least one CORI-checked and trained paid caregiver is present at all times. Nursing mothers are invited to use the rocking chair in the Nursery.

The Fledglings Coop for Age 2.5-3: We now offer a simple parent cooperative church school effort which was launched last fall. Class will meet from 9 AM to 10 AM, for simple stories, activities, and snack. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd enrichment activities in our new Atrium (from a widely acclaimed Montessori-based approach to children's spirituality) are included as scheduling allows. These children may then accompany their parents to church or move across the hall to the nursery.

Church School for Age Four to Grade 3: These children attend class from 9 AM to the Peace. Classes are team-taught using the curriculum *All Things New*, which offers a rich mix of activities centered on scripture and Episcopal basics. These children have snack and frequent music sessions.

Church School for Gr. 4/5: These children meet weekly from 9 AM, using *All Things New* and a team teaching approach, and then attend church with their parents at 10 AM. Many of these children are beginning formal worship responsibility as ushers or acolytes with parent or other mentors.

Rite-13 for Gr. 6-8: Middle school youth use the widely acclaimed Journey to Adulthood curriculum (www.leaderresources.org). Highlights include a meaningful Rite-13 Banquet and Ceremony (in which parents share fondest memories before setting their children free to explore the faith), and increased involvement in planning their own activities. Rite-13 students will be eligible to participate in our exciting *Passportmissions* trip to the South in summer 2010.

Senior Youth Group for Gr. 9-12: Senior high youth meet Sundays from 9-10 AM for class. Highlights this year will include a field trip to Common Cathedral, new social events, diocesan and deanery youth events, production of a Youth Eucharist, and planning for two summer mission trips! (*El Hogar* in Honduras for age 16+ and *Passportmissions* for 7th Grade and up).

Communion Instruction: Episcopal children generally take communion from baptism, but instruction to aid in understanding the sacrament is offered annually to 2nd and 3rd graders. Families and the parish celebrate with a Class Dinner and Communion Recognition Day Service.

Confirmation Preparation: Students in 8th grade and above may prepare to affirm their baptismal promises next Easter season at a deanery confirmation service. Preparation involves a significant time commitment to regular Sunday evening meetings, mission project involvement, a retreat and social events. An introductory meeting for parents and youth will be held in late September to determine if there are sufficient students committed to forming a class.

Special Events and Children's Liturgies: In addition to our regular weekly education, much of our learning (and fun!) takes place in special events and kid-friendly liturgies. This year's offerings include our St. Francis Day Animal Blessing, St. Andrew's Day, St. Nicholas Day visits with the real

Santa Claus, a Mardi Gras party, Palm Sunday pony rides, a full week of children's Holy Week programming, and an annual Easter Egg Hunt. New favorites this year will include a parent/child Halloween Retreat, a Parent's Day Out Children's Christmas Craft day, and a wintertime festival.

Special Needs/Allergy Management/Emergency Numbers: If your child needs special adaptations of any kind to prosper at St. Andrew's please bring it to Lori's attention. We may be able, with advance planning, to provide aides, and our staff is experienced in providing help. Please note all allergies on your child's registration, and provide us with an emergency number.

Worship Involvement for Children and Youth: We are committed to providing hospitality to all children in worship, as part of the family of God. Children of all ages participate. We recommend sitting up front where children can see the liturgical action, and where, if incidental noise occurs, other worshippers are less distracted since they need not turn around to see what happened! Children's leaflets and crayons are provided, and non-sticky snacks and quiet toys for the youngest are perfectly appropriate. (Additional hints on helping your young child to worship are available in the tract rack.)

Acolytes and youth worship opportunities: Service as an acolyte is a significant part of youth programming at St. Andrew's. Children fourth grade and up may serve as acolytes. Training is available in spring, fall or by request. In fall 08, our Acolytes attended the National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC. Youth also serve as lay readers and ushers. Many talented youth serve as musical soloists. We present special children's liturgies and pageants and are working to develop additional worship opportunities geared to the preferences of children and young people.

Summer Programming: The parish offered both a well-received Vacation Bible Camp Day in June, and a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Day Camp Week in August. The diocese has extensive camp programming at its deluxe new Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center.

Safe Church Policies: Extensive new parish guidelines are posted throughout the building. Implementation and a broad parish education effort will be undertaken this year with CORI checks for all regular volunteers. Church school teachers and parish staff receive diocesan training to prevent child sexual abuse. All Episcopal clergy are periodically required to have extensive background checks. Please contact Lori for full details if you have concerns.

Director of Religious Education is the Rev. Deacon Lori Mills-Curran. A graduate of Weston Jesuit School of Theology, she has many years' experience in Christian education and teaches youth ministry for the diocese. She formerly worked as a special education attorney and is one of twenty American deacons profiled in *Many Servants: An Introduction to Deacons*, by Ormonde Plater.

Parent presence and volunteers needed: Parents are expected to remain on the premises while children attend educational programming. Support is always needed for outreach and special events. Artists, musicians, and crafters are needed periodically. Each church school class will need the support of its parents. *Fledgling Coop* parents are asked to volunteer on a regular basis.

Financial Information: All education activities at St. Andrew's are **free** or subsidized by **ample scholarship funds**. No one is ever denied access to any event (even camp and trips) for financial reasons. If possible, it is important to financially support your child's formation by making a pledge, of whatever amount, to the church. Simply put, pledging makes possible the long-range planning that creates excellence.

More Information: Our parish newsletter *Tidings* contains the *Christian Education News*, also available on-line. Lori is generally in the office Tuesdays and Thursdays, but can be reached at home [(508) 836-3160] or via email: lmills-curran@standrewsframma.org.