

"The Gathering" & More

ISSUE

07

Sept 2014

Holy
Innocents'
Episcopal
Church

The Defender

Beth Latshaw-Foti,
Editor

E.Y.E. Experience

By Justin Stone



In July a few of us teenagers went to E.Y.E. (Episcopal Youth Event) in Philadelphia, PA. There were a total number of 1,100 youth and youth leaders who participated in this huge event. While

having fun in Philadelphia the main point of our trip was to be marked for mission meaning that we should embrace what God has called us to do and go out and help others and spread his name and glory. But the other point was to become a better leader in our churches as a whole. They had hundreds of classes for us to go to from grilling the presiding bishop to the creation story with Lego's. I went to the creation story with Lego's class so I could help the church find a new way to teach bible lessons with a new twist that every kid loves to do. Everyone knows the creation story but no one really thought about adding some activities that deal with creation till now. You first ask the kids to choose one Lego piece and ask them why they chose that piece and how does that reflect themselves. You give them some time to decide their answer, and then you ask them to share what they have come up with. Then you break them up into groups were they must build something that reminds them of God's love. After hearing their answers you assign groups a day of creation and have them create what resembles that day and then you have a volunteer to read out the creation stories and the groups present what they created. Then you could go on line and show them the creation story video made with Lego's that shows a fun little video of the creation story.



The annual "Christmas Gathering" is Wednesday, December 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

"The Gathering" & Children's Choir



The "Gathering" will resume on Wednesday, September 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will begin a 4-week series entitled "Seeking Aliveness," which will include short video presentations by author and speaker, Brian McLaren, followed by small group discussion. Our evening will include dinner, fellowship, music, and the celebration of Holy Communion. Join us as we begin this important time of learning and spiritual growth together!



Children's choir rehearsals will begin on September 17th during the Gathering. Children ages 4 and up are welcome to join the choir. They will be working on

Christmas carols and on "Marching in the Light of God." The children will need some family support to memorize the carols; Mr. Matt will let families know what the best recordings are for the selected songs so that the children may practice at home as well as with him.

VBS Fun!

By Luke Pergola



In Vacation Bible School, there are different stations. I asked a few kids who went to VBS and the majority of them informed me that they enjoyed Games the most. Matthew Elder said he'd liked the games because it was the only station that let you run and play. I really enjoyed Games and Imagination Station (the science station). Ben Foti really liked Imagination Station too. If you're a child in fifth grade or under, I would suggest attending Vacation Bible School in 2015!

Important Dates thru September:

September 14

Sunday School Begins

9:15 a.m.

Please see pages
2 & 3 for classes

September 17

Eucharist & "The Gathering"

Noon & 6:00 p.m.

Eucharist meets in the chapel at noon & "The Gathering" meets in the Parish Hall at 6 p.m.

September 20

"Dolphin Tale 2"

11:00 a.m.

Held @ AMC Theaters in Brandon; Tickets are \$10 for movie or \$15 for movie & snack

September 28

Evensong

4:00 p.m.

Church, with reception to follow in Parish Hall

September 29-30

California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser

All day, both days

Begin held at CPK at Brandon Mall; Dine in or take out & 20% of check comes to H.I.

Christian Education

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From Pastor Michelle

Dear Friends in Christ,

When it comes to Christian Formation, "the church does not have an educational program; *it is an educational program.*" We believe this because since the beginning of the church, followers of Jesus of all ages have been formed and transformed through everything from worship, instruction, mentoring, serving others, and through being a part of Christian community. Christian Formation is not just something we do on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15. And, Christian Formation is not something you ever graduate from! With this in mind, Holy Innocents' has a multitude of formational opportunities for people of all ages to engage in. In addition to Sunday worship we have classes for children through adults, "The Gathering" on Wednesday nights, home groups, bible study groups, Children's worship, youth group, and countless service opportunities.

This year we are adjusting the Sunday schedule slightly to provide more opportunities for intergenerational fellowship and formation between the 8:00 and 10:30 services. On the first Sunday of the month we will host an expanded coffee hour from 9:15 – 10:15 in the parish hall. The following three Sundays of we will host various classes for all ages. Children in Pre-K to 5th grade will meet in the classrooms in Kiser Hall using a lectionary-based curriculum, youth in middle and high school will meet in the youth room, and adults will have several offerings led by clergy and lay leaders to choose from. Other intergenerational activities are being planned for the season of Advent. Watch for more information and consider participating as fully as you are able!

In Christ's love and mine,

Pastor Michelle

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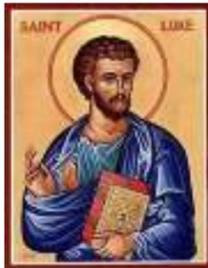
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Christian Education on Sunday Mornings

Adult

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



HEALING MINISTRY CLASS

Led by Fred & Diana Johnston

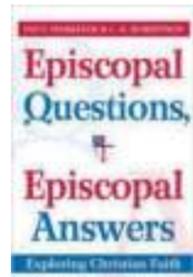
Why did Jesus spend so much time healing? In our study of Jesus' healing ministry, we will deepen our relationship with God while learning how to pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing for ourselves and others. We will be using materials from the Order of St. Luke for this study. Class starts on Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Fred and Diana Johnston at freddianaj@gmail.com for more details.

SCIENCE & FAITH, PART II

Led by Fr. Mark Winward



Fr. Mark will continue his popular teaching series that explores the unique relationship between science and faith. Class starts on Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Fr. Mark at markwinward@mac.com for more details.



EPISCOPAL 101

Led by Fr. Doug & Deacons

This class is for those who are preparing for baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation, or reception into the church. It's also for newcomers or anyone who just wants to learn more about the faith and practice of the Episcopal Church. Class starts on Sunday, September 14, at 9:15 a.m. Please contact Fr. Doug at dscharf@hiepiscopal.org for more details.

* Class locations will be posted on Sunday, September 14.



- Beginning in October: "Daring Greatly" Book Study, Led by Pastor Michelle
- Beginning in November: "Intro to Barbara Brown Taylor", Led by Fr. Steve

Beginning in October, the first Sunday of every month will be a "Faith & Fellowship" gathering in the Parish Hall. All Sunday School participants will meet together for a time of fellowship. There will be activities for children, a special place designated for the youth, a table for clergy to meet with newcomers, and an opportunity for adults to talk with one another. It will also be a chance for you to preview upcoming classes. Make this first Sunday a regular part of your Sunday mornings!



By: Thomas Johnston



The Youth 6th through 12th Grade will meet in the Youth Room for a varied curriculum that will include a study of Harry Potter and the Bible. Other offerings will include select topics from the Adult Forum that tweens and teens can relate to in their life, and traditional lectionary-based lessons. This mixed approach will keep the lessons interesting and current, allowing the youth to connect themselves and their study of Faith with God and the outside world. Join your friends and come to class starting September 14!



Children's Christian Education will continue to use "Living the Good News" as our foundational instruction program. This program is liturgical, and encourages engagement with the liturgy through crafts, games, and more. We will also be starting a program to recognize when students achieve certain milestones in Christian formation (i.e. learning The Lord's Prayer, The Ten Commandments, The Nicene Creed, etc.), and also their participation in church activities. Students will be given bracelets and add beads to them with each accomplishment. Recognition of accomplishments will be made before the congregation.



If you would like to volunteer to serve in any area of Christian Education, please contact Joe Hardin at 813-298-4356 or jchardin.fl@gmail.com.