

Sunday Server

Nursery & Parent Lounge

Our Nursery & Parent Lounge, "The Rainbow Room" is located in the lower hall of the church at the far end of Robertson Hall. Each Sunday morning, Abby, our Nursery Coordinator, welcomes children up to age three. There are activities provided and a variety of toys for children to explore. Parents are also welcome to stay with their children to nurse, or to ease separation anxiety.

Faith Quest

As some children are ready for a more structured program at three, we like to offer a flexible entry point into our children's program, *Faith Quest*, which is our Sunday morning program for children from age three to grade six. All the children in Faith Quest follow the same themes and rotate through a series of activities throughout each unit. The activities are adapted for the younger children to make them age appropriate.

By employing a new value each month, we will continue to join our entire church family in exploring what it means to be a part of the St. David's community.

Faith Quest begins at 10:00am in the Sanctuary and runs until 11:15.

Due to insurance regulations and child safety, all children must be registered in the program or as a visitor and all volunteers must have a police check and be oriented to our Child Protection Policy.

According to Wikipedia,

"a spiritual practice or spiritual discipline (often including spiritual exercises) is the regular or full-time performance of actions and activities undertaken for the purpose of cultivating spiritual development."

Over the course of this year, the children will delve into seven different spiritual practices and how each relate to the spirit: We will explore Connecting with Creation, and then by integrating scripture with the book, "How Full is Your Bucket?" we will explore "Positive Affirmations," "Giving," "Baptism," "Forgiveness," "Welcoming," and "Celebrating You!" We will present another White Gift Mystery during Advent and the Faith Quest families will lead worship on the first week of May.

Alison, our "Minister of Families," will oversee both Faith Quest and Youth Group. She will continue to engage with the children at the beginning of the service, during the Faith Chat, within particular units, and with YAMF visits. Alison also takes the lead in working with the youth.

Although there will be units that the children and youth will work cooperatively to complete, Trent and Nooshin take the lead in working with the children.

Ice Cream Sunday and Registration

Welcome Back Games

On this, Gathering Sunday, we invite our entire church community to visit and eat ice cream. Faith Quest registration will begin on September 10th in the foyer and will continue for at least the two Sundays to follow.

Sunday, September 10th

Immediately Following Worship

Sanctuary/Foyer

September 17th
Getting to Know You
Robertson Hall

Spiritual Practice: Connecting With Creation

Through this unit, we will explore Creation by taking short walks outdoors and then working together to create "Fall Quilt" banners for the sanctuary. Please have the children bring their outside clothes with them into the Faith Chat.

September 24th – October 22nd
Outdoors/Robertson Hall

Spiritual Practice: How Full is Your Bucket?

God has created each of us as vessels and the metaphor this year is that we each have an invisible bucket." Integrating scripture with the book, "How Full Is Your Bucket?" we will begin to explore the concept of how we feel when our bucket is full, and when it's empty." We will begin to explore this through a Halloween Party and continue our exploration with "Positive Affirmations."

October 29th – November 5th
Robertson Hall/ Community

The "Giving" of St. Nicholas: A White Gift Mystery

For the past eight years, the children have participated in a secret mission that has experientially taught them about the importance of Advent, White Gift Sunday, and the charities that St. David's supports during the Advent/Christmas Season. We have accomplished missions with Jessica Fletcher, Sherlock Holmes, Agent 86 - Maxwell Smart, the Pink Panther, Sgt. Joe Friday from the Dragnet. This year, the children and youth will work with the St. Nick's Secret Service Agency to see if they can get Christmas Buckets filled in time!

We will conclude the unit with a **presentation to the larger congregation on December 10th during the service** which will be followed by our annual Intergenerational Advent Pancake Brunch. Gluten free options will be available.

November 12th – December 10th
Robertson Hall/Sanctuary

Refilling Our Buckets

To finish off and to support the learning in our unit, the children will watch the Veggies Tales Movie, "St. Nicholas."

December 17th
Robertson Hall

You Are My Church Family

Now in its ninth year, *You Are My Family* (YAMF) is a time we set aside to intentionally spend time with our nuclear families and our church family and it is through these shared experiences that we create community within and beyond the church. Three times during the coming year, November, December and May, all are invited to meet in community, share a meal, and engage in activity (please see the calendar of events).

Christmas Decorating

Saturday, November 25th
Robertson Hall/Sanctuary/TM Room/ Foyer

In November, Alison will resume her Sunday visits with families to share lunch and participate in an activity. If you are interested in having her come to your home, please e-mail her at the church.

Christmas Eve Family Service

All are invited and welcome to join Alison to participate in our Christmas Eve Family Service. Within the service, we present the Christmas story through story, music, and acting (speaking and non-speaking parts). This year, we will present the Linnea Good/Bari Castle gathered pageant, "Peace!"

**Rehearsal & Hot Dog Lunch
Saturday, December 23 at 10:00
Robertson Hall/Sanctuary**

**Christmas Eve Family Service
Sunday, December 24: Meet at 8:30/Service at 10:00
TM Room/Sanctuary**

I hope this covers everything between now and Christmas. To help you with planning, I've attached a "Schedule at a Glance" that you can pin on your fridge or put in your planner.

For any families who are new to or thinking about joining us at St. David's, I invite you to e-mail, phone, or introduce yourself to me and I will be thrilled to help you in any way I am able. For those who already attend St. David's, please know that you are welcome to contact me with any feedback, questions or concerns that you may have.

Warmest regards,

Alison Demeter

Minister of Families
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children@sduc.

September to December: Schedule at a Glance

Date	Event	Activity
Sun, Sep 10	Ice Cream & Registration	Games
Sun, Sep 17	Getting to Know You	Games
Sun, Sep 24	SP: Connecting With Creation 1	Walk/Fall Quilt preparation
Sun, Oct 1	SP: Connecting With Creation 2	Walk/Fall Quilt
Sun, Oct 8	Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving Activity
Sun, Oct. 15	SP: Connecting With Creation 3	Walk/Fall Quilt
Sun, Oct 22	SP: Connecting With Creation 4	Walk/Fall Quilt
Sun, Oct 29	Halloween Fun: How Full Is Your Bucket?	Positive Affirmations
Sun, Nov 5	Spiritual Practice: How Full Is Your Bucket?	Positive Affirmations
Sun, Nov 12	St. Nick's Secret Service Agents: A White Gift Mystery	Detective work...
Sun, Nov 19	St. Nick's Secret Service Agents: A White Gift Mystery	Detective work...
Sat, Nov 25	YAMF (11:30)	Church Decorating/Pizza Lunch
Sun, Nov 26	St. Nick's Secret Service Agents: A White Gift Mystery	Rehearsal
Sun, Dec 3	St. Nick's Secret Service Agents: A White Gift Mystery	Rehearsal
Sun, Dec 10	White Gift Service YAMCF Advent Intergenerational Pancake Brunch (11:30)	Children/Youth lead service Robertson Hall – GF options available
Sun, Dec 17	Veggie Tales: St. Nicholas	Movie Time
Sat, Dec 23	Christmas Eve Rehearsal (10:00)	rehearsal & light lunch
Sun, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service (Arrive at 28:30/ Service at 10:00)	Families lead service
Sun, Dec 30	Happy New Year - No Program	
Sun, Jan 7	Welcome Back!	Games