

Committee Reports

Education Committee

Sunday School

Sunday School continues to use the curriculum, Living the Good News. The curriculum has pre-planned lectionary based lessons and multi-sensory activities so all children can be reached. We are fortunate enough to have at least 2 teachers for each group of students, which has made for continuous coverage of classes. Our teachers this year are: Preschool 3 & 4 year olds –Dana Cotter, MJ Lovett Noon, Jennifer Bendorf and faithful substitute Rose Ellen Miller; Kindergarten/1st Grade –Marianne Poisel, Alice Connelly, Ted & Liz Karns; 2nd & 3rd Grade – Cheryl Kuchler and Karen Hill-Quimby, 4th & 5th Grade - Christian Strasser and Amy Watts (Ed & Beth Ann Strom –Scout Program), 6th & 7th Grade - Jane Leichner and Lissa Atkins, 8th thru 12th Grade – Ruthann Johnson and Elizabeth Murphy. Thank you to all the teachers and parents for their dedication. Also a special thank you to John Poliero who is always my faithful assistant.

Each Sunday, the students and teachers leave right after receiving Communion and proceed to the Parish Hall where they are fed a snack, and then proceed to their classrooms. Once a month, the children attend a Parish House Eucharist in the Parish Hall instead of Church so they may be instructed and participate more fully in the service. Father Pat leads the Parish House Eucharist. We also celebrate that month's Birthdays that Sunday. The children especially enjoy this.

Cathedral Days

We had several Cathedral Days in which the entire parish, young and old, came together. They were the Epiphany Brunch, Mardi Gras, Palm Sunday Brunch, Easter Day Celebration with an Egg Hunt, Butterfly Day, Mother's Day Brunch, Pentecost Celebration with the help of Michell Guest, Cathy Smith & family, Sunday School Ice Cream Sundae Social, Parish Picnic, All Saint's Brunch and Advent Wreath Making, and a Cookie Swap which was led by Sharon Cottrell.

Service/Outreach Projects

The Sunday School and youth groups also participated in several outreach/service projects. In January, they were involved with the Martin Luther King Day of Service and made 130 lunches for Kid's Alley Café on Jan. 27. In February, they collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring and participated in the 30-Hour Famine. In March, Gretchen Poliero, with the help of the Confirmation Class, served a delicious St. Patrick's Day dinner, and raised funds for the Educational Outreach Fund. Rent-A-Chef provided the delicious Fish and Chips meal. On April 14, we made 130 lunches for Kid's Alley Café. In June, we started the Heifer Project's Read to Feed Program and by September had raised \$690. In July, many of our youth helped or participated in our Vacation Bible School program and 120 lunches were made for Kid's Alley Café's summer program each day. In October, we began selling chocolate filled Advent Wreaths to raise money for our outreach projects. The EYC also continues selling Wawa Hoagie certificates to raise money for their Mission Trip. Also in late November collections were started for the Mitten Tree collecting 100's of needed scarves, hats, mittens, underwear, boots, and sweaters for the Sumner School in Camden. One hundred thirty lunches were made for KAC on Nov. 17. Also, 100s of blankets were collected for New Visions & other shelters in Camden. For Kid's Alley Café's Christmas celebration 20 complete Christmas bags were put together by several Church families as well as other donations to complete the bags. Through the months of September to December, non-perishable goods were collected for St. Paul's. From January to June and then again in September, volunteers from Grace Church went to KAC on Mondays to help tutor the students. Thank you to all the parents, adults and youth who make these efforts possible.

Summer Sunday School

Summer Sunday School was fantastic in 2007. Diane Narleski led the children in song for eight weeks. Each week she had 15 children, along with parents who helped and enjoyed the program. On August 26, the children sang throughout the service the songs that they had learned. On the first Sunday of July and August Father Pat celebrated the Parish House Eucharist with the youth and their families.

Christmas Pageant

On Christmas Eve over 50 youth participated in the Christmas Pageant. All of our cherubs did a wonderful job portraying the story of Christ's Birth. Thank you.

Communion Classes

Each year during Lent, the second grade students (third graders are also included in the teachings as they are also in this class) are instructed by Gretchen Poliero in preparation for receiving Communion. The instruction lasts the six Sundays during Lent, during the usual Sunday School time. It concludes with the Maundy Thursday Seder dinner and service. In 2007, the instruction was given on Sunday, February 25, March 3, March 11, March 18, March 25, and Palm Sunday. The children participated in an instructed Eucharist, with Father Pat, on March 31 and made bread for the Maundy Thursday service on April 1. We had ten children receive this instruction. Note: this instruction is not limited to second graders. Any child who is older and has not received this instruction is welcome to participate. Please speak to Gretchen Poliero if this pertains to you or your child.

Confirmation Class

On, Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007, there were three adults received: Bill Bilhardt, Karen Sweeney and Steven Butler. One adult was Confirmed: Craig Ebner and two adults who were Baptized/Confirmed: Kathryn Rawdon and Anita Bendesky. There were eight young adults who were confirmed and became adult members of Grace Church. They were -----
-----, Bishop Sylvestre Romero performed the service. St. Anne's Guild prepared a delicious reception and cookies were provided by last year's Confirmands. Several of the Confirmands spent a weekend in Stone Harbor, NJ at St. Mary's Episcopal Church for their Confirmation Retreat on Sept. 21-22.

The Confirmation Class meets for instruction, fellowship, fun and food every 3rd Thursday from September to June from 4-7 pm. It is a two-year program for 6th & 7th graders. The students are only allowed 1 excused absence, must complete 40 hours of community service and attend Sunday School on a regular basis. Students are asked upon the completion of the second year to select a mentor from the parish who will present them to be confirmed.

Education Committee

Mission Statement: To prepare well rounded, thoroughly educated, responsible Christians who actively participate in our church and our community. Christian Strasser is the Vestry representative of the Education Committee. We meet once a month to go over upcoming events, plan adult education, and cathedral days. The Education Committee consists of: Mother Debbie, Beth Ann Strom, Chris Strasser, Gretchen Poliero, Ken & Carol Moyer and BJ Swartz. A separate subcommittee was formed in June to organize the Adult Education offerings. They are guided by Mother Debbie.

Nursery Care

Nursery Care is provided every Sunday all year from 9:15-11:30am. We are fortunate enough to have Nancy & ----- Cooper who run and schedule the nursery. However with Rachel going to

college Beth Manning and ----- Manning took over the scheduling in September. Many thanks to Nancy and Rachel Cooper, Beth and Caitlyn Manning, and their many helpers for a job well done.

Education on the Grace Church Website

We continue to have available on our Church website each Sunday's lectionary. Since our Sunday School lessons coincide with the lectionary it is also a good source for our Sunday School teachers, students and parents. The readings from the past, present and future Sundays are available by going to www.gracehaddon.org and clicking on *Preparing for Sunday*. Newsletter Announcements, Adult Education Schedules etc. are updated on the Website as well. Thank you to Al Schmidt and BJ Swartz.

Spanish Immersion Camp

This years Spanish Immersion Camp was held from August 13 to 17 under the direction of Marianne Gambardello. Twenty-five children attended this wonderfully enriching week.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School was held from July 9 to July 13, from 9am to noon each day. It was held at Grace Church with the help of the 1st Presbyterian Church. The Standard Publishing Vacation Bible School program was used. Ninety-two children came for a fun week of learning about Jesus. Many volunteers from both Churches made this wonderful program a success.

ARC Babysitter Training

On January 20 & 27, May 12 & 19 and October 13 & 20, the American Red Cross came and trained over 45 young adults for certification. This is done as a service to the community at large.

Acolyte Training

Acolyte training occurs two times a year. The second Sunday in October and January, during the youth groups meeting, training is done. In January it was done by Gretchen Poliero and Bill Lowden and in October it was done by Mother Debbie. George Freeze is also a consultant and aid in the training and making phone call reminders.

Adult Education

Adult Education helps us to understand our faith and in the process, helps us to live it out in our daily lives. The Adult Education committee tries to offer a variety of offerings. Throughout the year, the Sunday Reflection class met on Sundays after the 9:30 a.m. service, where we discuss the Sunday Bible readings. Our weeknight Lenten series, entitled "At Table with Jesus", was led by Fr. Wayne Smith. Inquirer's classes, led by Fr. Pat and Mother Debbie, were again offered on Sunday mornings in September and October. The weeknight Advent series, which focused on the Gospel of Matthew, was presented by Fr. Pat in late November and early December. There was also a Sunday Advent series on Incarnation. On October 18, we opened our Lecture series, on the "Hope in Camden" with Monsignor Michael Doyle of Sacred Heart Ministries, and had about 45 attendees. The free will offering, taken on behalf of Sacred Heart Ministries, raised over \$900.

In December, we held an Advent Quiet Day with Sister Barbara Jean Brown of the Anamchara Fellowship, followed by an Adult Forum on Celtic Spirituality.

We look forward to expanding Adult Education in 2008. The Lecture series on Camden will continue in January and April, and a four-part series on Christianity and Poverty will be offered in February. We hope to continue and expand our Sunday Reflection gathering, and to develop a regular weekday or weeknight Bible Study. For Lent, Fr. Wayne Smith will again be our leader for

the weeknight series, and we will offer another Quiet Day with Sister Barbara Jean on March 8. Over the year, we hope to develop other Contemporary issues selections. Inquirer’s Classes will again be offered in the autumn.

The Adult Education Committee meets the fourth Tuesday evening of each month in the Parish Hall. Please join us!

“God and Me” Scout Program

During the fall of 2007, the fourth- and fifth-graders participated in a Religious Recognition Program called “God and Family.” The Religious Recognition Programs are created by various religious groups for their children and youth who are also members of national youth agencies (i.e. Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire USA, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. and American Heritage Girls). The programs are developed by a not-for-profit organization called Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.). P.R.A.Y.’s “God and Country” program, which contains curricula for four different age groups, helps young people to develop a deeper relationship with God and to understand how God is active in their lives and in t he world around them. The “God and Family” curriculum helped the children to learn how to liken their relationship to God with that of their own families using a pizza analogy. Every week the children made "ingredients" for their pizza that reinforced the Bible lessons and provided opportunities for their families to explore God's love together. On the last week the children enjoyed making their own pizza in the Church's kitchen.

Children who completed the lessons and a review session became eligible to receive a special medal to wear on their Scout or other uniforms. Those who are not members of eligible organizations will receive pins. Children who participated without completing the entire program are eligible to receive a certificate of participation. Adult participants are also eligible for a medal, pin, or certificate based upon their group affiliations.

The class was taught by Beth Ann and Ed Strom. The children who participated in the program are -----.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the parishioners of Grace Church for allowing me to serve God and our Church in this way. Also thanks to all the many volunteers who make each endeavor possible and enjoyable.

Faithfully yours,
Gretchen S. Poliero, DRE