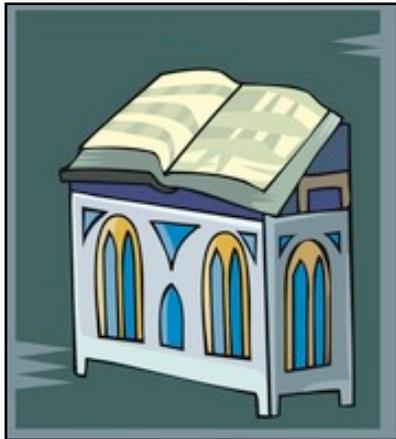




Church School

A Word from Father Bonney



Grant Us Wisdom and Grant Us Courage for the Living of These Days

I just recently returned from a clergy where the above title was our mantra for the whole week. Certainly, it is always important to seek God's wisdom in all that we do. However, that is even more apparent today. That is why I am excited that the teachers at the AECST Church School are committed to teaching our children the fundamentals of the

Christian faith. I am glad to see that in the classrooms, there are scriptural quotations and in their individual classes they are learning about Jesus and what he means for their life. If these times of economic uncertainties have not taught us anything at all, I am assured of this fact; that is, our hope in God must be strong so that we can be strong for our children. In this vain, I hope we all begin to pray, grant us wisdom and grant us courage for the living of these days.

St. Thomas Church School

Church School begins at 10 am and lasts the entire length of the Service.

The children participate in Exchanging the Peace, Taking an Offering and an Interactive Children's Eucharist.

We have three classes: Pre-K/ K/1st, 2nd/3rd and 4th/5th grade.

Our PreK/K/1st graders use the Godly Play curriculum and the 2nd-5th grade classes use Living the Good News.

Church School meets each Sunday except for the fourth Sunday, which is Youth Sunday. On Youth Sunday, the children worship with their families.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

We are excited to share news from the Church School in our first Newsletter of the 2008-09 school year. We have nearly 50 children registered in our various classes. The children are active participants in class, learning and making friendships.

We are so pleased to welcome back our teachers: **Robin Lynch, Lisa Brown, Jane Abbott, Sheree Winkfield, Sharon Cotton, Michele Sudler,**

Patty Walker-Ellison, Joe Tucker, Allison Barksdale, Art Sudler, Pam Johnson, Steve Buck and Vivian Bythewood. Mayla Henderson also returns to bring music to the children. We also welcome **Stephanie Booker**, who has joined our 4th/5th grade team this year! **Devon Tucker** is assisting with PreK.

We look forward to another great year!



PREK/K/FIRST GRADE

Each Sunday we are blessed to travel with your children on their spiritual journeys. The Pre K, Kindergarten and First Graders bring excitement and energy to every church school session. We continue to use the Godly Play Curriculum which is a Montessori based early grades curriculum that emphasizes sacred and bible stories that come to life with the manipulatives that help the children fully experience these important spiritual and life lessons. Since September, we have covered lessons on Getting Ready to be with God/ Listening and Talking to God; The Circle of the Church Year; Creation and Noah and the Ark. The beauty of the Godly Play Curriculum is that each bible parable lends itself to having the children imagine and create their own understanding of how the story resonates with them. For example, the children created their own Circle of the Church Year calendars the week that lesson was taught. Please continue

to reinforce at home the wonderful lessons that we cover in church school with the children. The Godly Play Parent Pages provide a summary of Sunday's lesson as well as ideas for parent spiritual reinforcement. Be sure to



ask your child for their parent page when you pick them up. We invite everyone to visit us

at some point on Sundays so you can see first hand the great things God is doing for the children of Saint Thomas. Thank you for entrusting the care and spiritual guidance of your children to us.



had a wonderful time so far this year learning about Jesus and what he means to them. The children have completed a wonderful art project in which they designed their own crosses!

The children are having a good time learning about the Lord in Second and Third Grade.

Michele, Patty, Allison and Joe.

Our **Second and Third Graders** are engaged and active in their classroom under the watchful guidance of Michele Sudler, Patty Walker-Ellison, Allison Barksdale and Joe Tucker. The children have

Second and Third Grade also received new age-appropriate Bibles and the children are excitedly reading the Bibles along with the Living the Good News curriculum.



“MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS”

We still have a few tickets available for our trip to the Sight and Sound Theater to see “Miracle of Christmas” on Saturday, December 20, 2008. We will see the 1 p.m. show and will have dinner at the Willow Valley Restaurant. Adults: \$75 Non-Church School Registered Children: \$35. Contact Paula Gordon for tickets: (215) 307-0615.



FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE



Our Fourth and Fifth Graders are engaged and excited under the leadership of our Fourth and Fifth grade team: Art Sudler, Pam Johnson, Steve Buck, Vivian Bythewood and Stephanie Booker.

wonderful activity which encourages the children to be reflective about their personal relationship with Jesus and walking on their own faith journeys.

Art, Pam, Steve, Vivian and Stephanie.

Each week the teachers explore in depth lessons from the Living the Good News curriculum. The Fourth and Fifth Graders are reading their new age-appropriate Bibles and participating in thoughtful discussions about what they are reading.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old, he will not depart from it.” **Proverbs 22:6**

This year the children are also journaling. This is a

Church School involves the whole family.

Share how God has blessed you.

Help the children to attend Church School each week!



Engage your children in what they have learned.

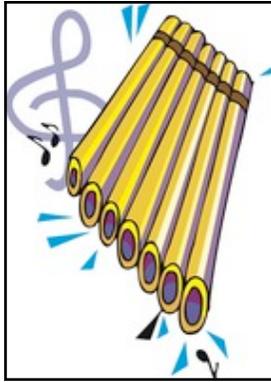
Read the Bible with them.

Church School is not just on Sunday...it's every day of the week.



ATTENDANCE AWARDS

This year we are pleased to announce attendance awards. Children who attend Church School each Sunday that it is in session through December will earn a \$25 Target gift card. 4 more Sundays to go!



Church School Music

We are thrilled that Mayla has returned to the Church School to share her musical gifts with the children. Each Sunday following the morning lesson, the children are invited to gather around the piano as Mayla leads them in learning and performing worship songs as the children prepare themselves for the Eucharist.

In particular, the young, budding musicians of the St. Thomas Church School have kicked off the year with great enthusiasm. To open their hearts and minds to God at the beginning of each music session, the children start with a weekly welcome song "This Is The Day." In

addition to this song, the children have learned "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and have also begun to work on "I Love You Lord," for which they are learning American Sign Language! Future emphasis will be placed on learning new songs and preparing for the Church School Christmas presentation.

Calendar

November 2 --

Church School

November 9 --

Church School

November 16 --

Church School

November 23/30 --

Thanksgiving Break (No Church School)

December 7 --

Church School

December 14 -- Church School Christmas Presentation

December 20 --

Miracle of Christmas Trip