



St. Catherine's Episcopal Church

Welcoming, Accepting, Nurturing, Serving

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

FALL 2015

*Classes and more to help you
grow in your life's journey
of relationship with
God and Jesus Christ*

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St. Catherine's Episcopal Church
St. Catherine's Preschool
St. Catherine's Youth
The Good Shepherd and The Child

NURTURING OUR CHILDREN

Nursery

Nursery care is available for infants through age four. The nursery area is located downstairs in the Education building and is open at 8:30 AM on Sunday mornings. It remains open through the 11:15 AM service. Nursery care is provided by Frances Bowden, Rachel Hutton and Stephanie Whitten, who are paid and experienced childcare workers. On occasion, additional assistance is needed and anyone interested in providing help is welcome.

Children's Chapel

This program provides a time for children to hear and respond to the Gospel of the day in a "child friendly" setting. The children leave the 8:45 am Sunday Service during the Sequence Hymn and return at the Peace. Children's Chapel is for all children who are interested and able to "still" themselves so they can hear God's Word. The age range is usually from three to nine years old.

Adults and Young Adults are needed to assist with this group each Sunday. A schedule is provided once volunteers are identified. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the youngest members of our community in Christ.

Coordinator: Mary Lou Shannonhouse.

Sunday Papers

A special treat for children, SUNDAY PAPERS provide a quiet activity that offers the stories of the Sunday gospel in easy-to-read words with pictures to color as they experience the service with their parents. Children may pick up crayons along with the SUNDAY PAPERS in the narthex as they enter the worship service with their parents. Also available in Children's Chapel.

A Vision for Children: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Leadership Team: Alison Harris, Ana Martin, Karen Maxwell.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) at St. Catherine's offers Christian formation for children ages 2 through 12. CGS is grounded in the Bible and the Liturgy (particularly Baptism and Eucharist) in an approach that respects children's developmental spiritual needs. Children hear the Gospel and absorb its message through sensorially-rich materials and the work of their hands. Our mission is to help our children form an authentic, loving, faithful relationship with God.

The vision for this faith experience began in Rome, Italy in 1954 with Sofia Cavalletti, a Hebrew and Scripture scholar, and Gianna Gobbi, a Montessori-trained educator. Dr. Cavalletti found that children, at the very youngest ages, have vital religious needs. Children desire to draw near to God and need the sensitive guidance of the adult and the inner guidance of the Holy Spirit to nurture this relationship. The adult prepares the sacred space, the "atrium," for the children. There they are invited to enter into relationship with Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and to hear, perhaps for the first time, the inner voice that is the Holy Spirit. The atrium is a place of community and worship more than a classroom. It is a place to be with God, enjoy Him, listen to His Word, to pray, and is designed to reflect the beauty of His creation and abiding love.

We ask that children attend as consistently as possible. One presentation builds upon the last. Any less than three sessions a month and the child can lose the richness offered in this work.

The program is operated by volunteers who are parents and grandparents, lay people, many of whom have received training that guides the way they serve the children. The CGS Leadership Team oversees the atrium environments, catechists and assistants.

Young Lambs is for children 2 to 3 years old. The children begin to cultivate their prayer life and know God's love for them through simple hands-on materials. The Young Lambs formation is based on a selection of some of the key themes found in the Level I atrium.

The Level I atrium is for children 3 years old through Kindergarten. Children continue their journey of faith as they get to know Jesus through geography, parables, Infancy Narratives, Paschal Narratives, Baptism and Eucharist. The credo of this child is "help me come closer to God by myself." After hearing a scripture presentation or seeing a liturgical presentation, children are given the opportunity to prayerfully respond through the work of their hands with the aid of the catechetical materials or through their artwork. They work independently as well as participate in the community of the atrium through seasonal celebrations.

The Level II atrium is for first through third grade. The older child's thinking becomes more global, conscionable, and moral. We begin to explore the History of the Kingdom of God, its unity and vastness, and see how God has made God's self known since the beginning of time. Through reflection on a variety of scripture texts and presentations from our liturgies of Eucharist and Baptism, the children have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of their faith through handwork and using their developing skills in reading and writing.

The Level III atrium is for fourth through fifth grade. The children continue to explore themes of the History of the Kingdom of God with an added emphasis on the Plan of God and the gifts of discovery and inventions by human civilizations which help this Plan be realized, leading to a focus on the kind of work that God calls each person to do. Scripturally this exploration takes us into a deeper study of the prophets, Jesus' ministry including his miracles, parables, and the virtues. In addition children deepen their understanding of the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Anointing of the Sick. They continue to cultivate their prayer life in the planning of prayer services and in individual work.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd hours

Sundays:

Young Lambs	10:00 – 11:00 am
Level 1	10:00 – 11:05 am
Level 2 and 3	10:00 – 11:15 am

On Monday afternoons 3:30-5:00 pm the atria are open to children from local Roman Catholic churches.

YOUTH CHURCH SCHOOL & PROGRAMS

Sixth through Twelfth Grades

Youth Director: Sally Paris.

St. Catherine's uses the *Journey to Adulthood* curriculum. The program falls into three distinct phases, each of which is two years in length: Rite-13, J2A (Journey To Adulthood), and YA (Young Adults).

What is Journey to Adulthood? It is a program of spiritual formation for young people that:

- Provides a liturgical framework for their experience in our modern culture
- Celebrates their individuality and their creative potential
- Instructs them in skills needed for successful adult participation in church and society.

The program is based on two key concepts: (1) manhood and womanhood are gifts from God, and (2) adulthood must be earned. It includes in-depth exploration of self, spirituality, sexuality and society. *Journey to Adulthood* balances Bible study, prayer, and both serious and playful activities to nurture the whole person during the challenges of the journey from childhood to adulthood. *The Journey to Adulthood promise: If you seek the Christ, together we will find him.*

Rite-13 (grades six and seven) — The Rite-13 program assists young people as they take the first steps of passage away from their families and into their own lives. The liturgical celebration of the gift of womanhood and manhood is an integral part of this group's curriculum. *Leaders: Gina Baumann, Keith Dumke, Deelee Freeman, Ellis Kilgore.*

J2A (grades eight and nine) — Journey to Adulthood (J2A) is the heart of the curriculum, blending action and contemplation in teaching young people faithful living. To prepare them for adulthood, they learn six basic skills: active listening, negotiation, assertion, research and information management, partnership, and leadership. This program also helps them understand and affirm Christian living. At the end of this level, each young adult is given an opportunity to be confirmed and is acknowledged in the community as equipped for new levels of responsibility. *Leaders: Tanya Bowers-Dean, Lou Dini, Katie Hale and Brian Paglia.*

YA — Young Adults (grades ten and eleven) — Building on the foundations of Rite-13 and J2A, the YA class takes a deeper look into the issues of self, society, spirituality and sexuality, as well as working to strengthen the bonds that have been formed over the previous years. They are recognized as young adults rather than children, and are invited to make a holy pilgrimage at the end of their first year. In addition to work in the classroom, the class also focuses on serving as leaders within the Youth Program and the broader congregation. *Leaders: Dave Banko, Jeanette Dini, Katja Michael and Dave Yucius.*

Senior Class (grade twelve) — The Seniors meet on Sunday mornings to reflect on where they've been and where they are going, to implement the leadership skills they've developed, to define and affirm their faith. *Leaders: Allen Jablonski, Susan Jenkins and Mel Paris.*

Wednesday Night Youth Meetings

All youth groups come together as part of our Wednesday evening parish-wide dinner and programs, for fellowship and

spiritual formation. Wednesday night fellowship includes music, discussion and fun, with an emphasis on relevance for all age groups.

ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

Be Still and Know: A Course on Meditation

Come and learn why meditation is important in our current world, hear about the history of meditation through the ages, and discuss and practice various techniques. This can be an introduction course about meditation, or a springboard to future learning about it. In addition to discussing various methods (breath, mantra, body scan, labyrinth and more) we will practice the techniques at each class. *Facilitators: Hale Sanders and Pierce Hale.*

An Intentional Life

A series of thoughtful conversations about the person you want to be, the life you want to live and the impact you want to have on your community. It's about having a deep life—not just a good life. *Facilitator: Rebecca Devault.*

The Lectionary

This class on the Lectionary studies and discusses the Bible readings in the service each Sunday. We take an in-depth look through facilitated discussion at the passages themselves as well as issues and concepts they raise. Doing so often makes the service that day more meaningful and gives us a deeper understanding of God's Word. We hope you'll join us. *Facilitator: Randy Satterfield.*

Take It As Gospel: Men's Study Group

Every Sunday a Gospel scripture is read in our services. We follow the Lectionary, used by Episcopal churches worldwide. This men's class will open up this scripture and allow sharing and discussion. Each week we will delve more deeply into what it says to us. We use a three-part study system and read various translations. This class is for beginners through scholars. No preparation needed. We welcome you to hear the Word of God with us. *Facilitator: Al Maxwell.*

Seeing the Voice: Witnessing the Word

In Exodus 20, the people of God have received His Law. They "see" the thunder and the noise of the trumpet; the Lord says, "You have seen that I have talked." Commentators have probed this mystery of "seeing" sound for millennia. The consensus: we learn best seeing the Word in action. In our class we will look at the lives of some People of God: the great and not so great, the well-known, the nearly forgotten, the nameless; people from Scripture and history, around the world and around the corner, hoping that through their lives we might see the Voice of God. *Facilitator: Ginny Acocella.*

Why and What: A Roving Look at the Episcopal Church and St. Catherine's

Have you wondered why the baptismal font is in the back of our church? What does the Vestry do? Why are there no ends on our pews? How can I discover a ministry at St. Catherine's that calls to me and get connected to it? Did you know there

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is rock right here from St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai? If you've ever wondered about such questions and more, this class is for you. Let's go a bit deeper to educate ourselves about the Episcopal Church in general and St. Catherine's in particular. We will meet in varying locations in/ outside the building and ask what these places have to say to us. Look forward to stimulating questions and discussions.
Facilitators: The Rev. Susan Johnson and Pat Pepper.

WEEKDAY OFFERINGS

Wednesday Dinner & Programs

Begins October 7

Our Wednesday nights have wonderful things in store this year, so join us weekly to deepen our walk in Christ. We'll have food, fellowship and learning for children, youth and adults. In addition to programs for all ages, Choristers of St. Catherine's (kids and youth grades 3-12) will have rehearsals 6:15-7:00 pm and Chancel Choir (adults) 7:15-8:45 pm.

- **Children: Wednesday Night Explorers** — For 3rd-5th graders. We will explore faith formation with a fun, collaborative, hands-on approach. Our topics have ranged from prayer to anger to heaven to forgiveness to how to best advertise an underwear collection at the church... and beyond. We are contemplative and fun, and love to use markers and crayons. Sometimes loud and sometimes serious, at all times we are curious and open to hearing God's word.
Facilitators: Harriett Pyburn, Kell Owen, Sue Snape.

- **Youth:** Grades 6-12 — Wednesday night fellowship includes music, discussion and fun, with relevance for all J2A age groups. *Facilitator: Sally Paris.*

- **Adults: "TV Gospel: From Andy Griffith to Modern Family"** — Over the years the great classic TV sitcoms have made us laugh, and made us think as well. What does Andy Griffith's trust in Opie teach us about faith? What does Raymond's impromptu funeral for a hamster teach us about death and grief? What does Kramer's outrageous honesty suggest about "speaking the truth in love"? Join your friends each week as we watch a 20-minute episode (without commercials!) from such classics as *Seinfeld*, *Modern Family*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *The Middle*, and even *The Simpsons*, then discuss life issues that arise and, always, the "Good News" that is at the heart of all great comedy.
Facilitator: The Rev. Dean Taylor.

Weekday Bible Study

Tuesdays, 9:30 to 11:00 AM — Everyone is invited to join us for lively discussion and probing questions as we ask "how does the there and then of this Scripture impact my life in the here and now?" Coffee provided. No prerequisites or text required, just bring your Bible, any translation.
Facilitator: Bill Selby.

Women's Bible Study

- **Weekly morning study, Fridays, 10-11:15 AM** — Join us as we study scripture and discuss its applications to our lives today. We strive to learn more about God and God's relationship to humankind by reading selections from the Old and New Testament. We use a variety of materials to aid our

discussions, including study guides, video presentations by biblical scholars, contemporary stories, and lively conversation. *Facilitators: Elizabeth Lopez and Diane Sanders.*

- **Monthly evening study, second Mondays** beginning September 14, 7-8:30 PM Our content focuses on discussions that lead us to support one another while deepening our relationship with God. We have lively discussion and dinner together. We welcome you to join us at any point in the study. *Facilitator: Stephanie Yucius.*

Men's Bible Study

- **Weekly evening study, Thursdays** beginning Sept. 10, 7:00-8:30 PM — This group gathers to read, discuss, and learn from the Bible and each other. Many Bible translations are encouraged. We will use the book *Revelation: Four Views, A Parallel Commentary* edited by Steve Gregg (purchase optional). We will continue until we complete chapter 22 of Revelation. Winter and spring 2016 topics announced soon. All men are invited. *Facilitator: Tom Snead.*

- **Weekly morning study, Fridays** beginning Sept. 11, 6:30-7:30 AM — This group meets to read, discuss, and learn from the Bible and each other. Many Bible translations are encouraged. The syllabus is Cokesbury's *Journey Through the Bible*, and a chapter in the study book (\$13) is read before each session. We next study the Epistles of Romans through Philipians. Winter sessions will cover Colossians through Jude and spring will cover Revelation. All men are invited.
Facilitators: Tom Snead and Hans Kraeger.

More groups

- **Women's Morning Book Study, third Mondays, 9:15-11:00 AM** — All women of St. Catherine's are invited to join us. We'll read some inspirational, thought-provoking books and share our thoughts as we look for the sacred in our everyday lives. *Facilitator: Barb Selby.*

- **Men's Evening Book Study, second Mondays, 6:30 PM** This study is for men to gather over a potluck-style supper and study a variety of books selected by the group. We meet each month at the home of one of our members to explore the interaction between our faith, our soul, and our work. The meal and fellowship time is followed by study, reflection, and prayer. All are invited (no requirement to host a meeting).
Facilitator: Scott Lummus.

- **Inviting God's Presence: Praying with Prayer Beads, Sundays** beginning September 13, 1:00-2:00 PM — Come and learn the history of Christian prayer beads. Discover other forms of prayer beads and learn how to pray with an Anglican rosary. We will make our own rosaries in class. Most importantly, find out how this form of contemplative prayer can help you to develop a deeper relationship with God.
Facilitator: Althea Dillard.

- **MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers), first Wednesdays** beginning September 2, 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM — MOPS is a place for women with children from birth to pre-kindergarten to find friendship, community, resources and support so they never feel alone. We will have speakers on topics to help us be better moms, wives and women; Bible studies; mission projects; playgroups; book clubs and dining clubs; social events for moms, dads, kids and families, and more. Childcare will be provided. Co-Chairs: *Julie Fulcher and Erica Handell.*

"The Journey" (Inquirers class)

Beginning in January 2016, "The Journey" prepares adults new to St. Catherine's or new to the Episcopal tradition to receive the sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation, or to be received into the Episcopal Church from other denominations. Participants explore their faith, learn about the Episcopal Church, the Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and discern their gifts for ministry. This class will meet weekly through May on Sundays beginning at 10:00 am. *Facilitator: The Rev. Susan Johnson.*

Education for Ministry (EFM)

Thursdays, 6:30 PM beginning September 10 — Church members face a difficult task in interpreting the richness of faith in a complex world. They need a safe environment to develop their own theology that supports their faith and trains them to express it. EFM is a four year program meeting weekly September to May, studying our church history and working toward what we believe. Registration yearly, starting in September. A fee is charged (scholarships available). *Facilitators: Jan & Chris Potter.*

Episcopal Marriage Encounter

Worldwide Marriage Encounter assists couples to live intimately and responsibly through a Marriage Encounter experience and ongoing community support. In Atlanta, EME meets 2nd Tuesday monthly for married couples to strengthen communication and enjoy time with others committed to enhancing their relationships. *Contact: Ron & Connie Bergeron.*

Pastoral Care Education Seminars

Stephen Ministry sponsors quarterly educational opportunities for active ministers and members of the congregation interested in pastoral care issues. Conferences are usually Saturdays at 9 AM to 12 PM (check the church calendar for dates). Using speakers from the congregation, community experts, and published materials, the sessions provide continuing education, spiritual development, and fellowship. *Contact: David Moore.*

Advent Quiet Evening

On Friday, December 4, we will pause to "catch our breath" in the busy-ness of this time of year. All adults are invited for an evening of teaching, scripture meditation, and reflection through a variety of spiritual exercises and prayer.

Church School Calendar 2015-16

Sundays, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

September 13 – First Day of Church School
November 8 – Commitment Sunday, No Church School
November 29 – Parish Advent Wreath Making, No Church School
December 20, 27 – Christmas Break, No Church School
January 3 – Church School resumes
January 24 – Parish Annual Meeting, Church School at 9:00 am
March 27 – Easter Day, No Church School
May 15 – Last day of Church School