



The Episcopal Church of the Advent

Wonder with us...
**Christian Education Programs
 for Children and Youth**

Church School Teachers

Godly Play Coordinator—Jill Harrison

Grades Pre-K thru 3—Lisa Davis and
 Christine Babson, Co-Teachers

Grades 4 and 5—Donna Baker and
 Dan Gipson, Co-Teachers

Confirmation and Pre-confirmation Classes
 Teachers TBD

High School Youth Group
 Charlotte Redden and Tim Davis

Safe Church requires two adults to each classroom. Parent participation is a requirement for all children enrolled in COA Christian Education Programs.

Mission Statement for Church School Teachers

The Church School teachers will work together to foster the spiritual development of the children at Church of the Advent. They will support each other in the strengthening of their own faith in order to prepare themselves for their work as teachers. With God's help they will strive to create a welcoming environment for all children in order to:

- Nurture each child's relationship with God, the Episcopal Church and the members of Church of the Advent.
- Teach the traditions of the Episcopal Church.
- Help each child become comfortable in Sacred Space and to be aware of the presence of God in themselves and others.



28 Pleasant Street
 Medfield, MA 02052

508-359-6303

Website: www.adventmedfield.org

What is Godly Play?

Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children in Kindergarten through Grade Six using a Montessori approach to facilitate spiritual formation. The goal of Godly Play is to teach children the art of using religious language—parables, sacred stories, and liturgical action—to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God’s presence in their lives.

Godly Play is an effort to focus clearly and deeply on the child’s spirituality. This involves, enhances, supports and enlarges the quality of relationships in other activities for children and their families in whatever setting they may apply what they learn here.

What makes Godly Play distinctive?

Godly Play provides sensorial materials to work with in a safe, stimulating environment. In this way, Godly Play combines and integrates the two primary gateways to knowing for children. It is in using these materials the parables, sacred stories, and liturgical action, help the children know God and the Bible instead of simply knowing about God or about the Bible.

Will my child enjoy Godly Play?

One of the goals of Godly Play is to create a safe space for children...a place where their ideas, opinions, and gifts are deeply respected. Because everything in the worship—education center is designed for children to use and enjoy, most children look forward to Church School.

How will I know if my child is learning anything?

The most important thing we teach in the worship—education center is how Christian people live and work together in community. Many parents who have children in the Godly Play program find that their children will retell the sacred stories often in the car on the way home from church and “wonder” aloud at different times all week long about the meaning of the Bible stories they heard on Sunday.



Church Events for the 2010-2011 Year

September—Welcome Back Sunday (9/12/2010)
Church School Classes begin (9/19/2010)

October—St. Francis Day (10/03/2010)

November—Celebration of All Saints (11/07/2010)
Daylight Savings Time Ends (11/07/2010)

December—Advent Brunch (12/05/2010)
Christmas Eve (12/24/2010)

January—Feast of Epiphany (01/06/2011)
Epiphany Pageant (01/06/2011)

February—Winter School Break begins (02/20/2011)

March—Ash Wednesday (03/09/2011)
Daylight Savings Time Begins (03/13/2011)

April—Palm Sunday (04/12/2011)
Good Friday (04/22/2011)
Spring School Break begins (04/17/2011)
Easter Sunday (04/24/2011)

May—Little Red Wagon/Walk for Hunger (05/01/2011)
Mother’s Day (05/08/2011)
Celebration of Our Students (05/22/2011)
Memorial Day (05/31/2010)

June—Feast of Pentecost (06/12/2011)

Nursery

Sundays 9:30 to 10:45 AM

Our professional caregiver welcomes and cares for children from infancy to age 4.

Godly Play

Grades Pre-K ages 3-5 through Grade 5
Sundays at from 9:15 AM to 10:05 PM

When children enter a Godly Play classroom, they are surrounded by physical representations of the stories of the People of God. Everything in the classroom is beautiful and inviting, and designed for the children to use. Our lesson plans slightly with the different grade levels but are similar in structure and content so that the children feel comfortable in any classroom and grade level.

Pre-Confirmation Class (Grades 6 and 7)

This class is a bridge between the Godly Play program and Confirmation Class. As the students enter young adulthood they are encouraged to learn about the traditions of the Episcopal church and its place in the larger community through class time and a series of “field trips.”

Confirmation Class (Grades 8 and 9)

This class prepares the students for confirmation in the spring of 2012 and their roles as adults in the church. Through class time, field trips and volunteering, they will be encouraged to reflect on their own faith and develop a deeper understanding of Christian life. As they prepare to make a commitment of confirmation, they will be asked to explore the question: “What is God calling me to do?”

High School Youth Group

Our youth group will plan and go on a Mission field trip sometime at or just after the end of the 2010-2011 school year. Youth and adult mentors will meet monthly to choose a site, plan fundraising and travel, and make the spiritual preparation necessary to be ready for their trip. Most meetings will be held on the second Sunday of the month, immediately following the 5pm service of Holy Eucharist and 6pm supper.