



Calvary's Kids

Priorities for 2006/2007 for Children and Youth Ministry

MISSION STATEMENT: *To develop and maintain a Sunday school “program” that is rich in biblical teachings while fostering a sense of fun and community.*

First Priority: Sunday School Curriculum/Program

Spring 2006 curriculum meetings with CM/Youth leaders resulted in decision to customize program for grades Pre-K-6 while taking a wait-and-see attitude with the J2A program for grades 7-12. Overall emphasis to be placed on joint activities among the classes, learning beyond the lesson (e.g., guest speakers/readers, acting out a story, visiting the Cathedral, etc.). Building up the youth program beyond what is curriculum based with outside activities designed to build a relationship between the youth and their church during a time when outside forces are pulling them in the opposite direction. Truly integrating all kids into the life of the church from baptism through confirmation to graduation is our ultimate goal.

Tactics:

- Schedule season family-oriented activities that foster sense of community
- Make new families feel welcome at Calvary (pt. person Newcomers)
- Take leadership role in building kid-inclusive worship environment
- Develop lessons plans that incorporate supplemental experience beyond what is found in the curriculum
- Ensure that the curriculum is meeting the needs of the Sunday school teachers
- We want kids to want to come to Sunday school!
- Foster teacher “team concept”; sharing of ideas (e.g. M&M story for Christmas)
- Bringing the classes together; CM and youth not so separate
- Utilize the Children’s Chapel for “mini services” among classes
- Create a more kid-friendly atmosphere in the classroom hallway
- Need to Involve Kids in the Service at part of the curriculum
- Music Liturgy focused on seasonal themes such as Advent, Easter, etc. directed by Debi Overton
- As part of the curriculum, educate kids about the various functions within the church such as altar guild, acolyte, ushers in an effort for Kids to want to participate in the life of the church
- Encourage creative expression (art, music, teaching support, ownership of church service such as was done with “last Sunday of the month”): Let the kids “share” themselves in ways that work for them.
- Need to provide opportunities for youth interaction with other churches (such as with Bishop’s Ball, Happenings, Church Camp, visits with Jay P.)
- Continue to bring Jay P. to Calvary as part of ongoing youth education program
- Resurrect EYE for grades 4-6
- Consider merging grades 9-12 for Fall 2007 (start with outside activities to “test the waters”...Sr. and Jr. Youth Fellowship??)
- Importance of Stewardship within the Church is not a focus currently for youth but we feel it needs to be.
- More active role with youth prior to and following confirmation by Steven is suggested as forging bonds with the church community and sends the message that yes you are important to this church!!

First Priority: Sunday School Curriculum/Program (cont'd.)

Status:

- Strong Sunday school attendance in grades Pre-K thru 6 and Rite 13
- Implemented attendance reward program
- Implemented pen pal program with School #30
- Implemented offertory program as part of “a lesson in giving”
- Fall 2006 Began Children’s Chapel (inclusive of parents) at 9:40 with Steven.
- Educational Objectives have been set by the Curriculum Committee for each Class with a list of bible stories identified by Steven to be covered during a three year cycle.
- Rotation Program Planning for Advent whereby all three younger classes circulate through various stations (see website for further details).
- Suggestion to send a letter to families outlining our program (“this is what we have for your kids, etc.”): Need to update marketing materials (website?)
- Continue programs that appeal to families; Joined forces with Parish Life for Family Advent Celebration/Potluck 12/06
- Decision to keep 7th graders with Carl during “off years” as J2A program deals in two year cycles.

Second Priority : Continue to offer parish nursery care on a consistent basis

As we know, many families come to Calvary to baptize their young children. Getting them “connected” at this early stage is where the relationship starts. Care is offered for children 6 months to three years of age. The youngest children stay in church. Congregational understanding at this point is paramount to making these young/new families feel welcome at Calvary.

Tactics:

- Provide strong support and guidance to paid staff
- Ensure good communication between CHNS and Nursery re:sharing of room
- Coordinate childcare needs for other committees in advance
- Ongoing maintenance/cleanliness of room/toys
- Ensure fun/safe nursery care (CHNS)
- Ensure nursery coordinator has support from CYM and congregational volunteers
- When possible, tie in our curriculum with something that 2 and 3 year olds could also do

Status:

- Hiring of Erin Hammill and Claudia Kozka in the Spring of 2006
- Margaret Fiegel is in her second year as the nursery coordinator (continuity is great!)
- Claudia provided summer nursery care July/August 2006
- Volunteer support has been strong but still requires heavy marketing effort would like to see it part of congregational responsibility

Third Priority: To continue building strong lines of communication between CYM, other committees and the congregation as a whole

Without good communication, we waste resources both people and financial and miss the opportunity to truly integrate and build a church family.

Tactics

- Teacher use of bulletin boards (determine update needs)
- Provide weekly announcement through the Kids Insert
- Mail calendar church-wide in summer with events/activities schedule late Summer
- Identify person to function as Sunday school coordinator to provide support to teachers as well as updates to parents on Sunday school-related activities
- Update promotional materials, bulletin board regularly maintained, etc.
- Distribute Sunday School Registration Form/Letter in May
- Recommend yearly meeting with other committee leaders to share “vision”
- Electronic communication tools to expedite communication and save on postage.

Status:

- Implementation of Calvary Kids Insert Fall 2005 brainchild of Andrea Turton
- Development of email database for mass communication with Calvary’s families (authored by Heather Fleming)
- Andrea is the marketing maven! Leaflets on upcoming events, bulletin board announcements and bulletin inserts have increased awareness of CM events a hundred fold!
- Have developed programs in conjunction with Mission and Parish Life as we work toward an intergenerational flavor at Calvary

Fourth Priority: Development of a Strong Children and Youth Ministry Committee

The intent of our monthly meetings to provide a forum for communication between Sunday school teachers, nursery, parents and kids (youth primarily) to ensure that we are on target with our programs and that issues associated with Sunday school, nursery, etc. are resolved quickly and support provided wherever needed.

Tactics

- Provide strong leadership relative to kid-directed events
- Work closely with other committees
- Keep Sunday school fresh with new people/ideas involved

Status:

- Joined Youth with CM Winter 2005
- Heather Fleming’s computer expertise lead her to develop an email database system for CYM to use to expedite communication and save on postage!

Fourth Priority: Development of a Strong Children and Youth Ministry Committee (cont’d.)

Status:

- Becki Bissell took over as Recording Secretary for CYM in 2005 and in 2006 offered to assume responsibility for maintaining email database system working with church secretary and Andrea Turton.
- Carol Suckow responsible for mailing of birthday and baptism cards to all children
- Jane Guadagna responsible for all baptism gifts.
- Emily Sityar is our resident librarian making herself available to teachers as a resource