



SPRING/SUMMER 2021

# PARENT CONNECTION

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH • MINISTRY TO CHILDREN + FAMILIES



"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

Deuteronomy 6: 6-7

## A SUMMER PACKED WITH FAITH-FILLED ACTIVITIES

### **MORE FUN THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE**

I know many of you have questions about St. Philip's Ministry to Children and Families' plans for VBS. I have rolled the idea around in my mind, discussed ideas with clergy and staff, consulted my colleagues in the Diocese,...finally I knew I needed to hear from you.

In March, we sent out a survey to parents and volunteers to get a sense of how you felt about various options for children's ministry in the spring and summer. *Continue...*

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Based on these responses and the need to keep children, volunteers and staff safe, we have decided to replace our traditional, large-scale VBS with a variety of smaller, socially distanced events throughout the summer.

I am excited to share with you a bit about what we have planned—more details to follow soon.



## Sunday Fun Days

We will host three events on the St. Philip's lawn for preschool and elementary children following the Sunday worship service (12–2:30 pm) in mid-June, mid-July, and mid-August. Activities will include songs, a short Bible lesson, games, water play/sprinklers, and several activity rotation stations, as well as a boxed lunch--a mini, one day VBS three times during the summer. I hope that parents will take the opportunity to have lunch together on their own and then return for a closing session with a brief overview of the event and kids



singing. I imagine that different children (and volunteers) will come to each event, allowing for the opportunity to develop more relationships within the St. Philip's family and in our community. The limited numbers and time frame, as well as being outdoors, will help with safety concerns. Each Sunday Fun Day will have a different theme + lesson. **The last event will be held on the Sunday before the start of school and will be a Back-to-School Bash.**

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



## Weekly Bible Clubs

Bible Clubs for preschool and elementary children will take place weekly (time and day TBD) throughout the summer. We will group children by age to hear/read Bible stories, learn how to use the Bible, memorize scripture through games and activities and make friends. The summer clubs will serve as a pilot program that will be re-tuned and re-launched in the Fall.

## Sunday Morning Children's Worship

Children's Worship is back and better than ever! Children age four years thru (rising) 3rd Graders gather in the Parish Hall during the 10:30 am Sunday service. The program is a weekly dive into the Bible, what it means to be a Christian, and Anglicanism using worship, lessons, and fun group activities. Various stations for games and puzzles, Bible Skills and Drills, Bible study, arts and crafts, service projects, and prayer are available for children to rotate through at their own pace. Reservations are required.

## VBS@Home / Backyard VBS

Families will use St. Philip's provided resources to do their VBS@Home as a week-long, once-a-week, or weekend event. Or they may host a Backyard VBS for family members, friends, and neighbors. Several families have expressed a desire to host one of these events.

St. Philip's KidMin staff and volunteers will be available for consultation, marketing and implementation assistance.



## Parent Small Group

***Don't Miss It: Parent Every Week Like It Counts*** is a short-term parent small group to serve as a pilot for future parenting groups to launch in the Fall. ***Don't Miss It*** (by Reggie Joiner and Kristen Ivy) reminds parents that phases are not just periods of time to be survived but opportunities to be maximized. It gives parents a simple strategy for parenting every week like it counts. It can help them reprioritize their time with their kids; it may even change how they see their kids and themselves. (And because parents are busy, it's designed to take an hour or less to read.) It's just a phase. So don't miss it.



“

*And so I am sure confident  
that God, who began this good  
work in you, will carry it  
on until it is finished  
on the Day of Christ Jesus.*

*-Philippians 1:6*

”