



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 3-to-9 Year Olds at Saint Andrew's

Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs. – Matthew 19:14

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for 3- to 9-year-olds starts Sunday, September 7

Starting on Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 AM, and continuing through this academic year, Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church will be once again offering The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd method of faith formation for the three- to nine-year-old children of our parish. Fr. Gary and Cheryl Banks will continue as the lead catechists (teacher) with assistance from Laura Rhodes, Phil & Larie Buck, and Beth Blessing.

About Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to Christian formation that builds upon Montessori methods of learning. Catechesis starts with a fundamental awareness that a deep bond between God and each child already exists, and this relationship produces, in the child, a desire to draw ever closer to God. With Catechesis, we seek to nourish and encourage that desire for deeper relationship—drawing forth both joy and wonder in the child (and in the adults who get to be a part of this good work!).

The Atrium: Where Catechesis Takes Place

Central to the Catechesis is the Atrium, a room containing beautiful materials that focus the child's attention on key Scripture passages and aspects of our worship. This unique setting allows scriptural and liturgical themes to develop and resonate with each child as appropriate to their age. (The term "Atrium" derives from the ancient church—as the name given to the gathering space where the catechumens, those being formed in the faith as they prepared for initiation into the Church, would receive their instruction.)

Our Atrium, which we continue to supplement with new materials and offerings, is upstairs in the Parish Hall across the hall from our Nursery, in the room that was for many years known as Lady Chapel. We encourage you to come visit it (just not during our regular gathering time.)

To learn more about our Catechesis and Atrium, please contact Fr. Gary or Cheryl Banks. You can also find more general information about Catechesis at www.CGSUSA.org.