



# Church of the Good Shepherd Children Education

"Today is the Day for Jesus' Way!"



## Ages & Stages of Sunday School

**Homecoming Sunday: September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Drop off Children at their Classrooms 8:45-9:00**

**Parent Orientation & Registration 9:05-9:30**

*3 year olds thru 6<sup>th</sup> Grade*

\*Students accepted throughout the year- contact office for information

**First Day of Class: Sunday, September 10, 2017**

## TODAY IS THE DAY FOR JESUS' WAY

Children are a crucial part of the community of faith. Following Jesus' saying, "Let the little children come to me" Church of the Good Shepherd (CGS) seeks to uphold kids in their relationship with Christ. *Through our Worship and Sunday School program we equip children with an inspiring spiritual foundation in the Christian Tradition so that as they grow they are fluent in God's language of spirituality, love, hope and compassion.* We're excited to partner with parents equipping kids with the tools they'll need through all stages of their faith and life journey!

## LEARNING OUTCOMES & ACQUIRING LIFE SKILLS:

An essential part of our Sunday School is that children *know the biblical stories by heart.* This is different than memorizing the stories. Through our enriched curriculum and Godly Play lessons, the biblical stories will **shape their imagination with the hope, love and compassion of God in service to the community of faith and world.** **By attending Sunday School, your child will learn:** Bible Stories and how they relate to their life; Bedtime and table prayers; The Lord's Prayer; the sacramental/liturgical life of the church; leadership in worship and public speaking; collaboration as part of a community.

## All Classes Meet on Sunday from 9:00- 10:15 a.m.

Because the quality of time is such an important part of Godly Play Sunday School, we ask that **parents bring their children to class on time at 9:00 a.m.** At the end of class, parents may either pick their children up at 10:15, or children will be brought into the church to join their parents at "the peace" and participate in the rest of worship. We encourage children to take communion with their parents. There are crayons and papers for coloring or drawing available for children in the church. If you don't know where these are kept, ask an usher.

## AGES & STAGES:

### 3 Stages of Sunday School

*Godly Play materials for ages 3-12 are on a rotating 3 year cycle with supplementary activities & lessons enriching learning through relevant experience.*

### "Godly Play" (3 year olds – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Godly Play is based upon the recognition that children have an innate sense of the presence of God. All they lack is the appropriate language to help them identify and express it so it can be explored and strengthened. The Godly Play approach teaches classical Christian language in a way that enhances the child's authentic experience of God so it can contribute to the creative life of the child and the world.

### "Godly Time" (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**Introducing more NEW stories this year** due to the support of the wider CGS community! These students will enjoy hearing new stories which build on the foundation of the Spiritual vocabulary already acquired in Godly Play. "Godly Time" recognizes, both in name and spirit the shifting developmental needs for a stimulating environment as these students reach middle childhood.

### "Risers Class & Godly Time" (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

To meet the needs of our oldest Sunday School Children the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will be participating in their own selection of "Godly Time" stories in addition to a dynamic, self-guided Sunday School Curriculum mentored by their teachers. This class will creatively explore the Bible, Episcopal Traditions and Church History throughout the year. They will have opportunities to begin teaching/mentoring younger students as they get ready for their teenage years.

### **CLASS FOCUS & TEACHER INFORMATION:**

All class sections have a specific Learning Focus to complement their Godly Play lessons and will also participate in larger group activities that encourage connections between faith and community service. This year's sections are:

**3 Year Olds & Pre-K:** Child must be 3 years old by September 30, 2017 and be potty trained to attend class.

***Learning Focus:*** Songs of Sunday School

### **Kindergarten:**

***Learning Focus:*** Bedtime & Table Prayers

### **First Grade:**

***Learning Focus:*** Lord's Prayer

### **Second Grade:**

***Learning Focus:*** Sacraments

### **Third Grade:**

***Learning Focus:*** Learning Liturgy

### **Fourth Grade:**

***Learning Focus:*** Books of the Bible/Beatitudes

### **Risers Class – Fifth & Sixth Grade:**

***Learning Focus:*** Church History/Episcopal Tradition  
Please Note: Older Sunday School children must transition at the grade level they are enrolled at school when moving to the Rite 13 Youth Program for Fall 2017.

**2016 Teachers:** Lauren Balukonis, Amy Cooley, Beth Derderian, Natalie Desilets, Steve Desilets, Kate Engle, Aurora Flores-Reisman, Kim Foster, Dan LeGallo, Maureen LeGallo, Aisling Macaraeg, Devon Rosier, Jessica Taylor

## **Save the Date: Family Fellowship Events!**

St. Francis Blessing of the Animals – October 8<sup>th</sup>

Harvestfest- October 28<sup>th</sup>

Special Visitor Sunday: December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Deck the Halls Sunday- December 17<sup>th</sup>

Community Day- June 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Questions?**

***Please call the office (603) 882-5352***

***Or e-mail:***

Mary O'Reilly, Sunday School Program Coordinator  
moreilly@cgsnashua.org

Pastor Kate Harmon Siberine, Curate  
curate@cgsnashua.org

***For more info go to:***

**[www.cgsnashua.org/childrensundayschool](http://www.cgsnashua.org/childrensundayschool)**

Please Note:

*Church of the Good Shepherd follows Safe Church Policy and Procedures set forth by the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire.*

*Unauthorized recording and the **taking of unauthorized photographs** are prohibited.*

## **6 Reasons for Children attending Worship & Sunday School**

1. Learning that Jesus loves and promises his presence with them forever and always...no matter what!
2. Building relationships with other kids in the community of faith.
3. Being ministers to others in sharing their gifts and talents with the larger CGS community.
4. Getting to know the stories of the Bible in Godly Play and other class material.
5. Knowing the community of faith supports, loves and encourages your family through every stage of life.
6. Having a foundation of faith, spirituality, and awareness of God's presence as one journey's through & copes with the crisis of life as a child, youth, and adult.

