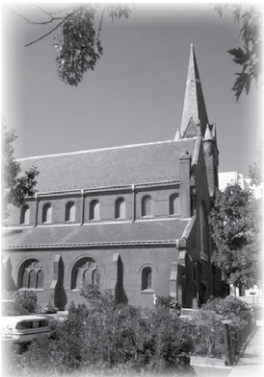


If you have questions that are not answered in this brochure, please visit www.stmarks.net/youth/index.html or contact Megan Courtney, Director of Youth Ministries, at 202-543-0053 x320, or by e-mail at megan.courtney@stmarks.net.



St. Mark's Episcopal Church Capitol Hill

118 3rd St., SE
Washington, D.C. 20003
202.543.0053

www.stmarks.net



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Children and Youth at St. Mark's



Megan Courtney
Director of Youth Ministries

Welcome to St. Mark's!

At St. Mark's, we truly believe that it takes an entire community to raise a child. As a result, our youth ministry program is an active collaboration among parents, clergy, staff, Christian Education teachers, and parishioners of all ages. We strive to integrate young people into every aspect of our communal life, embracing St. Mark's mission to foster a warm and welcoming community.

Youth Ministries at St. Mark's

The Direct of Youth Ministries works with teams of lay members on the Youth Ministry Council to plan and implement a wide array of activities and events for families and children ages 4 to 19. Opportunities for young people are also sponsored by our "Pillars": Christian Education, Worship, Arts, Outreach, and Parish Life.

Opportunities for Children and Youth:

- ♦ **Sunday School:** (Christian Education Pillar): Sunday School is available most every Sunday from Labor Day to Memorial Day under the auspices of the Christian Education Pillar. Classes for children ages 3 to grade 4 are held in the Undercroft. Sunday School classes for grades 5-12 are held in the Baxter House, 118 3rd Street SE. In addition, the Youth Ministries Council provides special programs in the summer.

- ♦ **Participation in Worship:** Young people ages 8 to 19 may participate in weekly worship services as Acolytes, Beadles and Lay Servers. On occasion, they may be invited to write parts of the liturgy. Those interested in serving as an acolyte should contact Leslie Allen at Leslie.Allen@usdoj.gov

- ♦ **Children and Youth Choirs:** Monthly, the children's choir sings during the worship service. There are three levels of choir available for youth at St.

Mark's: Children's Choir (grades 1-3), Boys & Girl's Choir (ages 4-8), and Chancel Choir (qualified high school students). Young people interested in the choir should contact the interim Director of Music, Jeffery Workman at jeffery.workman@stmarks.net

- ♦ **Arts:** In addition to Children's Choir there are many artistic opportunities and classes for youth. *The St. Mark's Players*, our resident theater company (www.stmarksplayers.org), the *St. Mark's Music Studio* (<http://stmarks.net/arts/index.html#studio>), and the *Dance Studio* (www.stmarks.net/arts/dance/html) provide many ways for youth to grow artistically.

- ♦ **Outreach:** St. Mark's signature youth service activity is our biennial teen trip to Honduras. Students also have the chance to participate in service projects throughout the year.

- ♦ **Nursery:** The nursery, located in the Undercroft, is available for all newborn to 3 year old children during both worship services. Unless otherwise noted, the Nursery is open from 8:45-12:45 on Sundays.

- ♦ **Youth Ministries Council (YMC) Activities:** The council provides a range of extra-Sunday School activities for children to join to connect with other youth.

- ♦ **School Year Programs:** During the school year, children ages 4 to 12 can participate in activities such as games at the parish picnic, Halloween events, Mardi Gras Dance, Easter Egg Hunt and many other activities planned by the special events team. Children grades 6 to 8 are invited to join youth retreats, lock-ins and service projects planned by the middle school action team. High School youth will have the opportunity to attend a beach retreat, diocese lock-ins, and many more activities as organized by the high school youth team. The YMC also actively supports the annual Christmas Pageant, organized by the "Mother of Mary."

- ♦ **Summer Programs:** In the summer, the Shrine Mont Team plans activities for children during the annual parish retreat; a special Summer Sunday School for all youth is offered in June and July, and is overseen by the Summer Sunday School team.

There is a full calendar of youth events available on the website at <http://stmarks.net/youth/index.html>

Parent and Adult Participation Opportunities:

- ♦ The Youth Ministries Council is divided into Special Events, Middle School, and High School teams, which are traditionally established in early September and serve through the school year. Summer teams are usually formed by Easter and serve through their individual events.

- ♦ Parishioners are needed to help facilitate and supervise many of the youth events offered at St. Mark's. You can volunteer to be a part of any event, simply contact the Director of Youth Ministries at 202-543-0053 x320 to sign up.

- ♦ Please note that ALL adults working with youth at St. Mark's must take the Safeguarding God's Children training, a three hour course offered by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. To register visit www.edow.org/prevention

Registering for Nursery and Sunday School:

Registration forms are available at http://stmarks.net/christian_ed/index.html and can be returned to the Director of Youth Ministries via mail (118 3rd Street SE, Washington DC 20003) or placed in Director's box in the Undercroft or Baxter House, church offices.

(See back page for contact information)