

## **Christian Education 2019 Annual Report**

This year our Sunday School program moved forward by adopting a new curriculum previewed in last year's report: the Sparkhouse Digital curriculum. Sunday school teachers met and reviewed the new curriculum this past Spring, and decided to put it in action this Fall.

The digital curriculum provides at least three advantages: it's flexible, better tailored to students' interests, and easier for teachers to use. With a digital link, teachers have a choice of multiple lessons to use. There are sets of lessons geared to both younger and older students, and these lessons include elements of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Younger students watch videos tailored to their age group in the Parish Hall, while older students watch videos in the Meeting Room. The curriculum also features crafts for younger learners, while the videos serve as a starting point for discussions about Bible topics for older students.

Thanks to a flat-screen television in the Meeting Room and a projection TV in the Parish Hall, students are also able to view images of events from the Bible as well as those of the Near East in Biblical times.

Due to the generosity of Bob DeSilets and his family, students and teachers have the benefit of a new teaching cart, as well as new Bibles for younger students. The DeSilets family made a special gift to the Sunday School that will help it serve students for many years to come.

Sunday school students again participated in Outreach during 2019. They made cards and gathered supplies for the Treats for Troops program, and created Christmas cards for homeless guests when Connect by Night was here in December. Students also led a Church service that gave them the chance to serve as Lectors and participate in other meaningful ways in the service.

Attendance in the Sunday school classrooms has overall remained steady. New students (and teachers) are always welcome.

Father James has been instrumental in work leading to the new curriculum. He has also continued to personally educate students during once a month youth group meetings, and encourage younger students to engage in Outreach activities such as the Darby Mission.

Adult Christian education opportunities throughout this year have included two "soup groups:" one on Mission and another which focused on Fathers and Mothers of the Church. During the summer we had a series of "Liturgy Lab" classes which discussed various aspects of our liturgy and then conducted experiments that illustrated the discussion during our Sunday liturgies. Father James has also started to teach a Basics Class on the third Sundays of the month at 9am.

**Thank You**

The vestry is deeply grateful to the many dedicated church members who give their time and talent to the Sunday school and Christian Education generally throughout the year. It is also deeply appreciative of the leadership of Father James, who has worked tirelessly for Christian Education for all at Holy Apostles.