

Formation Report, Marlene Bumgarner

Adult Formation

The Adult Formation Working Group meets regularly to discuss education programs for the parish, such as Bible study and extended studies such as of Richard Rohr during Advent and of Paul's Epistles in January and February, and other educational and formational programs for adults.

At the Formation Working Group meeting in August, Mother Tracy described her vision for a Formation Committee that will include parishioners working on formation for children, youth, and adults. One or two members of the Adult Formation Working group will be invited to participate on that committee. She has written a Charge and presented it to the Vestry for their information. Since Mtr. Tracy will be overseeing that committee, as she does Adult Formation and Sunday School, the Vestry was not asked to approve the Charge.

Sunday School

Several different formats and times were tried this year for Sunday School, but we never reached an attendance number sufficient to offer an effective and predictable program. It was not for lack of trying, nor for lack of enthusiasm of the cadre of parishioners serving as teachers – they all worked very hard.

In preparation for the special Vestry meeting held on December 3 to set budget priorities for 2020, I suggested raising the Sunday School budget from this year's number of \$270 to \$10,000 to pay a part-time children's ministry coordinator (\$7,800 for 10 hours a week; the remainder for marketing, materials, and mileage (for family visits)). I felt that this was the only way the Sunday School could be viable.

Karen Greenleaf responded by writing, "In my experience the only times we have had a vibrant children/youth program was when we had a hired person for 10-15 hours per week or a full-time curate." Mother Tracy added a line item in the amount of \$10,000 in the tentative budget, but it was lined out in order to make the budget balance. At the Vestry retreat in January, that item was added back in. Mother Tracy plans to make a hire soon to fill this position.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Bumgarner