

October 13, 2015

Dear Families who use our Nursery Care Program,

At Old St. Paul's we cherish children so they will learn they are cherished by God. We want our youngest members to have warm and safe associations with being at church.

Our church is growing and we have many new babies, which is really something to celebrate! Thank you for bringing your little ones into our Christian community. They bring so much joy!

On kick-off Sunday this fall we had nineteen children in the nursery! I invite your help as we create an expanding nursery care program. For the health and safety of the children in our care, I am asking for your support as we live into these guidelines for the nursery.

- 1) Nursery Care is for babies who are three months old, and up to three-plus years of age. Due to our space issues, children who are four and older are not to be in the nursery.
- 2) Nursery Care is for infants and toddlers while their parents are participating in Old St. Paul's programs and worship.
- 3) On Sundays, the Nursery is staffed from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Parents are asked to pick up their children no later than Noon out of respect for the staff.
- 4) Safe Church Standards require us to keep a one to five ratio of adult leaders to children.
- 5) Infants and toddlers may be dropped off and picked up by parents only. If you want an adult other than a parent to drop off or pick up your child, please pre-arrange this with me (Mary Luck Stanley) at least a day in advance so that I can inform the staff.
- 6) At the drop off, parents are required to sign in and leave a current cell phone number where they can be contacted while they are at church. Please double check that you have your phone with you, and it is set to vibrate so you can respond to calls.
- 7) In order to prevent illness from spreading, children who are sick should not be left in the nursery.
- 8) Parents are asked to leave fully stocked diaper bags (marked with the child's name) so that all supplies will be available for each particular child, including diapers, snacks, and an extra set of clothing in case of emergencies.
- 9) The staff has a policy that when children are crying for an extended period of time, their parents will be called so that they can come to the nursery to comfort them. We think this is in the best interest of the child.
- 10) Parents are always welcome in the nursery as they are transitioning their children.

- 11) When you have questions, ideas, or concerns, feel free to contact Theresa Pearson, who is the Nursery Coordinator (teresa.pearson@comcast.net), or The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley, who supervises the program (mary@osp1692.org).
- 12) Young children are invited to participate in Children's Worship in the undercroft (during the first half of the 10:30 a.m. service) as long as those under the age of five are accompanied by their parent. Children's Worship is set up for young children and their parents to worship together. Children over the age of five may participate independently.
- 13) Children are invited to transition into the youngest Sunday School class when they: A) are 100% potty trained and are able to go to the bathroom and clean up independently, and B) they are able to sit quietly in a circle and participate in the program. A parent may need to attend Sunday School with their young child for a few sessions in order to transition the child into a new routine.

Thank you for reading through the norms listed above and for abiding by these guidelines.

Because of the baby boom in our church, we have installed a second diaper changing area in the handicap bathroom near the kitchen. We have also added two new Soft Spaces for families with infants and toddlers so that now we have a total of four in the sanctuary. Kate Brantley, who is our Community Builder for Families with Infants and Toddlers, is hosting monthly Saturday playgroups, so please join us when you can.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about our nursery care program. We love having children and young families in our Christian community!

Peace,

The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley
Associate Rector
Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Baltimore
mary@osp1692.org