

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries (part time)

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:4

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Newburyport, MA seeks a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, including ministry with K-5 children and grades 6-12 youth. We seek someone who will share their passion for Jesus Christ, the Church and its liturgy, spiritual formation, and loving service to others. It is the aim of our children, youth, and family ministries to nurture and develop our young people in the Christian faith in the Episcopal tradition, and aid them in an ever-growing awareness of their relationship with Jesus and with each other through sacrament, scripture, inter-generational fellowship, and service.

At St. Paul's we believe that children and youth are not only the future of the church, they are the church right now. We believe that guiding and supporting our children and youth as they develop into caring and faithful adults is one of the most important things we do in our lives together in Christ. We value formation models that are engaging, Christ-focused, and allow children and youth to participate fully in the life of the parish. We have as much to learn from children as they do from us.

St. Paul's is a historic place of worship in the heart of Newburyport. We are an inclusive Christian community. At St. Paul's we worship God, pray for our world, build community, and seek to serve others by working for justice, peace, and reconciliation. We are a community centered on the sacrament that recognizes that through the Eucharist we become a eucharistic gift on offer for the life of the world. As such, we are deeply committed to caring for the vulnerable and those in need, seeking equity and justice. This includes our refugee resettlement ministry and our meal program that serves around 15,000 meals per year. To learn more about our parish community, visit stpaulsnewburyport.org.

Since the pandemic, ministry with children and youth has been dedicated but sporadic, and while we have worked to further involve children and youth in our liturgy, organized outreach activities with them, and offered seasonal and intermittent formation opportunities, we have not yet established a weekly Sunday structure for these ministries. We have baptized eighteen children and welcomed several new families with children into our community since COVID began, and we currently have twenty-five active children and youth involved in parish life. Our community is primed for restructuring and rebuilding our children and youth ministries. The right candidate for this position will enjoy being creative and joining us in a process of collaborative discernment and development to best meet the needs of parish families in the changing environment of our society.

Duties and responsibilities will include:

Initial

- Implement formation programs in collaboration with staff and volunteers and be open to exploring new avenues for ministry with children and youth.
- Create and manage a calendar of lessons and events for the program year.
- Incorporate children and youth in our parish liturgy.
- Coordinate trainings for volunteer teachers and assistants.

Ongoing

- Coordinate occasional service opportunities for children and youth in the wider community.
- Assist and organize baptism and confirmation prep in collaboration with the Rector as needed.
- Manage budget for children, youth, and family ministries including maintenance and purchase of supplies.
- Sustain safe church practices.
- Actively and collaboratively discern the changing needs of families and their role in the faith community.
- Establish and maintain contact with new families entering St. Paul's, and communicate regularly with parents and families.
- Organize other fellowship opportunities for families, children, and youth as appropriate.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have:

- A commitment to following Jesus Christ and to Christian faith and teaching, and a desire to instill this faith in children and youth.
- A commitment to living and teaching the faith in line with the Episcopal tradition.
- Experience with teaching, classroom management, and/or children and youth programs.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and rapport with children, youth, and families.
- Strong organizational and time management skills, with the ability to prioritize and delegate.
- Strong communication and networking skills, including online communications.
- Ability and desire to work in collaboration with others.
- A desire for innovation, as well as respect for tradition; will be self-motivated, and eager to work as part of a team.
- A CORI check and completion of Safe Church training will be required after hiring.

Time and Pay:

10 hours per week year-round with the hope of increasing hours going forward. Hourly rate of \$25-\$30, depending on experience.

To Apply:

Submit resume & references to:
The Rev. Dr. Jarred Mercer
rector@stpaulsnewburyport.org