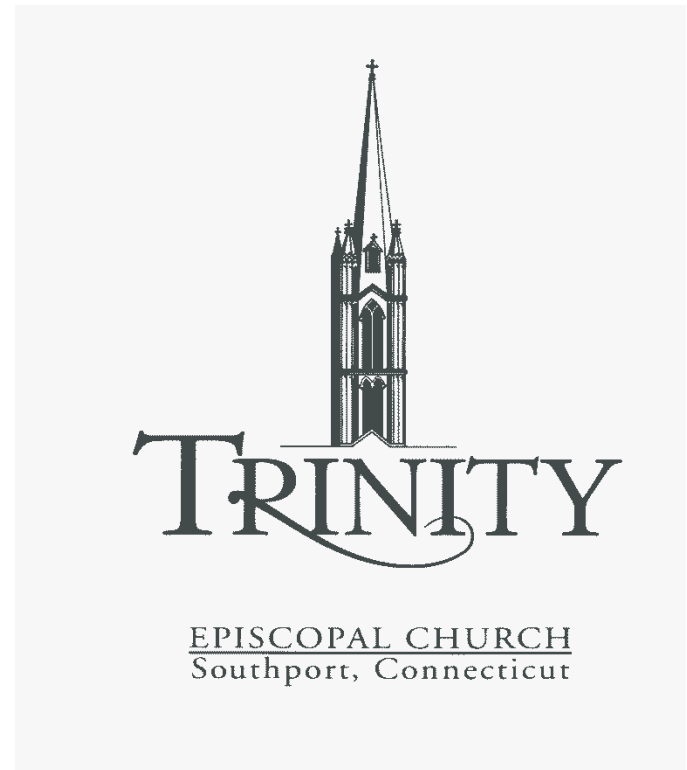


Director of Children and Youth Ministry
Sharon Turlis

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203.255.0454 ext. 302



**CHURCH SCHOOL
HANDBOOK**

2011-2012

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTHPORT

The Trinity congregation consistently seeks ways of helping people share in the fullness of joy that belongs to all of us as God's children. Children are an integral part of Trinity and are recognized as important participants in God's work. They are always welcome at worship and encouraged to participate in the Great Thanksgiving of Holy Eucharist

It is our custom to offer communion to persons of any age or to offer a blessing to very young children whose families would prefer to delay the reception of Holy Communion until the child is slightly older.

We urge all caregivers to support and participate in our Church School by enrolling their child in our program, participating in the Eucharist and enjoying the blessings and benefits of belonging to a Christian Community of Faith.

Church School registration normally takes place in early September; Registration however is available any time throughout the year. It is important that

children attend on a regular basis so to allow for the child's continual spiritual growth.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events are a great opportunity to get involved, meet other children and caregivers and have a lot of fun. Check the Messenger for announcements when these events are being planned. Here is a partial list;

- ❖ Welcome Home Picnic
- ❖ Carols and Lessons
- ❖ Visit from St. Nicholas
- ❖ Family Advent Wreath Making
- ❖ Mardi Gras – activities for Adults and children
- ❖ Church School Showcase in the Spring
- ❖ Easter Egg Hunt
- ❖ God's Earth Day celebration
- ❖ Trinity Church Picnic
- ❖ Vacation Bible School

SUNDAY TIME

The primary goals of our church School are to:

- ❖ Provide learning opportunities to know God
- ❖ Build Christian friendships
- ❖ Make and practice faith commitments
- ❖ Grow in understanding of Bible

CLASS TIME

Classes meet from 9:45AM to approximately 10:45 AM every Sunday of the month. At 10:45 AM the children are dismissed to join their parents for the remainder of the 10:00AM. Parents have the option of leaving their Pre-K aged 3's & 4's in the Nursery Childcare until the conclusion of the 10AM service.

HOME TIME

There are many resources available to support your commitment in raising a faith filled child. Contact Sharon Turlis for suggestions on bibles, books, crafts and films that supplement and strengthen your child's journey of faith. 203.255.0454 ext.302

WELCOME FAMILIES!!!

Welcome to an exciting new church year at Trinity Episcopal Church. We welcome all children and families to a warm and inviting curriculum based on God's love. Our children are supported in their religious education from age three through their teen years. Parents are an important component to creating a loving Christian community with teachers and mentor. In this tumultuous world we hope to provide a firm and stable foundation to assist our youth in making conscious choices to live in God's way. It is our prayer here at Trinity that your child will learn to love God and their neighbor through education, caring and the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. I look forward to meeting your family and making this year one of fruitfulness.

In peace,

Sharon Turlis,
Director of Children's and Youth Ministry
203.255.0454 ext. 302

*For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29: 11*

CURRICULUM

Trinity Episcopal Church curriculum mentors the spiritual development of children. The program based on a Montessori approach to teaching enables children to develop their own language to express the knowledge they already have of God. The program will be used on all levels adjusting the work and exploration for age appropriateness. The curriculum will involve sacred stories, parables, liturgical opportunities and contemplation.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can become involved in our church school program by:

1. Co-Teaching a class
2. Substituting
3. Sharing a musical talent
4. Working on a Church School event

We would love to share with you the joy of working with our children. Please contact: Sharon Turlis at 203.255.0454 ext.302 or email her at churchschool@trinitysouthport.org

TIPS

Registration forms are available anytime in the Parish Offices to attend Sunday classes as well as the Nursery. Please be sure that we have received the necessary information in order to serve your children safely.

Special Needs i.e. food allergies should be noted on the registration form as well as bringing it to the attention of the teacher. We do provide a nut free environment.

Children need to be healthy when attending Church. Teachers are not permitted to change diapers or distribute medication. If your child becomes ill during class we will send someone into church to find you. Please note for safety and health reasons Trinity cannot be responsible for your child if you leave the premises. Should your child need to be out for more than two consecutive Sundays please notify the Director.

Your input is invaluable...you know your child better than anyone else. It is important for them and you to feel comfortable and happy within our church School community. Should anything happen to prevent that please speak with Sharon directly so that any issues can be resolved promptly.