

July 22, 2010

Dear Parents and Teachers,

I am very excited to begin working with you as the Director of Spiritual Formation, which includes ministry to children and families. Whether you are a parent, a volunteer teacher, or both, know that I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve, lead, and collaborate with you.

As I have been praying and listening to God's heart for children over these many years, I have been challenged to expand my imagination regarding the ways we can nurture our kids' spiritual formation. We live in a very materialistic and entertainment based society in which immediate stimulation and information is king. Engagement in the Kingdom of God, however, is a bit more mysterious, though no less stimulating. Navigating a faith journey requires a different kind of knowing. Thankfully, God has given children a lion's share of imagination and creativity, of capacity for trust and relationship, of wonder and play, key elements of faith. I look forward to journeying with you and with them into the sacred stories of scripture to discover God's heart for all of us.

Practically speaking, we have invested in a wonderful new story-based curriculum (new to us!) called *Godly Play* that emphasizes the scriptural stories and a growing personal relationship with God. It allows children to engage their senses in a safe and stimulating environment, combining key gateways to knowing for children – language (the verbal) and play (the nonverbal). Join me for a meeting **Sunday August 22nd at 1pm 4th Floor Anderson Bldg Lounge** to hear about the methodology and purpose of this approach as well as the overall vision of the Children's Spiritual Formation Program. **Childcare and lunch for the kids will be provided on the 2nd Floor of the Anderson Bldg and Parents will be provided with light finger foods.** Keep your eye out for an Evite and please respond so that I may know numbers and childcare needs.

Finally, I welcome you to contact me regarding any questions you may have or just to talk. The prayers and the presence of community were essential for me as I raised my kids and served. Many hearts and minds brought me encouragement and inspiration, and so I offer you mine as you sense the need or desire.

Blessings,

Lisa

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