



Prince of Peace Dallas observes National Children's Sabbath with Bishop

The parish family of Prince of Peace had much to give thanks for on Sunday, October 21st; an extremely talented guest organist, a new Priest-in-charge and a visit by the Assistant Bishop to the Diocese of Bethlehem. But, on this day their worship was directed towards the children. For the 5th consecutive year, the parish observed the National Children's Sabbath, a day set aside by the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) to bring awareness to the needs of our nation's children. Special focus was placed on the 9 million children in America without health insurance and the poor and minority children facing additional risks and disadvantages.

The youth took center stage as the layministers for this service by reading the Lessons, leading the Prayers of the People and serving as Ushers & Greeters. Special forms of the Prayers were used to focus on the issues at hand. The Prayers of the People called for prayer and love for those children deprived of love and support, appreciation for all children and the unique gifts they offer, patience with children's failings and mistakes, and support and nurturing for children as they try new things. Special musical selections were played before and after the service by 10 year old Mark Pall, guest organist for the second year in a row. Mark and his brother Garrett also joined the Youth Choir in singing praises to God for all of God's kids.

Bishop Jack Croneberger led the parish in reciting the Baptismal Covenant through which Episcopalians declare their beliefs as Christians. He also spoke to the congregation about the responsibility shared by all in uplifting those who are unable to reach their full potential without the support of others. Through the words of an old tale and the actions of a small puppet he reminded congregants young and old not to judge a book by its cover, to take a chance and "kiss the frog" you never know what lies beneath, it just may be a prince.

Pictured above: Some members of the Sunday School of Prince of Peace along with (seated) The Reverend James P Stevenson, Priest-in-Charge; (standing first row) The Reverend Mary Lou Divis, Deacon; (standing in back row) Jennifer Martin, Sunday School Coordinator; Christine Sutton, Children's Advocate; The Right Reverend John P. Croneberger, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem. (Article by Jennifer Martin; Photo by David Dillon)