

Saint Philip's in the Hills Church
2026 Annual Meeting Report
for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

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CYFM is one of the most dynamic expressions of Saint Philip's intergenerational life, engaging more than 200 children, youth, and parents in a community of mutual support and encouragement that is rooted in the Episcopal liturgy. Families consistently describe CYFM as a place where they find connection and a shared commitment to raising children in the Christian faith.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides a formative anchor, helping younger children encounter the symbols, gestures, and rhythms of liturgical worship in a contemplative and developmentally attuned way. This foundation is complemented by age-appropriate formation for youth and parents, strengthening relationships and nurturing a common language of faith across generations.

Children and youth participate fully in the parish's liturgical life—serving as acolytes, lectors, and choristers, and preparing for baptism, solemn communion, and confirmation. These practices help our young people understand themselves as integral members of the worshipping community and deepen their long-term engagement with the church.

Families have also participated in many parish and outreach events—joining the Greening of the Church, filling bags for the Emerge Center and unhomed people, clearing a garden for community use, cooking for Primavera Men's Shelter, gathering donations for the Community Food Bank, serving food at Gap Ministries, and participating in First Aid/CPR training.

Two part-time staff members, a dedicated team of volunteers, and a full-time clergy member sustain this ministry. Retreats, social gatherings, and pilgrimages—often in partnership with the Music Ministry—further strengthen relationships and invite families into the wider life of the parish.

As CYFM continues to grow, we are discerning how best to support children with diverse needs, welcome families of varied backgrounds, and expand opportunities for service and outreach. Parents and leaders express a desire for formation that is both theologically grounded and genuinely inclusive—reflecting the breadth of the Episcopal tradition while remaining rooted in the creeds, the sacraments, and the beauty of our liturgical life.

By the Numbers

- 200+ children, youth, and parents engaged
- 40+ volunteers
- 85 children registered for Sunday formation

- 16 children in the choir; 5 youth in the adult choir
- 8 youth pilgrims in 2024; 7 expected in 2027

Signature Practices

- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Baptism, Solemn Communion, Confirmation
- Family retreat, social gatherings, pilgrimages, service projects
- Seasonal traditions (Shrove Tuesday, Hands and Feet Holy Week, Easter egg hunt, Blessing of the Animals, Christmas Pageant)