

**Christian Formation Commission**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**September 2023 Report**

The Christian Formation Commission met on September 12, 2023 by Zoom.

Participants: Kathy Argueso, Rebecca Connor, Susan Sunnarborg (chair), Evvie Williams, Joelene Young, Rev. Todd Young

The commission notes that this is Fr. Todd and Joelene's last meeting with us before they leave for Wyoming. We want to thank Fr. Todd for making this commission meeting part of his regular schedule, and Joelene for all the outstanding work she has done with our youth, from J2A continuing throughout our COVID closure to our current nursery, which has been updated, well-staffed, and popular with families.

**Current/Recent activities:**

- The nursery continues with staffing each Sunday, as organized by Joelene. We will need additional volunteers to cover Joelene's scheduled day and any other vacancies.
- Children's Chapel was planned to resume on St. John's Day, September 10. No children were present but we will be prepared for future Sundays. Additional helpers are needed for this ministry as well.
- Christian Formation activities, led Deacon Sue, are listed in the Sunday bulletins.
- Bob Ayres will resume offering Thursday night Adult Forum by Zoom teleconference in September.

**Old Business:**

The commission discussed how to facilitate Safeguarding training for those interested in volunteering with children or youth. We discussed the possibility of having in-person options for completing the training at church, with provided laptops and assistance as needed. The date of October 15, Commission Sunday, was mentioned as a possibility.

For the St. John's Day observance on September 10, Kathy offered an activity of making beaded crosses, with a few participants of different ages. The remaining materials are available for future events.

Evvie and others have made plans for a Moral and Ethical Dilemma group, with the first meeting planned for October 16.

**New Business:**

We need someone to take Joelene's place as the parish contact for the youth ministry from the Diocese of Maryland, to receive information about youth activities and keep youth informed.

For moving forward with youth group, Joelene reported on the discussion at the May youth group meeting. Youth were interested in service projects and other group activities, and we will consider how to move forward and provide this ministry for our middle and high school students.

A group of acolytes and family members will be attending the National Acolyte Festival on October 7 at the National Cathedral. Additional attendees are welcome to join us!

The next commission meeting date is October 9 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Sunnarborg, Chair