

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue to prepare for the new program year here at St. Paul's, we are excited to invite our high school youth to a new, high school only Christian formation offering on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:15 am. The St. Paul's clergy team highly values the Christian formation of our parish's youth and feels called to share with them the intellectual and spiritual tools they need to navigate the complexities of their lives. The middle schoolers (SPIMS) will meet in Neve Hall, while the high schoolers (SPISH) will meet in a newly renovated room just below Neve Hall (near Audi Barlow's office).

The goal of this new Sunday morning formation program is to give high schoolers a foundational understanding of what it means to be a Christian in general and a member of the Episcopal Church in particular. We will wrestle with the most significant questions of life, such as: what is the meaning of life? What does it mean to live a good life? Who is Jesus and why does he matter? Each Sunday's gathering will be facilitated by me or by one of the other clergy in the parish.

The SPISH Sunday morning formation program will be divided into two years. In year A (see first attachment), we will focus on the big questions and the Christian worldview. In year B (see second attachment), we will focus on Christian history and practice. Each year is a self-contained unit, so it does not matter if a participant starts with year A or year B.

If youth regularly participate in this program, they will have a good understanding of Christianity, and will thereby be prepared to make an adult commitment to the Way of Jesus Christ if they feel called to do so. For this reason, going forward, this new Sunday morning formation program will function as our preparation for youth confirmation, which entails "a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop" (BCP, p. 412). This Sunday morning formation program is not a "confirmation class" (it is open to all high schoolers, even those already confirmed), but regular participation in this formation program is expected for all youth interested in confirmation.

Rick, Amanda, and I are looking forward to sharing the life-changing power of the Christian life with the high schoolers at St. Paul's!

Yours in Christ,

Justin+