

Moment for Mission: A gift to our children and ourselves

By Sue Gramith
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I have an important, meaningful and fabulous opportunity to tell you about this morning. As you may know, I have been leading faith education classes for our elementary children the last couple of years, and I am here this morning to encourage you to join me this fall in nurturing and guiding our wonderful children as they grow in their faith and become members of our community.

I don't want you to think of this request as a responsibility or job that needs to be done. This opportunity is not only a gift to our children, but believe me, it is a gift to yourself also. There is nothing that feeds my soul more than interacting with these young people. Every week I am amazed by the wisdom I hear, amused by their ideas, and forced to push and define my own faith.

Now, you may be thinking, "She's nuts!" "I've been there and done that," "I'm too old," or "I don't know how to teach." I'm asking you not to let these worries keep you from offering your support to our children and their families. We need adults at all levels in our classes—lead teachers, regular second adults, and occasional helpers. You can step in at any level. We have curriculum to follow and I can assure you, you don't need to know all the answers. It's perfectly OK to say that you really don't know something, or really wonder about a story. A perk I get every Sunday is to grow my own faith along with the children.

Another perk that comes with teaching is getting to know the parents of our children. It is so easy to stay within our own established groups and friends when we are here and not get to know each other across the generations. Of course on Sunday mornings we want to catch up with friends we have close and long-standing connections with, but we also need to reach out in order to 'celebrate each other's gifts and perspectives' as our covenant states.

So, whether you have taught in the past or have never tried it, whether you are a woman or a man (especially if you are a man—we need male perspectives also), whether you are young or a senior citizen or somewhere in between, I am inviting you—no, I am urging you—to join me this fall in feeding your soul, pushing your own faith formation, getting to know our young families and sharing yourself with our children. It is up to all of us as members of this community to wrap our arms around our sometimes silly, sometimes wild, but also loving and wise children and help them grow. As our Covenant also says: "We will chose the good of the whole church over our individual preferences and comforts." The Children's Ministry Team will provide multiple opportunities for you to sign up to help. I hope you will take a risk and choose the good of our whole church!