

# Top Ten Reasons Why Children are Welcome at St James

- 10.** -- Repeated exposure to the sights, sounds and symbols of Eucharist help form all Christians.
- 9.** -- Children actually like sitting in those usually-empty front row seats so they can see and hear what's going on.
- 8.** -- It would be expensive to repaint all those signs to read "The Episcopal Church Only Welcomes Adults."
- 7.** -- Practice makes perfect – teaching young children to enjoy and participate in the service helps them become active and receptive worshipping adults.
- 6.** -- There are no pop quizzes at the communion rail! We all experience the Eucharist as a mystery . . . you don't have to be able to explain it in order to benefit from it.
- 5.** -- Children have their own unique relationships with God. Being in church helps them learn how to pray, sing, worship, and otherwise strengthen that relationship.
- 4.** -- If children aren't in church, who are the candy-unwrapping, restless, coughing, whispering adults going to blame for the noise?
- 3.** -- Sunday services make great family-togetherness time. Use the quiet space for extra hand-holding or snuggling time that may get lost during a busy week.
- 2.** -- Children teach us what absolute joy looks like – and what better place to experience that than in church?

## **And the Number One reason why Children are Welcome in our Church:**

- 1.** -- The Circle of God's family is incomplete without them!

*Thanks to Tracey E. Herzer, President of the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors [www.NAECED.org](http://www.NAECED.org).*