

Children, Youth and Young Adult (CYYA) Committee 2022 Annual Report

The CYYA committee aims to be an inclusive ministry for children, youth, and young adults in our church community, providing programs that support their faith development and growth, as well as providing support for the Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults.

We do that by working with the younger congregants. We include and support children, youth, and young adults by providing programs to help them learn and participate in the Cordova Bay United Church (CBUC) community.

We have the Sunday morning program Spirit Kids, Messy Church, a Youth group, and a Young Adult group. All these programs are led and administered by our Minister of Children, Youth and Young Adults, Pastor Nancy Walker, and assisted by Children & Youth Program Coordinator Leslie Moffat.

We started out 2022 with a lot of uncertainty due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. We came to Church in-person, then we did not come to Church in-person, then we were back in-person. Now all programs are in-person.

Despite all this uncertainty, like the previous year, Nancy and Leslie managed to keep relationships going with the children and youth by continuing to be in constant contact with them.

When we were unable to meet in-person on Sunday mornings, Nancy and Leslie sent personal messages each week with a short lesson and craft suggestion to all Spirit Kids. These messages went out to about 20 households.

Since March, and through the summer, we have been back to in-person Spirit Kids programs every Sunday morning.

Also in the summer, Nancy had a Messy Church Beach Day in August attended by six children.

In September, when school was starting up again and CBUC was focusing on bringing everyone back, our programs were called 'Coming Back.' At that time Nancy sent postcards to all children connected to Spirit Kids and Messy Church inviting them back to events in September.

Messy Church is offered about five times a year, usually on Friday over the supper hour. It is aimed at families with young children. CBUC has been offering this program for approximately nine years now.

In September, Messy Church returned in-person with a 'Creation' theme. It was a huge success with 17 children and 23 adults participating. Craft stations were outside in the church parking lot, then we went inside to share pizza and ice-cream sundaes, then back outside to the lawn for music led by Amy and Casey Van Wensem.

These events take a lot of volunteers to make them happen, from preparing craft materials, setting up and taking down, assisting children with crafts, organizing, and serving the meal to providing music, and we thank everyone for their support.

In late November we kicked off the Advent and Christmas season with our Advent Messy Church. Also, during Advent, the December 11 Church service, with the theme of 'Stars', was led by the Spirit Kids, with some help from Messy Church kids, the youth, and the young adults.

The afternoon Christmas Eve Service is a family-oriented, interactive service with all generations involved. During this service most Spirit Kids, some Messy Church kids and families, and anyone who comes to church can participate. Again, Amy and Casey provided the music, and we ended by singing Silent Night by candlelight. It is a sacred and fun time.

As well, seasonally (Lent/Easter, Pentecost, Creation/Autumn, and Advent/Christmas), Nancy assembles 'Faith at Home' kits that are delivered to about 16 families.

Nancy also sends Birthday cards to all the children, youth, and young adults on her contact list.

The Youth group gatherings included a bowling outing this fall, and besides keeping in regular contact with the Young Adults who have grown up in CBUC, Nancy also is able to meet periodically with them as a group and individually. Sometimes they have an activity and sometimes they just meet socially.

We would like to especially acknowledge Leslie Moffat for her assistance with all of our programs throughout the year.

And a huge thank-you to all in the congregation who support children, youth, and young adults in our congregation and who volunteer to help us when needed.

We look forward to your ongoing support!

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Young, Chair