



Messy Church & More!

How Intergenerational Programs can Breathe New Life into Your Church

Bishop's Leadership Conference 2022

Thursday, May 12 ■ 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. ■ Fort Worden, Port Townsend

Demo Theme: New Life in the Spirit: Pentecost

Hand-outs:

- Workshop Agenda
- Intergenerational Church – Canon Wendy Claire Barrie, Saint Mark's Cathedral
- Messy Church Overview
- *Eat, Play, Love* Overview – Kelly Moody, St. Michael & All Angels, Issaquah
- *Play, Pray & Pizza* Themes & Activities – Charissa Bradstreet, Good Samaritan, Sammamish
- Intergenerational Church Resource List – Sue Tait, Diocesan Resource Ctr.

Workshop presentation team (alpha by last name):

The Rev. Charissa Bradstreet, Good Samaritan, Sammamish
Ardeth Ellis, St. Timothy, Chehalis
The Rev. Kay Flores, St. Timothy, Chehalis
Suzanne Hierholzer, St. Andrew, Aberdeen
Jerri Lejeune, St. Timothy, Chehalis
Valerie Reinke, Office of the Bishop
Hayley Stockwell, St. Timothy, Chehalis
Naomi Woodrum, Youth Confirmation Coordinator, Office of the Bishop

Questions about getting started with a Messy Church or whole church program?

Contact Valerie Reinke, Canon Missioner for Faith Formation: 35 & Under

vreinke@ecww.org

A Note from the Cathedral's Canon for Intergenerational Ministries, Wendy Claire Barrie...

I'm six months into this newly created position of Canon for Intergenerational Ministries at Saint Mark's Cathedral, and we are part of something new and exciting--a global movement of Christians who are motivated by a vision of the kingdom reality that that imagines flourishing faith communities where people of all ages worship, learn, grow, and serve God together.

This vision is supported by decades of research in social science and faith formation. At its core, intergenerationality is simply the best way there is to foster discipleship. We learn from each other, in community and relationship, how best to follow Jesus.

The definition of intergenerational that I use comes from Holly Catterton Allen and Christine Lawton Ross in *Intergenerational Christian Formation : Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*. (Downers Grove, IL, IVP Academic, 2012):

"An intergenerational outlook acknowledges that the gifts every generation brings to the spiritual formation of other generations strengthens the whole church. A faith community that practices intergenerational ministry will use these gifts, creating frequent opportunities for various generations to communicate in various ways, to interact on a regular basis, and to worship and serve together regularly. And intergenerational experiences are experiences in which multiple representatives of two or more generations are present and ...engaged in mutual activities." (20-21)

Here are some thoughts as you get started:

- Being intergenerational is a culture, not a program. Cultivating intergenerationality is a process that takes time.
- The best place to begin is by building relationships. The first key factor found in flourishing intergenerational communities are *positive interactions* among people of different ages, experiences, and interests. Those lead to *connectedness*, the second key factor. (Azzopardi, Joe, and Kayle De Waal. "Discipleship and Intergenerationality: Interrelated Concepts at the Core of Christianity." Chapter 2. In *The Generative Church: Global Conversations about Investing in Emerging Generations*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2019.)
- The liturgical year is your friend! There are many opportunities to develop positive interactions and connectedness among all generations throughout the seasons and celebrations of the church year.
- When making an invitation to multiple generations, consider the language you use. Intergenerational is not code for families with children.
- Alternatively, if you find that children and youth are missing from many of the ministries of your church, start thinking about ways to include them not only in participation but in planning and leadership.

I'm working on my second book right now—*The Church Post-Sunday School: How to be Intergenerational and Why It Matters*. Please let me know if you'd like to be in conversation!

Wendy Claire Barrie

www.wendyclairebarrie.com

wbarrie@saintmarks.org

Intergenerational Ministry Resources List

Articles and blogposts

[*The Year of Being "Generations Together"*](#) from the Anglican Church in Australia

[*Principles of Intergenerational Faith Formation: Research Findings from Practitioners*](#) by John Roberto

[*Why Bring Generations Together?*](#) by Liz Perraud

[*25 Ideas for Intergenerational Service*](#) from Christian Reformed Church Faith Formation Ministries

[*8 Innovative Ways to Foster Intergenerational Ministry in Your Church*](#) by Alissa Ellett

[*8 Ideas to Try with Intergenerational Small Groups*](#) by Karen DeBoer

Books

[*Fashion Me a People*](#) by Maria Harris
[*Helpful overview*](#)

[*Engage All Generations: A Strategic Toolkit for Creating Intergenerational Faith Communities*](#) edited by Cory Seibel

[*Lifelong Faith: Formation for all Ages and Generations*](#) by John Roberto

Websites and online resources

[Building Faith](#)

[Faith Formation Learning Exchange Intergenerational Research](#)

[Fuller Youth Institute](#)

[GenOn Ministries](#)

[Lifelong Faith](#)

[Illustrated Ministry](#)

[Praying in Color](#)

[Music That Makes Community](#)

Messy Church Overview

Why call it Messy Church?

Lucy Moore, the founder of Messy Church writes that the name was an invitation to “*reach families that were on the ‘messy edges’ of church who weren’t ‘tidily’ congregation already. It’s also a church for people whose lives may be messy – perhaps in the past the Church has too often appeared to be saying that we only welcome people whose lives are well-ordered.*” (Lucy Moore, BBC Songs of Praise, 2013)



History

Messy Church started in an Anglican church near Portsmouth, UK, in 2004 and has grown into an international movement operating across a wide range of Christian denominations and traditions. It became part of The Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) in 2006 with the publication of the first Messy Church book by founder Lucy Moore.

Membership

Participate as a member of Messy Church USA to boost your own local effectiveness as well as to support the broader national and global movement. There is no curriculum or product to buy (unless you want to attend a training); everything is open source. There are three tiers of annual membership, each with its own benefits: Free / \$50 / \$200. Free membership includes the use of the Messy Church logo.

How to Get Started

Think imaginatively about your area and listen to people who don't go to church or who are on the edge of church to find out what the real needs are from their point of view

- Check out the resources at <https://messychurchusa.org/>
- Talk to your church leaders
- If there's a Messy Church near you, offer to help or just go and participate.
- Talk to lots of people in your church (especially the unlikely people) to get them engaged and possibly prepared to cook/be crafty/clean up, and so on.
- Get everyone excited! Look for people on the edge who have never been asked to help before. Ask people to do specific jobs rather than do everything.
- Plan a budget and investigate sources of funding (the Diocese has grant funding through its Children & Families Faith Formation budget – e-mail faithformation@ecww.org for more details)

- Get the go-ahead from your church leadership team
- Write a clear list of your goals.
- Run background checks on volunteers and be clear about Safe Church practices regarding adults working with children.
- Gather a small planning team and start plotting your first Messy Church in detail.

[Excerpted from Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community, pp. 60 – 61]

Conduct a Community Needs Assessment: Find the Need in Your Community and Adapt Your Program to Meet it...

- What are the needs of children & families in your community? Is there a local United Way that can help you do a needs assessment or find a recent one?
- What other organizations in the surrounding community support children and families? How can you complement what these organizations are doing and even collaborate?
- Who are you trying to reach with your program? How many are there from this group in your neighborhood? How many are known personally by members of the existing church? (People are much more likely to come by personal invitation.)
- Are there preschools or private schools near the church that might be willing to publicize your program to their families?
- What are other churches in the neighborhood doing? How can you complement rather than compete with their work?

[Also see: “Reaching the Messy Edges” – p. 49 from the Messy Church book.]



Ideas for Intergenerational Programming

MARKET YOUR PROGRAM DIFFERENTLY TO VARIOUS TARGET AUDIENCES

WE CALLED IT A BIBLE STUDY, AN EVENING PROGRAM, AND A FAMILY CAMP! ALL WERE TRUE.



INVITE AS MANY PEOPLE INTO A ROLE AS POSSIBLE

MUCH LIKE LITURGY, PEOPLE THRIVE IN TRYING NEW THINGS PROGRAMMATICALLY WHEN THEY HAVE A DISCRETE ROLE OR A JOB! SEE THE LIST OF ROLES WE INCLUDED ON THE BACK.



EAT

PLAY

LOVE

THIS BANNER WAS CREATED OVER FOUR NIGHTS BY OUR 85 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS! IT HUNG IN THE NAVE THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY, AND BECAME A VISIBLE REMINDER OF THE RELATIONSHIPS FORMED THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM.



CREATE SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES WITHIN THE PROGRAM

FORMATION HAPPENS IN RELATIONSHIP! CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERS, PARTICIPANTS, AND FAMILIES TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BY HOW YOU SEAT THEM AT DINNER, HOW THEY GATHER AND MOVE THROUGH THE SPACE, HOW THEY JOIN IN PLANNING, AND HOW THEY TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLEANING UP.

In 2019 we created a whole-parish program called *Eat Play Love* that based on a simple VBS curriculum. Follow this link to read about how we marketed the program in our quarterly magazine and on the website!

<https://saintmarks.org/learn/eat-play-love-not-your-average-bible-study/>

We invited "families" of every size, generation and make-up to join us for four evenings, and about 85 people came.

Our schedule looked like this:

5:00 Arrival

5:15 Blessing and dinner

5:40 Music, scripture reading, brief theme introduction as dinner ends

6:15-6:45 Small group activity 1 (storytelling tent, community art, or recreation)

6:45-7:15 Small group activity 2

7:15-7:45 Small group activity 3, and dessert on the porch

7:45 Gather in Nave and close with compline around the baptismal font

8:00 Good night!

VOLUNTEER ROLES

suitable for children, youth, adults, and family teams.

Almost every participant had a role!

Chef team

Registration helpers

Greeters

Plenary leaders

Music leaders

Storytellers

Creative helpers for the banners we created

Recreation leaders

Small group shepherds

Eve Liturgy readers/leaders

Float

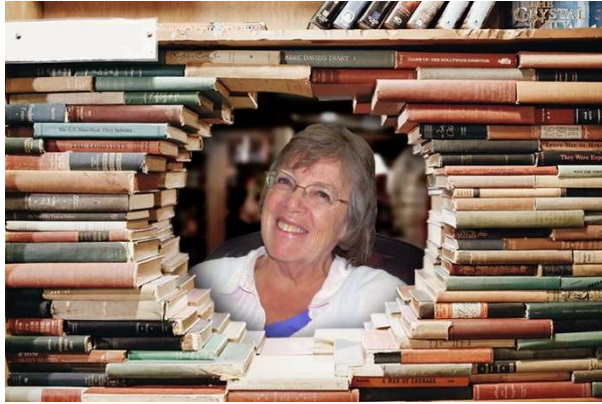
Cleanup

We began to plan EPL 2020 but were unable to bring it into being due to COVID.
The community is still talking about it!

Activity List for Play, Pray and Pizza 2021-2022

October Theme: Creation Care/St. Francis	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pet blessing • Snack bars for dogs and people – dog treats donated to a shelter • Cat toys (socks stuffed with catnip) – donated to humane society • 6 Days of Creation art project – painting a symbol for each day of creation, using paper plates
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: The Bible begins with a story...a story about all the things that surround us as part of creation, a story that is also about how God feels about creation, and a story that is also about how God asks people to take care of the plants and animals and the waters and the sky • Blessing of the cat toys
November Theme: All Saints	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saint Bingo – bingo cards featuring various saints • Cards for the Saints – creating hand designed and written cards for parish members who are sick or grieving • Caramel apples
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: Saints were people just like us who lived and died and when they were alive they decided to try and follow Jesus. We are saints too. Saints ask questions like “How can I follow Jesus today? How can I love the people around me the way Jesus would love them?” • Visuals: icons, altar of remembrance, and a mirror (you are a saint too!) • Blessing of the cards that were created
December – No Play, Pray and Pizza – Carols and Cookies event instead	
January – canceled – Omicron scare – Theme: Baptism	
February Theme: Presentation at the Temple	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosaics – individual mosaic project with a mirror at the center
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna and the way God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things (their mosaic mirror can remind them that God can use them to do extraordinary things too.) • <i>This activity turned out to be far more time intensive than planned and that night became just “Play and Pizza” so we did not get to tell this story.</i>
March Theme: Lent	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making Prayer Beads • Monkey Game (KeeKee the Rocking Monkey – a game where each person takes turns adding balls to a rocking monkey’s arms – game ends when balls spill out of the monkey’s arms) • Baking Lenten Pretzels
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: “Come to me you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens...” Lent is a time for letting some things go (things that are actually burdens) and maybe picking something up that helps us find rest and peace or to love others. • Blessing of the prayer beads

April Theme: Holy Week	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Paschal Candle • Making Palm Crosses • Stuffing Easter Eggs
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: Moving slowly through the story of Jesus dying and rising again – a big story with lots of ups and downs, so it helps to go slow. • All the ways we can enter the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus: Palm Sunday, prayer, Agape Meal and foot washing, Stations of the Cross, the Vigil (“the light of Christ”)
May Theme: Easter Season	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting eggs for an Easter Tree – each egg tells a part of the Easter story • Baking brownies – to be served at Issaquah Meals program
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: What can God do next? Jesus’ resurrection tells us that when all hope was lost Jesus came back and every time things are hard we can ask, “What might God do next?” • Paschal candle at center along with new Easter tree
June Theme: Pentecost	
Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S’mores using outside fire pit • Search for hidden country pieces, then match with corresponding language, a food item, and flag • Create pinwheels
Pray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story theme: The birth of the church came with fire and wind and people from many different countries could suddenly hear about Jesus in their own language. The Holy Spirit was given to the people!



Intergenerational & Whole Church Resources

Courtesy of Sue Tait, Diocesan Resource Center
Director | resource@ecww.org

To borrow these items, go to:
<https://books.ecww.org/>

Church of all Ages: Generations Worshiping Together

Edited by Howard Vanderwell, 2008. (264 Chu)

Pastors, teachers, worship planners and others offer their reflections on how congregations can hold the generations together when they worship. These chapters do not provide easy answers but do include questions for reflection and group discussion.

Church Post-Sunday School: How to be Intergenerational and Why it Matters

By Wendy Claire Barrie, 2022. (Pre-ordered.)

Research and experience show that both children and adults benefit from worshipping together, and age segregation as a “default mode” should be carefully reconsidered. Resources and practical suggestions point to ways churches can become *intergenerational*, not just multigenerational.

Encountering Christ: An Intergenerational Faith Experience

By Charlotte N. Molrine. 1999. (CUR 268.433 Mol)

An Episcopal-oriented course of study containing 14 active, experiential sessions leading each participant through and experience of faith formation, which may lead to confirmation, reception or reaffirmation of faith.

Faithful Generations: Effective Ministry Across Generational Lines

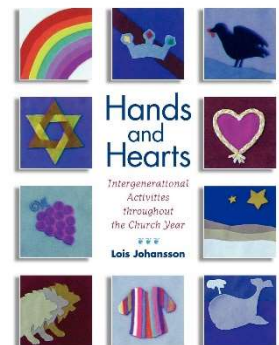
By John R. Mabry, 2013. (259.084 Mab)

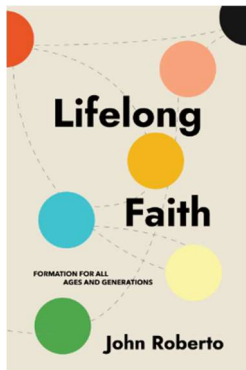
Mabry looks at the generational differences that shape contemporary American spirituality, and gives insight about the changing worldviews of each. The only drawback is that he ends with a discussion of Millennials. He is a congregational pastor with decades of experience, and a spiritual director.

Hands and Hearts: Intergenerational Activities throughout the Church Year

By Lois J. Johansson. 2006. (268 Joh)

Filled with intergenerational activities for each season of the church year, these activities help a church family grow spiritually together. Templates and step-by-step instructions.





Lifelong Faith: Formation for all Ages and Generations

By John Roberto. 2022 (248.4 Rob)

Offering a systemic process for a congregation to discern its faith formation goals and methods across multiple denominations, geographies and cultures. Online resources are included, but Roberto is grounded in the incarnation and the embodied community. The resource guide included is quite current, and our Resource Center has many of the titles.

Messy Church: Fresh Ideas for Building a Christ-Centered Community

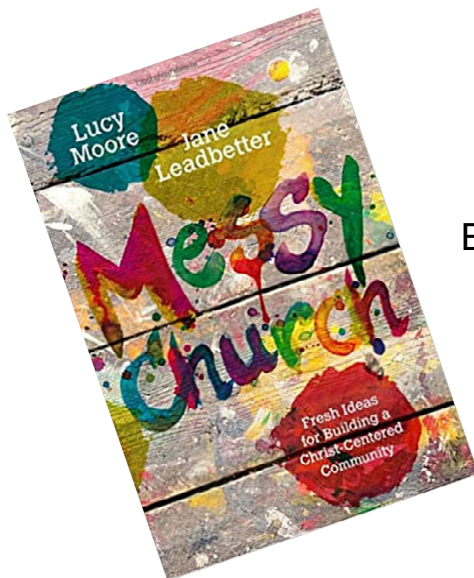
By Lucy Moore. 2017. (263.91 Moo)

Messy Church is a movement that was founded in the United Kingdom, helping to form a worshipping community through once-monthly gatherings, creating an opportunity for connection and learning in a fun and welcoming environment. Other series titles in the Resource Center include Starting your Messy Church : a beginner's guide for churches by Lucy Moore and Jane Leadbetter, 2012 (263.91 Moo); Messy hospitality : changing communities through fun, food, friendship and faith by Lucy Moore, 2012 (263.91 Moo); Messy Christmas : three complete sessions and a treasure trove of ideas for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany by Lucy Moore, 2017 (263.91 Moo) and most recently Guide for cooking for Messy Church : crowd-pleasing recipes for all-inclusive meals by Amanda Ferguson, 2021 (613.2 Fer).

Transcending Generations: A Field Guide to Collaboration in Church

By Meredith Gould. 2017. (253 Gou)

Noting that at least four generations share the world of church, and brief definitions of each are provided (extending through Generation Z). A sociologist, she notes that there are always more differences *within* groups than between them, and that chronological age neither explains nor predicts much of anything. Here she suggests another way to approach collaboration in church. Each chapter includes questions for individual inquiry and group discussion. Extensive notes include further reading suggestions and helpful tips and comments.



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