

Children in Worship

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There's something happening in that corner of the sanctuary that's engaging people worshipping at Trinity on Sunday mornings. At first blush, that would be good news. Something should be happening whenever the Body of Christ gathers to listen, sing, pray and around the font and altar.

However, the reaction to the activity in that corner is a mixed bag. Some adults have mentioned that the children's noise is disturbing them, causing them to think about staying away until the corner returns to its former arrangement and the children (and their parents) learn to keep quiet.

Given the reactions, I thought it might be helpful for me, as the one overseeing the Children and Family ministry to put forward another point of view. Beneath the noise of children at play and adults' comments on worship, there is something more being spoken. Can you hear it? The changes are an attempt to invite everyone to God's Table. At their baptism, the children became part of Christ's Body and we, the congregation, vowed to support their continued learning of how to be the unique member God is creating them to be.

The Children's Carpet is a start at helping the younger members find their place in God's Circle and learn more each time about how not to exclude others with their noise. Beneath the change is the hope that no one of any age ever feels they do not belong - even when they bang a wooden toy or a wooden pew. Yet, my hope is that when we listen to the depth of the noise about the corner of Trinity's sanctuary, we might hear the sound of God's Word, Jesus Christ, the one who took children in his arms and blessed them.