

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I invite you to register your child for the *FAST FORWARD* weekend on Friday, April 29th and Saturday, April 30th. Registration is required, but the event is *FREE*.

Drop off is at 6PM on Friday. Pick up is at 6PM on Saturday. A release form is required and can be found on our church website as a download at <http://www.stmatthewsepiscopallouisville.org/fast-forward-weekend-april-29-30/>

Should you have any questions about the weekend, please email me.

It is my sincere hope that the *FAST FORWARD* weekend event is evidence that St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is fulfilling the *Children's Charter of the Church*. Specifically it states:

THE CHURCH IS CALLED:

- **To receive children's special gifts as signs of the Reign of God;**

During *FAST FORWARD*, the youth will be given the opportunity to offer their unique talents, gifts, and graces to the church and the community. By allowing your child to participate, you allow the church to receive their gifts.

- **To foster community beyond the family unit, in which children, youth and adults know each other by name, minister to each other, and are partners together in serving Christ in the world;**

During *FAST FORWARD*, the youth will lead the entire church in ministry. Their lives will be woven with the lives of those in generations before and after them. By allowing your child to participate, you allow partnerships to form between generations.

- **To appreciate children's abilities and readiness to represent Christ and his church, to bear witness to him wherever they may be, and according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world, and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the church. (Ministry of the Laity pg. 855 BCP)**

During *FAST FORWARD*, the youth will represent Christ and the church to the community of Louisville. By allowing your child to participate, you allow them to work toward ending hunger, a ministry modeled by Christ during his life on the earth.

I welcome discussing your child's participation in this life-changing event. Also included in this letter is a page of *Facts & Questions* that are commonly asked about fasting.

Blessings,

Abbi Long

Director of Ministry

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