

HTAC Kid's Church Library

In early 2014 Holy Trinity Anglican Church launched a new initiative, called HTAC's Kid's Church Library.

It acknowledges that our parish has responsibilities towards its children, responsibilities that included providing a safe place for them, and age-suitable participation in the life of the parish.

But we also now (research makes that abundantly clear) that the heart of faith formation is to be found in their homes.

Explicitly in how parents structure home life, to include regular church attendance, parish events participation, as well as home liturgical elements (telling and reading Bible stories, perhaps singing, certainly prayers).

Implicitly how in more casual conversations parents demonstrate their relationship with church and the Kingdom of God. In other words, in the values that actually govern their lives.

With this in mind HTAC has bought a number of quality children's books for use by parents and children. Roughly 25 picture books for younger children and roughly 25 picture books more suitable for older ones (8 and up). The thought is that in quality children's books the important issues of life will be found, especially issues of identity and relationships. Moreover, these important issues always have a faith side. We suggest that parents read these books aloud and provide opportunity for reflection and discussion.

For each book we have provided support materials that draw attention to significant features. These support materials may be found in three places:

1. On Google
2. On the HTAC website
3. In two binders found with the books.

The books are available on special library shelves in a small room adjacent to the Kid's Church space. (Lock code: 7575). Parents are free to take the books home (there are two copies of each title), use them, and of course return them after use. On the Google site you will find an evaluation form inviting your comments on each book. (This will help us evaluate matters.) For instance, parents may well have come across other titles that deserve a place in either collection. We welcome your suggestions.

On both Google and the HTAC website we have also listed a longer essay called "Faith at Home", which provides a rationale, explanations, and suggestions.

We look forward to your reactions.

Bernice Stieva, professor of children's literature, The King's University College

Adrian Peetoom, member HTAC (and former People's Warden)