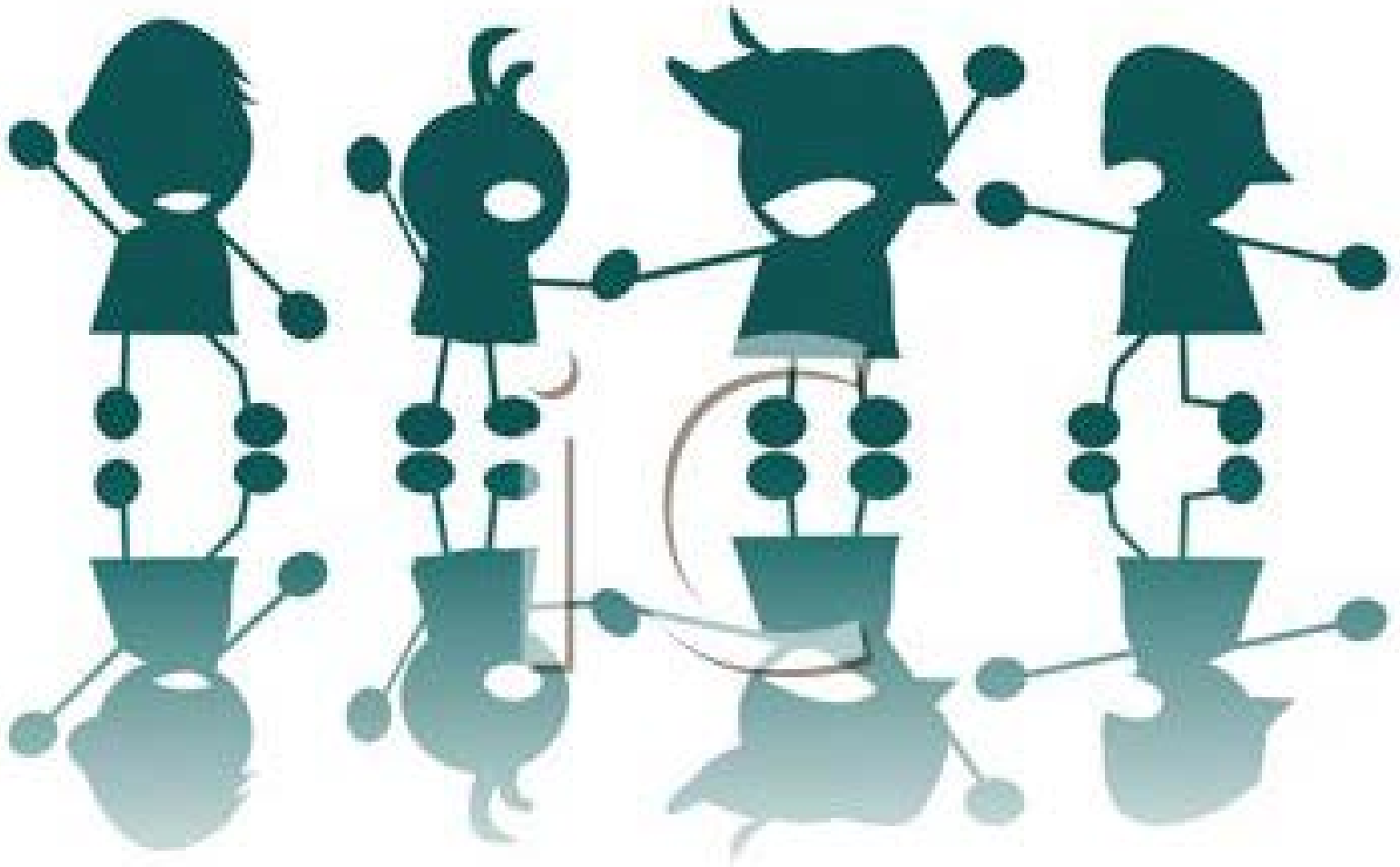
“Feral” Children in Church
Or
Rethinking Church School
Or

The ongoing saga of how best to shape our children into the full stature of Christ

Rebecca White, M.Ed
The Rev. Rebecca Black
CHRIST CHURCH MEDWAY



feral[1]

[feer-*uh* l, fer-]

Spell Syllables

Examples Word Origin

See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com

CITE

A→あ

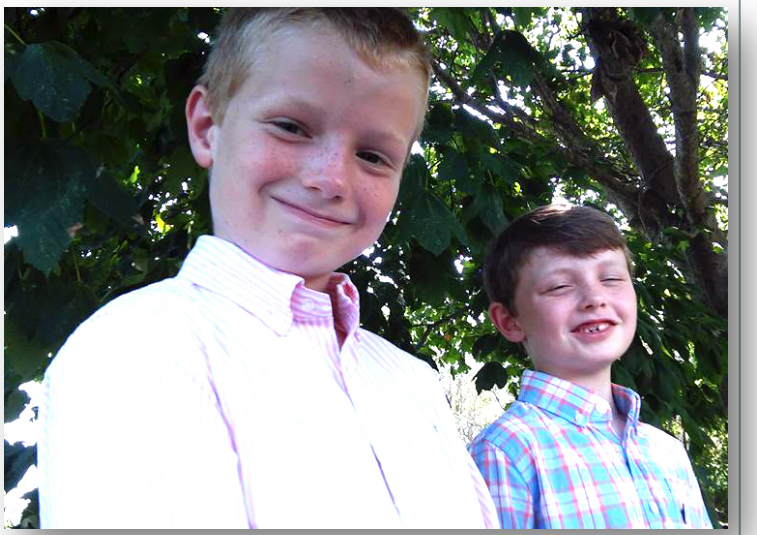
adjective

1. existing in a natural state, as animals or plants; not domesticated or cultivated; wild.

Feral Children "Characteristics"

Tendency toward

- Spontaneous theological discourse
- Seeing biblical themes in every day life
- Full participation in worship
- Eager anticipation of Sundays



Preference for

- Global awareness
- Mission and outreach
- Intergenerational conversation
- Lively and fun worship

OUR STORY

1. 51% of congregation <18
2. Not enough teachers
3. Bored with curriculums

1. **Faith Development** Trusting in God and the church, learning from the Bible.
2. **Intellectual Curiosity** a desire and willingness to seek out and learn more about faith and beliefs as we grow and mature
3. **Fostering InterGenerational Relationships & Communication** valuing and learning from the elders in our church, appreciating the knowledge and perspective they offer
4. **Teaching & Cultivating the Strong Personal Habits of a Healthy Spiritual Lifestyle** grounding our life with prayer and meditations
5. **Shaping Caring, Selfless, & Humble Citizens of the World** living a life of service, helping those in need, considering things greater than ourselves.

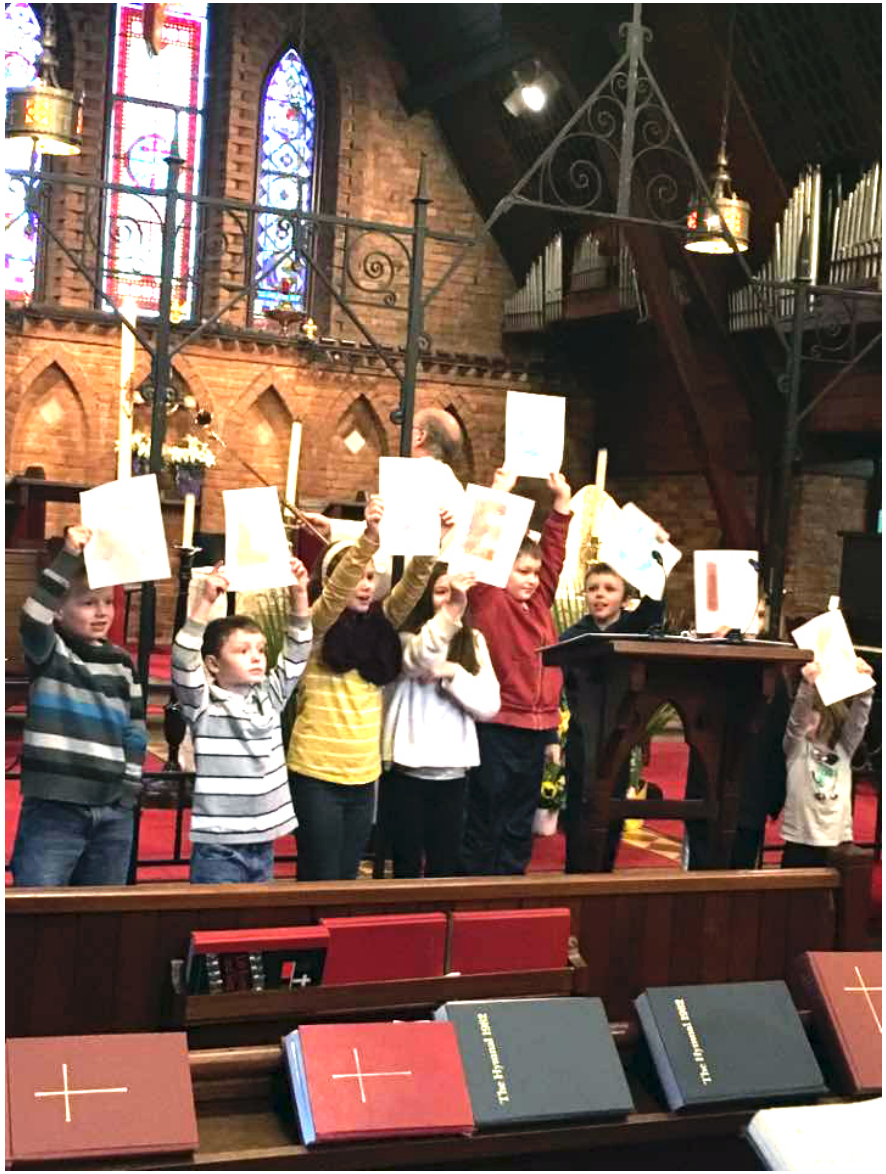
Faith Development

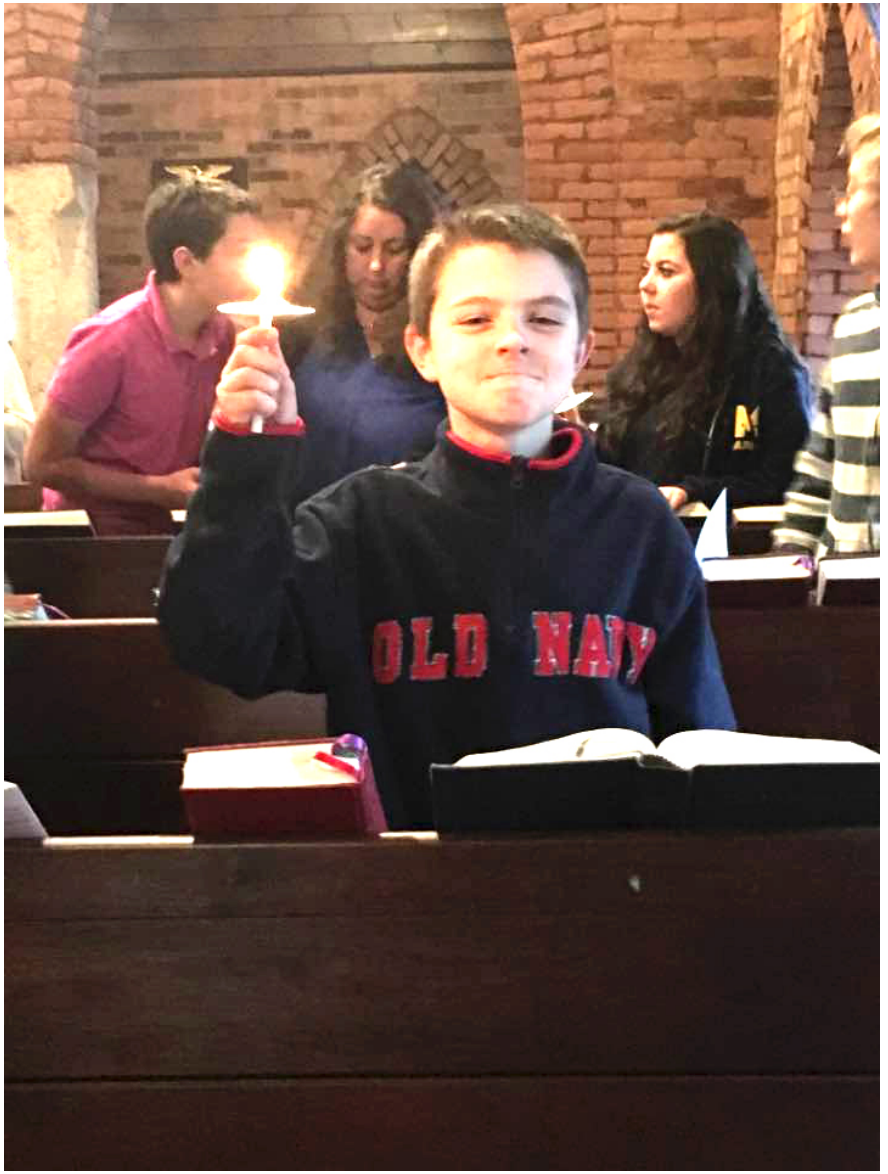
Intellectual Curiosity

Intergenerational Relationships

Spiritual Habits

Selfless World Citizens


The Hymnal 1982


OLD NAVY

Faith Development

Trusting in God and the Church, learning from the Bible.

Age-appropriate Bibles in a variety of translations accessible in multiple locations throughout the Church building

- Book Nooks
- Home Scripture study

Thoughtfully curated curriculum pieces for home use

Family Conversation Starters

Faith Development

Weekly encouragements or affirmations via text (direct for those whose parents have opted in)

Full participation in worship

Teaching sermons

Bible-based drama opportunities several times yearly

Intellectual Curiosity

Desire and willingness to seek out and learn more about faith and beliefs as we grow and mature

Encouraging questions

- Once a month open question time

Growing a love for lifelong spiritual learning

Opportunities for self-reflection

Tools for discernment

Intergenerational

Valuing and learning from the elders in our church, appreciating the knowledge and perspective they offer

Learning is for EVERYONE

Two formalized opportunities

- Intergenerational book study (Madeleine L'Engle)
- Elder-child reflect on Scripture and discuss via phone

Congregation vows to share their wisdom and experience; to support and nurture children's growth

Healthy Spiritual Lifestyle

Teaching & Cultivating the Strong Personal Habits of a Healthy Spiritual Lifestyle grounding our life with prayer

Guidance to develop a personal “Rule of Life”

Support for intentional habit of prayer in monthly materials

- Faith Journal
- Family activities
- Encouraging sabbath-keeping

Planning Retreat Time

Selfless World Citizens

Shaping caring, selfless, & humble citizens of the world living a life of service, helping those in need, considering things greater than ourselves

Participation in mission in community

- Medway House Support
- Community Garden
- Sponsoring YLA member
- Metrowest Mission Hub – ProGente Connections
- Nepal Fundraiser
- CityReach

CHRIST CHURCH
MEDWAY, MA
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NEPAL
Christ Church Kids
Helping the Kids of Nepal
Christ Church Kids Helping the Kids of Nepal
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Selfless World Citizens

Support for ways to be allies to others; stand in solidarity

“Caught doing something good” Instagram challenge

Mission trips

IN WORSHIP

<u>What we do already</u>

Tags

FULL participation

“Fidget” items

Lego Bible

<u>New this year</u>

Teaching sermons

“Study” Shelves

- Books
- Experiential/Sensory

Events

Resources

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