

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

SATURDAY FAMILY PROGRAM / VISUAL ART COMPONENT

ILLUMINATIONS

SUMMARY

A visual art program, 18 classes in length, September 24, 2016 to June 17, 2017, will be offered to the youth of Grace Church on the Hill (GCOH) as well as youth new to the church, as part of the new family program offered Saturday afternoons, “ *The Gifts of the Spirit* “ .

This visual art program takes its inspiration from 6 **Gifts of the Spirit** determined by leadership at GCOH as character traits and attributes of life which will be explored in various ways over the full range of family age groups. These traits are: **Kindness, Generosity** (*in the Autumnal Sessional theme of Love*) / **Patience, Contentment** (*in the Winter theme of Hope*) / **Courage, Perseverance** / (*in the Spring theme of Faith*).

With a visual art focus on youth from 8 - 18, this curriculum will look at Genesis 1 and its rich imagery of God’s Creation. The arts approach to this creation story will be multi-faceted to allow for a range of ability, experience and understanding in the student population.

The artistic inspiration will be the imagery of Genesis 1 and informing our process will be the silver and gilt pages of Illuminated Manuscripts as well as contemporary practices of layering, stenciling and marketing-style techniques.

The family program themes of the **Gifts of the Spirit** will be integrated into the arts program in a manner which allows all 6 traits to be investigated for their application to each of the 6 days of Creation and the manifestations of God’s work. Rather than consider each trait individually and try to connect it to a specific creation, the work will move the **Gifts of the Spirit** from *abstract concepts to attributes which can be applied* in relationship to the manifestations of the 6 days of creation.

Therefore, the structure of the pedagogy will begin with the response to the imagery in Genesis 1 and move to explore through the arts, the student relationship with Creation. The **Gifts of the Spirit** attributes are the framework of response and potential action. This allows for student learning and growth, both through the initial artistic engagement as well as future acts of stewardship toward creation - with oneself, one’s relationships and the greater environment.

Exhibition and display of works of art may take place over the course of the year, in sites determined by GCOH leadership and dependent upon the various media and sizes of the works. These would comprise the ‘work in progress’ component of the art program and could serve as a teaching tool for other members of the parish.

It is hoped that the culmination of the **ILLUMINATIONS** youth artwork could be exhibited in the chapel near the narthex, and that this could become a space for contemplation of Creation, perhaps on an ongoing basis, with changing exhibitions over time.

