

Report from the Young People's Vestry on Feb 28, 2016

While the adults were together for Vestry, a group of children and youth had their own meeting where they discussed thoughts about their church. The youngest was 3, the oldest was 13.

The young people love the ASK community; the active kids groups, Godly Play, and youth events. They are proud of the diverse and accepting environment at ASK. They are thankful that the kids aren't just "pushed aside", but feel like they are an important part of the church. The kids appreciate the work-time in Godly Play where they are free to do what they like to process the story they've just heard. The young people *love* the food after church and the library. In fact, they think the library should be expanded! They love playing together after church.

We spent some time discussing concerns about the church: Some of the financial concerns have leaked down to the young people and they're worried about being able to run the programs they've grown to love. They are also concerned with "people hurting people", particularly when adults act condescending towards the young people. Incidents where they have been told they're "not allowed" to have certain snacks or attend certain events were mentioned.

They were also concerned about the "Everybody Upstairs" church services. The kids think there isn't enough that is interesting to kids. The youth said they liked regular church better because "at least there's interesting sermons". We discussed why we do these services, in order to worship all together as a community and to teach young people how to be "in church". It was suggested that the services could be "more interesting", that there could be "running around", and "more food". One of the youth suggested sometimes doing "Everybody Downstairs" sometimes instead of "Everybody Upstairs" all the time. We didn't arrive at any conclusions, but it was obvious that these services are a concern for the young people.

We discussed whether All Saints Kingsway is a welcoming and invitational church. The young people thought so, particularly that the coffee hour food is great! They wondered about the comfortability of the worship space. There is nowhere to set down your food or drinks, so the kids just put it on the floor. The kids suggested having a place where they could play video games and watch shows - "Jesus video games and shows of course", they said. Some of the young people said they already invite their friends to church, but some of the reasons the others don't are:

- it's too early
- it's a church service/friends aren't Christian
- friends might "wreck the place"
- don't think their friends would like it

In conclusion, the young people continue to enjoy the programs that are for them: Godly Play and Youth Group. An action item over this next year might be thinking about creating more positive all-ages worship experiences and other events. The young people care about All Saints Kingsway and would love to see the youth and children's ministries grow!