

Youth Programs Support Committee Epistle 2022

The children's programs this year were delightful and very casual. With so few children in attendance, and of such varying ages we decided on a child-led program. To this end, we placed the children in the cafeteria, the heart of our gathering space. Our original plan was to have them on the stage but were surprised to find the stage was gone. No matter, the space seemed to both enclose the children enough to give them a sense of place and to be open enough to allow frequent engagement.

The 4 children in the youth program this year engaged in such pursuits as making clay figures, flying kites, dying eggs, going for hikes, learning about the banjo, playing basketball, and generally enjoying all the attention from the adults of the meeting.

Going forward the committee is committed to making sure there is always an intergenerational component to our yearly meeting. To that end, we are forming a sub-group including Jessica Arjet, Carol Redfield, Crystal Redfield, and any other friends who might feel led to help. Our goal is to create a game or a set of games that will encourage involvement between the generations. It is our hope that this cross-pollination will lead to children who have a stronger understanding of their faith and Friends' values. And adults with a stronger understanding of the children of our meeting and how their lives are evolving.

As a committee, we feel estranged from most of the parents of SCYM. Galia Harrington and Melissa Gonzales have volunteered to take on the task of contacting every parent in each of the monthly meetings to ask them what they need and how SCYM can serve them.

Our hope is that this knowledge will help us move forward and create a program for next year's sessions that meet the needs of the children, their parents, and the community as a whole.