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## From the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

### October Message from the Clergy Associate for Family Ministries

#### *Mothers' Early Autumn Prayer<sup>1</sup>*

Poured out of our deep summer pools  
    (elegant observation, refined reflection)  
into autumn's waterfall:  
    school buses, meetings, lessons, practice.  
We are awash, tumbled in the rapids  
    (kicking and screaming  
    or enjoying the ride)  
in the long rush to winter.

Wellspring of Life, Object of Our Longing,  
Save us from drowning! Remind us to breathe.  
Open our eyes, that neither beauty nor violence escapes our notice.  
Give us the wisdom to know when to go with the flow  
    and when to swim upstream  
So that we may arrive at Thanksgiving  
    with thanksgiving. Amen.

- The Reverend Lesley M. Adams

Here we are—another school year underway. I love how this poem, this prayer captures riding the transition with gratitude in mind. I am grateful to be working with this remarkable team of Christian educators—our children who educate us in so many ways, our parents, teachers, mentors, role models, parishioners, and staff. We are lifelong learners together, and we have so much to learn from one another. It is such a blessing to be part of a community that values every member for her and his individual gifts and talents as they work together as parts of the whole. St. Paul has been speaking about passing judgment upon people for their eating habits (in contrast to “walking in love” and recognizing that “the one who serves Christ is acceptable to God and has

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<sup>1</sup> page 152, *Women's Uncommon Prayers*

human approval.”) when he follows with, “Let us then pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding.” (Romans 14:19). His words resonate with our work as a parish community as well. We are in this to love the best out of one another.

As I have already said to our Church School teachers and Chapel leaders this fall, I wish to say to all the adults in our congregation: we are in a precious endeavor together. We strive to bring children to know and love God, to raise them as we promise in the baptismal service, to do all in our power to support them in their life in Christ. We are a team. We need one another’s support. In prayer. In worship. In participation in ministries to children—nursery care to Church School teaching to Confirmation and youth ministry, children’s Chapel leadership, children’s choirs and adult choirs alike, Altar Guild, acolytes, bell ringers, lay readers, Eucharistic ministers, providers of coffee hour, new member ministry, from fellowship to outreach, Moms Group to Needlecrafters, Book Group, the entire ECW, from occasional communicants to members of the Vestry, every one of us has an impact on the raising of children. We each contribute to the greater picture in our own way.

Every one of us is a spiritual leader; each of us is a vessel of God’s love; each of us is an ambassador for God, in this parish community, and outside our church walls, in the neighborhood, in the village, in the workplace, in the world. Every one of us is a child of God, growing more fully every day into the full stature of Christ.

As a priest serving this blessed church, I am dedicated to making sure that you as spiritual leaders of our children feel spiritually nourished and supported. So how can I do better? Please be in touch. The best way to contact me is by email: [cquinn@stesridgewood.org](mailto:cquinn@stesridgewood.org). I look forward to speaking with you.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Cathy Quinn  
*Clergy Associate for Family Ministries*