

# TIPS FOR PARENTING IN THE PEW

## JANUARY 2009

### Helping Children Prepare for Worship:

- Become familiar with the prayers and creeds used in church on a regular basis, such as the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. Consider committing one creed to memory so that you may model for children the importance of stating beliefs. Children pay attention to the adults around them; they note who is reading, reciting from memory, as well as those who are not speaking at all. An adult whose worship language is confident and fluent communicates the importance of faith and serves as a worship guide for observant children.

### Helping Children Participate in Worship:

- As children learn to read the historic creeds, adult readers serve to cue appropriate voice inflection, meaningful pauses, and sincere conclusions. Be sure to recite or read the creed with a strong, clear voice so the children will hear you. This will give them courage and support as they try to learn the unfamiliar words.
- If the creed is printed in the bulletin or the hymnal, be sure to include the child sitting or standing next to you as you read along: have the creed marked and ready, hold the creed at the child's eye level, or allow the child to hold the creed for both of you.
- For non-readers your body language and heartfelt recitation or reading will communicate the creed's importance even when they cannot follow the words.

