

Dear **parent or guardian:**

Your child is scheduled to participate in New Beginnings, a diocesan youth retreat for students in sixth through eighth grade, at St. David's Episcopal Church in San Antonio (1300 Wiltshire Avenue) on March 29 – 31, 2019. The team and I are thrilled and cannot wait to meet them soon! This weekend can be a powerful, life- changing, experience for the participants. It can be an intense weekend, but one that is designed especially for middle school kids. Because this is a very involved weekend, we want to share some helpful details with you ahead of time.

Prayer Partner: Please ask a member of your congregation to pray for your child, leading up to and during the New Beginning weekend. This prayer partner could be a Vestry member, a shut-in, god-parent, or another youth. It might be helpful to ask them to light a candle or post the participant's name in a prominent place in their homes to remind them to pray. **Especially, ask them to lift up their prayer partner during the Sunday Eucharist.** *This practice is a surprise to the participants, so don't tell them ahead of time.*

Place the name of the person who you asked to be your child's prayer partner in a sealed envelope and turn it in at registration Friday evening. **Writing letters to your participant is not required by you or their prayer partner at New Beginnings.** *You only need to write down the prayer partner's name on a piece of paper* and turn that envelope in at registration. This is an integral part of the weekend. I appreciate your help.

Logistics and Contact Information: A letter welcoming your child is included with your confirmation email and should answer any logistical questions. Please don't hesitate to **contact me before or during the weekend at 361-652-0995** or email at **stephanie@trinitywelcomesyou.org.**

Cell Phones: I know many teenagers have cell phones these days but if they could be left home for the weekend that would be greatly appreciated. In case of emergency, St. David's Episcopal Church's phone number is (210) 824-2481, and I can always be reached at my number listed above. A phone will be provided for your son and/or daughter if the need arises.

Allergies and Dietary Needs: If your son/daughter has any special dietary needs that are not listed on their application, please call me ASAP, so that I can share these with our meal coordinators.

On Sunday, your child will return home "aglow." They will probably also be very tired. This weekend is more than a fun lock-in, and will mean more than they can tell you in a sentence, moment, or even an evening. They'll want to share it, but let it happen at their own pace. Many of our participants experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ while talking, singing, and praying with new and old friends. We look forward to meeting you and your middle schooler at Registration.

Yours in Christ,

Stephanie Stevens | Weekend Advisor
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(361) 652-0995