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## CD 551 Seminar: Ministry with Children

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## OFFERING THE GOSPEL TO CHILDREN: CD 551 – Seminar: Ministry with Children

*The church exists to tell the story of God's dealings with us, and incorporate the story into our own lives. But the church has evolved separate structures for engaging children with Scripture and worship: Bible stories, Sunday school, VBS, children's chapel, children's sermons, pageants, and so on. This seminar will raise the questions: What is the story that we wish to tell? How do we tell it with children? Children learn through fantasy and play; how can we reforge the ancient link between liturgy, learning and play? In a TV-saturated culture, with children and families under stress and many children severely at risk, how can the church reach out to children with good news?*

### **Seminar Schedule:**

Friday, Mar 1st – 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar 2nd – 8:00-4:30 p.m.

**\*(Attendance at all sessions is mandatory to receive credit for the class.)**

### **Required reading:**

OFFERING THE GOSPEL TO CHILDREN by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard (Cowley, 1992),  
CHILDREN IN THE WORSHIPING COMMUNITY by David Ng and Virginia Thomas (WJK, 1981)  
THE RELIGIOUS POTENTIAL OF THE CHILD by Sofia Cavalletti (Liturgy Training Publications, 1992)

### **Featured Guest:**

Gretchen Wolff Pritchard is Minister of Christian Nurture and Children's Missioner at the Episcopal Church of St. Paul and St. James in New Haven, and an author, artist and speaker on Christian education and children's spirituality.

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### **Creative Project for the Course**

The readings and presentations for this seminar focused on how to tell the Biblical story with children. Your assignment now is to develop a creative project that reflects your processing of the presentations and the readings you have encountered. The more useful the project will be for you in ministry the better, although you may need to offer explanation for your projects' theological and developmental grounding by referencing the texts and classroom experiences. The project could be a series for a Sunday School setting, a set of Easter worship experiences, plans for children's church, a proposal to the children's committee to redesign liturgy, or a particular response/case study to a previous encounter with an at risk family or child that you now have new insight into how the church could respond. As a last resort you can write a 10-12 page paper focused on what you now know about facilitating children's faith development through combining liturgy, learning, and play. If possible come to the seminar with some idea(s) in mind and we will seek further direction from Gretchen on direction and resources.

For the sake of working on these projects while the material is most fresh, I would like to have your project by the end of the month, March 29<sup>th</sup>. You can spo it to me or bring it by my office in FM 108. If you have monumental responsibilities for Easter you can see me regarding an extension.