



## THE PARISH PAPER

### June 2018

## **Making the Nursery a Place of Belonging**

**"Where is the nursery?" That is often the first question when young parents visit a new church. At a minimum, they expect their question to be answered with confidence,**

**not bewilderment. Beyond simply asking directions, the inquirer wants to know, Does this church care about us and our children? Is this a place where we can belong?**

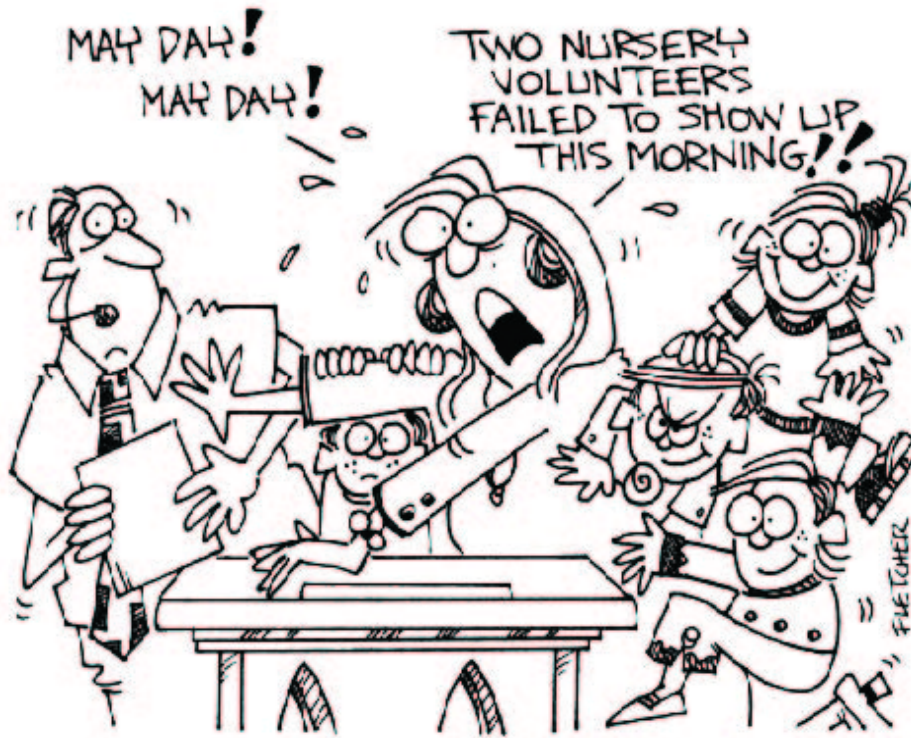
### **Out of the Basement**

**Diane Olsen, a children's ministry specialist, describes how her church's ministry for children when she was a child occupied a place in the humid, slightly dark, and largely inaccessible basement. When visiting after returning from college, she noticed that the recently erected new building included only one floor and no basement. Suddenly it felt like the children's ministry existed on the same level with every other aspect of church life.**

**"Out of the basement" began to function for her as a metaphor for integrating children's ministry into the congregation's overall mission.<sup>1</sup> The same applies to the congregation's ministry with infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds. Wherever located, the nursery**

deserves equal treatment with other aspects of church life.

[Read the article here.....](#)



*~~from the Vermont Conference Resource Center  
and your OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) contribution  
to the Vermont Conference which makes this newsletter  
and numerous programs available to you and your church.*

802-728-4999 | Vermont Conference, UCC, 36 N Main St, Randolph, VT 05060

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [vtconference@vtcucc.org](mailto:vtconference@vtcucc.org) in collaboration with

**Constant Contact** 

Try it free today