



## Anna Broome: Children's Ministry

**Tell us a little about how you and your family found BUMC and why you decided to make this your church home.**

Anna: We moved from Grapevine, TX to Bethesda in September 2014 for my husband, Travis, to take a new job. Christopher was 3-1/2 and Clara was 6 months old. In my search for a preschool for Christopher, we found Wesley Nursery School. It seemed only natural to visit BUMC. Everyone was so welcoming and kind. I was staying home with the kids and was looking for ways to plug in to our new community. I got involved volunteering in the children's programming my kids were attending and participating in. We joined the church officially a little over a year later.

**You have been actively involved in our children's ministries over the last few years. What are some of the ways that you've served and how has your involvement been meaningful to you?**

Anna: I started out helping with the Children's Christmas pageant (who remembers the rogue donkey of 2014?!?). I then started volunteering in Kids With Purpose and as a crew leader for VBS. I have helped with collecting supplies and organizing volunteers for KWP, VBS and Sunday School. In 2017, during staff transitions, I was the onsite VBS Director. Last year and this year, I am co-directing VBS with Beth Reilly. I am also on the Spiritual Formation Committee for Children and Families. It has been very meaningful to help the children and families in our church grow in their faith. I love working with children and seeing them enjoy learning about God and serving our community.

**You played a very visible role in VBS last summer, taking on the character of Anna Banana for the opening and closing sessions. What did you most enjoy about this experience and can we look for you to reprise your performance this summer?**

Anna: Oh Anna Banana! It was a lot of fun, but I definitely stepped out of my comfort zone on that one. My kids thought it was hilarious and a little embarrassing. I enjoyed surprising everyone with the daily antics. I still get recognized around town and church as Anna Banana. Yes, Anna Banana will be back, but expect her to reinvent herself a little bit.

**How does your faith inform your work with children here at BUMC?**

Anna: I was raised United Methodist and still remember many of the lessons and activities I participated in growing up. I think having engaging children's programs and activities are so important in building a faith-based foundation for our young people.

**Do you have any thoughts about how BUMC might enhance our Children's Ministry and help children and families connect with our church and grow in their faith lives?**

Anna: As a part of the Spiritual Faith Committee for Children and Families, we are continuing to look for ways to enhance and improve our programs and events. I think we do a good job of offering a variety of activities so that families can participate in ways that they enjoy and work for them. One thing I love about this church, is that if you feel called or are interested in creating a new small group or see a need that the church doesn't already fill, the pastors are open to trying new things. We have some fun new activities and family outings planned for the coming year. Activities that will help kids and families grow in their faith and connect with their church family.

**How do you enjoy spending your time or serving the community beyond BUMC?**

Anna: As I said before, I'm Mom to Christopher (8) and Clara (5) and wife of Travis Broome. So most of my time is spent shuttling kids to their various activities or volunteering at their schools. I work as a classroom aide at Clara's preschool a few mornings a week and plan to continue that next year once she starts kindergarten. I also volunteered as a room parent in Christopher's class this year. I have LOVED playing handbells with the Bethesda Bells at BUMC the past few years. I like to travel and explore around the DC area with my family as well. Being raised mostly in the south there's a lot of the East Coast I've never seen before.

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