

ACOLYTE'S BASIC GUIDE

The word acolyte is taken from an ancient Greek word that means attendant or helper. In some churches today, acolytes are called servers. An important part of your job is to light and extinguish the candles on the altar. Since ancient times, light and fire have reminded people that God is here with us. When you light your candlelighter again before extinguishing the candles and then walk reverently out with your lighted candlelighter, you remind the people that when we go out into the world God will be there with us.

Responsibilities:

1. Light candles (bring in the light at the beginning of the Worship Service)
Extinguish candles (carry out the light at the end of the service.)
2. Assist with the Baptism Service.
3. Assist the children in finding their way to the Children's Sermon.

Equipment:

- Wooden cross-worn over the top of the Acolyte stole
- Black Robe
- Stole
- Bulletin
- Candle lighter

Time:

- 8:10 a.m. for the 8:30 a.m. service
- 10:40 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. service (after Sunday School)

Where:

- Meet at the back of the Sanctuary in George Martin Chapel.

Duties:

- Check Bulletin
- Check the location of the candles. Are they in front of or behind the altar, or on the stage?
- Ask to make sure the candle lighters have been filled with oil.
- Put on robe, stole, and cross.
- At the appropriate time an adult acolyte assistant will light your candle lighter.

Procedure: Prelude

1. The start of the prelude light wick
2. Process down center aisles. Hold flame up-bell down.
3. Walk slowly down the aisle, stay together.
4. At the altar light the candles.
5. Turn (facing the people) and walk around altar. Blow out candle lighter at the end of the altar.
6. Sit with your parents near the front of the Sanctuary.
7. Carefully and quietly hang the candle lighter on the pew. (the oil leaks)
8. Participate in the Worship Service with your family.

Extinguish the candles: On the closing hymn the ministers will come to the altar.

During the Sending Forth:

1. Carefully and quietly pick up the candle lighter.
2. Proceed to the altar holding the candles.
3. Stand up straight on each side of the altar.
4. At start of the choral response Benediction, turn and light your candle lighter from the candle closes to you.
5. Slowly turn the candle lighter over and place the bell over the flame. Hold for the count of five.
6. Slowly turn and walk down the aisle, stay together.
7. Meet at the back of the Sanctuary to the George Martin Chapel.
8. Hang robe, stole and candle lighter in their appropriate place. (*Parents please remind the children to do this.*)

Baptism Service:

1. Check the bulletin to see if and when a baptism is scheduled.
2. When the minister calls the family to the altar; you will go behind the altar. Let the minister go in front of you.
3. The left acolyte will hold the Baptismal water bowl and the right acolyte will get the water pitcher from the altar and give it to the minister.
4. At the completion of the baptism the left acolyte will return the bowl and the right acolyte will return the pitcher to the altar.
5. Quietly return to your seats.

Thank you! You have been a special part of the worship service.

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Beth Carter, *Children's Director* – 321-3484

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ACOLYTE SURVEY SHEET

Acolyte's Name:

Parents'/Guardians' Names:

Phone Numbers:

E-Mail Address:

Robe Size:

Small

Medium

Large

Acolyte can participate in:

8:30 Service Only

10:55 Service Only

Both

Please list any of the following choirs that the acolyte, siblings, or parents are members:

K-1 Children's Choir

2-5 Children's Choir

Wesley Choir

Chapel Choir

Chancel Choir

Canticle Singers

Bell Choir (list grade or choir name)

Tell us about your child:

I give permission for my child,

to have his/her picture made

while wearing their acolyte robe.