

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

TRI-CON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES JANUARY 2009

From the desk of...

How many times in a lifetime do we scratch our heads in wonder? We then ponder the situation and claim to have "...seen the light..." Having just experienced the season of Advent and the joy of Christmas, it is exhausting to consider that there is more!!! Epiphany, the season of light, begins on January 6th and takes us all the way through the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. On Epiphany, January 6th, we celebrate the arrival of the Magi and the presentation of gifts to the baby Jesus.

Epiphany is a time to celebrate and give thanks for God's greatest gift, his son Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect upon the many gifts we receive through our faith. The services and aid we offer to our community are a manifestation of our personal faith; stewardship shows our hope and trust in the light of Christ. We are all part of God's family, and are unconditionally blessed with his presence during this long season of winter, the season of light, Epiphany.

During the aftermath of Christmas we are often inundated with the "business" of our lives. The credit card bills flow in, children return to school, parents return to work and families are once again scattered. It can be a time when we wonder what "it" is all about. Epiphany gives us hope and thanks for all that we have in our personal and Christian lives; we are reminded of what "it" is. "It" is what we give thanks for; our families, our friends, our faith.

So... What does this mean for you? We ask you to take five minutes every now and then, and spend them quietly. Just "hang out" with your family – no TV, no homework, no chores, no nothing. Just RELAX and remember what "it" is all about. Or, you could go outside on a clear night and gaze into the sky; take a moment to wonder about the beauty of the heavens, and be delighted to see a star.

Peace,

Carrie O'Brien
Church School Director

JANUARY

Sunday, January 4th

Church School 10:00AM

Monday, January 5th

Liaison Meeting 7:00PM

C.E. Committee Meeting 8:00PM

Sunday, January 11th

Church School 10:00AM

Friday, January 16th

5/6th Grade Movie and Pizza Night 6:00PM

Sunday, January 18th

One Room Schoolhouse (K - 8th Grade) 10:00AM

Childcare up to age five 10:00AM

Sunday, January 25th

Church School 10:00AM

7/8th Grade Visit to Pine Street Inn TBD

Trinitarian Congregational Church
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(978) 369-4837

Carrie O'Brien
Church School Director
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Office Hours
Monday 9-3, Wednesday 9-3, Thursday 9-3



To a wonderful group of Church School volunteers who helped make our December so magical.

Angel Breakfast: Anne Lehmann, Trish Seifer, Kate Harmon, Leslie Lilly and Judy Walpole.

Christmas Story Hour: John Lombard and Jeremiah Rood

4PM Christmas Eve Pageant: Amanda Hickman, Hunter Hutchinson, Heidi Harring, Hayley Barnes, Jen Lannan and Pam Nelson

6PM Christmas Eve Pageant: The Fulshaw Family, Amy Pasley, Donna Carlson, Diana Kolstad and Sarabeth Henderson

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7/8th Grade Church Visits Winter and Spring 2009

As part of the 7/8th grade Church School winter and spring curriculum, the class will be learning about other Christian religions. This program is designed to facilitate the children's understanding of other religions in preparation for their Confirmation in the ninth grade. We will begin this unit on January 11th with a study of our own UCC church thanks to Steve Silver. Specific dates for other church visits will be sent to parents in early January.



"Epiphany" One Room Schoolhouse Sunday, January 18th



This One Room Schoolhouse will focus on the Season of Light - Epiphany. Children, kindergarten age and older, will take a behind-the-scenes look at this season and learn what role Epiphany plays in our church calendar year. This educational event will include a fun arts n' crafts project as well as fascinating facts and trivia tidbits. Thank you to Marty Ryan, Fred and Lisa Turkington and Lisa Kauffman-Tharp for leading this fun morning.

Happy January Birthday Wishes!

Kendall Ryan Peter Mushlitz Reide Dion
Kate Fulshaw Cooper Meyer Courtney Piper
Kate Anderson Tucker Delehey Christian Meyer
Susannah Snell Teagan Piper



TRI-CON CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission to intentionally provide to all of the children in our Church School program the following:

Provide our children with a foundation in Christian education such as learning the stories of the Bible, the history of Christianity and what it means to be a UCC member, and the components of worship.

Provide our children with many opportunities to participate in our church community and programs outside our community.

Provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment with other children and adults.

Teach our children the important faith traits such as generosity, responsibility, courage, joy, stewardship and humility so that they will include and apply them to their daily lives.

5/6th Grade Movie and Pizza Friday, January 16th, 6-8PM



It is cold and dreary outside. What better way to lift gloomy spirits than a good time with friends! Join us for a fun evening of fellowship, pizza and a movie. \$5 donation per student. Maybe we'll even light a fire in the parlor fireplace? Contact Sue Fulshaw and let her know you can attend...stful@comcast.net or 978-371-0023.

7/8th Grade Visit to the Pine Street Inn Sunday, January 25th

Our commitment to providing our kids with mission opportunities continues with a visit to the Pine Street Inn, a homeless shelter in Boston. While there students will serve supper to female guests of the Inn. You can view the Pine Street Inn website at www.pinestreetinn.org. Thank you to Anne Randle for bringing this opportunity to our program. More information will follow.

