

## TRI-CON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES MARCH 2009

*From the desk of...*

Originating in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for 40 days (not counting Sundays). It ends with the Saturday before Easter known as Holy Saturday. The week prior, Holy Week, reminds us of Jesus' last days on earth...the events leading up to his crucifixion. And while Lent is a somber time as we anticipate Jesus' death it offers us a wonderful opportunity for renewal, intentional prayer, self-reflection and almsgiving. However, some or all of this can be difficult for children to understand so it is especially important for us, as parents, to model the meaning of Lent. Here are a couple of ideas to consider...

- Native Americans have a proverb: *"Never let a day go by without touching the earth with your foot."* Take a walk with your kids and for a time, or during all of it, walk in a meditative way. Be present in what you are doing. Listen to the sounds around you. Become aware of the beauty of the earth. And then talk with your children afterwards. Ask them how they felt. How many signs of God's creation did they see or hear?
- Attend church with your family...especially the important days during Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, particularly if you have older children. While these services are solemn and sad it is important for kids to realize that we as Christians all bear the cross and we must go through Good Friday before we can truly appreciate Easter.
- Planting seeds is a wonderful way to visually demonstrate the long season as we wait for Easter and the coming of spring. During the first week of Lent plant flower seeds, such as marigold, in a container and watch and wait with your children as the plant sprouts and grows as it gets closer to Easter.
- If you make lunch for your kids, take time while doing it to pray for your child and then send a little love note or prayer written on a napkin or cute notepaper for them to discover at lunchtime. FYI - you might consider omitting the love note part if you have a teenage boy. Trust me...I know.

There are many other ways to share in the season with your kids at home and I would be happy to offer more suggestions. In the meantime, I will be exploring the meaning of Lent during our Children's Gathering Time and as a group we will decorate a Lenten tree with the symbols associated with Lent.

Peace,

Carrie O'Brien

### MARCH

#### Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Holy Family Church

#### Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Liaison Meeting 7:00PM  
CE Committee Meeting 8:00PM

#### Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Mandatory Teacher Orientation 7:00PM

#### Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to First Parish  
Teacher Workshop 11:15AM

#### Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Life Changing Ministry

#### Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Grace Chapel

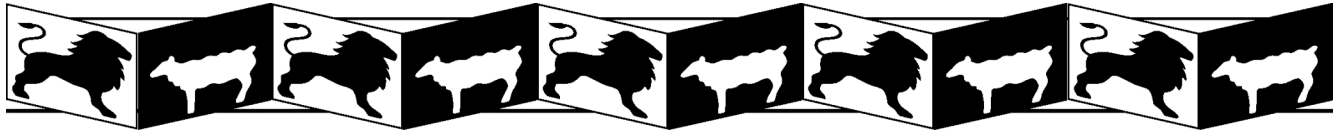
#### Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit to Friends Meeting House

**Trinitarian  
Congregational Church**  
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C.E. Office Hours  
Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays 9-3PM



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Church Visits



We have a busy month planned for this class. Our opportunity to learn about neighboring faiths continues with five more scheduled visits to parishes all taking place in the month of March. A reminder to parents...these off-site visits require knowing ahead of time if your child

will be attending. To RSVP please contact Carrie O'Brien by 12 noon the Friday prior to the visit. Parents are welcome to join us.

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Catholic</b>	Holy Family, Concord
<i>arrive at TriCon at 8:45AM (note new time)</i>		
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Unitarian</b>	First Parish, Concord
<i>arrive at TriCon at 10:15AM</i>		
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pentecostal</b>	Life Changing Ministry, Roxbury
<i>arrive at TriCon at 9:45AM</i>		
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Evangelical</b>	Grace Chapel, Lexington
<i>arrive at TriCon at 9:15AM</i>		
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Quaker</b>	Friends Meeting House, Concord
<i>arrive at TriCon at 9:15AM</i>		

## Spring Teaching Session begins Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

Our Pre-K 3's through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade *Akaloo* curriculum plan for the remainder of the year will focus on two units: Celebrating Our Church and Embracing God's World. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class will continue its study of Christian denominations and mission work.

**Thank you to our  
Spring Class Teaching Teams!**



Pre-K 3's: Byron and Monica Woodman, Leslie Feigh and Marty Ryan; Pre-K 4/5's: Jean Colbert, Travis Snell, Lauren Huyett, Karen Parker; Kindergarten: Melissa McMorrow, Hilary Steinert, Trish Seifer; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Janet and Jeff Wilkinson, Hilary Robinson, Tussie Williams; 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Anne Lehmann, Trish Siefer, Sandy Freund, Susan Ledoux; 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Heidi Haring, Pam Nelson, Jeff Weil, Nick Bruning; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Tom and Ruth Piper, Hunter Hutchinson, Martha Talbot, Dave Braunegg; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sue Fulshaw, Donna Carlson, Jen Hart, Otto Judicke; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Carla Gomez, Leslie Lilly, Scott Harmon, Marcia Ackley; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Michele Forinash, Laura Marshall, Diana Kolstad, Nancy DiRomualdo.

## 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.**

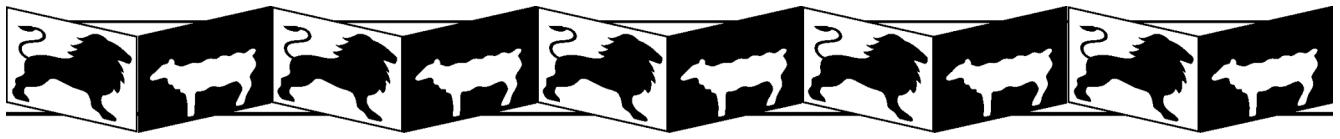
**Provide our children with many opportunities to participate in our church community and programs outside our community.**

**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.**



*Please note we are still in need of a teacher in the Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4/5 and Kindergarten classes. Help support our Children's ministry by participating in our Church School. A mentoring program is available along with lots of support and training (see next page) if you'd like it. Contact Carrie O'Brien to sign up.*



## SPRING TEACHER MEETINGS

**Mandatory Meeting, Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7PM**  
*...featuring The Pipers, Hunter Hutchinson and others*  
**Optional Workshop, Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:15AM**

Spring teachers...by now you should have been contacted by your Class Liaison and we look forward to seeing you at orientation. In addition to meeting with your class team and Liaison, we will hear from a panel of seasoned teachers who will share their success stories, offer teaching tips and field any questions or concerns you might have. For those of you who have not taught this year, we will end the meeting with an introduction of our new on-line curriculum *Akaloo*, including how to access the website and build lesson plans. 7th and 8th Grade teachers will attend a separate meeting lead by Nancy DiRomualdo, our 7th/8th Grade Curriculum Liaison.

For those of you who are newer to teaching in our program or who would like a policy and/or classroom procedure refresher course or teacher training tips it is recommended that you attend the optional workshop following worship on the 8th. Safe Church training will be offered that day for anyone participating in our program who has not been CORIEd.

### Happy March Birthday Wishes to....



Alexa Detweiler  
Alec Marzot  
Haley McMorro  
Chilly Sample  
Zack Munn  
Sydney Munn  
Carly Mahoney

Meredith Harrington  
Caroline Delehey  
Keith Colbert  
Lizzy Randle  
Allison Harmon  
William Rye

Brett Parker  
Charlotte Mast  
Alison Quirk  
Eric Marshall  
Thomas Street  
Ben Wittenberg

### Lenten Word Search

LENT	DOVE	ASH WEDNESDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	COINS
RAINBOW	RENEWEL	FOURTY DAYS	BUTTERFLY	PALMS
PURPLE	WAITING	MAUNDY THURSDAY	PRETZELS	FISH
JESUS	HOLY WEEK	LOAF OF BREAD	PALM SUNDAY	CROSS



Heads up...a lock-in is being planned in the month of March.

The evening will consist of pizza, games (including our personal favorite Sardines), a movie and most likely not a lot of sleep. Fun, though, will be had by all!

More information to come.