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## TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES OCTOBER 2009

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*From the desk of...*

"I don't want to go to Church School."

No matter what your situation there is bound to be a time when you will come face to face with your child's reluctance to go to Church School. Maybe it will begin with your toddler as you try to pry their arms from around your legs and listen to their cries as you attempt to leave the classroom. How do you respond later on when your older child asks, "Can't we just stay home from Church today?" You are not alone. I still hear of periodic wails of protest on Sunday morning.

Here are some guidelines that might help you contend with this common dilemma ...

Try to keep a positive spin on the conversation. A parent who brings up the wrath of God runs the risk of making the situation worse. Instead you might answer that you enjoy going to church because you seek to build a relationship with God and others and it is also a place where you can see your friends and learn about the Bible. Ask your child to name one of their friends in Church School. Turning a negative complaint into a positive thought can diffuse the situation and increase your child's enthusiasm. It can be a little bit tricky if you are a parent of a younger child, especially those nursery and Pre-School age. Most likely it is easy to get them to Church School but challenging to leave them in their classroom. If they are reluctant to let you leave be willing to stay with them (you are more than welcome to do so) for the first couple of Sundays. Then begin shortening the time you are with them in the classroom. They will learn that you will always come back to get them. With an older child, perhaps a firm approach is needed: "I know that you would rather not go, but going to Church School is the best way to keep learning about God and how He wants us to live, so we'll keep going. All of us."

It probably does not surprise you that the biggest influence on a child's attitude towards Church School is you. Your attitude, actions and decisions as a parent are signals to your child about the importance of Church School. A pattern of consistent attendance and positive attitudes will do more to affect your child's participation than anything else.

I am available to answer any questions and help in anyway. In the meantime you can always remind them about the donuts at coffee hour!

Peace,

### OCT BER

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Church School	10:00AM
Blessing of the Animals	2:00PM

Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
CE Committee Meeting	8:30PM

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>

"UNICEF" One Room Schoolhouse Childcare for Children up to age five	10:00AM
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Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Church School	10:00AM
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Candlelighting Training	9:30AM

Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

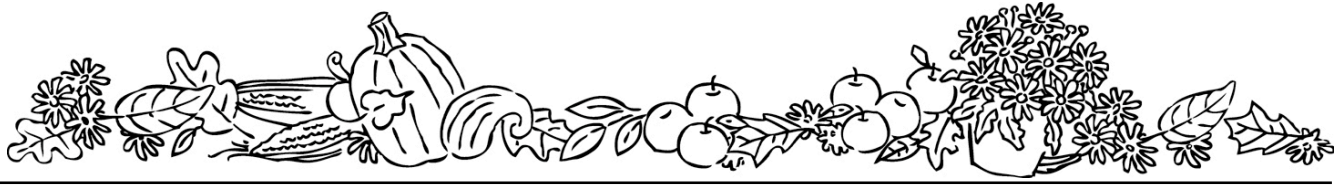
Church School	10:00AM
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles	
UNICEF Cakewalk	11:15AM

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Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 - 3



## **Blessing of the Animals** **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2PM**



Our celebration of all creatures great and small takes place with a *Blessing of the Animals* at 2:00 p.m. by the fountain on the church lawn. This date is close to the day when, in our ecclesiastical calendar, we acknowledge the life and contributions of St. Francis of Assisi who lived over 800 years ago. Bring your feathered, four-legged and finned friends to rejoice in the special bond of creation, or bring a photo or any other meaningful item relating to your animal. This brief service will consist of prayers and readings and will conclude with individual blessings of the animals.

A couple of things to consider when attending...please make sure that your animal companion is well socialized, well behaved and is comfortable around other animals. Leashes required. Please call the church office if your family is interested in attending so we may plan accordingly. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

## **UNICEF One Room Schoolhouse** **Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

Since 1989 our church, through bake sales and UNICEF trick or treat boxes, has raised close to \$18,000 for UNICEF International. With Halloween and our UNICEF Cake Walk just around the corner our first One Room Schoolhouse of the year will raise awareness of this important organization and its mission to aid needy children worldwide. We will use an age appropriate curriculum and break into two groups accordingly. This program is designed for children Kindergarten age to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Younger children are welcome in the nursery for a morning of fun with Lauren and Sonja. We need three more adults to help lead this program. Please contact Carrie O'Brien if you are interested.



## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Candlelight Training** **Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM**



Members of the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade class at TriCon are invited to share in the responsibility of lighting and extinguishing the candles at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We are happy to have the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade join the other members of our congregation who work together to make our worship time special. The lighting and extinguishing of the candles each Sunday is an important aspect of the service.

There will be a training session (15 minutes) for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade candlelighters on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary before Church School. This training will cover the mechanics as well as the Christian meaning behind the lighting and extinguishing of the candles.

If your child would like to participate, please contact Carrie O'Brien. Each child attending the training should know the dates that they are NOT available to candlelight. Candlelighting will begin on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup> and will continue through Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **TRI-CON CHURCH SCHOOL** **MISSION STATEMENT**

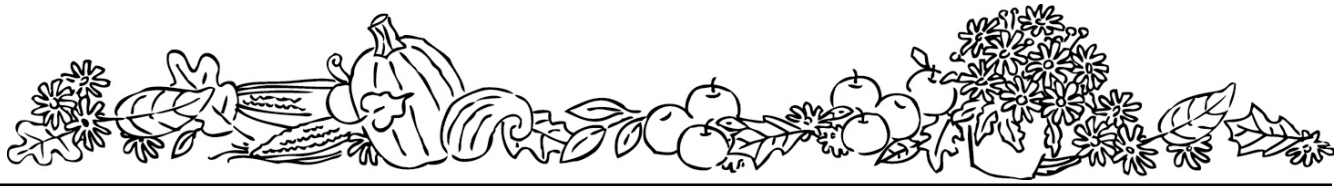
**It is our mission to intentionally provide to all of the children in our Church School program the following:**

**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.**

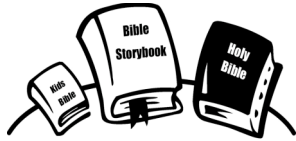
**Provide our children with many opportunities to participate in our church community and programs outside our community.**

**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.**



## 4th Grade Bible Sunday Sunday, October 25th



We will be presenting the 4th Grade Class with their own Bible storybooks, Dorling Kindersley's *Children's Illustrated Bible*, during the 10AM service. These Bible storybooks are beautifully bound and full of interesting Bible stories and artwork, including maps and color photographs of artifacts, plants, biblical places, animals, people, and architecture. 4<sup>th</sup> Graders should come to the parish hall no later than 9:45 a.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup> so they can gather and enter the sanctuary as a class. We hope this book will bring joy to each of our 4<sup>th</sup> Graders. Please call Carrie O'Brien if you do not receive a postcard asking whether your child would like one of these books. Postcards will be mailed in early October.

## UNICEF Cake Walk Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:15

We are planning another Cake Walk! Kids and adults alike are invited to participate in this fun and entertaining event on the lower level during coffee hour. One dollar buys a chance at winning a cake while playing a game similar to musical chairs. Thank you to Kristin Bain, Tracey Hoaglund and Sarah Hart for organizing this fun morning. This event calls for lots of cakes of all sizes, shapes and colors! Be as creative as you'd like, but remember NO nuts, please. Drop off your cakes before the 10AM church service that morning. All money raised will support the efforts of UNICEF international.



## Happy October Birthday to...



Jack Parker  
Anna Kolstad  
Ellie Honan  
Cole Siefer  
George Awiszus  
Zachary Todd

Alex Cuddy  
Daniel Braunegg  
Megan Leu  
Hannah Davis  
Christopher Bauer  
Adrian DiRomualdo

Elise McMorrow  
Rebecca Pasley  
Alden Harring  
Natalie Turkington  
Charlie Hart  
Jenna and Scott Barnes

## Introducing Our New Bulletin Board!

Our new Church School bulletin board is located in the first floor hallway leading to the Church School wing from the parish hall. Stop by with your family to check out children's artwork, Church School photos, birthdays of the month, what's coming up, Church trivia and even a fun game... "Guess the Bible Story". Every two weeks a new Bible story will be displayed. Children can guess the name of the Bible story and, perhaps with the help from an adult, the correct Bible passage as well. Prizes awarded to those with the correct answers.

