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**TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES  
DECEMBER 2009**

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*From the desk of...*

*The following was published in our newsletter a number of years ago. It was so well received that I thought I would run it again...*

During the upcoming (hectic, chaotic, frenzied, wonderful) holiday season, I thought you would appreciate this quiet prayer. (Of course Dads have their own set of stress factors!)

*A Mom's Prayer*

*Dear Lord, it's such a hectic day,  
With little time to stop and pray,  
For life's been anything but calm  
Since You called me to be a Mom.  
Running errands, matching socks,  
Building dreams with wooden blocks,  
Cooking, cleaning, finding shoes  
And other stuff that children lose,  
Fitting lids on bottled bugs,  
Wiping tears and giving hugs,  
A stack of last week's mail to read  
So where's the quiet time I need?  
Yet, when I steal a moment, Lord,  
Just at the sink or ironing board,  
To ask the blessings of Your grace,  
I see then, in my small one's face,  
That You have blessed me all the while  
And I stoop to kiss that precious smile.*

As the Season of Joy approaches, let us remember the many gifts in our lives. Let us take time to cherish our spouse/partner, our children, our friends, and of course, ourselves.

Peace and joy!

## DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Angel Breakfast	9:00AM
Junior Choir Rehearsal	9:15AM
Church School	10:00AM
Choose Pageant Roles	

Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
CE Committee Meeting	8:15PM

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Church School	<b>9:00AM</b>
Junior Choir in Worship	9:00 and 11:00AM

Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Story Hour	6:30PM
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Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Caroling	5:30PM
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Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Church School	<b>9:00AM</b>
Junior Choir in Worship	9:00 and 11:00AM
6PM Pageant Rehearsal	12:30PM
4PM Pageant Rehearsal	2:15PM

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

No Church School. Childcare available.

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## CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade - 4:00PM Christmas Eve Service

5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade - 6:00PM Christmas Eve Service

We are eager to begin preparations for our Christmas Pageants in the anticipated celebration of the birth of our Lord. The 4:00 PM service is the re-enactment of the "Christmas Pageant" by Tomie DePaola and the 6:00 PM service is a "Christmas Living Crèche".



The children will choose their roles and be measured for their costumes during Church School on **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. We have listed the roles below by grade level so your child can think about which part he/she would like. To be fair, children who have attended Church School on a regular basis will have first pick of the lead roles. Children who sing in the Junior Choir are encouraged to participate in the Pageant.

Grades 3, 5, 6, and 7 - Angel, Shepherd, Sheep

Grades 4 and 8 - Mary, Joseph, Three Wise Men, Gabriel, Donkey, Innkeeper, and Star. The roles of Angel, Shepherd, Sheep are also available.

All children who wish to be in the pageant must have a permission slip in hand by **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. You should have received the permission slip in the mail. Your child should also attend the dress rehearsal the afternoon of **Sunday, December 20<sup>st</sup>**. This will be the only rehearsal.

Christmas Pageant volunteers are: **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Pageant:** Susie Winstanley, Virginia Shannon, Hilary Steinert, Hilary Robinson and Pam Nelson; **5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pageant:** Sue Fulshaw (Chair), Hayley Barnes, Hunter Hutchinson and Lee Means.

## Angel Breakfast Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>



The Angel Breakfast, a TriCon tradition, is a special time for our Pre-K's and K's. Each child is invited to bring a special guest (parent, grandparent, friend, babysitter, etc.) to this memorable breakfast. Watch for your invitation in the mail. This event will take place at 9AM, **prior to the 10AM worship service**, in the parish hall. Please RSVP so that we will know how many angel goodies to purchase. Thank you Trish Siefer, Lisa Turkington, Polly Meyer and Dawn Rennert for creating a magical morning. Don't forget to bring your camera!

## 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.



## Christmas Story Hour Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:30PM children, ages four to eight, are invited to join Rev. Lombard and Bob Brown around the fireplace in the parlor for a Children's Christmas Story Hour. The evening will conclude with hot cocoa and Christmas cookies. While your children are in the parlor, parents are invited to share fellowship and Christmas treats in the parish hall! Children are welcome to wear their p.j.s!



## Happy December Birthday Wishes to...



Lillian Woodman  
George Littlefield  
Katherine Nicholas  
Benjamin Clarke  
Connor Monahan  
Lowell Hutchinson

John Davidian  
William Feigh  
Nicholas Steinert  
Natalie Waldron  
Will Johnston  
Holly Anderson

Lindsey Piper  
Abby Wilcox  
Isaac Carlson  
Kayleen Honan  
Katrina Judicke

Peter Bruning  
Kylene Aziz  
Amelia Amodei  
Thomas Salemy  
Alexis Steinert

## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Holiday Cards Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will continue our annual tradition of making homemade holiday cards for the inmates at the Northeastern Correctional Center and MCI-Concord. This activity is being coordinated by Carol Miller, a member of our congregation and a volunteer for Concord Prison Outreach (CPO). CPO's goal is to help reduce recidivism through the development and delivery of educational and personal growth programs. CPO strives to prepare inmates for returning to society as responsible and productive citizens. Carol will collect all cards and each will be given to an inmate in a holiday bag filled with toiletries, writing materials, a pocket calendar and socks.

## Attention Church School parents...Have you logged onto *Akaloo* yet??

As of this date, a number of families have not signed into *Akaloo*. All parents (Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) are encourage to log onto our *Akaloo* website and become familiar with all it's offerings. All of our Church School calendar activities, event, announcements and curriculum are listed so please use this website to gain information about our program. All registered families should have access to *Akaloo*. Please contact Carrie O'Brien if you have any questions or need help logging on.

## YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Caroling at Newbury Court

Attention 7th and 8th graders ... It doesn't matter how well you sing--it's your presence that counts! Come spread your holiday cheer to the elderly residents at Newbury Court (next to Emerson Hospital). We'll sing Christmas carols during dinner on Friday evening, December 18 at 5:30. Afterwards, we'll head back to the Fondriest's house for pizza and cookies. Hope you can make it! Please RSVP to Suzanne Fondriest at [suzanne.fondriest@verizon.net](mailto:suzanne.fondriest@verizon.net).

Do you have a great idea for a Youth Group activity? Please contact Carrie O'Brien at [triconcob@aol.com](mailto:triconcob@aol.com).

# January

Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> ... Social Justice One Room Schoolhouse