



## TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES MAY 2010

*From the desk of...*

Compassion is defined as a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering. In simple terms, compassion is caring for someone who is less fortunate than you. Teaching your child to be a caring individual is an important Christian lesson, if not one of the most important. Children are



Help  
carry one



another's  
burdens, and  
in this way



you will  
obey the



law of Christ.  
Galatians 6:2

not born with the ability to nurture and love others. It is something that they learn along the way by watching and listening to the world around them and the people they love, like parents, teachers, and even older children. Leading by example and offering opportunities for children to practice how to be caring individuals is mainly a parent's responsibility.

It is never too early to share the joy of helping another person. Even very young children can offer their help.

The challenge however can be finding an organization where even the youngest can make a

difference. Too often opportunities at organizations require that volunteers be at least teenagers or older.

Not to worry ... here are some activities you can do with any age child. Younger children will need more parent involvement. Older elementary children and teens can handle a bit more responsibility on their own. Just use parental discretion as to how much you want to help out.

1. If your child loves animals there are plenty of animal shelters in our area that are always looking for support. Buddy Dog, for example is an animal shelter in Sudbury. Check them out at [www.buddydogs.com](http://www.buddydogs.com). A couple of years ago we made dog biscuits during a One Room Schoolhouse and brought them to Buddy Dog.

2. Have a yard sale and have your children sell some of their unwanted things and contribute a portion of the money or all of it to a charity of their choice. As a family you can research various charities, including ones sponsored by TriCon, and choose the one that speaks to your family.

3. Have children visit an aging neighbor or member of our church. As a child my parents stressed the importance of reaching out to others. They encouraged us to visit with an elderly widow who lived up the street from us. At first I felt awkward spending time with Mrs. Wright but after a couple of visits our relationship developed into one of friendship and respect and continued for many years.



Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Hindu Temple	9:00AM
Church School	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	

Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
C.E. Committee Meeting	8:15PM

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Mother's Day!*

7/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Gaining Ground	9:45AM
Church School	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	

Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

Church School	10:00AM
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles	
Childcare up to age five	

Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>

The Shack Book Discussion	7:00PM
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Pentacost Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Church School	10:00AM
7/8 <sup>th</sup> Graders in Church for Confirmation	
Childcare up to age five	

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>

No Church School	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	

**Trinitarian  
Congregational Church**

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Church School Director  
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C.E. Office Hours  
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday  
9:00AM - 3:00PM



4. Let your child contribute to *Locks For Love*, giving their hair to make wigs for those with cancer. I know some children and adults who have donated to this organization. If you want more information their website is [www.locksoflove.org](http://www.locksoflove.org).

5. Participate in a walk or race as a family. TriCon is supporting the PMC Bike Race for children taking place on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Kids of all ages can participate. Find out more information about this great opportunity below.

The more you give your kids opportunities to be involved and teach them to care for others, the more they will feel good and have more confidence in themselves because they made a difference in the world, even if it is in your own neighborhood!

Peace,

Carrie

### The Shack, Book Group Discussion Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>



Have you read *The Shack*? *The Shack* is a modern day publishing phenomenon and New York Times bestseller. Former janitor and first time author, William P. Young, self published a fictional account of his real life journey to confront evil and find redemption.

In the book, after the horrible abduction and murder of his young daughter, the protagonist, Mack, is invited to spend the weekend with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. During this mystical face-to-face experience, Mack's ideas of the Trinity, religion, Christianity, forgiveness, justice and interpersonal relationships are not only challenged but shattered and then beautifully reconstructed and redefined.

Join Bob Brown and Carrie O'Brien on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> as we discuss this book as a group and explore our concept of God, forgiveness, the Trinity and ideas of Jesus. All are welcome!

### PMC Bike Challenge for Kids Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30AM - Noon



Children ages five - 15 are invited to join the PMC Kids ride offering a great opportunity for children to get involved in philanthropy by riding their bikes and raising money towards the fight against cancer at the Dana-Farber through it's Jimmy Fund. While the ride is for youth, the event is for the entire family with activities for kids under five, entertainment, music and food. For more information and to join the Tri Con team go online at [kids.pmc.org](http://kids.pmc.org). Please note your team as "TriCon" through the online registration process. For more information or if you would like to support a rider, please stop by the parish hall PMC Kids table during the month of May.

### 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.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Sunday Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>



In preparation for Confirmation studies next year, we are pleased to present our 8<sup>th</sup> graders with their own personalized copies of the New Revised Standard Version Bible. We will distribute the Bibles to the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class during the service on May 16<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade parents will receive more information as we get closer to the date.

## Happy May Birthday Wishes to ...



Hannah Quirk  
Matthew Lehmann  
Jack Wittenberg  
Laura Kolstad  
Audrey Stein

Josie Kolstad  
Emma Marshall  
Declan Siefer  
Sam Anderson

Kimball Khetani  
Charlotte O'Brien  
Rebecca Rennert  
Max Steinert

Ian Ehlers  
Peter Hart  
Sam Snell  
Blaise Siefer

## Compassion Word Search

BAKECOOKIES  
HAVEAYARDSALE  
GAININGGROUND  
WALKFORACAUSE  
HELPA NEIGHBOR  
MISSIONTRIP

BUDDYDOG  
OPENTABLE  
MAKEAMEAL  
RAKEAYARD  
LOCKSOFLove  
VISITASHUTIN



## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade News

### Visit to a Hindu Temple Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00AM - noon

The 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing their study of World Religions. To date we have had speakers representing the Buddhist and Islamic faiths visit the classroom. Now we have a wonderful opportunity to visit the Hindu Temple in Ashland, MA. A guide will be available to accompany us and answer any questions. Dress is casual, women are asked to wear closed toe shoes, and long skirts that hang below the knee or pants. Gentleman dress is casual, no head covering required. As we need to arrange for transportation we do need to know if you and/or your child will be joining us. Please RSVP to Carrie O'Brien no later than Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Gaining Ground Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Spring is a busy time for the folks at Gaining Ground, a local farm that grows produce for homeless shelters and food pantries. So guess what our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be doing? Helping!! This is a great opportunity for our kids to be involved in some meaningful work. Not sure if we will be pulling weeds or planting crops so bring work gloves, a hat, water bottle and sunscreen. Please contact Carrie if you can drive and/or chaperone on Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a rain or shine event so please dress appropriately.