

TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES SEPTEMBER 2010

From the desk of...

I filled up three very large recycling bins during one week this summer of cleaning out and organizing my office files and storage closet - clearly a much needed and long overdue project! Moving papers from file folders and shelves didn't take a lot of time. What did slow me down, though, was reading almost everything I came across ... old Church School curricula, activity sheets, informational brochures, program itineraries, class lists, lesson plans, orientation materials, posters, handwritten notes and mimeograph sheets... yes, some of what I found dated back to BC (before computers).

What impressed me so much, but was not surprising, was that TriCon has a long and well-established history of providing creative and in-depth children's ministry to the families of our parish. Prior Church School Directors, Deana Kohl, Diane Frost, Pat Nelson, and Ann Wilson, along with my former Co-Director Suzanne Giles, and the support of past and present families, have shaped our program into what it is today ... a thriving and fun place to learn about God, Jesus, community, and what it means to be a Christian.

I am looking forward to another year of children's ministry and I hope you are too! In the meantime, please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our program.

Peace,

What's Happening this Fall

The Bible takes center stage this fall in our Pre-K through 6th grade classes as we learn about some of it's stories, history and features. Our 4th graders will also learn how to use the Bible as they work through the supplementary curriculum *Finding Your Way Through the Bible*. Preparing for Confirmation, the 7th and 8th graders will also focus on the Bible taking an in-depth look at the Old and New Testaments and how the Bible has influenced the world over the centuries and today. Local mission projects round out their fall curriculum.

In addition to what goes on in the classrooms we are busy with other programs as well. "St. Francis of Assisi" One Room Schoolhouse (10/10), 4th Grade Bibles (10/31), UNICEF CakeWalk (10/31), Kindergarten Bibles (11/7) and "Jesse Tree" One Room Schoolhouse (11/28).

With the help of parents we are planning on ramping up our youth group programs for our 6th - 8th graders adding new programs and more opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth. Check out more information on page three of this newsletter!



Sunday, September 12th

First Day of Church School	10:00AM
Childcare available up to age three	
Dedicate Fall Volunteers	10:00AM

Monday, September 13th

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

Tuesday, September 14th

Teacher Orientation	7:00PM
w/special guest ... our own Bob Brown!	

Sunday, September 19th

Church School	10:00AM
Childcare available up to age three	

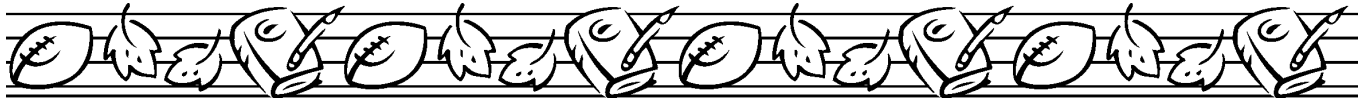
Sunday, September 26th

Church School	10:00AM
Childcare available up to age three	

Trinitarian Congregational Church
54 Walden Street
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-4837

Carrie O'Brien
Christian Education Director
triconcob@aol.com

CE Office Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 - 3



Registration and Volunteer Update

To date we have received about 85% of our registration forms. Thank you! All of these children have been formally enrolled in their Church School classes and parent participation requests were assigned as indicated.

Functioning as a cooperative program requires support from all registered families. So, if you have not yet submitted your family's registration form or if you have but not yet decided where you'd like to help out, there are still opportunities available to support programming. Staffing our teachers is paramount especially for this coming fall session. Please check below for which classrooms still need teachers and consider joining our ministry team!

Fall Session: September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14 and 21

Winter Session: December 5, 12, 19; January 2, 9, 23, 30; February 6 and 13

Spring Session: March 13, 20, 27; April 10; May 1, 8, 22; June 5

Pre-Kindergartenn:	<i>Fall, Winter and Spring</i>
Kindergarten:	<i>Fall and Spring</i>
1 st Grade:	<i>Fall, Winter and Spring</i>
2 nd Grade:	<i>All set!</i>
3 rd Grade:	<i>Fall, Winter and Spring</i>
4 th Grade:	<i>Fall, Spring</i>
5 th Grade:	<i>Winter and Spring</i>
6 th Grade:	<i>Fall, Winter and Spring</i>
7 th /8 th Grade:	<i>Winter</i>

Fall Teacher Orientation

Tuesday, September 14th, 7 - 8:30PM

Special guest speaker...our own Bob Brown!



How do you understand the Bible? Can we trust what is in the Bible? Is there a right or wrong way to read the Bible? Considering our children will be learning about the Bible this fall we will be spending time during orientation learning about it too! We will watch *One Book, Many Voices*, a 30-minute film designed to help us think about the many ways people approach the Bible. Following the video, Bob will facilitate discussion giving us opportunity for reflection and questions. Whether you are teaching in the Pre-K class, 7th/8th grade or any grade in between,

please make this meeting a priority. Don't forget to bring a Bible from home!

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Special Program

It is never too soon to start inviting Jesus into our lives and we have a great way to help even our youngest children to start living that connection. We are pleased to announce our Jesus doll program! Each week interested children will take turns bringing home the Jesus doll. Each Jesus doll wears a satchel with a small notebook journal so that children, with help from their parents, can write about their week with Jesus. The journal will be read aloud during class the following Sunday offering a great opportunity to share their experiences and open discussion with their peers.

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.



"Let the little children come to me"
MATTHEW 19:14



Connect with Church School



Please don't forget to log onto our *Akaloo* website and check out announcements, calendar of events and lesson plans. Every registered family has access to the website... www.akaloo.org. (Please let me know if you have forgotten your user name.) All of our Church School programming dates, activities and curriculum content are available on the website calendar. There are even on-line games and activities for children that support what they are learning in the classroom.

Happy September Birthday Wishes to...

Maxwell Boyle
Margaux Hunt
Ainsley Siefer

Tyler Kamionek
Caroline Harmon
Nathan Hoaglund

Meredith Ackley
David Rennert
Graham Robinson

Ella Waldron
George Howes



Tri-Con Play Group



We are starting up our weekly infant and toddler TriCon Playgroup. This is a great opportunity for children to work on their language and social skills while giving moms, dads and/or caregivers a chance to take a break and spend time sharing resources and conversation. The Playgroup meets every Friday morning from 10:00am 'til 11:30am. Toys and refreshments are provided. For start date and more information, please contact Trish Siefer at thesiefers@gmail.com or 978-287-0214.

Church School Offering Envelopes

In addition to the giving of their time and talents, (Heifer Fair, the Unicef Cake Walk and cooking meals for the homeless) our kids have the opportunity to have their own offering envelopes for collection during worship time in class. Their donations will support three M's of our church....Ministry, Mortar and Mission. If you would like a box of offering envelopes for your child, please contact Carrie O'Brien.



Youth Group Middle School Parents Meeting Sunday, October 3rd, following the 10AM service

While this important planning meeting is over a month away, parents please note the date on your calendar. Your participation and support is crucial in the planning and implementation of our youth programs. To help jumpstart the excitement, we are very pleased to announce that Bob Brown will be leading a monthly 7th and 8th grade youth group program! There is also a not-to-be-missed overnight trip to NYC on this year's calendar.

6th grade youth group ideas, dates, and parent participation will also be discussed. This program is especially important as this peer group is experiencing Middle School for the first time. Having an opportunity for them to gather in fellowship and begin to build their own community within our church will be important as they enter their teenage years.

A big thank you to Sue Fulshaw, our Youth Group Liaison! She is dedicated to helping our youth group programs grow and reach all Middle School age children.