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## TRI-CON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES NOVEMBER 2010

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*From the desk of...*

Has this ever happened to you?

You are sitting with your family at the Sunday dinner table recounting the events of the day when a child pipes up with a zinger. "If God created everything, then who created God?" Forks drop, conversation ceases, and all eyes turn to you awaiting your explanation ... only you are not sure how to answer the question. Gulp!

Or...

You are teaching the lesson of Noah and the Ark. The children are listening intently to this familiar story of the Bible. You sit back and are pleased with your lesson and ask the children if there are any questions. One child puts their hand up and says they do not understand how Noah can be 600 years old and then, on the heels of that question, another child asks how in the world did Noah fit all the animals in the ark? Again, the room quiets, all eyes are on you. Yikes!!!!

Parents and teachers can be put "on the spot" from time to time. How does one handle these situations? Children often question the validity of a Bible story or other aspects of our Christian faith. As parents and Christian Educators we find this complicated and sometimes have difficulty finding a simple answer.

We must remember that the Bible is a book of faith, filled with song, history, myth, poetry, prophesy, teachings and wisdom. There are 39 books in the Old Testament written in Hebrew, and 27 books in the New Testament written in Greek. The Bible we read today has been translated into English and a host of world-wide languages. Since Jesus never wrote one word of the Bible (as far as we know), and much emerges from oral traditions or legends, laws and traditions of the time, each story read represents a particular recounting of what happened. So, when we read the Bible, we are not just reading history and learning traditions, but each of us is individually and personally interpreting what someone else wrote. It is important for us as children of God to look for the underlying meaning of each story as well as to wrestle with the details. These stories give us personal insight into the lives of Biblical heroes and ancient communities and cultures as presented by the various letters, scriptures, and poetry. Modern science, archeology and technology are always shedding new light on what, in earlier times, might have been viewed as supernatural, miraculous or beyond belief. And yet, to believe in God is always to allow for the unbelievable.

So, how do we respond to these curious minds?



Monday, November 1st

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

Sunday, November 7th

Church School	10:00AM
Kindergarten Bibles	10:00AM

Sunday, November 14th

Church School	10:00AM
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Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Winter Teacher Orientation	7:00PM
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Thursday, November 18th

SEEKERS Visit to Heading Home	4:30PM
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Sunday, November 21st

Church School	10:00AM
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Sunday, November 28<sup>h</sup>

Chrismon Tree One Room Schoolhouse	10:00AM
Childcare provided (up to age five)	

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With the limited information we have, it is important for us to honor the details, acknowledge any doubts or questions, and search for deeper meanings especially as the text might apply to us today. Children are often concrete in their approach to learning and are constantly looking for connections to their everyday lives. They just want the fact (of which we have few)! We must learn to accept that through the many interpretations and translations of the Bible, there are many nuances to the logic of these stories. As parents and Christian Educators it is important to try and link these stories to our everyday lives and not be locked into the word for word interpretation. Often, the best way to handle a situation is to turn it around and use the opportunity for conversation; after all, the conversation may be far more valuable than the conclusions. Through these conversations we all are Disciples of Christ and learning together, both children and adults alike. It is always OK to say, "I am not sure", or "I don't know", or, "I'll have to get back to you on that" and remember to do so.

Bottom line...we want kids to ask questions. Curiosity is good; it means that they are trying to make sense of things. We just need to trust, to the process of thinking through with our children, the vast mysteries of life before God.

Peace,

## Kindergarten Bibles Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>



Kindergarten  
Bible Sunday

On this special morning our Kindergarteners will receive a copy of "*A First Bible Story Book*" written by Mary Hoffman. This beautifully illustrated picture book is geared for young audiences and shares 15 special stories from both the Old and New Testaments. Please have your Kindergarten child at the church by 9:40AM on the morning of November 7<sup>th</sup> so that we can gather together and enter the church as a class. Please contact Carrie if you have not yet received a postcard asking how you would like your child's name listed on the bookplate.

## Nursery News

As many of you know Sonja gave birth to two healthy babies in September ... Sophia and Aeden. We understand that she and her babies are doing well but we know she has her hands full. While we miss having her in the nursery we are blessed to now have long time church member Margaret Fries as one of our nursery care providers. Thank you Margaret!!



### 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.**

**Winter teachers needed for the Pre-K, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade classes.  
Winter session begins December 5<sup>th</sup> and ends February 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## Winter Teacher Orientation Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>



Our winter teaching session begins on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and runs until Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are teaching please make it a priority to attend this important meeting ... even if you have already taught this fall. Sharing your experience in the classroom, using the curriculum and other resources, is so helpful to the "new" session teachers. Making the connection with one another in person is much more effective than trying to play catch up via email. Promise!

## Chrismon Tree One Room Schoolhouse Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

Most of you know what an Advent wreath is, but have you ever heard of a Chrismon Tree? During our One Room Schoolhouse children will learn what it is, what role it plays during the season of Advent, and they will have fun decorating it. You will see the results of their efforts in the parish hall where it will remind us all that this is a time of preparation and celebration. Children Kindergarten age and older are welcome to take part in this One Room Schoolhouse. Childcare is available for younger children. In order to make this special program possible, **we are looking for four volunteers** to help that morning. Contact Carrie O'Brien at the church if you can support this event.



## Happy November Birthday Wishes to...

Catherine Lilly	Hallie Nelson	Jack Bowen	Audrey Feigh	Abigail Wester
Cole Liazos-Coffey	Anna Bruning	Amy Hoaglund	Evelyn Freund	Meg Wilson
Nicholas Roos	Grace Campbell	Kara Wilson	Chase Parker	Drew Freund
Ben Meyer	Kimmie Colbert	Emily Mushlitz	Michael Avakian	Adair Olney
Brandon Ouellette	Maggie Stewart			

## SEEKERS

A Faith-Based Youth Group Program for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders  
*Explore ... Enjoy ... Contribute ...*

### Heading Home,

Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 - 7:30PM

Mission work will be the focus of our November meeting as we visit Heading Home in Medford, MA, an organization dedicated to helping homeless families find permanent housing. Our kids will host a Thanksgiving party for the children and perhaps help the adults make holiday centerpieces. We are looking for adult chaperones to help drive to and from Heading Home. Please contact Sue Fulshaw at [stful@comcast.net](mailto:stful@comcast.net) if you can help out.

### Looking Ahead to *Nightwatch* ... Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

The deadline to sign your child up for the *Nightwatch* program is Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Spots are limited so please sign up early. Permission slips and trip details were mailed out at the end of October. Contact Carrie O'Brien if you did not receive this mailing or if you have any questions.