

TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES DECEMBER 2010

From the desk of...

How many of us have sat through one of our wonderful Christmas Eve pageants, read the story of Jesus' birth to our children or know the story from our own childhood? Most of us I imagine, with many of us claiming to know the story very well. After all this is not a very long story. Out of the 31,173 verses in the Bible the birth of Jesus, one of the most important events in Christianity, is covered in just 59 of them. How well do you know the story? Here are some fun questions to test your knowledge of Jesus' birth.

1. After Mary became pregnant her first action was to ...
 - a) Explain to her parents what happened
 - b) Explain to Joseph what happened
 - c) Visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also pregnant
 - d) Go in to hiding because it was shameful to be pregnant and unmarried
2. What did Joseph do when he found out Mary was pregnant?
 - a) Complain to her parents
 - b) Throw her a shower
 - c) Call off the marriage
3. In which two gospels does the nativity story appear?
 - a) Matthew and Mark
 - b) Matthew and Luke
 - c) Luke and Mark
4. How far did Mary ride the donkey before arriving in Bethlehem?
5. What animals were present at Jesus' birth? Be specific.
6. How soon after his birth was Jesus named?
 - a) That day
 - b) Eight days later
 - c) Two years later
7. When did Joseph meet the Wise Men?

How do you think you did? Answers are at the end of this newsletter. Better yet, take a moment and read the story with your family from the Bible. Won't take long ...

In the meantime, all the very best for a peaceful and joyful Advent season and Christmas!

Best,

Carrie



Sunday, December 5th

Angel Breakfast	9:00AM
Church School	10:00AM
Choose Pageant Roles	

Tuesday, December 7th

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

Thursday, December 9th

SEEKERS to Heading Home	5:00PM
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Sunday, December 12th

Church School	10:00AM
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Tuesday, December 14th

Christmas Story Hour	6:30PM
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Sunday, December 19th

Church School	9:00AM
SEEKERS Meeting	12:30PM
6PM Pageant Rehearsal	12:30PM
4PM Pageant Rehearsal	2:15PM

Sunday, December 26th

Family Worship	10:00AM
Childcare available	

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CE Office Hours
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 - 3



CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS

3rd and 4th Grade - 4:00PM Christmas Eve Service
5th through 8th 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 5th**. We have listed the roles below by grade level so your child can think about which part he/she would like. Children who have attended Church School on a regular basis will have first pick of the lead roles.

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, Candlelighters and Sheep are also available.

All children who wish to be in the pageant must have a permission slip in hand by **Sunday, December 5th**. (You should have already received the permission slip.) Your child should also attend the dress rehearsal the afternoon of **Sunday, December 19th**. This will be the only rehearsal.

Christmas Pageant volunteers are: **3rd and 4th Grade Pageant:** Susie Winstanley, Virginia Shannon, Hilary Steinert, Sandy Freund, Amy Pasley and Katie Rye; **5th - 8th Grade Pageant:** Sue Fulshaw (Chair), Pam Nelson, Amy Pasley and Donna Carlson.

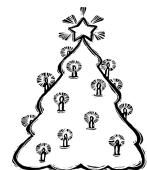
Angel Breakfast Sunday, December 5th



The Angel Breakfast, a TriCon tradition, is a special time for our Pre-K's and K's. Each child is invited to bring one special adult guest (parent, grandparent, friend, babysitter, etc.) to this memorable breakfast. Invitations have already been sent. This event will take place at 9AM, **prior to the 10AM worship service**, in the parish hall. If you have not done so already, please RSVP to Trish Siefer at thesiefers@gmail.com. Thank you Trish Siefer, Kristi Detweiler, Monica Woodman, Melissa Liazos-Coffey, Kristin Piper and Polly Meyer for creating a magical morning. Don't forget to bring your cameras!

Christmas Story Hour Tuesday, December 14th

On Tuesday, December 14th, 6:30 - 7:30PM children, ages four to eight, are invited to join Rev. Lombard and Rev. 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, a carol sing and Christmas treats in the parish hall! Children are welcome to wear their p.j.s!



TRI-CON CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

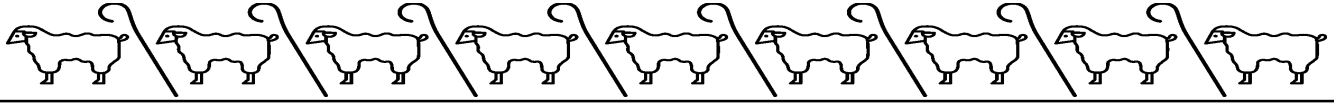
It is our mission to intentionally provide to all of the children in our Church School program the following:

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.



Caroling from the Balcony Sunday, December 19th

This will be our fifth annual Church School Christmas caroling from the balcony. At the end of the 9AM service children in Grades 1 - 4 will be escorted to the balcony from their classrooms where they will sing a selection of Christmas carols. Afterwards, teachers will bring the children to the parish hall to join their parents. We will be practicing our carols in the classrooms during the month of December.



Happy December Birthday Wishes to...



Lillian Woodman
George Littlefield
Katherine Nicholas
Benjamin Clarke
Ethan Bondick

John Davidian
William Feigh
Nicholas Steinert
Natalie Waldron
Lowell Hutchinson

Lindsey Piper
Isaac Carlson
Thomas Salemy
Alexis Steinert
Matthew Kirkman

Peter Bruning
Amelia Amodei
Katrina Judicke
Holly Anderson



Our new 7th and 8th Grade SEEKERS program has taken off!! We had 30 kids attend our first meeting in October. In mid- November eleven youth volunteers helped host a Thanksgiving party for children living at Heading Home, an organization dedicated to helping families and individuals find permanent housing. At the same time seven other kids made cookies and table decorations for Open Table's Thanksgiving dinner. We have been busy!!

On Thursday, December 9th we'll have an opportunity to visit Heading Home for those who were not able to go last month... this time to host a Christmas party! And on Sunday, December 19th at 12:30PM we will meet with Bob Brown.

Here's some more great news! We have 23 kids already signed up for our *Nightwatch* overnight program in NYC in February.

Answers to Nativity Story Questions from page one...

1. (c) Visit her cousin Elizabeth who was also pregnant
2. (c) Call off the marriage
3. (b) Matthew and Luke
4. There is no mention in the Bible that she rode a donkey or any animal. In those days though, most people owned at least one donkey to carry people or their possessions.
5. There is no mention in the Bible of any animals present at Jesus' birth.
6. (b) Eight days
7. There is no mention that Joseph was present when the Wise Men paid their visit to Mary and Jesus. One could assume that he was there.

