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## TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES MAY 2011

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From the desk of...

I am a life long reader so the pleasure of disappearing into a novel (fiction or non) is one of my favorite and most fulfilling things to do ... besides, of course, parenting. Over the years I have read hundreds of books and I have a list of my favorites, those that I found to be particularly moving, inspiring and well written. The book at the top of this list is only 64 pages in length and is written with only a little over 600 words.

I was given *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein as a gift from a dear friend when I was in my 20's. *The Giving Tree* is a sensitive parable of unconditional love between a tree and a boy where the tree is generous and helps the boy every time he is in need. At the time I was given this book, and where I was in my life, I understood it to be just about the giving of friendship. Now, as I am older and wiser, the metaphor of the love between God and human or a mother and child is much clearer. This story still brings tears to my eyes in its simplicity and honesty.

*The Giving Tree* offers us a lot in terms of philosophical discussion with our children. What does it mean to love someone? What kinds of things can we do to show someone we love them? Is it right or wrong to keep giving when we are given nothing in return? What does it mean to be happy? Can you be angry with someone and love them at the same time? Answers to these simple questions are not as easily reached as one might think, but the process of figuring them out is very important.

While this story can be interpreted in many ways it can also be used to help children learn the pleasure in giving to others and understand the concept that God gives great joy to those who are selfless givers. The act of giving is an expression of love, especially in this day and age where "Look out for number one!" can be a more common message our children hear. However, this is not what Jesus taught. In Acts 20:35, Paul reminds us of Jesus' words, and "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Paul writes again in 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

I am being summoned by one of my children. Time to give away some of my apples.

Best,

Carrie



Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

Church School 10:00AM  
SEEKERS Meeting

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

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

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>  
*Happy Mother's Day!*

Family Worship 10:00AM  
Childcare up to age five

Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

Mission Trip Service 10:00AM  
Childcare up to age five

Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Confirmation Sunday

Church School 10:00AM  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bibles  
7/8<sup>th</sup> Graders in Church for Confirmation

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Weekend

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

**Trinitarian  
Congregational Church**

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**Festival of the Christian Home ...  
including the Sacrament of Baptism  
Sunday, May 8th at 10am**



Join us for a special family service dedicated to the Rite of Baptism. Each of you is invited to contribute water, gathered from places near or far. Together, our individual gifts of water will become part of a symbolic renewal of our Baptismal promises. Small, spill proof containers are available at the church.

**Mission Trip Family Worship  
Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Senior High Youth Group Mission Trippers will be leading this special service and sharing their mission work experiences in Raymondville, Texas. Families with children of all ages are encouraged to attend this special service. Childcare is available for children up to age five.



**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible Sunday  
Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</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 22<sup>nd</sup>, the same service where our current 9<sup>th</sup> graders will receive the Rite of Confirmation. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will remain in church for the entire service.

**Happy May Birthday Wishes to ...**



Hannah Quirk  
Matthew Lehmann  
Jack Wittenberg  
Sam Anderson

Josie Kolstad  
Emma Marshall  
Declan Siefer  
Blaise Siefer

Charlotte O'Brien  
Peter Hart  
Laura Kolstad  
Audrey Stein

Ian Ehlers  
Sam Snell  
Max Steinert  
Caroline Thut

**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.



Calling all SEEKERS! Our year is winding down with only two more meeting dates! May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent with more information about how we will be spending our time together...think celebration!