



TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES SEPTEMBER 2011

From the desk of...

It is back to school time. What keeps running through my head is that wonderful commercial which depicts an elated father bounding through a Staples store to the tune of Andy William's "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year". Accompanying him are his two clearly depressed children. I am sure you know what I am talking about. I teeter between the contrasting perspectives. There is a small part of me that will miss the slow paced rhythm of the summer ... on the other hand I am really excited about getting back into a scheduled routine and beginning a new TriCon Church School year with you and your children! We have a lot to learn as we explore our faith and build on our knowledge and love of God and Jesus.

A couple of programming items to note ...

Over the summer, in an effort to make our Pre-K through 6th Grade curriculum liturgically based, I have combined our on-line program *Akaloo* with a number of other resources. We will be learning stories from the Old Testament this fall followed by the New Testament in the winter and spring. Special focus workshops on Psalm 23, the Ten Commandments and Baptism are also included in this year's study. All lesson plans, regardless of where they originated, will be posted on our *Akaloo* site so parents and teachers have up to date access to what we are learning in Church School.

Our 7th and 8th grade curriculum will focus on building the group and the SEEKERS program, participating in community service projects, exploring the history of Christianity and learning about world religions. This class will also be taking an in-depth look at Psalm 23, the Ten Commandments and Baptism. Lots goin' on!

In addition to our One Room Schoolhouses, and Mission Trip service we are adding another family service to our calendar. On Sunday, November 27th, we will be celebrating the beginning of Advent together. This is sure to be a very special worship experience.

I look forward to seeing you on September 11th, our first day of Church School. On this special morning, we will be sharing our summer stories and adventures and re-acquainting with one another. It's the most wonderful time of the year!!!

Peace,

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, September 4th

Worship Service 10:00AM
Childcare available up to age five

Sunday, September 11th

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

Tuesday, September 13th

Special Fall Teacher Orientation 7:00PM

Sunday, September 18th

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

Sunday, September 25th

Church School 10:00AM
Childcare available up to age three
SEEKERS parent/Youth Meeting 11:15AM

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



Church School Registration and Volunteer Update

Registration is being conducted on line this year. All of last year's 2010-2011 registered families should have received two separate 2011-2012 registration emails over the summer, one from Church School Director, Carrie O'Brien to confirm your family's information and one from SignUpGenius, a volunteer management website, where you can indicate how you would like to support programming. If you did not receive either of these emails, or if you have not yet registered, please contact Carrie O'Brien.

There is a registration form on page four of this newsletter for all *new, never before registered*, families.

Knowing that we bear the responsibility of joining hands in our children's Christian Education, we are still prayerfully looking for teachers to help out in some of our fall classrooms. If you have not yet decided where you would like to support our cooperative program, please consider joining our teaching community. Sharing your faith with children is such an important ministry.

Fall Pre-Kindergarten:	Filled
Fall Kindergarten:	<i>Need Two Teachers</i>
Fall 1 st Grade:	<i>Need One Teacher</i>
Fall 2 nd Grade:	<i>Need Two Teachers</i>
Fall 3 rd Grade:	Filled
Fall 4 th Grade:	<i>Need Four Teachers</i>
Fall 5 th Grade:	Filled
Fall 6 th Grade:	Filled
Fall 7 th /8 th Grade:	<i>Need One Teacher</i>

Fall Teacher Orientation - Mark Your Calendars Tuesday, September 13th, 7 - 8:30PM



Whether you are teaching in the Pre-K class, 7th/8th grade or any grade in between, please make this meeting a priority. We have a new curriculum and many changes to our procedures that all teachers will need to bring into the classroom. This is also an important opportunity to meet your teaching team and Class Liaison, learn about the children in your class, and share your ideas and teaching style.

We are also excited to offer a very special workshop that is sure to benefit all ... "Why do we keep moving so fast when the little voice inside our heads tells us to s-l-o-w d-o-w-n?" We will be exploring ways to creatively and spiritually function at a less stressful pace. Babysitting is available.

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. Each week interested children (with parents' permission) 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.



Connect with Church School



Please don't forget to log onto our *Akaloo* website and check our announcements, calendar of events and all class lesson plans. Every 2011-2012 registered family has access to the website... www.akaloo.org. (Please contact Carrie O'Brien if you have forgotten your user name.) 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
Caroline Barton

Tyler Kamionek
Mallory Thut
Nathan Hoaglund
Matt Brauer

Meredith Ackley
David Rennert
Graham Robinson
Scott Brauer

Ella Waldron
George Howes
Morgan Stewart



Church School Offering Envelopes Available

An important piece of learning to be a Christian is to recognize how much God has blessed our lives and to give back our blessings to those who are less fortunate. We are asking your support as parents to help your children learn about the meaning of stewardship and the importance of giving. In addition to opportunities to participate first hand this year in the UNICEF Bake sale, Heifer Fair and other service projects during Church School, children can make monetary weekly offerings to support the three "M"s ... ministry, mission and mortar.



Offering envelopes for all children and youth are available. Please consider ordering a box for each of your children and take a moment during the week or before church on Sunday to think about how they can give back to God and our church. Talk about how our church extends a hand to those in need in our community as well as around the globe. Offering envelopes will be collected during the Children's Gathering in the parish hall or in the classrooms each Sunday.



7th and 8th Grade Parent and Youth Meeting Sunday, September 25th, following the 10AM service

It is unanimous! Last year's inaugural SEEKERS program was such a success we are rolling it out again. Our program is especially important as it offers this peer group an opportunity to gather in fellowship and begin to build their own community within our church.

Bob Brown will head up SEEKERS and bring his spiritual leadership and good humor each time we get together. We are looking forward to meeting with you and your 7th and/or 8th grader to share this year's activities at our joint parent/youth meeting on Sunday, September 25th. As a group we will also create a covenant which we will support throughout the year.

A big thank you to Sue Fulshaw, our Youth Group Liaison! Sue is dedicated to helping SEEKERS grow and reach all Middle School age children. Sue is looking for a co-leader to help support her efforts. If you are interested please contact Sue at stful@comcast.net.



2011-2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Date _____

Dear Parent-

Thank you for your interest in our Church School. Carrie O'Brien, our Church School Director, is looking forward to speaking with you about our program and will be contacting you upon receipt of your registration form. Please return this form to our church office at 54 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Carrie via her email address at triconcob@aol.com. Welcome!

Family's Last Name: _____ Parent's First Names: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____

1 Child's Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Age (as of 9/1/11) _____ Grade (Fall 2011) _____

Please share any personal traits, allergies, any medical conditions and/or learning styles _____

_____ *If your child needs specific support in the classroom please contact Carrie to discuss how we can best accommodate your child in our program.*

2 Child's Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Age (as of 9/1/11) _____ Grade (Fall 2011) _____

Please share any personal traits, allergies, any medical conditions and/or learning styles _____

_____ *If your child needs specific support in the classroom please contact Carrie to discuss how we can best accommodate your child in our program.*

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Please share any personal traits, allergies, any medical conditions and/or learning styles _____

_____ *If your child needs specific support in the classroom please contact Carrie to discuss how we can best accommodate your child in our program.*



The church occasionally uses photos of Church School children and youth (who are unidentified) on our website or other church publications or promotions. I understand that I need to notify Carrie O'Brien in writing if I do not want my child's photo used.