

~ 2008-09 ~

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES

Rev Paul Thomas, *Pastor*
Rev Elaine Gaetani, *Associate Pastor*
Jean Newton, *Director of Christian Education
& Youth Ministries*
Curtis Richardson, *Director of Music*
Sue Menzel & Jen Keeler,
Directors of Bell Choirs
Church office 366.2000
Church email: WestboroUCC@Verizon.net

EDUCATIONAL MISSION OF OUR CHURCH

This booklet outlines the educational programs offered by our church. The Board of Christian Education aims to enhance our relationship with God by the study of our roots in scripture, church history, and theology, while strengthening our bonds of fellowship in small group settings.

Some of these ministries include cribbery, preschool, church school, three youth groups, adult education, confirmation class, music, youth church services throughout the year and programs for all ages.

We welcome your presence, your gifts and your talents. If this is an area of interest to you, "knock--and it shall be opened unto you..."
Board of Christian Education

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Jean E. M. Newton
Home: 366.6590 Cell 308.8826 (*area codes are 508 unless noted*)
Email: ejnjen19@hotmail.com

Senior High Youth Group (9-12th Grades - meets weekly)
Advisors: Deb Hardy, assisted by Ed Newton III: 439.0241
& Art Sharkey: 366.4023

Junior High Youth Group (7th-8th Grades - meets twice a month)
Advisors: Andrea Ehrenreich 366.4443 & Clif Newton 366.6590

Congo Kids Youth Group (5th & 6th Grades - meets monthly)
Advisor: Donna McGrath 366-2464

Confirmation Leader (9th Grade)
Rev Paul Thomas: 366.2000 (church) 366.3896 (home)

Librarian
Annie Wales: 870.0086

In Our Cribbery
Cam Welch, Lara Weaver & Karen Hutchinson

CHURCH SCHOOL ROTATION WORKSHOPS

(leaders and shepherds needed for only five weeks at a time - call Jean Newton to share your time and talent with the children)

"Thou Art" – (artwork/creativity)

"Parable Place" – (storytelling/occasional craft)

"Acts II" – (puppets/dress-up/act out Bible story)

"Divinity Diner" – (learning the story through food)

"Moved by the Spirit" – (Bible stories through movement)

"Where in the World" – (relating stories of then to today)

"The Boardroom of Heaven" – (discussion/occasional craft)

Chapel Musician: John Arnold

Chapel Leader: Kristi Allen

THE BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rev Elaine Gaetani, *Associate Pastor (Pastoral Advisor)*

Jean Newton, *Director of Christian Ed/Youth Ministries*

Nancy Cavanaugh, **Chair**

Mary French

Megan Hight

Darvin Kapitz

Paula Davis

Brian Johnson

Kathy Reynolds

Serena Leiser

Mary Johnson

Kristi Allen

Kim Bromm

CHURCH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ROTATION WORKSHOP MODEL

This is our fifth church school year that we will be using the curriculum called the “Workshop Rotation Model” for grades K-8. Our church school for these ages will run workshops for 5 weeks at a time. Each grade attends a different workshop each week and all workshops teach the same lesson immersing the children in the same story for the full 5 weeks. We were really happy with the way the children were able to learn the past three years, and will be continuing in this way of teaching. The workshops are entitled; *Moved by the Spirit, Divinity Diner, Where in the World, Parable Place, Thou Art, Acts II and Heaven's Boardroom*. It is a hands-on approach done in a very inviting and creative space.

This way of teaching also gives more of us an opportunity to be involved. The lesson for the Leaders is learned once for the workshop being presented, ie: The Creation Story, then applied for 5 weeks to the different ages. The Shepherds are assigned a grade which is color coded. They take attendance, are given a schedule and know exactly which WORKSHOP their children are to go to. There is a chart so that you will always know where your child is by checking to see which grade is in which room. The pre-school and cribbery will stay the same. (The cribbery gives loving care for infants and toddlers during worship year-round.)

We are pleased that Church School continues through the summer. On most Sundays the children attend the first part of the worship service in the Sanctuary and leave after the Children's Chat.

If you have any questions please call myself or Nancy Cavanaugh, Chairperson for CE, for more information. I do believe that after the past four year's energy and love guided by the hand of God through the artist's brushstrokes on the wall and the guidance of the leaders and shepherds, that you will see a difference in the way your child is learning. Come and check out our new artwork on the walls of this wonderful, spiritual place. Please call me with comments and or feed-back from your children or even from you, and join us on a journey through the Bible through leading one of the workshops. Training is available before each rotation and since it is so teacher friendly it would take about a half hour.

Blessings on a new year of church school,
Jean E. M. Newton, Director of Christian Education
& Youth Ministries

YOUTH GROUPS

CONGO KIDS (Grades 5 & 6)

In the past the meetings involved viewing age appropriate movies that are relevant to their everyday life of school, sports and peer pressure, playing games and engaging in activities that introduce values and qualities such as trust, honesty, and self-worth.

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (Grades 7 and 8)

The youth work on mission projects for the church, community and beyond. This is a great way for these children, some who live in different communities, to come together & make friends and become involved with each other while having a positive and active role in their church. In the process of learning how to live more like Jesus they have a great time.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP (Grades 9-12)

The Senior High Youth Group meets regularly for fellowship, fun and spiritual growth. Our schedule varies to fit into the schedules of our active members, but includes Friday night activities, lock-ins, discussion groups, fundraising and leadership in worship. A highlight is a work-camp mission trip every summer. This group offers:

- experiences to add balance in a youth's crazy schedule
- time to clear heads with some laid-back, planned down time
- a chance to help other people and make a difference in this world
- good friends and an easy-going, comfortable place to hang out
- a lot of fun while doing something worthwhile at the same time!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class is open to all 9th-graders or anyone of high school age who has not been confirmed. Confirmands meet weekly with the pastor or mentor from early October through late April, with Confirmation on the first Sunday in May. The goal of Confirmation Class: deeper discipleship (i.e. the “formation,” through clarification, example, experience and instruction, of young people who more closely resemble, in their lifestyles, beliefs, and values, disciples of Jesus). The emphasis of the class is biblical, whole-person, hands-on and faith-based. We seek to build upon Christian growth already begun. It will also focus on our Christian heritage, and our Protestant/UCC identity. Confirmation seeks to provide a growing experience that combines fun, fellowship, reflection, biblical insight and faith development. Highlights of the class will be an overnight

"lock-in", a retreat, a mentor relationship with a member of the church, "faith exploration" events involving other faiths and traditions, joint meetings with other confirmation classes, a taste of inner city ministry and opportunities for service.

"Key Dates" to note for 2008 - 2009:

- Sunday, October 5 - Confirmation Orientation Session (Part One) after worship, approx. 11:45 AM at Kirkside.
- Wednesday, October 8 - First class 6-7 PM on the third floor of Kirkside.
- October 17&18 – *LOCK-IN*/overnight (Kirkside) – 5 PM Fri to 10 AM Sat.
- November 7&8 – *RETREAT (Grotonwood) 5 PM Fri to 6 PM Sat
- January 11 – ORIENTATION Part II (11:45 Kerygma Rm)
- April 29 – *Conf Rehearsal and Dessert Social – 7:30PM
- May 3 – *Confirmation Sunday – 10 AM (gather)

Rev Thomas teaches and coordinates the class. Please speak with him or call the church office 366-2000 to register.

(* = mandatory events)

COME GROW WITH US...

If you are **interested in being a part of the Christian Education team, or any other part of the church family**, please call the church office at 366.2000 or talk to someone who is or has been on a committee. The people from past committees can give you valuable insight as to what their experience has brought to their lives... Join us and find out what being a part of this church can give you in return... fellowship, spirituality, strength in faith through supporting each other, and really great friendships that just happen from being here. I have been a part of this church since I was a young child, but I have never felt more a part of this church until I joined the teachers, helped out in the Christmas pageant, and worked as a volunteer with the Junior High Youth Group. I feel as if I have an extended family now and a warm and comfortable place to return to when I've been away. If I could give a gift to anyone, it would be the way really *belonging* to this church makes me feel. *Help our children grow and you too will grow in your faith and your relationship with our church.*

Jean E. M. Newton Dir. CE/YM

ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education sub-committee of the Christian Education Board is a very active group and once again will sponsor a variety of programs to spiritually challenge and enlighten you. They are designed to bring you deeper into your faith and grow in the fellowship of this church family.

CHRISTIAN BIBLE STUDY & MORE

Helena Engberg, (also Church Historian) 366.2701

All are welcome to discuss Bible scripture/books during periodic Bible study classes Mondays at 7 PM. Additional study programs are offered during Lent, etc. More programs are in the planning stages.

SUMMER PROGRAM

"Holy Hospitality" events are casual worship services and opportunities for deeper fellowship held Thursday evenings during July and August, in the Chapel, behind Kirkside or at peoples' homes.

MINISTERING TO YOU THROUGH MUSIC

The mission of the music ministry in our church is to enrich the lives of children and adults alike through the joy, beauty and inspiration of sacred music.

Director of Music is **Curtis Richardson** 978.515.0481

Chancel Choir, Children's & Youth Choirs

Director of Festival Ringers is **Sue Menzel** 366.1268

Directors of Jubilant Chimes & Parkman Bells for children & youth are **Sue Menzel & Jennifer Keeler** 366.1268

Children's Choirs - Thursdays

Grades K-3

Junior Choir 4:30-5:00 pm

Jubilant Chimes 5:00-5:45

Grades 4-8

Parkman Bells 4:15-5:00 pm

Youth Choir 5:00-5:45

Chancel Choir – Thursdays

9th grade until age 99 7:30-9 pm

THERE'S MORE...

Besides all of these programs, there are **many opportunities to get involved**, to make new friends and *grow* in a spiritual and fun way...

- The Christmas Pageant *during worship*
- Women's Retreats

- Teen Lock-ins (with adult leaders)
- Church picnics (behind Kirkside) and all-church luncheons in the Vestry
- Ecumenical Vacation Bible School (usually the third week of August)
- Children's Sunday (second Sunday in June)
- Multi-age summer church school program
- Welcome Weekend (second Saturday & Sunday in September)
- The Giving Tree (in December)
- Santa's Elves (delivering gifts to DSS for needy children)
- The Westborough Food Pantry
- An Infant/Toddler Playgroup (at the church on Friday mornings)
- Men's Lunch Bunch
- Women's Lunch Bunch
- Women's Fellowship brings fellowship and fun with interesting programs--the first Monday of the month from October through May (except-January)
- Bereavement Support Group
- The Church Fair (usually the first Saturday of December)
- Progressive Suppers (what incredible fun)
- Bosom Buddies (a support group for women who have had or are conquering breast cancer)

There are opportunities to begin new groups when the spirit guides us and there is a need. **Bring a friend and grow with us...every journey begins with a single step.**

~ *Welcome* ~

There are no strangers, only friends we haven't met.



And may the Lord
make you increase
and abound in love
for one another
and for all ...

1 Thessalonians 3:12

THE EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

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2008-2009

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