



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

July 2012

### Editor's Corner

#### Publication Schedule

It barely seems like a whole month has gone by since the last edition of this Newsletter. In reality it has only been three weeks. This summer is a time of transition as I gradually move toward the **regular publication schedule**, which will be the **second Wednesday of each month**. Due to my start date in this position the June Edition was published on the fourth Wednesday, the July Edition on the third Wednesday and by August I plan to be on track publishing the second Wednesday of the month.

I feel truly blessed to be settling into my new role, which I am starting to describe as a Faith Formation Curator (borrowing the term from John Roberto).

At this time, I am using the [Christian Education & Formation page of the Conference website](#) as the primary medium for organizing & disseminating information. It is a very dynamic page that I hope will change frequently. **So check back often!**

The focus of my August newsletter will be "**Rally Day**". I would love to include some of your ideas on the best way to kick-off another year! Share them with me at [adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org)

Together may we continue to learn, share, and grow in our faith.  
*Ann*

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### Relax and Renew

I hope your summer schedule is allowing you some time for relaxation and renewal. Summer is a wonderful time to find a new rhythm. A new rhythm that allows you to enjoy life at a slower pace where you can pause for a moment to appreciate the longer daylight hours, the sound of the chirping birds, the warmth of the sunshine, the smell of freshly cut grass, and the beauty in the vibrant colors of the day-lilies. As your senses become aware of all that God's creation has to offer, let the experience fill your mind, body and soul.

As you pause, take time to reflect on your personal faith journey, reminding yourself that Christian Formation is a lifelong process of growing in relationship with God, self and others. Does your summer time rhythm include time for yourself? time shared with others? quiet time with God? If not, consider renewing your relationships. I think you will find it is a gift that brings a special blessing upon your day.

If you need help getting started in renewing your relationship with God, I recommend adding or recommitting to a daily devotional as part of your routine. Here are a few of my favorites:

- [Still Speaking Daily Devotional](#)  
(sign up to have it delivered by e-mail every morning)
- [Our Daily Bread](#)  
(a scripture selection and brief devotional thoughts provide an avenue for connecting with God even on the busiest days.)
- [Guidepost](#)  
(true stories of hope, faith, personal growth and positive thinking, plus inspiring quotes, daily devotionals and prayers)

### Faith Formation Curator

We live in a world where technology makes it possible to be "plugged-in" 24/7/365 giving us immediate access to an overwhelming amount of information. There is plenty of data available on any given topic, the challenge is trying to make sense of it all. We face this challenge in our ministry as we search for resources that will be most effective in our specific congregation.

John Roberto, a leader in today's church, has a vision for the future of Faith Formation that suggests faith leaders need to become content curators. In his article "[Becoming a Faith Formation Curator](#)" he defines this role as "*someone who continually finds, groups, organizes, and shares the best and most relevant content on a specific subject to match the needs of a specific audience*".

This idea resonates with me and it is a role I hope to grown into.

**Resource Center**

[Called To Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers](#)

[Scripture Index for Faith Practices](#)

Visit the [Conference Website](#) to see the **Recently Added** Topic Files

Confirmation Curricula (plus) Events Vacation Bible School

**Quick Links**

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE)  
[National](#)  
[New England](#)  
[New Hampshire](#)

I have started to plant some seeds. The first seeds are "topic files" that I am sharing via the [conference website](#). They are the result of breaking the existing resource list into smaller "bite size" pieces. Each topic file will include a brief description of resources that are current, compatible with our denominational theology, and have been effectively utilized by churches in our conference.

This idea of sharing resources, with a personal connection to Christian Educators in our conference, grew from the Confirmation Roundtable discussions. My goal is to present materials and facilitate connections that will help you make informed decisions about selecting the best resources for use in your ministry.

Topic files will be added and updated as I learn more and as you share your favorite resources with me.

**Summer Happenings: NYE 2012 Update**



Did you ever wonder what Christian Formation **looks** like? I never really thought about it, until I watched the [featured videos from NYE 2012](#). There is a special radiance that surrounds these youth as they come to know and share God's love through fellowship, music, worship, laughter, mission work and fun. You can truly **see it** - and it is contagious!

Now that they are back home, I encourage you to connect with the NH NYE 2012 Youth Delegates to hear about their experience. Don't forget to ask them about the ["Faith, In" Project](#) and how you can become a part of it.

**Summer Reading Suggestion: Lighthearted look at the UCC**



[The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ](#) Quinn G. Caldwell and Curtis J. Preston, Editors

A lighthearted, humorous look at the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination. The co-authors, two young UCC ministers who are lifelong UCCers, have written this useful resource for all UCCers, but particularly for millennials: confirmation-aged youth and teens. Readers will learn about, appreciate, and be proud of their denomination while not taking themselves too seriously.

Great resource for Confirmation, New Member classes.

**Upcoming Events - September 2012**

Safe Church Policies & Implementation  
 NHAUCE Meeting  
 10:00-11:30 AM September 19, 2012  
 NH Conference Center

Confirmation Roundtable  
 Sponsored by NHAUCE & CCL  
 9:30-11:30 AM September 26, 2012  
 NH Conference Center

Advent Workshop - facilitated by Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi  
 "Follow the Star and not the Stress!"  
 Sponsored by CCL ( look for registration details in the Weekly News during the month of July )  
 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM September 27, 2012  
 NH Conference Center

### The Word of God

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"  
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

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