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Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

December 2012

Editor's Corner

Advent Prayer of Joy

(Dr. Elizabeth L. Windsor,
New England Conference of
the United Methodist Church,
Christian Education Resource
Assistant)

O bouncing baby boy, COME
coo and gurgle with your
young giggles within our
human family.

Bring us now, at long last, the
forgotten joy of
God's presence!
Lighten our heavy loads
so we may cradle you - a
burden that lightens our hearts
with heavenly joy!

"I bring you good tidings of
great joy" Luke 2:10-11

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the
NH Conference Website
Christian Education &
Formation Webpage
[On-line Resource Center](#)

"The Guide"

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

Resource Sharing

Educators tend to be resourceful people by their very nature. Creative solutions arise from seeking resources, sharing resources and adding a personal touch to bring them alive in a local congregation.

This was evident to those of us who attended the November meeting of the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE). As Carol Asher held up samples of puppets, costumes, scenery, and banners, everyone started to imagine how those items could be integrated into their own programs.

The Rev. Carol Asher has pastored churches in MA and NH for 26 years after teaching foreign languages in Providence, RI high school and a 4 1/2 year stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in Brasil. She loves being able to use her imagination, creativity and artistic gifts to create "things" to enhance worship and learning experiences.

Carol has a warehouse full of resources, so don't reinvent the wheel. Contact Carol, clsasher2@aol.com to borrow her resources and engage your congregation in creative ways of connecting with the Word of God.

Carol will be offering a Workshop at Prepared to Serve where you can learn more about the resources she has to share and also get some tips if you are interested in making your own.

Note: if you have resources to share, contact Ann Desrochers to have them added to a Resource Inventory List that is being compiled for publication early next year. Email: adesrochers@nhcucc.org

Grants and Scholarships

Small Budget, Limited Resources? Discover opportunities to bring you 2013 plans to life with some financial assistance from the New Hampshire of the United Church of Christ. To learn more about available funding and

edUCcators epistle

Bi-weekly e-mailing from the UCC's Publishing, Identity, and Communication Ministry Team. To subscribe, contact Aimee Jannsohn at jannsoha@ucc.org

Quick Links

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

Reminder

Next Event is our New Hampshire AUCE meeting
 Wednesday
 January 9, 2012
 10:00 AM
 mini Spiritual Retreat
 celebrating Epiphany

the application process, visit the conference website at:
 at: <http://www.nhcucc.org/Resources/Grants&Scholarships>.

Strengthen the Church (STC) - Youth Ministry Grants

The STC fund was established to grow the United Church of Christ's future by initiatives that promote growth and renewal. All gifts are directed to activities and programs of both the church's local conference as well as the UCC's national ministries.

Given our increased passion for developing and nurturing youth in the New Hampshire Conference, for the next four years (2012-2015) these funds will be directed toward Youth programs/programming.

To date several churches in our conference have received STC grant funds to assist with funding for Mission Trips; for participation in the National Youth Event, and for a visit to Plimoth Plantation as part of a Confirmation Class experience.

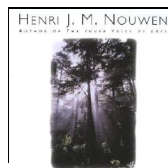
Lay Leadership Development Fund

The Lay Leadership Development Fund is available to help congregations to defray expenses incurred for lay leaders to participate in workshops, seminars, conferences, and other leadership training events. Examples might include events related to Christian education/formation, lay pastoral care, stewardship, music, parish nursing, youth ministries, technology-whether created by or sponsored by a local church.

Lay Leadership Development Funds were used to assist The First Church in Nashua, NH in providing [Our Whole Lives](#) Training. This training helps prepare teachers by developing the comfort, knowledge, and teaching skills necessary for leading the Our Whole Lives sexuality education programs effectively and appropriately.

Recommended Reading

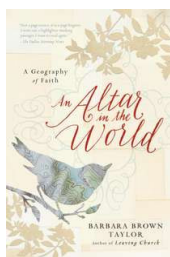
When you need to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, consider curling up in a warm blanket and reading a book to refresh your soul. At the November NHAUCE meeting your peers recommended the following:

**Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life** by Henri J. M. Nouwen

This classic book explores spiritual life in the context of our relationships with self, others and God. If you are so



inspired, Cokesbury offers a [free downloadable discussion guide](#) to share your personal reflections on this reading and transform it into a group book study.



An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith
by Barbara Brown Taylor

From the website www.barbarabrowntaylor.com we read, "in her critically acclaimed memoir Leaving Church, Taylor wrote about leaving parish ministry to become a teacher, a decision that rearranged everything from her wardrobe to her faith. Now in her stunning follow-up, An Altar in the World, she reveals how she learned to encounter the God who does not live in church."

Both books are available from a number of sources including www.amazon.com and www.christianbook.com

Save the Date

- January 9, 2013 NHAUCE Meeting, A mini Epiphany Retreat, lead by Linda Gray
- February 23, 2013 Prepared to Serve
- March 6, 2013 Confirmation Roundtable (Review of the "Making Disciples" Program)
- March 20, 2012 NHAUCE Meeting, Topic: Retreats (Programming and Places)
- May 7-9, 2012 NEAUCE Conference on Cape Cod

For a complete listing of Events (and more details) visit the Christian Education & Formation On-Line Resource Center at the nhucc.org website.

The Word of God

"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,"
1 Timothy 6:18 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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