



Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

March 2014

"For you, O Lord,
are my hope,
my trust, O Lord,
from my youth.
Upon you I have leaned
from my birth;
it was you who took me
from my mother's womb.
My praise is continually
of you."

Psalms 71:5-6
(NRSV)

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Resource Center

Visit the
[NH Conference Website](#)

"The Guide"

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

edUCCators epistle

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Quick Links

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

All God's Children

First there is the expectation, a feeling of anxiety and excitement all rolled into one. Then the baby finally arrives - a precious gift, a blessing from God. In that moment we are reminded of God's love - pure, simple, and unconditional. Therein begins a relationship built on love and acceptance for simply being who you are!

Perspectives on Infant Faith Formation



Infants and toddlers participate in faith formation through experiences. Pause for a moment and consider your church setting. Try to imagine the experience through the eyes of your youngest members. Does your church provide an environment where these little ones can come to know an extravagant welcome through God's people?

The articles referenced below offer some insights to help you prepare an intentional ministry to infants and toddlers.

"In order for young children to see, hear, taste, touch and smell what it means to be part of a Christian community, we must invite them to participate in congregational worship and outreach." says the Rev. Dr. Karen Marie Yust, in her article, [Being a Child, Becoming Christian](#) published in the [Spring 2007 edition of Lifelong Faith](#).

Jeanne Choy Tate affirms that "Long before words give names to faith, it speaks its message in the tender touch of care giving-in the loving glance, in a reassuring response to cries, in the anticipation of daily routine." Read more in the article, [Faith Without Words: On Infant Faith Formation](#),

Joyce Meyers reinforces the concept that faith starts by building relationships grounded in trust and hope. Learn more in her article on [Tips for Baby Spiritual Growth](#).

Looking for a practical guide with basic information on child development, parenting support, how to set up a nursery or toddler program? You might like, [The First Three Years: A Guide for Ministry with Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds](#) by Mary Alice Gran, Editor.

[Learn to Lead - Training on How to Lead Bible Study](#)

AUCE: A membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer educators and youth workers, which provides advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ.

We live in a culture that has become Biblically illiterate, yet there are many people who want to know what the Bible is all about. Churches are floundering for lack of small group leadership in faith formation - the Bible being a cornerstone.

The Massachusetts Bible Society has a proven Bible study system that even those who know little about the Bible can learn to lead. In this six-hour workshop, you will:

- Learn the basics of leading a small group.
- Learn how to use as well as receive a free copy of course #1 in *The Dickinson Series: Exploring the Bible*
- Practice the skills you've learned.
- Receive tips on recruiting your first group.
- Network with others who are learning to lead.
- Discuss ways to overcome the challenges of group formation in small, rural churches.

The [Rev. Anne Robertson](#) will be offering **Learn to Lead** workshops in our area during the month of April. More information on these training events is available by clicking on the links below:

[April 5, 2014 in Center Conway, NH](#)

[April 12, 2014 in Fair Haven, VT](#)

Don't Miss Out on the March 14 Deadline to Apply for Scholarship Funds to Attend NEAUCE 2014

NEAUCE 43rd Annual Conference May 6-8, 2014 - Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Chap Clark

Associate provost for strategic projects and professor and chair of the Youth, Family, and Culture Department in the School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary

Worship Leader: Rev. Mollie Landers

Associate Director of Outdoor Ministries New Hampshire & Maine Conferences, UCC

For registration and more detailed information about the Conference [download the Brochure](#) or visit the [NEAUCE 2014 Event Website](#).

[Click here](#) to apply for scholarship funds to attend NEAUCE.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Christian Education - Hollis

A wonderful opportunity is available at the Congregational Church of Hollis for a Director of Christian Education.

The primary focus of this position is to provide leadership for the ministry of children and adults of the congregation. Our current programs are thriving and we are searching for someone who will help our Christian education programs continue to grow.

[Click here](#) for a detailed job description or visit the Hollis Congregational Church website, www.hollischurch.org, for additional information and directions on how to apply for this position.

You may always visit the [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUC website for regular updates on employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

Events:

NEAUCE 2014

May 6-8, 2014 Craigville Retreat/Conference Center, Cap Code, MA

For more information [download the Brochure](#) or visit the [Event Website](#).

2014 Confirmation Retreat at Horton Center

October 3-4, 2014

Save the date. More information will be coming soon.

The Word of God

"People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them." Mark 10:13-16 (NRSV)

Contact Info

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