



## Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ

March 2015

### Family DNA

Dear God,  
By Your divine selection  
we are born to a family.  
You have allowed us to be  
recipients of extraordinary  
love. You wove the fabric  
of strong moral character  
and values into our DNA.  
Thank you for choosing  
this family for us.  
We do our very best to  
show consideration,  
compassion, and patience  
for one another.  
We have unconditional  
love for each other.  
Thank You for linking our  
family generation to  
generation; ancestors,  
grand-parents, parents,  
children and those who  
have yet to be born.  
Amen

source:  
[www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com)

### Faith Formation at Home

Research shows  
faith that "sticks"  
is formed at home.  
Learn more in the  
article  
[A Resovle to Practice  
Faith at Home.](#)

Not sure how to get  
started doing faith based  
activities at home.  
Jim Burns provides some  
practical suggestions in  
his article "[How to Pass  
Your Faith to Your Kids](#)".

In his article, [Best  
Practices in Family Faith  
Formation](#), John Roberto  
draws upon research  
studies to reinforce just

In the United Church of Christ, we can understand faith formation to be "an engaged process of learning and practice integrated throughout all aspects of congregational and daily life." (source: [http://www.ucc.org/education\\_index](http://www.ucc.org/education_index))

If we truly believe that how our faith is formed goes beyond what we experience in the one hour a week spent in Sunday school or sitting in a church pew listening to a sermon, then we are called, as educators and faith formation leaders, to help our church families practice faith as part of their every day lives. This issue of the newsletter shares resources for encouraging faith practices in the home.

### Resources for Practicing Faith at Home

#### Building Faith

Building Faith is a website (<http://www.buildfaith.org>) providing Christian formation inspiration from the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary. It offers resources for formation ministry with people of all ages.

More importantly, in the context of our focus this month, they provide resources you can share with your church families for activities they can do at home.

Currently the site features ideas for [celebrating Holy Week at Home](#) or [creating an Easter Basket](#) filled with items to help our children better connect the gifts of their faith with the festivities of the day.

#### Flame: Creative Children's Ministry Blogspot

Planning a little further ahead, visit the [Flame: Creative Children's Ministry blogspot](#) for instructions on [creating a Pentecost Story Bag](#). The story bag is a resource intended for use in a Sunday school class and then to be borrowed by parents for use at home. Other Pentecost related activities, on this site, to help get you family talking about the Holy Spirit at home are:

- [Come Holy Spirit: Fizzy Explosion Prayer.](#)
- [Holy Spirit Crayon Melting Craft and Prayer Activity](#)
- [Pentecost Flames Salad Spinner Art and Prayer Ideas](#)
- baking a birthday cake for the church or making biscuits decorated with icing flames

#### Vibrant Faith at Home

The [Vibrant Faith @ Home](#) website is a free resource that supports families who are intentional about their faith and religious practice as they raise the next generation of committed Christians.

Through the site they seek to equip and empower households to:

- **TALK** with each other about their faith
- **PRAY** together in ways that are comfortable and comforting

how important it is that family be a vital part of the process of lifelong faith formation

- **RITUALIZE** their important moments
- **REACH OUT** in service and support of others

Activities on this site reach people in all ages and stages of life and at different places on their faith journey. For example, the [Human Challenge Game](#) is a resource to encourage adults to talk about how God understands everything we face.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**NEAUCE - Registration Deadline Extended until April 15**

## Resource Center

Visit the  
[NH Conference Website](#)

Recently Added or  
Updated Resource Files:

### Events

If you are using a resource that is not mentioned here and would like to share that information, please email Ann Desrochers at: [adesrochers@nhcucc.org](mailto:adesrochers@nhcucc.org)

### "The Guide"

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

**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](mailto:jannsoha@ucc.org)

### Quick Links

The Association of United Church Educators (AUCE) has recently updated their national website and renewed their focus.

Check it out!  
[www.auce-ucc.org](http://www.auce-ucc.org)

## NEAUCE Conference - "From Broken Hearts to Burning Hearts" - May 5-7, 2015

The New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) 44th Annual Conference at the Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod, MA. Over three days you will have an opportunity to enjoy Worship, Fellowship, Music, Workshops, and some time for Fun and Relaxation!

Come hear **Keynote Speaker:** the **Rev. Molly Baskette**, Lead Pastor at First Church Somerville UCC, Massachusetts and author of [Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back From the Dead, and Yours Can, Too](#). Molly is also a blogger. She shares her insights on surviving cancer, motherhood and ministry at [Holy Spirit Portality](#) and about the theological questions kids ask at [What is God For?](#)

**Register by April 15th to avoid a late fee.**

- [On-line Registration](#)
- [Down the Event Brochure to register via mail.](#)

Scholarship funds are available to attend NEAUCE. Contact [Ann Desrochers](#) to apply.

**The revised scholarship application deadline is April 10, 2015, so ACT NOW!**

## Training Opportunities

### "Learn to Lead: Prompting Excellence in Small Group Ministry" - Saturday, April 18, 2015 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Churches know that small groups are key to spiritual formation and vitality in their congregations. Yet many are floundering for lack of small group leadership, especially when it comes to leading Bible studies. Working together, The BTS Center and The Massachusetts Bible Society want to help you change all that.

*Exploring the Bible: The Dickinson Series* is a proven Bible study system that even those who know little about the Bible can learn to lead. This workshop - to be led by Rev. Anne Robertson, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Bible Society - will go beyond just introducing you to that material and help you build the confidence to lead a Bible study group.

AUCE: a membership organization, of and for lay and ordained, paid and volunteer pastors, educators, and youth workers, which has been providing advocacy and support for church education and educators in the United Church of Christ since 1971.

AUCE has a **renewed focus** on providing a continually updated list of continuing education and training opportunities for those passionate about faith forming ministries, as well as resources for local churches.

Download the [Event Brochure](#) for more information or [click here to register](#) for this training to be held at Woodfords Congregational Church 202 Woodford Street, Portland, ME.

**"Blinded by the Light": Responding to Changing Religious Landscapes - Saturday, April 25, 2015**

[The BTS Center](#), the mission successor to Bangor Theological Seminary, will be presenting this program on transformation and change at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT. Join Dr. Pam Shellberg for this workshop designed to support the efforts of faith leaders and faith communities as they seek to live into the challenges and opportunities of 21st-century ministry. [Register Now!](#)

**Employment Opportunities**

The [Classified/Help Wanted Section](#) of the NHCUC website publishes employment opportunities throughout the Conference.

The UCC (National) Ministry Opportunities webpage also publishes employment opportunities in the area of [Christian Education and Formation](#).

**Save the Date:**

**National Youth Event (NYE) 2016 - BELIEVE**  
**Walt Disney World's Coronado Springs Resort**  
 July 26-29, 2016

[Learn More >>](#)

Visit the National Youth Event website:  
<http://nye.uccpages.org/>



**Believe! United Church of Christ National Youth Event (NYE) 2016**

**The Word of God**

"Yet, O Lord, you are our God; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8

**Contact Info**

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