

Brookline Community Church



Educational Ministries

2007-2008

*God invites us to follow the example of Jesus the teacher.
Let all of us support each other as we learn about our faith.
With God's help we will learn and grow.*

Mission Statement for the Board of Christian Education

(According to the Church Constitution
Revised and Adopted May 2003)

In accordance with the Purpose and Covenant of the Church as stated in Article III and Article IV, the Board of Christian Education shall plan and implement a Christian Education program that includes all ages, both new Christians and mature Christians, in their faith journey. The Board shall provide resources, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ that encourage members of the congregation to:

- Worship and learn together;
- Grow in their relationship with God;
- Grow in their relationships with each other;
- Make a connection between church and home;
- And make a connection between faith and everyday life

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Section I: Children's Programming

Classes start on September 16. Children should arrive at church by 10:00 a.m. to participate in the first 15 minutes of the worship service with their family and teachers. The children are dismissed from the church sanctuary to attend classes from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Worship Center Curriculum

The Pre-school/Kindergarten, Beginner (Grades R, 1 & 2) and Primary (Grades 3-4) classes will use *The Worship Center*, a Montessori style curriculum where children participate in a class structured like a worship service encouraging them, through oral storytelling and exploration, to become active participants in discovering the purpose and meaning of faith

Living the Good News Curriculum

The Middler (Grades 5-6) classes will use the lectionary based *Living the Good News* curriculum. The lessons taught in the Sunday school class are based on the same scripture passages used in the worship service. This encourages dialogue between parents, other adults and the children as they have explored the same material in different ways.

Nursery

There is a Nursery Room located in the back of the church on the first floor, left hand side. This room is open to all parents with infants and young children. On Sunday mornings there is a live audio broadcast of the worship service available in this room.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Each summer we offer a week long VBS program at the end of June. The program begins during Sunday morning worship service to include parents and members of the congregation in sharing the experience of discovering God through music, skits, art, games, snack and Bible study.

Section III: Adult Programming

Sunday School

The Youth (Grades 7-12) are encouraged to attend the regular service of worship on communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month). Check the bulletin for announcements regarding which Sundays we will offer Bible study and life application discussions/activities during the regular Sunday school hour, 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Youth may also participate in our Adult Education programs.

Youth Group

This year we will not be meeting with Souhegan Congregational Church (SCC) on a weekly basis. From time to time we will continue to jointly participate in events such as mission trips, community service projects and fun outings. The Brookline Community Church Youth Group will meet approximately twice a month. One meeting will be for fellowship and fun, the other meeting for fellowship while we provide community service. Any youth wanting to be on the e-mail list to receive announcements regarding Youth Group activities please e-mail Joyce Hegarty at joyce@hegartyfamily.net

The big news for Youth Group this year is that we are planning a week long mission trip with SCC to participate in a Group Workcamp in Richwood WV from July 5-13, 2008. Group Workcamp is an organization that does all the planning and organizing for the week long mission trip. Since 1977, Group Workcamps Foundation has provided multi-denominational, short term mission trips helping over a quarter of a million people grow in their relationship with Christ while directly serving people in need. More information about Group can be found at www.groupworkcamps.com.

Confirmation

Confirmation Classes for youth in Grade 10 (or above) are offered every other year. This fall we will complete activities for the confirmation class of 2007. The next class will be offered in January of 2009.

Section III: Adult Programming

Adult Sunday school

A “Bible Basics” course will be offered once a month on a Saturday evening from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the church. Light refreshments will be served. This class will meet at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Saturday of the Month. Input on specific topics to be covered at the first session will be solicited from the congregation. Course participants will select topics for subsequent sessions. (Open to high school age youth & adults)

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study is held every Tuesday evening at the church @ 7:30 p.m. starting on Sep 18; this group will discuss various topics from the New Testament.

“Soup & Scripture”

“Soup & Scripture” is held at the Parsonage on Wednesday mornings beginning September 19 @ 11:30 a.m. The focus of their study will be the New Testament. Study is combined with a light lunch.

Section IV: Intergenerational Worship

On several occasions throughout the year the regular weekly worship service is designated as a time of intergenerational worship sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. There is no Sunday school or Youth class during these services and the entire congregation participates in worship together. These services often engage adults in the role of acolytes; children and youth in the roles of lay reader, ushers, and greeters; and guest speakers delivering an adult message in place of the children’s story and a mini-meditation in place of the sermon. These services may include musical selections by both the adult choir and a children’s choir. Our hope is that involvement in these services will be both a learning and inspirational experience for all ages.

Section V: Learning Environment

Classroom Locations

Adult Education

Saturday Evening Class	Fellowship Hall
Evening Class (weekday)	Church, Third Floor, Classroom
“Soup & Scripture”	Parsonage

Pre-School & Kindergarten

Sunday Morning Classes	First Floor (right) Classroom
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Beginner (Readiness, Grades 1 and 2)

Sunday Morning Class	Third Floor (left) Classroom
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Primary (Grades 3 and 4)

Sunday Morning Classes	Second Floor (right) Classroom
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Middler (Grades 5 and 6)

Sunday Morning Classes	Third Floor (right) Classroom / CE Office
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Youth (Grades 7 – 12)

Sunday Morning Classes	Second Floor (left) Youth Room
Youth Group Activities:	Various

Confirmation

Classroom instruction	Fellowship Hall
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Teaching Staff

Adult Education

Saturday Evening Classes	Lyndon Marble
Weekday Classes (day & evening)	Rev. Dr. David W. Smith

Pre-School & Kindergarten

First Session (Sep/Oct)	Madge Smith
Second Session (Nov/Dec)	Lynne Ouellette
Third Session (Feb/Mar)	Lynne Ouellette
Fourth Session (Apr/May)	OPEN

Beginner (Readiness, Grades 1 and 2)

First Session (Sep/Oct)	Vicki Goodwin
Second Session (Nov/Dec)	Vicki Goodwin
Third Session (Feb/Mar)	Vicki Goodwin
Fourth Session (Apr/May)	Michelle Dowling

Primary (Grades 3 and 4)

First Session (Sep/Oct)	Christina Gialluca
Second Session (Nov/Dec)	Christina Gialluca
Third Session (Feb/Mar)	OPEN
Fourth Session (Apr/May)	Gary Simmerman

Middler (Grades 5 and 6)

First Session (Sep/Oct)	Carolyn Bowers
Second Session (Nov/Dec)	Melanie Levesque
Third Session (Feb/Mar)	Michelle Dowling
Fourth Session (Apr/May)	Lisa Linder

Youth (Grades 7 – 12)

Sunday Morning Classes	Megan King & OPEN
Youth Group Activities:	Joyce Hegarty & OPEN

Substitutes:

<i>The Worship Center</i>	Amy Razzaboni, Colleen Walker
<i>Living the Good News:</i>	Chris Spader, Linda Saari

Registration

It is important that you complete and return student information sheet for each child attending Sunday school. This information is used to ensure we are aware of any special health or safety needs and that you receive communication regarding Sunday school programs and events. These sheets **MUST** be returned by September 30. For those students, not registered by the 30th , parents will be requested to complete the form prior to the child participating in class that day. See Amy Razzaboni to obtain a form.

Attendance

Regular attendance in a religious education program promotes your child's growth as a Christian. We encourage students to attend as frequently as they can. We do, however, understand attending every week is not always possible. We strive to have each weekly lesson, for children, youth and adults, be a self-contained unit so every student may fully participate when they are in attendance.

Offering

There are offering baskets in each classroom. The offering will be handled in a worshipful and sensitive matter. We all have different resources to offer the Lord: our time, our talent and our money. Children are encouraged to make an offering: either by sharing their money or sharing a piece of themselves. In the younger classes the children learn that they may place money in the basket or place their hand on their heart and then offer God their love by moving their hand over the offering basket. In this way everyone is able to participate in the offering.

Bibles

The primary reference Bible used in the Pre-school through Grade 4 classes will be the *DK Family Bible*. This is the same Bible the church presents as a gift to graduating 2nd Graders.

Children in the 3rd/4th Grade class are encouraged to bring their *DK Family Bible* to class with them as a study aide. This class will also use the NIV Student Bible and NRSV Pew Bibles for reference.

The *NIV Student Bible* will be the primary resource used in the classrooms for Grades 5-12. We encourage you to consider purchasing one of these Bibles so your child will have a personal copy they can use both at home and church. The US List Price of these Bibles is \$32.99. The church purchased these Bibles for \$21.77. Contact Ann Desrochers if you would like to buy one for your child at the reduced price.

The church will continue to present Confirmands with a Gift Bible matching our pew Bibles (NRSV).

Dismissal Policy

Sunday school classes will end at 11:15 a.m. At the conclusion of the class a parent (older sibling or designated guardian) **MUST** come to the classroom to pick up their preschool and beginner aged child.

All other children (Primary, Middler and Youth classes) will be dismissed by the teacher and children are free to leave the classroom when Sunday school has concluded. Once the children are dismissed parents are responsible for the behavior and well-being of their child(ren).

If a child is new to the program or not familiar with the church facilities we recommend you visit the classroom, meet the teacher and review your personal expectations for your child upon dismissal. It is a good idea to tell the child where to meet you following class (Fellowship Hall, outside the classroom of a sibling...).

Safe Church Policies

We take our responsibility seriously when it comes to ensuring that the Church is a safe and supportive place for worship, Christian growth and fellowship. The following policies have been developed and adopted to do all the Church reasonably can to protect the health and safety of the children who attend the church as well as the adults who volunteer to care for and lead them. It is also intended to minimize and limit the Church's legal exposure.

- At least two adults must be present during any activity involving children. If this requirement is not met, the activity will be canceled. To implement this requirement, teachers/leaders often solicit the help of a parent volunteer
- Requiring all adults involved in Educational Ministries to sign a Youth Protection Policy form
- Replacing all solid classroom doors, as finances permit, with classroom doors containing a glass (see through) window
- Requiring Sunday School Registration (with student health information); Signed Permission Slips, Consent for Treatment and Liability Waivers for participation in Christian education activities that involve inherent risk, such as transportation to an off-site location, camp type activities, large group activities and outdoor activities.

These policies intend to balance the need for reasonable precautions intended to minimize risks with the need for trust, spontaneity and the exercise of good judgment.

Youth Protection Policy

The Brookline Community Church is committed to creating a safe and healthy environment in which young people can learn about and experience God's love. In order to ensure this, the Brookline Community Church will exercise their rights, in accordance with Megan's Law, to gain public access to information regarding Registered Sex Offenders. On a quarterly basis (September, December, March and June), the Board will verify that the names of all persons working with minors in the church are not included on the Registered Sex Offenders list. Furthermore, it is the policy of the church to provide adequate supervision for all youth activities.

All persons engaged in the educational ministry of The Brookline Community Church (including elected or appointed leaders, employees, volunteers, and authorized ministers) are responsible for knowing the possible impact of their words and actions in ministering to the emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of persons who come to them for help or over whom they have any kind of authority. Specifically, all persons associated with The Brookline Community Church should be aware that the church is strongly opposed to sexual exploitation and harassment and that such behavior is unethical and unprofessional and will not be tolerated within this congregation.

A complete explanation of terms and church policies on misconduct is in Article IX of the Constitution, Revised and Adopted May 2003.

I, _____, fully understand that
(Print full name)

it is the intention and responsibility of the church to take whatever action may be necessary to prevent, correct and/or address behavior that is in violation of the Youth Protection policy.

I hereby release The Church of Christ and/or its agents from all liability arising from such action when executed in good faith and without malice.

(Signature)
(Date)

Board of Christian Education Discipline Policy

The word discipline and disciple come from the same Latin word, *discere*, which means “to learn”. We encourage our Sunday school teachers to create a learning environment that is informal, flexible, cooperative, relaxed and friendly, based on warmth, understanding and love. Teachers and students have rights and need to be treated with respect. This includes the right of each class member to be free to teach and learn without disruption. In addressing disruptive behavior, we will identify the *action* that is unacceptable and reinforce the desired positive behavior. (Inside the church we walk, we listen when others are speaking, we wait our turn so everyone can participate).

Each class member will be given two verbal warnings that an action/behavior is unacceptable. If possible the verbal warning will be given in private so as not to embarrass the child. On the third warning, the behavior will again be identified but the child will be escorted out of the classroom. The child will continue their learning experience in the church sanctuary by participating in the remainder of the worship service with a designated adult. This policy will be presented to each class via a simple poster stating “Three Strikes You’re Out”.



1. **Sunday School Teacher Identifies Disruptive Action and Reminds You of Appropriate Classroom Behavior.**
2. **Sunday School Teacher Identifies Disruptive Action and Reminds You of Appropriate Classroom Behavior.**
3. **Sunday School Teacher Identifies Disruptive Action and Reminds You of Appropriate Classroom Behavior. You Leave the Sunday School Classroom and join your parents in the worship service.**

Three (3) Strikes You’re Out.

Section VI: Calendar

Sunday School Calendar 2007-2008

2007

September 16	Teacher Dedication / Sunday School Begins	
September 23	Sunday School / Confirmation	
September 30	Sunday School	
October 07	Sunday School / Communion* / Columbus Day	
October 14	Sunday School	
October 21	Sunday School	
October 28	Sunday School	
November 04	Sunday School / Communion*	Start 2 nd Teaching Unit
November 11	Sunday School	Veterans Day Weekend
November 18	Sunday School	
November 25	Intergenerational Worship	Thanksgiving Weekend
December 02	Sunday School / Communion*	
December 09	Sunday School	
December 16	Sunday School	
December 16	Christmas Pageant	5:00 P.M.
December 23	Intergenerational Worship	Christmas Weekend
December 30	Intergenerational Worship	New Year's Eve

2008

January 06	Intergenerational Learning Unit	Communion*
January 13	Intergenerational Learning Unit	
January 20	Intergenerational Learning Unit	Martin Luther King
January 27	Intergenerational Learning Unit	
February 03	Intergenerational / Communion*	Boy Scout Sunday
February 10	Sunday School	Start 3 rd Teaching Unit
February 17	Sunday School	
February 24	Intergenerational Worship	School Vacation Begins

Sunday School Calendar (Continued)

2008

March 02	Sunday School / Communion*	
March 09	Sunday School	Girl Scout Sunday
March 16	Sunday School	Palm Sunday
March 23	Intergenerational Worship	Easter
March 30	Sunday School	Start 4 th Teaching Unit
April 06	Sunday School / Communion*	
April 13	Sunday School	
April 20	Sunday School	
April 27	Intergenerational Worship	School Vacation Begins
May 04	Sunday School / Communion*	Start EOY Activities
May 11	Sunday School	Mother's Day
May 18	Intergenerational Worship	End of Year Program
May 25	Intergenerational Worship	Memorial Day Weekend
June 29	VBS*	Starts during Sunday Worship Service

(Note: Last Day of School is scheduled for June 23 with 5 snow days.
VBS could move up a week, if we have less snow days)

*On Communion Sundays the Youth (Grades 7-12) are encouraged to participate in the regular service of worship

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Board of Christian Education
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

<i>Administrator</i>	<i>Amy Razzaboni</i>
<i>Librarian</i>	<i>Howard Clements</i>
<i>Intergenerational Worship</i>	<i>Linda Saari</i>
<i>Cradle Roll</i>	<i>Christine Clements</i>
<i>Member at Large</i>	<i>David Hoffman</i>
<i>Adult Area Coordinator</i>	<i>Lyndon Marble</i>
<i>Children's Area Coordinator</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Youth Area Coordinator</i>	<i>Joyce Hegarty</i>
<i>Vacation Bible School Director</i>	<i>Lynne Ouellette</i>
<i>Minister</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. David W. Smith</i>
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	<i>Ann Desrochers</i>

February 1, 2008