

Brookline Community Church



Educational Ministries

2009-2010

*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.*

www.bccrk.org

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

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	
Board of Christian Education	i
Section I: Resources for Infants	
Cradle Roll	1
Nursery	1
Section II: Children’s Programming	
Worship Center Curriculum	2
The Best of Whole People of God Online Curriculum	2
Vacation Bible School	2
Section III: Youth Programming	
Sunday School	3
Youth Group	3
Confirmation	3
Section IV: Adult Programming	
Bible Study	4
“Soup & Scripture”	4
Section V: Intergenerational Resources	
Intergenerational Worship	5
Church Library	5
Section VI: Learning Environment	
Classroom Locations	6
Teaching Staff	7
Registration	8
Attendance	8
Offering	8
Bibles	9
Dismissal Policy	9
Safe Church	10
Youth Protection Policy	11
Discipline Policy	12
Section VII: Calendar	
Sunday School Calendar 2009-2010	13

Section I: Resources for Infants

Cradle Roll

Our church family wants to share in the excitement of the birth and Christian nurture of your new baby through our Cradle Roll program. Participation in the program begins when you contact the church to notify us of the birth of your baby and your plans for the child's baptism.

Our Cradle Roll coordinator will maintain a record of the birth and baptism date, as well as information on the child's parents and sponsors/godparents. Following the baptism parents will start receiving periodic mailings with materials and resources to assist them as they nurture their newborns through age three.

The Cradle Roll materials help educate parents regarding normal growth and development of babies and toddlers, provide great ideas regarding age-appropriate activities to do with little ones, and most importantly share how parents can provide a God centered home for their families.

On the child's third birthday, they will receive a special certificate to commemorate their "graduation" from the program. Subsequently, Cradle Roll "graduates" will receive information on Sunday school with an invitation to register for the pre-school class.

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.

Section II: Children's Programming

Classes start on September 20. 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 and Beginner (Grades R, 1 & 2) 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.

The Best of Whole People of God Online

The Primary (Grades 3 & 4) and Middler (Grades 5 & 6) classes will use the lectionary based *The Best of Whole People of God Online* 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.

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: Youth Programming

Sunday School

At the current time youth in grades 7-12 are encouraged to attend the regular service of worship on Sundays mornings. Check the bulletin for announcements regarding any special occasions during which we will offer Bible study and life application discussions/activities for this age group. These youth may participate in our Adult Education programs.

Youth Group

The **Youth Area** promotes Christian formation with activities based on faith, fun, and fellowship. This year we will continue to concentrate on integrating the Middle School age students into the youth fellowship with a focus on community service and through discussions on how we apply our faith to current issues. Older youth are encouraged to share their experience and serve as mentors. The Youth Group meetings are held on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the church. As other events are scheduled they will be published in the church bulletin as well as on the church website. Any youth or families wanting additional information may contact Vicki Goodwin at vlgdwin@gmail.com.

Confirmation

As children grow in this faith and reach their early teenage years, the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church present these teens with an opportunity to reaffirm their baptismal vows through the process of Confirmation.

Our congregation offers a Confirmation Program for youth in Grade 10 (or above) every other year. The next program will be offered in January of 2010. The program is dependent upon a mentoring system and includes a series of meetings, retreats, educational and community service experiences to help these teenagers grow in their understanding of the responsibilities of being a person of faith and living a Christian life.

Section IV: Adult Programming

All adult program offerings are open to high school age youth and adults. In the fall of 2009 two Adult Bible Study sessions are being proposed. One study will draw upon material called "The Organic God". We all know the term God, but what we know about God is often very little. "The Organic God" sessions will present some films on how the author came to know more about God. The discussion material will refer to scripture passages that help in understanding who God is and how this relates to our everyday lives. The second bible study is centered on the book "The Shack", which is about a man who suffers a great family tragedy. The book presents a theological perspective addressing the question of why did this happen and why did it happen to me.

Adult Bible Study

In the past, our Adult Bible study has been offered in two formats. One format was a more traditional **evening** Adult Bible Study session held at the church. The other format was referred to as "**Soup & Scripture**". That session was held at the Parsonage mid-day and combined the study session with a light lunch.

The exact dates, times and format for this fall will be determined by those individuals expressing an interest in participating in our Adult programs. Visit the church website for current information as it becomes available.

Section V: Intergenerational Resources

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.

Church Library

Located in Fellowship Hall, the Church Library maintains a collection of Bibles, books, tapes, music, and videos for all ages. You will find a diverse group of resources for church leaders, devotional literature for spiritual growth, books of encouragement for those who are ill, or grieving, or poor in spirit. This collection includes novels, fiction, humor, music, biographies, poetry and so much more. All materials available for circulation are recorded in a small card catalog with detailed instructions on borrowing.

The library has recently been updated and reorganized, so please take a few minutes to browse around....you might find some items of interest to "check-out"!

Section VI: Learning Environment

Classroom Locations

Adult Education

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

Pre-School & Kindergarten

Sunday Morning Classes First Floor (right) Classroom

Beginner (Readiness, Grades 1 and 2)

Sunday Morning Class Third Floor (left) Classroom

Primary (Grades 3 and 4)

Sunday Morning Classes Second Floor (right) Classroom

Middler (Grades 5 and 6)

Sunday Morning Classes Third Floor (right)
Classroom / CE Office

Youth (Grades 7 – 12)

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

Confirmation

Classroom instruction Fellowship Hall

Teaching Staff

Adult Education

Weekday Classes (day & evening) Rev. Dr. David W. Smith

Pre-School & Kindergarten

First Session (Sep/Oct) Madge Smith, Maria Hubert
Second Session (Nov/Dec) Colleen Walker
Third Session (Feb/Mar) Lynne Ouellette
Fourth Session (Apr/May) **OPEN**

Beginner (Readiness, Grades 1 and 2)

First Session (Sep/Oct) Jen Coutu
Second Session (Nov/Dec) **OPEN**
Third Session (Feb/Mar) **OPEN**
Fourth Session (Apr/May) **OPEN**

Primary (Grades 3 and 4)

First Session (Sep/Oct) Carolyn Bowers
Second Session (Nov/Dec) Michelle Dowling
Third Session (Feb/Mar) **OPEN**
Fourth Session (Apr/May) **OPEN**

Middler (Grades 5 and 6)

First Session (Sep/Oct) Sanjay & Carol Cherian
Second Session (Nov/Dec) Brian Smith
Third Session (Feb/Mar) Lisa Linder
Fourth Session (Apr/May) Gary Simmerman

Youth (Grades 7 – 12)

Sunday Morning Classes **OPEN**
Youth Group Activities: Vicki Goodwin

Substitutes:

The Worship Center Christina Gialluca, Amy Razzaboni
The Best of Whole People of God Linda Saari

Registration

It is important that you complete and return a 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 completed prior to a child participating in Sunday School. For additional information or to obtain a copy of the form contact the Christian Education Administrator, Amy Razzaboni (email: arazz3914@charter.net).

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 attend.

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 their teacher and 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
- All adults involved in Educational Ministries are required to sign a Youth Protection Policy form
- All classroom doors now have a glass (see through) window installed that allows for observation at any time.
- Sunday School Registration (with student health information); Signed Permission Slips, Consent for Treatment and Liability Waivers are required 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. Classroom Assistant Identifies Disruptive Action and Reminds You of Appropriate Classroom Behavior.
2. Classroom Assistant Identifies Disruptive Action and Reminds You of Appropriate Classroom Behavior.
3. Classroom Assistant 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 VII: Calendar

Sunday School Calendar 2009-2010

2009

September 20	Teacher Dedication / Sunday School Begins
September 27	Sunday School
October 04	Sunday School / Communion
October 11	Sunday School / Columbus Day Weekend
October 18	Sunday School
October 25	Sunday School
November 01	Sunday School / Communion / Start 2 nd Teaching Unit
November 08	Sunday School
November 15	Sunday School
November 22	Sunday School
November 29	Intergenerational Worship / Thanksgiving Weekend
December 06	Sunday School / Communion
December 13	Sunday School
December 13	Christmas Pageant 5:00 P.M.
December 20	Intergenerational Worship / Christmas Week
December 27	Intergenerational Worship

2010

January 03	Family Worship / Communion
January 10	Family Worship / Music Workshop
January 17	Family Worship / Martin Luther King Holiday
January 24	Family Worship / Library Workshop
January 31	Family Worship / Interfaith Workshop
February 07	Intergenerational / Boy Scout Sunday / Communion
February 14	Sunday School / Start 3 rd Teaching Unit
February 21	Intergenerational Worship / School Vacation Begins
February 28	Sunday School

Sunday School Calendar (Continued)

2010

March 07	Sunday School / Communion / Girl Scout Sunday
March 14	Sunday School
March 21	Sunday School
March 28	Sunday School / Palm Sunday
April 04	Easter Worship Service
April 11	Sunday School / Start 4 th Teaching Unit
April 18	Sunday School
April 25	Intergenerational Worship / School Vacation Begins
May 02	Sunday School / Communion* / Start EOY Activities
May 09	Sunday School / Mother's Day
May 16	Sunday School / UCC Annual Conference Weekend
May 23	"End of Year" Program
May 30	Memorial Day Weekend
June 27	VBS** Starts during Sunday Worship Service

(**Note: Last Day of school is scheduled for June 22 for elementary school age children and June 23 for the Coop schools - with 5 snow days.)

Brookline Community Church
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Brookline, New Hampshire 03033

Church: 603-673-7511
Parsonage: 603-673-3073

Website: <http://www.bccnh.org/>

CE Director
Phone: 603-672-3937
Email: adesroch@charter.net

Board of Christian Education
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

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

September 10, 2009