

Brookline Community Church



Educational Ministries

2011-2012

*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.bccnh.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:

Embrace diversities of faith and life;
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: 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.

Following the child's third birthday, 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. For additional information on the church nursery please contact the Board of Deacons.

Section II: Children's Programming

Classes start on September 18th. 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 1, 2 & 3) 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 Middler (Grades 4, 5 & 6) class 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 also 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 focus on community service and to use our Bible study discussions to come to a better understanding of the scripture and how we apply our faith to current issues.

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). 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 past the Adult Area has provided several opportunities for religious study. These opportunities have included a traditional Bible Study, contemporary book studies, and discussion groups exploring how our faith is impacted by current issues/economic status/major life changing events (divorce/death/job loss). Sessions have been held at the church, in church members' homes or at the Parsonage as part of our "Soup & Scripture" series, a mid-day event that combined the study session with a light lunch.

The exact dates, times and format for this fall will be determined by input from those individuals expressing an interest in participating in our Adult programs. Please contact Rev. Renee Rouse at 603-463-5987 or pastoratbccnh@charter.net and let her know if you are interested in educational opportunities for adults. Final plans for the type of study, day of the week, time of day and location will be communicated via the website and in the church bulletin.

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 are no Sunday School classes 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

Dates/Times/Topic will be determined based on input from the congregation.

Pre-School & Kindergarten

Sunday Morning Classes

First Floor (right) Classroom

Beginner (Grades 1, 2 and 3)

Sunday Morning Class

Third Floor (left) Classroom

Middler (Grades 4, 5 and 6)

Sunday Morning Classes

Third Floor (right) Classroom / CE Office

Youth (Grades 7 – 12)

Sunday Morning Classes

Second Floor (right) Youth Room

Youth Group Activities:

Various

Confirmation

Classroom instruction

Fellowship Hall

Teaching Sunday School

We have been blessed with a wonderful group of individuals who will share their time and talents as teachers; however, we are still in need of some more help.

We need both teachers and parent helpers. One Sunday or a complete year, the option is yours.

We have some experienced teachers who have volunteered, but we would like all members of the congregation to pray on the idea of the option of either teaching or assisting.

Our hope is that our interest in the love of our Lord will be shared with our children.

To do this we need our congregation to help with our Sunday School.

Our Sunday School Superintendant will provide all the materials required.

Teachers will bring with them their love of Jesus Christ and teach with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Give it a try

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 3 classes is the *DK Family Bible*. This is the Bible the church presents as a gift to the 2nd Graders.

The *NIV Student Bible* will be the primary resource used in the classrooms for Grades 4-12. 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 Amy Razzaboni 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 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 complete a Volunteer Application and Disclosure form. These forms will be updated on an annual basis with a new form required every five years.
- As part of the application process, the church will verify that each adult has a background check on file in the local community. If this is not the case, the church will conduct a National Criminal Background check. More in-depth checks will be performed as warranted.
- All classroom doors have a glass (see through) window installed that allows for observation at any time.
- Sunday School Registration is required (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 were created to balance the need for reasonable precautions intended to minimize risks with the need for trust, spontaneity and the exercise of good judgment.

Safe Church Policy (continued)

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

A copy of the Volunteer Application and Disclosure Form, the procedures for processing the form and the process for handling any complaints are in the Church Constitution Appendix as approved and adopted in June 2010. A copy of this document is available on the church website or can be obtained through the church secretary or church moderator.

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.

Last Update: Sep 2008

Section VII: Calendar

Sunday School Calendar 2011 - 2012

2011

September 18	Rally Day / Sunday School Begins
September 24	Sunday School lesson in Communion
September 25	Sunday School / Music Sunday
October 02	Sunday School / Communion
October 09	Sunday School / Columbus Day Weekend
October 16	Sunday School / Heifer Project
October 23	Sunday School / Music Sunday / Teacher's Meeting
October 30	Sunday School / Start 2 nd Teaching Unit
November 06	Sunday School / Communion
November 13	Sunday School / Music Sunday
November 20	Sunday School / Music Sunday
November 27	Intergenerational Worship / Thanksgiving Weekend
December 04	Sunday School / Communion
December 11	Sunday School/ Music Sunday /Teacher's Meeting December 18 Intergenerational Worship / Christmas Pageant Followed by Carol Sing during Coffee Hour
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Intergenerational Worship

2012

January 01	Sunday School / Communion / Start 3 rd Teaching Unit
January 08	Sunday School
January 15	Sunday School / Martin Luther King Holiday
January 22	Sunday School / Music Sunday
January 29	Sunday School
February 05	Intergenerational / Boy Scout Sunday / Communion
February 12	Sunday School / Teacher's Meeting
February 19	Sunday School / Start 4 th Teaching Unit/ Music Sunday
February 26	Intergenerational Worship / School Vacation Begins

Sunday School Calendar (Continued)

2012

March 04	Sunday School / Communion / Girl Scout Sunday
March 11	Sunday School / Lent
March 18	Sunday School / Music Sunday
March 25	Sunday School / Music Sunday / Teacher's Meeting
April 01	Sunday School / Palm Sunday / Start 5 th Teaching Unit
April 08	Easter Sunday
April 15	Sunday School
April 22	Sunday School / Music Sunday / Start of EOY Activities
April 29	Intergenerational Worship / School Vacation Begins
May 06	Sunday School / Communion
May 13	Sunday School / Mother's Day / Music Sunday
May 20	*End of Year* Program
May 27	Memorial Day Weekend
June 24	VBS** Starts during Sunday Worship Service

(**Note: Last Day of school is scheduled for June 22 with 5 snow days).

Brookline Community Church
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Website: <http://www.bccnh.org>

Sunday School Superintendent
Phone: 603-595-0541
Email: ellisjs1@charter.net

Board of Christian Education
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Administrator
Librarian
Intergenerational Worship
Cradle Roll
Member at Large
Adult Area Coordinator
Youth Area Coordinator
Vacation Bible School Director
Youth Member (s)
Minister
Sunday School Superintendent

Amy Razzaboni
Howard Clements
Open
Lisa and Dottie Haight
David Hoffman
Rev. Renee Rouse
Vicki Goodwin
Jen Coutu
Open
Rev. Renee Rouse
Sheryl Ellis

September 12, 2011