



**CHRIST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH**

**UNITED CHURCH OF  
CHRIST**

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Dr. Sue Wilson

*Church Administrator*

Dianne Abraham

*Executive Assistant*

Leonor Rivera

*Coordinator for*

*Camping Ministry*

Stephanie Helsing

*Administrator for*

*Youth Ministry*

Kristen Brown

*Minister Emeritus*

The Rev. James A. Todhunter

September 2, 2011

Dear CCC Members and Friends,

As we approach the end the summer Church School program, I want to acknowledge the contributions of our teachers who volunteered their time this summer and to let you know about our fall Church School program.

In early spring of 2011, the Church School Working Group took time to review the feedback we had received regarding summer Church School in past years. In an effort to provide continuity in our Christian Education Program for children, we were pleased to offer a full summer season of curriculum-based spiritual enrichment. Dedicated volunteer teachers used the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum which we will continue to use for the 2011-2012 church school year. We hope you and your children have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the Church School programming this summer. Special thanks go to Carolyn Hoskinson for her creative energy on our Communion Sunday activities for children this summer.

*Seasons of the Spirit* is a developmentally appropriate, lectionary-based curriculum that explores the same themes and scriptures as Sunday morning worship. Our teaching teams prepare activities, crafts, games and stories to engage and excite our children as they learn and grow in faith.

So, what does Church School look like for fall? In addition to weekly nursery care for infants and toddlers, we offer 6 classes for our children and youth (ages 3 through 8th grade) during the academic year.

Lambs (Preschool 3-, 4-, and 5-year olds)	Room 006
Kindergarten and First Grade	Room 107
Second Grade	Room 009
Third Grade	Room 208
Fourth Grade and Fifth Grade	Conference Room
Middle School (grades 6-8)	Room 206

All children over age 2 start in worship with their families and leave for Church School following Children's Time. The Lambs class uses stories and activities from the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum, and, like the Nursery, meets every week.

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Classes for school-aged children and youth meet three Sundays per month (or four in five-Sunday months). On the first Sunday of the month, the students in Kindergarten through 5th grade gather together in the Social Hall after Children's Time to explore the sacrament of Holy Communion through lessons and activities. They rejoin their families in the sanctuary for Communion.

For all of the curriculum-based classes, we recruit three teachers per class to teach a unit (fall, winter or spring). Each unit is 9 to 12 weeks. Each week, two teachers will teach while one is off. This means each teacher teaches twice a month for three months, for a total of six times. This teaching team model offers more consistency for the children while not increasing the number of Sundays any given teacher teaches. Teachers are welcomed and encouraged to make a bold commitment and teach multiple units. Consistency in the teaching teams across the units will help enhance community and foster relationships with our children and youth. ***Please contact me if you are you able to commit to teach six or more Sundays during the year?***

*Seasons of the Spirit* offers theological and spiritual depth for teachers and helps them answer the challenging questions our children ask. However, sorting through all this material on your own can feel overwhelming. To facilitate the teaching process, we will offer training for teachers 1-2 times per year. In addition, I will offer a brown bag trouble shooting session following worship on the last Sunday of each month where teachers can discuss issues that arise during the course of the lessons.

We are asking CCCs members and friends to make a commitment to support this program and the CE Board is committed to offering the support needed to make it a success. We believe that the time required for this program will be returned many fold in the teacher's own spiritual growth and the spiritual development of our children.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to staff the nursery at both the 9AM and 10:30AM Worship services ***so please contact me if you can serve for one Sunday a month and spend some time with the littlest among us.***

The CE Board is excited about this year's vision for Church school, and we hope you will consider joining us on this journey. Please contact me if you are ready to share the gift of your time with the children of CCC.

Blessings and peace,

Sue Wilson  
Interim Coordinator for Children's Christian Education

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