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Christian Education & Formation Newsletter

New Hampshire Conference - United Church of Christ November 2012

Editor’s Corner

Thanksgiving Poems
By Ralph Waldo Emerson

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

Celebrate the Christian New Year

The Revised Common Lectionary - Year C starts December 2, 2012

Does your church follow the Revised Common Lectionary? If so, why not consider having a party to celebrate the beginning of Year C on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2012. Ideas for this type of celebration can be found at: www.thechristiancalendar.com

Featured Lectionary Resources:

- Are you asking, "What is the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)?" The Consultation on Common Texts provides a good primer on their website: http://www.commontexts.org/rcl/index.html
- A Lectionary Blueprint was originally intended for use with The Inviting Word curriculum, however, it is easily adapted to serve as a workshop introducing the Seasons of the Christian Year.
- Liturgical Colors and the seasons of the church year is an overview on the use of colors associated with each of the church seasons.
- Weekly Seeds, is a free lectionary-based Bible-study tool for adults. It includes the scripture reading, a brief meditation, and reflections from ancient or contemporary sources. There is also an online discussion forum and blog to supplement this resource.
- Lectionary-based curricula (for multiple age groups): Seasons of the Spirit and The Best of Whole People of God Online

NEAUCE Update - 42nd Annual Conference

VIBRANT COLORS OF FAITH
The New England Association of United Church Educators (NEAUCE) Planning Team met on Friday, October 26 to continue their work in preparation for the conference next spring. Mark May 7-9, 2013 on your calendar and plan to head to beautiful Cape Cod for a time of Worship, Music, Workshops, Fellowship, Friends and Fun.

Join Our Mailing List!

Resource Center

Visit the NH Conference Website Christian Education & Formation Webpage On-line Resource Center

Based on input from the Insurance Board, the section of the On-Line Resource Center dealing with safety issues has been renamed Safe Conduct. The UCC is now officially using the term “Safe Conduct” because the terms Safe Church, Safe Sanctuary, and Safe Ministry have been trademarked by others. The Safe Conduct file has also been updated to include some information on Social Media.

"The Guide"
Called To Educational and Formational Ministries: A Guide for Local Churches, Educators, and Youth Workers

edUCators epistle
Bi-weekly e-mailing from the...
**Keynote Speaker: John Roberto**

John Roberto is president of *LifelongFaith Associates*, editor of the journal *Lifelong Faith*, and coordinator for the *Faith Formation 2020 Initiative*. John also works on the Vibrant Faith Ministries team as project coordinator of the *Faith Formation Learning Exchange*.

His latest publications include Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith, The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry (co-authored), Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life, Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners, and four volumes of intergenerational learning programs in the People of Faith series.

**Music-Worship Leader: Rev. Adele Crawford**

Adele comes to ministry after a 15 year career as a professional singer. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she is a Yale Divinity School graduate who also graduated magna cum laude with a master's degree in music from the University of Michigan.

She has traveled the world, performing at churches, Carnegie Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera. She currently serves as Pastor of Valley Presbyterian Church, Brookfield CT, and has previously served as an interim Christian education director, an acting associate minister and as Interim Dean of Chapel at Yale Divinity School.

**UCC National Guest: Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi**

Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, minister for Christian Faith Formation Research on the UCC Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, has spent the past 15 months heading up the effort to assess faith formation and UCC educational life; discover best practices; and plan the course for the future.

Both an Executive Summary and a complete report of her findings are available on the *ucc.org* website.

**Resource Spotlight: Faith Formation for Students with Disabilities**

*Rhythms of Grace* is an innovative program resource designed to meet the spiritual needs of children and families living with autism-spectrum disorders. The curriculum was developed by the co-founders of an organization bearing the same name. The whole Rhythms of Grace curriculum consists of a 3-year syllabus of distinct scripture-based session plans and the background and support material needed to establish and conduct a successful program

To learn more about the non-profit organization and/or to order materials, visit [http://rhythms-of-grace.org](http://rhythms-of-grace.org)

*A Special Grace* is a ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, currently based at Church of the Epiphany in Walpole, MA. They offer Sensory-Friendly worship and advocacy for families on the Autism Spectrum. Their website, [http://www.aspecialgrace.com](http://www.aspecialgrace.com), provides a wealth of information and free downloadable materials.

**Events - November 2012**

- **Mini Resource Fair:** December 5, 2012
- **NHAUCE Meeting:** December 14, 2012

**Save the Date**

- **Confirmation Roundtable:** December 5, 2012
- **NHAUCE Advent "Retreat":** December 14, 2012
The Word of God
"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."