Relax and Renew

I hope your summer schedule is allowing you some time for relaxation and renewal. Summer is a wonderful time to find a new rhythm. A new rhythm that allows you to enjoy life at a slower pace where you can pause for a moment to appreciate the longer daylight hours, the sound of the chirping birds, the warmth of the sunshine, the smell of freshly cut grass, and the beauty in the vibrant colors of the day-lilies. As your senses become aware of all that God’s creation has to offer, let the experience fill your mind, body and soul.

As you pause, take time to reflect on your personal faith journey, reminding yourself that Christian Formation is a lifelong process of growing in relationship with God, self and others. Does your summer time rhythm include time for yourself? time shared with others? quiet time with God? If not, consider renewing your relationships. I think you will find it is a gift that brings a special blessing upon your day.

If you need help getting started in renewing your relationship with God, I recommend adding or recommitting to a daily devotional as part of your routine. Here are a few of my favorites:

- **Still Speaking Daily Devotional**
  (sign up to have it delivered by e-mail every morning)
- **Our Daily Bread**
  (a scripture selection and brief devotional thoughts provide an avenue for connecting with God even on the busiest days.)
- **Guidepost**
  (true stories of hope, faith, personal growth and positive thinking, plus inspiring quotes, daily devotionals and prayers)

Faith Formation Curator

We live in a world where technology makes it possible to be “plugged-in” 24/7/365 giving us immediate access to an overwhelming amount of information. There is plenty of data available on any given topic, the challenge is trying to make sense of it all. We face this challenge in our ministry as we search for resources that will be most effective in our specific congregation.

John Roberto, a leader in today’s church, has a vision for the future of Faith Formation that suggests faith leaders need to become content curators. In his article “Becoming a Faith Formation Curator” he defines this role as “someone who continually finds, groups, organizes, and shares the best and most relevant content on a specific subject to match the needs of a specific audience”.

This idea resonates with me and it is a role I hope to grown into.
I have started to plant some seeds. The first seeds are "topic files" that I am sharing via the conference website. They are the result of breaking the existing resource list into smaller "bite size" pieces. Each topic file will include a brief description of resources that are current, compatible with our denominational theology, and have been effectively utilized by churches in our conference.

This idea of sharing resources, with a personal connection to Christian Educators in our conference, grew from the Confirmation Roundtable discussions. My goal is to present materials and facilitate connections that will help you make informed decisions about selecting the best resources for use in your ministry.

Topic files will be added and updated as I learn more and as you share your favorite resources with me.

Summer Happenings: NYE 2012 Update

Did you ever wonder what Christian Formation looks like? I never really thought about it, until I watched the featured videos from NYE 2012. There is a special radiance that surrounds these youth as they come to know and share God's love through fellowship, music, worship, laughter, mission work and fun. You can truly see it - and it is contagious!

Now that they are back home, I encourage you to connect with the NH NYE 2012 Youth Delegates to hear about their experience. Don't forget to ask them about the "Faith, In" Project and how you can become a part of it.

Summer Reading Suggestion: Lighthearted look at the UCC

The Unofficial Handbook of the United Church of Christ Quinn G. Caldwell and Curtis J. Preston, Editors

A lighthearted, humorous look at the United Church of Christ (UCC) denomination. The co-authors, two young UCC ministers who are lifelong UCCErs, have written this useful resource for all UCCErs, but particularly for millennials: confirmation-aged youth and teens. Readers will learn about, appreciate, and be proud of their denomination while not taking themselves too seriously.

Great resource for Confirmation, New Member classes.

Upcoming Events - September 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe Church Policies &amp; Implementation</td>
<td>September 19, 2012</td>
<td>10:00-11:30 AM</td>
<td>NH Conference Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHAUCE Meeting</td>
<td>September 26, 2012</td>
<td>9:30-11:30 AM</td>
<td>NH Conference Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advent Workshop</td>
<td>September 27, 2012</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>NH Conference Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Word of God
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)