Editor's Corner

A Youth Prayer
(from Celebrate Youth)

We offer to you, loving God, our gifts and needs as young disciples. Bless us with your guiding grace as we face the challenges and opportunities in our lives. Touch our hearts with the gentleness of your love, that we may know we are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to our lives, that we may believe in ourselves and know how we are needed in this world. Grace us with the gift of joy that we may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike. Guide us, as we continue to grow in our appreciation of the many gifts you have given us, in the ministry opportunities available to us, in the journey of faith we walk together, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Opportunities for Youth to Explore and Develop their Faith

Do you know youth who are passionate about their faith and have the potential for leadership and service in the church and in the world? There are several summer programs for high school aged youth that afford them an opportunity to explore and develop their own faith through theological study, mission, and youth gatherings.

Check out these programs:
- **Leadership Now Academy 2013**, Lancaster Theological Seminary (UCC)
- **Compass Program**, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- **Duke Youth Academy for Christian Formation**, Duke Divinity School (UMC)
- **Youth Theological Initiative**, Emory University (ecumenical academic community that promotes faith seeking understanding; taking applications now for the summer of 2014)

Faith Formation in Action

Two young women from the Hampstead Congregational Church share the impact of the 2012 National Youth Event (NYE) on their lives before, during and after the event. The experience involved a lot of upfront planning and some assistance from funds, such as the Strengthen the Church Youth Ministry Grant.

In their report they talk about how the experience changed the way they look at church, changed their relationship with God, and how it influenced the way they are living their faith today.

Curricula & Group Resources for Youth

The **Caffeine series** is a youth resource that can be used as a self-study or group study. These books are written in an accessible way, and include imaginative retellings of Bible stories that put Christianity into contemporary language and experience.

Current books in the series include:
- Caffeine & Cash
- Caffeine & Character
- Caffeine & Christ
- Caffeine & Celebration
- Caffeine & Commitment
- Caffeine & Confusion
- Caffeine & Chutzpah
- Caffeine & Courage
At the March meeting of the New Hampshire Association of United Church Educators (NHAUCE), Kathleen Dube, Youth Coordinator for the Brookside Congregational Church, UCC shared her insights on what is important to consider when forming a Youth Group. (click here to read a summary)

Employment Opportunities

Peterborough, NH - Church School Coordinator
Union Congregational Church UCC, Peterborough, NH is seeking a Church School Coordinator. Duties include: Developing, planning and implementing a Sunday School curriculum in coordination with the Christian Education committee, teaching Sunday School, training and scheduling teaching assistants.

For more information, contact Ellen Smith (603) 547-3434.

UCC National Setting Employment Opportunity
The Local Church Ministries of the United Church of Christ recently posted a job announcement for the position of Minister of Family and Children's Ministries. This part-time staff position is the final one of three such positions that will be shared between the UCC and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A search to fill the first two positions was led by the DOC last year, and those individuals have been hired and will begin their work soon.

Authorized ministers, laypersons, part-time church staff, individuals in the non-profit world, young adults, trainers in curricula, policy advocates, church educators, youth ministers, etc. are welcome to apply!

Click here for a full job description and information on how to apply. Application deadline is March 31.

Training and Renewal Opportunities

Join clergy, educators, musicians and deacons for a morning celebrating the gospel of Luke. Bring your favorite resources for the stories in Luke. It may be a program you presented, an activity you planned, a book you have read. Maren and Don Tirabassi, who produced Luke Retold: Uncommon Voices from the Gospel will facilitate and share resources for experiencing the gospel as a complete work rather than a series of disconnected weekly readings and yet will suggest liturgy for worship and dramatic possibilities for the specific texts that will be lectionary selections during the summer and autumn. Finally there will be “lost Luke” suggestions for passages in Luke that never appear in the lectionary but speak a message for our contemporary context.

This workshop will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 9:00 am until noon at the New Hampshire Conference Center, United Church of Christ, 140 Sheep Davis Road, Pembroke, NH. Click Here for additional information and online registration.

NEAUCE Conference - "Vibrant Colors of Faith" May 7-9, 2013
A conference for anyone who may be a Christian Educator, Youth Leader, Clergy, Lay person. Over three days you will have an opportunity to enjoy Worship, Music, Workshops, Fellowship, Friends and FUN. Join us on Cape Cod to hear Keynote Speaker, John Roberto and to meet our Special UCC National Guest, the Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, National Faith Formation Researcher.
