

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Please congratulate the following children on their perfect attendance in Sunday School for Unit 5 (February)!

Anna Cote

Paige Cote

Cody Malpass

Eric Hall

Ben Talpey

Evan Cossey

Emily Talpey

Meagan Cossey

Well done, and keep it up! Not only is it fun to come to church, but you learn a lot, too. And remember, every time you come to church, you learn something new! And remember; **if you can't make it to church** because you're traveling, or away for whatever reason, **find a church to go to where you are!** If you bring back a bulletin to show you went to church, that absence won't count against you for the attendance award.

Last year, ten young people proved that they could recite the Lord's prayer by heart! Ms. Kary is available before and after church to hear anyone else who would like to get the Lord's Prayer memorization award. The text is in our church bulletin every Sunday, and I am including it here as well so that you can practice with your child:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Please contact me with questions about attendance or the Lord's Prayer memorization awards.

Take the time to visit the different Sunday school classrooms on Sunday and look at the attendance chains. Every Sunday, each child adds a link to his or her attendance chain, and it is a visual reminder of how their faith grows every time they come to church.

It is always appropriate to express gratitude for the church members who step forward to help with our Christian Education program. Is it possible that you have felt called to this important ministry? Please contact me, and we can set up an appointment to chat. Feel free to call me (782-3972) or e-mail me (dce@auburnmethodist.org) with questions, concerns, or to share ideas!

Thank you,

Ms. Kary

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday, the children will come into church with their parents; please feel free to select the age appropriate Children’s Worship Bulletin for your child, available as you enter the sanctuary. The bulletins have activities that center on a scripture reading from the day’s worship service. After the Moments with the Children, they will go out for their Sunday School classes. Please don’t forget your offering when you go out to Sunday School! We will continue to have families celebrate Holy Communion together on the first Sunday of the month, attending Sunday School classes after the conclusion of communion. Claire Cote directs our Children’s Choir, and practices with the children starting at 11:00am. April 12th (Easter) will be a “**Family Sunday**,” where children will participate in the worship service with their parents.

We are continuing with the seventh unit of our brand new curriculum for children age 3 up to 6th grade that is based on the “Workshop Rotation Model.” In this method, one Bible story or theme is the focus of 4 or 5 weeks, and each Sunday, children “rotate” to a “workshop” where they discover the story using a different medium. Our seventh unit will take place **Apr 19-May 10**, and will focus on the story of **Paul**. Each age group will experience workshops in art, music, storytelling/drama, cooking, games, and Godly Play in the course of these four weeks, all reinforcing the story theme.

4/19	UNIT 7 – PAUL: WHO CAN BE A CHRISTIAN
4/26	
5/3	
5/10	

This year in Sunday School, the children have focused on the following themes: “**Creation**,” “**Abraham and Sarah**,” “**The Gift of Jesus**,” “**Jesus is Baptized**,” “**Lost and Found**,” and “**Journey to the Cross**.” Coming up we have our final two units: “**Paul: Who Can Be a Christian**” and “**How the Bible Came to Be**.” Ask your child about what he or she is doing in Sunday School, you might be surprised!

CHURCH SCHOOL EASTER PRESENTATION – APRIL 12th at 9:00am

Many thanks to Betty Dexter for taking charge of a presentation for our Church School to perform this year for Easter! Betty has been wowing us all with her drama workshops all year, and now the children have a chance to show you what they have been learning. It is going to be a wonderful time, so please make sure to come see it at the Family Service on Easter at 9:00am.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: THANK YOU!

We are grateful to these individuals who made a full year commitment to our Sunday School program:

3 -5 year olds: Simone Morin, Kathie Phillips, Patti Stone

1st & 2nd Graders: Cindy Bragdon*, Marci Ellingwood*

3rd & 4th Graders: Betty Young

5th & 6th Graders: Nancy Kenneally

Confirmation Preparation (7th & up): Kary Coffin

Nursery: Shelly Mogul, Susan Simpson

*Part-time

A special note of thanks to Betty Dexter and Kay and Dana Little, who will lead the Drama and Godly Play workshops for the rest of this year!

We are still in need of volunteers for our Sunday School program to serve as rotation workshop teachers for the remaining months of the year. The Education Committee and I will be recruiting throughout the year for individuals willing to make a 4-6 Sunday commitment to teach in one specific area, such as art, music, cooking, games, Godly Play, and storytelling/drama. **Perhaps you could volunteer in your child or grandchild's classroom?** Offer a specific gift to our program, teaching one lesson for 4-6 Sundays that is age-level adjusted for each particular class, relating to the theme of the rotation. Curriculum is provided to you with a variety of activities to choose from, and if you would like to take a look, it is available for your perusal. We are recruiting workshop teachers per 4 week unit, so sign up quickly to secure the most convenient times for your schedule. **UNIT 7: LENT: THE JOURNEY TO THE CROSS will take place Apr. 19-May 10, and UNIT 8: HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE will take place May 17-June 7.** Do you have a talent in one of the following workshop areas: **art, music, cooking, games, or storytelling/drama, or** are you interested in being a storyteller or a doorkeeper for **Godly Play**? Please prayerfully consider helping out by signing up for one or two units on the big board in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Kary Coffin (782-3972, dce@auburnmethodist.org).

Would you like to be a group leader/shepherd for the 2009-2010 church school year? Or, would you like to volunteer in other ways, such as substituting for a group leader or for a workshop teacher, working in the nursery, or helping to decorate or get supplies for the program? Please contact me (782-3972, dce@auburnmethodist.org); **there is a place for you.**

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

7th-12th graders: Come and join us for our Youth Group meeting this month, taking place on April 26th at the High Street Congregational Church at 6:00pm..

We are looking for individuals who would be willing to help with our youth groups so that they can continue to grow; please contact Kary Coffin if interested (dce@auburnmethodist.org, 782-3972).

MECHUWANA CAMBERSHIP FUND

The summer camp schedule for Mechuwana, our United Methodist Church camp in Winthrop, Maine, is here! Registration forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall, and the schedule is also posted online: <http://www.mechuwana.org/summerschedule2.htm>. There are offerings for kids of all ages, from Day Camp to First Timers Camp for second graders all the way to high school; there is something for everyone. Please consider giving your child this experience of a lifetime; contact Kary Coffin with any questions you may have. But don't wait; many of the popular camps fill up quickly. Sign up today!

Our church has provided scholarships for campers for many years now to help defray the cost of camp as well. If your child is planning to attend a session at Camp Mechuwana this summer, and would like to receive a scholarship, please make sure that you put your name and contact information on the camper list on the table in the Fellowship Hall. And of course, please continue to bring your bottles and cans in to church; your generosity makes the scholarships possible! Thank you for your ongoing support of this life-changing ministry!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are inviting everyone to be part of the excitement at our Vacation Bible School this summer! Opportunities are available for children, buddies, and adult volunteers, and donations are needed as well! Here is the save-the-date information that you should keep or pass along:

Dates/Time - August 3-7, 2009, 8:30am - 12 noon

Location – United Methodist Church of Auburn, 439 Park Avenue, Auburn, ME 04210

Ages - 4 years old to those having completed the 4th grade
Buddies: youth in grades 5 through 12

We need many volunteers to make our Vacation Bible School successful, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact Kary Coffin.. The sooner we know who our volunteers are the easier it is to get everything organized so don't put it off, let us know as soon as you can.

Please also watch the posts in the Fellowship Hall for index cards with VBS supplies that you could donate. Please fill out the top portion with your name and contact information, and tear off the bottom portion for your shopping list. Please remember that any food items need to be peanut-free!

Thank you to members of our congregation that have stepped forward to be a part of the planning team for this year's Vacation Bible School: Cherie Poole, Pam MacDonald, Gladys Chapman, Julie Farnsworth, Nicole Pendexter, Cheryl Downing, and Jean Ness. If you would like to join the planning team and help with the behind-the-scenes work that enables our fantastic week to happen, please contact Kary Coffin; many hands make light work!