

TEN YOUTHS TO BE CONFIRMED ON MAY 3RD

We have ten youth confirmands who are prepared to be confirmed: Cameron Bisson, Emma Bragdon, Patrick Buzzza, Megan Coddington, Katie Gardner, Joshua Gary, Haley Laflamme, Katie-Lynn Laflamme, Erin Morris, and Allyson Petit. Please keep each of these youth in your prayers and be sure to support them with your presence and encouragement on May 3rd.

Many thanks to Kary Coffin and Kay Little, who assisted Pastor Rich with the classes, and the individuals who were mentors to the confirmands: Joel Irish, Deb Trautman, David Simpson, Sarah Dow, Marcy Kenison, Will Talpey, Mary MacMahon, Cherie Downing, Kay Little, and Susan Simpson.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORNER

Please congratulate these children on their perfect attendance in Sunday School for Unit 6!

Konnor Simpson	Nathan Farnsworth	Cody Malpass	Eric Hall
Kayla Therriault	Sarah Kenison	Madison Thistlewaite	Hannah Kenison
Zachary Therriault	Reid Buzzza	Meagan Cossey	Adriana Whitaker
Alex Thistlewaite	Evan Cossey	Daphne Ellis	Cameron Bisson
			Patrick Buzzza

Well done, and keep it up! Not only is it fun to come to church, but you learn a lot, too. 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. We are getting close to the end of the year, so please mark your calendars for **June 14th**, our **Sunday School Celebration Day**, when we will give out awards, recognize teachers, and present Bibles!

Our Lenten Mission Project this year was a wonderful success; thank you to everyone who participated by donating food and toiletry items, to those who made up the toiletry bags on March 29th, and to everyone who helped fill up our Lenten coin banks. If anyone still has a coin bank lying around the house, please bring it in so we can use it again next year! We also had a fun time with our Easter Egg Hunt again this year, thanks to those who donated candy and plastic eggs, and those who filled and hid them. Thank you all for your help! I would finally like to express my gratitude to Betty Dexter for putting together our Easter Presentation, and to all who participated. What a fun way to let our church know what we are learning in Sunday School!

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.

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, practicing with the children starting at 11:00am.

We are continuing in May 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 is taking place **Apr 19-May 10**, and will focus on the story of **Paul**. Each age group will experience workshops in art, games,

cooking, storytelling/drama, 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!

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

Many thanks as well to our **Creation** unit rotation workshop teachers (9/14-10/5):

Art: Jean Ness

Cooking: Mary MacMahon

Games: Deb Trautman

Godly Play: Kay Little and Dana Little

Drama: Betty Dexter

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 our final unit. The Education Committee and I have recruited throughout the year for individuals willing to make a 4 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? Our final rotation, UNIT 8: HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE will take place May 17-June 7.** 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 see the yellow Sunday School volunteer insert and fill it out**, or 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 meetings this month, taking place on May 10th at the United Methodist Church of Auburn at 6:00pm, and on May 24th at the High Street Congregational Church at 6:00pm.

4th-6th graders: The Junior Youth Group will be eating and meeting May 17th and May 31st after church. Please join us!

COLOR ME RED FOR PENTECOST May 31st

Pentecost, the birthday of the church, will take place on May 31st this year, in conjunction with our new Special Olympics Sunday. Red is the special color associated with this day, because of the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the first Pentecost. So I would encourage everyone to wear something red to church May 31st to help us celebrate. However, if you are a Special Olympian, feel free to wear your team's colors, whatever they may be. See you then!

JOINT YOUTH GROUP OUTING: SOUL JAM '09! Christian bands and Funtown rides – a great combination! You won't want to miss this Memorial Day weekend tradition put on by Light of Life Ministries, Inc. It will take place **May 23th from 11am to 7pm at Funtown U.S.A.** in Saco, Maine. Christian bands will provide an awesome soundtrack to great rides including "The Excalibur Rollercoaster," "Dragon's Descent," Grand Prix Racers, and many more! Advance tickets cost \$25; we will give a discounted price of \$15 to the first 10 to sign up and get

their money in to Ms. Kary (**all advance ticket money is due Sunday, May 18th** - tickets are \$27 at the door). We will need volunteers to carpool down to Saco, so if you are willing to help out, please let Ms. Kary know. And of course, feel free to email or call (782-3972) with questions, concerns, or ideas for our next outing!

MECHUWANA CHURCH CAMP SUNDAY MAY 10th

May 10th (Mother's Day), we will have some very special visitors to our church. Members of Camp Mechuwana's Youth Council will be coming to tell us about some of the different programs and activities offered at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine; summer camp is only one piece of the Mechuwana puzzle.

The summer camp schedule for Mechuwana is here! Registration forms are on the table in the Fellowship Hall, and the schedule is also posted online (here is the URL): <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!