

# The Children's Chimes

## May 2010



Acton Congregational Church  
12 Concord Road Acton Mass. 01720

Merrill Noble Coordinator of Children's Education 978-263-2728 ext. 112

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

### May and June Calendar

#### Preschool - Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade

May 2	Jesus Appears to His Disciples /Music
May 9	Mother's Day Lesson
May 16	Where is Jesus Now?
May 23	Pentecost
May 30	<b>NO Sunday School - Worship 9:30</b>
June 6	Tell the Good News / Music
June 13	9:30 - Last SS Class

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6th Grade

May 2	Bible Scholar Work/Gathering/Communion
May 9	Disciples Together Acts 16:9-15
May 16	Breaking Chains Acts 16-34
May 23	Gathered & Scattered Acts 2:1-21
May 30	<b>NO Sunday School - Worship 9:30</b>
June 6	Bible Scholar Work/Gathering/Communion
June 13	9:30 - Last SS Class

#### Junior High

May 2	<b>NO Class; Attend Worship</b>
May 9	Disciples Together Acts 16:9-15
May 16	Breaking Chains Acts 16-34
May 23	<b>NO Class - Attend Worship / Senior Recognition</b>
May 30	<b>NO Sunday School - Worship 9:30</b>
June 6	<b>NO Class; Attend Worship</b>
June 13	9:30 - Last SS Class

### Bible Scholar Program

Although this program is voluntary, the teachers have been working hard this spring to teach and help their classes master grade level tasks. I am hearing that the process has been a rewarding one for both the teachers and the students. We are proud of the work each student has done towards becoming a Bible Scholar, regardless if they finish all 11 tasks which includes attending 10 Sunday school classes.

Parents are encouraged to continue reviewing and working on tasks at home. You will find all the information you need in the packet that was sent home in September (including your child's card) or on the church website. The teachers are keeping track of each child's progress.

Every child who participated in the program will be recognized during the 9:30 service on June 13.

### Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays in the future, the children and teachers will go directly to their classrooms when they arrive at church; they will not go up to worship with their families for the beginning of the service and a Children's Message. This change proved to be a win-win solution for everyone on Sunday, May 2. The change addressed the length of the Communion worship service and it allowed the 2nd-6th grade classes more time to review Bible Scholar tasks before the Gathering. The Gathering's sole focus from now on will be learning and singing favorite Sunday school songs and hymns. The Gathering will also continue to serve as the transition into Communion.

### Sunday School Registration

Parents of all children who plan to participate in our Sunday morning programs next year (Nursery - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) are asked to complete an updated family registration form before the summer months begin. Detailed information about class configurations and curriculum will be available on Sunday, May 23 when registration officially begins. Please stop by the table in Hartman Hall during Fellowship Hour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to register your child(ren). The CE Committee will be on hand to answer your questions.

### Summer VBS - August 2-6<sup>th</sup>!

Summer Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the first week of August - the 2-6! Save the date and pass the word! We have chosen Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace for our theme this year. This VBS is packed full of learning fun! The Marketplace features 10 shops, giving the children the opportunity to explore authentic Egyptian culture and familiar songs have been included in the music choices.

Many volunteers -teens and adults, are needed to make VBS a success! The following roles and jobs need to be filled!

- Song leaders
- Piano accompanist
- Craft and Marketplace leaders
- Pyramid Playground leaders (games)
- Actors and Actresses (especially Joseph)
- Small group leaders
- Snack Coordinator
- Decorations
- Registrar

An Introductory meeting for all interested volunteers will be held on Tuesday, May 18 from 7:00-8:30 in the Youth Room. Please contact Merrill Noble in the church office if you would like to volunteer for VBS and/or attend this VBS kick-off meeting!

## What is Ordinary Time?

In the Church's liturgical calendar there are two periods known as "ordinary time". The first is the period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent); the second and much longer "ordinary time" is that between Pentecost and the first Sunday of Advent. Rather than meaning "common" or "mundane," this term comes from the word "ordinal," which simply means **counted time** (First Sunday after Pentecost, etc.), which is probably a better way to think of this time of the year. The 33 or 34 Sundays of Ordinary Time (23 to 28 Sundays after Pentecost) are used to focus on various aspects of the Faith, especially the mission of the church in the world.

The upcoming summer months fall during Ordinary Time and a time when many in our church family disperse to beach homes, summer camp and plan extended family vacations. Instead of thinking about this period as a vacation from church, consider it a vacation to church. During your physical absence from Acton Congregational this summer, I encourage your family members to spend time asking yourself how your faith, God, and church matter in the nitty gritty day to day of your life. What difference does it make?

What does Jesus have to do with.....

- |                          |                 |             |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| * Caring for your elders | * Meals         | * T.V.      |
| * Exercise               | * Laundry       | * Parenting |
| * Calendar planning      | * Errands       | * Work      |
| * Your checkbook         | * Commuting     | * Parenting |
| * Health                 | * Family        | * Marriage  |
| * Sports                 | * Relationships | * School    |
| * Hobbies                | * Friends       | * Shopping  |

Embrace the coming of summer and the slower pace; I hope that you will use it to deepen your relationship with Christ. Consider setting a goal for yourself. Perhaps you want to set aside more time for bible reading and/or prayer. Or you want to have a stronger awareness of the ways of Jesus at home and at work. May you and your family embrace "Ordinary Time" and remember to take God with you and look for God's goodness in the nitty gritty, day to day of your summer adventures.

## Mark Your Calendars for 2010-11

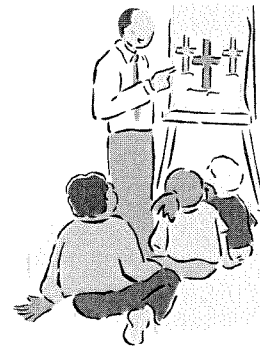
September 9	6:30 PM	Teacher Orientation
September 12	10:00 AM	Parent Meeting
September 12	10:45 AM	Sunday School Begins
September 19	Both services	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Bible Sunday
November 13	9:00 - 1:00	Parent/Teacher Event
December 19	10:45 AM	Christmas Pageant
April 22	9:00 - 12:00	Good Friday VBS
May 15	Both Services	Youth Sunday
May 22	10:00 AM	Teacher Recognition
June 5	Both Services	Bible Scholar Recognition
June 12	Both Services	Confirmation; Last SS

## Parents and Teachers - SAVE THE DATE!

November 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 - 1:00

On Saturday, November 13, the Children's Christian Education Committee is sponsoring a fellowship and training event for Sunday school parents of ALL ages and teachers of ALL grades. The event, called Bridging the Gap between Church and Home, will begin at 9:00 and conclude at 1:00. Attendees will be treated to delicious food, lay led workshops to encourage growth in your faith and inspiration from our featured speaker Elsa Marshall. Elsa serves as a national UCC Christian Education consultant. She is a commissioned minister of Christian Education and commissioned Minister of Youth Ministry. She serves locally with the UCC Mass Conference and the Maple Street Church in Danvers. Elsa has boundless energy and passion for Christian Education. Her stories and ideas will inspire you in your role as a parent and as a volunteer teacher. Elsa's talk will help us all understand the crucial the connection between church and home.

Please make plans to join us for this inspiring event; you will not want to miss some of the special surprises the Committee is planning!



A hearty thank you to ALL  
teachers, aides and  
superintendents!

You are special and valuable!

### Help Wanted!

Contact Merrill Noble if you are interested in any of the following  
Sunday School volunteer opportunities.

**Nursery Coordinator:** Personable volunteer to help interview hire, and manage the paid childcare staff for the Nursery/Toddler Room on Sunday mornings. This person will secure substitutes when paid staff are unavailable and recruit teenage helpers on high attendance Sundays. They will also see that the room and equipment for the infants and toddlers are clean, safe, and attractive; buy necessary supplies.