



## Happy 10th Birthday Creation Corner!



10 years ago this month, Creation Corner was moving from a dream, to a reality. Here are just some of the events that have taken place at Christ United Methodist Church which have led us to our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

1. It all began when Marybeth Ney-hard knocked at the church door and was greeted by Pastor Dan Schimmel. "I'm looking for space to open a preschool for the arts". Reply: "I guess we're supposed to open a preschool... can you make it a Christian preschool?" And **the conversations began!**
2. A **meeting was called to present the idea of a Christian Preschool for the Arts to church members**, including Carole Fay, Joyce Cudd, Julie Lafferty, Pastor Schimmel, and Marybeth.
3. Several meetings later, **Creation Corner was named, and by-laws were developed**, allowing the formulation process to begin.
4. Teachers Maureen Guyer and Kathy Fells were hired to **open the doors for children, initially in a child-care setting**: Deniz Ulu (Susan Ulu's son) was our first student!
5. Within a year, our **preschool opened with 7 children** and 5 teachers (on different days), including Kathie McGinn, Cindy Santo, and Patty Padula who are still with us 10 years later!
6. **Creation Corner quadrupled in size by its 4<sup>th</sup> birthday**, including Parents' Morning Out for toddlers, renamed the Toddler Learning Center, by teachers Lizette Raspa and Joanne Trolio.
7. The **single preschool class was divided, Afternoon Adventures began**, and Susan Ulu joined our staff.
8. **Annual events were established** to bring parents together with teachers and children: the Thanksgiving Feast, the Easter Egg Hunt, Earth Week's trash projects and sculptures, fun on Springfield Road with Spring Hat Day's "Honk Your Horns", and Evening of the Arts in May.
9. **Summer Camp became an annual event**, taking our school year into July.
10. **Ready for Kindergarteners**, Creation Corner continues to bring children and families together through the arts and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

***As we move into our next decade together, the teachers of Creation Corner will continue to work together to develop new programs and learning opportunities for our students, and to serve our families to the best of our abilities. We appreciate your continued support and prayer!***

*We welcome new student, Victoria Bennett, and her family to Creation Corner!*

### In This Issue

*We celebrate our 10th Anniversary with joy, gratitude, and knowing that we have been blessed! We ask your continued prayer and support, not only for our preschool, children, teachers, and families, but for so many human beings suffering in the world today. In this issue, please find information on where donations can be made for the Haitian community.*

*Also, for the first time in our history, we will have a special photo day at Creation Corner, and Friends in February begins next week! Thanks for all your help throughout the year. We look forward to many more months of fun coming up.*

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- **Sunday, Jan. 31 @ 10 a.m. Creation Corner Sunday and 10th Anniversary Celebration.** Luncheon after service.
- **Weds., Feb. 10th—photo day.** Come dressed in red or pink for our Valentine's parties, and look your best for our school photo!
- **Feb. 12 to 15 (included) - Creation Corner closed for Presidents' Weekend.**
- **Feb. 17—Ash Wednesday**
- **Feb. 24—Annual Parents' Meeting & Coffee: 9 a.m.** Please give an hour of your time to meet other parents and discuss CC programs, present and future!
- **March 1 to 5—Dr. Seuss Week!** Bring your favorite books, wear your hats, have fun with Seuss!!



2900 Springfield Road  
Broomall, PA 19008

Phone: 610-356-6136

E-mail address:  
creationcorner@  
christumcbroomall.org

We're on the web!

www.christumcbroomall.org

#### **Staff at Creation Corner:**

Marybeth Neyhard: Director; Music  
Ann Marie Andricola: Teacher Assistant  
Nora Breitmayer: Preschool Teacher  
Judy Coale: Faith-based Instruction  
Kathie McGinn: PS Teacher  
Denise McTaggart: TLC  
Patty Padula: Creative Movement  
Cindy Santo: Art; PS Teacher; TA  
Susan Ulu: TLC & Child Care; TA

#### **Board of Creation Corner:**

Jesse Coale, Pastor

Marybeth Neyhard, Director

Carole Fay

Tricia Dyal

Nancy Hilden

Alyce Scafidi

#### **Parent Board of Creation Corner:**

Alyce Scafidi, Liaison to the Board  
and Advertising

Sharon Impriano & Jennifer Manzo,  
Fund Raising

#### **Tell us YOUR stories!**

Submit articles to Marybeth Neyhard by the second Monday of each month. Drop in church mailbox or e-mail: creationcorner@christumcbroomall.org

*Work like you don't need the money.  
Love like you've never been hurt.  
Dance like nobody's watching.  
Sing like nobody's listening.  
Live like it's Heaven on Earth.*

## **What I've Learned From Parenting**

As I ponder the title of this monthly article, I begin thinking about what I was doing as a parent ten years ago! Today, Amy is a self-employed graphic designer and mother of 2. Eric is a mechanical engineer in Florida, and engaged to be married. Kevin is a teacher in the Inupiat Village of Point Lay, Alaska. I'm working 5 days a week in 2 schools and a private studio. Life 10 years ago was very different!

10 years ago, Amy was 21 years old and finding her way through Kutztown University and shooting archery at an international level of competition. I often got a phone call asking me how I handled 3 personalities in the same house (as she dealt with apartment-mates), telling me it was "the worst day of her life" as professors destroyed art projects (to make a point), or lost computer files which took days to create (remember floppies?). I actually enjoyed the calls asking for a ride home to get some decent food or to go to a tournament. Eric was 19, a student at Penn State with at least 18 credits (he seemed to thrive on too little sleep). He always seemed to be pursuing some kind of adventurous activity, like motorcycling in sub-freezing temps, skydiving (yes, he was certified much to his mother's dismay), SCUBA, snowboarding, or any other sport. I heard about some night-time swimming, but I never did want to pursue those details! Kevin was 16, a junior at Marple-Newtown High School, just beginning to drive, but a certified SCUBA diver.

He knew what he wanted to do: he was going to Millersville for Marine Biology, period. He played soccer and rugby, ran track, and of course, snowboarding, I was working at the French International School about 10 hours a week, teaching privately, working at Marple Presbyterian Church, and teaching Music Classes at the Gauntlett Center. I had 3 days with very flexible schedules, which I intended to fill when Kevin went off to college. It occurs to me that Bill is the only family member who is doing now, exactly what he was doing then! Of course, he had survived 2 company's downsizing and closing layoffs by 2000, so he deserves the break!

Our parenting duties were much different 10 years ago than they are today. Don't misunderstand – today's duties still exist! But it's very different. First of all, no one else is eating the food in my refrigerator! What a huge savings! No more day-to-day care and preparation for events, transportation, financial matters, counseling, and medical issues. We now get at least weekly phone calls from our adult children. (Note: I highly recommend our practice of insisting on a weekly call beginning when you're paying college tuition --- it seems to continue a good habit of communication!) When the phone rings, I almost always know by the day of the week or the time of day, but certainly with the

"hello", whether the call is just a casual "how's it going" or a call filled with stress, anxiety, counseling needs, or worse. Easier to parent adult children? No. As time consuming? No. Less stressful? Most of the time. (Remember, this is MY experience – all may not agree!) Different? Yes. Very different. Their problems are just like my problems. Financial, relationship, job-related, medical, property management, and of course the deaths of friends and relatives. It's heart-wrenching to see our children of any age in pain or distress. But when their problems are adult problems, the age differences and the role differences seem to vanish and we face ourselves!

Parenting is a blessing, no matter what the age of your child. We are called as parents to teach our children, to give them a good example of what it means to be compassionate, kind, loving, and caring among humans. When we give them our attention as young people, they will grow to appreciate that same attention as older people. Hopefully, the cycle will come full circle and we will "reap what we sow" as we all grow older together! I hope your reflection on the last ten years gives you as much joy as I have had. It's a wonderful life, thank God!

Thank you for your Scholastic Book Orders.



As you have been informed, you are welcome to now place your orders online, or send the paperwork to school. This month's order will be submitted on Monday, February 1st. Place your next orders by February 28th!



For the safety of your children, please call the school if your child will be absent on a day that s/he is scheduled to attend. If we do not receive a call by 9:30 on the day of absence, we will be calling you to be sure that the child is with you. Thank you for understanding and for assisting with this very important policy.



### Opportunities for Giving:

- **For the Haitian communtiy (monetary donations are most effective for this effort):** donations can be brought to the church for **UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief); Doctors Without Borders (go to [www.doctorswithoutborders.org](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org)), and the American Red Cross (see article on next page).**
- ***Aid for Friends is a group who serves the needy in the 5-county Philadelphia area. Breakfast Bags are being prepared here at Christ Church and donations are appreciated.*** Miniature cereal boxes, juice cartons, cereal bars, tea bags, instant coffee, raisin boxes, pudding or fruit cups, packs of peanut butter crackers are suitable items. Drop off donations at the office.  
***We appreciate your generosity and your assistance in teaching children to understand the act of giving to those who are less fortunate!***

## **WANTED:**

**involved parents who enjoy communicating with teachers and other parents to make their children's school even better!**

**Committees needed: advertising, future events for publicity and development.**

**Please contact Marybeth if you are interested in helping Creation Corner grow into the next decade!**

**Financial Business:** If you will need proof of child care expenses for tax purposes, please inform the office well in advance! We can provide documentation of your tuition spending for the year 2009. Creation Corner is a ministry of Christ U. M. Church, a registered non-profit organization. Your tuition may be tax-deductible. Please check with your tax preparation professional. Allow at least one week for paperwork to be processed through Creation Corner's office. Thank you!



**Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice in the Lord, always, and again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice!**

*(To the tune of "Reuben & Rachel")*

**I have a friend whose name is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ does not wear a frown.  
\_\_\_\_\_ will you please stand up! \_\_\_\_\_ will you please sit down!**

TLC & Preschool parent, Selina J. Taylor, is an employee of the American Red Cross. When asked what we could do to help the victims in Haiti, Selina provided the following helpful information:

**What can I do to help the American Red Cross with assistance to the people impacted by the earthquake in Haiti?**

Monetary

The American Red Cross is managing countless requests from people who want to help. The best way to do that is to make a donation to the American Red Cross International Response Fund at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Donors can designate their gifts to Haiti relief. (Due to the high volume, the donation page is loading slowly. We are asking donors for their patience.)

In addition, several hundred thousand people have chosen to make a mobile donation. Donors can text "HAITI" to 90999 on their cell phone to send a \$10 donation to support Red Cross relief to Haiti. This service is legitimate, and is being offered through Mobile Accord and the State Department's third-party fundraiser.

Monetary donations will support the local economy of Haiti because supplies will be purchased from local vendors.

Blood Donations

The American Red Cross is meeting the needs of this tragedy through the current blood inventory. At this time, we do not anticipate the need for special donor appeal. Local supplies of types O negative and B negative blood have dropped to emergency levels. Your blood donation could help increase the inventory so we can be able to meet the blood needs if they arise.

To make an appointment please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit us online at [redcross.org](http://redcross.org).

The American Red Cross ships blood overseas at the request of the foreign government involved in the disaster. At this point, no specific request has been made by the Haitian government for the American Red Cross to provide blood or blood products to support the treatment of the earthquake victims.

Some patients at an affected facility in Haiti have been moved to Guantanamo Bay hospital. The Armed Services Blood Program has asked both the Red Cross and the Florida Blood Services for support to those patients.

Volunteers

We are not accepting volunteers to travel to Haiti. There is a 6-month training program for disaster relief volunteers. If you would like to volunteer for the American Red Cross, please contact your local chapter by visiting [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

Supplies and other donated items

Currently the environment in Haiti is unstable and logistically unprepared to transport and store tangible supplies such as water, food, clothing, etc. Monetary donations are most beneficial.

**Photo Day is February 10th!** Photos will be taken individually, and parents will have the opportunity to order. A composite photo will be available as well, including one for our hallway! **Creation Corner will receive 10% of the sales!** Look your best, and be sure to **pay attention to the notice from "Always and Forever Photography, Inc." in your child's file or school bag!** We look forward to 100% participation in this first event at Creation Corner. **Please return forms promptly and they will be kept on file until Photo Day.**

***Friends in February is here! Invite a friend to school for a FREE visit during the month of February. Return the pink form (in your child's file or school bag) and bring your friend any day except Feb. 10th, 12th, or 15th. We welcome new friends and families to Creation Corner and hope to meet your friends, soon!***