

NTCH Newsletter

Network of Teaching Christian Homes

September 2011

www.ntch.info

September 13th Meeting—6:30pm “Pot Luck Get Together”

We thought we'd take a low-key approach to our first meeting (aren't they all?) and have some time to catch up with one another (and hopefully welcome some new friends) over a pot-luck meal. Please bring the whole gang and a side or main dish to share. The Board will provide drinks and dessert. If you know someone interested in or considering homeschooling, please invite them too.

Reminders: This meeting is an exception in that childcare will not be needed, but we need to remind everyone that we no longer offer childcare at our regular meetings. Children of all ages are welcome to sit quietly in all meetings. If this is an issue for anyone, and it would keep you from coming to the meeting, please contact one of the board members.

Meetings are now held at the Presbyterian Church of Manchester, 394 Lydall Street, Manchester. Please see page 6 for directions.

NTCH Membership Application Form

At page 2 and 3 of this newsletter you will find the NTCH Membership Application Form and Statement of Faith. If you are planning to join this year, please fill it out and bring it with you to the meeting (or mail it to the address on the form), along with the \$20.00 membership dues for the year. Scholarships are available.



By the way, have you ever wondered, “Where do our dues go?” Good question! One use is for giving an offering to the church where we meet. We also use dues for special speakers. (By the way, does anyone have suggestions for a speaker this year? We'd love to hear from you!) And lastly, we will be using dues to help anyone who would like to be part of NTCH but has difficulty with the dues.

2011-2012 Meeting Dates

September 13, 2011
October 18, 2011
November 15, 2011
December TBD, 2011
January 17, 2012
February 21, 2012
March 20, 2012
April 17, 2012
May 15, 2012

**Meetings are held
on Tuesdays (3rd
Tuesdays typically,
but not always)
at the
Presbyterian
Church of
Manchester**

394 Lydall Street
Manchester

unless otherwise
noted. See page 6 for
directions.

The NTCH Board

Chairman

Ron Hocutt
(860) 386-6255
ron@ntch.info

Secretary/Treasurer

Karen Cupit
(860) 895-1134
karen@ntch.info

Membership

Jean Hammer
(860) 647-7591
jean@ntch.info

Newsletter

TC Cupit
(860) 895-1134
tc@ntch.info

**NTCH Application for Membership
Section I**

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please provide the name and address of the church where your family regularly attends:

To assist in planning field trips and activities, the following information is required:

Student's Name	Gender	Date of Birth	Age
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Membership Fee \$20.00 yearly (September-August) payable in September. (Checks should be made payable to the Treasurer, **Karen Cupit**.) For new members joining after January 1, the fee drops \$2.00 per month for the months remaining. This fee covers expenses related to the newsletter, the Family Directory, regularly scheduled meetings, activities, photocopying, miscellaneous postage, \$ for speakers, etc. Members receive the monthly newsletter, membership list, eligibility to be listed in the Family Directory, and to participate in the meetings, email/phone tree, field trips, and activities.

Email/Phone Tree NTCH uses an email/ phone tree system to facilitate communication between members regarding such issues as field trip and meeting changes or updates, as well as legislation that may affect homeschooling which must be communicated quickly to our members.

() *Please check here if you would like to be included in the email/phone tree.*

Family Directory Once a year NTCH issues a directory for members which includes names of parents and children, ages of children, and any other information appropriate to list (such as home-based businesses, etc.). Only those families listed in the directory will receive a copy.

() *Please check here if you would like to be listed in the Family Directory.*

Please use the space below to list any information to be included in the Family Directory, such as home-based businesses, etc.

Section II - Applicants' Statement of Agreement

I have carefully read and am in full agreement with the NTCH Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Spouse: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed form to JEAN HAMMER, 797 BOLTON ROAD, VERNON, CT 06066

Network of Teaching Christian Homes (NTCH) Statement of Faith

Our Statement of Faith includes only those truths upon which all true Christians agree. It concerns the Person and Work of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. It is the faith once delivered to the saints which distinguishes believers from non-believers. There are many other precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, this is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but all that is essential to believe for Christian unity and fellowship.

We believe in one God as having eternally existed in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, as God incarnate, being fully God and fully man.

We believe that salvation is offered as a free gift, by personal faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone, and not by works of man.

We believe that all men are sinners and are in desperate need of God's saving grace through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God; that it is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. We believe the Bible is the final authority on all matters.

We believe that children are a gift of God to their parents, whose responsibility it is to train them in a manner pleasing to him, not only spiritually but academically and socially as well.

(This statement is identical to the T.E.A.C.H. Statement of Faith and is used with their permission.)

Network of Teaching Christian Homes (NTCH) Statement of Purpose

The Network of Teaching Christian Homes (NTCH) consists of Christian home educators and their families who network together for the following purposes:

-To provide support and encouragement to each other in matters related to the home education of our children.

-To provide field trips and social opportunities for our families with other homeschooling families of like faith.

-To keep informed of legislation that would negatively affect homeschooling in the United States. This enables us to quickly and intelligently contact our elected officials with phone calls and letters regarding these matters.

-To provide basic homeschool information at cost to other families considering homeschooling their children.

PLEASE NOTE: Any information provided by the Network of Teaching Christian Homes' support group is not given as legal advice. Any legal advice should be discussed with a qualified homeschool-informed attorney.

We strongly encourage all homeschoolers to join the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA).

Thoughts and Perspectives

As I was shopping online the other day for new eyeglasses (I was, really..), it hit me – we are teaching to a group of children whose perspective is vastly different from our own. There has always been a gap in perspective between generations, but it appears that this gap is growing wider by the minute. We are teaching children who have never known what it means to live without technology, with an answer always just a keystroke away. It may not be the right answer, but it's an answer nonetheless. The predictable response to this instant-answer environment is that our children's expectations have gone off the charts. The concept of waiting for something seems almost archaic. A large majority of our children spend time constantly entertained (seat back videos) and fully connected (cell phones). There is no time to do *nothing* – no time to *think*.

It is an experiment on a generational level, and one that I believe may have some very dire consequences. Children aren't taught to think anymore, just react. They are rarely encouraged to come up with answers through considered, long-term thought, but rather are given the tools to go find the answers others have already thought up. In short, true intelligence, problem solving, and thinking are being condensed into a very small segment of society. What will this mean in the long term? To be candid, I have no specific analysis, but rather am consumed by a sense of foreboding.

The good news in all of this is that we as homeschoolers have much more control over the education of our children, and therefore have the ability to create educated *thinkers*, not just societal *reactors*. A while back I found a great book called *The Dangerous Book for Boys*. Inside were instructions for all the death defying, society-horror inducing things that made young boys into young men. Things like owning a pocket knife and whittling a walking stick (Ahhh! You could cut yourself!). Crazy things, scary things, all the things that I and all those of my generation did when we were growing up (while learning in the process). It's not that I'm against technology – I'm not. It's just that we don't learn by tapping keys to a source of instant communication and answers. To really teach our children we need to give them problems that seem unsolvable and have them solve them without going to the internet. What a concept.

As we all start off the new school year, I highly encourage you to focus on getting your kids into things that don't involve technology. Things that require *thinking*. Perhaps some sort of mechanical problem, or something that involves a long time to think through. As we do this, perhaps we are creating a world in which our children are the rare few that can actually think. Given that they are also believers, this has a tremendous potential to impact the eternity of many souls.

Hope to see you at our meeting in September.

In His grip,
Ron

Connecticut Homeschool Law

Below is brief summary of the home schooling law in Connecticut. For a detailed analysis of home schooling in Connecticut, go to: <http://www.hslda.org/laws/analysis/Connecticut.pdf>

Compulsory School Age—"five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age" five- or six-year-olds can opt out when the parent goes to the school district and signs an option form

Connecticut Legal Home Schooling Options: 1	
	Option: 1
Legal Option:	Establish and operate a home school
Attendance:	Generally, 180 days per year
Subjects:	Reading, writing, spelling, English, grammar, geography, arithmetic, United States history, and citizenship, including a study of the town, state and federal governments
Qualifications:	None
Notice:	None, but parents may voluntarily comply with State Dept. of Education guidelines by filing a "Notice of Intent" form with the local superintendent within 10 days of the start of home school
Recordkeeping:	The guidelines require that parents maintain a portfolio indicating that instruction in the required courses has been given
Testing:	None

This information is taken from the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) website (www.hslda.org).

Note: This summary is not intended to be, and does not constitute, the giving of legal advice. Many states have unclear compulsory attendance statutes, and the courts of those states vary in their interpretation of the statutes. Therefore, there is no guarantee any state will accept all of the options for compliance listed under each state. This summary is not intended to be a substitute for individual reliance on privately retained legal counsel such as that provided by Home School Legal Defense Association.

Get the Notice of Intent at:

www.teachct.org

Click on FORMS

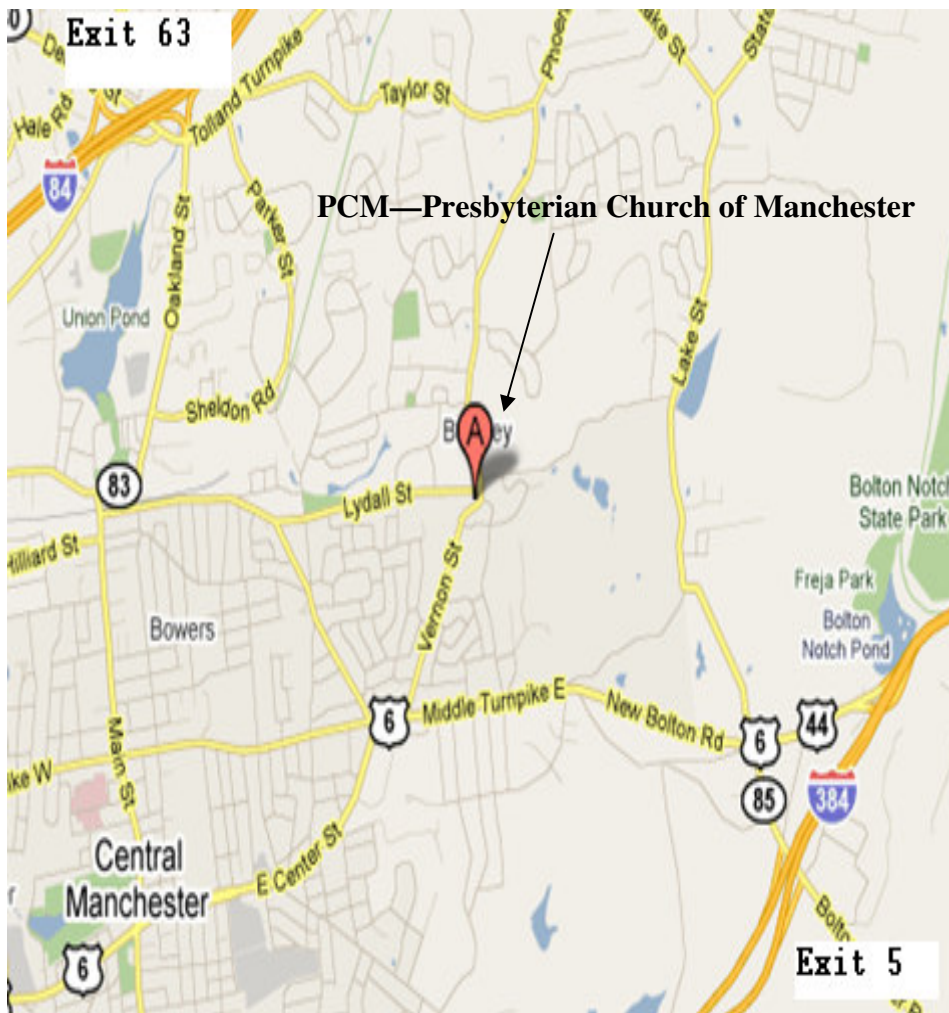


Don't Forget!



Consider HSLDA Membership.
Visit them on the web at
www.hslda.org for more information!

Hymn Sing-a-Long



Every 4th Friday
of the month
This Month—
September 23th
1:00—2:00 pm
Manchester Manor
385 West Center
Street, Manchester

Call or email Karen
Cupit for details.
(860) 895-1134
cupit_kj@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter information:

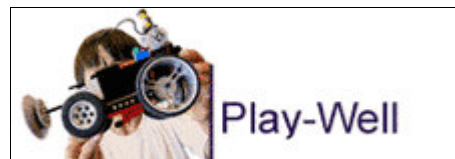


Please send news of upcoming events, articles/websites/book reviews/encouraging vignettes, or other information pertaining to home schooling. Contributions by home schooled children and parents from NTCH families are encouraged and appreciated.

Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month of publication. Deadline for the October issue is 10/1/11.

All submissions should be sent to TC Cupit at tc@ntch.info or snail mail at 34 Cipolla Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118.

- TC, Newsletter Editor



**Beginner's Lego
Fundamentals Class
Sep 27—Nov 8
(Tuesdays for 7 weeks)
10:30am—2 noon
Fee—\$105
At Whiton Library in
Manchester
Register by contacting
Andrew Escalera at
andrew@play-well.org**

**For more info see
[http://play-well.org/
classes/](http://play-well.org/classes/)**