



**CAPE**  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
PARENT EDUCATORS - NM

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## CAPE Calendar of Events

October 16-18, 2020, CAPE-NM Fall Family Retreat - [www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/](http://www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/)

February 1-5, 2021, TeenPact Leadership School, ages 13-19

February 4, 2021, CAPE at the Capitol  
[For More Information](#)



February 5th, 2021, TeenPact 1-day class, ages 8-12

May 15, 2021, CAPE-NM Graduation at Legacy Church

June 11-12, 2021, CAPE-NM Homeschool Convention at Legacy Church

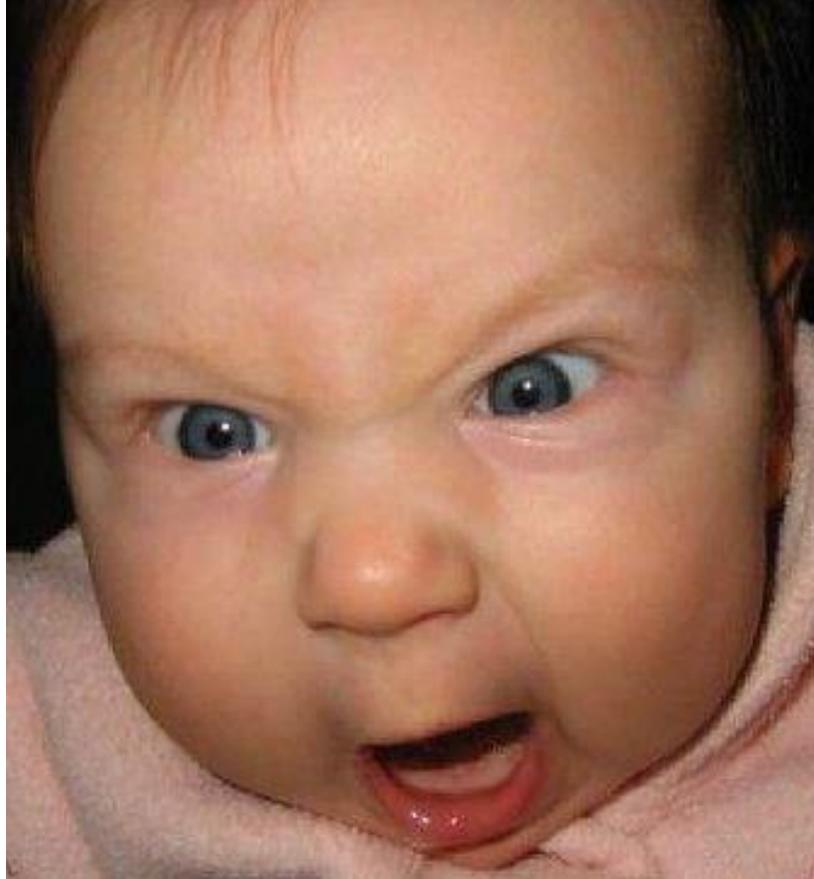
## We Will Miss You



Imagine spending over 5 to 20 hours a week of your time with an organization, knowing you'll receive no compensation. Now imagine doing this for over 10 years. That is exactly what CAPE Board members Brian and Cyndi Anastasio have done. They selflessly poured into CAPE and homeschool families across New Mexico, answering questions, helping to organize events, gathering information for the CAPE Communique, and spending time encouraging parents as they begin or continue on this homeschool journey.

As children grow and life changes, we all can find ourselves in new seasons. And that's where Brian and Cyndi are at this point in time, so they have made the decision to step down from the CAPE Board. CAPE, the Convention Committee, and the Board will greatly miss them and will feel the hole they will be leaving in our organization. We pray that GOD richly blesses them in their new pursuits, and we know, because of their love of homeschooling and homeschool families, they will still find ways to encourage families and fight for our freedoms. Please thank Brian and Cyndi for the years of service.

## **Loving Our Neighbors During School Shutdowns** by Rebecca Holets



While I shopped for school supplies at Walmart, another mom started sharing her angst regarding whether or not school would even open this year. She is choosing to keep her children home with the online option public schools provide. I asked her whether she knew anyone who was already homeschooling. "No," she replied, "I am terrified that I am going to fail my kids."

The sentiment she expressed is one many of us are hearing from those who feel forced into schooling at home. They worry about socialization, how to keep their family's sanity, and whether they can even teach their kids. Before COVID-19, when a family decided to homeschool, they had access to co-ops, homeschool groups, veteran homeschoolers, and conventions full of workshops and curriculum. These new homeschoolers have none of that. Many are like the mother I met at the store; they do not even know what homeschooling looks like. When I told her I homeschool using books, she was intrigued. She had never heard of that before.

We are now presented with an amazing opportunity to love our neighbors who are struggling to find their footing in turbulent times. COVID-19 is still a concern, so there are no large gatherings. Yet, the number of homeschoolers will be skyrocketing from 3 percent last year to who knows how many this year! Will it be 20 percent or 30? How high could the numbers go? In addition to those homeschooling, families who choose to use online public schools will still share many of the experiences and challenges that homeschoolers face.

New homeschool families need support. Complete isolation will not give them a positive experience with their first year homeschooling. We want them to see the beauty of the lifestyle we have chosen willingly.

Instead of one giant homeschool convention and big homeschool co-ops, we need many small ones. Even if you have only homeschooled for a year, you are now the veteran, the expert on homeschooling. Reach out to your neighbors and friends and ask them if they would be interested in a homeschooling information session. Offer a

monthly moms' night out for the new homeschoolers you know. Ask other homeschool moms to help you lead and offer their insights on equipping our kids. These events can be done via video conferencing or with social distancing outdoors. There are always ways to reach out to people and show them love and support.

Children need time to have friends and play with others. Youth suicide is in the midst of a precipitous and frightening rise, according to the 2018 Centers for Disease Control study. Tiny homeschool co-ops with two to four families are an option that can provide a space for children to play with others. In this scenario, risk of COVID-19 exposure would be much lower than having 24 children, each from different families, sitting in a classroom together in a brick and mortar school.

Let's not leave our neighbors to homeschool alone. Christ called us to love our neighbors as ourselves. For every time we have been encouraged by another mom, let us multiply that love this year and share the toil and joy of homeschooling with others.

## Fall Family Retreat



Good news! The CAPE Fall Family Retreat is happening!! The retreat will be October 16-18 in the Sacramento Mountains in southern NM. This retreat is a favorite for our family. Fun family games and activities. If you sign up for the meals (which is not required), then there is no cooking or clean-up for anyone in the family. Sorry, you do still have to clear your plates, so you don't get off completely!

Registration is underway for this favorite event for many families. If you are looking for cheaper options, then bring your RV or tent and/or fix some/all of your own meals. There are common rooms with refrigerators and microwaves, so breakfast and lunch could be easy on your own. If you don't mind a grill, the camp has grills for you to make your own dinners. You can make this event fit the budget for your family.

Registration details can be found at: [www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/](http://www.cape-nm.org/fall-family-retreat/)

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