

# Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2010-2011

The Religious Education Committee meets monthly to plan activities for children and adults, and to organize curriculum and teachers for classes held during Sunday service.

In support of the Strategic Vision for 2018, the RE Committee, with the support of the Board of Trustees and the Worship and Service Committee, the children in our congregation are invited to join the adults on a weekly basis, except for no church school Sundays, to attend the early part of service (and for additional full services). This helps both the children and the teachers feel a part of the larger community. Additionally, newcomers to the church can witness our multigenerational congregation. Part way through the year, the RE Committee agreed to organize the Story for All Ages at the beginning of the service on the third Sunday of each month.

## Religious Education Director

Chris Parker

## DRE Professional Activities

Chris attended monthly Southern New Hampshire DRE Cluster Meetings; the LREDA Fall Conference in New Orleans, LA; and three LREDA Chapter meetings throughout the year. She attended a Northern New England RPM (Religious Educators, Board Presidents, Ministers) meeting in October (Focus on Multigenerational Ministry) with Steve Edington. She remains connected to the Unitarian Sunday School Society as they update their by-laws.

## Religious Education Committee Members

Jamie Hinkle – Chairperson

Barbara Berrios -- Chair of Adult Education

Laurie Conrad

Amy Savoie

Mickeline Shepherd

Geoff Skelton

Carol Wagner

Nona Storer - Volunteer Coordinator

**New Committee Members:** Amy Savoie and Carol Wagner joined the committee this year. Carol Wagner and Barbara Berrios will be leaving the committee. Frana Avery will be the new chair of Adult RE. Jamie Hinkle will continue as R.E. Chair through the 2011-2012 church school year.

## Budgets

RE Committee: \$ 5,200.00  
Young Adult: \$ 0.00  
Adult RE: \$ 200.00

## Average Sunday Attendance

Fall: 66 children 21 volunteers  
Spring: 62 children 25 volunteers

**Graduating Seniors:** Katie Annand, Ben Bradbury-Koster, Keegan Bedinger, Ben Brown, Amy Butenhof, Tyler Cutler, Kyle Davidson, Tori Dubray, Sean Guidi, Peter Guidi, Andrea Lerude, Mariel McLeod, Jake Nutting, Nicholas Plante, Myles Salazar, Celina Wilt, Zachary Zalman

**2010 – 2011 School Year Theme:** Children Helping Children

## Intergenerational Services

- **Water Service:** On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, members of the congregation were invited to bring a sample of water from their summer experiences to share during the service. We also introduced and dedicated our Church School teachers.
- **Thanksgiving Service:** The Quiltmaker's Journey by Jeff Brumbeau was read by RE Committee members Carol Wagner, Jamie Hinkle and DRE, Chris Parker. This book was chosen to help kick-off a student-driven, adult-led service project. The story was present in three segments throughout the service. The year-long service project for the children was creating a quilt (see winter party below).
- **Flower Service:** RE members, Chris Parker and Jamie Hinkle read Mrs. Spitzer Garden by Edith Pattou while Geoff Skelton showed the pictures. During the flower service, congregants each brought a flower to share. Volunteer teachers were recognized for their contributions to the RE program and Jed Holland, director of the Youth Choir, was honored. Geraniums were offered to all the children and volunteers who have contributed time to the Adult and Youth RE programs. Graduating seniors were recognized with a small gift, as well.

# Religious Education Committee

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### Special Events

- **Ice Cream Social:** After the second Sunday of church school, the congregation was invited to the White Wing play-yard for our second annual R.E. Ice Cream Social. The goal was to provide a sense of community which included the children and a chance to meet the teachers for the fall session.
- **Open Houses:** The RE Committee set up displays of curriculum materials to bring greater awareness to the UU RE offerings at both the Fall and Spring Open Houses.
- **Winter Party/Spring Party:** During the craft parties, children from kindergarten on up attended the early part of service and then gathered together in the auditorium. Crafts and snacks were made available to the children during both parties. In addition, children were invited to participate in service projects. During the Winter Party, they designed and decorated squares for two beautiful quilts to be given to the children of Camp Sunshine in Maine. At the Spring Party the children made origami cranes. The cranes were sold by RE committee members at coffee hour and generated \$40.55 for victims of the tsunami disaster in Japan.
- **Pizza & Games Night:** This is a night of appreciation for RE volunteers and their families. Guests are invited to bring their favorite games to share after dining on pizza and dessert.
- **Teacher Orientations:** Chris Parker meets with new teachers in the fall and spring to discuss classroom regulations and provide curriculum materials. Committee members are encouraged to attend these meetings.
- **Teacher Meetings:** conducted by Chris Parker to enable teachers to share their experiences and seek additional guidance as needed. The fall meeting focused on welcoming new families and the spring gathering on movement in the classroom, an in-service led by Deb Dubray.

### Service Projects

- **Camp Sunshine** – two quilts were created for Camp Sunshine. The children designed and created quilt squares at the Winter Party, and a number of the older students helped sew the squares together at the Spring Party. Cindy Hudson and Kim Steele organized the project and finished the quilts.
- **UUA Japan Relief Fund** – At the Spring Party, children were invited to make origami cranes. These cranes were then sold at the following week's coffee hour and generated \$40.55 for victims of the tsunami disaster that hit Japan in March.
- **UNICEF Trick-or-Treat** boxes were distributed to students who collected \$120 for the charity.
- **Nashua Soup Kitchen:** The second grade class had a sleepover at the church and made 7 casseroles for the Soup Kitchen. Ingredients included 10lb of ground beef, 12lb macaroni, 5lbs of cheese and 12 jars of sauce. Children mixed it all up and put them in the pans. They delivered the casseroles and took a tour of the Soup Kitchen pantry following the sleepover. Melissa, the manager of the Soup Kitchen, said the casseroles were excellent and they fed over 135 people.
- **Humane Society:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade took a field trip to the Humane Society to deliver dog food, cat food, toys and litter donated by the children and their families. (On the way back, they got some ice cream.)
- **Sr. High Service Projects** - Senior High donated \$113.75 to The Peace Abbey, \$179.50 to The Nashua Humane Society, and \$113.75 to the Nashua Homeless Shelter by selling gently used items donated by members of the congregation at the Winter Party.

### Adult RE

- **UU101:** Steve Edington led an introductory course on Unitarian Universalism in the fall and again in the spring.
- **Small Group Ministry leaders:** Barbara Berrios, Laura Dwyer, Bob Keating, Hilary Keating, Barbara Spitz, and Ginger Hedges
- **Parents of Teens** – Support group facilitated by Lori Lerude.
- **Film Series: Many Paths, One Journey** – Food for Thought Thursday sessions led by Lori Lerude and Kim Steele sharing anti-oppression films they used in the 6th grade "Race to Justice" curriculum.
- **The Buddhist Meditation Group:** This group meets weekly and offers an open format for Buddhist walking and sitting meditation followed by facilitated discussions of dharma related books. Cynthia Schroer has coordinated this group since its inception. She is moving and Karen Fitzpatrick will be taking her place as coordinator and church member liaison.

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**Choir:** Director Jed Holland

Jed invited any child who wanted to sing to join the Youth Choir. Adults and young adults in High School and older were welcome to join the Adult Choir.

**New Curricula for next year:**

- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bibleodeon
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade – Free to Believe

GRADE	LIASON	CURRICULUM/TEACHERS	
		Fall	Spring
Babies/Toddlers	Chris Parker	Sarah Stauff	Klaudia Yanushkevich Julia Fletcher
Preschool	Geoff Skelton	We Are Many, We Are One	
		Dawn Cutler Tyler Cutler Andrea Lerude	Andrea Lerude Grant Lerude
Kindergarten	Carol Wagner	Treasure Hunting	
		Ann Lederhos Devon George	Amy Butenhof Devon George
First Grade	Jamie Hinkle	Picture Book UU	
		Jenn Morton Karen Murray Ben Pugh	Jenn Morton Cindy Hudson Courtney Cannava
Second Grade	Amy Savoie	Faithful Journeys	
		Steve Griffis Mary Ellen Wessels Courtney Cannava	Picture Book UU Jenn Morton Cindy Hudson Courtney Cannava
Third Grade	Jamie Hinkle	Moral Tales	
		Cecil Bonvouloir Jim Bonvouloir Peter Guidi	Heart Talk for Kids Donna LaRue Bob Coulter Peter Guidi
Fourth-Fifth Grade	Laurie Conrad	Toolbox of Faith	
		Donna LaRue Wayne Fletcher	Riddle and Mystery Michelle Morrison Victoria Agnew
Sixth Grade	Laurie Conrad	Amazing Grace	
		Dan Early Krista Early	Race to Justice Lori Lerude Kim Steele
Seventh-Eighth Grade	Carol Wagner	Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.)	
		Billy Parker Ginger Hedges (Mentors)	Linda Donaldson-Guidi Andy Straussberg
Senior High – Youth Group	Mickeline Shepherd	Youth Group	
		Mickeline Shepherd Chuck Rehberg	Steve Hedges Monica Staples

Submitted by Jamie Hinkle, Chair of Religious Education Committee