

Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

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 Executive Board and the Worship and Service Committee, invited the children in our congregation to participate in the beginning of the church service on a weekly basis. By having the children stay for the early part of service (as well as the intergenerational services), both the children and the teachers feel a part of the whole community. Additionally, newcomers to the church are witness to our intergenerational congregation.

Religious Education Director

Chris Parker

DRE Professional Activities

Chris attended monthly Southern New Hampshire DRE Cluster Meetings; the LREDA Fall Conference in Portland, WA., and North Atlantic LREDA Chapter meetings throughout the year including the Winter Retreat in Worcester, MA and hosting the Spring meeting in Nashua.

Religious Education Committee Members

Jamie Hinkle – Chairperson

Frona Avery – Chairperson of Adult Education

Jen Saucier

Jamie Reifsnnyder

Geoff Skelton

Amy Savoie

New Committee Members: Jen Saucier and Jamie Reifsnnyder joined the committee this year. Jamie Hinkle has decided to step down from the committee and chair in the 2012-2013 school year. Geoff has also left the committee and will be training for and teaching *Our Whole Lives* to the eighth graders next year.

Budget

RE Committee: \$ 5,200.00

Average Sunday Attendance

Fall: 61 children 21 volunteers

Spring: 60 children 22 volunteers

Graduating Seniors: Charlie Shepherd, Stephanie George, Zoe Goodell, Corey Atkinson, Emma Bovill, Bryan Herring, Ben Bate, Aaron Hall, Madelaine Nodvin, Sam Storer

2012 – 2013 School Year Theme: Children Helping Children

Intergenerational Services

- **Water Service:** On the 11th of September, congregation members are invited to bring a sample of water from their summer experiences to share during the service. We also introduce and dedicate our Church School teachers.
- **Thanksgiving Service:** *The Thanksgiving Door* by Debbie Atwell was read by Jamie Hinkle, RE Chair and Chris Parker, DRE. This book was accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation that was displayed on a 42" LCD screen for the entire congregation to enjoy. The presentation had the illustrations from the book scanned in and the entire congregation could see the pictures while the story was being read. Geoff Skelton ran the PC that had the PowerPoint on it.
- **Flower Service:** During the flower service, congregants brought a flower to share, taking home a different one. Volunteer teachers were recognized for their contributions to the RE program. The Choirs were also honored. Geraniums were offered to all the teachers and children. Graduating seniors were also recognized and presented with a small gift, as well.

Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

Special Events

- **Ice Cream Social:** After the second Sunday of church school, the congregation was invited to the play-yard for ice cream. The goal was to provide a sense of community which included the children and offered parents a chance to meet the teachers for the fall session.
- **Open House(s):** The RE Committee set up a display of curriculum materials to bring greater awareness to the UU RE offerings in both the Fall Semester and the Spring Semester.
- **Winter Party/Spring Party:** During the craft parties, children from kindergarten and older attend the early part of service and then gather 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. The winter party's main service project was having the children make caps for St. Joseph Pediatric Cancer Patients. The Spring Party's project was to make May baskets for the Nashua Pastoral Care Center.
- **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 Orientation:** 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. The Spring meeting was led by Jamie Hinkle as Chris was in recovery from knee-replacement surgery.

Service Projects

- **St. Joseph Pediatric Cancer Patients** – About 40 caps were made for children afflicted with cancer going to St. Josephs Pediatric Center. These were cut and hand cut and tied by children and adult volunteers.
- **Nashua Pastoral Care Center** – The children made 16 May Day Baskets. They made dozens of paper flowers to fill the baskets were made in the spring. Chris Parker delivered the baskets, along with donated items that the families needed including diapers, dsand toys.
- **Thailand Flood Relief** – The children decorated salt clay chalice ornaments at the Winter party and sold them at coffee hour collecting \$60 earmarked for the victims of the massive flooding in Thailand earlier this year.
- **Great Wisdom Center** - Sixth Grade donated \$100.00 to the Great Wisdom Center after a visit from the monk, Venerable Ajahn David Chitko.
- **UNICEF** boxes were distributed to students who collected \$ 35.00 (donation was matched to be \$70).
- **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. Kyle, the manager of the Soup Kitchen, said the casseroles were excellent and they fed over 150 people.
- **Humane Society:** On May 20th, the Fifth and Sixth Grades (with some Second graders) took a field trip to the Humane Society to deliver the twelve pet beds that they sewed and stuffed at an overnight. They were treated with some ice cream on their way back to church.
- **Sr. High Service Projects** - The Senior High Youth Group donated \$111.50 to the Hope for Gus Foundation and \$111.50 to the Anne Marie House by selling gently used items donated by members of the congregation at the Church School Winter Party.

Adult Religious Education

Frona Avery: Chair

Committee Members: Jerry Ross, Michele Rehberg, Monica Staples, and Kim Steele

Food For Thought Thursday:

Popcorn Theology. Movies shown were: Becoming Santa Claus, Magic Trip, Bullied: A Student, A School and a Case That Made History (in conjunction with the Social Activities Committee), Welcome to Shelbyville, and Young at Heart

Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

Group reading of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, a play by Jerome Lawrence that was with a follow up with a field trip to Walden Pond in Massachusetts.

Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography was led by Steve Edington.

UU101: Steve Edington led this program twice, in the fall and then the spring.

Small Group Ministry Leaders: Barbara Berrios, Bob Keating, Hilary Keating, Barbara Spitz, Ginger Hedges, Carol Wagner

Introduction to Buddhist Meditation: Karen Fitzpatrick

Parents of Teens Support Group: Lori Lerude

Youth 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.

GRADE	LIASON	CURRICULUM/TEACHERS	
		FALL	SPRING
		Baby/Toddler Room	
Babies/Toddlers	Chris Parker	Klavdiya Yanushkevich	Crystal Edington
		Celebrating Me and My World	
Preschool	Geoff Skelton	Dawn Cutler	Tyler Cutler
		Devon George	
		Picture Book UU	
Kindergarten – First Grade	Jamie Hinkle	Jamie Hinkle Dorothy Komarek Myles Salazar	Jamie Hinkle Dorothy Komarek Kurt Steinbrueck
		Free To Believe	Special Places, Sacred Spaces
Second-Third Grade	Amy Savoie	Jenn Morton Kris Davidson	Jenn Morton Victoria Agnew
		Toolbox of Faith	Spirit of Adventure
Fourth Grade	Jamie Hinkle	Cecil Bonvouloir Sally Thomas	Mary Ellen Wessels Steve Griffis Jamie Reifsnyder
		Bibleodeon	
Fifth - Sixth	Jamie Reifsnyder	Michelle Morrison Victoria Agnew	Michelle Morrison Kate O'Shea
		Neighboring Faiths	Riddle and Mystery
Seventh	Jen Saucier	Dan Early Krista Early Jim Bonvouloir	Wayne Fletcher Gillian Hinkle Nona Storer
		ROPE	
Eighth - Ninth	Amy Savoie	Michele Edington Ginger Hedges	Jim Thorp Lance Pratt Frank Grossman
		Youth Group	
Senior High – Youth Group	Mickeline Shepherd	Mickeline Shepherd Chuck Rehberg	Steve Hedges Monica Staples

Submitted by Jamie Hinkle, Chair of Religious Education Committee