

## Religious Education Committee Report 2009-2010

We have had an active and engaged year with an average of 40 children in attendance on most Sundays, with 8-10 adults teaching during Sept to June. There are about 60 children active in the program, meaning 66% of those active attend on any given Sunday. Note: total registration is 118, which includes 30 children who came less than 5 times. Christine maintains both a mailing list and email list serve for those who prefer either means of contact. Summer attendance averages 34.

A hallmark of the year has been a feeling of expanded community with the Congregation-at-large through activities and general support. We have benefited greatly by the contributions of our Consulting Minister, Rev. Bill Welch, as he has dedicated his time to get to know us, and making sure we know one another. He has observed our "systems", given suggestions for improvements and offered ministerial support for the children and families, as well as the staff and many volunteers that make the RE program work. While not an RE activity per se, the all-church retreat was very significant in the lives of the families who attended. During this year of transition (post Rev. Millie Rochester) we have been greatly supported by Rev. Bill's talents and energetic dedication and Christine Pensa, our RE coordinator. We end this vibrant year with plans for further growth. We, like all at UUC, are working on reduced/limited budgets and have creatively "made do". We are committed to the undisputed value of the Two-Minister model, and we appreciate the support the congregation has given the RE ministry.

Some items of note:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade class held a bake sale raising money for the Humane Society and SPCA during the summer.
- Over 8 adults attended Cluster training for RE teachers. We used the UUA's Tapestry of Faith new online curriculum this year.
- The Day of the Dead event was primarily a Teen/Youth presented event. There were younger family activities early in the day. This was inspired and lead by Cassie Alderman and all the Youth Advisors. We hope this event will only continue to be supported and grow as a unique combination of teen oriented fun, community outreach and fundraiser. It as was also a vehicle for greater understanding of views of mortality in different cultures.
- The Youth participated in an Interfaith Prayer service for Haiti
- Younger children were included in making decorations for the Auction, with an Environmental theme. Also in an intergenerational theme, at the beginning of the Church year we helped to host a church picnic.
- RE families hosted 3 community lunches to establish a scholarship fund for the All Congregation Retreat. Many families were represented at the Retreat as well.
- Grounds and equipment maintenance are ongoing. Partial repairs to the playground have been made. We expect more maintenance concerns in the near future.
- Community Tampa Bay hosted an Anti-Bullying Session for our youth, as some members had expressed an interest in learning how to deal with faith based bullying.
- Many excellent volunteers contribute to the care of the children on Sunday, but teacher recruitment remains a challenge, so that we 1) do not exhaust our pool, and 2) loose opportunities to expose the children to the wealth of talent and care in the larger community.
- This year has seen a wonderful presence of children in the Sanctuary and the very welcome addition of the Children's Choir.
- We are thankful for the creative and dedicated service of Janet Clark as chair and co-chair as she rotates out of that position. Yearlong attending members include: Peggy Tanney, Chris Chirolas-Brewer, Jinene Harvey, Lisa Baird with Kathleen Krohn and Janet Clark as co-chairs.

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Krohn current Chair. 5/2/10