



Here's What's Happenin'



The Religious Education Program Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene
September 2010

REflections, by Candee Cole, M.S.

Director of Religious Education

The new church year is upon us and I am ecstatic to be back! I am in my 19th year of service to this congregation, and although this work is my heart work, my recent sabbatical of 5 months helped me re-energize and reconnect with why I love this faith community and our fabulous UU kids!

This is our "Peace and Social Justice" curriculum year in Religious Education where we help the children and teens focus on their character and values and help them act on those values. Part of my goal for them (and myself!) this year is to look at themselves, their church and their community and focus their energy on our goals of inclusivity, respect for the diversity of opinion, and respectful dialogue with those they disagree with. This includes interacting with people we perceive to be "different than us".

During my sabbatical and graduate program, I experienced many opportunities to work with both children in need of extra support and adults who made different choices in their life or whose beliefs were quite the opposite of mine. I had many rich practicum and field study experiences during this time. I worked...

240 hours with toddlers with developmental delays.

90 hours with a Behavior Specialist.

90 hours with at-risk families in a Parent Support Grp.

90 hours in a Therapeutic preschool.

120 hours providing training and coaching to Family Childcare providers.

These experiences plus what I learned in classes have sparked a passion that had been brewing in me for a few years. We have always worked toward the goal of inclusivity and creating a welcoming environment for all children and teens. But I know we can do better. We can create an environment in which families with children who have developmental delays, learning disabilities, autism, and more, feel comfortable leaving their children with us. We can create a community where we work toward the goal of creating a warm and caring community for EVERYONE. My mission this year is to prepare our volunteer teachers well, create interactive programming that speaks to all learning styles, and to continue to create a safe place for families to bring their children to learn, play and make friends.

Welcome back everyone.

Candee Cole

R.E. Quick Notes!

- ◆ **Program Registration** Families who have registered last year will not need to reregister this year. **We ask you to stop by the registration table on September 5, 12, 19 and 26th to verify the information we have and to pay this year's snack fee** (this year sliding scale is \$5-10 per child.) Families who do not verify their information by September 26 will need to re-register.
- ◆ **First Sunday Family Worship** will be offered once this Fall and every other month beginning in February. Worship for all ages! Stay tuned for topics and fun visitors!
- ◆ **September 19—The First Day of classes!** We begin our first day of R.E. classes on September 19th, **Please attend the service you are normally registered for so that the kids can meet their teachers.** If you need to change services, it is important to communicate this. Please call or email Candee Cole at uucedre@gmail.com or 541-686-2775.
- ◆ **Teacher Dedication 9:00 and 11:00, Sept 19** Children ages 3 1/2 and older will join the service at the beginning for a Teacher Dedication ceremony. Early drop off childcare for infants, toddlers and young threes is available in room 4.



Labor of Love Workparty

September 5 ; 9:00-12:00

Potluck 12:00-1:00



Jobs for kids and adults! Come help RE put together curriculum books, straighten classrooms, spruce up the playground, and more!

Childcare provided on 1st come, 1st serve basis for Infants through age 5. (or older as room allows)

Religious Education Teacher Orientation

Potluck, Friday September 10, 6:00-8:30 Social and Philosophy gathering.

Saturday, September 11, 12:00-5:00. (*new teachers 12-2, all teachers 2:00-5:00*)

Snacks and childcare provided. RSVP for childcare to uucedre@gmail.com.

Religious Education Program Calendar September 2010

- September 5 (Sun) Labor of Love Workparty**
9:00-12:00, Potluck 12-1.
- September 10 & 11 (Fri/Sat) R. E. Teacher Orientation**
(6-8:30/12:00-5:00) RE rooms
- September 12 (Sun) Water Ceremony 9 & 11**
Full Intergenerational, Childcare for young children
- September 19 (Sun) First Day of RE,
Teacher Dedication
Rev. Alicia's First Day!**
Children Start Upstairs
- September 24-26** Coming Of Age Vision Quest

Volunteering in RE

- ◆ Training and classroom support provided
- ◆ Volunteer 2 Sundays per month at one service!
- ◆ Inspire a child...be inspired by a child!
- ◆ Quarterly support meetings, holiday breaks

Youth Corner

We will be scheduling fun gatherings and activities for Middle and High School youth after our youth teams coordinate:



- ◆ **Youth night**-Middle and High School meet at a mixer then break off into age groups with their advisors. Games, food and more games!
- ◆ **HS Youth conference**, Randle, Wa October 22-24. We will be organizing transportation. Hard copies of the forms are located in room 5.
- ◆ **Middle School gatherings**: MS advisors plan activity nights with the middle school group such as movie night or sleepovers.
- ◆ **Coming of Age program**: the UU Rites of Passage program will be coming to a close in November. The group is about to head off to their Vision Quest, will be writing credos, and will present them at a service in November.
- ◆ **Our Whole Lives**: for 7th-9th grade will be offered in the Winter. This is a UU faith based sexuality program that is designed to create a safe place for MS youth to get their hard questions answered. We are also hoping to offer the 10-12th grade OWL.
- ◆ **High School Youth on Facebook!** High School youth, become a friend of "Eugene Youth—UUCE" and keep up with activities and share photos.

It is the time of year where we are looking for those wonderful people who create warm and caring experiences for our children.



Program Needs: 16 more volunteers needed!

9:00 Service:

- 2 preschool teachers
- 2 K-5th grade teachers

11:00 Service:

- 3 preschool teachers
- 8 K-5th grade teachers
- One female Middle School youth advisor



Above: Youth group at the coast!

Below: Pageantry! It takes volunteers to provide enrichment to our children!



If you would like to learn more about volunteering twice per month with our children, contact Candee Cole at uucedre@gmail.com or call 541-683-9064.