

**Children and  
Youth  
Religious  
Exploration  
(CAYRE)**



# CAYRE Connections

**2005-2006**

## Welcome to Children & Youth Religious Exploration

Welcome! We are delighted to introduce our Children and Youth Religious Exploration program. Our vision is to create a strong faith community in which people of all ages grow spiritually and ethically and are given the skills and encouragement they need to live out their UU faith in the world.

Many Unitarian Universalist churches use the Sources of our Principles as a focus to guide our learning explorations throughout the year. In our studies, using a rotation model, this year we will explore Unitarian Universalist History, Values, and Identity, Peace and Justice, and the Interdependent Web of All Existence. What we value, what we study, and what we do together makes us the people we become. We hope our process of religious exploration offers to young people respect for their journey and encouragement along the way. If you were a child who's questions made the Sunday School teacher squirm...know that questions here are very welcome. Unitarian Universalists believe that each of us is on our own journey and questions serve to move us along our way. We gather together to accept, support and encourage each other as we grow together. You and your children are welcome to join us on our collective faith journeys.

### General Information About our CAYRE Program

- Childcare for babies and pre-school is provided during the 9:00 a.m. service. Children in kindergarten and older are invited to attend the 9:00 a.m. service with their parents/guardians.
- Parents are responsible for their children during the Fellowship Hour which is held between the 9 and 11 a.m. services.
- We offer preschool to high school classes during the 11:00 a.m. service. We offer nursery care for babies and toddlers under 2 1/2.
- Classes are grouped by age and use age-appropriate curriculum that incorporates our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes.
- Registration forms are available in the classrooms and on the RE table. We require all children and youth to register each year.
- Upon registration, we ask that families donate \$10.00 per child, as they are willing and able. The funds help us purchase snacks and supplies for our RE program.
- Visitors are welcome in the classes. We ask that after three visits parents register their children.
- Our religious education program uses a Way Cool Sunday School model, which combines traditional classroom sessions with Children's Chapel and Faith in Action Sundays.
- Our program offers Sunday morning classes as well as a variety of opportunities for worship, social outreach, personal development, fellowship, family activities, sleepovers, youth conferences, and holiday parties.
- Our RE program is cooperative. We rely on parents and other church volunteers to share their talents as well as their time.

### Children and Youth Religious Exploration Committee

**Chair:** Rae Vautrin

**Secretary:** Claire Shannon

**Children's Chapel Coordinators:**

Tracy Craig and Lori Sandlin

**Consultant:** Dr. Jane Page

**Faith in Action Coordinator:**

Gayla Keesee

**Classroom Support:** Lead Teachers

**Teacher Appreciation Coordinator:**

Ann Sutherland

**Library Coordinator:** Amy Hutlsar

**Childcare Coordinator:**

Linnea Epping

**Board Liaison:** Linnea Epping

**Curriculum Sub Committee:**

1. Nisha Martin, 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Events Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director of Religious Exploration  
(DRE):** Ruth Garrison

# Way Cool Sunday School



Our religious exploration program uses a modified Way Cool Sunday School model. We like the 'Way Cool' model because it is a way to help children understand what Unitarian Universalism is and what we do. We worship together, we study and learn together and we work together for justice. This year we are rotating our Faith in Action Sundays and Children's Chapel Worship Sundays on a roughly six week interval.

**Parents receive regular communication in the biweekly church newsletter to let them know what kind of religious experience is planned for the coming weeks.**

## Children's Chapel

Jane Page, our ministry intern, is working with Tracy Craig and Lori Sandlin to coordinate Children's Chapel. On these Sundays, kindergarten through fifth grade worship together in the Common Room.

In addition to hymns and Joys and Concerns, participants enjoy a "sermon" of interactive story-telling, plus discussion and an activity. Chapel provides our children the opportunity to share meaningful, age appropriate worship with each other and to experience rituals unique to our congregation.

## Faith in Action

Gayla Keesee coordinates the Faith in Action Sundays for the children to make the connection between being a UU and doing social action. Some Sundays we work on projects together. Other times we work on our own class projects. Some of our past projects have raised money for tsunami victims, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Heifer Project International, and UNICEF. We have put together care packages to send to our troops in Iraq and have also sent messages/cards of hope and support.

If children are being of service to others, they learn early how important that is to a meaningful life.

*It is often by the small actions of our daily lives that overtime we have the greatest influence on the world.*

## Classroom Sundays

The bulk of the Sundays of the term are curriculum Sundays, led by teams of adult volunteers. Classes are divided according to grade level. Developmentally appropriate curriculum is chosen to best meet the needs of the children in each class.

Opportunities are available for persons interested in being a part of a teaching team, or the R.E. Committee.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Director of Religious Exploration, Ruth Garrison at [ruthgarrison@knology.net](mailto:ruthgarrison@knology.net), 706-868-5885

# Our Volunteer Team



**Nursery:** (newborns-age 2 1/2)  
The nursery, led by Sherron Shonk at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., offers care for all infants and toddlers until they are ready to enter the preschool class. Sherron is assisted each week by a member of a team of volunteers, which includes: Melanie Roberts, Ann Sutherland, Elaine Law, Shabrayle Setliff and Amy Coppeans. Located in the "Green Door" Classroom.

**Preschool:** (ages 2 1/2-5)  
Curriculum: "Chalice Children"  
Teachers: Adrienne Nappier (lead teacher), Lori Sandlin Tracey Glover, Linnea Epping, Michelle Shuler, Marti and Tracy Stephens. Located in the "Red Door" Classroom.

**Kindergarten-1st Grade:**  
Curriculum: "We Believe" and "In Our Hands"  
Teachers: Amy Hutslar (lead teacher), Tracy Craig, Laura Craig, Donna Tennis, Claire Shannon, and Helen Baisden.  
Located in the "Yellow Door" Classroom.

**Second and Third Grades:**  
Curriculum: "We Believe" and "In Our Hands"  
Teacher: Emma Wilson (lead teacher), Tom Hattan, Wendy and Roni Bollag, Eliza Hoernle and Claudio Robles.  
Located in the "Blue Door" Classroom.

**Fourth and Fifth Grades:**  
Curriculum: "We Believe" and "In Our Hands"  
Teachers: Sarah Keen (lead teacher),

Denice Traina, Lisa Westrick, Kyle MacKeigan, Rae Vautrin and Dawn Perry.  
Located in the Common Room

**Middle School:** (grades 6-8)  
Curriculum: "In Our Hands" and "Beyond Pink and Blue"  
Teachers: Casey Fay (lead teacher), Sally Evans, Lyn Dennison, Rudy Nyhoff and Nisha Martin.  
Located in the Minister's Office.

**High School:** (grades 9-12)  
Advisors: Rusty Walton and Pam Harris  
For the senior high, activities, classes, and projects are agreed upon by the youth and their advisors to meet the five components of youth programming: education, leadership development, community outreach, social interaction and worship.  
Located in the "Orange Door" Classroom

*"It takes a congregation to raise a child"*