

## **Religious Education Team Meeting**

February 15, 2015

12:30 pm

**Team Members:** Sarah Barlow, Bill Raney, Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Joe Robertson-chair and the Rev. Judith Cady, minister of religious education.

The religious education team hosted a Religious Education reception for our congregation. Congregants visited all of our religious education classrooms on the lower level. Different types of food and drinks were served in each of the classrooms. The reception was a great success with wonderful attendance by members of our congregation.

## **Religious Education Team Meeting**

March 15, 2015

**Team Members:** Sarah Barlow, Bill Raney, Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Joe Robertson-chair and the Rev. Judith Cady, minister of religious education.

The religious education team prepared and served a Sunday Plus lunch with the proceeds going to support the budgets of the music and religious education programs.

## **Religious Education Team Meeting**

April 19, 2015

12:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Jessica Mattingly, Tracy Van Quaethem, Joe Robertson – chair, and the Rev. Judith Cady – minister of religious education.

### **Joys and concerns**

#### **Agenda items:**

##### **1. RE Reception Feb. 22 review:**

The event downstairs in the RE classrooms was described as a fine success. Judith said that 150 plates had been put out and all of them were used. Many of the visitors remarked they had not been down there before. Many good reports. The team agreed it would be a good idea to make the reception an annual event to be timed in February with the church's Standing on the Side of Love celebration.

##### **2. Successful ongoing OWL Program for grades 4-6:**

The team discussed the work of teachers Shawna Fortunato and Pete Allard with much appreciation. Judith said they were creating their own materials to go with the curriculum provided. She said the teachers reported they are impressed with the program.

##### **3. Sunday Plus Lunch in March:**

Went well. The event raised \$463.

**4. Mystery Friends program review:**

The inaugural event drew 24 adults and 24 youth. The enthusiasm of the adults was fun to see, Judith said. Many of the mystery friends went out of their way to do very nice things for their friends.

**5. RE picnic April 26 at Franklin Park:**

Judith reported that 52 adults and teens are signed up and 15 elementary age children, though somewhere between 8 and 10 potential attendees haven't RSVP'd. The schedule is 3 to 6 p.m., with the food being prepared by Diane and Sharon Cassity, to be ready to eat around 4 p.m.

**6. Earth Day flowers:**

Gerbera daisies will be distributed again.

**Adjourn:** Meeting ended at 1:30 p.m.

**Religious Education Team**

**April 26, 2015**

**Team Members:** Sarah Barlow, Bill Raney, Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Joe Robertson-chair and the Rev. Judith Cady, minister of religious education.

In lieu of a May team meeting, the RE team participated in a picnic for the religious education teachers, parents and their families. All Souls Board members were also invited to the picnic. This was a fun opportunity for all of our religious education families to enjoy good food and fellowship. There was playground equipment for the children to play together as well.

**Religious Education Team**

**June 7, 2015**

**Team Members:** Sarah Barlow, Bill Raney, Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Joe Robertson-chair and the Rev. Judith Cady, minister of religious education.

The RE team meeting was cancelled since most of the team members were out of town on vacation.

**Religious Education Team Meeting**

**July 26, 2015**

**Members present:** Sarah Barlow, Raegan Buatte, Joe Robertson – chair, and the Rev. Judith Cady – religious education minister.

**1. Transition in leadership**

Judith thanked Joe for the time he has served as chair of the RE team and announced that Bill Raney has agreed to serve as the chair beginning in August. Joe will continue to serve on the team, and the team is looking forward to Bill's leadership.

## **2. Father's Day service**

Judith described the June Father's Day service as a success and the committee agreed it was good hearing family members tell of their fathers who volunteer in the children's programs. The team raised the idea that it would be nice to do something similar for Mother's Day. Judith said she would raise the idea next spring. It was noted that the Father's Day service comes during the summer when the church is looking for service ideas to fill in summer months when ministerial staff is on break. That would not be the case at Mother's Day.

## **3. Keepers of the Earth summer camp**

Judith said the summer camp went very well, and that children liked the blend of the old Harry Potter wands, robes and quidditch with the Native American lessons with Keepers of the Earth. The camp had 41 kids and 25 adults participating.

## **4. Heifer Ranch trip**

Five teens will be departing to Arkansas for the Heifer Ranch July 28 through 31. Adults Pete Allard and Andrea Jonson will be accompanying the youth. If they have a similar experience as the last group that went, Judith said, it should be a transformative experience.

## **5. Goals for 2015-2016 school year**

Judith will be developing the program goals for the 2015-2016 school year. If any of the team members have some thoughts regarding goals, Judith said to send her a note by email.

## **6. Church Wide Talent Show**

Anna Sajovic wanted to pass on the word through the committee that the church is planning a fundraising effort to include a church-wide talent show in July 2016. They are looking for volunteers to be part of the talent show team to coordinate interviewing and setting up performance acts, with children and adults participating.

Anna's contact information is [asajovic65@gmail.com](mailto:asajovic65@gmail.com), 816-225-8125

## **7. Other**

OWLS: Raegan asked about OWLS (Our Whole Lives) programming for K-1, which for the first time only would be opened to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as well. Pete and Shawna Fortunato are trained for the programming and plans will be made likely to have the program this fall.

FALL PICNIC: Raegan thought that a Fall picnic might be a fun way to get out and also introduce families to their teachers. Perhaps the Sunday after Labor Day would be a possibility. The Simpson House might be a good place for it. A special effort should be made to contact and invite recent visitors to the church.

AGAINST ME PODCASTS: Sarah said the religious education programming might consider pulling up podcasts by the punk band Against Me, which features a transgender artist.

**Members present:** Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Sarah Barlow, Ralph Tomlinson, Joe Robertson – note taker, Bill Raney – chair, the Rev. Judith Cady – religious education minister and Martin Tomlinson, youth representative.

**Agenda items:**

**1. Introduction of new chair:**

Judith introduced Bill and thanked him for his willingness to serve. Bill returned thanks both to Judith and to Melanie Jackel.

**2. Introduction of new team members:**

Judith welcomed Ralph as one of the team's new members, and welcomed Martin, who was attending as a youth representative. There are three other new members who will be joining in future meetings – Shawna Fortunato, Joyce Jonasson and Barbara Tomlinson. The team is looking forward to their partnership as well.

**3. Goals for the 2015-2016 school year:**

Judith distributed the Religious Education Goals for the coming school year – a list of 21 items including some she highlighted with the team. Those were the new K-2 OWL (Our Whole Lives) program, the Coming of Age program, the Thanksgiving-time meal service at ReStart homeless shelter, the greeting cards that are made for the pastoral team and the annual summer camp.

She said she is open to considering other project ideas as well.

In discussion, Martin asked about the possibility of a high school OWL program and Judith said that Intern Minister Jordinn Nelson Long will be trained to provide that program, as well as programming for young adults.

Bill asked about how decisions are made on how to involve the children in the Sunday service. Those decisions are made at the ministerial level, but the team does discuss ideas and those get shared with Kendyl, Judith said.

The team agreed they like having the children in the service at the beginning as is currently done, though it does complicate things for teachers who are trying to predict the length of time they will have in their classrooms.

Martin said the youth appreciate it that they are given opportunities to choose from each month's services when deciding on their once-a-month Sunday for staying upstairs for the service.

Bill asked about the budget for programming and Judith said the program gets, and completely spends, \$4,400. The RE program also teams with the music program in various fundraising efforts, and raised \$15,000 last year.

**4. Curriculum and grade levels**

Judith presented the curriculum themes for the coming year – “Chalice Children” for preschool and kindergarten, “World Faiths” for first through third grade, “Spirit of Adventure” for fourth through sixth grade and “The Questing Year” for seventh and eighth grade.

The high school grades will also have a program, but the choice won’t be finalized until the youth get a chance to help choose it.

#### **5. OWL Program for grades K-2**

The program will begin October 3 and run through Nov. 22, with Pete Allard and Shawna Fortunato teaching.

Sarah wanted to know what possibilities there might be for opening the program up for families in the community. Judith said it might be possible. The middle school program has not been opened up to the community because it is done jointly with Shawnee Mission UU, and it is usually at capacity.

The team recommended that Judith check with teachers Pete and Shawna to see what they think would be capacity for the K-2 program. If there is room for participation from outside the church, the team agreed a \$25 fee would be appropriate, and invitations would likely be made by word of mouth.

The program could also be opened up to the Gaia community and Kol Ami.

#### **6. Fundraising and the Church Wide Talent Show**

The team agreed this sounds like a great idea, though no one felt they were in a position at this time to offer to help coordinate and lead the show.

#### **7. Picnic**

Judith reported that she had secured Sunnyside Park in south Kansas City to be the site for the picnic, which will be after church on Sunday Sept. 13.

She will send out a memo this week to program participants and parents inviting them to take part in the potluck.

That first Sunday of new programming in the past has been a day the older youth went to Winstead’s, but Judith said that would be planned for a later Sunday.

#### **8. Other**

Martin mentioned that he’s interested in the team considering opportunities for youth chaplain training. He has seen the program in action, particularly at the UU-UNO conference he attended.

Martin also raised the possibility of co-hosting or joining in youth conferences as was held in Topeka. Judith said it might be possible, though the church would have to make sure safety is secured to protect our youth.

Martin said he would bring more information to a future meeting.

September 20, 2015

**Team Members:** Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Raegan Buatte, Jessica Mattingly, Joe Robertson, Ralph Tomlinson, Barbara Tomlinson, Joyce Jonasson, Bill Raney-chair and the Rev. Judith Cady, minister of religious education, Martin Tomlinson, youth representative.

The religious education team members contributed to and participated in the Unplaza Art Fair and Used Book Sale at All Souls on September 20. A percentage of the proceeds go to the youth trip account at All Souls. Many thanks to all who contributed and served to make the Art Fair and Used Book Sale a success.

### **Religious Education Team Meeting**

October 18, 2015

**Members present:** Raegan Buatte, Shawna Fortunato, Joyce Jonasson, Nelson Maurice, Ralph Tomlinson, Joe Robertson (sub chair for Bill Raney) and the Rev. Judith Cady – religious education minister, Martin Tomlinson, youth representative.

#### **Agenda items:**

##### **1. Irish/Scottish fundraiser:**

The event was successful, well-received and raised \$1,325 for the COA trip. Judith noted it was a unique fundraising opportunity because it brought in significant money from people outside of the church.

##### **2. Trick or Treat for UNICEF:**

The UNICEF boxes will be handed out Oct. 25, coinciding with the pumpkin parade. Children will have a chance to collect some change that day and will also be encouraged to take them home and collect more, perhaps while trick-or-treating.

##### **3. Jack-O-Lantern Carving and parade:**

Volunteers will be needed on Oct. 24 to scoop out the pumpkins and prepare them for the 25<sup>th</sup>.

##### **4. Congratulations to Martin Tomlinson:**

Martin was honored as a UUA Luminary Leader for outstanding service and leadership in UU communities. He was also named as a Youth Dean of the UU-UNO spring seminar in New York for two years. He also completed Youth Chaplain training.

##### **5. Children's Choir:**

The year is off to a strong start. There are 12 members singing, and they will sing a Halloween song at the Oct. 25 service.