

**OWL – OUR WHOLE LIVES** is a curriculum written in collaboration by the UUA and the United Church of Christ (UUC) which is based on the guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education. OWL covers subject areas such as: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior and health, religious values, along with society and cultural values which are specifically designed for Middle School age youth ages 12-15. This year our middle school youth group will be joining the OWL program at Old Ship Church in Hingham for this year long program. If you are new to UFPC in September and would like to participate in OWL, please see Nan Moore (DRE) as soon as possible. Enrollment ends by October 1<sup>st</sup>, and no new youth are able to participate after September. With that said, if you are new, we have many interesting groups and will find a place for your teen to learn and grow in our faith tradition.

**Teachers: Teachers are members of Old Ship Church, CORI checked, and are trained by the UUA – OWL Trainers.**

**MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP**

The Youth Group this year will be a work in progress. The overall theme is Community Building and Peace. The group decides what they would like to create using the UUA guidelines of the Youth Leadership

Development Training – “6 Components of a Balanced Youth Program” - Social Justice, Social (Community Building), Learning, Leadership, Worship, Youth Adult Relations. This is an open youth group, which means it is open to all new friends and members. Any youth can participate in gatherings, but a registration form and parental permission is required. **Teachers: Marie Jackson Miller, Irwin Schaareman, Matt Moore and Nan Moore**

**REGISTRATION**

All families are required to register their children because we need basic contact information with permission slips attached. In order to be a safe congregation parental involvement insures our efforts. Registration forms are available outside the RE office.

**EVENTS:** The church school calendar is inserted with this tri-fold and is available outside the RE office. On the reverse side you will see a more detailed description of special events. At UFPC we believe children are a valued part of the community, therefore our goal is to integrate classroom time by age, one room schoolhouses (all ages), intergenerational worship, and community events for the best possible church experience.

Written by Nan E. C. Moore/DRE- August 2011

# United First Paris Church

## Unitarian Universalis

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Religious Exploration Information

## Children and Youth Ministrie

2011-2012

**WELCOME TO FAMILY AND CHILDREN MINISTRIES AT UFPC**

Our goal at UFPC is to offer classes for children and youth that are focused on religious exploration. Curriculum at UFPC has been developed by and offered through the Ministry Faith and Development department at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). We are a creative community and we provide learning experiences that fit our needs. Some of our programming is written and designed by the Director of Religious Education (DRE), Nan Moore, with support from the Religious Exploration (RE) Committee.

The Religious Exploration Classes continue to be grounded in our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. As a community we engage in cooperation, faith in action, peace and justice while tapping into our creative strengths. Children learn by doing and our “doing” program offers times that will offer the richest experiential education that will hopefully be memorable for all.

At UFPC the children are a valued part of the community and our ministry is to balance classroom learning, multi-age learning and community involvement. We believe that children learn by experience and their participation in the community is as equally as important as their time in the classroom.

**CHILDCARE** Childcare is provided for babies and toddlers. Our child care provider, Tyler will be in the childcare room from 10:15-11:45 on Sunday mornings. Parents have a choice of bringing children to toddler care room before church, or after the message for all ages – whatever parents prefer.

**MESSAGES for ALL AGES:** Sunday Mornings, the children arrive to church with their families or guardians and sit in our historical sanctuary. Following the Affirmation of Faith the children are invited to come forward and sit in the front pews for a “message” that will speak directly to them. These messages take form in story, drama, music, or art with the intention of offering a time of inspirational for all.

**SAFE CHURCH POLICY** All teachers and childcare providers are required to fill our our Safe Church Packet, which includes the Code of Ethics and a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) Form. All adults who work with children at UFPC, in any context, are required to abide by the Safe Church Policy approved by the UFPC Board of Governance (BOG).

**SPIRIT PLAY CLASS (Pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup>)**  
This class will explore the power of the story. We tell stories from Unitarian

Universalism and various religious traditions as well as stories of promise and peace. The children explore their understanding of words such as Faith, God, and the Mystery. These words allow the child freedom to choose what **they** believe as an on going exploration. They will learn there are many stories, as there are interpretatic and beliefs behind the story. After th story the children are invited and encourage to use art to deepen their understanding of what the story mean them. **Teachers: Jo Morris, Elisabet Strachan, Mahmooda Qureshi, Prav Bansal Karr, Declan Finn, Kate Hur**

**IN OUR HANDS – (elementary 2<sup>nd</sup> -**

This curriculum is an age based series written by the Peace and Social Justice Curriculum Team of the UUA. In Our Hands has been the “classic” Unitarian Universalist RE curriculum addressing the topic of peace. Wisely and prophetically the authors link peace and justice in the title and the content, explaining in the introduction, “Peace and justice are necessarily interdependent. Each requires the other. Real peace is not possible without justice...In addition, true justice is not possible without peace.” **Teachers: Donna Wise, Kin Dangora, Colette Dumas, Janice Pori Beth Cook, Maeve Rogers, Victoria Samsel, Rose Fitzmarice**