

Education Links

Inspiring, motivating, guiding Unity Churches to enhance and expand their ministries with children, teens & families

www.unity.org

Volume 14, Issue 1

Summer 2007

12 Power Super Heroes

by Gary Eisenberg
Youth Education Program Coordinator
Unity Church of the Valley, Vacaville, CA

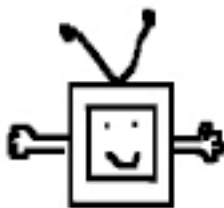
Being a public school teacher, I really look forward to my summer vacations!

One of the highlights of my last summer vacation was rediscovering a childhood passion of mine—super-hero comic books. You see, when I was a child, my family would spend a week each summer traveling to different National Parks and staying in cabins. Yep, that meant no TV! My brothers and I prepared for this calamity by bringing stacks and stacks of super-hero comic books to read for entertainment.

Imagine my surprise and delight this summer to find sitting on the shelf of my local library volumes (Yes, volumes!!!) of all my favorites: Superman, Spiderman, Flash, The X-Men, and the Justice League of America. Jesus tells us that heaven is in the midst of us, and he was so right. With my trusty library card, I was soon in heaven surrounded by my beloved super-hero comic books.

You may ask, “Gary, why are you such a super-hero comic book fanatic?” I’ll tell you. There’s something about these

continued on page 6



F.L.S. — “Phils”
Faith, Love, Strength



W.P.I. — “Whoop-EE”
Wisdom, Power, Imagination



U.W.O. — “You-Oh”
Understanding, Will, Order



E.R.L. — “Earl”
Enthusiasm, Release, Life

You are invited

to submit news, articles, ideas and photos for publication. See page 3.

Education Links Staff

Kathryn Kellogg—Editor

Joanna Carrell—Graphic Designer

Bernadette Swanson—Proofreader

Education Dept.

Deborah Frownfelter
Vice President of Education
ext. 333 e-mail: doe@unity.org

Anna Andes
Curriculum Development Consultant
e-mail: cur@unity.org

Kathryn Kellogg
FLP & Children's Ministry Coordinator
ext. 338 e-mail: kid@unity.org

Shirley Kennedy
Licensed Unity Teacher Coordinator
ext. 344 e-mail: ltc@unity.org

Rebecca Avery
AOU, YOU & Teen Ministry Coordinator
ext. 340 e-mail: you@unity.org

Kris Pred'homme, Education Assistant
ext. 347 e-mail: kris@unity.org

Marti Hayes, Education Assistant
ext. 332 e-mail: edast@unity.org

Rachel Simpson, YOU Assistant
ext. 327 e-mail: edplan@unity.org

Bernadette Swanson
Curriculum Editor/Writer
ext. 346 e-mail: cwriter@unity.org

Contact us

Mon-Thurs, 8am-5pm Central
Receptionist 816.524.7414

Website: www.unity.org
Fax: 816.525.4020

Education Links is a publication of the
Association of Unity Churches International

PO Box 610, Lee's Summit,
Missouri 64063

Each Unity Center should receive up to 5 copies of *Education Links* mailed to their center—one each for their Minister, Youth Ed Director, Uniteen Leader, YOU Sponsor and NGU Leader. Suggested Love Offering for additional subscriptions is \$10 per year.

Spiritual Development

12 Power Super Heroes

A fun way to remember the 12 powers.

Consider What?

Have you considered how the children experience the lesson?

Caring for the "Soul" Development of Children

The soul receives impressions from both Spirit and worldly things.

The Path of the Heart

Heartmath can positively impact your classroom and your life.

Afunmation

Use a different technique to teach affirmations.

What We Did Last Summer

"All God's Children" Vacation Bible School explores belief systems.

Truth in Action

YOUer notices how often we bring complexity upon ourselves.

Resources

A Ministerial Gold Mine

Youth Ed Curriculum can be a great resource for ministers too.

Books to Check Out

Books to enhance children's spiritual journeys.

New Products

The Association's newest products for children.

New Unity Music CD!

What a Wonderful World! Songs for Children is now available.

What's Happening

Calling for Articles, Teaching Tips and Ideas!

Share what is being done in **your** church.

First Youth and Family Minister Ordained

Rev. Diane Venzera is the first ordained Youth and Family Minister.

Youth of Unity Appreciative Inquiry Summit

Participate in shaping the future of YOU.

Places to Go, Much to Learn

A look at Regional and Association events.

page

1

4

9

10

12

14

17

7

18

20

24

3

8

15

22

Hello Dear Ones,

This issue of *Education Links* is a potpourri of articles including teaching ideas, summer programs, events, and resources. We have new curriculum available with a great new music CD for our younger children. Check out the Appreciative Inquiry Summit for International YOU, October 11–14.

We had planned to finish this year with issues on development stages and creating environments for our youth and family program. However, those topics weren't generating any enthusiasm for articles, so it was time for a change. Please check out the box below to see what the next four issues will cover. Your articles and ideas are always appreciated.



Blessings,

Kathryn Kellogg

The Distinguished Youth Service Award is a nationally recognized program developed by the Association of Unity Churches International to acknowledge those adults who have given their time and energy to the church by serving the spiritual development of children and teens. Forms can be downloaded at www.unity.org/education/DYSBrochure.pdf.

Calling for Articles, Teaching Tips, and Ideas!

We need your articles to provide a broader representation of what is being done in Unity churches nationwide. If you don't have time to write, find a volunteer in your church that enjoys writing and have them write up what you want to share. You don't have to wait until the due date—send them in now.

By August 15—Using the Bible in Unity (what versions are you using or have found helpful, how to help young people navigate through it, interpreting it at the different development stages, etc.)

By September 1—Easter holiday issue (lessons, activities, events, programs, etc.)

By October 1—Nature, science, and metaphysics—how our natural world is organized and reflects our spiritual truth (This could be about string theory, chaos theory, abundance in nature, how the environment handles stress, praying over water, environmental curriculum, etc.)

By November 1—Models of child, teen, and family ministry (looking at the different ways youth ministry can be created including rotational method, classroom style, wonder centers, children in church, one-room, multiple rooms, etc.) Share what your ministry has created that works for your particular ministry. You may also want to share a curriculum that you created that generated interest, learning, and fun.

Consider What?

Anna Andes, Ed.D., LUT, CSE
Curriculum Development Consultant

Ah, it is the beginning of another week! It is time to get serious about what you will teach in your class next Sunday. But is the lesson content all that you need to consider? What about the young people who come for the lesson?

Think about last week. When the children arrived, what was their emotional state that morning? How did Natasha enter the room? What was your response when she entered? Were you at the door greeting each child individually or were you still finishing the setup or talking to another teacher or parent? Did each child feel individually acknowledged and welcomed?

What were the various energies of your children when they entered? How physical was Ryan during the class? Did you have an experience or activity that engaged his physical needs and also interested Charlene, your quietest child?

What was available for your children when they arrived? Did they do whatever they wanted to, or were they encouraged to begin participating in an engaging activity as soon as they arrived? Did they have an opportunity to choose a job card? Or in some way become responsible for contributing to the Sunday morning experience? Did they talk about the story you shared with them or did they remain silent until the activities began?

All of these considerations are usually not what we focus on when preparing for our Sunday morning teaching experience.



Instead,
we read
through the lesson,
making sure we understand
it and have on hand everything that is needed.

Keep Lessons Age-Appropriate

Yet, if we want to be most effective with our children, we need to have more than an understanding of the lesson content. We need to know the physical abilities and limitations of the children we are serving. For example, if the preschool children are to cut out pictures from magazines, be aware that leafing through magazines to select something specific at this age is difficult because they cannot relate to most of the pictures in the magazine. It is better for the teacher to tear pictures out ahead and offer them a limited choice. Likewise, remember that few three-year-olds can cut with scissors while some five-year olds can cut well enough to enjoy cutting for a short time interval.

We need to be able to explain concepts on a level that they are able mentally to grasp, rather than at the level of understanding we adults have. Also, we respond better to our children and situations that occur when we are aware of what are appropriate emotional responses from our children. The group functions better if we consider their social abilities and are ready to help them continue to learn effective ways to interact socially. For instance, expecting sixth-grade boys to hold hands with girls in the class is not realistic unless you have created a safe space where everyone agreed that no ridicule is allowed.

of them learns differently from others in our class. Some like hearing the story (auditory learners), others insist on seeing the pictures (visual learners), and others don't really pay attention unless they can be acting it out or helping to tell the story (kinesthetic learners). Each of us has preferred learning styles or ways that we learn the most. In fact, most adults teach using their own preferred learning style. Yet that is not the way many of our children learn. And we tend to teach using a "one-size fits all" approach!

If I am an adult who has done very little teaching, all this sounds overwhelming. Yet I can learn all this gradually through reading resources, by observing those I teach, by attending effective teacher trainings, by taking classes offered at my Unity church, and by participating in Unity regional training for youth educators. If I am an experienced teacher or assistant, I also can benefit from these same steps.

I can pray, prepare, and participate! I can prepare myself to function from my loving Christ center. I can always prayerfully consider those who are part of this journey with me. I can stay open to constantly learning from Spirit and from others including my children and teens. I can count on God's presence in everyone. I can move forward loving and learning, and being present to serve in whatever ways I can.

Ever-Evolving Curriculum

If I am responsible for training teachers and assistants for Youth and Family Ministry, I never need to wonder about what content to present because so much about human development at various ages has been published. Even more insight will be available within the next five years as brain research is revealing so much more about how the human brain functions and adapts. Likewise, much research in emotional and social intelligence is occurring and we will know even more about how the brain constantly works for the benefit of our survival as human beings.

A director can start by using the information available in the Youth and Family Ministry Guide (#6010), Chapter 9 on learning styles and developmental characteristics of the various ages. Internet searches also provide considerable information in a concise manner. You may have someone in your congregation or community who can offer a workshop on learning. Unity Youth Ministry Fast-Start Training Program (#6000) on CD includes numerous visuals that can assist in training individuals and groups.

Being with children and teens can be fun and exciting. It provides you with great opportunities to continue learning about individuals, to grow spiritually, to make a difference in someone else's life, and to challenge yourself. It can give you love, intellectual and spiritual growth, and a sense of satisfaction. No matter how well or long you teach, the universe always provides yet more to learn. And that is something to be grateful for!

Here are some websites for starting research.

Multiple Intelligences:

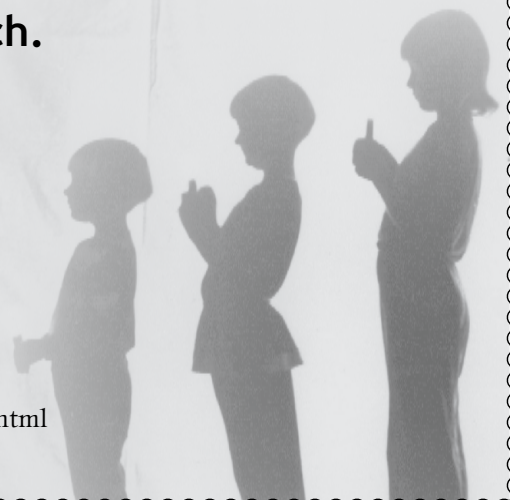
http://www.thomasarmstrong.com/multiple_intelligences.htm
http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/curr054.shtml

Intellectual Development:

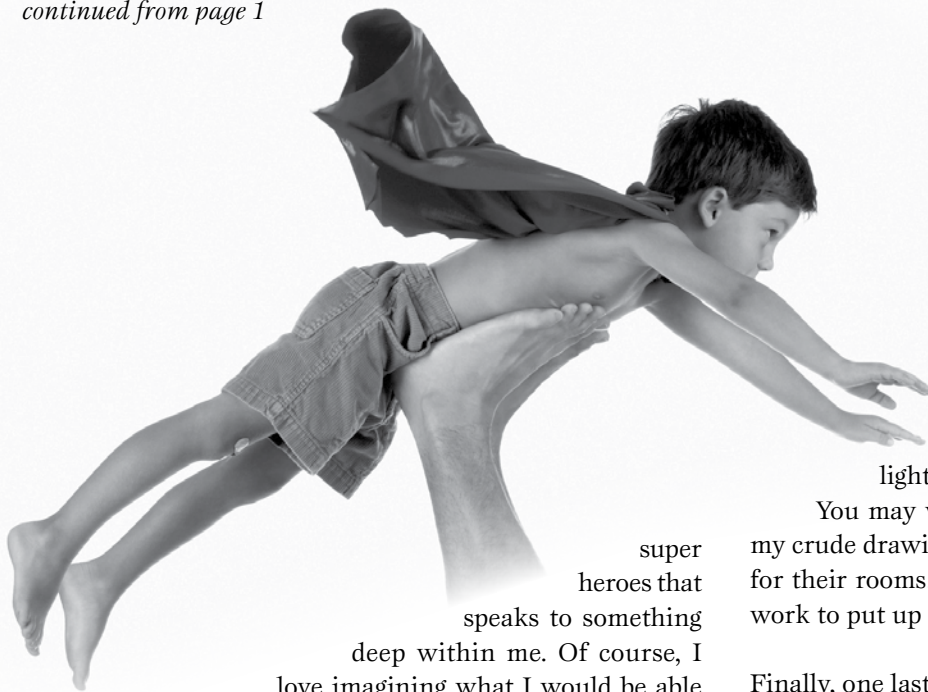
<http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/development/piaget.shtml>

Social-Emotional Development:

<http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/development/erickson.shtml>
http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content2/social_development_gifted.html



continued from page 1



super heroes that speaks to something deep within me. Of course, I love imagining what I would be able to do if I could fly or climb walls or run faster than the speed of light. But I think these super heroes resonate with my entire being, because, deep within, I know I have powers too.

In Unity, Charles Fillmore identified all of our innate gifts and abilities as “The Twelve Powers.” Yes, we all have them, even our children. That’s what they are learning in Sunday youth education. We are trying to teach our children how to access and use their Twelve Powers when confronted with issues and challenging situations in their young lives.

Our minister often states that he often teaches and talks about what he needs to work on. Likewise, I love teaching about the Twelve Powers because I have a hard time remembering them and accessing them when I need them.

So using my passion for super-hero comic books, I have created Four Twelve-Power Super Heroes to help me remember my 12 Powers.

“Phils” is the heart of Faith, Love, and Strength. “Whoop-EE” is the TV of Wisdom, Power, and Imagination. “You-Oh” is the light bulb of Understanding, Will, and Order. “Earl” is the

lightning bolt of Enthusiasm, Release, and Life. You may want to ask your children to improve upon my crude drawings of these Super Heroes and make posters for their rooms. (I would love to have some of their poster work to put up at church.)

Finally, one last Super Hero suggestion. How about starting off each school day with my “Superman” song? Have your children sing along to John William’s Superman theme music:

I’m so glad to be here today.
 I’m so glad I’ve just got to say.
 That I’m joyful.
 That I’m loving.
 That I’m ready to win.
 Let the day begin!



A Ministerial Gold Mine

by Rev. Russell Heiland
 Unity Christ Church of
 Wilmington, NC

Last summer I accidentally stumbled upon a gold mine of resources that can be used in preparing Sunday lessons and classes in our ministries—youth education curriculum and the resources of our Association of Unity Churches International. I need to tell you that I've never considered myself a "kid person." I recall my own childhood as boring, and as an adult I have generally felt uncomfortable with "kid energy." So my experience simply proves the principle: what we resist persists till we claim the gift.

Last year I was a fourth-year Field Licensing Candidate and had just completed my first year as senior minister of our 200 member ministry. From my first CEP class (1993) to July 30, 2006, my course work that focused on youth education had been, uh, minimal. As a minister, that was proving to be a challenge owing to the amount of discordant energy coming from that department in the church. I found myself at a loss as to how to coach the director and program participants due to my simple ignorance of the subject.

In order to address the matter, I decided to try an experiment: I would preach from youth education material. Principle is always principle whether it is being taught to children, adolescents or adults. So in theory, I told myself, this should work. And it did. Marilyn Hafey and Michelle Hafey, two of our veteran youth education teachers, wrote Connecting



Teens to Truth, which I found to be amazingly relevant and helpful in preparing for the pulpit. I also pulled Sunday lessons from Celebrating My God-self, the curriculum we use in our 6- and 7-year-old class, published by our Association. These curricula, in addition to the other resources available through our

Association, are perfect for any minister wishing to augment his/her own material. The well-prepared, professional Unity resources provide tools for addressing the multiple intelligences of our congregations.

I took one other step that "sealed the deal" for me concerning youth education: I attended Child/Teen Ministry Week hosted by our Association at Unity Village. Beyond a shadow

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

of a doubt, I can say it was the most inspiring and enlightening Unity activity I have participated in in years—and this from the guy who’s uncomfortable with children. In this week of intensity and fun, I learned more than this space will permit; however highlights for me included learning how to teach to multiple intelligences; comprehension of the stages of physical, mental/emotional, and faith development; requisites of a successful classroom and program. Moreover, I gained important insight into the sheer volume and quality of materials available through our Association. Lastly, and most importantly, I learned that everything we teach children, and how we teach children is directly and immediately applicable

to adults. I urge every minister whose experience with youth education is minimal to plan to attend next summer’s Child/Teen Ministry Week.

I hope I have conveyed my enthusiasm for the resources our Association has available to us as ministers which will allow us to teach Truth more effectively to both the adults and children in our ministries. Please visit our Association’s website often and review the youth education section (www.unity.org/edu_kid_new.html) as enhancements and new tools are posted often.

First Youth and Family Minister Ordained

Rev. Diane Venzera, Great Lakes Regional Children’s Education Consultant, was ordained on March 15, 2007, with the distinction of being the first ordained Unity Youth and Family Minister (YFM). Sponsored by her former ministry, Unity of Oak Park, IL, Diane completed the Field Licensing Program after finishing the four-year path designed for individuals specializing in YFM. Besides being a regional consultant, Diane also heads up the alternative ministry, Spirit’s Light Foundation, which celebrated its 5th annual conference in May. Congratulations, Diane!



Rev. Diane Venzera.

In the next three years, Rev. Penelope Gruver, Northwest Unity Regional Children’s Education Consultant, and Rev. Mark Fisk, Southwest Unity Regional Teen Education Consultant, will be ordained through the Field Licensing Program.



Bernadette Swanson, curriculum writer/editor; Rev. Kathryn Kellogg, Field Licensing and Children’s Ministry Coordinator; Rev. Diane Venzera; Rev. Deborah Frownfelter, VP Leadership and Organizational Services.

Caring for the “Soul” Development of Children

by Audrey Bloom, MSW, LUT
Miami, FL


The words spirit and soul are often used interchangeably in spiritual literature. Between the two, more often spirit is said to have constant, eternal qualities. In Unity we liken it to “unchanging principle.” On the other hand, it is soul that is responsive to growth and change. We commonly say “spiritual development” when in truth it is the soul that develops. In our Unity teachings, spiritual development means soul fashioning itself after spirit.

Myrtle Fillmore made a distinction between soul and Spirit and expressed it this way: “Spirit has no age; it is eternal ... and unchanging.... The soul is ever unfolding God’s ideas.... The development of soul qualities causes the individual to be more and more mature in his judgments and his expressions. The soul ever keeps in touch with that which is true of God....”

Charles Fillmore said this, “Soul is the sum total of all our beliefs, thoughts, and attributes.” Unity spiritual philosophy conceptualizes the whole person as Spirit, soul, and body. H. Emilie Cady contributed to the concept of soul when she wrote that soul is “where we do conscious thinking and are free wills. This part of our being is in constant process of changing.”

When we synthesize the above ideas, we arrive at a definition of soul as a part of our being that is informed by our conscious choices and is expressed via our beliefs, thoughts, and characteristics. It becomes apparent that the soul is impressionable, malleable, capable of being formed, and that its formation is a lifelong process.

If we are to talk about soul to children, we might say that the soul can be likened to the creamy center of a two-wafer cookie; one side capable of receiving impressions from Spirit and the other side from worldly things. And, of course, absolutely everything from Spirit is good, and so are many things from the world—but not all! Therefore it is our “work” to be able to distinguish between the two.



We foster openness in children toward Spirit so that, as Myrtle says, they may “mature in judgment and expression.” Since we know that the soul receives impressions from both Spirit and worldly things, it is our work to establish learning environments where children encounter curriculum and methods akin to Spirit. Once these learning environments are in place, it is our task to encourage children to distinguish for themselves that which is good, as in “worthy of praise,” from that which is worth less.

Things worthy of praise are those that inspire love and awe. They demonstrate the interconnectedness of all things. These are fostered through inner listening, peace education, and concrete examples of the interconnectedness of all things, such as care of the earth, contributing to the common good, and all forms of creative expression. It is most important to teach children acceptance of their own self and others, as souls in process who are aspiring to spiritual qualities.

Spiritual literature today talks much about the evolvement of God. In this evolution, the children are a step ahead of us. As we educate them, it is important to remember these words of Kahill Gibran:

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life’s longing for itself....

You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow ...

The Path of the Heart

by Rev. Jane Simmons
Associate Minister, Unity Church of Lawrence, KS

“The only way to keep it pumping is to stay alive.” These wise words were uttered by a first-grade student, as he shared his knowledge of the heart. University professor and poet Dr. Robert Rees paid a visit to an elementary school, reversing roles with the students and asking children to teach him their understanding of the heart. My favorite statement was from six-year-old Mallory: “If no one had a heart, God would not be alive, because God has a heart.” How profound. The heart is our connection to the Divine.

If you are searching for a way to create an environment of peace and love in your Sunday morning lesson, then look to the power of the heart. Using simple breathing techniques and feelings of appreciation, Heartmath can positively impact your classroom as well as your daily life. These tools can make the difference between a stress-filled experience and a connected, spiritual lesson on Sunday morning. The breath and the heart—not only are they an empowering combination for transformation, but the good news is we all have both!

Although the name, Heartmath, implies a form of “cardiac algebra,” you can put away your calculator. It was chosen to illustrate that these heart-centered practices can be applied in the same manner as scientific equations. Just as the principle of $2 + 2$ always = 4, so the principle of breath + appreciation always = harmony. Heartmath is a blending of science and spirituality in that the research is cutting-edge in the field of

Heart Intelligence and intuition. It is through the power of appreciation that we access the Intelligence within.

Using biofeedback technology that measures heart rate variability (HRV), children are actually able to witness changes in their physiological state on the computer



screen, as they practice feeling and emanating appreciation. (See photos below.) Right before their eyes, they can watch as their incoherent HRV configuration shifts to a more harmonious pattern. Once a child is able to sustain a level of coherence, he or she is now ready to try playing what I have dubbed a “heart video game.” On the screen is a black and white picture of a meadow.

As the child attains a high state of coherence, the picture becomes bright with color, animals appear and a rainbow emerges. The changes on the screen can only be made when a child is feeling love and appreciation!

These techniques are useful not only for creating a peaceful, nurturing environment on Sunday morning. Being able to manage stress and be at peace in the midst of conflict will help a child in all areas of his or her life. Research has

shown that these heart-centered tools are very effective in a variety of situations such as: staying connected during conflict, being able to think clearly during stressful situations, counteracting the harmful physiological effects of stress, being at peace in the midst of stormy situations, and accessing the intuitive understanding of Heart Intelligence—all through the power of appreciation. Science is now proving what spiritual wisdom has always taught—love really is the answer!

Paul counsels us in 1 Corinthians 16:14 to “let all that you do be done in love.”

Practicing these simple, yet powerful techniques contributes to the world becoming a more peaceful and love-filled place. Loving one another is being God in expression. As Gedeon, another wise first-grader pronounced, “God would have no reason to live if we didn’t have a heart.” Indeed.

You can visit www.heartmath.org in order to learn more about Heartmath technology, research, and resources. If you are interested in hosting a Heartmath training for youth educators, you may contact Rev. Jane Simmons at revjane@imakethedifference.net. Formerly the Uniteens Consultant for the Eastern Region of the Association of Unity Churches, Jane has facilitated seminars and conferences for spiritual educators. She is the author of *I of the Storm for Teens: Finding Peace in the Midst of Conflict* and a 12-week youth curriculum based on her book.



Pictured: Kristy Flournoy, Eli McCool and Jim O’Boyle practice Heartmath principles using the Freeze Framer technology during a Y.O.U./Uniteen Lock In at Unity of Fayetteville, Fayetteville, AR.



A fun mation

by Bernadete Leal
Christ Church Unity, San Diego, CA

Affirmation is my favorite teaching time. But now, instead of calling it affirmation, I call it: “A-fun-mation”!

We all have our own way of teaching and working with affirmations and I’d like to share my experience with you.

This is how I used to present the affirmation in the past. One of the children or myself wrote the affirmation on the board right at the beginning of the class. So the affirmation was there till it was time to work on it. Then we read the affirmation together and discussed it. I started to realize that not all of our children participated. Some of them were distracted (mainly the ones that couldn’t read well yet) or just shy to talk.

That’s when I asked myself, “Maybe the way the affirmation is presented is too boring! How can I make them participate more and really understand the meaning of the affirmation?”

I decided then to ask the children about last Sunday’s affirmation; if they remembered what we talked about. They barely remembered it! Well, I can’t blame them. Can I remember things I did a week ago??? Not really, unless it was something fun and I really enjoyed.

Well, that inspired me to try to introduce the affirmation in a different way.

What about using a different technique, like a game, a song, an art activity, etc? Most of us learn faster through experience with concrete activities and for sure when we are having FUN!



Well, I tried something different, less boring and the result was great!

- More participation
- More excitement
- Better understanding of the meaning of the affirmation
- More fun

When I asked the children, on the following Sunday, if they remembered what last Sunday’s affirmation was, I had good feedback. They couldn’t remember the affirmation right away but when we started to describe the affirmation activity–BINGO!! They remembered the affirmation in their own words.

Then I thought: “Hey, we are making some progress here! A-fun-mation here we go!”

Referring to last Sunday’s affirmation helps to introduce a new one, as well as to connect the lessons. Also, if you present the affirmation after the prayer or meditation, this is a perfect activity to “wake them up” and get the children into the new topic.

The main ingredient for A-fun-mation is creativity and there’s no excuse because

Everybody is creative!

You might not know how creative you are until you begin doing “a-fun-mation.” You can start with something really simple and then you will see how far you can go!

“Creativity, it has been said, consists largely of re-arranging what we know in order to find out what we do not know.”

—George Keller

We use our creativity all the time, mainly when we want to solve a problem. Graham Wallas, in his work *Art of Thought*, published in 1926, presented one of the first models of the creative process. In the Wallas stage model, creative insights and illuminations may be explained by a process consisting of five stages:

- 1 **preparation** (preparatory work on a problem that focuses the individual’s mind on the problem and explores the problem’s dimensions),
- 2 **incubation** (where the problem is internalized into the subconscious mind and nothing appears externally to be happening),
- 3 **intimation** (the creative person gets a ‘feeling’ that a solution is on its way),
- 4 **illumination or insight** (where the creative idea bursts forth from its subconscious processing into conscious awareness); and
- 5 **verification** (where the idea is consciously verified, elaborated, and then applied).

Just use your imagination and give wings to your creation!

Some affirmation activity helps our children to work together as a team during our T.E.A.M. (**T**he **E**nlightening **A**ffirmation **M**oment) time. Here are some suggestions for T.E.A.M.

Games: You can turn any activity into a game. Just make sure that the game has some kind of body movement and that there is no competition.



Charade/Mime: Write the affirmation on the board missing one or more words. Choose a child and let her/him know what the word is. Then she/he has to mime the missing word while the other children have to guess it and then say the affirmation with the missing word.

Hide and Seek: You write the affirmation on the board missing the last one or more words. You hide the words somewhere in the classroom and they have to find the word and then say the affirmation using the word(s) they found.

Favorite word: Have the affirmation written on a piece of paper taped underneath their chairs. They have to grab the paper, read it, pick one word that they liked the most in the affirmation, and tell you why.

Puzzle: Write the affirmation on a piece of cardboard and cut it into pieces. As a team, they have to put the pieces together and figure out the affirmation.

Lip reading: Say the affirmation moving your lips only but no sound. They will have to read your lips and write down what they think the affirmation is (this is better with small sentences).

continued on page 14

What We Did Last Summer: Our 2006 Vacation Bible School

by Kristy and Julie White
Christ Church Unity, Springfield, MO

Inspired by the song, "In the Very Middle,"* we wanted to explore belief systems in greater detail than what a Sunday morning allowed. What we came up with was the theme, "All God's Children." Daily topics were accompanied by a related special activity. One topic, My Body Is a Temple: Finding God, was supported by a church member who is a licensed Yoga instructor and who spent 20 minutes teaching yoga to the group. Another topic, The Many Ways We Pray, was highlighted by a duct-tape labyrinth on the floor of Fellowship Hall. The kids loved it!

What was incredible was the willingness, especially of our Uniteens and YOUers, to help. Two YOUers came in to do sacred dancing with us, teaching some of the dances they had experienced at rallies. Five Uniteens helped with the exploration centers.

One of the most popular centers was the wardrobe or costume center where the children tried on attire from other cultures. (The Uniteens liked this as much as the kids.) For the story center, we borrowed more than three



dozen children's books on world religions from the county library to add to the books we already had. At the craft center, the children stenciled symbols of world religions on tee-shirts, and made prayer flags, mosaics, and even drums that we later used with the music of John Two-Hawks.**

We ended up with enough material for several weeks, but condensed it to one week of discovery, disguised as fun and games. It was a very successful week.

**"In the Very Middle," written by Carol Johnson, is found on the Unite With Me in Song CD available through the Association of Unity Churches (#1301, \$19.95) or by contacting Unity of Clearwater.

** www.johntwohawks.com

continued from page 13

Art activity: If the affirmation is, for example, "God made everything good," draw a big empty bag and let the children draw in small pieces of paper what they think the good things God made are. They will glue them on the bag. You can then talk about the affirmation.

Music: Rap: Just pick one rap melody that you know, a hip hop hit, or make something up using the words of the affirmation.

You will be amazed that once you start doing the a-fun-ation, how inspired you will be. You will remember games you played when you were a kid and adapt them, or you will create your own activities. Life itself is an inspiration and, with God in your heart, you can be very creative and make a difference in someone's life. Let's have fun!

Youth of Unity Appreciative Inquiry Summit

October 11-14, 2007
at Unity Village, Missouri

Did you know the Youth of Unity (YOU) has been in existence since 1936? In these 70 years much has changed—in our world, in our Unity movement, and in our teenagers. Throughout the years, much love and attention has been shared in keeping traditions alive and supporting our teens as they navigate their journey to adulthood. For the International YOU programs, we have come to an understanding: that some of the ways we have served our youth in the past do not necessarily serve now. The Youth of Unity Appreciative Inquiry Summit is an opportunity, a moment in time, to walk through a discernment process to not only discover how to best enrich the lives of our teens today, but to lay the foundation of a YOU program that evolves with the times to respond to the needs of the youth of today and tomorrow.

The summit, which will be held at Unity Village, October 11-14, 2007, is an opportunity open to current and former YOUers, parents, sponsors, ministers, youth and family directors, and any others who feel a call to be part of this time of growth. Using the Appreciative Inquiry process, the individuals attending will ask the questions about what YOU was, is, and can be. Together we will find a structure that works for our teens and aligns with the spiritual principles of Unity.

If you would like more information, or to download a registration form, visit www.internationalyou.org/forms.



2006-2007 YOU Leadership Team

Youth of Unity Appreciative Inquiry Summit

at Unity Village, Missouri
 October 11-14, 2007
 Registration form

Name _____

Name preferred on name tag _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

I am a (check all that apply) YOUer former YOUer Parent Sponsor MinisterBirth date ____/____/____ Gender M F

Church name _____

City _____ State _____ YOU region _____

Registration fee is \$100 and is non-refundable. Registration scholarships are available for more information please contact Rebecca Avery at you@unity.org.

Attendees are responsible for meals and lodging. Please check our website, www.internationalyou.org for recommendations.

Questions about registration?

Contact YOU Assistant at: 816.524.7414

Email: youast@unity.org

Complete online, mail, or fax this registration form and payment to:

Association of Unity Churches International

Attention YOU Assistant

PO Box 610

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

fax 816.525.4020

Credit Card Payment: MC Visa Exp. Date _____

Credit Card # _____

Name of cardholder (please print) _____

Cardholder's signature _____ Date _____

Amount to be charged \$ _____

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Reference # _____

Amt. Rec'd _____

Acct. No. _____

Processed by _____

Truth in Action

The Red Wheelbarrow

By William Carlos Williams

So much depends
upon

A red wheel
barrow

Glazed with rain
water

Beside the white
chickens



by Weston Loehr
Southern Regional Representative
Eastern Region YOU

William Carlos Williams wrote this poem on the spot when attending to a sick child. It has become one of my favorites because of the way it makes us stop and appreciate the beauty of a simple scene. I was first exposed to this poem in my English class several weeks ago.

Our teacher had been teaching us how to analyze poems for the AP test, so he put “The Red Wheelbarrow” on the overhead and asked students to analyze it. One student said that it was about the Vietnam War and communism, while another said that it was representing the CEO of a company and what he had to do to run the business. Not one student acknowledged that the poem might actually be about a wheelbarrow.

It was during this class that I first noticed how often we bring complexity upon ourselves. Instead of the simplicity of the poem, the students had to find the most complex interpretation that they could. How often do we do this in other parts of our lives? I know I do it all the time. Homework assignments and other problems often seem complex to me until I sit back, relax, and let a simple solution come to me. My dad has a small plaque sitting next to his coffee pot that has a quote from Henry David Thoreau. “Our life is frittered away by detail... Simplify, simplify, simplify!” Amen! Life is not meant to be complicated.

A long time ago, my English teacher told us that if we were having trouble with an assignment and it wasn't coming easily to us, drop it and do something else. I took that to heart, not only in his assignments, but in other things as well. Instead of stressing out about a problem and making it worse than it really is, I try to sit back and tell myself, “Life is good and a simple solution will come to me.” It is amazing how well it works!

Curriculum notice:

What a Wonderful World, Vol. 1 Unit 6, Session 4 (p. 204)

The beginning experience #1 uses the video *It's in Everyone of Us*. This video is no longer available through the Association of Unity Churches International or the distributor. You may find it in your local library.

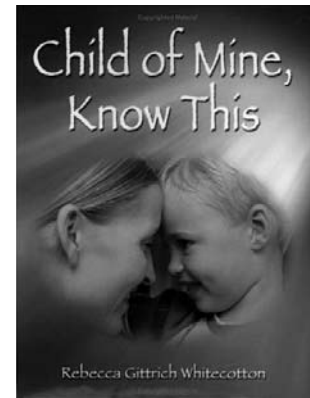
Books to Check Out:

Child of Mine, Know This

by Rebecca Gittrich Whitecotton

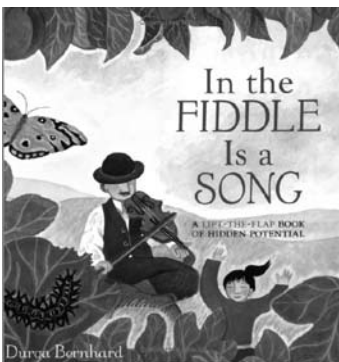
32 pp; full color photographs throughout
Bright Treasures, May 2006, hardcover

This book invites you to take a closer, spiritual look at family relationships in this loving message from parent to child. Expressing the belief that the bond between parent and child has been created over lifetimes, it gently reminds both to look beyond the illusion of separateness and reconnect with the unconditional love of oneness with Spirit. Photographs are used throughout and the book is designed so you can insert your own photos to make the book uniquely yours. See more reviews about this book at www.childofmineknowthis.net.



Rebecca has also joined forces with other independent publishers to create A Meaningful Fundraiser, which gives groups an opportunity to raise funds by selling meaningful books and music. See the website at www.ameaningfulfundraiser.com for more information.

In the Fiddle Is a Song *A Lift-the-Flap Book of Hidden Potential*



By Durga Bernhard
24 pp; full color throughout,
Chronicle Books, April 2006, hardcover

This is a wonderfully illustrated book that invites the reader to think about the hidden potential within an acorn, wheat, a thread, and more. The design of the book makes it fun for all involved as lifting the flap discloses what promise each item holds. (I used this in my Kindergarten class and they loved it—Editor) See more about this book at www.chroniclebooks.com or www.Amazon.com.



Universal Flag

The Universal Flag is a symbol of our interconnection and oneness with all. Instead of flags that represent our differences, this product proclaims our similarities—white for the purity from which we come, multiple colors for the vibrations of energy common to all, waves representing the ups and downs of daily living, and the surrounding gold band for the truth teaching: *Treat one another as you want to be treated.* To learn more these flags, visit www.UniversalFlag.org.

Books by Brian D. McClure

Brian has written four books (*The Raindrop*, *The Sun and the Moon*, *The Bubble*, and *Who Am I?*) that share a common theme of the interconnection and oneness of all, and which resonate with simple truths that are common to all of us. The books can be purchased separately or as an audio book collection. Concepts and

wordiness makes these books more suited for children ages 9 and up. More about these resources at <http://store.universalflag.com/index.asp>.



Who Am I?

7 X 9 in; 52 pgs; full color throughout

Hardcover, published in 2006

ISBN 13: 9781933426037

As objects begin to speak to him, a young boy discovers the reality of who he is.

“Who am I?” came the cry.

“Don’t you KNOW?” mumbled my toe...

New Products



6071 Kit: What a Wonderful World! Volume 4 \$20.00

Contains 12 interactive, teacher-friendly lessons for Units 18-20 and Bible story figures. Units address these concepts: Patience, Prosperity and Joy. Storybooks and music CD, sold separately, are essential to lessons and are listed below. If you need Co-Co the Wonder Bear (4502), order separately.

Or

6084 What a Wonderful World! Vol. 4 \$14.95
12 lessons with handouts that can be duplicated

6085 Art Figures for WAWW! Vol. 4 \$7.50
Bible character figures needed for Units 18-20



Essential Storybooks for Volume 4

The Mouse and the Apple

Available on Amazon.com

By Stephen Butler. In this lively and funny tale, Mouse teaches the value of waiting patiently to receive the reward of the apple. Cow, Hen, Goat, and Goose comically try to assert their wills but end up frustrated and empty-handed. (For Unit 18)

6887 What a Treasure! \$14.50

By Jane and Will Hillenbrand. Mole practices prosperity as his giving spirit leads him to give away to friends-in-need the objects he unearths while digging. Mole is rewarded for his generosity by uncovering the best treasure of all—a friend with whom he has much in common. (For Unit 19)

6888 Fun Is a Feeling! \$13.65

By Chara M. Curtis. In this wise and whimsical book, a child follows stardust from page to page to discover that the joy of life begins from within. Fun is hidden in many of life's experiences, and our own creativity helps to uncover it! (For Unit 20)

To see and print a sample lesson and a Scope and Sequence chart for this series, go to www.unity.org/education/curric_presch.html#waww.

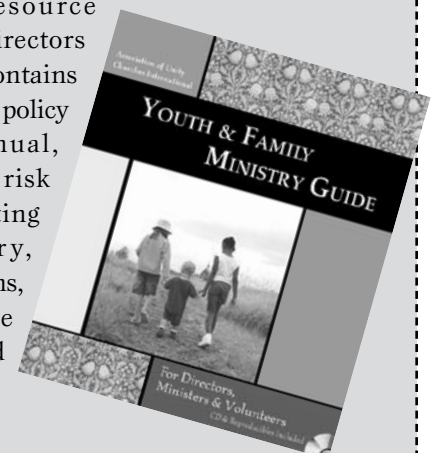
Also New in 2006

1117 Cultivating God Mind Through Parables \$7.95

This seven-week study, designed for small group study, also works well with YOU and NGU in exploring six parables. Using interactive discussion and creative experiences, the lessons explore the deeper meaning of parables and increase one's awareness of the influence of our mind in our experiences.

6010 Youth and Family Ministry Guide \$36.95

This invaluable resource benefits ministers, directors and volunteers, as it contains guidelines for writing a policy and procedure manual, training volunteers, risk management, budgeting for youth ministry, creating effective lessons, plus 25 downloadable forms to customize, and much more.






6070 Kit: What a Wonderful World! Vol. 3 **\$20.00**

This new publication includes 12 interactive lessons for Units 15-17 on God Is Everywhere, Prayer, and Body Temple. Included are the new Bible story art figures. Also included are detailed introductory pages for teachers on how to present the lessons. Storybooks and new music CD for this series are sold separately and are listed below. If you need Co-Co the Wonder Bear (4502), order separately.

Or

6082 What a Wonderful World! Vol. 3 **\$14.95**
12 lessons with handouts that can be duplicated

6083 Art Figures for WAWW! Vol. 3 **\$7.50**
Bible character figures needed for Units 15-17




You can order
Association resources online, through e-mail and by phone. Please note these prices do not include shipping.

Log on to **www.unity.org** to see the list of products available through the Association of Unity Churches.

e-mail: **orders@unity.org**

Or call the Association: 816-524-7414 and ask for Trudy (ext. 324).



Essential Storybooks for Volume 3

6882 The Everything Seed **\$13.45**
By Carole Martignacco. Through simple, clear words and breathtaking, mystical drawings, the scientific origin of our Universe is revealed within a context of divine order. The familiar image of a seed is used to present the ongoing and self-unfolding nature of creation. (For Unit 15)

6883 Where Does God Live? **\$12.65**
By Holly Bea. Hope is a vivacious young girl who loves to ask questions. Wondering where God lives leads her on a questioning spree among all kinds of creatures, and finally to her grandmother, who teaches Hope about the presence of God in all creation. (For Unit 15)

6884 Does God Hear My Prayer? **\$7.60**
By August Gold. What does it mean when we pray for that red bike and don't get it? Through a series of questions and answers with wise elders, a young child learns that prayer is an ongoing conversation with a loving God, which we can initiate any time we like. (For Unit 16)

6885 I Like Me! **\$5.95**
By Nancy Carlson. Pig is so delighted with herself—from her curly tail to her round tummy to her tiny feet—that she is her own best friend. Children learn to view themselves as perfect and unique, just as they are. (For Unit 17)

To see and print a sample lesson and a Scope and Sequence chart for this series, go to www.unity.org/education/curric_presch.html#waww.

Places to Go, Much to Learn

Regional Events 2007-2008

Region	Title	For	Regional Contact	Location	Date
CENTRAL	Fall Rally	YOU	Lisa Yelenick	Rock Springs, KS	Nov 9-11
	Winter Rally	YOU	Lisa Yelenick	TBA	Feb 15-17
CENTRAL & SOUTH	Children's Ministry Training	YED, Teachers, Uniteen Ldrs, YOU Sponsors	Marygrace Sorensen	New Braunfels, TX (for Mid-south TX area, including Austin)	Sept 15
				Dallas, TX (for N. TX, incl. Dallas, N. LA and S. AR)	Oct 20
				TBA (for North Platte, NE and Denver)	March
				TBA (for Omaha to mid-NE and Iowa)	April
				TBA (for Mid to N AR, OK and SW MO)	September
				TBA (for NM and TX pan handle)	October
	Teen Ministry Training	Uniteen Ldrs & YOU Sponsors	Joanne Burns	Ft. Worth, TX	Sept 22
				Fayetteville, AR	Oct 27
Omaha, NE				Nov 3	
SOUTHEAST	Uniteen Leader Retreat	Uniteen Ldrs	Michele Senac	Jacksonville, FL	Sept 21-23
	Fall Uniteen Retreat	Uniteens & Ldr	Michele Senac	Live Oak, FL	Oct 5-7
	Youth Team Training	YED, Teachers, Uniteen Ldrs, YOU Sponsors	Michele Senac	Delray Beach, FL	Jan 12
				Greenville, SC	Jan 19
	Winter Uniteen Retreat	Uniteens & Ldr	Michele Senac	Live Oak, FL	Feb 8-10

For a complete list of events, please contact your Regional Consultant or visit your regional website. (information on next page.)

Regional Education Services Consultants Directory

(C) Children • (U) Uniteen • (Y) Youth of Unity
 (YA) Young Adults • (NGU) Next Generation of Unity

Central & South		Central YOU		South YOU	
www.scucaregion.org		www.youcentral.org		www.southyou.org	
Marygrace Sorensen (C) 8006 Carmel Circle Houston, TX 77095 (832) 528-9464 (Cell) kids@scucaregion.org	Joanne Burns (U) 333 Hillandale Ave. Belen, NM 87002 (512) 635-0115 scuniteen@gmail.com	Lisa Yelenick (Y) 3650 S. Dahlia St. Denver, CO 80237 (303) 758-7056 (H) anadolu2@earthlink.net	Bruce Verkruyse (Y) 2811 Sieber Dr. Dalworthington Gardens, TX 76016 (817) 460-3741 (H) scyout@sbcglobal.net		
Eastern					
www.ERChildTeenMinistry.org			www.easternngu.org		
James Scott (C) 100 Williamsburg Dr. #D-2 Chesapeake, VA 23322 (757) 482-3858 loudpoetry@aol.com	Judi Venturini (U) 197 Main St. Emmaus, PA 18049 (610) 965-2533 (H) (484) 892-4120 (Church) revjudi@ptd.net	Jane Harden (Y) 1865 Laurel Mountain Dr. Salem, VA 24153 (540) 375-3191 (H) jaharden@adelphia.net			
Great Lakes					
www.glrkids.org		www.glruniteens.org		www.greatlakesngu.com	
Diane Venzera (C) 325 S. Harvey Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302 (708) 785-7566 (Cell) (708) 848-0960 (Church) consultant@glrkids.org	Eileen Patra (U) 423 South Kenwood Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48067 (248) 399-4689 (H) uniteens@glruniteens.org	Jo Horn (Y) 31360 Tamarack Apt. 5105 Wixom, MI 48393 (248) 926-1126 (H) jhorn56@sbcglobal.net	Keith Mitchum (NGU) 416 W. Breckinridge St., A1 Louisville, KY 40203 (502) 802-6170 (Cell) keith@keithmitchum.com		
Northwest					
www.unitynwregion.org					
Penny Gruver (C) 2802 S. Laurel St. Port Angeles, WA 98362 (360) 452-7953 (H) kidsnwunity@yahoo.com	Jackie Green (U) (Y) 11115 E. 29th Ave. Spokane Valley, WA 99206 (509) 928-0896 (H) (509) 838-6518 (W) jackienwyou@comcast.net	Jackie Green (U) (Y) 11115 E. 29th Ave. Spokane Valley, WA 99206 (509) 928-0896 (H) (509) 838-6518 (W) jackienwyou@comcast.net	Nick Muncie-Jarvis (NGU) 9914 SW Conestoga Dr. #224 Beaverton, OR 97008-4026 (503) 524-4030 (H) northwest.ngu@gmail.com		
Southeast					
www.seunityyouth.org			www.se.nextgenerationofunity.com		
Holly Gerrell (C) 10800 Kilcrease Way Tallahassee, FL 32305 (850) 421-8437 (H) (850) 421-3338 (Fax) children@seunityyouth.org	Michele Senac (U) 232 Rusty Brook Rd. Taylors, SC 29687 (864) 244-8794 (864) 244-1092 (Fax) uniteens@bellsouth.net	Carolyn Renfro (Y) 4574 Alder Dr. Port Orange, FL 32127 (386) 304-5255 (H) (386) 304-5286 (Fax) seyou@bellsouth.net	Tiffany Emitt (YA) 1448 Cherokee Circle Sevierville, TN 37862 (865) 898-9916 (H) southeastngu@gmail.com		
Southwest			West Central		
www.swunity.org					
Jacquie Hardesty (C) 527 Los Altos Dr. Chula Vista, CA 91914 (619) 302-3150 (H) jacquieatunity@yahoo.com	Mark Fisk (U) (Y) 209 W. Seldon Lane Phoenix, AZ 85021 (602) 494-4233 (H) mfiskaz@aol.com	Shirley Barbula (C) 3064 Grasmere Cir. Roseville, CA 95661 (916) 452-4714 (H) shirleyweye@aol.com	Jerry Sharp (U) (Y) 397 Santa Ynez Way Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 451-9567 (H) wcyou@aol.com	Jennifer Shilen (YA) 10120 Lofton Way Elk Grove, CA 95757 (916) 714-3825 (H) jenshilen@aol.com	

New Unity Music CD!

What a Wonderful World! Songs for Children

Make music fun and easy for teachers and for children under 10 by providing this music CD for your classrooms!

- 31 songs sung by Unity of Clearwater Youth Choir
- Unity-appropriate words set to traditional tunes familiar to young children
- Written for preschool curriculum, *What a Wonderful World!* Many songs are appropriate and effective for elementary children.
- CD cover booklet provides words for all the songs
- Offer at your bookstore for parents at your suggested price



Some of the song titles are: God Is Loving Me Right Now, I Have a Caring Heart, I Am Peaceful, I Am the Hands and Feet of God, The Lord Is My Shepherd, I Am God's Precious Star

6086 \$14.95 (In quantities of 10 or more, \$13.95)

To order,
call the Association of Unity Churches
International at 816-524-7414, or use
the Shop section of our website, www.unity.org.
Prices do not include shipping.