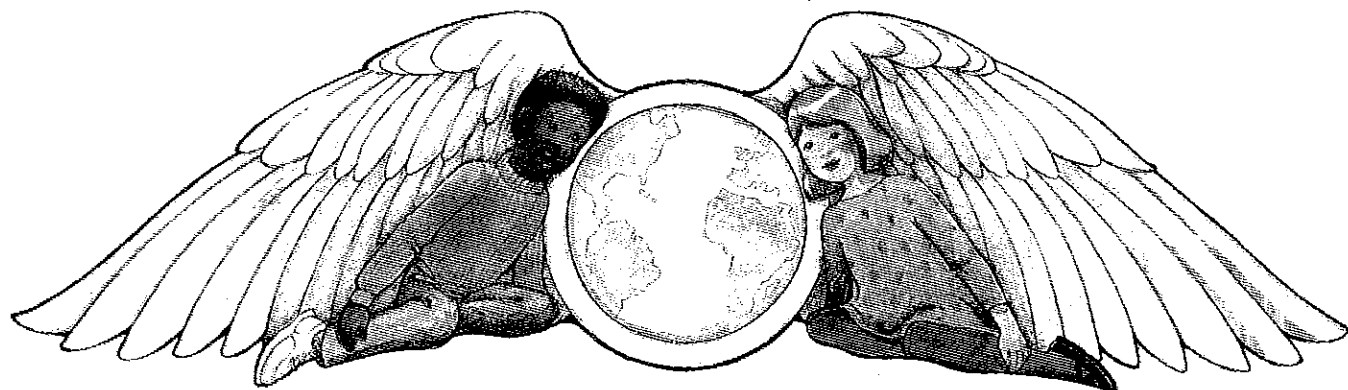


Through the Year of the Child - 1993

Program Packet



Rainbows of Peace Global Awareness Program



Association of Unity Churches®

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Dancing Rainbows

*A rainbow is not just an array of colors
sent to brighten a storm in our world;
It is a symbol of promise, of hope,
a mysterious, miraculous reminder of possibility.
So fragile--yet so powerful in its essence,
so fleeting--yet enduring in our minds,
so elusive--yet so haunting to our souls,
floating free--yet standing
in the glory of its splendor;
Individual colors blending into wholeness
dancing their way into our beings.
Everyday when we walk and live among children
we're surrounded by dancing rainbows
alive with spectrums of color and promise,
mysterious, miraculous, possibility.
It is our opportunity, our privilege,
to help them become.
It is our mission to encourage them
in the releasing of their own dancing rays of potential,
to help them realize their promise--
adding beauty and wholeness to their world,
and hope on a horizon yet to be seen.*

--NKCSDTJBUN--

This poem was our inspiration for this project.

Children: A Rainbow of God Reflecting Through Unity

Unit theme: Rainbow of Peace Global Awareness Program

Monthly Affirmation:

Unit 1: A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Ourselves:

- January** I am a child of faith.
I reflect a rainbow of promise.
- February** I am a child of love.
I reflect a rainbow of forgiveness.
- March** I am a child of strength.
I reflect a rainbow of courage.

Unit 2: A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Families and Friends:

- April** I am a child of good judgment.
I reflect a rainbow of harmony.
- May** I am a child of power.
I reflect a rainbow of purpose.
- June** I am a child of imagination.
I reflect a rainbow of miracles.

Unit 3: A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Community:

- July** I am a child of understanding.
I reflect a rainbow of acceptance.
- August** I am a child of willingness.
I reflect a rainbow of cooperation.
- September** I am a child of order.
I reflect a rainbow of unity.

Unit 4: A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our World:

- October** I am a child of zeal.
I reflect a rainbow of enthusiasm.
- November** I am a child of release.
I reflect a rainbow of giving.
- December** I am a child of life.
I reflect a rainbow of joy.

January

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Ourselves

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of faith.
I reflect a rainbow of promise.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate that faith in God's guidance brings good into our lives.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Arrange cut-outs of animals created by the children under the rainbow. Label them with the children's names.

▲ Object Lesson:

Display a variety of seeds and flowers that correspond. The seed holds the potential for the flower. Each seed is unique and only manifests that which it is created to express. We have a seed planted within our hearts that expresses our own individual nature. When we act on God's guidance through faith, like flowers, we are beautiful expressions of God's love in our world.

▲ Bible Reference:

God's covenant with Noah (Genesis 6:3-9:17).

▲ Songs:

"I Want To Be A Rainbow," GLORY SOUND, Shawnee Press, Inc., Delaware Water Gap, PA 18327.

"I Am A Promise, I Am A Possibility," Copyright 1975. William J. Gaither, ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN, VOL. II, Gaither Music Co., Alexandra House, P.O. Box 300, Alexandra, IN 46001.

"Creature Praise," Copyright 1981. Sparrow SONG, Cherry River Music Co.

"Prayer for Protection," WINGS OF SONG (WOS) #81-82.

"Prayer of Faith," WOS #79.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

- 1) Have the children create individual rainbows using chalk, watercolors, tissue paper with glue, etc. Under the rainbow have each child draw one of the following:
 - a) The good in their lives now.
 - b) The good they want to bring into their lives through faith.
 - c) Scripture verses about faith.
- 2) Put on a puppet show illustrating the story of Noah's Ark.
- 3) Learn the "Prayer of Faith" and the "Prayer for Protection." Follow up with a trust walk.
- 4) Decorate small rocks with acrylic paint and faith affirmations. The children can keep these in their pockets or at home to remind them to use their faith daily.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

- 1) Have a congregational Noah's Ark "All Species" party, where everyone is invited to come dressed like animals. Create a festive atmosphere with food, decorations, and games based on Noah's Ark and the rainbow.
- 2) Have the congregation develop and sign a covenant stating what they will do for the children during the Year of the Child.

"Every child born into the world is a new thought of God, an ever-fresh and radiant possibility."

--Kate Douglas Wiggin

February

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Ourselves

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of love.
I reflect a rainbow of forgiveness.*

▲ Purpose:

To teach the unconditional gift of forgiveness through the universal power of love.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

HEARTPARTNERS! Cut heart-shaped cut-outs in half, each in a unique way. Place one half under the rainbow and label with a child's name. Adult congregants and/or the Y.O.U.ers randomly select the other half of the heart. Then they match both halves to discover the name of the child they will have as a prayer partner for the month. This can be expanded for a longer period of time, if so desired.

▲ Object Lesson:

A large clear bowl is filled with water where everyone can see it. The minister talks to the children about a time when they had difficulty forgiving someone. The minister invites the children to share unforgiving thoughts, while dropping food coloring into the water, thus illustrating how unforgiving thoughts cloud our consciousness. The minister then leads the children into saying statements of forgiveness while stirring in bleach, thus illustrating how forgiving thoughts cleanse our consciousness. (NOTE: Use a glass receptacle for the bleach and it takes as much bleach as water to clear the water and stirring speeds the process up.)

▲ Bible Reference:

Joseph forgiving his brothers (Genesis 37:3-45:15).

▲ Songs:

"Love Is The Only Power," JOYSONGS, Computer Treble-Cleft, Ltd., Association of Unity Churches.

"We Are One in the Spirit"

"Ballad of Joseph" (See insert)

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) After a discussion on forgiveness, have the children write the name of a person they want to forgive on a piece of flash paper. Do a burning bowl. Then have them write a letter expressing love to that person.

2) "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it" (Songs of Sol. 8:7). Create and construct a bridge of valentines. On the valentines, write words of love that connect us to others. You can use the poem, "Garden of Love" with this project. (See insert)

3) Read the story of "The Miracle of Rocky Granite" to the children. (See insert) Discuss the source of abundant love within each of us. When we love ourselves and others, we experience the inner peace of forgiveness. Make papier-mache Rocky Granite characters.

4) "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18). Have the children make a love coupon to give to their parents, to be redeemed for a hug, for cleaning their rooms, doing the dishes, etc. Or, make valentines with a love theme, such as the love connection.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Invite each member in the congregation to bring a teddy bear to church. During the service, pass the bears around to the adults and children to hold and to love. Set a time for the adults to accompany the children on a field trip to a children's home, hospital, or nursing home, where they will give the teddy bears as gifts of love.

2) Have the congregation and children sign up for a secret valentine. Have them send love affirmations in the mail to each other. Have a gathering at the end of the month to meet their secret valentine. A sweet table may be available for refreshments.

"Divine love is a sacred flower, which in its early bud is happiness, and in its full blossom is heaven."

--Hervey

March

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Ourselves

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of strength
I reflect a rainbow of courage.*

▲ Purpose:

To express strength as courage in our daily lives.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Place photographs of the children on cut-outs of lion faces. Arrange under the rainbow.

▲ Object Lesson:

Ask a nursery attendant to bring in a baby who is just learning to walk. (If there are no babies available, bring in a doll or picture of a crawling baby.) It takes courage and strength for this baby to learn to walk. The baby does not give up when he/she falls down. Divine strength gives us the courage to grow and try new things.

▲ Bible Reference:

Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6:16-6:27).

▲ Songs:

"If I Only Had a Heart," METAPHYSICS OF OZ, Association of Unity Churches.

"I Am The Radiant Life of God," WOS #183.

"I Am Stronger Than My Fears," WOS #60.

"God's Strength Is Deep Within Me," sung to the melody of "Sing Low, Sweet Chariot."

"The Lord Is My Shepherd," WOS #348.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Lead a meditation based on the Twenty-third Psalm as a source of strength. Create a mural illustrating the Twenty-third Psalm.

2) Share the story of Saint Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland. On paper snakes, write down negative habits or thoughts they would like to drive out of their consciousness. On paper shamrocks write the positive habits or thoughts they would like to develop through spiritual strength.

3) Have the children construct their own kites. Write affirmations of strength on them. (For example, "I fly high with God's inner strength.")

4) In small groups, tell the children the story of Daniel. Have the children act out the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Place a pot of blessings under the rainbow. Children and adults write blessings on gold construction paper coins and place a blessing in the pot and draw one out.

2) Have the congregation and children spend an afternoon flying kites in a local park.

"To see what is right and not do it, is want of courage."

--Confucius

April

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Family and Friends.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of good judgment.
I reflect a rainbow of harmony.*

▲ Purpose:

To accept our oneness with others through our use of good judgment.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Write under the rainbow, "Harmony In A World of Difference: There is no spot where God is not." If desired, add pictures of people worshipping and symbols of major world religions.

▲ Object Lesson:

Minister holds up a string with different colored and shaped beads. Just like these beads, we are all uniquely different. Yet, we are all one with the mind of God, just like these beads are all connected by the string. Through the use of divine ideas, we open ourselves to the vision of oneness. We then experience harmony in a world of difference.

▲ Bible Reference:

Matthew 7:1-2.

▲ Songs:

"Face to Face" by Anita Posey (See insert) to the music of "I'd Like to Teach The World To Sing," JOYSONGS, Computer Treble-Cleft Ltd., Association of Unity Churches.

Palm Sunday and Easter songs.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

- 1) Have children randomly put into groups and assign them the task of doing a study of one of the world's religions and its customs. Have the children decide on a way to creatively share the information they have found, either through a skit, music, art, or other mode they choose.
- 2) Have a Seder meal and foot washing. This could be prepared by the children for their parents.
- 3) Practice good judgment by doing active listening exercises with peers. Be sure to give clear instructions with demonstrations. It is a good idea to monitor and assist when necessary. In a large group, discuss how this experience felt.
- 4) Read a story to the children that illustrates acceptance of someone who is different. Then have a heart talk.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

- 1) Have a harmony in a world difference workshop. For more information, contact: Maggie Finefrock, Harmony in a World of Difference, Pioneer Campus of Penn Valley, Kansas City, MO 64127; 816-483-3500, ext. 250.
- 2) After studying the Beatitudes, The Lord's Prayer, and The Golden Rule, take the adults and children of the congregation to a nearby park to experience the Sermon on the Mount. Invite the people to dress in costume from that historical period and have a living experience of the Bible.

"If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves."

--Jung

May

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Family and Friends.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of power.
I reflect a rainbow of purpose.*

▲ Purpose:

To develop our ability to use and direct our inner power.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Cut out large, colorful construction paper flowers and place photographs of the children with their mother or other significant woman in their life.

▲ Object Lesson:

Hold up a small electric lamp and talk about electricity. Electrical power is always there, but we have to plug in and turn on the lamp to use it. The power of God is always available to us. We "plug" into this power through prayer and meditation. Then we are a light to all those we meet.

▲ Bible Reference:

Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20).

▲ Songs:

"Joshua Fit De Battle of Jericho"

"He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" WOS #314

"The Power to Heal" WOS #133

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

- 1) Plant a flower for the mother or other important woman in child's life. (The plant's power allows it to grow up through the soil and fulfill its purpose.)
- 2) Using the story, "Teach Me To Pray" from AUNT ALICIA'S TALES ON THE LIGHT SIDE FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES (Association of Unity Churches) as a point of discussion, lead the children to talk about their life of prayer. Help the children see that meditation and prayer is the way we develop our ability to use and direct our inner power.
- 3) Re-enact the story of Joshua and the Battle of Jericho. Discuss the metaphysics of the story and what this story teaches the children about life.
- 4) Do a lesson on electricity and parallel this lesson to the power of God in our lives.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

- 1) Have a church POWER PICNIC. Everyone can dress in a color representing one of the twelve powers.
- 2) Adults and children plant flowers and bushes to enhance the beauty of the church grounds.

"Power is energy that is formed by
the intentions of the soul.

--Gary Zukov

June

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Family and Friends.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of imagination.
I reflect a rainbow of miracles.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate how to use imagination to make our dreams come true.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

On a paper star, have the children illustrate a miracle. It could be one that Jesus performed or one in their own life. Place the stars around the rainbow.

▲ Object Lesson:

Holding a model airplane, the minister discusses with the children how the control tower directs and controls the flight of a plane. Imagination, like the airplane, must be under the control and the direction of our Christ consciousness.

▲ Bible Reference:

Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes (Luke 9:10-17).

▲ Songs:

"Travel With Me to a Magical Place" (See insert).

"I Want to Be A Rainbow," GLORY SOUND, Shawnee Press, Inc., Delaware, Water Gap, PA. 18327

"I'm Ready For A Miracle" WOS #346.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Have the children create a treasure map of the good they desire. For references, Catherine Ponder's books on prosperity and Shakti Gawain's book on CREATIVE VISUALIZATION are good sources.

2) Lead the children in a guided imagery meditation. Have the children illustrate what they saw in their mind's eye. Then have them share their drawings and observe how everyone's imagination is unique.

3) Use the story of Orville & Wilbur Wright to show how they used their imagination to design an airplane. Have fathers come and assist the children in creating paper airplanes.

4) Study miracles of Jesus and discuss the steps of creating a miracle:

- a) See it in your mind's eye.
- b) Create an affirmation or treasure map for it.
- c) Ask God for guidance for what you can do.
- d) Listen for God's answer.
- e) Take action.
- f) Give thanks!

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Host an imagination fair. Provide all kinds of creative materials so that families can create their own collages or treasure maps. Seniors can do story telling and singles can prepare a skit and refreshments.

2) Let the children and teenagers give a talent show before the congregation during a special event.

"The imagination may be compared to Adam's dream--he awoke and found it truth."

--John Keats

July

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Community.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of understanding.
I reflect a rainbow of acceptance.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate a greater acceptance of others.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Have the children create a globe. Place pictures of people from different countries and cultures around the circumference of the globe.

▲ Object Lesson:

Display a toy bow and arrow. In medieval times, when an archer missed the mark on the target, the observer would indicate this by shouting "sin." In Unity we call sin "missing the mark." We miss the mark or sin through negative thinking. The more we practice thinking thoughts that are positive, the more we will be on target by loving and accepting ourselves and others.

▲ Bible Reference:

The Story of Mary Magdalene (John 8:1-11).

▲ Songs:

"I Behold the Christ In You" WOS #64, 65.

"I Am Free, I Am Unlimited" WOS #322.

"The Gospel in One Word Is Love" WOS #237.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

- 1) Have the children create stories that illustrate acceptance and understanding of others.
- 2) Write recipes for "Acceptance Stew." On recipe cards, have the children make up a recipe with ingredients of understanding. For example: A dash of tolerance; a pinch of patience; a cupful of love.
- 3) Invite children who are physically or mentally challenged, such as a blind or Down's Syndrome child, to visit your Sunday school. Brainstorm ways the children feel they are similar and different. Have a small celebration of oneness and love.
- 4) Sponsor and write letters to a child from another country. (See the April/May/June issue of the YOC newsletter.)

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

- 1) Hold a culture fair. Have families cook food that is representative of their cultural background. A world map can be put up and the families can trace their ethnic origin with pins. It will be interesting to see the cultural diversity of your congregation.
- 2) Host or attend programs that promote understanding of minority groups. For example, encourage parents to read library books to their children that increase empathy for differences in others.

**"Children have more need of models
than of critics."**

--Joubert

August

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Community.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of willingness.
I reflect a rainbow of cooperation.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate that God's will is good for us.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Create a bulletin board with a picture of Myrtle Fillmore and her question, "Who will teach the children?" Add a group photograph of children. Display photographs of the children's teachers with the affirmation, "I will teach the children." In the midst of these pictures, have a space with foil paper or a mirror for prospective teachers to envision themselves teaching the children.

▲ Object Lesson:

Strum a guitar that is out of tune. When we are not willing to choose the will of God for good in our lives, we are like this guitar--not in harmony with other people. Then have someone play a tune on a guitar that is in tune. When we are in tune with God's will or purpose of good for our lives, we have harmony with other people. (You may need the assistance of someone who plays the guitar to do this lesson.)

▲ Bible Reference:

The Calling of Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-18).

▲ Songs:

"The Good Song" WOS #351.

"I'm Gonna Sing" WOS #326.

"Open My Eyes, That I May See" WOS #72.

"The Lord's Prayer" WOS #2

"Here I Am Lord"

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Play the game "Mother/Father May I" several times. This game is much like our purpose in life. If we are to feel our oneness with God and have harmony in our lives, we need to listen and be willing to follow God's inner guidance for good for us.

2) Study the story of Samuel. Discuss ways that families cooperate with one another. Create a "helping hands" poster by tracing each other's hands and writing or drawing ways they will cooperate at home.

3) Do relay races with the children working in pairs formed with an older and a younger child. The focus of this activity is to have both children experience a feeling of success through cooperation.

4) Read fairy tales, fables, myths, or stories of characters cooperating with one another. Discuss the effects of cooperation in their own lives.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Have an awards ceremony or dinner honoring the teachers and other volunteers that work with the children. Parents, teenagers, and children may prepare and serve the meal.

2) Do a community outreach program. One idea would be to buy school supplies for children in need.

"Where the willingness is great, the difficulties cannot be great."

--Niccolo Machiavelli

September

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our Community.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of order.
I reflect a rainbow of unity.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate unity in our lives through our peaceful gift of divine order.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Through the input of the students, create tablets with ten rules for order in the Sunday school. Display under the rainbow. Use this as a basis of a covenant agreement (heart agreement) for the school year.

▲ Object Lesson:

Our bodies are wonderful gifts from God. Can you feel your heart beating? What function does your heart perform in your body? What function does your stomach perform? Your lungs? Discuss how all of our body parts have a specific function and work together in unity to keep our bodies alive and healthy. When each of us follows God's divine order in our lives, we bring unity into our world.

▲ Bible Reference:

The Story of Moses (Exodus 2:1-20:17).

▲ Songs:

"Wilderness Bunch" (See insert).

"Ten Little Plaques" (See insert).

"To Everything There Is A Season"

"Let There Be Unity" WOS #209.

"Weave" WOS #212

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Have all the ingredients needed to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on a table before you. Ask the children to tell you, in order, the steps needed to make the sandwich. Literally do what they tell you. For example, if they tell you to put the peanut butter on the bread, put the jar of peanut butter on the top of the loaf of bread. This is a humorous way of showing them that they skipped a step of order, which was to take the bread out of the bag first. Continue in this manner until the sandwich is completed. Enjoy the sandwiches as you discuss the specific steps needed to follow in their spiritual lives to have divine order.

2) Have the younger children sing "Eensy, Weensy Spider" several times. After the children have experienced the fun of the finger play, guide them through a visualization to look at the order of nature. Have the older children discuss how a spider contributes to the order of nature. Have all the children participate in making a gigantic spider web with their homemade spiders. (This project can be used as a decoration for October.) This project will illustrate that all creatures fit into God's plan of divine order.

3) Set up a series of dominoes. Have one student tip the first domino and show the chain reaction of the dominoes falling. The dominoes did not fall until we started them. We cannot have divine order in our lives until we become open to listening and following God's plan for good in our lives. Have the children choose an area they would like to bring more order into their lives. Have them pray for God's guidance, listen and then decide what actions to take.

4) Do a metaphysical study of the ten commandments and the Exodus. Show how following God's laws bring order in our lives and unity in our world.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Bring order into the physical facilities of your church by sponsoring an all church clean-up day.

2) Have several groups of families and congregation members participate in progressive dinners in their homes. The purpose of this activity is to experience order through the progression of the dinners and unity through small group bonding.

"O rder is not pressure which is imposed on society from without, but an equilibrium which is set up from within."

--Jose Ortega y Gassert

October

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our World.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of zeal.
I reflect a rainbow of enthusiasm.*

▲ Purpose:

To experience zeal as enthusiasm and praise in our lives.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Place a drawing of a fountain with water springing from it under the rainbow. On droplets of water cut from paper write the child's name with a word of praise. Example: Lovely Laura or Mystical Michael.

▲ Object Lesson:

Mix vinegar and baking soda until it bubbles over. This is an illustration of how enthusiasm will run over in us when we are filled with the zeal of God.

▲ Bible Reference:

Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts II).

▲ Songs:

"The Trees of the Field"
"We Are The World, We Are The Children"
"Make the Circle Bigger" Psalmody Songs.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

- 1) Sing and write songs. Use musical instruments that the children make to accompany their singing.
- 2) Do sacred circle dancing.
- 3) Create Psalms of praise.
- 4) In a discussion on the worship service, point out that it is a result of wanting to show our zeal for God. Have the children create their own worship service and have a children's service in which their parents and others in the congregation are welcome to attend as part of your intergenerational activities.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

- 1) Children do the special music in the church service. A Children's chorus could be formed and then they can perform at a special time of the month. Be sure to coordinate this with your music coordinator or director.
- 2) Families can go on a nature walk together and come back with leaves, pine cones, feathers, and other treasures they discovered in their walk. Place the objects in a circle and in a time of sharing, take turns telling what this object teaches you or represents. Hot chocolate and donuts would be welcomed refreshments.

**"Nothing great was ever achieved
without enthusiasm."**

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

November

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our World.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of release.
I reflect a rainbow of giving.*

▲ Purpose:

To demonstrate that change is a healthy part of growth which is experienced through giving and receiving.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

CREATE A GIVING TREE! Create a three dimensional tree and place it under the rainbow. Have the children and congregation hang mittens and gloves on the tree to be distributed to the homeless.

▲ Object Lesson:

Display a bowl of fruit and discuss how the tree offers us its gift of fruit so that it can continue to grow. It is the nature of the tree to produce fruit. It is also our nature to give and this giving helps us to grow.

▲ Bible Reference:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13.

▲ Songs:

"Magic Penny" WOS #307.

"Oneness" WOS #211.

"As We're Sowing" WOS #307.

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" WOS #306.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Prepare paper cups of fruit for each child. However, vary the number of pieces in each cup. Leave one or two of the cups empty. After the children have realized that they do not have the same amount of fruit, have them come up with a solution or way to handle the situation.

2) Have the children act out the story of the "Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.

3) Illustrate the verses from Ecclesiastes 3:3-13.

4) Have the children write thank you letters to God for all the good in their lives. Little ones could illustrate what they are grateful by making clay figures.

▲ Intergenerational Activities:

1) Organize a re-circulation day.

2) Host a Thanksgiving potluck dinner at your church and invite homeless people or take the food to shut-ins.

**"Give a little love to a child, and you
get a great deal back."**

--John Ruskin

December

▲ Unit Theme:

A Rainbow of Peace Reflecting Through Our World.

▲ Monthly Affirmation:

*I am a child of life.
I reflect a rainbow of joy.*

▲ Purpose:

To bring the light of Christ into expression in our lives and our world.

▲ Bulletin Board/Rainbow:

Write under the rainbow: "I am the light of the world." Have the children make and decorate candles with their names on them to represent the light of the world, and place under the rainbow.

▲ Object Lesson:

Have matches and several small candles with paper skirt wax catchers. Darken the room, if possible. Discuss how we are the light of the world, and can bring the light of God's love into our world, just as Jesus did. Light one candle. Discuss ways we can let our Christ-light shine forth in love. Light several candles, and show how much more light there is in our world when all of us let our Christ-lights shine. Our candles reflect our Christ-life within, and represent the truth of who we are as children of God. Have the congregation, together with the minister, read the "Child of Light" blessing to our children.

▲ Bible Reference:

Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 5:14-16.
We celebrate the birth of Jesus as a sign of the birth of

Christ-life within each of us. As we are born anew to the life of God within us, we express the truth of who we are, spiritual children of God. We are the light of the world. As we celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy of the Christmas story on the four Sundays of Advent, we bring the light of the Christ into expression in our own lives and in our world. Our children of life reflect a rainbow of truth and peace in our world.

▲ Songs:

"We Three Kings"

"The First Noel"

"Hark The Herald Angels Sing"

"Angels We Have Heard On High"

"Silent Night"

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

"Joy To The World"

"This Little Light of Mine"

other Christmas carols.

▲ Children's Experiential Activities:

1) Focus on the hope, peace, love, and joy of the Christmas story by celebrating for four Sundays of Advent with a special ceremony each Sunday: lighting of the Advent candle, singing of Christmas carols, meditation, Bible verse and interpretation, and creating a Christmas ornament symbol for the spiritual idea of the Sunday. Use the format on the following pages for each Sunday of Advent or develop your own ceremony and activities.

"You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth."

--Kahlil Gibran