

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS January 2009



Thanks to all who participated in the Sunday holiday service on December 14th.

The **Nursery & Chalice Children** were so sweet singing “Jingle Bells” and ringing their bells as they left for their classrooms! The **Star & Cosmos Kids** also did a great job miming their parts for ‘A Messiah Is Among Us’. Thanks to the following adults for their part in this skit: **Pastor Bud/narrator, Kurtland Davies/teacher, Gaia Davies/principal, and Dottie Mann/rabbi**. It was especially fun to watch these children take delight in acting out their parts as kids who misbehaved at school! Thanks also to **Jesse and Jasmine**, two of our Galactic Girls & Guys. They did a wonderful job collecting the offertory which requires a level of maturity that they demonstrate consistently... Good work!



An Invitation to all of UU... Please plan to join us after the service on Sunday, January 11th for the 2nd Annual UNIVERSAL BIRTHDAY PARTY! Last year over 40 people of all ages joined in the fun. This year we will share a piece of yummy cake & ice cream during hospitality hour, and then play board games & more in room #1! Mark your calendars and plan to celebrate all of our birthdays as together we celebrate the New Year.



Guest At Your Table Update:

Collection boxes and all donations are due back to RE by January 4, 2009.

If you are away for the holidays, you may bring your donations to UU the following Sunday (1-11-09). See Debbie Johnson with any questions or comments. Thanks for your continued support of our efforts!

RE Kids' Corner

Over time I have been observing how the kids have grown in two very different ways:

First of all, they have grown in numbers- from 5 to 33 in just a few years!! Secondly, they have grown in familiarity. The RE kids are so much more comfortable with the congregation, and many members of the congregation have gotten to know them. It is simply wonderful to see the children & youth find their place among all the adults in the sanctuary.

Of course, since “kids will be kids” and since our “under twenty” population has increased by more than 6 times, there are a few new things to consider. For example, with 33 kids wanting to “pop up” and share their joys & concerns, if we don’t watch out, we could need to extend the service beyond 11:30! While we truly enjoy their tales of “delight and disaster”, I can see that we need to reassess when and how the RE kids share.

So, beginning January 1st, we will try something new... each week one or two kids will share a joy or concern, so that when the kids are in the sanctuary, we will limit it to no more than two. I will of course be certain to give all of our RE kids a chance. The goal is to show fairness while impacting the congregation minimally ☺

RE parents please stay tuned for the system that will assure fairness to all children. Congregants please look for the February **RE Kids' Corner**. Next month you will find cute, witty, and thought-provoking things we hear our RE kids say... a sort of “out of the mouths of babes” column! If you have any concerns or comments, please contact me directly at debeckjohnson@earthlink.net.

Thanks for your patience and sensitivity as we carefully redirect the enthusiasm of our children. What better way to demonstrate our first principle: “the inherent worth & dignity of each person”?
-----Debbie Johnson (DRE)
