



The CommUUnicator

**Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship of Waynesboro**

What's Happening in RE

By Nancy Lay

I'm in my third month as the Interim Director of Religious Education here at UUFW, and I thought you might like to know some details about what happens in our RE program and what a Director of Religious Education does. At present, our program serves children between the ages of six and ten, with younger children in the nursery.

This year, our RE program is following a curriculum designed by the UUA for younger children entitled "Moral Tales." Each week there is a new theme, but the lesson itself follows the same pattern. We usually start by singing "Enter, Rejoice and Come In." The children then take turns sharing their joys and concerns, each one lighting a battery powered candle as they do so. We do a quick sharing of good deeds by adding shiny stones to a jar in a "Gems of Goodness" project. I have promised them a little party when the gems get to a certain height in the jar!

Each week our story comes from a different religious or cultural tradition and is used to illustrate our theme for each lesson. So far this year, our themes have included: We Are All One; Conscience – Hearing the Inner Voice; Faith, Hope, and Prayer; In Another's Shoes; Forgiveness; Welcome One and All; Seeing Others with Awe; and Do unto Others. Still to Come are themes of: Generosity; Treading Softly on Earth; Do No Harm; Making a

Difference; Justice for All; Courage; Perseverance; and Working Together.

Immediately after the story we discuss the theme and invite the children to talk about examples in their everyday lives. We usually end each class with a small craft project related to the theme. An example of this is the collage we made entitled "Who Is My Neighbor?" after we discussed the story of the Good Samaritan.



As a former classroom teacher and as a mother, I know that children need continuity and structure in their learning environment, and we have attempted to do that in this RE program. One of my duties as Interim DRE is to prepare the lesson for the week. This includes learning the new story and preparing questions for discussion, as well as planning and organizing a craft. I email each parent weekly, detailing Sunday's lesson and theme, and I prepare a written summary as a take

home for parents, giving suggestions for carrying the theme of the lesson home.

Each week, I also contact the assistant teacher, outlining the lesson to come and his/her role in it. I maintain ongoing contact with Rev. Paul and welcome his help in all my tasks. The RE Team members are also invaluable with their support of my role. I have joined LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) and am learning so much about RE programs in UU congregations in other parts of the country.

At the end of this month, I will be participating in a series of classes for new DREs, sponsored by the Southern Region of the UUA. I am always reading, trying to deepen my knowledge of Unitarian Universalism and learning new ways to relate to children and families in our Fellowship. I know that a strong RE program is vital for the health of any congregation, and I hope to help grow that program here at UUFW.

New Member Spotlight



Daisy Schrock and Rey Patterson have returned to our area and to the UUFW after an absence of many years. Daisy joined our Fellowship shortly after she moved to this area in 1987. She and

Rey met at a party hosted by one of our members while he was visiting family, and sometime later they married in what is now Chalice House.

Daisy describes herself as a military brat who is from everywhere. As an adult, she trained as a materials engineer and worked as a research analyst for the Department of Defense. She later became a middle school teacher after earning a Master's in the Art of Teaching.

Rey grew up in Staunton, the younger brother of our members Glen and Ken Patterson. He earned an AS from Blue ridge, a BS at Virginia Tech, and an MD degree from the Medical College of Virginia. He practiced Family medicine in Pennsylvania and North Carolina before coming back to this area in 1994, where he was on the medical staff at AMC for 17 years. Rey was Board certified to practice family medicine in 1981, and he also provided Hospice and Palliative care for over 20 years.

In 2011, Daisy and Rey moved west where he continued to practice hospice care, first in Idaho and then in Oregon. Upon retirement, the couple has come home, fortunately for us.

Since July, they have been busy getting settled in their new Staunton home and dealing with all of the changes that come with retirement. Daisy fills her time with textile and visual-art projects, while Rey is looking for volunteer opportunities and other ways to remain active after the intensity of his chosen profession.

