



# Education Links

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

[www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org)

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## So What About *the Bible?*



by Rev. Kathryn Kellogg  
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator

Does Unity even need the Bible? Is it still valid and relevant for today's young people? Why would I want to teach stories that aren't even true? This article is written from the belief that the Bible is an important tool for our spiritual growth and a wonderful repository of stories that speak to our spiritual growth and understanding. As such, our children and teens need to be given the tools to explore its mysteries.

"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Do you remember singing this song when you were growing up? If you were raised in traditional Christianity, my guess is that you became very familiar with this oldie-but-goldie. In a few short melodic lines, the theology of the Christian church was laid out for the very young to learn. The song told us that Jesus (God) loved us, we all belonged to Him, and His strength was greater than ours. We knew this because the Bible told us it was true. In traditional Christianity, the Bible was the book with the authority to have the last word on any subject.

At least that is how many of us experienced the Bible. It was a book with the power to define the boundaries in our decision making and to establish what happened to those who stepped outside the lines. It defined who we were—blessed or cursed—and could be used to keep "others" out. For many of us, as we grew up, the book seemed more and more inconsistent, with both sides of any argument able to find a verse to defend their stance. We learned that the stories in many instances were not even historically true. By the time we became adults, we either loved the book for what it was or had abandoned it.

In Unity we find ourselves at a place where some Unity churches have left the Bible for more secular texts. There are many reasons for relegating it to a shelf. Some people have experienced feeling "beat up" by the Bible or have been treated badly because of their gender, race, age, or self-expression. Some believe that the violence in the Old Testament and a vengeful God does not represent the God they know, that the stories don't make sense or have no worth because they aren't true. In these instances, the Bible stories seem difficult to reconcile with what we teach.

There are also Unity churches that use the Bible as their textbook for living. They use the stories as a basis for their lessons and have found value in studying it more deeply. Many of these churches can be found in the "Bible Belt" where Bible-literacy is a way of being in the larger community. However, location does not define where the Bible is part of the curriculum and where it is not. It depends on what we believe.

### What We Believe

So what does Unity believe about the Bible? The Unity Identity Statement, created by hundreds of Unity ministers, licensed teachers and church members, states that "Unity co-founders, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, studied the Bible as history and allegory, and interpreted it as a metaphysical representation of humankind's evolutionary journey toward

*continued on page 17*

## You are invited

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

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# Hello Dear Ones,

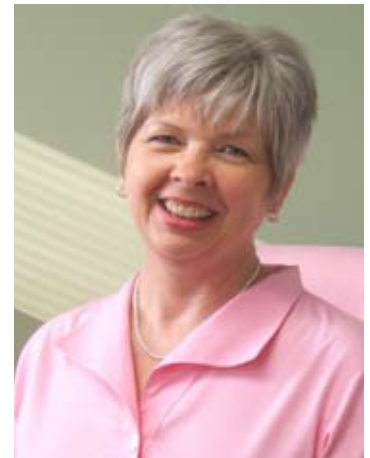
This issue is a special one delving into the role of the Bible in Unity youth and family ministry. There is a whole spectrum of viewpoints and differing levels of usage across the country. The only thing it seems everyone can agree on is that the Bible cannot be taken as historical and literal truth. Because of that, some use it sparingly or not at all. Others still find it relevant today and a helpful tool for our brand of Christianity. Here at the Association, we use Bible stories and verses in almost every lesson we produce.

As someone who grew up with the Bible, I find the Bible an easy and comfortable friend. I know that has not been everyone's experience. To be fair, the Bible of my youth is certainly not the Bible I understand now. It continues to change as new scholarship from the Jesus Seminar and individuals like Episcopalian Bishop John Shelby Spong provides new ways of looking at the Bible—ways that free us and the book from past oppression.

It is my hope that the articles included in this issue will provide support for those using the Bible and stimulate conversation for those who are not sure. Thanks to everyone who sent in their top 10 Bible stories. I am also grateful to Rev. Paul Hasselbeck and *Unity Magazine* for allowing us to

reprint Paul's article on interpreting the Bible. In addition, in the February/March 2009 issue of *Contact* magazine (focusing on youth and family ministry) Unity ministers consider the question, "How important is the use of the Bible in teaching the Sunday lesson to children and teens?"

May this Lenten and Easter season bring blessings of new life and joy,  
Kathy



**Resources online at [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org):**  
Look for Children's Ministry under the Youth menu.

- Lenten Activity for Families
- Bible Games
- Books of the Bible list for games

## We Need You!

### 12 Powers

Starting with the Fall 2009 issue and going through Summer 2010 we are highlighting the 12 Powers—curriculum, activities, lessons, ideas, etc. If you have anything to share about an individual power/spiritual attribute or a general overview, please send it to Kathy at [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org). Order, zeal and renunciation/release are due by February 1.

# Universe Made of Stories

by Rev. Jane Simmons, IYOU Coordinator

There is an Aboriginal saying that tells us “when rice does not grow well, the women go into the rice fields and tell it the myth of its origin. Then the rice knows why it is there and it grows.” The question of why we are here, who we are, and how to grow into our true spiritual identity can be explored through our cultural tales and traditions. Found within the universal legends of mythology are deep spiritual truths that transcend culture, race, and religion.

Interestingly, no one knows the origin of cultural myths. They are part of an oral tradition that has existed throughout the mists of ancient times. Even the Grimm brothers merely wrote down the fairy tales that were already part of the cultural scene. I find it fascinating that in every civilization and society you find similar allegories and folklore. Creation stories abound; flood stories show up in different guises; even various Cinderella stories have been carried down from generation to generation from ancient times in different parts of the world. The faces change, the circumstances differ, but the central motif at the core of the story remains the same.

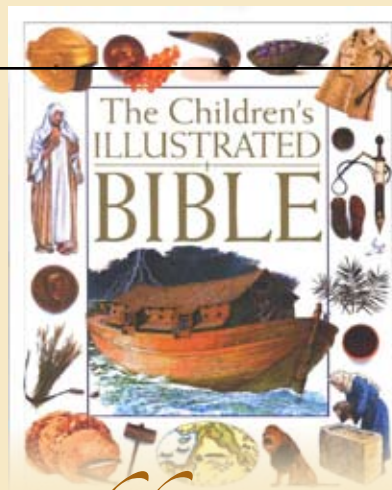
Creation myths contain common creative elements including light, water, a seed, an earth-goddess, the combination of fire and ice, a divine birth, and the hatching of an egg. The flood story usually includes a favored group being forewarned and escaping. Cinderella becomes The Rough-Face Girl in Native traditions, Chinye in African tales, Pear Blossom in Asia, and Settareh in a Middle Eastern story.

Why is this? Disguised within the riddle of universal myths and legends we find the spiritual path hidden deep within the elements of the story. Joseph Campbell beautifully defines myth as “the secret opening through which the inexhaustible energies of the cosmos pour into human manifestation.” Whether we are reading about the rousing of Sleeping Beauty (our own divine conscious awakening), the curious story of Jonah in the belly of the fish (resisting our inner guidance), or the antics of the Southwest Native trickster Kokopelli (reminding us of the creativity and power of our inner song), encoded within these wonderful tales are archetypal symbols that point to our own soul’s adventurous journey.

This spiritual adventure is what Campbell refers to as “The Hero’s Journey” and we find this tale everywhere we look. Our hero (or heroine) gets a call, goes out to the world, overcomes something that seems insurmountable, and returns home a changed person.

If we look around in our own culture, we see that these motifs live on in modern ways—we find David battling Goliath in movies such as *Star Wars* and *The Lord of the Rings*; Sleeping Beauty wakes up to life in *The Wizard of Oz* and *Click*; Daniel emerges from the lion’s den in the *Harry Potter* series and *Independence Day*.

The Hero’s Journey can be found portrayed in the stories within the pages of scripture. One of my instructors in ministerial school used to describe the Bible as “true but not accurate.” When exploring biblical mythology, we find a metaphysical sacred narrative describing the soul’s



## Bible Tip

If you are using *The Children's Illustrated Bible* with your lessons, but want the children to know that there are many stories in the Bible or how to navigate in the Bible, use this suggestion. Whenever you read from *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, hold up a regular Bible and show them in what part of the book you can find the story. Explain that the Bible is a whole collection of stories about people and their relationship with God. Then invite them to find the story using the index in the front. If they can find the name of the book in the index, or open the Bible where the book can be found, you've made a great beginning.

This is an example of what you might say:

“Our story today is about a man named Solomon. His story is found in the book of 1 Kings in the Old Testament. The Old Testament contains the stories of the Hebrew people before Jesus was born.” (Hold up the Bible with the spine up so the children can see how many pages are before 1 Kings and how many are after. This way they can tell where the 1 Kings is located.)

“Since the Old Testament stories are first in the Bible, the book of 1 Kings is found in the first half. Before we read our story can you find 1 Kings in your Bible?” (This could be a treasure hunt using the index or just thumbing through the first third of the Bible.)

If we set a story in the adult Bible every time we read from *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, the students would soon get a sense of where the stories are located and, hopefully, become at ease with the book.

evolution from the sleeping Adam to the awakened Christ. Each story contains within it the elements that we can find within ourselves, on the journey of physical existence in the inner search for Self. Charles Fillmore teaches that male and female characters in these stories refer to our intellect and feeling nature.

Noah and the flood, David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den—the underlying message is the same—we can overcome the world through the power of Spirit. Within each heart is the safety of the ark that can help us float peacefully through those storms and floods that appear to destroy our world. Even though these events might appear gigantic like Goliath and unbeatable, the power of love in David is the answer. Daniel and his friends teach us that walking through the fire is possible through the power of God.

I think that Hans Christian Andersen said it best when he wrote that our “lives are fairy tales written by the fingers of God.” Remembering that all of these characters live within us, we can awaken our own inner Sleeping Beauty with the kiss of the Divine; we can face the Goliaths that loom in our life, by using the overcoming power of love in those difficult circumstances, and we can face and walk through fiery situations with faith, strength, and courage, knowing that God is within us.

Mythology—is truth with a capital “T.”

# Interpreting the Bible

## *Metaphysically*

*With an understanding of metaphysics, one can read scripture with a new insight—one that relates people and places in the Bible as standing for beliefs and conditions in our own lives.*

by Rev. Paul Hasselbeck, Dean  
Spiritual Education and Enrichment, Unity Village

When faced with a change or challenge, many people use the technique of closing their eyes and randomly opening the Bible, pointing to a scripture, and then reading it to find some guidance. Much comfort can be found in simply relating to the story as it is; other times it might not make any sense at all.

Knowing how to metaphysically interpret a scripture can add more depth to scripture that is already literally understood and perhaps give meaning to those scriptures that, on the surface, do not make sense. There is an extra bonus too! If a person can metaphysically interpret a scripture, then other books, movies and even songs can be metaphysically interpreted. The possibilities are endless.

Take, for example, the African-American spiritual, “Go Down Moses.” That song, based on Exodus 5:1 is rich in meaning, which might not be fully appreciated initially. Here are some of the words:

### **Go Down Moses**

Go Down Moses  
Way down in Egypt land  
Tell ‘ole pharaoh to  
Let my people go!

When Israel was in Egypt land...  
Let my people go!

A person randomly selecting these words by the “open-and-pick” method might not get anything useful from the literal understanding of the words. However, a metaphysical interpretation of these words results in a gold mine of meaning.

One method of Metaphysical Bible Interpretation uses a straightforward seven-step process:

1. Center into the awareness of Oneness (meditation or prayer) putting God first; this puts Christ Nature first.
2. Read the passage.
3. Paraphrase using your own words, if necessary, to create a simple framework and flow to the text. At this point all the minute details are not necessary. These may be added later to fill out the interpretation.
4. Place the nouns and pronouns and the action words into a metaphysical interpretation table (see example at right).
5. Look up the meanings of the words and put them in the table. A useful tool for the names of places and people is the *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*, written by Charles Fillmore. Another tool from the Charles Fillmore Reference Library Series, *The Revealing Word*, gives meanings for more common words such as mountain, river, house, for example. These meanings are a starting point much like the meanings one can find for aspects of dreams. Other meanings of the words might occur to you as you go along.
6. Read and/or write down a “clunky” version of the interpretation by simply reading down the interpretation column. Reading the words aloud can be helpful at this point.
7. Refine the interpretation.

In the example of the song, “Go Down Moses,” it really was not necessary to paraphrase the passage as it is pretty simple just as it is. However, a bit more had to be added because some of the information is implied; for example, someone is speaking to Moses. And, who are “my people” in the phrase? Also, since we are familiar with the story, we know that the people are being held captive in Egypt by the Pharaoh.

*continued on page 19*

Noun, Pronoun, Place, Action	Metaphysical Definitions	Reading down the column on the left
[God] (implied)	God Nature Christ Nature Christ Consciousness	Christ Consciousness tells, directs
[said] (implied)	Tells, directs, informs	
Go down		Go down
Moses	The 'thou shalt not' side of the Law (denial) Draw forth Draw out	Denial Draw forth Draw out
Way down in		Way down in
Egypt land	Material consciousness (a state of mind based on the belief in the reality of materiality, or things as they appear) Sense consciousness (a mental state that believes in and acts through the senses)	Material/sense consciousness
Tell		Tell long-term ruling
'ole pharaoh	Ruler, executive faculty Long-term ruling thought (of Egypt—material/sense consciousness)	thought of material/sense consciousness
to let	To release	To let, to release,
my people [the people of Israel]	Christ Ideas Spiritual thoughts The thoughts of reality or the true ideas about Being that have to be brought out in every part of man's consciousness	Christ ideas, Spiritual thoughts, true ideas about Being Go.
go.		

Employing a graph in which key words from scripture are listed (left column) and then given a metaphysical definition (middle column), one can understand these passages with new insight (right column).

# Easter Celebrations at Unity of Fairfax

by Kathryn Ashera Sprowls  
Youth Ministry Director, Unity of Fairfax, VA

For Easter, we often have Children's Church or separate story circles in combination with an egg hunt, snack, and a simple craft. It is a very ambitious morning, and the Uniteens and YOUers conspire to hide the eggs and lead the various groups in shifts through the meditation garden. We got an Easter Bunny costume that one teen girl in particular likes to wear. The Easter Bunny talks to each group of children as they arrive outside the meditation garden about how many goodies to collect, how to treat the plants in the garden gently, and how to share and help others once you've found your goodies. If it's a beautiful day, we set up snacks and crafts outside on picnic blankets or picnic tables.

## The Many Symbols of Easter—Children's Church Experience

Create a central altar with the following objects:

- star (the Christ light born upon earth)
- candle (Christ light within)
- baby in cradle (the Christ child within)
- Easter lily (whiteness, purity, new life, spring, resurrection)
- lamb (purity, innocence, newness, self-sacrifice for the good of others)
- crystal (the Christ nature within us, transparent to light)
- palm branches (were waved and spread on the ground as the crowd hailed Jesus as the King as he processed into Jerusalem)
- crown of thorns, but with some sparkle to it (the role Jesus took on to help us learn)
- cross (overcoming suffering and death, new life)
- shroud (dark gray veil, ideally transparent—sometimes veils over our light)
- butterfly (goes through the cycles of life, crucifixion and resurrection or new life)
- Easter eggs/newborn chick (eggs are a symbol of new life, the seed of life)

- bunnies (new life, abundance, also a symbol of the moon since they are awake at night, watching over everything—and Easter happens the Sunday after the full moon following the Spring/Vernal Equinox)
- new clothes, shoes, hats—special time, newness, a new cycle

Gather the children around. Tell them, “We are here to celebrate Easter and to retell the Easter story. Each of these objects tells a part of the Easter story or represents Christ in some way. Let's light the candle first and tell how it relates to Jesus.” Have them tell you and then reinforce why each of these symbols is important at Easter time. (Note: All answers are right or interesting!)

## The Easter Story in Symbols

Tell the Easter Story—Have individual children hold the different symbols, or the adult storyteller takes each one in hand as they tell the story.

“Once, a beautiful star came to Earth. (*Star descends from the sky.*) It was a shining light in the darkness, and people from all over rejoiced in great joy. (*Sing “Rejoice in the Lord” as candle is shown.*) The star took the form of a beautiful child, cradled in a manger. (*Child is cradled and rocked as a strain of “Away in a Manger” is sung.*) As the child grew, it taught people about the purity of the soul, purity like that of this white lily. (*Take lily around to be smelled and gently touched.*) He taught people to be innocent and loving like the lamb. (*Lamb is held and petted.*) The child became a man, and his light grew, and he taught us to be as clear a crystal to the Christ light within us. (*Hold crystal.*) Let's all feel the crystalline Christ light within us. (*Focus on the way the crystal lets light pass through, then pause for a quiet moment of inner reflection.*)

“Once, as he entered Jerusalem, this beautiful being was celebrated as a king. (*One child wears crown of vines/thorns and*

*proceeds around the circle as palm leaves are laid down.*) People laid down palm branches to pave the path for his donkey. They waved the palm branches to hail their new king, who taught them about the spiritual kingdom within themselves. *(Wave palms as you sing a phrase of “Hosanna!” freestyle.)*

*(Wear shroud as a cape.)* “Then, some people grew jealous of the king, and his great light. They were afraid that they would no longer be powerful, and so they plotted to get rid of this light. *(Wave shroud around and make sounds of wind as if it’s a storm.)* It became a dark winter of sorrow. They put Jesus on the cross *(Hold up cross.)* and let his body die. *(Have a child stand as the cross and another as Jesus, wearing the crown.)* It was a time of forgetting and wondering—where did the light go? But Jesus knew that in three days, he would live again, to show all people that life is eternal, and that death is only a phase. Jesus re-emerged in his light body, more radiant than ever; closer to his Father/Mother God than ever. *(Have butterfly puppet emerge from cocoon and fly around the circle.)* He was like a butterfly that emerges from its cocoon and is no longer earth-bound as it was as a caterpillar.

“His rebirth gives us great joy, and at Easter time we honor the emergence of new life everywhere, like a chick from its egg *(Hold chick, egg.)*, like all the new flowers and baby animals that are born in the spring after a long winter. He showed us that our spirit is always alive, even though it may be covered over by the winter snow, a veil of gray, or our spirit may have moved through the different phases of life, death, and rebirth.

“So we celebrate all new beginnings in the spring. We find eggs—new seeds of life—in the grass, and put on our new shoes and clothes to celebrate Easter. How many of you celebrated Easter last year? Yes? And you’re back again this year, only you’re different! You are more mature. You’re stronger, wiser. You’re wearing bigger shoes and clothes. Right? When Jesus returned, he was also different, stronger, wiser, and even more able to show us that we are made of spirit, and light that is always shining. Was he in his spirit body, or did he bring his physical body back? We don’t know for sure, only that he appeared to his disciples and taught them. They heard him, felt him, saw him, and they knew it was him. And he has never stopped being present to those who love him and follow his teachings. He said, ‘I will be with you until the end of time.’ His spirit is with us forever, as our Christ spirit lives forever.

“And the last part of the story is all of us. We represent Jesus’ 12 disciples, and his spiritual community, his

messengers that carry out his work now on earth. We are the hands and feet of God as we live Jesus’ message. Let’s dance and celebrate how we can bring Christ’s joy into our hearts and the lives of those around us.”

### Dances of Universal Peace

These dances are in the spiritual dance booklets *Dances of Universal Peace* available through Peaceworks. (See [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).) They are simple enough as to require minimal instruction. The younger children are led along “in the flow” with the older ones, who get them quickly.

“Let’s bring the Christ spirit within each of us alive and fully present as we dance this joyous dance.”

### Resurrexit Christe

These words mean, “Live, Christ light! Live today!” Alleluiah means “All praise to God!” *Begin in a circle, all holding hands.*

Resurrexit Christe	Walk four steps into the center of the circle, raising held hands.
Resurrexit Hodie	Step back four steps, crossing hands over heart.
Resurrexit Christe	Walk four steps into the center of the circle, raising held hands.
Resurrexit Hodie	Step back four steps, crossing hands over heart.
Alleluiah	Spin to the right (“one way”).
Alleluiah	Spin to the left (“the other way”).

### Rejoice in the Lord

“In this dance, we feel great joy as we say ‘Thank you, God!’ for all our abundant blessings. We celebrate that our Christ light shines bright.”

*Take hands in the circle.*

Rejoice in the Lord always	<i>Circle walks counterclockwise</i>
and again I say rejoice	
Rejoice in the Lord always	<i>Circle walks clockwise.</i>
and again I say rejoice	
Rejoice, rejoice	<i>Walk in four steps, raising hands.</i>
And again I say rejoice	<i>Spin outward (clockwise) individually.</i>
Rejoice, rejoice	<i>Take hands and walk in four steps, raising hands.</i>
And again I say rejoice	<i>Spin outward (counterclockwise) individually.</i>



# Teen Easter Retreat/ Deepening Process

by Kathryn Ashera Sprowls  
Youth Ministry Director, Unity of Fairfax, VA

For the teens, consider working with the Easter Story as a retreat process using songs and practices at each station. I recommend using the movie *Jesus of Nazareth* directed by Franco Zeffirelli to help tell the story while each station provides an experiential process for self-discovery. What follows are ideas to use and expand upon, creative jumping off points to fashion an Easter experience for your own group.

## Stations

Hosanna (entering the city)  
Clearing away what doesn't serve me (the temple marketplace)  
Teaching & healing (healing practice, affirmations)  
Last Supper-Communion—wine & bread—eternal Christ spirit  
Hand/Foot washing ritual  
Intuition—Jesus knew what would happen.  
Judas—What parts of us betray us/distrust/question?  
Embrace & transform these.  
Garden of Gethsemane—What are our seemingly insurmountable challenges?  
Crucifixion—death of the ego/smaller self, outer self  
Resurrection—arising of the Christ Spirit within  
(Affirmation: “The Christ Spirit within me arises today!”)  
Walking Meditation—Walks of Jesus: I follow in Thy footsteps; Our own unique soul-purpose walks blended with the greatness of Christ

## Dances of Universal Peace

I Am as God Created Me  
I Am The Way, The Truth & The Life  
The Father & I Are One  
These Things Shall You Do & Greater Still

## Story Narrative

Telling the story could include Jesus coming into Jerusalem and being hailed; some Garden of Gethsemane soul-searching/surrendering to God's will; a 'light' but factual version of the trial and crucifixion; and vignettes of his disciples seeing/being with him afterwards. I think the narration is what ties it all together with the metaphysical perspective, and I would recommend highlighting Jesus' spoken words wherever they appear in the text. (e.g. “I will be with you until the end of time.”) You may wish to follow up, through narration or dialogue, how the work carried on through his disciples in the years following, how Christianity expanded worldwide, and now is expressed through us, his followers.

## Absorbing the Story/Thinking More Deeply About It

Discussion could happen to digest the story line, and about how they interpret and reflect on the story in their own lives.

- Did everyone celebrate Jesus as their king? What kind of king?
- Why wasn't Jesus liked by the Sanhedrin? The Roman empire?
- Who betrayed Jesus?
- Why didn't Jesus just do a miracle to get away from the people who wanted to hurt him?
- Do you think he let it happen? Why?
- What was Jesus trying to show us/teach us/do?
- Did he succeed? Did those who wanted to silence Jesus' message succeed in doing so?

## Our Christ Spirit

When have you felt like Christ riding the donkey into town and being celebrated?

How do you call forth this part of you, your Christ self?

**Persecution—The Crosses We Bear**

Jesus had said that a prophet is not respected in his own country. (John 4:44) Have you ever had a new idea you really liked that was rejected or misunderstood by your friends, parents, or others? How did that feel? What did you do?

Do you sometimes feel like no one understands you, and that you're all alone? What do you do to help yourself move out of that feeling of loneliness?

When have you had a loss or a change in your life that you didn't want to have happen? Did you eventually accept it? How did it turn out? How did this situation challenge you to grow?

Read the Serenity Prayer (below) and share your responses to it.

**The Serenity Prayer**

Reinhold Niebuhr

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things  
I cannot change;  
courage to change the things I can;  
and wisdom to know the difference.

**Resurrection**

- How do you call forth your Christ Spirit to overcome your obstacles? (Prayer, meditation, reading, heart talks with a wise and loving person, walking in nature, etc.)
- What if you need help? (Teacher, prayer chaplain, Silent Unity) What other help is available?
- Do you ever call on the being of Jesus in your prayers?
- Does anyone have an example of how prayer helped move you through some challenge?

**Today & the Future**

- If Jesus were alive today, and looked around at our world, what do you think he would say? Do?
- How does the spirit of Christ express itself in our world today?
- How do you carry on the work of Christ today?

**Easter Custom: Foot Washing**

During Christ's time, people wore sandals and had to walk many miles each day on dusty road. It was courtesy and respect for a servant to wash the feet of guests when they arrived. Jesus washed the feet of all his disciples the night before he was crucified. This gesture was to show his disciples that he was their servant and he respected them. It was also to show them that in order to be good leaders, they must show respect to their followers and be willing to serve.

Kings and Lords during medieval times followed Jesus' example. They did this by washing the feet of twelve of the poorest men in their kingdom on the Thursday before Easter. In England, it was custom for kings and queens to wash the feet of as many poor people as they were in years old. This custom is still practiced by Queen Elizabeth today.

Source: [www.kiddyhouse.com/Holidays/Easter/cust.html](http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Holidays/Easter/cust.html) accessed on November 18, 2008.



# Choosing a Bible

by Rev. Kathryn Kellogg  
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator



All Bibles are not created equal. There are different translations, formatting, pictures, and reading levels. Here are some considerations I use when choosing a Bible for the classrooms or to recommend to parents.

The "official" translation used in Unity is the New Revised Standard Version. This Bible is considered the most ecumenical and is widely supported by Protestant and Catholic churches.

The NRSV stands out among the many translations because it is "as literal as possible" in adhering to the ancient texts and only "as free as necessary" to make the meaning clear in graceful, understandable English.

Source:

[www.nccusa.org/newbtu/aboutnrs.html](http://www.nccusa.org/newbtu/aboutnrs.html)

It also has made a conscious effort to move to gender-neutral language when possible. However, this translation is hard to find sometimes. I found my children's Bible through Cokesbury. If you use alternative translations, be sensitive to theological treatment of the content.

For alternative translations, ask your minister which one he or she would recommend. Many people use the New American Standard (NAS) or New International Version (NIV).

For a story Bible or one that is in today's language, I look to see how they treat the crucifixion. If it is about Jesus being God's only son, a sacrifice for our sins, etc. then I leave that Bible on the shelf. That one story can tell me a lot about the theological purpose of the author. There are other Bibles to choose from that tell the story of the crucifixion in a straightforward way without theological interpretations.

Look at the pictures. Do they support learning about the stories or do they detract? Are they accurate depictions? I personally don't use Bibles with a blond or red-headed Jesus. I look for darker skin tones and pictures that aren't stylized—say with a halo around the head, etc. I also choose not to use cartoon Bibles or Bibles with story children who pop into the Old Testament, etc. I want the story to stand on its own. However, those are *my* preferences. Go with your own guidance on this one.

Make sure that if the Bible is for young readers (third grade or younger) that the print is large. Eye muscles do not mature until approximately eight years of age, so children need more help from large print so their eyes don't tire. Also, some of the "cool" Bibles out there aimed at children have so much happening on a page that it can be over-stimulating to the reader.

Selecting a Bible is a personal choice, but here are some that we recommend:

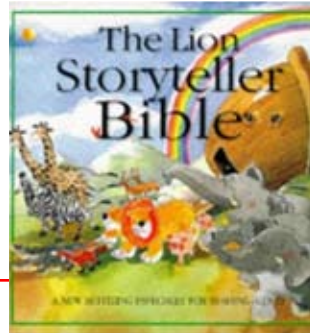


**For young children**

***My First Read and Learn Bible***

Published by Scholastic

This is essentially a board book highlighting the basic stories that are appropriate to this age—creation, Noah, Moses, David, and Jesus. What I love about the way the stories are presented is that the violence has been taken out (except for Goliath being hit in the head, but nothing more).



***The Lion Storyteller Bible*** retold by Bob Hartman

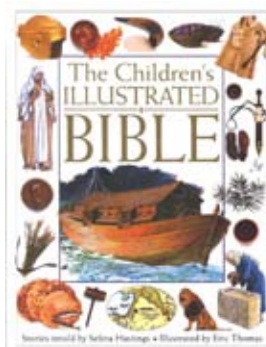
Published by Lion Publishing, 2008

Bob Hartman knows the great power of a story well-told to capture and entertain. In *The Lion Storyteller Bible*, he presents Bible stories from both the Old and New Testaments so they will appeal to the listening ear with repetition, rhythm, and theme threads to tie the stories together. This is a new edition.

**For elementary children**

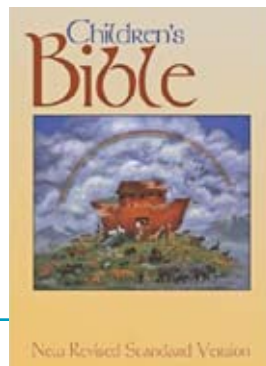
***The Children's Illustrated Bible***

retold by Selina Hastings  
Published by DK Publishing  
We carry this one through the Association (#6925). Stories are only two pages with extra pictures of how something might look today or pictures of the locations mentioned. We use this Bible with our curriculum. My personal favorite for this age.



***Children's Bible New Revised Standard Version***

Published by Abindgon ISBN-13: 978-0-687-49416-3  
A straight-telling of the stories with smaller text boxes giving more information about the passage or asking questions on how the passage relates to their lives.. Not always Unity-based questions but not bad. Not highly illustrated and then uses cartoon-based characters.



**For teens**

Use straight translations of NRSV.

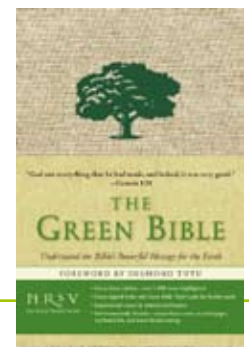
Association curriculum for teens uses the New Century Version as it reads at an eighth-grade level with language that is easily understood.



***The Serendipity Bible New International Version***

This is a study Bible that provides questions to make the story come alive in a teen's life. You will need to look at this before purchasing. The adults need to be able to translate some of this into Unity theology and know what to ignore as not relevant to our teachings.

For those who desire to go green, try The Green Bible NRVS. All passages and verses relating to taking care of creation are printed in green. [www.greenletterbible.com/about](http://www.greenletterbible.com/about)





## Facilitators

**Rev. Kathryn Kellogg, CSE, LUT**  
Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Jane Simmons**  
International Teen Ministry Coordinator

**Rev. Diane Venzera, CSE, LUT**  
Great Lakes Regional Children's Consultant and  
Executive Director of Spirit's Light Foundation

**Bernadette Swanson, LUT**  
Curriculum Writer/Editor

## Comments on the 2008 Child/Teen Ministry Week

"Unbelievable amount of **information** about everything!"

"I am so glad I came. It's the happiest/most fulfilled I've felt for a long time. I am going back **excited and renewed to minister to our kids.**"

"It was truly an awesome experience—far **beyond by expectations.** I am grateful for all I discovered."

**Open to all** who minister to children and teens. Whether you are a youth ministry director, a volunteer, a minister, or a congregant wanting to know more about youth ministry, this week is for you.

**What** a 40-hour integrated study exploring:

- Faith development and how young people create their image of God
- Life issues and using Unity principles to thrive
- Use of story as a foundational tool for spiritual growth
- Supportive church environments for youth ministry
- Sacred safety practices for facilities, programming, and staffing

**When** August 2-7, 2009  
Starting on Sunday evening, August 2 at 6:30 pm and ending on Friday, August 7, at 5:30 pm.

**Class Fee** \$400

### For more information,

see our website, [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org) (go to Youth, then click on Adults Serving Youth) or contact **Kathryn Kellogg**, Children's and Family Ministry Coordinator at [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org) or 816.524.7414 ext. 338.



## Reading before you arrive:

*Youth and Family Ministry Guide* and *Uniteen Program Guide*. Other reading assignments will be sent when registration is received.

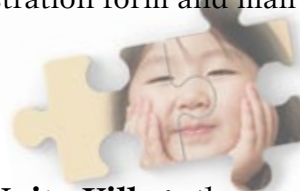


## Logistics:

This week is facilitated by the Association of Unity Churches International and held at Unity Village during the “C” session of the Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program.

## You will need to:

**1 Register for the class:** Fill out the registration form and mail to the Association with the fee, attention: Kathy Kellogg.



**2 Reserve lodging:**

- **If you choose to stay on grounds at Unity Village** there are a variety of accommodations available including the historic motel or the new Spiritual Life Center. You may also choose to have single or shared accommodations. Room pricing usually includes meals. **For further information contact SpiritPath, Unity reservations at 866.348.6489.**

\*If you are looking for a roommate, please contact Kathy for suggestions.

- **More information about area lodging can be found at [www.unity.org/areainfo](http://www.unity.org/areainfo)**

**3 Reserve airport transportation**

If you need transportation to and from the airport, please see our website at [www.unity.org/areainfo](http://www.unity.org/areainfo)



# New Youth of Unity Event

The focus of the training will help prepare attendees to become Peace Ambassadors beginning with their families, churches, communities and moving outward to regional, national, and international spiritual social action. This event is designed as a first step of a “leadership ladder” training, which will equip youth and adults to be active ambassadors for peace. The process will include spiritual, mental, and emotional preparation for national and international service.

## Update on Appreciative Inquiry Summit Outcomes

### IYOU Vision

As a Spirit-led youth movement, we empower individuals around the world in their spiritual journey.

### Purpose Statement

We manifest our vision through the following eight initiatives:

- Communication
- Event Planning
- Supportive Community
- International Development
- Prosperity
- Leadership
- Worldwide Service
- Practice and Promotion of Spiritual Principles

If you feel called to serve IYOU and be an active participant in one of the groups above email [you@unity.org](mailto:you@unity.org).



Register beginning  
January 30, 2009  
to attend the

Association of  
Unity Churches International's  
Newly-developed YOU event!

## Peace Ambassador Training

July 19-24, 2009  
Unity Village, MO

Early-bird event registration is **\$475 until March 9, 2009**. Registration includes training, meals, and lodging from **Sunday, July 19, to Friday, July 24**. Our accommodations are limited to 140 attendees so please register early. Participants are accepted on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend, please submit registration documents found at: [www.unity.org/iyou](http://www.unity.org/iyou).

*continued from page 1*

spiritual awakening. In addition, Unity recognizes that the Bible is a complex collection of writings compiled over many centuries. We honor the writings as reflecting the understanding and inspiration of the writers at the time they were written. The Bible continues to be a valuable spiritual resource for us.”

In other words, the Bible is the history of a people as they perceived it. Any one who has ever gone to a family reunion knows that family stories change over time and things are interpreted according to who is telling the story. So it is in the Bible. The Hebrew people wrote their history according to their understanding of how God interacted with them within their particular culture and time.

Read allegorically, the Bible is full of stories where the narrative is the vehicle for greater abstract ideas portrayed by the story’s characters, situations, and locations. The richness of the story is active in the narrative but not the narrative itself.

However, what Unity is really known for is its unique approach to interpreting the Bible metaphysically. We look at the Bible as the story of our own spiritual journey, humankind’s growing awareness of our divine nature. (For more about the power of story and myth, read Jane Simmon’s article in this issue.) When we approach the Bible metaphysically and consider how the stories are playing out in our lives, then the wonder and mystery of its truth comes alive.

So why does the greater Unity movement believe that the Bible still has relevance for us today as “an important spiritual resource”? What is its importance for Unity young people?

### **Faith Development**

Every philosophy, denomination, nation, or family has its foundational stories—those stories that inform the members (and others) about who they are, how they came to be, and what is theirs to do. The stories ground the teaching, giving the people a tie to the past and a purpose for the future. The Bible grounds the Christian faith. Unity is culturally Christian. Our teachings have their roots in the words and works of Jesus and we can find our spiritual journey in the progression of the soul from the creation story to the letters of faith in the New Testament. Trying to impart a faith system to young people without our founding stories is like “building a house on the sand.” We need to share the stories where our teachings come from ... where the directive to love our

neighbors as ourselves is found (Jesus’ great commandments), why we encourage an attitude of gratitude (Jesus blessing the bread), why we believe we can heal ourselves (woman touching his garment), why we practice the power of prayer and silence, and where compassion for the sick, hungry, and downtrodden leads us to spiritual social action. These stories are also reflected in the Old Testament.

### **Brain Development**

The brain seeks to attach meaning to our experiences so that we might better understand what occurred and, in understanding, restore a feeling of safety. The brain also thrives on the feeling of belonging. Our cultural stories support both of those goals. They help us interpret our experiences and make sense out of the senseless. They can provide a template for handling the tough times in our lives. Sharing a cultural heritage gives us a feeling of belonging to something that is bigger than self and able to withstand the tests of time. Isn’t that the very nature of believing in God?

### **Powerful Stories for Living in a World of Duality**

Lastly, I believe that the Bible provides our young people tools for living in this world of duality. Life on earth is messy and filled with imperfect people. So is the Bible, but it also gives us stories of how good triumphs as underdogs overcome great obstacles, and ordinary people demonstrate creative problem-solving. It is filled with acts of kindness and hope for the future. The Bible can provide guidance, comfort, and courage to take right action, hold firm to your truth, and trust in the greater Presence. Bible stories provide examples and reassurance that we can get to the other side of any challenge and that God is in the midst of everything.

There is a reason that the Bible has lasted thousands of years. The power within the stories and the mystery of how God expresses in our lives and world is reflected throughout it. The stories may not be historically true, but they carry the universal truths of our spiritual unfoldment. They are our cultural stories. When we approach the Bible as an adventure in faith, we open ourselves up to the mysteries of the ages. When presented as history, allegory, or a metaphysical look at the soul’s journey, we transform the Bible into the valuable resource it was created to be.

# Top Ten Bible Stories

In the last issue we asked readers to send in a list of the top ten Bible stories or teachings they believed every Unity child or teen should know. We also asked for the three stories they would rather not teach. What follows is a compilation of the top ten favorites, and comments and concerns about those least desired. See what you think and perhaps you would like to join the conversation. Send your thoughts and ideas to [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org).

## Comments about the three Bible stories that you wish you never had to teach.

“Anything involving **killing**, **circumcision**, **violence**, subjugation of women, including Abraham being asked to **sacrifice** Isaac.”

—Kathryn Sprowls, Unity in Fairfax, VA

“Most of the stories from the **Old Testament** due to the violence, killing and **destruction**. It depends on the teachers ... Noah’s Ark is an important Bible story as long as the teachers are able to interpret it metaphysically and not focus on everyone **being killed** except Noah and his family.”

—Steven Krugler, First Unity Church, St. Petersburg, FL

“Stories involving violence or condemnation.”

—Rick Campbell, Unity of Pensacola, FL

“I do not want to teach stories that **exclusively focus** on **baby boys** at **Christmas**. I like the idea of The Christ Spirit in all humanity, but I think baby boys get overdone.”

—Brian Campbell, Unity in Community, Delaware, OH

“Cain and Abel; **Jonah and the Whale**; Noah and the Flood; Easter.”

—Kelly Z, Unity in Community, Delaware, OH

“I will never teach the following to children who do not understand metaphysical interpretation, unless I make it perfectly clear to them that these stories are **myth**, made up by storytellers, and that the God in those stories is not our God, who is always with us and in everything, loving and protecting us. I don't teach **Abraham and Isaac**, Noah and the Ark, the creation, Jesus cursing the fig tree, and many more which portray the **vengeful** Hebrew God of the Old Testament. Since I don't believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible, I never taught the **crucifixion** to children, either.”

—Shirley Barbula, West Central Children’s Consultant

## Top Ten Stories (a compilation)

Creation (perhaps taught with other creation stories)

Adam and Eve—The Garden of Eden

Noah’s Ark

Joseph and the coat of many colors

Joseph, king of dreams

Moses and the story of the Hebrew people being delivered from bondage

Samuel hears God’s call

David and Goliath

Daniel in the lion’s den

Jonah and the whale

Nativity (Christmas) story

Jesus’ baptism, Matt. 3:16-17

Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5-7

Jesus calming the storm—peace be still

Jesus walks on the water

Peter walking on water

Jesus’ miracles

Feeding of the five thousand

Jesus heals leprosy, Luke 17 (or other healing story)

Prodigal Son

Parable of the Talents

Good Samaritan

The sower

Lesson on giving your best (Cain and Abel, Abraham and Isaac, the widow’s mite, etc.)

Holy Week starting with Palm Sunday

Jesus praying in Gethsemane

Entire story of Jesus’ life and ministry

Saul/Paul road to Damascus

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable..., Philippians 4:8

“There is no Bible story I wish I did not have to teach. I love them all and think each one has something wonderful to offer. Actually the more difficult ones are the ones that cause the ‘teacher’ to dig the deepest, therefore providing the most fresh and spiritually connected presentation. My desire is that the culture of our current program continues to make shifts toward a more biblically-centered curriculum.”

—Richard Burdick’s (Teens) comment on using the Bible

*continued from page 6*

To get the “clunky” version, simply read the far right column out loud from top to bottom. Next, try to make some sense of it from your own level of consciousness and understanding. And, this is important: This story—all the characters, places and action—is taking place within your own consciousness! This is the exciting part because you are creating the meaning for yourself that makes the most sense for you. In a way, there is an intersection between the literal words, their meanings, and your state of consciousness. There are metaphysical interpretations of many stories that Unity has published. And, there is not a single right interpretation. The only requirement is that you keep to the story line and its components.

Indirectly, this song based on scripture tells us that spiritual thoughts can be held captive by our material/sense consciousness. This happens simply by what we focus on and give our attention. When the song is metaphysically interpreted it can now be understood as a method of how to release Spiritual thoughts that have become entrapped by material/sense consciousness. In a refined version it can mean something like this:

*Use Christ Consciousness to direct the use of denials deep into material/sense consciousness to root out, deny giving power to, an old “ruling” belief that has been holding spiritual thoughts (or true thoughts of Being) captive.*

Let’s look at another very familiar example (below) from Matthew 18:20 from *The New Interpreter’s Study Bible, 2003*: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” Many of us have taken much comfort from this scripture that instructs us to gather together in the name of Jesus and, when we do, he will be there. Even more meaning and helpful instruction can be gleaned from this scripture when it is metaphysically interpreted. Again, this one really

does not need to be paraphrased and like the one from the Hebrew Scriptures, we have to add information. We have to add two or three what—people. And, who is speaking “in my name” and “I” referring to? Jesus Christ.

Again, read the right-hand column out loud from top to bottom. Then make some sense out of it to create a refined version. It might be something like this:

*Whenever two or three Christ-like thoughts come together, Christ Nature is there.*

We could refine it even more since we know that Christ Nature is always present; it is just that we have put our attention elsewhere. So, we could say,

*Whenever two or three Christ-like thoughts come together, Christ Nature comes into my awareness.*

This is very useful information! This is a method of getting out of negative thinking, error thinking, and sense consciousness. The moment we are aware, all we have to do is string together two or three Christ-like thoughts (affirmations) to shift awareness from negative thinking to the awareness of Christ Nature.

Metaphysical Bible interpretation is an effective tool to learn about our own states of consciousness and how to apply Spiritual Truths and Laws in order to rise to a higher state of consciousness. In these two examples it is easy to discern how denials and affirmations can be used to raise to a higher level of consciousness.

This article appeared in 2008 Nov/Dec issue of *Unity Magazine* and is reprinted by permission of the author and Unity.

<b>Noun, Pronoun, Place, Action</b>	<b>Metaphysical Definitions</b>	<b>Reading down the column on the left</b>
Whenever	Whenever	Whenever two or more thoughts are gathered in Christ Nature
Two or three [people]	Two or three thoughts	
Are gathered in	Are gathered in	
My name	After Jesus Christ nature	
There shall	There will	There will Christ Nature
I	Jesus Christ	

# Association Resources

## Palm Sunday and Easter Curriculum

### Preschool, ages 3-5

**What a Wonderful World! Volume 2, #6069**

The Palm Sunday/Easter lessons are in the back of the volume.

### Children, Ages 6-11

**Children on the Quest: Part 1, #6704**

Chapter 5 "Jesus the man and Jesus the Christ"

**Holiday Spirit: Elementary, #6822**

One lesson each for Palm Sunday and Easter

### For Teens

**Holiday Spirit: Uniteens, #6823**

One lesson each for Palm Sunday and Easter

### The Simple Truth: Making Sense of God, Life and Other Stuff

Use Chapter 10 on Jesus and/or Chapter 11 "Who or What Is the Christ?" These chapters are not about Palm Sunday and Easter per se but explore what we believe to be true about Jesus and the Christ within each of us as us. (This book is currently out-of-print. See [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).)

**Teens on the Quest: Part 1, #6770**

Chapter 5 on Jesus explores Jesus as a historical and spiritual presence. Chapter 6 explores the place of the Bible in our spiritual unfoldment.

If you have **IMAGE** curriculum in your resource files, you might see if there is anything you can use. All Holy Week lessons including Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Easter, and the Ascension can be found in Year 1 or 2, Quarter 3, Parts 12-13, and maybe Parts 10-11.

## Palm Sunday Curriculum Resource Hint

If you are planning on using the Association of Unity Churches' Palm Sunday Lesson from *Holiday Spirit*, one of the activity suggestions is to have the children decorate egg-shaped cookies.

Invite some of the parents to make the cookies with their children a week or two in advance. (You could even give them the cookie dough and the cutter.) It's a great way for busy, but consistent, adult attendees to get involved if volunteering on Sunday morning doesn't work for them.

If you don't have an egg-shaped cutter, cookie craft has one that works great! ([www.cookiecutters.com/OrderForm.html](http://www.cookiecutters.com/OrderForm.html)) You just need to be sure to dip the cutter *prior to each cut* in powdered sugar or flour. They also have a wonderful Nativity Set (8 cutters) that works great for a play dough pre-session activity for preschool or elementary children.

Blessings,  
Marygrace Sidovar Sorensen  
SCUCA Children's Ministry Consultant

**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](http://www.unity.org) to see the list of products available through the Association of Unity Churches.

e-mail: [orders@unity.org](mailto:orders@unity.org)

Or call the Association: 816.524.7414 and ask for the Ordering Department (ext. 324).

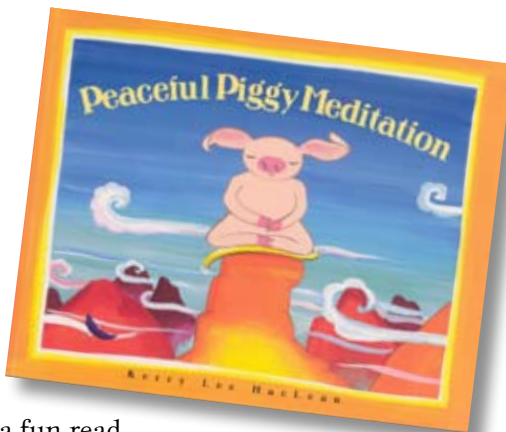
# Resources

## Peaceful Piggy Meditation

By Kerry Lee MacLean

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co, 2004

Even though this was published in 2004, it just came across my desk, and what a delight! The colorful illustrations give whimsy and interest to the text that helps “little piggies” find a “peaceful place inside” when they need to take a break from the busy, noisy world. Besides being a fun read, I highly recommend this book for teaching meditation to younger children and as a great place for families to start a daily practice of family meditation. In the back of the book, the author has how-to’s for helping your child learn to meditate, and encouragement to families to begin a family practice. There is even a website for more support. [www.kerryleemaclean.com](http://www.kerryleemaclean.com)



## The Life and Times of Lilly the Lash: The Garden Gathering

By Julie Woik, Illustrated by

Marc Tobin

Publisher: Advocate House, 2007

In large hardback book, Lilly the Lash works her magic of helping flora and fauna and, of course, the little girl whose eyelash she is, with seeing the best in themselves and knowing their own gifts.

Through rhyme and color-filled pages, Lilly follows her guidance to serve in a greater way and off she goes on her adventure. For more information, go to the website where you can preview the book, learn how to earn a Girl Scout Patch, or find lessons for classrooms Pre-K to 5th grade.

[www.lillythelash.com/index.htm](http://www.lillythelash.com/index.htm)



## Websites to Recommend

### HeartMath

If you are interested in Empowering Heart-based Living, have you looked into the Institute of HeartMath? Their research into the power of the heart for coherent living has produced some amazing products for those of us working with young people. Check out their Shift and Shine Technique for Ages 3–6. This is a great resource for teachers and parents alike.

[www.heartmath.org/about-us/shift-and-shine-technique-for-ages-3-to-6/](http://www.heartmath.org/about-us/shift-and-shine-technique-for-ages-3-to-6/)

### Seeds of Compassion

This is a website dedicated to “planting hope for our children and our world” by bringing “social and emotional learning into families, to caregivers, and to schools so that all who touch the lives of children have the tools and empowerment to provide the foundation for kinder and more compassionate children, communities, and society.” The following link is a listing of resources for educators and parents for fulfilling that mission:

[www.seedsofcompassion.org/why/resources.asp#educators](http://www.seedsofcompassion.org/why/resources.asp#educators)

Check out the children and teen lessons, grades K–12 at: [www.seedsofcompassion.org/why/classroom\\_resources.asp](http://www.seedsofcompassion.org/why/classroom_resources.asp)

# Regional & National Trainings, Workshops and Retreats

Please go to the regional website listed in the consultants' directory for more information.

## 2009

- Jan 22 Northwest: Youth Services Team at Huston Center, Gold Bar, WA
- Jan 23–25 Northwest: Youth Team Conference at Huston Center, Gold Bar, WA—for Ministers, YOU Sponsors, Uniteen Leaders, Youth Ed Directors, and seasoned teachers
- Feb 17–21 Regional Consultants' Conference, Unity Village, MO
- March ? Great Lakes, Western and Eastern YOU Sub-regionals
- March 7 South Central: Directors, Uniteen & YOU leaders, Lawrence, KS
- Mar 20–22 Northwest: Kids Camp Counselor Training, Spokane, WA
- Mar 20–22 Eastern: Youth Educators' Conference, Virginia Beach, VA
- Apr 17–19 Eastern: Uniteens Spring Camp, Jamison, MD
- Apr 24–26 Eastern: YOU Spring Rally, Camp Tockwogh, MD
- May 26–28 Corporate Youth Director's Forum, River Forest, IL. For more information, contact Rev. Diane Venzera.
- May 28–30 7th National New Thought Children & Teen Ministry Conference—"SHINE ON..." River Forest, IL. Topics include Working with ADD, ADHD Children, Starting a Youth Ministry Council and more. For more information, go to [www.spiritslight.org](http://www.spiritslight.org).
- June 24–28 Great Lakes Official YOU Rally
- June 26–28 Eastern: Youth Ed Directors' Retreat, Bangor, PA
- Sept 19 South Central: Directors, Uniteen & YOU Leaders Training, Dallas, TX
- Oct 10 South Central: Uniteen & YOU Leaders Training, San Antonio, TX

## News From Our Regions

Participants from 17 churches—52 teens and 16 adults (6 were NGU-age) came together for the 19th Annual UNITREAT "The Power of Us" sponsored by Western Region Association of Unity Churches Youth Ministry. The Uniteens experienced and reflected on the tone they send out into the world, represented by the bamboo tubes in a huge wind chime that now hangs about 30 feet up in the trees of Cispus. It has a very organic sound as the wind meets the sail that then sends the striker against the tubes. The sail was woven by the Uniteens using recycled materials. Our youth are filled with insight, energy, and wisdom and are vital contributors within our spiritual communities. Thanks to Bill Brock and Ginger Landtree! —submitted by Chris Castaldi



# Regional Education Services Consultants Directory

The Unity ministries in the United States are divided up into seven regions. In each region, there are educational consultants that support and enrich the spiritual development of youth and all those who serve them. Below is information on how to contact the consultants in your region.

(C) Children—for those serving infants through 5th grade

(U) Uniteen—for those serving grades 6–8

(Y) Youth of Unity—for those serving grades 9–12

CSE—Certified Spiritual Educator

LT—Licensed Teacher

## Eastern

Contact information at: [www.ERChildTeenMinistry.org](http://www.ERChildTeenMinistry.org)

James Scott, LT (C)

Rev. Judi Venturini (U)

Jane Harden (Y)

## Great Lakes

Contact information at: [www.greatlakesunity.com/consultants.html](http://www.greatlakesunity.com/consultants.html)

Rev. Diane Venzera (C)

Eileen Patra, CSE, LT (U)

Jo Horn, CSE (Y)

## Northwest

Contact information at: [www.unitynwregion.org](http://www.unitynwregion.org). Click on Programs, and then Youth.

Rev. Penny Gruver (C)

Rev. Jackie Green (U, Y)

## Southeast

Contact information at: [www.seunityyouth.org](http://www.seunityyouth.org)

Steven Butler, CSE (C)

Michele Senac, CSE, LT (U)

Carolyn Renfro, CSE, LT (Y)

## South & Central

Contact information at: [www.scucaregion.com](http://www.scucaregion.com)

Click on Youth & Family Ministry.

Marygrace Sorensen, CSE, LT (C for both; Y for South)

Joanne Burns, CSE, LT (U)

Lisa Yelenick (Y for Central)

## Southwest

Contact information at: [www.swunity.org](http://www.swunity.org)

Jacque Hardesty (C)

Rev. Mark Fisk (U, Y)

## West Central

Contact information at: [www.westcentralregion.com](http://www.westcentralregion.com). Click on YOU and YE Website

Shirley Barbula (C)

Jerry Sharp, CSE, LT (U, Y)

**For ministry with young adults and Next Generation,** go to [www.unity.org/ngu](http://www.unity.org/ngu). The regional consultants for this ministry can be found by scrolling down the page.

# Class Registration

## Child/Teen Ministry Week

August 2-7, 2009

Name (Mr. Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone  Home  Work  
 Cell  Church \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Church City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Church website \_\_\_\_\_

Area currently working in:

Children  Uniteens  Teens  Director

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Years of experience in the above area \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently:  Seeking certification as a Certified Spiritual Educator (CSE)

CSE  LUT  Minister

Will you have a car available during the week?  Yes  No

Are you staying at Unity Village?  Yes  No

<p><b>Method of Payment: (\$400 class fee)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check (Payable to Association of Unity Churches Intl)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Amer Express Total to be charged \$ _____</p> <p>Card # _____</p> <p>exp. date ___/___/___ CID # _____</p> <p>Name as appears on card _____</p> <p>Card Billing Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___</p>
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<p><b>For Office Use:</b></p> <p>Date Received _____</p> <p>Acct # _____</p> <p>Amount Received \$ _____</p> <p>Reference # _____</p> <p>Processed by _____</p> <p>Fund <b>52</b></p>
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### Enclose course registration and fee

**mail to:** Association of Unity Churches International  
 Attn: Kathy Kellogg  
 P.O. Box 610  
 Lee's Summit, MO 64063



**24** or fax to: 816.525.4020

**Questions, call:** 816.524.7414

# Latest Uniteen Resource

## Yes, you *can* make a difference!

These seven interactive lessons allow your Uniteens (ages 11-13) to explore the importance of each individual in impacting social action. Discussions include the meaning of diversity, creating peace vs. conflict, and making a difference in their environment and in their church. The lessons culminate with a church service project.



Make a Difference #6846

\$14.95

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