

Overview of K-5th Grade Rotation Themes for 2008-9

Here's a brief review plus an update on the development of BUC's Rotational Workshop curriculum, our new approach to religious education launched in January of 2006. This program is based on our UU Principles and Purposes. It was adopted to address differences in learning styles as well in response to congregational wishes expressed in our 2005 member survey.

First, over the 2006-2007 year, working with the RE Council, the RE staff clarified the main learning objectives and opportunities that we wanted to provide for our children as they moved through our religious education program. We developed five main areas or "pillars" that we work from one time each year:

- Exploring Faiths Around the World
- Developing Moral Lives
- Seeking Truth
- Understanding Life Passages
- Living Our Faith

Each year of religious education is comprised of five rotations, with one rotation reinforcing each of these pillars.

Additionally, each year of our five year program for Children's K-5th grade RE has a theme - The first year's theme was "Beginnings", last year's theme was "Change", this year's is "Leadership & Responsibility" and upcoming years' themes will be "Stewards" and "Together as One".

This year's theme of "Leadership & Responsibility" will be developed in five ways:

September's rotation, called *Spiritual Leaders*, explores the teachings of several significant spiritual leaders such as Moses, Jesus and Muhammad. It also explores the fact that the Hindu faith has never had a prophet or spiritual leader and yet is one of the oldest as well as the third largest religion in the world. It points out that our own Unitarian Universalist faith also lacks a spiritual leader and yet remains a thoughtful and flourishing faith.

November's rotation, *Moral Teachings*, focuses on different answers some of the major religions offer about how to lead a moral life. It also explores the meaning of a "covenant" and our own UU Seven Principles.

January's rotation, *Influential UU's*, examines the lives of several influential, sometimes controversial UU's whose lives exemplify the principles of our faith.

March's *Family & Community Duties* rotation focuses on some of the responsibilities an individual shoulders as a member of a family and a community.

May's *Civic Duty* rotation first defines the "Common Good" and then asks what might be the best ways to support it. It asks "When is it important to shift our focus away from immediate wants and focus on long-term goals?"

Please contact me with questions anytime at eleanor.mcguire@bucmi.org.

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