



Issue 21

December 2009

Welcome to E-Link, your bi-monthly online news about Youth and Family Ministry from the Association of Unity Churches International. Each issue provides bits of current information and connects all of us who serve in Unity Youth and Family Ministry. Send comments to Bernadette Swanson at [cwriter@unity.org](mailto:cwriter@unity.org).

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**HOME OFFICE CHANGES**

In November, after numerous budgetary cutbacks, the Association had to downsize staff and reduce pay across the board to lessen the financial responsibility of our home office. With downsizing comes the creation of a "new normal" in regards to determining which programs and projects go forward and what staff hours are available to get the work done. Forty percent of the staff are either gone or on reduced hours, so it will take us a while to figure out "who's on first." We appreciate your patience and understanding as we move forward to serve.

Staff changes in the youth and young adult ministry areas are:

Rachel Simpson, young adult specialist and IYOU Conference assistant, is no longer on staff.

Kathy Kellogg, children's and family ministry, available Mon-Wed, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Jane Simmons, teen ministry, available Mon-Wed 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Thurs 8 a.m.-noon.

Bernadette Swanson, education editor, continues to be available Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m. but will also be working with other circles (departments).

Please know that it is our joy to be in service to our young people and those of you who make ministry happen. We are "mining for gold" in this change and giving thanks to all of you who are holding us in prayer.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Well-Room Policy

Tis the season to be sure you have a well-room policy for your youth ministry. Here is one from Church of the Resurrection (UMC) in Leawood, Kansas:

In an effort to control the spread of illness, children exhibiting any signs of illness will not be admitted into the nursery or classrooms. Please do not bring your child if (s)he has: discolored mucus, fever in the last 24 hours, vomited in the last 24 hours, diarrhea, contagious skin rash, discharge from the eye, pink eye. Any child exhibiting any of these symptoms will be removed and the parents contacted for pick-up.

For information about controlling the spread of the flu viruses, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

### **Child/Teen Ministry Week**

Child/Teen Ministry Week, held here in Lee's Summit, MO, will be July 11-16, 2010. Registration forms will be available on the web in the middle of January.

### **Twelve Powers Are "In" for 2010**

If you want to explore the 12 Powers for next year, we have resources available for you. Go to our Children's Ministry webpage and scroll down. More resources can be found in the Fall 2009 issue of Education Links.

The Twelve Gifts From God Volume 1 (January-June) is being readied to be available for free download from our webpage by the end of this month. Volume 2 is still available for purchase through our Shop online. Order number is BA6057.

### **[INTERNATIONAL YOUTH OF UNITY WWW.UNITY.ORG/IYOU](http://WWW.UNITY.ORG/IYOU)**

The international event planning team, "The Indies" for the 2010 IYOU event, Peace be Still, would like to invite you to join us August 1-6, 2010, at Three Trails Camp and Retreat Center, Kansas City, Missouri. This event will bring together teens and sponsors from all over the world to connect with and learn about peace. We will also be blessed by the music of Armand and Angelina. Stay tuned for more information at [www.unity.org/iyouevent](http://www.unity.org/iyouevent) and [www.facebook.com/youthofunity](http://www.facebook.com/youthofunity).

Sponsors and YOUers: Would you like to share your good ideas, amazing lessons, fund raisers, service projects, etc? Visit [www.facebook.com/youthofunity](http://www.facebook.com/youthofunity) and join the discussion.

YOUers who attend the international event are required to submit either an **essay or lesson plan** based on one of several recommended books. In response to a request to share their submissions, some of our Peace Ambassador training attendees have given permission to post them on our website. Read their excellent work.

Explore the possibilities of "green" fund raising for your youth group.

**Vintage YOU Pins:** Formerly \$6.00 each. Now only \$1.00. See Stimulus Sale below.

### **[STIMULUS SALE](#)**

Stimulus Sale of kid's books, curriculum & miscellaneous. Call 816.434.6813 to order.

### **[EXCELLENT WEBSITES](#)**

#### **Unity Website**

Association information is under the Ministries & Leaders tab at [www.unity.org](http://www.unity.org). When in the Shop, be sure to login with your ministry account to see wholesale pricing.

**New link!** Find Distinguished Youth Service Award info at [www.unity.org/DYSABrochure](http://www.unity.org/DYSABrochure).

Find curriculum recommendations at [www.unity.org/curriculum](http://www.unity.org/curriculum).

Get Regional Education Consultant information at [www.unity.org/REC](http://www.unity.org/REC).

### **[NATIONAL EVENTS](#)**

#### **NGU Retreat**

Hold the date! March 26-28, 2010, somewhere in the Chicago area. Contact David DeAngelis  
Daviddeangelis@yahoo.com Check [www.GreatlakesNGU.com](http://www.GreatlakesNGU.com) for details later.

### **Spirit's Light**

#### **8th Annual National New Thought Children & Teen Ministry Conference**

Thursday, May 13 to Saturday, May 15, 2010

Cenacle Retreat & Conference Center, Chicago, IL

T.E.A.M. U.P. (Totally Empowered Awesome Ministries Uplifting People)

Bring your Youth & Family Ministry team and join us for networking with Spiritual Educators from around the country and to enjoy our featured presenters, classes & events.

For more information or to request a complete conference brochure please contact Rev. Diane Venzera  
708.785.7566 [diane@dianevenzera.com](mailto:diane@dianevenzera.com) web: [www.spiritslight.org](http://www.spiritslight.org)

### **REGIONAL TRAININGS**

#### **Great Lakes Region**

**Great Lakes Spring Unitreat**, April 30-May 2, 2010, Jackson, MI

For Uniteens, Leaders and Chaperones

Contact: Eileen Patra, CSE, LUT 248.318.7028 [epatra@gmail.com](mailto:epatra@gmail.com)

#### **Northwest Region**

**30th Annual Northwest Region Youth Team Conference**, Jan 22-24, 2010, Camp Huston Center, Goldbar, WA. For tenured YOU and Uniteen sponsors, YEDs, ministers and long-term teachers. Co-facilitated by Jackie Green and Penny Gruver.

Registrar: Jackie Green [jackienyou@comcast.net](mailto:jackienyou@comcast.net) 509.928.0896

**Unitreat Planning Weekend**, March 19-21, 2010, Cispus Learning Center, outside Randall, WA. Casual, all-adult weekend for Uniteen sponsors who wish to support the creativity and planning of summer Unitreat. Contact Chris Castaldi [chriscastaldi@bctonline.com](mailto:chriscastaldi@bctonline.com) 503.632.7792

#### **SCUCA (South Central) Region**

Information: [www.scucaregion.com/Youth&Family-Trainings.html](http://www.scucaregion.com/Youth&Family-Trainings.html)

#### **Children's and Teen Ministry Training**

March 6, 2010, Mid to North Arkansas, Oklahoma and Southwest Missouri. Unity Spiritual Life Center of Oklahoma City, 5603 NW 41st Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73122. For directions contact Lin Savory at 405.789.2424.

#### **Southeast Region**

For all registration information, please visit [www.seunityyouth.org](http://www.seunityyouth.org)

**Children's Ministry Teacher Training**, Saturday, January 30, 2010, 9am-3pm, Atlanta Unity Center, 3597 Parkway Lane, Norcross, GA 30092 [www.atlantaunity.org](http://www.atlantaunity.org) Contact Steven Butler 352.376.8561

**Youth Director Retreat**, May 21-23, 2010, Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park, FL. Contact Steven Butler 352.376.8561

**Winter Uniteen Retreat**, February 5-7, 2010, Camp Weed, Live Oak, FL. For Uniteens and adult leaders. Contact Michele Senac [uniteens@bellsouth.net](mailto:uniteens@bellsouth.net) 864.244.8794

**Southeast YOU Spring Rally**, March 12-14, 2010, Warren W Willis Camp, Leesburg, FL. Contact Carolyn Renfro [seyou@cfl.rr.com](mailto:seyou@cfl.rr.com)

### **EDUCATION LINKS ONLINE**

*Education Links* is available online at [www.unity.org/el](http://www.unity.org/el). Sign up ([www.unity.org/enews](http://www.unity.org/enews)) to be notified so you won't miss out on any issues. Contact Kathy Kellogg at [kid@unity.org](mailto:kid@unity.org) to contribute articles.

A SERVICE OF YOUR ASSOCIATION OF UNITY CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL

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