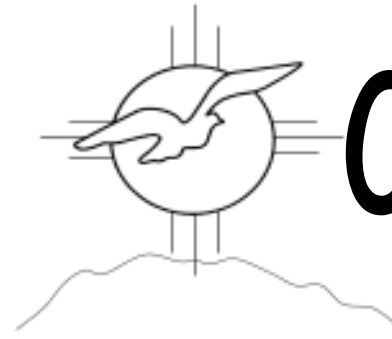




Joanne Burns is our Interim Youth Ministry Director. She has 20 years in Unity, over 10 years experience serving as a Director in all sizes of Unity churches. Joanne is a three time Licensed Unity Teacher specializing in Adult Education, Youth Education and Intergenerational Education. She currently is on staff for the South Central Unity Churches Association Region as a Teen Ministry Consultant. Joanne also serves the Association of Unity Churches as a member of the Educational Services Team and Leadership Recruitment and Development Team. Her previous accomplishments include recipient of the Distinguished Youth Service Award; acting as Conference Coordinator for International YOU; Head Sponsor for Peace by Peace Program International Teens; and contributing writer for curriculum and the Associations Youth & Family Ministry Guide. She founded "YFM Mentor" a networking system and mentoring program for Youth Directors and consultant service to Unity Churches wishing to revitalize their Youth & Family Ministry Program. Joanne will be serving Christ Unity Church for a maximum of six months. During that time she will organize and restructure our Youth Ministry and institute many "risk management requirements" and "best practices" to ensure CUC is in alignment with the policy and procedures recommended by the Association of Unity Churches and required by our insurance carrier. During that time, we will be identifying the next permanent Youth Director and training them to carry on this new level of commitment to our youth. Joanne invites us all to join our spiritual community in the vision and manifestation of the highest quality YM program we can offer.



# Christ Unity Church

New "Interim" Youth and Family

Special Edition Youth and Family Ministry Newsletter 1st quarter 2007

Ministry Director

## A New Year and Ancient Wisdom Inspire A Time of Family

Our Elder Brother Jesus the Christ said, "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20. In this single truth lies the foundation of family. As we come together in the highest spiritual intention, we realize our Oneness and live together in God.

The New Year brings new ideas and blessings as we introduce the 2007 Christ Unity Church Ministry's theme: **A Time of Family**. From the Association of Unity Churches family curriculum: "We know that family is not only a structure but also a process. Over the coming year we will be exploring, expressing, creating, and expanding a consciousness of family in community within ourselves, our own families, our spiritual families, our communities, and the entire planet."

Our spiritual family is made up of anyone and everyone who seeks to better understand their relationship with God and all of creation. We honor all forms of families; traditional, non-traditional or blended, remembering that we can never be outside the love of God's family.

Our church family has grown significantly over the past two years; not only in numbers but also in deepening of love, widening connections and higher consciousness in the presence of Spirit in our midst. As we proceed into A Time of Family, parents will have the opportunity to contribute to the growth of our family consciousness by spending an occasional Sunday in the classroom and serving as greeters to warmly direct new families to our Youth and Family Ministry classrooms along with many other opportunities for service that will bless our children.

All of this comes as we welcome Joanne Burns as our interim Youth and Family Ministry Director. As a mentor to Youth and Family ministries throughout the Unity movement, Joanne brings a wellspring of wisdom and experience. I will be working closely with Joanne over the next six months to help identify and train a new YFM Director, implement safety and practical measures for our physical space and put into action the rotation of effective Unity curriculum for our youth, and more. Please join Judi and me as we welcome Joanne into our spiritual community and staff.

We encourage you to participate, in any way, in the unfoldment of A Time of Family at CUC. Please fill out and submit the enclosed survey to Rev. Ross or Joanne. We look forward to serving you during another successful year in the midst of God's family.

In Childlike Spirit and Christlike Love,

Rev. Ross

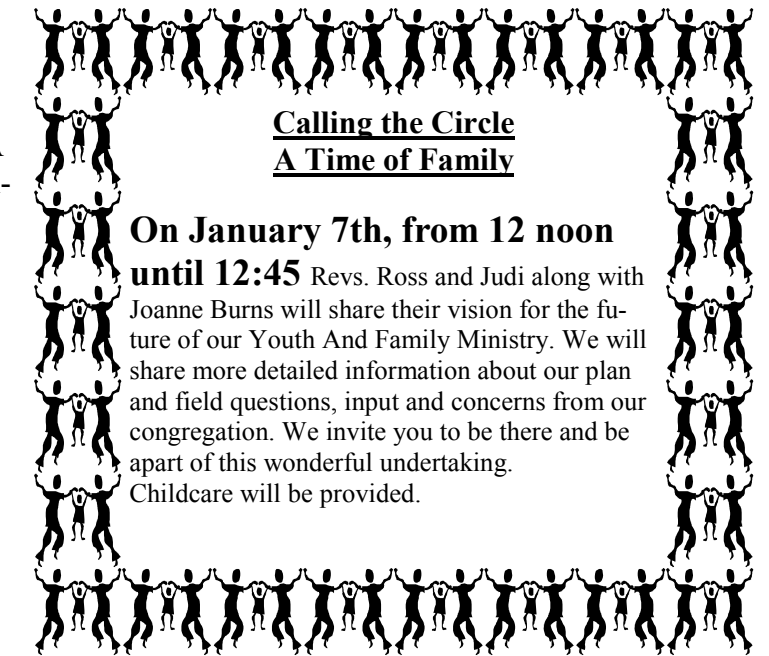
*Sent to a Member of the CUC  
Spiritual Family with Love*

Calling the Circle January 7th, 2007 12 noon - 12:45

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### Calling the Circle A Time of Family

**On January 7th, from 12 noon until 12:45** Revs. Ross and Judi along with Joanne Burns will share their vision for the future of our Youth And Family Ministry. We will share more detailed information about our plan and field questions, input and concerns from our congregation. We invite you to be there and be apart of this wonderful undertaking. Childcare will be provided.

## Plan and Goals for Youth & Family Ministry:

During the next few months you will have the opportunity to join in and assist the YFM to create itself anew! We encourage and invite you to identify your soul's place of joyful service below.

### Visible changes:

- The creation of a Teacher Resource Library where YM volunteers can sign in & out standardized Unity curriculum, supplementary books, and teaching resources to strengthen their abilities. The sign out system helps to keep track of our resources as curriculum is a large part of the YM's budgetary expense.
- Parent's resources will also be available for sign out in the future. Book donations will be gladly received. (See Joanne for details.)
- Classrooms will be renovated to be "kid welcoming"; "parent inclusive" and "volunteer friendly". Volunteers will be needed to do maintenance repairs, paint, hang new felt, sew curtains, create a few special mural effects and assist in organization of supplies. (See Joanne for details and plans for each room.)
- Additional Volunteers: Congregants can either volunteer on a Sunday morning to be in compliance with the "in-classroom 2 Adult Rule" (standard Volunteer Application required); as a Sunday Assistant (no in-classroom contact to kids) or "behind the scenes" assisting with lesson component preparation which can be done at home. Job descriptions available. (See Joanne for details.)
- Parent involvement a minimum of once a month. (See Joanne for details.)
- New permanent Youth Director and training for all YM volunteers. Watch for meetings to be scheduled for input and training. Parents encouraged to attend.
- Sunday Prayer Circle for all Guides and Angels and YM support.
- Mandatory sign-in & out procedure for all youth under middle school.
- All kids received in their respective classrooms between 10:15 and 10:30.
- Kids return to their respective classrooms immediately following the Peace Song to be signed-out and picked up by their parents.
- First 12 worship service CD's delivered to the volunteers in the YM classrooms.

### Invisible changes and GOALS:

- Increased sense of teamwork
- "Family" as a part of the Sunday Youth Ministry program
- All volunteers to experience an increased sense of spiritual community and support
- Volunteers on standardized schedule, providing consistency for youth
- Volunteers to find their replacement & inform Director, empowering them to communicate and network amongst themselves
- Standardized location of supplies so everyone knows what is available in every room
- Prayer circle to ground us in our higher purpose of the mornings activities
- Individual practice in leading a group prayer, meditation, personal learning, etc.

You each have a gift to share with our spiritual community's kids. It takes a commUNITY to raise a spiritually mature adult. That's what we are doing – raising young men and women to be empowered to know God, practice Truth in their daily lives, act from a place of principle and live in harmony with the universe. **Join in the vision and manifestation of the highest quality YM program we can offer for our youth.**

## Opportunities for Parent involvement in Youth & Family Ministry:

One element of a healthy family is involved parents, grandparents and guardians. Your presence says "I care" about my young person's spiritual life. If you desire to learn more about Unity, the Youth Ministry classrooms are a great place to form a better understanding. A sense of family and community builds when we realize that we all learn & grow together. Here is a list of ways parents; grandparents; guardians and members of the congregation will be involved to assist as our YFM grows. Most are very low time (once a month) commitments. Choose from the following, but if you have a desire to help in another way, please let us know:

### **In classroom service opportunities: (Standard YFM Volunteer Application required)**

- Serve as an "angel" (assistant to the teacher) or share a specific talent with the kids in a Sunday class experience. Guideline for serving in your child's class:
  - o Young children – if your presence will cause "clingy" behavior or jealousy – please serve in a classroom of youth older than your child. This is a win-win as it will prepare you as a parent to understand and positively to the "ages & stages" development and behavior that your child will be moving into next.
  - o Older kids, specifically TEENS & Pre-teens – you must have your teen's permission and agreement for you to volunteer in their classroom.

### **Sunday NOT in classroom service opportunities:**

- Assist as a "greeter" specifically seeking out new families needing assistance and escort them to the proper classroom for their children. Stay with them and be sure their needs are met and they feel comfortable and welcomed at CUC.
- Assist as a "special activity sign-up" person or information point. Handing out flyers, permission slips or collecting them for a specific "Family Event".
- A contact person for the use of the Teacher Resource Library and Parent's resources would be helpful to those checking out books for the first time, wishing to donate parenting books or have found YM curriculum or resource books in their home borrowed as a previous volunteer in the Youth Ministry.
- Sunday Assistant to the YM Director to assist with administrative duties and caring for the unpredicted needs of a volunteer, student or parent. Take attendance and more written notes for anything needing to be addressed.

### **Week day service opportunities (at church & at home):**

- "At-home" cutting out of the elements for the preschool lessons ahead of time for the teachers is a real blessing.
- YM Volunteer Coordinator to keep accurate roster and schedule of volunteers.
- Data entry of youth into the attendance system, record keeping.
- YM Supply clean up & organization – restock at least twice a year.
- Assist with classroom renovation: maintenance repairs, paint, hang new felt, sew curtains, create a few special mural effects and assist in organization of supplies. (See Joanne for details and plans for each room.)

## **Blessing Annette. Onward and Upward!**

Many of you know by now that Annette Talley-Bailey, our Youth and Family Director for the past 18 months, has submitted her resignation and is moving onward and upward into other opportunities and livelihood. We thank Annette for her past commitment to our program and our children. Annette has created a loving foundation for us to take our program to the next level. It is with great appreciation for Annette that we release her to her higher good. Annette's last Sunday as YFM director is December 24<sup>th</sup>. She will return to CUC as a Youth and Family Volunteer after a vacation with family. Annette, we love you, we bless you and we truly appreciate you.