

Chalice Sparks Annual Report 2015-2016

by Brianne Boyd, director

Group description: Children's choir, grades 3-8, rehearses once a week from September to May and performs for the Congregation 7-8 times per year.

Mission statement: The purpose of this choir is to provide an opportunity for children to learn about group dynamics, develop musicianship and performance skills, nurture their spirit through song, and enrich the worship experience of our congregation.

Core values:

- #1 Spiritual life – All of our repertoire has some basis in UU principles, and we discuss this during rehearsal. When performing, we strive for a connection to the divine and to our Congregation.
- #3 Community – The choir allows for children of different ages and abilities to have fun together, bond over singing, and form friendships based on mutual respect and teamwork.
- #5 Culture – The choir performs songs from a variety of religious traditions, cultures, and languages.

Highlights of our past year:

- end-of-year brunch in May where students received pins and certificates for their participation
- Fall kick-off pizza party where kids did music activities and got a head start on the year's repertoire
- learning and performing a variety of music, including unison, rounds, and two to three-part harmonies in different languages (English, Spanish, Latin, and Zulu)

Goals reached this year:

- we acquired several new singers and increased the number of participants to around twenty
- choir members built musicianship through learning solfeggio and creating harmonies, and gained confidence through solo singing

Future ideas/plans/goals:

- more performances with the Chalice Singers, percussionists, and perhaps other members of our congregation
- participation in an event hosted by the IRT sometime in the next year

Participants:

Brianne Boyd, music director; Rick Witten, coordinator; approximately twenty children and their parents; Allison Halerz, accompanist