

DRE Report to the Board  
Submitted by Bethany Vaccaro  
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Dear members of the UUCSC Board,

Downstairs in RE, we continue to be busy, serving around 20 children each week (including our Nursery friends – which is our fastest growing group!). We had a great turn-out for our All-Ages Potluck Breakfast this month and hope to make it an annual tradition.

Although we are managing to get through each week, we still have a shortage of volunteers, particularly when it comes to running our special events. This year, the RE Committee and I decided to cancel our planned booth and the newly-introduced “Children’s Shop” at the annual Holiday Fair, primarily due to lack of volunteers to run the event that day. While this is disappointing in some ways, it is also a great chance for us to step back and re-assess our priorities, evaluating events and programmatic elements that we’ve “always done” to see if they still match who we are becoming.

We are in the process of hiring a second permanent staff member for our Nursery, Walker Atreyu. The consistency of staffing in that room will definitely help us provide a better environment for our infant and toddler friends. With an additional volunteer on some weeks, we have been able to introduce some new activities, such as toddler yoga and playing with sensory “bean bins.”

As my maternity leave approaches (but with the actual start date up in the air due to the unpredictability of delivery!), I am working on putting together the schedule of volunteers for our main RE classroom and the “Holiday Fun” session. This December, we will primarily be working on our winter pageant (scheduled for December 16) and our annual Giving Tree collection of gifts for a refugee family. I have one volunteer who is able to do the entire session, and am hoping to leave a schedule fully staffed through the use of substitutes to fill in our required numbers for each week. The RE Committee will share the task of overseeing the DRE responsibilities, such as registration of new families, etc.

I’m looking forward to a bright and joyous holiday season (and hope to be present for at least part of it!).

With love,  
Bethany