

Prairie Circle UU Congregation

September 27, 2009

**** Religious Education Program News ****

This Month in Children's RE – World Religions Program

09/27/09 – Unitarian Universalism

Seeking Religious Commonality (more info on back)

Nursery Care Available

10/04/09 – Judaism

History & Holi-days

Nursery Care Available

Pre-Teen (PCPSA) Meeting until 11:30

10/11/09 – Judaism

Beliefs, Customs & Principles

Nursery Care Available

10/18/09 – All Children Social Action Project

Preparing Bag Lunches for PADS

Nursery Care Available

ATTENTION families of children 6th grade and up:

Please remind your child to attend the special
Social Action Project Sunday held regularly for this age group,
on the 1st Sunday of every month during regular services
and continuing until 11:30.

Next meeting on October 4th.

**If you have any questions, concerns, please feel free to call
847-871-7049 or email re@prairiecircleuuc.org**

Laura C. Tomsy - Director, Religious Education

Last week in Children's Religious Education, we explored how our own experiences, our own vision, our own interpretations can be so different among even our own classmates, although we have been attending the same church and RE classes. This is because no one can truly share an exact experience and our view, of many things, is influenced by an individual's internal and external variables – our family, our neighborhood, our culture, and our personal passions. Religious beliefs are no different. Although most religions share a common value system, many variables have affected even their basic development, practice and traditions.

Today we will be reading and will discuss the parable of "The blind men and the elephant," as an example of how this can occur.

It was six men of Wisdom to learning much inclined, who went to see the Elephant~(Though all of them were blind), That each by observation ~ Might satisfy his mind.

The First approached the Elephant, and happening to fall against his broad and sturdy side, ~ At once began to bawl: "God bless me! but the Elephant ~ Is very like a wall!"

The Second, feeling of the tusk, cried, "Ho! what have we here? So very round and smooth and sharp? ~ To me 'tis mighty clear This wonder of an Elephant ~ Is very like a spear!"

The Third approached the animal, And happening to take the squirming trunk within his hands, ~ Thus boldly up and spake: "I see," quoth he, "the Elephant ~ Is very like a snake!"

The Fourth reached out an eager hand, And felt about the knee. "What most this wondrous beast is like ~ Is mighty plain," quoth her; "'Tis clear enough the Elephant ~ Is very like a tree!"

The Fifth who chanced to touch the ear, said: "E'en the blindest man can tell what this resembles most; ~ Deny the fact who can, this marvel of an Elephant ~ Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun About the beast to grope, than, seizing on the swinging tail ~ That fell within his scope, "I see," quoth he, "the Elephant ~ Is very like a rope!"

And so these men of wisdom disputed loud and long, Each in his own opinion ~ Exceeding stiff and strong, Though each was partly in the right ~ And all were in the wrong!

Discussion Questions:

- a) Think about and share what experiences formed our view of church, religion, god and how it makes us feel.
- b) Compare the differences and similarities (common traits) between our own views.
- c) What can happen if we focus on all of the differences? What if we focus on the ideas that we all share?