

# Southeast Wee Ones Newsletter



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Children's Ministry  
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## A Summer of Sacred Safety

By Steven Butler

Greetings:

In one of my training workshops, "Who Do You Think You're Talking To?", I focus on one of Myrtle Fillmore's statements, "You are to take care of the children, this is your work." Personally I see this as Myrtle's charge to me as a Spiritual Educator for children and teens.

I contemplated this statement and took it upon myself to see my work as "keeping the children safe". Keeping them safe on four levels: Physically, Mentally, Emotionally & Spiritually. The work we do is sacred, and one thing I love is our (Unity) new term for risk management...."Sacred Safety". Sacred Safety includes the practices, procedures and policies that reduce the possibility of dangerous situations, injury or loss to our children and adults. Consistent, well-thought out guidelines for which staff and volunteers are trained and

Please see *Sacred Safety* on page 2

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## It's 11am.....

By Ansvar Insurance Limited 2008

*The following is an excerpt from "Know Risk: A Child Safe Church"*  
[Ansvar Insurance Limited - PDF \(Click\)](#)

*"Although this article was published by an Australian insurance company, the information is a very sound guideline."*

In recent years, the church has suffered a loss of respect within the secular community through allegations of misconduct and abuse claims. All leadership positions within the church, whether minister of religion, youth leader or voluntary worker, carry a heavy responsibility.

While there is a tendency to concentrate on the issue of child abuse, it should be remembered that wherever there is a position of trust established, there exists the potential for abuse of this position.

Please see *It's 11am....* on page 4

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## Curriculum Ideas

### Unity

The Association of Unity Churches International has done a tremendous amount of work to produce curricula base on our Unity principles and ideals. Under the direction of Anna Andes, Bernadette Swanson along with various Regional Consultants and Youth Ed Directors numerous curricula and volumes have been produced in order to aid directors/facilitators and spiritually feed the children and teens. Check it out!

[Association of Unity Churches Curricula](#) (*Click*)

### Alternative Unity Curriculum

Rev. Diane Venzera of the Great Lakes Region has devoted a great deal of her time and efforts to creating her very own alternative Unity curriculum. Diane's collection is sure to capture the minds and hearts of the students as they explore the metaphysical interpretations of Harry Potter, Wizard of Oz, 12 Powers and the meaning of Christmas.

[DianeVenzera.com](#) (*Click*)

### Other Alternative Publications

Free Spirit Publication provides a variety of books for children, parents, teachers and program developers. You're sure to find something that will enrich the lives of your children and enhance your resource library.

[FreeSpirit.com](#) (*Click*)

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*"...to aid  
directors/facilitators and  
spiritually feed the  
children and teens."*

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*The Tree of Knowledge*

*Sacred Safety...*from page 1

held accountable, in turn, reduces the church's liability.

Remember, our work is sacred. The young ones we are entrusted to are sacred. I invite you to consider what Sacred Safety in your church home looks like and allow it to unfold.

Please visit the Association of Unity Churches' website on Sacred Safety.

[Association of Unity Churches \(Sacred Safety\)](#)

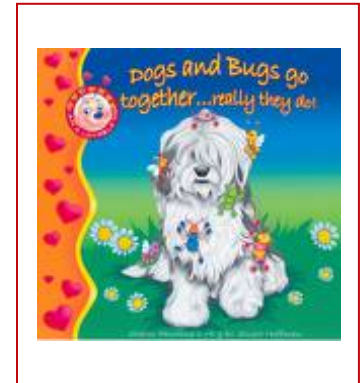
## Beats & Pages

In my travels, I like to check out new music and books designed for children to be used within a spiritual context. I'm always amazed at what has been created from world renowned writers and artist to even our friends from various Unity communities.

### Dogs and Bugs Go Together...Really They Do by Sharon Penching

This wonderful book encourages children to foster kindness, friendship and caring in today's world of diversity. Beautiful illustrations with vibrant colors depict a plethora of animals in playful, heartwarming interactions. The friendship affirmations that are woven through whimsical verse help children develop a positive internal dialog, deepening their ability to express these virtues. **Ages: 0-7**

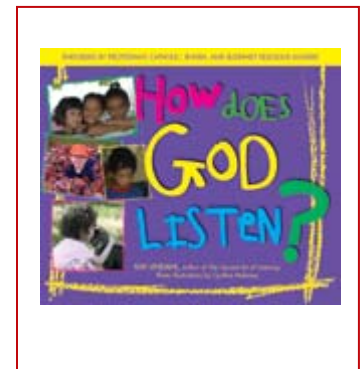
[The Lovable Me Series \(Click\)](#)



### How Does God Listen? by Kay Lindahl

This lively book helps children use all of their senses to explore how God is always present in their everyday lives, and is always listening. Using simple, everyday examples to which children can relate, *How Des God Listen?* Helps children develop a direct and personal understanding of God. **Ages: 3-6**

[How Does God Listen? \(Click\)](#)

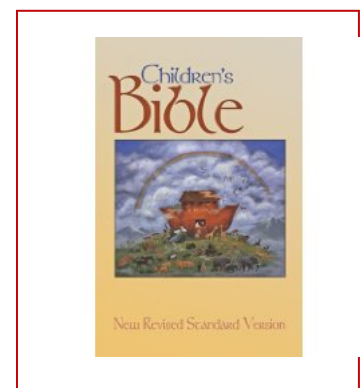


### Children's Bible - New Revised Standard Verison

by Abindgon Publications

A straight-telling of the stories with smaller text boxes giving more information about the passage or asking questions on how the passage relates to their lives. Not always Unity-based questions but not bad. Not highly illustrated and then uses cartoon based characters. **Ages 7-10**

[Children's Bible-NRSV \(Click\)](#)



*It's 11am...from Page 1*

It is important to adopt practices within your church to protect your employees and volunteers by training them to recognize situations which may frighten or even intimidate those to whom they minister. All churches need to have in place a strategy to minimize the opportunity for abuse to occur.

Legislation alone isn't enough to protect children. A caring community and effective workplace practices will also help to ensure that children and young people have a safe environment, free from the risk of abuse.

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*“All churches need to have in place a strategy to minimize the opportunity for abuse to occur.”*

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## Regional Teacher Training Schedule

### Teaching Our Children to Pray

#### *Children's Ministry Teacher Training*

An exploration in prayer through Unity's foundation, rituals & the Sunday Experience

August 1<sup>st</sup> = Ft. Lauderdale, FL

[SEUnityYouth.org](http://SEUnityYouth.org) *(Click for Information & Registration)*

### Helping Heaven Happen

#### *Youth Team Training*

Full day age level sessions w/ Steven (Children), Michele (Uniteen) & Carolyn (Y.O.U.)

September 12<sup>th</sup> = Orlando, FL

September 19<sup>th</sup> = Dahlonega, GA

[SEUnityYouth.org](http://SEUnityYouth.org) *(Click for Information & Registration)*

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