

Chalice Sparks – Annual Report 2018-19

Submitted by Glen Thomas Rideout/ Allison Halerz)

The Chalice Sparks children's choir is a thriving part of the music ministries at UUAA. There are approximately 25 kids between 3rd and 8th grade in the choir and they bring their enthusiasm to rehearsal weekly from Sept. through May. Parent volunteers are essential to the success of this program, and the Chalice Sparks are fortunate to have many dedicated parents who step up to help with supporting rehearsals, distributing music and stoles, organizing activities for the kids during services on the Sundays they are singing, and more. Since December, the Chalice Sparks have been ably led by pianist-in-residence Allison Halerz. Allison's artistry and management are a gift to the congregation, and have meant a stable, steady growth in the choir's musical leadership and in inquiries for new membership.

The search process for the next permanent director is well underway, beginning with conversations between music staff, Chalice Sparks families, and the Sparks themselves. A public release of the job description and call for applications will be conducted during the Sparks' summer hiatus, with a new director expected to begin leading the chorus in fall of 2019.

The Chalice Sparks ends its season with the 3rd annual Voices of Children concert on Sunday, May 5 at Genesis. This event is sponsored by the Interfaith Round Table (IRT) and the Sparks are joined by choirs from the Hindu Chinmaya Mission, New Hope Baptist Church, and St. Clare's Episcopal Church. This event is a wonderful opportunity for everyone to hear the Chalice Sparks showcase their hard work and our music ministries to the larger interfaith community, experience other choirs from a variety of faith traditions, and support the work of the IRT.