

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

April, 2009

Volume 5 Issue 8



## Sunday School: 2009 - 2010

I am excited to confirm that West Shore will offer two worship services and two Sunday School sessions next year.

You may recall that the membership had opportunities last fall and this past February to come

together to learn more about this prospect, to ask questions and to offer suggestions. Support for this effort to address our space limitations in religious education classrooms, and, more importantly, to open our doors ever wider to welcome more families to Unitarian Universalism, has led to the decision to offer a second service/RE session next year.

Our winter poll of families showed a potential, good balance of children and youth for the two sessions, and it is our goal to offer identical Sunday School classes for children, nursery age through eighth grade. Next year's times and classes will be as follows:

**Session I:** 9:30 - 10:40  
**Jr. Choir:** 10:40 - 11:15  
**Session II:** 11:15 - 12:25

<u>Class</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
Nursery, Infant-24 mos	
Toddler, 2-3 years	<i>Friendship Finders</i>
Pre-K, 4-5 years	<i>We Are Many, We Are One</i>
Grades K-1-2	<i>Spirit Play</i>
Grades 3-4	<i>Timeless Themes</i>
Grades 5-6	<i>World Religions</i>
Grades 7-8	<i>Popcorn Theology</i>

**Junior Church**, our high school group, will meet at the first session, only. We will offer different and unique opportunities for this age group at the second service time. Parents will receive a registration form this month and a new *RE Prospectus* describing all curricula, later this spring.

## Yes, We Have Hangers!

Ever try to hang a four-year-old's coat on an adult hanger??? The church coatroom now has child-sized hangers. We hope you find these helpful, especially on intergenerational service Sundays. Please spread the word!

## Parents of West Shore Children and Youth: *Gender Identity 101*

In the spirit of education and inclusivity, and in preparation to welcome our ministerial intern for next year, I invite you to attend a presentation, discussion and Q & A about gender identity, **Saturday, May 2, 10:00 - Noon**. Our guest speaker will be Jaime Bishop, M.A., L.S.W., Youth Support Coordinator and Counseling Intern Supervisor for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center of Greater Cleveland. A fellow UU and parent, Jaime will provide parents with the language of gender identity and helpful ways to talk about gender issues with their children in age-appropriate ways. Childcare will be available for this session. Please call the church to request childcare by Wednesday, April 29.

## Teacher Appreciation

Please join us in thanking our 34 religious education volunteers, **Sunday, April 26**. We will all gather in the sanctuary that morning, and the children and youth will leave with their teachers for their last, regular Sunday School session. We'll celebrate with cake, punch and gifts for our teachers after the service.



## Spring Program

During May Sundays, we will provide childcare for infants - Pre-K, and a special "green" class for children in grades K - 6, featuring song, story, crafts and a social action project in conjunction with West Shore's Green Sanctuary efforts. We need volunteers, both youth and adults. Please contact Kathy Strawser, [kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org) or 440.333.2255, ext. 103, to help.



## Children's and Youth West Shore Art Show

The Aesthetics Committee celebrates May as children and youth art month with a special exhibit to celebrate our children and youths' artistic expressions. The committee would like to exhibit the work West Shore children and youth have done in a variety of art media. The artwork will hang on display in the Fireside Room throughout May with a reception on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 11:45 a.m.**

**Call for Entries.** All students enrolled in the Religious Education program may submit the best two-dimensional art they have done at school, home or in Sunday School during this academic year 2008-2009.

**Entry Requirements.** Work may be submitted in pencil, colored pencils, crayons, pen and ink, India ink, scratchboard, tempera, acrylic, oil or watercolors. Any two-dimensional media is acceptable. Two-dimensional art submitted is not to exceed 24 inches in any direction. The work is to be unmatted and unframed. An entry blank will be provided to be filled out with the student's name, title of artwork and the media in which the work was created.

### Exhibit Dates

**April 13-26:** Artwork submitted to Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross

**Sunday, May 3:** Show opens in the Fireside Room

**Sunday, May 10:** Mother's Day reception at 11:45 a.m.

**Sunday, May 31:** Show ends, artwork taken down

**June 1-30:** Artwork may be picked up at the church office from Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross

## Coming of Age

It is not uncommon for someone to attend a UU wedding/union, memorial service, a child dedication, or a Coming of Age ceremony, and decide then and there to attend services and join the church. We invite you to attend one such ritual, this year's Coming of Age class (grades 7 - 8) ceremony, **Saturday, May 2, 2:00**, in the sanctuary. Each youth will share an individual credo, a set of personal beliefs, and we will bear witness to the youths' passage into the beginnings of young adulthood. Please join us for this joyous and thoughtful rite of passage.

## Child Dedication

Our child dedication welcomes the child in love into the human community, in the spirit of humanity's oneness, and into the fellowship of life! We will offer a child dedication Mother's Day, **Sunday, May 10**, during that morning's intergenerational service. We encourage members who are interested in having their child(ren) dedicated on that day to call the church office or contact Rev. Kathleen Rolenz.



## April R.E. Calendar

### Sunday, April 5

9:30 Junior Choir  
10:30 Sunday School  
Chapel for Grades K-6\*

### Thursday, April 9

7:30 R.E. Committee Meeting

### Sunday, April 12

9:30 NO Junior Choir  
10:30 Childcare infants—age 4  
Easter Activities for Grades K-6

### Sunday, April 19

9:30 Junior Choir  
10:30 Intergenerational Service  
Childcare for infants-Pre-K

### Sunday, April 26

9:30 Junior Choir  
10:30 All begin in sanctuary for Teacher Recognition followed by Sunday School

**\*Note:** Thanks for helping us by sending coins with your child/ren for the offering during Children's Chapel

### Staff contacts for events/opportunities in *Unitattler*

Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development  
[kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org) : 440.333.2255, Ext. 103

Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant  
[cross@wsuuc.org](mailto:cross@wsuuc.org) : 440.333.225, Ext. 104