

SPECIAL DATES

- Sun., Dec. 5 & 12 at 10:40 and Dec. 19 at 10:00 Auditions for the Christmas Eve Family Service
- Sun., Dec. 12
Drop off your finished holiday tree decorations at the RE table. Place your unwrapped Giving Tree presents under the tree.
- Sun., Dec. 19
10:30 am ONLY - West Shore's Holiday Choir Concert. *Gloria* by John Rutter
- Fri., Dec. 24 5 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service. Bring a candle and a plate of cookies to share.
- Sun., Jan 2
Special Children's Chapel for Grades 1-6; Sanctuary Service for Grades 7-12; Childcare for Infants to K

STAFF CONTACTS
Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
kstrawser@wsuuc.org; 440.333.2255, ext 103

Phil Florian, Youth Ministry Coordinator
pflorian@wsuuc.org; 440.333.2255, ext 104

Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant
cross@wsuuc.org; 440.333.2255, ext 105

'Tis the Season!



Sanctuary Tree. YES, West Shore, there will be a big tree this year! Thanks much for your many offers of help to get the 21 foot Bliss farm tree up and beautifully decorated. Kits for ornaments are ready to be picked up at the RE table on Sundays. Please bring your decorated ornament/s back by **Sunday, December 12.**

The Giving Tree is up in the Rotunda and decorated with lovely stars provided by member **Roxanne Janilla**. Each ornament includes a requested item for women and children living in Cleveland-area shelters helped by the Cleveland Domestic Violence. Gifts should be placed under the tree (no gift wrap, please) by **Sunday, December 12** and will be collected and delivered during the Christmas season. Please stop by the tree, and see what you might give this Christmas.

Young Carolers. Our Junior and Youth Choirs will sing us into the season with caroling between the two services on **Sunday, December 12.** Enjoy their music in Baker Hall at 10:30 a.m. and in the

Rotunda at 11:00 a.m.

Young Vocalists & Instrumentalists. Auditions for the Christmas Eve Family Service will be **Sundays, December 5 & 12 at 10:40-11:30 a.m.** and **December 19, 10:00-10:30 a.m. in Room 10.** Please bring the sheet music for one song you'd like to sing/play. If you are in Junior Choir, please plan to audition on Sunday, December 5 or 19.

Guest at Your Table (GAYT). The Unitarian Universalist Service committee's annual fund drive to address both national and international emergency relief enjoyed a kick off on **Sunday, November 21**, with a "noisy" (coins) collection that totaled **\$304.96.** GAYT efforts, including collection boxes and a Rotunda water display for coin tossing, will continue through Christmas. Please pick up your box from Marty Wiersma on Sundays and return it at any of the Christmas Eve/holiday services.

Christmas Eve Luminaria. Following the 5:00 Christmas Eve Service, it is tradition that we light luminaries around the front circular driveway. It is a beautiful sight welcoming members and friends to the

10:00 candlelight service. The seventh and eighth grade youth and their teachers will create these special lanterns on **Sunday, December 12, at 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.**

Christmas Eve Family Service, Friday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. Our family service includes the Junior Choir and young musicians and singers from our own families. Seasonal readings and stories, and a participatory candle-lighting ceremony send you on your way to your Christmas Eve family traditions. Bring a candle from home for our lighting ceremony and a plate of cookies to share after the service.

Our next Child Dedication will be on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact Kathy Strawser or Wayne Arnason.

Teacher Volunteer Needed. We need one Spirit Play teacher, **Grades 1 & 2, at 9:30, January—April.** Our teachers serve twice each month, enjoy an interesting curriculum, great children and veteran-led teaching teams. Please contact Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross for more information.



Kathy Strawser, Director Lifespan Faith Development, will take sabbatical leave from January to March, 2011

A Message from Kathy Strawser

Dear West Shore Members and Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of my upcoming sabbatical. I will be away from church life from January through March, and again, at the same time in 2012. My plans for this first "round" include, a week-long course in oral traditions and story telling at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago, trips to visit outstanding lifespan faith development models and programs in

UU and non-UU churches, travel time with my mom and daughter, and a commitment to a yoga practice. I will join Board member Cil Knutsen for the district's Healthy Congregations week-end training at WWSUUC in early March. And I plan to rest, to reflect on this great faith and how I can best serve this congregation, and to rejuvenate!

I am in the final stages of planning for my absence. The co-ministers, staff and

many of you have made generous commitments to keep my areas of church life going, which I truly appreciate. I know all will be well, for you and for me.

I will miss you and hope you'll stop by to say goodbye before December ends. I look forward to returning with much renewed energy and many great ideas.

Take care,

Kathy

More R.E. News!

Youth Group and IHN.

Our high school youth and advisors will host a night with our guests from the Interfaith Hospitality Network, during the week of December 19. The youth will cook and serve dinner to the families and offer fun and fellowship that evening. Interested youth who are not yet signed up for this

night of service should contact Phil Florian, Youth Ministry Coordinator, at pflorian@wsuuc.org or 440-333-2255, ext. 104.

Great American Bake Sale

was a H-U-U-G-E success. Organizers Maya Wanner and Samantha Horwitz, two WWSUUC youth, collected **\$379.71** to

help address world hunger, especially as it affects children. Thanks to all West Shore members who donated and/or purchased baked goods.

UNICEF. Our trick-or-treaters collected **\$123.66** for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

R.E. Calendar

Sun., Dec. 5

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School-
Children's Chapel
for 1-6

*Please send a
few coins with your
child for the offering*

10:40 am Jr. Choir

10:40 am Christmas Eve
Auditions

Tues., Dec. 7

7:00 pm R.E. Committee

Sun., Dec. 12

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School

10:30 am Jr. Choir Carols

10:40 am Christmas Eve
Auditions

Sun., Dec. 19

10:30 am Choir Concert.
All ages welcome. Childcare
for Infants -
PreK

10:00 am Christmas Eve
Auditions

Fri., Dec. 24,

5:00 pm Christmas Eve
Family Service

Sun., Dec. 26

10:30 am Sanctuary Wor-
ship Service. No
Sunday School.
Childcare for
Infants-PreK

Sun., Jan. 2

10:30 am Special Children's
Chapel Hour for
Grades 1-6;
Sanctuary Service
for Grades 7-12;
Childcare for
Infants-K

