

Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

December 2009

Volume 6 Issue 4

T is 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 ft. Bliss farm tree up and beautifully decorated. We will be contacting folks soon about specific tasks. We will have kits for ornaments ready soon at the RE table. You are welcome to join the fun, so why not call the church office and ask how you can help. The more, the merrier!

Giving Tree...is up in the Rotunda and decorated with paper ornaments made from WSUUC members' recycled, 2008 holiday cards. Member **Roxanne Janilla** provided both the inspiration and artistry for these beautiful ornaments. Each ornament includes a requested item for women/children living in Cleveland-area shelters helped by the Cleveland Domestic Violence Center and for greater Cleveland Latino families who are affected by HIV/AIDS and systemic poverty helped by Nueva Luz Urban Resource Center's outreach program. Gifts should be brought to the tree (no gift wrap, please) by **Friday, December 19** if possible, and will be collected and delivered to these two organizations, during the Christmas season. Please stop by the tree, and see what you might give this Christmas.

Guest at Your Table... The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual fund drive to address both national and international emergency relief enjoyed a "noisy" kickoff in late November. GAYT efforts, including collection boxes and a Rotunda fountain display for coins, will continue through Christmas. Please get your GAYT box from **Martie Wiersma** on Sunday, fill it and return it at any of the Christmas Eve/holiday services.

Young Carolers...Our Junior Choir will sing us into the season with caroling between the two services, on **Sunday, December 13**. Enjoy their music in Baker Hall (10:30) and the Rotunda (11:00).

Christmas Eve Luminaria...The seventh and eighth grade youth and their teachers will create these special lanterns on **Sunday, Dec. 13, at 9:30 and 11:15**.

Young Vocalists/Instrumentalists...

Auditions for the Christmas Eve Family Service will be **Sundays, December 6 and 13, from 10:40-11:30, in Room 10**. Please bring the sheet music for one song you'd like to sing or play. If you are in Junior Choir, please plan to audition on December 6.

Christmas Eve Child Dedication

A Service of Child Dedication will be held at the Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. service on Thursday, December 24. All members of the church who would like to have their children participate in this ritual of congregational recognition and support, please contact Rev. Wayne Arnason at 440-333-2255 or bergthor@aol.com.



Christmas Eve Family Service

We invite you to attend our **Wednesday, December 24, 5:00** service, featuring songs and stories of the season, special music by our Junior Choir and solo vocalists and instrumentalists, and a beautiful, candle-lighting ritual. Please join us afterwards for cookies, hot chocolate and the lighting of our traditional luminarias that line our drive and walkways. We ask that you bring a 10-12" taper candle and a small plate of cookies to share.



JUNIOR CHURCH NEWS

Pancake Breakfast...Help support the Junior Church's heritage trip to Boston, home to many famous Unitarian Universalists and our denomination's headquarters. Our high school youth and advisors will hold an all-church pancake breakfast, **Sunday, December 20**, before and after the 10:30 service, to raise funds for this trip. Tickets will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under, and \$15 for families with 2+ children. Extra donations will be gladly accepted! Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit, juice and coffee. Tickets will be available for pre-sale, beginning December 6.

Junior Church Hosts IHN...Our high school youth and advisors will host a night with our guests from the Interfaith Hospitality Network, **Tuesday, December 22**. The youth will cook and serve dinner to the families, as well as offer fun and fellowship that evening. Interested youth who are not yet signed on for this night of service should contact Director of Lifespan Faith Development Kathy Strawser, 440.333.2255, ext. 103 or kstrawser@wsuuc.org.

Youth Ministry Coordinator

With regret, we have accepted the resignation of Linda New, Youth Ministry Coordinator. We so appreciate the work and progress Linda made in her ten months of employment, especially noting her leadership efforts for our youths to engage in community service, interfaith connections and district opportunities. We honor and understand Linda's need to give more time to her family, full-time profession and volunteer interests and we wish her well.



Maddi New represented Jr. Church at a house-warming to celebrate the Dirk family's beautiful new home. The youth gave a wicker basket filled with food, cleaning products, and art supplies for Chis and Colleen Dirk's daughter Elizabeth. Here, Maddi stands with Rev. Kathleen Rolenz.

UNICEF...A special thanks to young trick-or-treaters and to those of you who contributed to the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) boxes on Halloween night. We will send the donated \$62.33 to this important organization now celebrating its 63rd anniversary.

Youth Ministry Coordinator—Open Position. Information and an application for the position of Youth Ministry Coordinator can be found on the West Shore website — www.wsuuc.org. For more information, contact Kathy Strawser at kstrawser@wsuuc.org.



R.E. CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 1

7:30 R.E. Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 6

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School
Children's Chapel
Please send a few coins with your K-6 child for the offering
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Sunday, December 13

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir carols between services
5:00-8:00 OWL for 7th & 8th graders

Sunday, December 20

10:30 Intergenerational Service
Childcare for infants to Pre-K
Food Drive in Sanctuary during the service
9:30-12:00 Jr. Church Pancake Breakfast

Tuesday, December 22

5:00 Jr. Church hosts IHN families overnight (ends 8:00 am Dec. 23)

Thursday, December 24

5:00-6:00 Christmas Eve Family Service
Please bring a 10-12" taper candle and a small plate of cookies to share

Sunday, December 27

10:30 Worship Service
Childcare for infants to Pre-K

Sunday, January 3

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School
Children's Chapel
Please send a few coins with your K-6 child for the offering
10:40-11:15 Junior Choir Practice

Contacts for events/opportunities in Unitattler

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

Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant
cross@wsuuc.org; 440.333.2255, Ext. 104