

Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

December 2008

Volume 5 Issue 4



The Sanctuary Tree

YES, West Shore members and friends, there will be a big tree this year in our Sanctuary! There's still time to sign up to help make decorations or trim the huge 21 foot Bliss Farm tree we'll be enjoying all through the holiday season. To join the fun, call Kathy Strawser at the church office. The more, the merrier!

- Christmas Tree Raising at West Shore: Saturday, December 13, 9 a.m. to noon
- Decoration Making at home or church now through December 17
- Tree Decorating: Wednesday to Friday, December 17–19, 9 a.m to 4 p.m.

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.**

West Shore's Annual Giving Tree

Please stop in to see our lovely tree decorated with a nod to this year's Christmas concert of old-fashioned carols. Look on the back of each ornament for the item requested by the Domestic Violence Center, a clearinghouse for new, donated items for Cleveland area shelters for women and children. Slippers, pajamas, gift cards, bath/body sets, books and developmental/educational toys, are just a few of the requested items. Please consider buying a children's book or two for the Giving Tree, and support the West Shore Child Care Center at the same time! Take an ornament or two, purchase and place the gift(s), unwrapped, under the Giving Tree by **Sunday, December 21**.



Calling All Young Vocalists & Instrumentalists

You are invited to present a short, seasonal song at our 5:00 Christmas Eve Family service. Please bring your voice/instrument and music to Rm. 10 for a brief audition on either **Sunday, December 14** or **December 21** at **9:30**. Questions? Please contact Kathy Strawser, at kstrawser@wsuuc.org or 440.333.2255, ext. 103

Guest at Your Table

I am delighted to report that the November 16 "noisy" offering of spare change netted **\$134.67**, for this year's *Guest at Your Table (GAYT)* kick-off. Please place your *GAYT* box on your kitchen table, contribute to it and return it to one of the Christmas services. And don't forget to add your Sunday change to the *GAYT* winter wonderland water display, created by Religious Education Committee members **Sharon Hogan** and **Jason Bosch**. More boxes and information about the UU Service Committee's foreign and domestic emergency relief program are available from **Martie Wiersma** in the Rotunda on Sundays. Look for the colorful boxes, and thanks for your support.

Parents of Fifth/Sixth Graders: Hold the Date!

The *OWL (Our Whole Lives)*, our denomination's eight-session, age-appropriate, human sexuality program, will be offered this winter. Parents' orientation will be Sunday afternoon, **January 11**. More specific information will be mailed soon.

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 **\$95.77** to this important organization now celebrating its 62nd anniversary.



Staff contacts for events/ opportunities in *Unitattler*

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December Calendar for RE Families

Sunday, December 7

- 9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Sunday School
Children's Chapel for Grades K-6
Please send a few coins with your child for the offering. Thanks!
11:45 Coming of Age Potluck
Mentors/Youth/Families

Sunday, December 14

- 9:30 Junior Choir Rehearsal
10:30 Sunday School
Coming of Age Luminarias
Mentors/Youth/Teachers

Sunday, December 21

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

Wednesday, December 24

- 4:15 Junior Choir Rehearsal
5:00 Family Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28

- HOLIDAY Teacher's Day Off
No Junior Choir, Sunday School
or childcare will be offered