

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

February 2009

Volume 5 Issue 6

## A Message from Kathy

*Dear Parents...*

This month our church's members and friends have an opportunity to witness to the concept of more—more people finding community and a faith home at West Shore UU Church. We will come together to learn more about the possibility of our offering two worship/two RE sessions for next fall. What does this mean? What might it look like? What excitement and concerns would you have?

Currently, 72% of families have responded to the Religious Education survey about the possibilities of two services. The results suggest we would have a balance of children and youth in a two-service/RE session format. Thanks for your input.

Our families whose children and youth attend Sunday School classes will be at much of the heart of this discussion. Thank you for completing the recent RE survey, and thank you for keeping informed about this two-service possibility. Please plan to attend one of the after-church conversations, on **February 1, 15, 22**, or Wednesday evening, **February 11, 7:00 p.m.** Childcare, if desired, will be provided Sunday, February 15.

Hope to see you there!

*Kathy*



## West Shore UU Hosts Youth Ministry Cluster Experience

18 UU adults (staff and volunteers) and 4 youth, representing seven northern Ohio UU congregations met on January 24 to network and to learn about national and district support for youth (Grades 7 - 12) programming. Members **Phil Florian, Heather and Kaleigh Macalla, Linda New and Kathy Strawser** represented West Shore. Congregations offered insight into the strengths and challenges of their individual youth programs, alliances were strengthened, and an internet group was created to facilitate exchange of ideas.

## Welcome to Our New Youth Ministry Coordinator

Church member **Linda New** has accepted our offer to be our first Youth Ministry Coordinator. Linda is a special education teacher at Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School, the mother of two teenagers and an avid volunteer for the Girl Scouts. She actively participates in West Shore's Green Sanctuary Committee and UU Christian Fellowship. Linda will be working primarily with youth, our Junior Church advisors and parents, to offer opportunities outside of Sunday School to connect youth to community and district activities. She attended the January 24 Youth Ministry Cluster Experience hosted by West Shore, connecting with youth religious education leaders and ministers from six nearby UU congregations and will attend the UUA's Basic Youth Advisor training at the Youngstown UU Church. It is a strong desire of the anonymous donor who has funded this part-time position for three years that the youth become involved in interfaith community building. Please say hello when you see Linda on Sundays!

## Calling All Singers Ages 5 to 105

*Joe Schafer, Junior Choir Director*

Our Intergenerational Choir will convene in February to sing for the Intergenerational Service on Sunday, February 15. We hope that Adult Choir members, families of Junior Choir members, choir alumni and their families, and many others, will join us. We will rehearse in the Chapel on Sundays, February 1, 8, and 15, from 9:30 - 9:45 a.m. It is not necessary to attend all rehearsals, but the suggestion is to attend at least one of the 9:30 rehearsals on February 1 or 8, plus the final rehearsal on February 15.

Does your family have children of school age who have been thinking about joining Junior Choir? If so, this would be a great time for your children to experience singing with you from 9:30 - 9:45 a.m. then to stay for our Junior Choir rehearsal and munchkin donuts break between 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. Parents are welcome to sit in on Junior Choir rehearsals. One final note...if you exceed the age range, come anyway!

# Sunday Circus

&  
FABULOUS UNDERWEAR COLLECTION!

February 15, Noon—1:30 pm

Featuring the ONE, the ONLY

## ST. IGNATIUS CIRCUS CLUB JUGGLERS

- Carnival games
- Circus food
- Bring a package of children's socks, underwear or diapers...get a FREE Funky Foto!

\$3 person  
or  
\$10  
family



## Homeless on Hilliard

West Shore youth, Grades 8 - 12, are invited to join other Rocky River church youth **Friday, February 6**, to experience a night of homelessness on our front lawn! The youth and adult sponsors will make signs and encourage those traveling on Hilliard Boulevard to notice them and to make a donation to fight homelessness. Keeping warm, fed, and learning about homelessness and what can be done to respond to it, will have top priority that night. Youth will need warm clothes, a sleeping bag, and of course, parent permission to participate. Information regarding time, activities and permission forms are available in Sunday School, at the RE table and on the church's website.

Questions? Contact the ministers or Kathy Strawser.

Want to help? Donate snacks and wood. Better yet, drive by that Friday night, make a donation and warm us with your support!

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

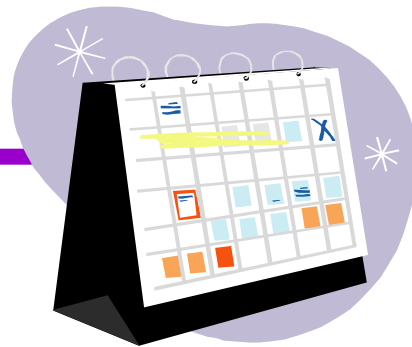
Kathy Strawser, Director of Lifespan Faith Development  
[kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org); 440.333.2255, Ext. 103

Cathy Ross, Programs Assistant  
[cross@wsuuc.org](mailto:cross@wsuuc.org); 440.333.2255, Ext. 104

## Director's Study Leave

My late December/early January study leave began with holiday visits with family and friends. I ventured to northern California, one of my favorite places, and enjoyed ocean sunsets and winding Sonoma County roads and much rest! I completed my professional goals for the week, including a complete revision of our *Chalice Lighters* workbook for Grades 3 - 4, a review of Unity Unitarian Church's (Minneapolis) religious education prospectus (get ready for our brochure to grow!), and an interesting and recommended read, *Seven Practices of Effective Ministry*.

*Kathy*



## February Calendar for RE Families

### Sunday, February 1

- 9:30 Junior/Intergenerational Choir
- 10:30 Sunday School  
Chapel for Grades K-6
- 11:45 Congregational Conversation
- 12:15 OWL, Grades 5-6

### Thursday, February 5

- 7:30 RE Committee Meeting

### Sunday, February 8

- 9:30 Junior/Intergenerational Choir
- 10:30 Sunday School
- 11:45 Stewardship Lunch—register now
- 12:15 OWL, Grades 5-6

### Wednesday, February 11

- 7:00 Congregational Conversation

### Sunday, February 15

- 9:30 Junior/Intergenerational Choir
- 10:30 Intergenerational Service  
Childcare for infants—Pre-K
- 11:45 Congregational Conversation
- 12:15 OWL, Grades 5-6

### Sunday, February 22

- 9:30 Junior Choir
- 10:30 Sunday School
- 11:45 Congregational Conversation

**Note:** Thanks for helping us by sending coins with your child to Children's Chapel for the offering.