

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

January 2010

Volume 6 Issue 5



## Message from Kathy: Consider a New Year's Resolution.

Thank you for knowing that a child's spiritual life matters...for bringing your children to church

each Sunday...for being open to the questions that are asked of you on the way home from church and during the week...and for being present to your children.

*If you have not yet thanked your children's Sunday School teacher, Junior Choir director or accompanist for their presence, enthusiasm and friendship... resolve to do so next Sunday.*

*If you have not yet served in our Sunday School as a teacher or sub...resolve to contact Kathy Strawser or Programs Assistant Cathy Ross.*

*If you have not yet told someone that you would like to help with an RE event...resolve to contact Kathy Strawser or Cathy Ross.*

*If you are not yet a West Shore member...resolve to contact Kathy Strawser, Membership Coordinator Kathleen Heck, or one of the ministers.*

*If you are not yet a West Shore member...resolve to identify your monetary contributions to our church. It's a tax deduction for you and lets us know you are supporting our programs, especially our religious education program.*

I wish you a wonderful new year of bright blessings!

*Kathy*

## Christmas Kindnesses Update

The response to the Giving Tree and Guest at Your Table was wonderful. Gifts were delivered to the Cleveland Center for Domestic Violence and to Nuevo Luz Urban Resource Center. Our current tally from GAYT boxes, castle pond and raffle for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee fund drive is **\$901.00**. Please return your filled boxes to the RE table **January 3 or 10**. We received a thank you note from Ann Hirschberg who received a card from the children's Advent Workshop, which stated, "West Shore Kids: Your beautiful card really brightened my day. Thank you so much!" Many thanks to all of you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

## Pancakes a Great Success

Our high school youth offered a wonderful breakfast before and after the December 20 worship service/choir concert. It was such a success, a fast trip to the grocery store was made during the service to replenish ingredients! The event, after expenses, earned **\$662**, to be used for future events and travel. Thanks to the 12 youth and advisors Phil Florian, Connie Murray and Laird Wynn for their hard work and enthusiasm.

## The Soul of Families Intergenerational Service, Sunday, January 24

Family life, its absence or its presence, its strength or its weakness, its wholeness or its brokenness, is the crucible of soul. In this service, we'll explore through song, story and reflection how different families around the world do their soul work. The Junior Choir will offer an Israeli song, *Zum Gali*, and the story, *And Tango Makes Three*, is based on a true story about penguins. Please remember to bring a can of food per person, to the sanctuary. Local pantries request soup, tuna, peanut butter, beef stew, vegetables and cereal. We take pride as we enter our fourth year of monthly intergenerational services and look forward to seeing you! Childcare for infants - Pre-K is offered.

## Youth Ministry Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that **Phil Florian** will be our church's new youth ministry coordinator. A West Shore member for five years and Junior Church (high school) advisor for 1½ years, Phil brings an enthusiastic commitment to youth and a solid understanding of group dynamics, problem solving and team building. He played important roles last year in our youths' involvement in hosting a night for Interfaith Hospitality Network and participation in the first ever, Homeless on Hilliard, to raise awareness and money for organizations that aid the homeless in Greater Cleveland. He helped our youth to create and present last year's Youth Sunday service and remains impressed by the youths' interests, talents and growing UU identity.

Phil will link our youth, their parents and current Sunday School teachers to church, community, interfaith, district and continental activities. It is our intention to continue to grow our program and Phil will be instrumental in laying the groundwork for an off-Sunday morning UU youth group that encourages fun, fellowship and service. His work will be primarily geared towards our high school youth, but he will also have an eye towards our Coming of Age class.

This position is made possible through an anonymous member's donation for the next two years, with the hope that during that time the cost of the position will be incorporated into the church's budget.

Phil and his wife Kelly, a teacher for WSUUC's third and fourth graders, along with their two young daughters, live in Lakewood. Please welcome Phil to the West Shore staff and offer your support!



## Sunday Circus Coming to West Shore

Families are invited to attend our circus, **Sunday, February 21, 12:30 - 2:00**, featuring circus-type food/beverages,

games and activities, all for a modest price. The acclaimed St. Ignatius Circus Club will entertain, 1:00 - 1:30. More information will be coming, but for now, mark your calendars for a fun winter day!

## Homeless on Hilliard

West Shore youth, Grades 8 - 12, are invited to join other Rocky River church youth **Friday, February 5**, 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!



### R.E. CALENDAR

#### Sunday, January 3

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

#### Tuesday, January 5

7:30 R.E. Committee Meeting

#### Sunday, January 10

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School  
10:40 Junior Choir Practice

#### Sunday, January 17

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School  
10:40 Junior Choir Practice

#### Sunday, January 24

9:30 & 11:15 Intergenerational Service  
Childcare for infants to Pre-K  
*Food Drive in Sanctuary during the service*  
5:00 p.m. OWL for 7th/8th grade

#### Sunday, January 31

9:30 & 11:15 Sunday School  
10:40 Junior Choir rehearsal

#### 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