

# Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

January 2009

Volume 5 Issue 5



## Christmas Kindnesses Update

The response to the *Giving Tree* and *Guest at Your Table* was wonderful. Three carloads of gifts were delivered to the Cleveland Center for Domestic Violence, and we will soon have the final amount given to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee through its GAYT drive. We received a thank you note from Ray and Joanne Hurst, a couple who received a card from the children's Advent Workshop, which stated, "I have put your Christmas card on a picture stand to share with family and friends that they may enjoy it, too, and know how very kind and resourceful our children at West Shore UU are." Many thanks to all of you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

## New Year Wishes

We wish you a very happy new year of renewal and discovery! It's a good time to revisit the covenants and promises we have made to each other and to ourselves. Please stop by the Religious Education table on Sunday and see the covenants our children and youth have committed to for this church year. Some of our "favorites" from their covenants include the following:

We will...

- Have happy hands and feet. (Toddlers)
- Raise our hands to speak. (Grade 4)
- Be inclusive. (Grades 5 - 6)
- Clean up after ourselves (Grades 7 - 8)
- Not use our cell phones unless it's important (Grades 9 - 12)

## Director's Study Leave

Lifespan Faith Development Director Kathy Strawser will be on study leave, **December 27 - January 10**. She will pursue research on successful models of alternative Sunday School formats in large congregations, read two titles related to models of religious education and revise the church's current *Chalice Lighters* workbook for third and fourth graders. During Kathy's absence, please contact Programs Assistant Cathy Ross with RE concerns.



## Lunar New Year: "I'm Ready to Pledge"

**Sunday, February 8**, marks the kick-off our congregation's annual stewardship campaign. This year we'll celebrate the Year of the Ox, the animal known for hard work, patience and reflective thought—a perfect description of stewardship values! Families are encouraged to attend the free, after-church lunch. A short program will follow, and childcare will be provided for children. Please contact the church by February 1 to request childcare for this gathering.



## Circus Club Coming to West Shore

Families are invited to attend our circus, Sunday, February 15, noon - 1:30, 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 some fun on a winter day!

### 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); 440.333.225, Ext. 104

## RE Safety

As part of our ongoing exploration to provide proactive response to emergencies, our staff is creating a plan for a "lockdown drill" for Sunday School teachers, children and youth this winter. A lockdown is used when it is determined to be safer to remain in the building during an emergency rather than to attempt to exit. We are basing our plan on the current practice in our West Shore Child Care Center, as well as our RE needs outside that key-coded space.



## OWL, Grades 5 - 6

We will offer *OWL (Our Whole Lives)* for fifth and sixth graders this winter. This eight-session, age-appropriate, human sexuality program will occur outside of the regular Sunday School program. A parents' meeting will be **Sunday, January 11, 2:00 - 3:30**, and a mandatory parent/child orientation will be the following **Sunday, January 18, 2:00 - 4:30**. Parents have received an informational letter. To register and/or ask questions, please sign up at the Religious Education table on Sunday, or contact Kathy Strawser at 440.333.2255, Ext. 103 or [kstrawser@wsuuc.org](mailto:kstrawser@wsuuc.org).

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAMMING - WINTER/SPRING '09

Activity	Time
Junior Choir ( <i>Chapel</i> )	9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School ( <i>Classrooms</i> )	10:30 - 11:45 a.m.
Children's Chapel, Grades K-6 ( <i>Chapel</i> )	10:30 - 10:50 a.m.
Intergenerational Service* ( <i>Sanctuary</i> )	10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Worship Café*: Spirit Play, Grades K-6	12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

### January 4

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### January 11

Junior Choir  
 Children's Chapel  
 Sunday School

### January 18

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### January 25

Junior Choir  
 Intergenerational Service\*  
 Coming of Age Gathering for Mentors and Youth, 11:45-1:30

### February 1

Junior Choir  
 Children's Chapel  
 Sunday School

### February 8

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### February 15

Junior Choir  
 Intergenerational Service\*

### February 15

West Shore Circus, Noon-1:30

### February 22

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### March 1

Junior Choir  
 Children's Chapel  
 Sunday School

### March 8

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School  
**Daylight Savings Time Begins!**

### March 15

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### March 22

Junior Choir  
 Intergenerational Service\*

### March 29

Junior Choir  
 Sunday School

### April 5

Junior Choir  
 Children's Chapel  
 Sunday School

### April 12—No Sunday School

Junior Choir  
 Easter Activities for K-6\*

### April 19

Junior Choir  
 Intergenerational Service\*

### April 26

Junior Choir  
 Teacher Recognition—Everyone starts in the Sanctuary, then goes to classrooms

### May 3

Spring Program begins. This year's theme will be all things "Green"

### May/June

Dates for May/June intergenerational service, children/youth programming, Coming of Age Ceremony and Youth Sunday to be determined.

\* Childcare offered for ages infant-Pre-K