

Unitattler

A Newsletter for Families
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

September, 2009

Volume 6 Issue 1



Sunday School Registration

Sunday, September 13, is our first day of church school. **77%** of last year's children and youth are registered for this fall's program. There is a good balance of children for every class, both sessions, except the 11:15 *Spirit Play* class for Grades K - 2, which is very full. If you haven't registered yet, and have a child in that age range, please consider attending the 9:30 worship service/Sunday School. We encourage parents to register their children/youth as soon as possible, so that we can make the best decisions regarding teachers, space and supplies. Forms are available to download at the church website, www.wsuuc.org and at the RE table on Sundays. Please return forms to Kathy Strawser.

Sunday School Classes & Times

Session I: 9:30 - 10:40
Jr. Choir: 10:40 - 11:15
Session II: 11:15 - 12:25

<u>Class</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
Nursery: Infant-24 mos.	
Toddler: 2-3 yrs.	<i>Friendship Finders</i>
Pre-K: 4-5 years	<i>We Are Many,</i> <i>We Are One</i>
Grades K, 1, 2	<i>Spirit Play</i>
Grades 3-4	<i>Timeless Themes</i>
Grades 5-6	<i>World Religions</i>
Grades 7-8	<i>Popcorn Theology</i>

Junior Church, our high school group, will meet at the first session, only. We will offer different and unique opportunities for this age group at the second service time.

Junior Choir Plans for 2009-10

Joe Schafer, Director

Junior Choir starts an exciting new church year on September 13, the same day that regular church school classes begin. We will practice in the Chapel between the two church school sessions - from 10:40 to 11:15.

Our members range in age from kindergarten to high school. We are a community of children and youth. In addition to our wide age range, Junior Choir brings together those from both the first and second church school sessions.

We would like to welcome lots of new choir members this year. There are no try-outs, no words to memorize, and no membership requirements, except that it is convenient if you like donut munchkins!

The change to two church school sessions and two services gives Junior Choir members the opportunity to -

- Make and keep friendships with those who will be in a different church school session.
- Sing for both services (end of 1st, beginning of 2nd) on Intergenerational Service Sundays.
- Do some special holiday season caroling in December between services.

We are also beginning to look at some very special possibilities for this spring. More to come on this. I can't wait to get started on September 13th.

P.S. Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding singing opportunities for high school students!



Chalice Lighters: Calling All Third and Fourth Graders

Chalice Lighters provides an opportunity for young people in our congregation to become familiar with the ideas of our unique religious tradition. They will learn to take an active role in the worship service by lighting the chalice at our Sunday morning services. Throughout the preparation process, family participation is built in to encourage an intergenerational exploration of religious identity enhancing the experience for young people.

Chalice Lighters has two basic requirements. Children and parents attend two dinner sessions, **Thursdays, October 8 & 22, 5:30 - 7:00**, with the ministers, and children, with some help from parents, complete the *Chalice Lighter* workbook. Invitations will be mailed and also distributed at church. To register, please contact Kathy Strawser.



Canned Food Drive Sunday, September 6

Please help to stock local food pantries! Bring a can of food, per person, to the sanctuary, and we'll make sure it gets to those who need it. The canned items most in need are soup, tuna, peanut butter, beef stew, and vegetables. Boxes of cereal are also needed. Remember: one person = one can; a family of four = 4 cans.

Teacher Dedication

Sunday, September 6, both services, we will dedicate our Sunday School teacher volunteers. Please be present to show your support for the 42 volunteers who serve this congregation's largest program beyond our worship services, our religious education for children and youth.

Staff 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

Annual Fire Drill

Sunday, October 4, at the conclusion of both services, we will conduct our annual fire drill. Our Sunday School teachers have practiced this drill and will follow a quick, safe exit plan with our children and youth. The ushers, ministers, worship associates and staff all have assignments for your safe exit from the sanctuary and remaining church areas. A 30-second period of sharp beeps will begin our drill. A ringing school bell will signal that the drill has ended.

Parents: You need to meet your children and youth in the parking area behind the church **after the bell has rung** to indicate the building has been evacuated. **No child or youth will be returning to the building without his/her parent.**

2009-10 Religious Education Committee Members

Gaile Schafer, co-chair	Heather Macalla
Jason Bosch, co-chair	Kaleigh Macalla (youth)
Sara Beech	Cheryl Maude
Shawn Foster	Pam Vizdos
Sharon Hogan	



R.E. Calendar

Saturday, August 29

9:00-2:00 Teacher Training

Sunday, August 30

10:30 Intergenerational Water Communion
 Childcare for infants to age 4

Sunday, September 6

9:30 & 11:15 Intergenerational Service
 Teacher dedication
 Childcare for infants to age 4

Sunday, September 13

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

Sunday, September 20

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

Sunday, September 27

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