

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

December 05, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11:00am. Child care is available.

December 12 at 11:00am

"The Power of One Woman"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Ever think what it might have been like to be the mother of Jesus? Well, I have been playing with this idea and it is a jumping off point for a larger meditation. During this service we will also welcome new members.

December 19 at 11:00am

"Choral Holiday Service"

St. John's Adult Choir, under the direction of Dr. Catherine Roma, and with orchestral accompaniment, performs Bach's Cantata #191, and John Rutter's "Brother Heinrich's Christmas." The Bach portion of the service will be dedicated to the memory of Will Hamrick.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24 at 7:00pm

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This will be a traditional Christmas Eve service, with a children's story and a short homily called a "Gift or a Present". We will end with candles and *Silent Night*.

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought.

Interim Minister

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Minister Emerita

the Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Director of

Religious Exploration

Elizabeth Wilson

Caretaker

Tim Johnson

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:00am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News Submissions

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday Dec 16 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but as wonderful as the holidays are, I find myself with longer than usual lists of things that must be done. I don't mind the extra tasks. But at some point, I end up overextending myself and feeling out of sorts. Grouchy. Irked.

A few years ago, after my mother died, I had a major melt down the week before Christmas. I was so busy that I did not allow myself the time to stay in touch with my feelings. I was overcome unexpectedly with a rush of feelings so powerful that I found myself unable to celebrate the holiday fully. The loss of my mother snuck up on me the week before Christmas and I found myself absolutely unable to rejoice in the wonder of the holiday.

What I have learned is that I need to do less and stay in touch with my emotions. I need to remember those people who are dear to me, who are no longer alive or who are not near me because of distance, and take time to be quiet and celebrate their gifts to me. The more I do this, the more I stay in the present and am able to be really joyful. To do less, to remember more.

Sounds simple. But I am a task oriented person and I like being busy, feeling useful and giving to others. But what I need to remind myself is that giving myself some time for self care is something that is as important as any task on my list.

Emerson said, "True genius is thinking what is true for you, is also true for others." So just in case you struggle with some of these same issues, let me reassure you, You are not alone.

May the blessings of whatever holiday you choose to celebrate, allow you to know how dearly loved you are...and that you are important enough to be on your own list...

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Number

Private line at church 513-961-1994

Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

pportunities & Invitations

Interweave Holiday Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krollfifer on Friday evening, **Dec 17**. The doors will open at 7:00 for the potluck, and the film is scheduled to begin at 7:30. We'll be showing "24 Nights", which has become our "traditional" holiday film selection.

Interweave is St John's social group for BGLT folks and friends/allies. All are welcome!

-Greg Terhune

“Brunch with Santa”

At Scarlet Oaks Retirement Community

On Sat, **Dec 11th** from 10am-12pm Scarlet Oaks will be hosting Brunch with Santa in their beautiful mansion at 440 Lafayette Ave in Clifton. This event is free and open to the public, so bring your family, friends, neighbors, anyone! They will be serving a delicious brunch to all who stop by and, of course, there will be pictures with Santa, so bring your little ones! For more information, please contact Betsy at 513-475-4210.

Ties too thin, too wide, too old??



An anonymous donor is collecting **old silk ties** for a project and is willing to donate one dollar for any old silk ties (they can be faded, stained, out of date) to the YRUU for their redecoration project. So look through your closet, find your old silk ties and bring them to church - the collection box is in the office. Help the YRUU!

Music Vivace

The St John's Choir
Performs Dec 19
with orchestra



For the **Annual December Winter Choral Service** (Sun **Dec 19**) the St. John's Choir of 55+ strong will sing J. S. Bach and John Rutter.

Cantata #191 (Bach wrote over 200) is in Latin (almost all his other cantatas are in German). Bach stole from himself, and the source was his beautiful B Minor Mass. If you love the Gloria in Excelsis Deo from the B Minor Mass, you will automatically love this cantata. The three all-too-short movements are taken almost verbatim (can I use that word?).

Your ears will perk up with delight as 3 Bach trumpets (high piccolo trumpets in D), 2 oboes, 2 flutes, strings and timpani accompany the very hard-working St. John's choir.

For the young and young at heart, the choir will perform a Christmas story by John Rutter called **“Brother Heinrich's Christmas.”** The celebrated and beloved Dale Hodges will narrate, and the men in the choir are monks, the women angels... Instrumentalists accompany us too - a bassoon (stubborn donkey), oboe, and piano join in. You can see why it is not to be missed!

The service will be a sound and light show. We welcome back the light as the Winter Solstice soon approaches and we'll provide the glorious sounds of the season in these two very different and distinct musical offerings.

The Bach Cantata will be performed in memory of the musical and wonderfully dedicated, long-time choir bass, Will Hamrick. *- Cathy Roma*

Among ourselves

Sunday Morning Forums

Thank you to Paul Bowen for a most interesting discussion of Self-Realization Ethics. Also a note of thanks to Sarah Elmore for AV assistance for the Darners' slides of our partner church in Romania. Next week's forum will be the last one for December. Forums will resume on January 9th after the holidays. Have you read a good book or an article you'd like to share? Let us know.

Dec 12 10:00am- Beyond Cards and a Box on Your Table - UU Service Committee - what does it do? We UUs have an organization that attempts to do social justice work at home and around the globe. What sorts of projects does it sponsor? How is it different from any other charity you might choose when you want to contribute? Are there any opportunities to be involved personally? Learn more about the UUSC.

-Ethel Ingalls

Bereavement Quilt workshop

Dec 10th and 11th, 10-4pm at St John's
Cost: \$150 (scholarships available)

An active bereavement & transition process utilizing the clothing and materials of life.

This hands-on, 2-day bereavement workshop provides a grounded container for the experience of grief. Participants will utilize the clothing of the departed and other meaningful materials to create a quilt without a predetermined pattern. This process will be the vehicle for inner work and outward expression as it reveals and orients the patterns, by which we survive, grow and transform. The resulting quilts will reflect our relationships, retain a sense of the body, and carry the consoling essence of the beloved. No sewing experience necessary. Sewing machine required. Facilitator: Sherri Lynn Wood.

Call Lisa Siders-Kenney to register.

MARCC

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, of which all area UU churches are members, presents:

Moira Weir, Director
Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services
**“State of Those in Need
and the Impact of Budget Cuts”**

Wed, Dec 8 at 12:00 noon
Synod Hall, *St. Peter in Chains Cathedral*
325 W. 8th Street
Downtown

What is the impact of all the state and county wide budget cuts brought on by the recession on the poor and working poor? To address this question, MARCC invited Moira Weir, the director of Hamilton County Jobs and Family Services to present the impact of budget cuts on people and children in need of financial support and wrap around services, such as housing, jobs, childcare, etc. Ms. Weir stepped into the position of director at HCJFS in 2007 when the recession began, with both social service and business credentials, and has addressed with creativity and know-how the most severe cuts experienced by HCJFS in decades. Delegates will have an opportunity to listen and raise questions following her presentation. Please join us and bring others who may be interested in learning more about our interfaith coalition and the work it does in our Metropolitan region. All guests are welcomed.

Please remember to:

Bring your lunch (coffee is provided)

Park in the Parking Garage across Plum Street from the Cathedral, or on the street.

Enter through the bronze gates at 325 W. 8th Street (across from City Hall)

For more information, contact Lisa Curry at 513-721-4843.

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. . .

. . . time for our much-loved tradition, Gingerbread House-making, that is! On Sat evening, **Dec 18**, our annual Gingerbread House Party will be held in Krolfifer. Due to past success, we'll continue with the following schedule for the evening—from 6:00-7:00pm will be social hour (bring-your-own-dinner), a time to meet new folks or rekindle old friendships; from 7:00-8:00pm-ish will be construction time; and from 8:00-8:30pm we'll enjoy dessert and (hopefully!) watch a holiday-themed video on the big screen!



This is an event for all ages. . . feel free to bring a friend, too! Cost of the event is \$10 per Gingerbread House kit. Registration has already begun—see the sign-up table in Krolfifer during coffee hour. Registration for this event runs through Sunday, December 12. For more information, contact co-chairs Amy Fletcher or Rebecca Siekbert.

Donate to The Taste of St. John's

Be creative! Please think of something fun to donate to the Taste of St John's auction on Jan 22, 2011. Your fellow St Johners will line up to pay for the dinner, item, or service you think up. You can get a donation form either at church or on the front page of the website. Please turn in your form by **Dec 19**.

Also, buy early and often . . . raffle tickets are on sale *now* for a week stay at the South Carolina condominium owned by Jim and Kathryn McDonough.

-Taste Co-Chairs, Ann Schuur and Jim McDonough

Iran - A Land of Contrasts and Surprises

Our press is filled with negative news about Iran. Carol and Dick Fencil visited the country for two weeks this fall and have come back with some different perspectives. There will be two presentations at the church in December. The first is for the Men's group, Sun evening, **Dec 5**. The second will be on Tues evening, **Dec. 7**, 7:30pm - 8:30pm. Church members and friends are invited to hear firsthand about their experiences, the people they met, and their evolving views about this complex, ancient country. This is NOT a travelogue (although there will be some pictures of the "tourist" sites) but an attempt to share their journey with others who may be concerned about how the U.S. and Iran relate to each other.

- Carol and Dick Fencil

Adult Classes 2011

The next issue of the Reporter will list some of the classes to be offered in the New Year.

Registration will be Jan 2 and 9th after church.



Articulating Your UU Faith will be led by John Kachuba and Martha McCleod on Monday nights. Pamela Wilz will lead "**Lighting the Lamp: Exploring the Psyche/Eros Myth**" on Tuesday nights. We'll have a special Immigration presentation from Don Sherman, Director of the **Interfaith Immigrant Workers Center** who will bring some of their members to talk about their working experiences in Mexico and Central America.

- Carol and Dick Fencil

Among ourselves

St. John's Gets Video License

St. John's has purchased a video copyright license which will allow us to show a number of commercially produced videos as a part of our church activities. The license, obtained through Christian Video Licensing, International (cvli), runs through October 31, 2011. In order to determine whether a particular video is covered by the license agreement, you can check the producer listing filed in the office or you can log onto the cvli web site at www.cvli.com. The list of producers can be found at the tab in the upper right hand corner of the home page. This license does not cover all movies so a check of the producer listing is required. For more information, contact Tom Darner, Administrative Council Director.

Keep Cincinnatians Warm!

Several of our RE classes are working hard to ensure church and community members are warm this winter! Please consider supporting:

The Mitten Tree, sponsored this year by our 2nd-4th grade class, will be collecting donations throughout the month of December. Let's fill it up with scarves, hats, mittens, and gloves. Donations will be given to local needy schoolchildren. The Mitten Tree is located in Haehnle, near the entry doors to Krolfifer.

YRUU Fleece Scarf Sale is ongoing in Krolfifer during coffee hour. These lovely scarves, crafted by our YRUU youth, make warm gifts for friends, family, or The Mitten Tree! Proceeds from this sale will help fund the ongoing Wells Room redecoration project. Scarves are \$6 each or 3 for \$15.

News of Our Partner Church Program

The November 14th soup and bread luncheon was well attended. We raised \$607 which was added to the proceeds from the October luncheon. \$1,200 was sent to our partner congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania for our Bread for the Elderly Program.

Work continues on the planning for the February 12th partner church dinner. As with each dinner, we rely totally on volunteers for this event. Look for the job sign up board just outside Krolfifer Hall starting early January.

We are still looking for people interested in the group trip to our partner church and the Transylvania region of Romania. This trip, tentatively scheduled for 13 days in late May and early June, will include a Sunday at our partner church and a tour of the Unitarian and other historic sites of Transylvania.



Contact Tom or Mary Darner if you are interested in the trip or would like more information.

-Friends of Szentlaszlo

Report from the Fund Trustees

At their November Quarterly meeting, the Fund Trustees reviewed the status of the 4 funds, and noted that the following amounts of money may be disbursed during this fiscal year:

Legacy Fund: \$29,036

Lorentz Fund: \$12,033

Music Fund: \$ 3,394

The following disbursements from the Legacy Fund were proposed by the Board, and approved by the Trustees:

- \$20,000 for the renovation of Haehnle
- \$1,600 for Wells remodeling
- \$2,000 for continuing audio upgrade

The proposal for renovation of Rosa Parks room was tabled while more information is developed. The trustees agreed to an e-mail vote once the additional data is provided.

Funds for the Board retreat, moving costs for the new minister, and matching the energy grant were not approved, pending additional information to be provided.

The Trustees, after a due diligence search, voted to sell a 1% interest in the Hagerty property in West Virginia. This is the only non-cash asset held by the Trustees.

In other actions, the resignation of Judy Buxton was reluctantly accepted. Judy has served 6 years as a Fund Trustee and been the Chair for most of that time. We thank her for her service to St. John's. Dick Fencel was appointed to take Judy's position as Chair.

The next meeting of the Trustees will be on February 7, 2011, but an e-mail vote on the Rosa Parks renovation may be held before then.

-Dick Fencel

Report from the Settled Minister Search Committee

Two very important dates during the search for a new minister are October 31 and November 30. By the first date, the Settled Search Committee must have placed its Congregational Record online for all potentially interested Ministers to see. By the second date, the Committee is allowed to see the Ministerial Records of Ministers who are interested in our church. Both dates have passed and both events have occurred.

The Committee next considers the Ministerial Records of prospective Ministers and exchanges Informational Packets with those in whom interest is mutual. We have begun this process. Later, interviews of candidates will take place.

Our Ministerial Record, Informational Packet, and Congregational survey are available for church members to see. They will be available in Krolfifer Hall after morning services this Sunday and placed in the office during the week.

-The Settled Search Committee

Joys & Concerns

Congratulations to **Jonathan Hoge** who recently earned his Eagle Scout badge from the Boy Scouts of America.



Congratulations to **Larry Wolf** for being recognized by the Association of American Geographers for his efforts to spread diversification and social consciousness in the 1970's and 80's. Larry published a journal entitled "Transitions" which addressed topics of social and ecological significance.

- Ann

Shuur

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

The holiday season is in full swing—especially in the RE program. Our children and youth have been tremendously busy working on projects that will help others. I know everyone connected with the RE program is grateful for the many ways the congregation has helped support our kids over this last month—from providing signatures for special fund requests, to purchasing items from our Fleece Scarf and “World Service Bazaar” sales, to making donations to our Mitten Tree.

As useful as these projects are to our church and the greater community, I do hope we also convey a sense of peace and reflection to our kids this time of year as well. Two websites that offer some great ideas and resources for helping families celebrate the winter holidays in meaningful and eco-friendly ways are www.newdream.org and www.reclaimyourholidays.org (sponsored by the University of Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education). Both sites have loads of free downloads and resources on such topics as giving “greener” gifts, “green” entertaining, and simplifying the holidays. If you find yourself overloaded with holiday to-do’s, check them out!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. .

.to RE Greeter Ben Skove; to the 5th-6th grade teaching team for their outstanding leadership in helping their class make the “World Service Bazaar” a tremendous success; to ALL of the children & youth in our RE program for the varied and wonderful “gifts” they shared at the December 5 holiday service; to the Voices of Variety parents for their help in making the December 4 rehearsal breakfast successful; and a special “shout out” to Rachel Kramer and her assistant, Kathy Rentz, for their continued dedication to the young voices in our congregation!

PAGE 8 *The Reporter* December 05, 2010

Infant-Toddler Childcare Update

In this season of giving, I’d like to recognize three women who quietly provide our congregation with the gift of wonderful care to our youngest UUs. Nicki Verlin, Kristy Barlion, and Monica Flanagan offer our young ones a warm and caring place to be while their parents enjoy some quiet time in the worship service—well, usually some quiet time! Kristy, who also happens to be Josie Aren’s daughter-in-law, is now on maternity leave, expecting her first child in January. Stepping in for Kristy for the next few months will be Monica Jeffries-Flanagan. Whether or not you have young kids, take some time to venture down to the Jefferson room and thank these ladies—they provide a valuable service to our church.

Upcoming Special Holiday Schedule

December 12: Regular RE classes meet.

December 18: Gingerbread House Party. From 6:00-9:00pm in Krolfifer. Sign-ups available through December 12.

December 19: Adult Choir Choral Service. Infant-toddler childcare available. No regular RE classes—children are encouraged to attend this multigenerational service. Activities, geared toward kids PreK-4th grade, will be available in Rosa Parks. Older kids welcome to serve as helpers.

December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. At 7:00pm. Children welcome, but no childcare provided.

December 26: RE teachers off. Infant-toddler childcare available. Activities, geared toward kids PreK-4th grade, will be available in Rosa Parks. Older kids welcome to serve as helpers.

January 2: First Sunday. Our regular RE schedule resumes.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuo.org) or give me a call (961-1940) . . . I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours are Tu/Wed/Thu from 9:00am-1:30pm.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, December 5

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
1:00pm OWL Gathering #1
6:00pm Men's Group
6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, December 7

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)
7:30pm Iran (Adult RE)

Wednesday, December 8

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

Thursday, December 9

10:00am Meditation
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 10

10:00am Bereavement Quilt Workshop

Saturday, December 11

10:00am Bereavement Quilt Workshop
10:00am Worship Arts Group Committee
10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)

Sunday, December 12

9:00am RE Committee
10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
12:30pm TOWN HALL MEETING
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, December 14

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, December 15

6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, December 16

10:00am Meditation
5:30pm REPORTER DEADLINE
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 17

7:00pm Interweave Potluck/Movie

Saturday, December 18

9:00am Choir Dress Rehearsal
10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators
6:00pm RE Gingerbread House Making

Sunday, December 19

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am Choral Service
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
1:00 Will Hamrick Remembrance
2:00pm Search Committee
6:00pm Search Committee

Memorial Service for

Will Hamrick

On **Sunday, Dec 19th**, the Choir will be performing Bach with an orchestra. Will Hamrick loved classical music, and the Bach portion of the service will be dedicated to him. The coffee hour, with special food, will also be in Will's honor. At 1:00pm, anyone who wishes will return to the sanctuary for a Circle of Remembrance. The choir will sing, and people will have an opportunity to speak about Will.

New Year's Day - Soup's On

For the 14th year, the Fencels are inviting all church members and friends to start the New Year with your church friends. On Saturday, Jan. 1, from noon - 3 p.m. we'll have 3 big pots of soup, and you just need to bring something that will go with soup (salad, dessert, cheese, bread, etc - no alcohol please). The party will be in the party room of the Hammond North condo, 5300 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati, 45224. There is free valet parking if you don't see a spot in the lot coming in, and children are welcome. No RSVP necessary, but for questions, call Carol and Dick. The room is handicapped accessible.

- Carol and Dick Fencil

Thought of the Week

“Give what you have. To someone it may be better than you dare to think.”

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow