

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 11, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday October 18 at 11:00am

"Into the Woods: Thoreau"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

As part of a four part sermon series on the Concord Movement that changed the world, we'll talk of Henry David Thoreau, the person who put Transcendentalism into practice. Children's story will be "Let Your Insides Out."

Sunday October 25 at 11:00am

"The Ideal Woman of the 19th Century: Margaret Fuller"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

The only woman Transcendentalist. The children's story will be "The Golden Bowl!" by Margaret Fuller. Special Guest Musician: Lucie Blue Tremblay.

Sunday November 1 at 11:00am

"Wild Child: Louisa May Alcott"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

The most famous child of the Transcendentalists. On November 1, the altar will be a table of remembrance. Bring photos or items of people you want to be remembered and the Junior High class will create a table of remembrance. Also, on November 1 we will be celebrating "Association Sunday" and taking a special collection to support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting, the first of the 2009/2010 church year, will be held on Sunday October 18 at 12:45pm in Krolfifer. This is an important meeting for St. John's- an opportunity to focus our collective energy and intelligence on the needs of our congregation as we can continue to build our beloved community. (see page 5)

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

Omope Daboiku

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday October 22 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

There are two words which sum up my work with you as your Interim Minister, these are Health and Strength. My task for the first three months is to get to know St John's. To participate, to attend committee meetings, to listen and hear what you are working on and what concerns you. So during the months of September, October and November we are getting to know each other. I ask questions when I do not understand and work to see what makes St John's the vital and lively place that it is!

Then comes December, a month where we all are heading toward Christmas and that is enough! In January, February and March, I will talk with you about the areas where St John's, as a congregation, may need to do some work to be as Healthy and as Strong as possible! You see, my task is to work with you to prepare you to attract the best minister for a new future.

So I am glad to be learning, to be participating and to be enjoying the rich, vibrant congregation that you are. Together, during the second half of the year, we will learn some of the areas where, with your agreement, St John's might need to work at to be the Healthiest and Strongest congregation so you might be a match for a healthy and strong minister!

Blessings to you!
Your Interim Minister
Denise

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

cell 847-431-8282, private line at church 513-961-1994, home 513-376-6775 (in case of emergency)
Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

Our Church 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. We are pleased to be designated a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and as such we honor and value the racial, cultural, economic, religious, physical ability, sexual orientation and gender diversity of our members and visitors, young and old.

Opportunities & Invitations

Interweave Potluck & Movie

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krolfifer on Friday evening October 23. The doors will open at 7:00 for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to begin at 7:30pm. We'll be showing the movie "Milk." October is National Coming Out Month, and "Milk" is an inspirational movie on the power of coming out. Whether or not you've seen this movie before, or whether you are GLBT yourself or an ally, we'd love to have you join us.

-Greg Terhune

Exploring UU Class

All new members and frequent visitors are invited to an orientation session about St. John's on Saturday October 17 from 9:00am to noon. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, take a tour of the church, and discuss UU principles and history. You will also learn about the programs, activities, and opportunities to serve our congregation and larger community. We will begin at 9am with coffee and conversation and the session will end at noon with a light lunch. Childcare will be provided if requested by October 14. Contact the office at 513-961-1938 or Kathryn McDonough to reserve a place and to let us know your dietary and childcare needs.

-The Membership Committee

Landscape Fall Cleanup Time!

Please come out for 2 or 3 hours on October 17 at 9:30am to put our gardens to sleep for the winter. We'll prune, snip, weed a little, and make sure the beds are prepared for the long sleep. Please bring your own garden tools if you have them; and if you don't, please come anyway, there will be enough to share. Hot cocoa and warm cider to follow in the kitchen. Questions? Contact Krysta December.

-Krysta December

Sunday Morning Adult Forums

You are invited to join us each Sunday at 10:00am in the Darwin Room for our Adult Forums.

October 18: Not So Fast: Multitasking seems to be more and more necessary in today's world. Take some time to explore what would happen to your world if occasionally things could slow down, and you'd take time to savor life, slowing down your pace and living not so fast. This forum will be led by Carol Fencl.

October 25: Earth Spirit and the Wheel of the Year: Join Edie Holder and Scott Roberts as they talk about the 8 neo-pagan high days that make up the Wheel of the Year and how they help us appreciate the changing seasons in the world and in our own lives.

-Pamela Wilz

30s & 40s Group Activities

The 30s and 40s group will begin a twice-monthly discussion group on second and fourth Tuesdays, from 7-8:30pm in the Wells room at St. John's. The format will be drop-in, topic-based, and co-facilitated. Topics for discussions will be suggested by attendees. The group will meet the first time on October 13 and continue meeting through the fall, winter, and spring.

The 30s & 40s Group is also taking a trip to the Ohio Renaissance Festival in Harveysburg. This is a family-friendly event. We're planning to meet in the St. John's parking lot at 10am on October 24 and carpool to the site, which is about an hour's drive away. Jousting, medieval crafts, drama, comedy, "feats of death-defying balance, juggling, magic, and more!" Feel free to wear a costume. Bring money for souvenirs and food, and dress for the weather. Tickets are available at the site or online at www.renfestival.com. We'll leave the festival grounds around 5pm and be back to St. John's around 6pm. If you're planning to come, please let Pete Asman know.

*-Pete Asman
and Krysta December*

November Adult Classes

If you weren't able to sign up for either of our November classes, there is still room for a few more. Please contact Carol Fencil at adultre@stjohnsuu.org to register.

Menu for the Future begins Tuesday November 10 at 7pm and will run for six weeks. Bo Wachendorf and Marcia Schoeni will lead this group, based on the text we will read together.

Mindfulness Meditation will start the following week, Tuesday November 17, also at 7pm and will run for four weeks. Nina Tolley will lead this group for beginning and experienced persons.

-The Adult RE Committee

Knitting for Peace

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting or do you want to learn how? If so, join the Knitting for Peace group. We meet on Sundays October 25, November 8 and 22, and December 6 and 20 from 10am until 10:45 in the library. We'll make hats and scarves for local school children and some made afghans for a hospice group. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Supplies are available. For more information, please call Debbie Combs.

-Debbie Combs

Taste of St. John's Kickoff

The annual Taste of St. John's will kick off the holiday season this year. Keep your calendars free on Saturday evening November 21 for an all-church dinner. More information to follow, but start thinking now about dinner parties you'd like to host, services you might offer and raffle items you would like to donate. Fill out a donation form and we'll post and advertise any offering scheduled prior to all-church dinner party. All others will be posted as usual in a silent auction during this holiday event. Check the easel in Haehnle Hall for donation forms, sign ups and expanding information.

-Penny Shada

Coffee Hour Sign Up

We will be signing up 2010 coffee hour hosts in Krolfifer after services on Sundays October 18 and 25. Hosts are still needed for this December as there is no one currently scheduled for that month. On the whole, the first year for this new procedure went well. There were some challenges with some no-shows but overall you made this system work, and with some refinements it can be better. So, think about dates that will work for you and make this commitment as important as any other.

-Kim Stein, Coffee Hour Coordinator



Music Vivace

*Dr. Catherine Roma
Minister of Music*

Calling for additional Choral Service singers! Join the St. John's Choir as we prepare for our December Winter Choral Service. The date has been changed to Sunday December 20. We will rehearse this music at 8:00 every Thursday. We also have an all-day Grailville Retreat on Saturday November 7. Come spend a glorious day at Grailville working on music and being in each other's company, take a walk, visit the little store, and enjoy the out-of-doors. (No choral rehearsal on Thursday October 22). Please add your voices to our special Sunday service. Thank you for attending the first concert in the Music Series. Jake Speed and the Freddies, Mike Oberst, and MUSE all contributed to make a great evening. Concert Two is coming up in November. Don't miss MUSE on November 14 and 15.

Among ourselves

Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 18

A Congregational Meeting, the first of the 2009/2010 church year, will be held on Sunday October 18 at 12:45pm in Krolfifer. This is an important meeting for St. John's- an opportunity to focus our collective energy and intelligence on the needs of our congregation as we can continue to build our beloved community.

The agenda will be:

- Welcome- Karolyn Schalk
- St. John's Financial Position, 2010/2011 church year forecast- Penny Shada
- St. John's State of the Congregation Report- Karolyn Schalk
- Settled Search Announcement- Jack Sherman
- Message from the Fund Trustees and The Legacy Fund- Dick Fencel

-Penny Shada

Order a St. John's T Shirt

Our "new" St. John's T-shirt is finally going to happen. If you'd like one, look for the ordering table on Sundays starting at the end of October. Due to our tight budget, cost will be \$15 per shirt. The more shirts we order the less each will cost us to have made, and the more of your \$15 will go to benefit the church. The shirt will be available in a variety of sizes and in the colors of dark blue or black. It will have our shirt contest winning design on the front and a picture of St. John's on the back. You can see a mock up of what it will look like at the ordering table.

-Frank Meyer

Chalice Lighting

Chalice lighting is a meaningful way for adults and families to participate in the Sunday service. Whether you have been in the congregation for a long or short time, you will be welcome to share this simple ritual. No training or special skills are required. To sign up, look for a clipboard near the office door. Someone from the Worship Committee will contact you by email message or telephone call.

-Barbara Hadden

Numbers for Our Adult RE

We have 51 different people registered for classes at St. John's this fall. There are 11 people serving as leaders. Class size ranges from 7 to 16 people, with no class cancellations. In addition, we are running the drop-in forums every Sunday before church and the drop-in "UU Roots" program three Sunday afternoons in November.

-The Adult RE Committee

Snow Shovelers Needed

Want to feel a part of St John's community? Want to give back in a whole new way? Be a part of the shovelers crew! This year, the shoveling crew will take care of light snow duties to ensure that our members, visitors, and friends are able to park and walk up to the building throughout the week by clearing light snow (less than 2 inches) and keeping us salted. Want to know more? Contact Pete Asman, and thank you!

-Krysta December

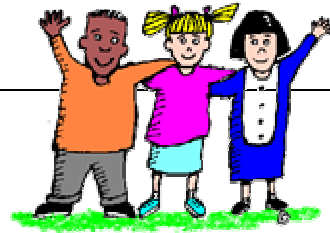
Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for October 18 are: Melissa Rowland, Connie Prairie and Rick Prairie
Coffee hosts for October 25 are: Sharon Jones, Wendy Waters-Connell and Rosalie Yager.

-Kim Stein

RE-ally!

Ompoe Daboiku
Director of Religious Exploration



On Sunday October 4, our YRUU community led the opening of Community Service and served as Worship Leaders for Children's Church. After Rev. Tracy's story about Ralph Waldo Emerson, all RE participants gathered in the Rosa Parks Room; there were over 40 children present, listening to the teens explain our Seven Principles in their own language. Then, the younger ones were invited to introduce themselves, choose a principle for personal reflection, and to share how that principle manifested in their own lives. After doing so, they threw a ball of yarn to the next person; of course, this created a wonderful tangle which demonstrated the interconnectedness of the Web of Life. The supervising adults were amazed at the ability of our teens and the patient receptivity of our younger ones. Our younger children are now aware that there are teenagers at St. John's and may even come to call them by name; and, hopefully, will aspire to stay until they themselves are members of the cool group called YRUU! Our older youth are now confident that they do have the skills necessary to lead and hold the attention of 30 squirmy bodies. All the adults call this SUCCESS! We look forward to our Middle-Juniors serving as Chalice Lighters and worship leaders on the First Sunday of November.

Social/Green opportunity: Did you know that there's more recyclable aluminum in a 'pull tab' than there is in the whole rest of the can? Well, Rev. Tracy knew and you may have known, too. Now, you can put your smarts to great use, help save the planet, and give to a good cause. Remember on October 4, Rev. Tracy asked us to bring in Pringles cans? Well, the purpose for the cans is to fill them with aluminum pull tabs – those little rings of metal found on cans of sardines, soda, "suds" and other such packaged goods. They are quite easy to remove and even easier to carry to church where we'll collect them for our local Ronald McDonald House, which provides housing for families whose children are experiencing long-term hospitalization. Each Pringles can we fill earns \$100.00 for the RMcD House, in addition to the value of the collected tabs. This social service project is *so* easy you can get your friends, neighbors, and schoolmates to be involved with **YOUR** Church project. So, bring 'em in, bring 'em in! You'll feel good about giving.

Fall Fest on October 30: Speaking of giving, don't forget to give yourself the joy of playfulness. Our Super Games-Night Fall Fest-Potlatch needs your help: bake cupcakes for the Cake Walk, staff a game, bring items for the 'potlatch'/give-away table, or volunteer to assist with making popcorn balls and caramel apples. Mark your calendars for Final Friday October 30, 7-10pm. Bring your inner child, outer children, grandchildren, grandparents, and invite your neighbors – they are all welcome!

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday October 13

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: 30s & 40s Group
7:00pm: Adult RE- Cakes for the Queen
7:00pm: Fund Trustees Meeting
7:00pm: Adult RE- Love and Death

Wednesday October 14

10:00am Chalice Group (Hadden)
6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday October 15

10:00am: Meditation
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday October 17

9:00am: Exploring UU
10:30am: Chalice Group (Nunn)

Sunday October 18

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm: Congregational Meeting
12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners
1:00pm: Non Violent Communication
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday October 20

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Adult RE-Cakes for the Queen
7:00pm : Adult RE- Love and Death
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Thursday October 22

10:00am: Meditation
5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter

Friday October 23

6:30pm: Interweave Potluck and Movie

Saturday October 24

10:00am: 30s & 40s Group Outing

Sunday October 25

10:00am: Adult Forum
10:00am: Knitting For Peace
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:45pm: Book Discussion- Let Freedom Ring
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday October 27

10:00am: Yoga
12:00pm: Leadership Development Committee
7:00pm: Adult RE- Cakes for the Queen
7:00pm: Adult RE- Love & Death
7:00pm: 30s & 40s Group Discussion

Wednesday October 28

6:30pm: Caring Circle
7:00pm: Praxis Committee for Bruce Beisner

From the office

Josie Arens

Office Administrator

New "People Book" directories are ready to pick up. They are available in the office on Sundays or during the week. If you can't get into church please call me at 513-961-1938 or office@stjohnsuu.org and request one.

A very special thank you to Emily Hodges for helping me get the information updated for the book and the many phone calls she made. Thanks to Carol Fencil for her gathering final information for the board/committee section, and to Rick Prairie who helped get them to the printer.

Please keep me updated with any new information or changes that you have in the future. Updates will run in The Reporter every couple of months. If you are a member of St. John's and you are not receiving the *UU World* magazine from the UUA please contact me and I will get you signed up.

I will be out of the office on Monday October 26.

The next newsletter deadline is October 22 at 5pm. Email articles directly to Bruce Beisner.

Thought of the Week

“As a single footstep will not make a path on the earth,
so a single thought will not make a pathway in the mind.
To make a deep physical path, we walk again and again.
To make a deep mental path, we must think over and over
the kind of thoughts we wish to dominate our lives.”

-HENRY DAVID THOREAU