

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 17, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

Sunday, Oct 31, 11 a.m.

"Spiritual Maturity"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

What might spiritual maturity look like for religious liberals? What are its elements? How might a congregation or church create an atmosphere for religious maturity?

Sunday, November 7, at 11 a.m.

"Shadows and Light: Leaning Toward Winter"

Guest speaker Diane Wright

Join Diane on the birthday of singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell. We'll be using her lyrics as a point of departure for considering the Unitarian principle of interdependence.

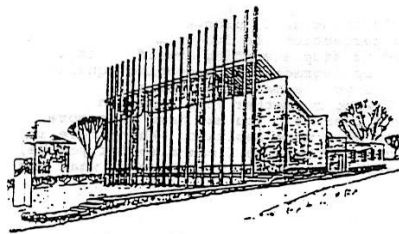
Sunday, November 14, at 11 a.m.

"Psalm 23"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This Psalm is read at almost every funeral and memorial service. What does it actually say? What might it mean for us?

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

7:30am to 2:00pm

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 Oct. 28 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

When you join a Unitarian Universalist Church it becomes to some degree a secondary family. We provide programs for families and children. If you get sick, the minister visits you in the hospital. We share meals after church and have fun events that allow us all to become part of our family of faith. Many of us have family but we may live far away from them and the church becomes an extended family at holiday times or when we need support.

Our congregation has what is called a Caring Committee. This group of people meets monthly and goes over those people who are shut in or in the hospital or have some type of special need. We then talk about what we can do over the next month to be of assistance. We create a plan and call on others to assist us. Sometimes a new baby or an illness means we provide meals for a few days. Sometimes we arrange for church people to visit a shut-in, to decrease loneliness. Sometimes someone needs a ride to and from the hospital. None of these are huge things, but when there is a need, it is nice to know the members of the church will step in to help.

Recently, there have been several serious illnesses and even a death...the Caring Committee worked with me to have a presence several times a day to support family members. It is a privilege to work with people who care so deeply and represent the church by helping others.

The Caring Committee is looking for a few new members to join our monthly meetings. We are also asking for people who would be willing to help a few times a year, as needed. If you would like to be on a list to be called on for occasional helping (a meal, a ride, etc.) we would like to expand our list of people who are willing to be called upon occasionally, also.

You could call the church office and let Josie know you would be willing to be added to either the committee or the help list. Everyone feels better when they can be of service to others. I hope you will consider this request.

Blessings to you,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

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.

Opportunities & Invitations

Become Certified/Recertified in CPR and AED

Sally Larson, through the Cincinnati American Red Cross, will offer a free CPR/AED class Saturday, November 20, to St. John's members and friends. After this all day course you'll be certified, or recertified, in CPR and using the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) located in Haehnle Hall. The church's AED can potentially restart the heart after a heart attack.

Please email your interest to Cliff Shisler before November 1, so that materials can be ordered.

Immigration - our Congregational Study/Action Issue

Our series begins with *Immigration: What Happens to the Families?*, with a skit presented by a mixed group from Su Casa. This is open to the public, so please invite your friends. This will be on Monday, Oct. 25, from 7-8:30 p.m. in Krolfifer Hall, across from the Sanctuary. The following 3 weeks we will have a group study on *Immigration Myths*, based on the book *They Take Our Jobs* by Aviva Chomsky. Participants will be encouraged to bring in additional background information based on the topic for that week. If you didn't sign up at registration and still want to come, contact either Marty Harrington or Carol Fencl. The class will run Monday nights, Nov. 1-15 here at St. John's in Krolfifer.

-Adult Religious Education Committee

Contact Center needs vehicle

The Contact Center is a grass roots non profit 501(c)3 organization, working on health care, financial reform, education and other issues affecting poor people. At this time it desperately needs a car or van to take members to legislative meetings in Columbus and at other locations. If anyone is able to donate a vehicle for this purpose, please contact Judy Cirillo.

Contact Center awards dinner

Members and friends of St. John's are invited to attend the annual Contact Center awards dinner at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, in Krolfifer Hall. A delicious home-prepared dinner will be served and volunteers will receive awards. There will be a raffle and prizes for those attending.

The Contact Center, a grass roots organization in Over-the-Rhine, works on legislative issues affecting poor people. Issues include increasing funding for grandparents and other family members who need to care for their grandchildren, as well as health care and employment issues. It works locally with the Rothenberg School in Over the Rhine and statewide as the lead organization on issues such as help for family members in violent situations. The Contact Center is the recipient for the second year of an award for \$14,000 from the UU Fund for a Just Society. We are especially grateful for this money as it is unusual to receive a grant in two consecutive years from this fund. The cost is \$20. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

- Judy Cirillo

Music Vivace

What a glorious fashion and cabaret show we pulled together for the opening program in the St. John's Music Series! With collective hard work and the unlimited and artistic imagination of many--beauty, joy, music and fashion filled the sanctuary. Kudos to Rachel Cook, all the models, musicians Steve Milloy and Scot Woolley, and the St. Johners who attended.

The second program in the Music Series is called: Love Songs, Lamb Chops, and Lullabies ... yes, this is the title of the upcoming MUSE CD release concert on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday November 12-14. Please join in this very family-friendly, all-MUSE concert program.

The St. John's Choir is preparing for the holidays (not the holiday)! Our choral service on December 19 will include JS Bach and John Rutter. Please join us at 7 p.m. every Thursday as we rehearse two incredible movements from Cantata #191.

The SJ choir will sing a glorious Renaissance piece by William Byrd on Sunday, Oct. 24, called "I Will Not Leave You Comfortless."

Thank you to everyone who pipes in with truly welcome sounds and adds significantly to our musical efforts at the Church.

-In gratitude, Cathy Roma

Trick-or-Treat for Unicef

After a hiatus of a few years, we again are inviting interested trick-or-treaters to participate in this worthy program! Did you know that as little as \$1.40 can immunize two children against polio for life and \$18.57 can provide three bed nets to protect families from mosquitoes carrying malaria? **Collection boxes will be available in RE classrooms on Sundays, October 24 and October 31.** If you are too old for trick-or-treating, do not despair: You can contribute to the cause by bringing change to church! As luck would have it, Halloween falls on a Sunday this year and I'm sure there will be a princess or wizard or goblin who will be happy to accept your contributions after the worship service on Oct. 31!

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Sunday Morning Forums

A big **thank you** to LaDonna Fritz, Karen Miller, and George Dersheimer for helping with the forum on October 3rd. We had a great presentation from Final Exit Network. If you missed the forum some of their printed materials are available from the RE department. Thank you, too, to Krysta December and Chris Reed for facilitating our discussion of LGBT concerns on the 10th.

Forum for Oct. 24 - Three Cups of Tea - Book Discussion - Greg Mortenson with single-minded persistence has helped the villagers in the rugged Himalayan mountains of Pakistan and Afghanistan to build schools and find teachers. Education is the opportunity the villagers crave for their children. The war in this rugged mountain terrain is a battle for the minds of the young: the balanced education of the village schools as opposed to the ritualistic recruitment of the Taliban madrassas. Can one man's passion sway the balance? How was it possible for him to do what he did?

Forum for Oct. 31- The Gift of Playing God - Discussion of the article in the Fall 2010 issue of UUWorld, (pg. 14). We have a love-hate relationship with the technology that adds improvements to our lives and at the same time adds great risk. When do we say stop? Or even, can we? If you don't have a copy of the UUWorld, let us know; we can find one for you.

COME FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ST JOHN'S MAJOR FUNDRAISER AND HOW YOU CAN EXPRESS YOUR CREATIVITY AND TALENTS.

12:30 p.m. SUNDAY, Oct. 17th
In the CHAPEL

We'll meet briefly after church to talk about opportunities for involvement in St. John's major fundraiser, A Taste of St. John's (Jan 22, 2011). Questions or want to be a part but can't attend?:
Contact Ann Schuur

First Soup & Bread Luncheon of the Year Sets Record

Last Sunday was our first soup and bread luncheon of the church year and we set two records. \$635 was raised for our Bread for the Elderly Program in our partner Unitarian congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania, and over 100 people attended the lunch. The crowd enjoyed themselves and folks pitched in to help clean-up. Thank you, everyone!

Our next luncheon is November 14. We promise to make several extra soups so plan now to attend. We still need helpers for the upcoming luncheons so sign up this Sunday on the poster near the entrance to Krolfifer. Additional luncheons are Jan 9, Mar 13 and Apr 10. Mark these dates on your calendar! The price for the lunch is only \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under.

Also note: this year's Partner Church Dinner will be held Saturday, February 12.

Look for an upcoming announcement on meetings regarding a trip to our partner church and Transylvania. This trip will probably take place next spring. And, of course, our partner church group would welcome any of you who would like to join us in planning the trip or otherwise participate in this rewarding program.

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo

Coming Soon. . .“World Service Bazaar!”

Our 5th and 6th grade RE class is sponsoring our first ever “World Service Bazaar” on Sunday, November 21 in Krolfifer after the worship service. With help from our minister, Rev. Denise Tracy, and her traveling friends, there will be elegant jewelry, purses, soaps, hand creams and scarves from Africa, China, Indonesia and Guatemala available for purchase. Our children are researching local, national and global charities that will benefit from this true “world” sale.

Be the first to wear a lovely bracelet from Guatemala, beaded with our UUA chalice! Be seen at your chalice group wearing pretty earrings from Africa. Smell ever-so-nice at potlucks because you have bathed in scented soaps from Indonesia. Since November 21st is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, you may be able to do a lot of your holiday shopping in Krolfifer! What about a darling Buddha ring for your little girl or a favorite grandchild? Remember, in the season of giving, you will have a chance to enjoy yourself and while helping others too!

A Season of Song for the Voices of Variety: Gifts of the Season

Under the direction of Rachel Kramer, associate director of music, the Voices of Variety began rehearsals on Sunday, September 26, at 12:15 p.m. in the Rosa Parks Room. The 30-minute rehearsals are open to ALL RE students ages kindergarten through 8th grade.

The Voices of Variety will prepare their holiday service music in 9 rehearsals (no rehearsal on Halloween) each Sunday from September – November with a final rehearsal and breakfast on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 8 a.m. The performance will be Sunday, December 5 at 11 a.m. Please join the Voices of Variety now in their 13th season! Questions? Call Rachel Kramer.

-Rachel Kramer



Among ourselves

St. John's Men's Group Retreat

The Men's Group will hold a retreat on Saturday, November 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Moyer Spiritual Life Center in Melbourne, KY. Men are invited to attend, whether or not they have been active in the group. The "Little Town of Bethlehem" will be shown followed by a discussion. The film tells the inspiring story of a Palestinian Muslim, Palestinian Christian, and an Israeli Air Force pilot who choose nonviolence to break the cycle of fear, hatred, and killing. Other activities are planned for the afternoon. The cost, including lunch, is \$15. Reservations are required by November 10. Contact George Dersheimer.

Goddess Gathering Oct. 27

All women are invited to attend the October Goddess Gathering at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27 at Grand Finale in Glendale. Please let Linda Linker know by Oct. 23 if you plan to attend, so she can make proper reservations.

-Pamela Wilz

Pastoral Care News

Krista Briese died from the complications of diabetes in New York City, NY. Her memorial service was held on Oct 16th at St John's. The Caring Circle provided a reception after the service. Krista is the daughter of church member Carolyn Briese.

Member Pete Altekruze died suddenly of undetermined causes. Among Pete's contributions to St. John's was service as a sound technician. A memorial service is set for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at St. John's, a date for which his son can return from Korea, where he is teaching English.

Sue Sessum, a former member of St. John's and a friend of many who are current members, died peacefully after a brief illness. Her memorial service will be held at St John's on Oct 23 at 2 p.m. The Caring Circle is providing a small reception after the service for friends and family. If you can bring refreshments for the reception afterwards, please contact Nina Tolley.

People Books are here!

You can pick up your new copy of the People Book directory after service on Sunday(s). They can be found in the office in a box under the wall calendar (purple cover) If you are not able to come to church, e-mail Josie at office@stjohnsuu.org or call 961-1938 and she will mail you a copy.



Association Sunday

Once a year there is a special collection for support of our denomination. This year's Association Sunday will be Oct 31st. If you wish to contribute earmark a check and put it in the offering plate or mail an earmarked check to the church.

Note of Thanks

A big thank you for the birthday song, flowers, and the wonderful time I had on my birthday.

-Rosina Janus

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration
youthre@stjohnsuu.org, 961-1940

There are plenty o' things keeping us busy in RE! At our initial First Sunday of the year, October 3, we talked about how small things can make a big difference. Did you know that *Trick-or-Treat for Unicef* is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year—and that contributions of small change at Halloween have amounted to a whopping \$160 million over the years?! **St. John's will participate in *Trick-or-Treat for Unicef* this year—collection boxes will be available in RE classrooms beginning October 24.**

At First Sunday, we also emptied the nearly-full pop-tabs jar into the large collection bin. This project benefits Ronald McDonald House and the kids learned how RMH provides housing and comfort to families of seriously ill children. Last year alone, the Cincinnati chapter of RMH collected pop-tab donations equaling \$13,000. Small things DO indeed make a big difference! Rev. Tracy, Ethel Ingalls, and I are coordinating some programming related to RMH. Ethel is working on scheduling a RMH speaker for Adult Forum on a Sunday in November, Rev. Tracy will have the RMH speaker provide the "Story for All Ages" later that Sunday morning, and I will be arranging a visit to tour the Cincinnati Ronald McDonald House on the preceding Saturday so the children/youth of our church community can see firsthand how their contributions help others. As you might imagine, coordinating a variety of pieces to this programming is a little challenging! We have tentative dates, but are awaiting confirmation from the staff at RMH. Stay tuned to *The Reporter* as well as the weekly Enews for updates!!

Finally, our classrooms are super busy with their own special projects! YRUU and YADA are collaborating on an exciting "renovation" to the Wells room—their mutual meeting space upstairs.

And our 5th-6th grade class is kicking off the holiday season RE classroom service projects by hosting a "World Service Bazaar" on Sunday, November 21 in Krolfifer during coffee hour! (For more details on the Bazaar, see the announcement elsewhere in this issue.)

2010-11 RE Registration. Registration forms can be found in each RE classroom, on the RE bulletin board downstairs, and from the DRE.

The RE Committee welcomes new members, Diana Long & Flavia Bastos! We now boast a committee 8-members strong, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and a variety of experiences. We already are feeling more energy as a group!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to Howard Tolley & friends for setting up tables/chairs for First Sunday on October 3, and to my October First Sunday helpers—Trish Hoge, Kathy Laufman, Melanie Malaviya, and Connie Prairie!

Important Upcoming RE Dates—Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, Oct. 18: OWL Parent Orientation at First Unitarian Church, 7:00-9:30pm.

Sundays, Oct. 24 & 31: *Trick-or-Treat for Unicef* collection boxes available in classrooms.

Sunday, Oct. 24: Voices of Variety rehearsal, from 12:15-12:45pm in Rosa Parks.

Tuesday, Oct. 26: OWL Parent Orientation at Heritage UU Church, 7:00-9:30pm.

Sunday, Oct. 31: Kids--wear your costume to church for the traditional parade in the sanctuary during the Postlude. Also, class parties!

Got suggestions? Send me an email at youthre@stjohnsuu.org or give me a call at 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, October 17

- 10:00 am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00 am Service Time
- 12:15 pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
- 12:30 pm Taste of St. John's Meeting
- 12:30 pm REPORTER Collating
- 1:00 pm Krolfifer Sound Team
- 6:00 pm Search Committee

Monday, October 18

- 7:00 pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, October 19

- 10:00 am Yoga
- 7:00 pm Pete Altekruise Memorial Service/Reception
- 7:00 pm Speaking Peace
- 7:00 pm YADA

Wednesday, October 20

- 6:00 pm CMC Krolfifer OR Sanctuary
- 6:30 pm Board Meeting

Thursday, October 21

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

Saturday, October 23

- 10:00 am Worship Group
- 10:00 am Chalice Group Facilitators Group
- 2:00 pm Memorial Service/Reception Sue Sessum

Sunday, October 24

- 10:00 am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00 am Service Time
- 11:00 am YRUU in Krolfifer
- 12:15 pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
- 4:00 pm Breaking Free women of spirit
- 6:00 pm MUSE Board
- 6:00 pm Search Committee

Monday, October 25

- 7:00 pm Immigration What Happens to the Family

Tuesday, October 26

- 10:00 am Yoga
- 7:00 pm Adult RE Book-Louise May Alcott
- 7:00 pm Speaking Peace

Wednesday, October 27

- 6:00 pm CMC Krolfifer OR Sanctuary
- 6:00 pm Heartland District Workshop
- 6:30 pm Goddess Gathering Women's Group
- 7:00 pm Caring Circle

Thursday, October 28

- 10:00 am Meditation
- 5:00 pm REPORTER Deadline
- 6:00 pm Tai Chi
- 7:00 pm Wisdom Array
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 29

- 7:00 pm Game Night

Sunday, October 31

- 10:00 am Sunday Morning Forum
- 11:00 am Service Time
- 12:30 pm REPORTER Collating
- 4:00 pm Breaking Free Women of Spirit
- 6:00 pm Search Committee

From the ffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

The deadline for the written announcements for Sunday, Oct. 24th is 9 a.m. Tuesday Oct. 19, Josie will be out of the office on Thursday and Friday, Oct 21-22. There will be office coverage from 9 a.m.-noon.

Thank you to Emily Hodges for helping to collect information for the people book, and to Rick Prairie for dropping off and picking it up at the printers. Thanks to Kathy Laufman and Mira Rodwan for office coverage on Oct 21 and 22nd.

Thought of the Week

Human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.