

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 25, 2009

## Community Worship Services

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

### **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.

### **Sunday November 8 at 11:00am**

#### ***"St. John's and the Revolution for Racial Justice"***

Bruce Beisner, Aspirant for the UU Ministry

In the late 1800s, many Unitarians and Universalists across the country (and here in Cincinnati) were passionately involved in the Abolitionist movement. At that time, St. John's was an all-white, German-speaking liberal Protestant church. As a congregation we did not really begin to address issues of racial justice until the early 1960s. Bruce will share some reflections from a research project he conducted last winter about how St. John's has engaged in work for racial justice over its long history. How can knowing more about where we've come from help us grow in our commitment to justice and diversity today?

### **Sunday November 15 at 11:00am**

#### ***"My Two Uncles"***

the Rev. Denise Tracy

A service on perspective and choice of response.



### **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

### **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

bbeisner@advantext.com

### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

Thursday November 5

at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

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from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

Have you ever thought how your life might be different if Unitarian Universalism were not part of it? Think for a moment about the gifts of liberal religion. In our faith we are free to believe or to change our beliefs based on our understandings of life and our life experiences. No one can tell us we are wrong. No one can tell us we are going to hell or even to heaven or that we are not. We are able to create a faith that sustains our lives and improves the quality of our days.

I have been Unitarian Universalist all my life even though I was 21 when I discovered the Unitarian Universalist Association. What a gift this was for me! I felt at once cherished and at home! Since then I have been a campus minister, a hospital chaplain, a minister of a local congregation, a member of the UUA Staff, a church consultant and an Interim Minister. In every setting there have been supports for me as a professional and the people I serve.

We have hymnals, curriculum materials, justice and witness programs that bring our values into the world. We have resources for congregational strengthening and for individual searching. The UUA supports new congregations, programs to help us be more diverse, and programs like OWL (Our Whole Lives) that help us grow to be the best human beings we can be, at any age.

On November 1, we will be participating in "Association Sunday." This is a Sunday where we affirm our connection to the Unitarian Universalist Association. We will do this by giving everyone the opportunity to make a contribution to the UUA in a special offering. You may bring a check earmarked for "UUA Association Sunday" or there will be envelopes to put cash in. We will be taking this collection while the children are with us in worship, so that they may witness our generosity.

On November 1, we will take the time to affirm our connection the larger Association which affirms and sustains our faith. I hope you will make a contribution so that St John's can say "YES!" to our wider vision of a world where all are affirmed. Whatever you can give, will be appreciated. If everyone gives what they can, it will be sufficient.

Blessings and Thanks,

***Denise***

Interim Minister

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## **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

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### **LAFS (Lively After Fifty) Dinner**

The next LAFs dinner will be on Friday night November 13 at the Barnesburg Tavern and Grille (5761 Springdale Road in Colerain Township). We'll meet at 6:30pm in their party room. Please let LaDonna Fritz know that you are coming. And don't let "Friday the 13th" keep you away!

*-LaDonna Fritz*

### **Exploring UU Class**

This class was canceled in October and the new date is November 14 from 9:00am to noon. This is an opportunity for those new to the church, those considering membership, and recent visitors to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and St. John's. This will be a casual discussion with an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, take a tour of the churchbuilding, 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 Wednesday October 14. Call the church office at 513-961-1938 or contact Kathryn McDonough to reserve a place and to let us know your dietary and childcare needs.

*-The Membership Committee*

### **Think Spring!**

Come to St. John's this weekend and plant for spring. Tulips, crocuses, and other beautiful bulbs have been donated. Some bulbs have been donated specifically for Esme's Garden, and enhancement can be used everywhere. Come, make a difference in our landscape!

*-Krysta December*

### **Taste of St. John's Kick Off**

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*

### **Did You Enjoy Our First Soup and Bread Lunch?**

The Friends of Szentlaszlo surely hope you did enjoy the wonderful homemade soups and bread served at the recent October 11 luncheon. You'll be pleased to know that the luncheon raised \$340 for our partner Unitarian congregation in Romania. The money helps provide weekly bread to the elderly of the congregation. Thank you to everyone who helped make the luncheon such a success. Our next luncheon will be on Sunday November 8, so mark your calendars now and plan on attending! If you'd like to learn more about our partner church and St. John's Friends of Szentlaszlo, join us at our next meeting which will be held on Monday November 2 at 6:30pm at the church. We'll be discussing plans to celebrate in 2010 the Partner Church Program's 20th anniversary and St. John's partnership with the Unitarian Church of Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania, also of 20 years. Contact Tom Darner for more information about all the activities of this St. John's program.

*-Tom Darner*

## St. John's Music Series Concert

Join us for the next concert in this year's St. John's Music Series. The concert will feature the MUSE Women's Choir, under the direction of Dr. Catherine Roma, performing with writer and closet poet Kathy Y. Wilson and multi-instrumentalist Liz Wu. The program will be titled "Hope Sings Eternal: The Women Gather." Performances will be on Saturday November 14 at 8:00pm and Sunday November 15 at 3:00pm at St. John's. Tickets are \$15 (which admits one adult and one child) and are available at the door.

*-The Music Committee*

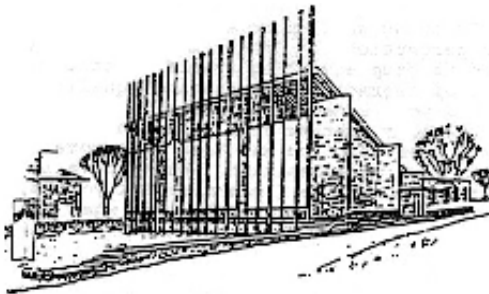
## Sunday Morning Adult Forums

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00am in the Darwin Room for our Adult Forums.

**November 1: Meatless Nutrition:** This forum is a requested follow-up to the one we had last year which explored the food portion of Cincinnati's Climate Protection Plan. The plan calls for Cincinnatians to eat one more meatless meal a week than has been their pattern. Lauren Niemes of the Nutrition Council will provide information and answer questions re: how we can do that and maintain the nutrition needed for good health.

**November 8** - No Forum is scheduled at this time. Watch the eNews or the bulletin board for updates. If you would like a forum discussion of a particular topic, please contact Ethel Ingalls or Pamela Wilz. All suggestions welcomed.

*-Ethel Ingalls*



## Adult Religious Education

### UU Roots in America - Drop-In

In November, we begin the 3-part series looking at how Unitarianism and Universalism got started in this country. We'll be using a DVD produced by our Tulsa church, featuring a number of current UU ministers giving fascinating background, starting with the arrival of the Pilgrims and going up through the Transcendentalists.

November 1 - How the European settlers created a climate where both democracy and liberal religion could take hold. We'll also learn how some of the earliest churches changed into Unitarian or Universalist ones.

November 8- Joseph Priestley, Thomas Jefferson, and William Ellery Channing.

November 15 – Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and the Transcendentalists.

We'll be meeting after church from 12:45pm-2pm. Bring a sack lunch if you'd like. No registration necessary - just join us downstairs in Darwin.

### Adult Classes - Registration required

**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 at 7pm and will run for four weeks. Nina Tolley will lead this group for beginning and experienced persons.

Please contact Carol Fencel to register.

*-The Adult RE Committee*

## Art Exhibit Opening Reception

All St. Johners are invited to the opening reception for our November exhibit by the 5300 Group. The opening will be on Sunday November 1, starting at 1pm in the Haehnle gallery.

*-Karen Fienberg*

# Among ourselves

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## Important Information Presented at Congregational Meeting on October 18

A five year history of congregational pledging and the budget forecast for the church year 2010- 2011 was presented. The current forecast projects a deficit. Based on the forecast the Settled Search Committee announced an extension of the search to two years, with the expectation that we will bring on a settled minister in church year 2011-2012. The Settled Search Committee will continue to update the congregation on their efforts. The Board will provide updates on how a second interim year will be filled in early 2010.

As a congregation now is the time to focus on our strengths: hospitality, creativity and compassion as the source for renewed energy in stewardship and community building. We have energetic and lively Membership and PR committees to help us. The Reverend Tracy has fresh ideas about Stewardship campaigns and has agreed to provide planning assistance to the campaign chair. Now's the time for all of us to be the change we would like to see at St. John's. Please get involved, our community needs you.

*-The Board of Trustees  
and Settled Search Committee*

## Crayons to Computers

This summer St. John's collected school supplies in a large carton. Crayons to Computers sent us a thank you for the 130 items, plus checks totaling \$70. We were part of an area-wide effort to help needy school children with educational tools as they started school this fall. Thanks to all who participated.

*-The Fencil/Villacis Family*

## Association Sunday

November 1 will be Association Sunday at St John's. A special, separate collection plate will be passed to benefit the UUA's *Growth in Diversity* work. This year, your generous contributions to Association Sunday will help to develop spiritual communities that are more welcoming to ALL people by: Expanding the *Building the World We Dream About* curriculum and associated resources; Supporting congregations who are working to create a Unitarian Universalism that is racially, culturally, and economically diverse; Enabling UU congregations and districts to minister effectively to youth and young adults who identify as people of color or multiracial, and to their families, in the areas of spiritual development, racial/cultural identity development, and leadership development. Please consider bringing a check for the UUA on Sunday November 1.

*-Ann Schuur, Mission Council Director*

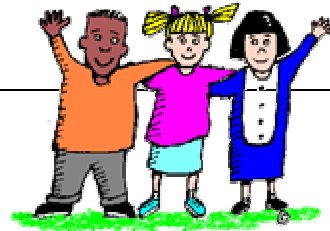
## Esme's Garden

You have probably seen a sign on the fence in the playground which announces Esme's Garden. Friends and family of Esme Kenny have joined together to create a small garden to keep Esme in our hearts and minds. As we see the flowers and bushes come into bloom they will attract lots of butterflies and bees so reminiscent of her spirit. Much to our surprise and delight, 190 new bulbs have been donated to extend the garden to other spaces around the church. Red tulips, purple dwarf japanese iris, crocuses and daffodils will brighten the walkways and beds all around our church home. They will need loving hands and heft to get them planted soon. If you have time in your busy life to help with this lovely and loving project please come to the church on Saturday October 31 at 10am with gloves to start the planting. If you have any concerns or questions, contact Barbara Hadden.

*-Barbara Hadden*

# RE-ally!

by *Ompoe Daboiku*  
St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Each Sunday after church is special time for me as I spend personal time with various members of the church. Several weeks ago, I was speaking with Cliff Shisler; we were discussing how valuable the time spent as coordinator of contemporary worship was to my role as DRE. Even though the early service was not a financial success, it provided an avenue for deep knowing as I learned the personalities of the planning team members and those who attended the service. At the time, I didn't know then that I was investing my time for a future responsibility.

Remember, Rev. Tracy's story about Emerson and his daughter's challenge for the best birthday gift? It was her father's time that his daughter craved; the gift of his time was the best gift ever. We know that our time is a precious commodity and how we choose to fill it reflects what we value. Our RE teachers value the nature of children's curiosity and want to support their spiritual growth; that's why they give of their time to teach and engage our children's imaginations. Our choir members value the gift of music and that's why some of their personal time is directed to attending rehearsals. As adults, we are in charge of our own time and we are usually in charge of our children's time, if we provide (control) transportation to and from the activities in which we want them to participate. And, we know that we, and our children, can form intense bonds within the communities where we invest our time. Team sports, bands, and cheerleading are all great examples of communities that form from being enthusiastic together, struggling to overcome adversities and celebrating success and victory.

The question for this month is: How do we engage our children in the life of our church so they become enthusiastic team members and want to spend some of their time at church giving back to the community that gives to them? Well, at St. John's numerous congregational surveys indicate that as a community, we value music – making music and listening to it. We are a musical bunch and many of our children take music lessons as a part of their weekly activities. Some might say, "If only there were opportunities for our children to share in the music of the church; if only there were a children's choir..." Well, there is a place for our children to share in our love of music; there is a children's choir. It's **our Voices of Variety!** Engage your child in conversation about the gift of their time. Ask them to reconsider their participation. Let them know that singing in V of V is a gift to the adults who wait eagerly for this time of year. I know that I'm looking forward to seeing them before the church all scrubbed and shiny in red, yellow and green!



## Super Final Friday Games Night and Fall Fest

Don't forget to mark your calendar for **Friday October 30th** from 7-10pm for our Super Final Friday Game Night and Fall Fest. Feel free to dress in costume, bring pumpkins to carve (with your own tools, please), and be prepared for lots of giggling. Please RSVP to the Malaviya Family.

## Board Meeting Summary

October 14, 2009

Decisions were all in the financial area this month:

- \* to return the remaining unused amount of \$388.99 from the Worship Opportunities Task Force Liability Fund to the Lorentz Property Fund.
- \* to file a claim for an injury at St. John's with our insurance company.

- \* to pay the remaining expenses for the Hergert Ordination reception out of the Board expense line item.

- \* to refine the policy on how the Settled Search Committee will access the funds needed

- \* to accept in concept the appointment of a Fiduciary agent as a backup for the Treasurer.

Discussions covered:

- \* definition of Special Project for Legacy Fund

- \* contracts with non-members who use the

- St. John's building

- \* movie license

- \* placement of outdoor ashtrays

- \* problems with unlocked doors other than on Sunday mornings

*-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary*

## New People Books

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 Josie Arens at 513-961-1938 and she will be happy to mail you one.

*-Josie Arens*

## Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for November 1 are: Barbara Gomes, Meg Harman and Bill Gordon.

Coffee hosts for November 8 are: Bev Harbaum, Ken Harbaum and Louise Gomer-Bangel.

Coffee hosts for November 15 are: Amy Martin and Jason Martin.

*-Kim Stein*

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## \$ The Finance Corner \$

Budget for 2009-2010	\$247,000
July-September Income	
Pledges	\$60,714
Plate and donations	2,528
Fundraisers	695
Other	<u>2,653</u>
	\$66,591
July-September Expenses	
Building and utilities	\$7,812
Salary	39,502
UUA dues	2,394
Other	<u>3,514</u>
	\$53,223

We received 32% of anticipated pledges for the year in the 1st quarter - Thank you!

Financial updates (balance sheets and income statements) are posted on a bulletin board to the right of the office door following each Board of Trustee meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Wed of each month). Reports from the Fund Trustees are posted quarterly.

*-The Finance Committee*

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## Thought of the Week

"We must judge others not by our light but by their own."

-WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Tuesday October 27**

10:00am: Yoga  
12:00pm: Leadership Development Comm.  
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 B. Beisner

## **Thursday October 29**

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

## **Friday October 30**

6:00pm: RE Fall Fest  
7:00pm: Game Night

## **Saturday October 31-Halloween**

6:00pm: Earth Spirit (at N. Hills Fellowship)

## **Sunday November 1-All Saint's Day**

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am: Adult RE Forum  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
and Children's Church  
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:45pm: Adult RE- UU Roots  
1:00pm: Art Reception  
1:00pm: Non Violent Communication  
6:00pm: Men's Group  
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## **Tuesday November 3-Election Day**

10:00am: Yoga  
7:00pm: Adult RE- Cakes for the Queen  
7:00pm: Book Group Discussion  
7:00pm: Young Adult Discussion & Action

## **Wednesday November 4**

10:00am: Chalice Group (Hadden)  
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Prairie)  
7:00pm: Membership Committee

## **Thursday November 5**

10:00am: Meditation  
5:00pm: Contact Center Volunteer Dinner  
5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter  
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## **Saturday November 7**

9:00am: Choir Retreat (at Grailville)

## **Sunday November 8**

10:00am: Adult RE Forum  
10:00am: Knitting for Peace  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
and Children's Religious Education  
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm : Partner Church Bread & Soup Lunch  
12:45pm: Adult RE- UU Roots  
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## **Tuesday November 10**

10:00am: Yoga  
7:00pm: 30s & 40s Group Discussion  
7:00pm: Adult RE- Menu for the Future

## **Wednesday November 11**

6:30pm: Executive Board Meeting  
7:00pm: Chalice Group (J. Strong)

## **Thursday November 12**

NO Meditation Today.  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## **Saturday November 14**

9:00am: Exploring UU  
10:30am: Chalice Group (Nunn)  
8:00pm: Music Series Concert

