

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

January 2, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

January 9 at 11:00 AM

"Good-bye 2010"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

This service is tradition for me. I review those famous folks who have died, and uplift their gifts. We will also read aloud names of those you know who have died during this year...these names will be given by members of the church during worship. During this worship service we will also commission the Search Committee.

January 16 at 11:00 AM

"The Woman and the Rock"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

This is the very first children's story I ever researched and wrote. It is about Prudence Crandall, an abolitionist Quaker from Connecticut, whose case, had it made it to the Supreme Court, could have changed the course of US history.

January 23 at 11:00 AM

"Are You Spiritual or Religious?"

The Rev. Denise Tracy

Spiritual Maturity: Part Two. There is a divide between those folks who go to church and those who do not. How do we think of church going? How do we talk of church and spirituality?

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

Mon-Fri 7:30am 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

January 13, 2011 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

I am in Chicago in the midst of a Christmas cold. I fought it off for over ten days and then it caught me on Dec 23rd. Wham!!! So now I am nestled in my jammies, watching old movies, sipping orange juice with honey zapped in the microwave (my Dad's sure cure for a cold) and enjoying the memories of the holiday. I suppose it is what my body needed, this cold and what my spirit has forced me to do...take a break to restore and heal...My body has forced me to do what my life could not. STOP!!! Take a Break!!!

I hope that you have had time to do these restorative things--- without getting sick. I hope also that your New Year will be a blessed one, filled with joys and the strength to meet any challenges that arise. Our church, St John's, will have an opportunity to meet a new minister and enter into a new relationship that will hopefully bring new possibility for our congregation.

My favorite Christmas reading is this...

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace to all,
to make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman

May it be so for us,
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

PAGE 2 The Reporter January 2, 2011

Opportunities & Invitations



SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

As we begin to put away the decorations and take one last look through our greeting cards, we remind you to dig out your Winter 2010 *UUWorld* and read the article on pg. 26, "Reclaiming Krypton." This article will be the focus of our next forum, **January 9th**, at 10am. Did you grow up with Buffy and the Power Rangers? Come and join our discussion. Is the time of "anything goes" over, as Doug Muder suggests? Are young adults looking to today's church for wisdom to rebuild our world and are they finding it?

-Ethel Ingalls

THE TASTE OF ST. JOHN'S - A SAMPLER

The main event has been postponed until April 16. However, to whet your appetite, a Sampler of Taste of St John's will be held during coffee hour on **January 23**. Please plan on attending. We'll have an extra special assortment of goodies to eat, and you'll have the opportunity to purchase tickets for services and dinners from fellow St Johners. All proceeds will go to the church operating budget.

-Ann Schuur

ST. JOHN'S PILGRIMAGE TO TRANSYLVANIA -



Itinerary Finalized!

The Friends of Szentlaszlo are pleased to announce the complete itinerary for the **May 23rd through June 4th** trip to our partner church in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania and to the historic Unitarian sites of Transylvania.

The group will spend 5 nights/4 days in the pastoral village of Szentlaszlo. Other stops will include Torda (where the first act of religious tolerance in Europe was signed in 1568), Kolozsvár (headquarters of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church), Gyulafehérvár (to see the 1,000 year old church which houses the tomb of Unitarian King Sigismund and his mother, Isabella), Sibiu (Saxon capital of Transylvania designated European capital of culture in 2007), Deva (to visit the citadel where Frances David was martyred), Peles Castle (summer palace of the Romanian royal family set high in the Carpathian Mountains), Sighisoara (medieval walled city built in the 12th century - a UNESCO world heritage site), and Biertan (a Saxon fortress church - also a UNESCO world heritage site). The group will fly into Bucharest, the Romanian capital, and fly out of Kolozsvár.

The tour logistics are being coordinated by the UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Service. The land package is \$1,175 double occupancy + \$150 registration fee. This price does not include airfare (est. \$1,500), gratuities, alcoholic beverages, or any expenses during free periods. The trip is open to all, young and not so young.

For more information, contact Tom or Mary Darner or, in the near future, check the St. John's web site.

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo

Reporter, January 2, 2011 PAGE 3

Adult RE

Upcoming One-Night Programs (No Registration Required)

Immigration: Workplace issues

The Cincinnati area has seen an increase in racial profiling directed at immigrants by police agencies recently. A coalition of religious and community organizations has formed to work with the immigrant community against this type of injustice. Several immigrant leaders will share their stories. Presenter will be Don Sherman, Director of the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center. This will be a one-session evening meeting on **Tues. Jan. 18.**

With One Voice Part Two

We will continue viewing and discussing this DVD we started in the fall. Leaders from many faiths talk about spirituality. It is not necessary to have attended Part One to come to this one session. It will be held on **Tues. evening, Jan. 25,** and is led by Ethel Ingalls and Nina Tolley.

-Adult RE Committee

Upcoming Classes (Registration required)

Registration for winter classes will be open Jan. 2nd & 9th, both before and after church, for our winter adult classes. It is also possible to register by e-mailing adultRE@stjohnsuu.org. The bookstore will also be available those two Sundays.

The following 3 classes require registration. Complete brochure descriptions are available at the Greeter's Table and at Registration, as well as on the church website.

1. Women's Dream Group

A women's group which will explore dreams in a safe and caring environment. The object is to build community, support, and a deeper understanding for personal growth and creative expression. The group, led by Mary Newman and Susan Rivers-Payne, will meet for 5 Sunday late afternoons, beginning on **Jan. 16.**

2. Articulating Your UU Faith

Do you find it hard to describe what a "UU" is? Wish you could put into words your experience here at St. John's to talk with your friends and family? We'll be having a class led by John Kachuba and Martha McLeod that may be just what you need. John and Martha are long-time UUs, and are using one of our curricula that former participants have found helpful. The class will meet for 5 Monday nights at St. John's, beginning **Jan. 17.**

3. Lighting the Lamp: Exploring the Psyche/Eros Myth

A myth is a story--it is universal; it is about all of us. It is personal; it is about you. Psyche means soul, breath, transformation. Through readings and discussion, we will explore what the myth of Psyche and Eros has to teach us individually. We will use ritual to bring it alive. This story asks you to listen to your soul and discover that which is eternal within you. Leader Pamela Wilz spent 6 years as part of the Diana's Grove Mystery School staff where she coached and mentored new leaders using mythology as a vehicle for personal growth. The class will be held on Tuesday evenings, for 6 sessions, starting on **Feb. 1.**

-Adult RE Committee

Among ourselves

LIBRARY NEWS

Non fundamentalist Christians, both those who remain in their mainline churches and those who have left, have a harder time explaining what they do believe about the Bible than what they don't believe. They are not Bible literalists but they are less clear about how they do see the origin and authenticity of the Bible, according to Marcus J. Borg, author of *Reading The Bible Again For The First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally*. This book is a recent addition to our St. Johns Library. It is easily readable by the lay person, blending the best of biblical scholarship with a profound concern for authentic faith and how it can be lived today. You can sign it out in the library on the clipboard you will find there.

Do you have a book or books you would like to donate to our church library? Consult the list posted on the wall in Krolfifer for guidelines to acceptable books. Take a few moments to browse through those we already have. The library is downstairs at the end of the hall. - *Ethel Ingalls*

LABEL YOUR BELONGINGS

In the name of cleanliness and holiness, there has been some closet cleaning at St John's. If you have belongings that you use for activities and they are not labeled, they are at risk. Label your stuff. If it is not labeled and put in a marked bin, it will be repurposed, moved or thrown away.

- *Denise Tracy*

RETREAT FOR THE WOMEN OF ST JOHN'S The Spirituality of Women's Friendships

The retreat will be held **Sunday, Jan 30th**, from 1:00 to 5:00pm, at Denise's house. Bring a dish to share. We will start by sharing food.

This event is open to the first 30 women who sign up. Call the church office to sign up. Participants will be given a short article to read in preparation for the retreat.

For those who have a conflict on Jan 30 (e.g. participants in the Dream Workshop), fear not – we expect to schedule a second retreat for those who were unable to make this one. - *Denise Tracy*

PARTNER CHURCH EVENTS

THE PARTNER CHURCH DINNER IS COMING: February 12th is this year's partner church dinner, which will again feature the jazz sounds of the group "Urban Experience" and a full dinner of Indian foods and selected wines.

Because this event only happens with the volunteer support of all St. Johners, please add your name on the volunteer sign up board which will be posted in Haenhle Hall starting this Sunday.

FRIENDS SOUP AND BREAD LUNCHEON:

The next luncheon will be **Sunday, January 9th**. We still need a few helpers for this event.

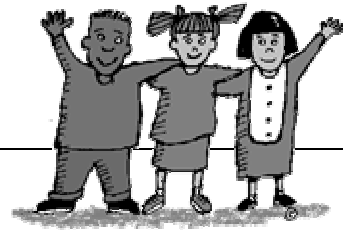
And if you'd like to learn more about the Friends of Szentlaszlo and be an active part of this social action program, join us at our next meeting which is scheduled for **Monday evening, January 10th**, 6:30 PM at the church.

-*The Friends of Szentlaszlo*

RE-flecti^ons

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



A theme we've been trying to emphasize in our RE program over the last nine months or so, is the importance of community. We are working hard to provide opportunities for our children and youth to learn and work with others both inside and outside of St. John's.

We don't want our kids' RE experiences to be limited to Sunday morning classroom programming. There are many ways we can encourage our children and youth to participate in activities that not only help the church thrive and grow, but allow them to meet people they might not normally interact with. One way our kids can help our greater church community is by volunteering to help with coffee hour. Rosina Janus, our wonderful kitchen and coffee hour coordinator, has been shouldering too much of the load of providing a welcoming coffee hour after every worship service. It would be awesome if some families would be willing to work together and help out on a Sunday of their choosing. Contact Rosina at 891-0913 if your family would like to provide this "gift" to St. John's. A second way that families can help is by volunteering for the annual Partner Church Dinner, scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2011. Help is always needed with room set-up, serving, kitchen prep and clean-up, etc. Contact Mary and Tom Darner at 429-2962 if you are interested. These helping opportunities are suitable for anyone ages 4 and up, so please consider lending a hand!!

A while back I received feedback from some adult members of the congregation that they appreciate what we've done to make our children and youth more "visible." We've tried to be more mindful about offering more multigenerational opportunities so that church members get to know one another, regardless of age. A helpful comment I received is that members would like kids to wear nametags. Rick Prairie, our official nametag guru, is working with me to ensure that every child/youth in our RE program has an "official" church nametag. They should all be ready within the next week or two, so look for them on the nametag board. Parents can help by encouraging their kids to wear their nametags!! Thanks!

Upcoming Schedule

January 7-8: OWL Gathering #2, hosted by St. John's. Overnight beginning on Friday at 6:00pm and ending on Saturday at 12pm.

January 23: OWL Gathering #3, hosted by St. John's. Sunday afternoon session from 1:00-5:30pm.

January 30: YRUU Clothing Sale in Krolfifer during coffee hour. Fundraiser to benefit the Wells Room renovation.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. . . . to Gingerbread House Party co-chairs, Amy Fletcher and Rebecca Siekbert; to Sarah Elmore for helping with A/V needs; to my RE holiday helpers—Connie Prairie, Dave Wilson, Ashley Armstrong, Erin Long, Alexandra Wilson, and Hannah Wilson; and to Maya Malaviya and Hannah Wilson for helping organize/prepare the holiday cards for mailing to our St. John's friends.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.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 T/W/Th 9:00am - 1:30pm.

The Reporter, January 2, 2011 — **PAGE 6**

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, January 2, 2011

6:00pm Men's Group

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm YADA

7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

6:30pm Goddess Gathering @ Linda Linker's

7:00pm Chalice Group Darner

Thursday, January 6, 2011

10:00am Meditation

6:00pm Music Committee Meeting

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Friday, January 7, 2011

4:30pm OWL Overnight

6:30pm OWL Gathering #2

Saturday, January 8, 2011

» 12:00pm OWL Gathering #2

10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)

2:00pm Memorial Service for Doris Marks

Sunday, January 9, 2011

9:30am Sound Team

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum

12:30pm Friends Luncheon

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

12:30pm Adult RE Registration and Bookstore

Monday, January 10, 2011

6:30pm Friends Szentlaszlo

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden

7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

Thursday, January 13, 2011

10:00am Meditation

5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Saturday, January 15, 2011

9:00am Dream Group

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators

Sunday, January 16, 2011

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women

Monday, January 17, 2011

7:00am MLK Day Office Closed

12:00pm LDC - Leadership Development Council
Library

7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group

7:00pm Immigration Talk (Adult RE)

7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2011

10:00am Meditation

6:00pm Tai Chi

7:00pm Choir

Friday, January 21, 2011

7:00pm Food for Thought Potluck

Saturday, January 22, 2011

9:00am Sound Team Training

10:00am Worship Arts Group

Sunday, January 23, 2011

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum

12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

12:30pm Taste of St John's - A Sampler

1:00pm OWL Gathering #3

4:00pm Adult RE Dreams for Women

7:00pm Men's Literary Group

Monday, January 24, 2011

7:00pm Articulating Your UU Faith

Thought of the Week

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace to all,
to make music in the heart.

-Howard Thurman