

St. John's

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220-1616

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Thought of the Week

"If I don't have time to live my life well the first time, when am I going to find the time to go back and live it over?"

—
-Robert Fulghum

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

September 19, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

Sunday, September 19, at 11 a.m.

"Little Temples of the Holy: The Theology of Robert Fulghum"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

He splashed into contemporary culture with his "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned In Kindergarten." This little poem began a new career for Fulghum, a UU minister. Learn about both him and his beliefs.

Sunday, September 26, at 11 a.m.

"Goodness"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This summer I read The Rev Desmond Tutu's new book "Made for Goodness." I was struck by his view of the world and it connected to me about why I believe in Original Blessing, not Original Sin.

October 3, 2010 at 11:00am

"What is Worship?"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

What do we do on Sunday Mornings? Is it worship? Do Unitarian Universalists worship? What do we hold sacred?

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

Summer Office Hours

Tues, Wed and Thurs

7:00am to 1:30pm

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

Thurs. September 30; 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

Our first Sunday of this church year was both joyful and full of energy! When the children came forward it seemed that the Sunday School had grown overnight...and it had. Over the summer we welcomed 19 new children into our program. The sanctuary was pleasantly full of young and old alike. The teacher dedication showed us how many people it takes to nourish our children. The musical piece sung by the choir was a wonderful uplifting rendition of "It Takes a Village." I was so happy to experience the congregation. I realize how much I missed the communication with you and the discipline of preaching and planning worship. I enjoy leading the worship experience at St John's!

The Worship Arts Committee has been discussing some feedback we have received about the growing number of times applause is being used to show appreciation during worship. There are those who see worship as sacred time and the applause interrupts their focus of introspection. So in the bulletin this week there will be the following request:

Applause...

For some in our congregation, worship is a spiritual experience or practice. Applause interferes with their ability to fully attend to the ceremony. After some discussion, the Worship Arts Committee requests that we try to use the applause of the hearing impaired community (lift your hands and wave, no sound is the result). Your understanding and co-operation would be appreciated.

Let's try this for a while and see if we can try to observe the practice of silent appreciation. We'll see how it goes...

Blessings to you,

Denise

Your Interim Minister



fans, and A/C room units left on. . .and more troubling—windows left open and doors left unlocked. When leaving a church area, please take the time to make sure it is properly secured. Thanks!

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, September 19

- 10:00am Adult Forum
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 12:30pm REPORTER Collating
- 12:30pm Adult RE Registration
- 12:30pm Communications Committee
- 5:00pm Earth Spirit
- 6:00pm Search Committee

Monday, September 20

- 6:30pm Friends of Szentlaszlo Meeting

Tuesday, September 21

- 10:00am Yoga
- 6:30pm OWL Planning Committee
- 7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, September 22

- COCC @ home of Tom Darner (time tba)
- 6:00pm CMC Krolfifer OR Sanctuary
- 7:00pm Caring Circle

Thursday, September 23

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

Friday, September 24

- 7:00pm Game Night

Saturday, September 25

- 10:00am Worship Group

Sunday, September 26

- 10:00am Adult Forum
- 11:00am Worship Service
- 11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer
- 12:15pm Member Picture Taking
- 12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
- 12:30pm Town Hall Meeting
- 12:30pm Adult RE Registration
- 6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, September 28

- 10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, September 29

- 6:30pm Goddess Gathering Women's Group

Thursday, September 30

- 9:00am Hang Art Show
- 10:00am Meditation
- 6:00pm Tai Chi
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 2

- 8:45am OWL Facilitator Orientation
- 7:00pm Peace Task Force - Little Town of Bethlehem

Sunday, October 3

- 10:00am Adult Forum
- 11:00am Service Time
- 11:00am RE First Sun
- 12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal
- 12:30pm REPORTER Collating

From the Office

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

The office door has been re-keyed.

If you are the contact for a group or committee and need access to the office - please contact Josie 961-1938 of office@stjohnsuu.org.

You will need to sign an office key form.

No keys will be given out to you until you contact Josie and make arrangements to sign the form and pick up key.

If anyone can volunteer to answer phones in the office for me on Friday Oct. 22 9am -noon please contact me and let me know. Thank you to Kathy Laufman who will be covering for me on Thursday Oct. 21.

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

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson
Director of Religious Exploration
beth8044@yahoo.com or 961-1940

WOW, what a great first week of the new RE year!! We had 55 kids in attendance—and there was a lot of excitement in the air!

Tapestry of Faith and Resources for Spiritual Journeys

I mentioned in my welcoming remarks last Sunday that one aspect of what makes the *Tapestry of Faith* series of curricula so exciting is the extra support it provides—in the form of “Take Home” sheets. It’s much more challenging to raise children in a faith that doesn’t have a creed or catechism. It means parents have to be more proactive in addressing their family’s beliefs and values and how they fit in the community in which they live. All of the *Tapestry of Faith* curricula can be found online at www.uua.org (just type in “tapestry of faith” in the search box).

You might also check out the St. John’s bookstore in Krolfifer, run by Carol Fencel (in conjunction with Adult RE registration) through September. She’s ordered some terrific books that might be helpful to parents as they support their children’s spiritual journeys. One book, *Tending the Flame: The Art of UU Parenting*, by Michele Richards, is receiving kudos. I’m in the midst of reading it myself . . . wish I’d had a book like this years ago! Michele had a blog on the UUA website to promote the release of the book. It proved so popular, the blog is now twice per month, at <http://blogs.uuworld.org/parenting/>.

2010-11 RE Registration Continues

Thanks so much to all of you for registering your children. Out of the 55 kids in attendance on Sunday, 89% of them were registered. That’s awesome! If you have not already registered your child(ren), please do so.

I am extending after-church registration in Haehnle through the end of September. Only one registration form is needed per family and it takes about 5 minutes to complete.

Why mandatory RE registration? It really helps us better serve everyone. We can make adjustments to class meeting spaces, accommodate special needs, plan for more classroom help, make sure we are serving safe snacks, get volunteer commitments, etc. (By the way, we are already doing all of these things due, in large part, to information gathered from the registration form!) We are asking every RE participant to be registered by the end of their third visit. Having contact information also allows the church to keep in touch with our RE families. It just makes sense and, I think, is a win-win for everyone. In addition to the September sign-up in Haehnle, registration forms are available at any time in all RE classrooms as well as from me.

Sunday, Sept. 19 and 26: RE registration in Haehnle.

Sunday, Sept. 26: First rehearsal of Voices of Variety, from 12:15-12:45 p.m. (see other article)

FINALLY. . . THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all the people who have volunteered for our RE programming this year. I’m excited about the direction we are headed and hope you are, too!

A “Gentle” Request

With increased RE attendance comes a little stress to our limited facilities. I ask that groups meeting in RE rooms before church (and this includes the library) please finish their meetings by 10:30 a.m. so that RE teachers have adequate time to set up their rooms prior to the 11 a.m. worship service. Know that our teachers are working hard to finish clean up in RE rooms after church. If you are using a RE room for an after-church meeting and the class teacher is still cleaning up, perhaps you could lend a hand. Cooperation and teamwork will go a long way in helping us manage this “happy problem!”

And a “Gentle” Reminder. . .

Building care and security issues continue. . .lights,

Opportunities & Invitations

Goddess Gathering

September’s Goddess Gathering will be at Chez Nora in Covington’s Main Strasse Village on September 29 – about 12 miles from St. John’s. Check out the menu on their website: <http://www.cheznora.com/>. If there are more than 20 guests, a limited menu will be provided to choose from. Please RSVP by Sunday, September 26, to Debbie Combs at deb.combs@fuse.net – the restaurant needs final numbers by Monday the 27th.

-Pamela Wilz

Tai Chi group to start up again

Through a simple repetition of movements representing images of nature, we learn to enjoy this ancient practice. We will learn the basics involved in the Five Elements.

Wear layered, loose clothing and non-treaded shoes. No prior experience necessary.

This is a drop-in group, with no registration necessary. It meets every Thursday, starting Sept. 30, from 6-6:50 p.m. in Krolfifer Hall.

Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy

-Carol Fencel

Adult Religious Education

Sign-up

If you are hoping to take a class here at St. John’s this fall, please make sure to register either Sunday Sept. 19 or at the very latest, Sunday Sept. 26.

Copies of the complete schedule are available online at www.stjohnsuu.org/ - click the link on the home page. The last Sunday to buy books will be the 26th as well.

-Carol Fencel

Photos for Picture Board

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures for the Picture Board on Sundays, September 26 and October 10, right after the service in the chapel. Pictures can be of individual, couples or families.

Labyrinth Workshop

Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne, a Veriditas-certified labyrinth facilitator, will be at Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road, on Sunday, October 3. In the morning Calen will lead worship service and then in the afternoon he will present a workshop on Sacred Geometry and Labyrinths. Northern Hills Fellowship has had a beautiful Cretan Classical Labyrinth in its backyard for about 12 years. Calen will talk about the history of labyrinths and other sacred spaces, including layout and design of labyrinths and spiritual practices using mandalas for meditation. There will be several options for movement depending on your abilities.

A “build your own taco or burrito” lunch with vegetarian options will be available around 12:30. The workshop will run approximately from 1:30 to 5 and will be held in the Quimby Room and outside (weather permitting). Since there are several labyrinths in the Cincinnati area, and we are inviting participants from these various communities, the workshop will be limited to about 80 persons on a first-come first-served basis. Suggested lunch donation is around \$5. The labyrinth workshop is on a free will offering basis. Childcare will be available by reservation. To register e-mail Mary Jean Pierson at MJPier0410@aol.com or call 513 697-7658.

Mary Jean Pierson

The Haehnle “Face Lift” team, a task force initiated by the Board, consists of Ann Hess Rundle (interior designer, LEED AP [accredited in green design]), Vivian Kline, Ted Chism, and Krysta December. The team has been working on a “wish list” of projects, with estimated budgets, to make the area safer, more welcoming and more useful.

The team solicited suggestions for the renovation from the congregation through an announcement in the Reporter and through board committees. The data was tallied by the team and identified needs were ranked in order from highest to lowest:

- 1) Safety/ADA* compliance (the team inserted this at the top as a given)
- 2) Seating in small groups (16-20 places)
- 3) Welcoming
- 4) Identify who we are/pamphlets
- 5) Nametag storage
- 6) Traffic flow
- 7) Art space
- 8) Lighting
- 9) Flooring
- 10) Signage
- 11) “Green”
- 12) Beauty
- 13) Storage (bulletin boards, clutter reduction)

*ADA refers to the Americans with Disabilities Act

The team has developed a list of possible solutions to these issues over the summer, with budgets. We are waiting for a couple of vendors to complete their estimates then will submit the “wish list” to the Board. Not all of the suggestions need to be accomplished at the same time.

The Board will review the proposal, present it to the congregation, solicit 51 signatures from members and submit a request to the Fund Trustees for approval of the expenditure.

Ann Hess Rundle, Ted Chism, Krysta December, Vivian Kline



Board Activity this Summer

The board of St. John’s has continued to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Although we’ve not taken many official votes, we have had some meaningful deep discussions on a variety of issues. We took a look at all the different ways our church supports social action, including discounted building rentals, joint efforts with other groups, special plate collections, as well as the many individual efforts of congregation members.

Our vice president, Jim McDonough, will be appointing a task force to make recommendations about how we handle special plate collections, realizing there are many different ways that other UU churches do this.

We have met with the Settled Search Committee updating them on board concerns and talking about the salary level to be offered for the settled minister. The concerns that were raised to the listening stewards during last spring’s pledge campaign were also discussed.

Our board retreat, facilitated by Rev. Joan Schneider, was a tremendous opportunity for us to spend valuable time together planning for this church year. We want to study ways to look at how our church is run, and are using Dan Hotchkiss’s book, *Governance and Ministry*, to guide us. We will continue to work together with Rev. Denise Tracy, to prepare for the future of St. John’s with a newly settled minister by this time next year.

- Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Among ourselves

Chalice Group registration

Registration has started for next year’s chalice groups. Please stop by and fill out a registration form after church on Sept. 19 or 26 if you would like to participate in a chalice group this year. Chalice groups are small (7–10 people) groups who meet once a month for discussions. Each meeting begins with opening words and a chalice lighting, and a check-in period that allows members to share events from their personal lives. Following this is the discussion of that month’s topic. Some topics used last year were: aging, our relationship with family, and dealing with difficult people. In addition, groups generally complete a short service project for the church or community during the year. Chalices provide a great opportunity for both new and established members to develop deeper relationships with others in the congregation. Please complete a form even if you participated last year. New groups will start meeting in October. For further information, see Judy Strong, Jim Nunn, or Bill Luerssen; or send email to chalicegroups@stjohnsuu.org. You can also learn more about the program at the church website – see the Small Group Ministry page under the Worship section.

<http://www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/worship/small-group-ministry>

*Judy Strong
coordinator for Chalice Group program*

Want to be a Sound Operator?

Would you enjoy sharing your time and talents to help with Sunday services? If so, please join the sound team. You’ll be trained to operate the sound system and contribute your time about one Sunday per month. Occasionally, we operate the sound system for other events at St. John’s. If you can help, contact Debbie Combs at (859) 781-2147 or stop by and talk with a sound operator after service any Sunday.

Debbie Combs

International Day of Nonviolence

On the International Day of Nonviolence, Saturday October 2, at 7:30 p.m., St. Johns will host an exclusive screening of “Little Town of Bethlehem” that recounts the inspiring true story of a Palestinian Muslim, a Palestinian Christian, and an Israeli Air Force pilot who choose nonviolence to break the cycle of fear, hatred, and killing. A discussion panel will include Rev. Troy Jackson, University Christian Church; Kathy Wise, Adath Israel; and Majed Dabdoub, Cincinnati, Council on American-Islamic Relations, CAIR.

- Howard Tolley, Jr.

Joys and Concerns

Anne and Ben Skove and family celebrated and grieved the 12th anniversary of their first son’s birth/death on August 29. His name was Nicholas Anthony Skove.

-Ann Schuur



First Soup & Bread Luncheon of the year, Oct. 10th

The church year has begun, and it's time for one of those great hot soup and bread luncheons sponsored by our partner church program, the Friends of Szentlaszlo. The first luncheon will be after the service on October 10 with additional luncheons coming on Nov. 14, Jan 9, Mar 13 and Apr 10. Mark these dates on your calendar now! The price for the lunch is only \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids 12 and under. What a deal! Remember, the proceeds from the luncheons buy bread for the elderly in our partner Unitarian congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. The luncheons are possible only with your help. If you're willing to make soup, provide bread, make a dessert or otherwise help with serving the lunch, please let Mary or Tom Darner know. These luncheons only happen with your support.

While you're marking your calendars, note that this year's Partner Church Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 12th. Look for an upcoming announcement on meetings for people interested in joining other St. John's members & friends traveling 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

Note of Thanks

Dear St. John's community, I was humbled and moved by your abundant "Goodbye" of cake and fellowship last month. You have been in my thoughts as I moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and have started here as the Consulting Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Southwest Michigan. I have just barely begun- my first service will be this Sunday, September 19th. I keep you in my thoughts and prayers as I continue in this year ahead. Thank you for your abundant spirit and habits of gratitude. *Cassie Howe*

The Reporter September 19, 2010

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 will begin 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 at 662-6690 or email rkmlb1@earthlink.net.



Extra RE Dates to know

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

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