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# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

December 19, 2010

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## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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**December 24 at 7 p.m.**

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This will be a traditional Christmas Eve service, with a children's story and a short homily called a "Gift or a Present." We will end with candles and Silent Night.

## Sunday Community Worship Services

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Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11 a.m. Child care is available.

**Dec. 26 at 11 a.m.**

***"A Solstice Service; the Return of the Light"***

Earth Spirit

St. John's Earth Spirit members bring us solstice stories from ancient peoples about the return of the light.

**Jan. 2 at 11 a.m.**

***"title"***

George Dersheimer

description of service

**Jan. 9 at 11 a.m.**

***"Good Bye 2010"***

the Rev. Denise Tracy

In this service we will look at those who died in this year and uplift their gifts to humanity. You get to shout it out. We will also collect names of those who have died in this past year and read them aloud.

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**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

### Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### 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 Dec. 30 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

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from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

Several of you asked me to write out what the elements of the 12 Days of Christmas stand for. Here they are.

Partridge in a Pear Tree : God  
Two Turtle Doves: The Old and New Testaments  
Three French Hens: Faith, Hope and Charity  
Four Calling Birds: Four Gospels/Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
Five Golden Rings: The Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible  
Six Geese a Laying: The Six Days of Creation  
Seven Swans a Swimming: Seven Sacraments  
Eight Maids a Milking: The Beatitudes  
Nine Ladies Dancing: The Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit  
Ten Lords a Leaping: The Ten Commandments  
Eleven Pipers Piping: The Eleven Faithful Disciples  
Twelve Drummers Drumming: The Twelve Points of the Apostles Creed

The story is told that in England from 1558-1829, when Catholicism was outlawed, this song was sung so people could remember their catechism. We sing it now, acting out the parts, to laugh and enjoy the frivolity of the holidays.

Thank you to everyone who played a role and who helped us end the Voices of Variety Sunday service to conclude with joy and laughter.

I wish you a blessed holiday season. May you find pleasure in the little things. And may some unexpected moment fill your heart to overflowing with both wonder and contentment.

Blessings,  
***Denise***  
Your Interim Minister

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## **Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers**

private line at church 513-961-1994,

Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

# pportunities & Invitations

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## **New Year's Day – Soup's On**

For the 14th year, the Fencls are inviting all church members and friends to start the New Year with your church friends. On Saturday, Jan. 1, from noon - 3 p.m. we'll have 3 big pots of soup, and you just need to bring something that will go with soup (salad, dessert, cheese, bread, etc - no alcohol please.) The party will be in the party room of the Hammond North condo, 5300 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati, 45224. There is free valet parking if you don't see a spot in the lot coming in, and children are welcome. No RSVP necessary, but for questions, call Carol and Dick. The room is handicapped accessible.

*Carol and Dick Fencl*

## **e-News editor opportunity**

Our terrific and talented current e-News editor is not able to continue creating/editing the weekly emailed newsletter after December. We are grateful to Janie Cashon for her time and skills. You, too, are likely terrific and talented. If you'd like to consider applying those talents to regularly letting other St. Johners know what's happening in the upcoming week, please contact Claire Wagner, or Joan Lane.

*-Communications team*

## **Margot Adler anyone?**

Margot Adler, Unitarian Universalist author, NPR reporter and Feminist Theologian is coming to a UU Women's Conference in Elkhart, Indiana the last weekend in February. The cost of the conference is about \$35. Our minister, Denise Tracy, is part of the planning group. If you are interested in attending, call her for information. This conference is open to all women. There is child care.

*Rev. Tracy*

## **UU're Home directory**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, can fulfill your dream. For 30 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The last paper edition will be published in April 2011, since most members now use the website exclusively, at a cost of only \$10 for a year's access to the current listings. For a copy of the 2011 paper directory plus a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

*- Vance and Jean Reese, publishers*



## **Adult Religious Education (Adult RE)**

Mark your calendars after reading this article for how you would like to be involved.

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](mailto:adultre@stjohnsuu.org). The bookstore will also be available those two Sundays.

The following classes will start early in the new year. Complete brochure descriptions will be available at the Greeter's Table and at Registration, as well as on the church website.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Immigration: Workplace issues**

The Cincinnati area has had an increase in racial profiling directed at immigrants by police agencies recently. Recently a coalition of religious and community organizations has formed to work with the immigrant community against this type of injustice. We hope to have several immigrant leaders

present to share their stories. Presenter will be Don Sherman, director of the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center. This will be a one-session evening meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 18.

### **With One Voice: Part Two**

We will continue viewing and discussing this DVD we started in the fall. Modern day mystics of many faiths discuss their experiences and share their comments. It is not necessary to have attended Part One to come to this one session. It will be held on Tuesday evening, Jan. 25, and is led by Ethel Ingalls and Nina Tolley.

### **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 Feb. 1.

### **Thursday Spiritual Practice groups - Meditation and Tai Chi**

Nina Tolley leads the daytime meditation group and Denise leads the evening Tai Chi group. Both of these are drop-in, with no registration needed.



# Among ourselves

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## Forums resume January 9

Thanks to Maria Yunker for a great forum on Non-Violent Communication (NVC) also called Compassionate Communication. Based on the book by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, Speak Peace, NVC in Cincinnati has several ways to learn more. There is a monthly meeting every third Thursday at Aquarius Star on Ludlow, from 7-9. Each meeting includes a brief introduction to NVC followed by discussion on a particular element of NVC, role plays and games. All are welcome, donations are accepted. Or type NVC Cincinnati into your Internet browser to find several websites. Maria may create an NVC group at St. Johns. Contact her for more details.

Forums are temporarily suspended for the holidays. They will resume on January 9 when we will be discussing the article titled Reclaiming Krypton from the Winter 2010 issue of our UUWorld magazine. If you are a member of St. Johns UU and do not get the UUWorld, contact Josie in the church office to start receiving it. If you are not a member and would like a copy of the article, notify the Adult RE department chairperson, Carol Fencl.

Have a safe and warm and happy holiday season.  
*Ethel Ingalls*

## Snow Shovelers Needed

Would you like to help make St. John's a safer place during the cold weather months? Join the snow shoveling crew. Contact Pete Asman for details. Thank you!

## Goddess Gathering

St. John's has a women's social group known as "the Goddess Gathering." We meet monthly to have a few laughs, get to know other women, and eat good food. Because of the busy-ness of the holiday season, we will not be meeting in December. However, we will be meeting early into the new year at Linda Linker's home in Wyoming for a potluck and a look at our plans for 2011. All women are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 5, at 6:30pm**. Bring food to share; Linda will supply drinks and desserts. If you would like wine for yourself, please feel free to bring it. To assure Linda gets enough desserts, please let her know by Jan. 2 if you plan to attend.

*-Pamela Wilz*

## Welcome new members!

During the Dec. 12 service we welcomed 19 new members who have joined St. John's over the last several months.

New members and their mentors are:

Chuck Perry	Bo Wachendorf
Nanda Araujo	Melanie Marsh
Nancy & Phil Henry	Debbie Combs
Linda Linker	Barbara Hadden
Milena Nelson & Amy Fletcher	Emily Hodges
Thomas Umfrid	Greg Terhune
Jean Lerma	Maria Yunker
Lisa Siders	Ruth Anne Wolfe
Melanie Mason	Rebecca Wick
Mary Lynne Schuster	Kathleen Smythe
Julianna Purnell	Craymon Maples
Carolyn von Allmen	Mary Darner
Marilyn Kircher	Nancy Colegrove
Dorothy Martin	Vivian Kline
Anna Daigle	Kari Olson
Amy Shaw	Penny Shada
John Fine	Our Entire Congregation

# RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

What a great job our kids did kicking off the holiday season at the Dec. 5 worship service! The Voices of Variety sounded fabulous and I know we were all appreciative of the roles our youth played in being readers, greeters, and ushers. I loved the rousing finale of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” and hope you did too!!

I’m also really proud of all the efforts of our RE classes as they worked (and continue working) on their service projects. We are blessed that our kids are led by such terrific and caring teachers and advisors! YRUU collected gifts for teens—an often overlooked group—to donate to CAIN’s holiday shop. Our PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade classes have made some lovely holiday cards to give to our shut-ins, as well as others in our congregation who might appreciate a “boost.” Our 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade class is also sponsoring the Mitten Tree this year. I think they’ve re-energized this effort: the tree is decked out in some spectacular decorations (know that there’s still room for more!!). The 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade class wrapped up its *World Service Bazaar* earning a whopping \$1,800 that will be donated to three charities. Word has it they can’t wait to start another project!

That’s part of what makes service projects so wonderful. They offer our kids an opportunity to live and practice their UU values while also building camaraderie within the group. Whether it’s providing warm wishes or a warm scarf, painting a meeting room, creating a publicity poster, or researching worthy non-profits—all of these experiences allow our kids to develop leadership skills and help others while building bonds with one another. It’s a win-win all around!!

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## Upcoming Special Holiday Schedule

**December 19: Adult Choir Choral Service.** Infant-toddler childcare available. No regular RE classes—children are encouraged to attend this multigenerational service. Activities, geared toward kids PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade, will be available in Rosa Parks. Older kids welcome to serve as helpers.

**December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.** At 7 p.m. Children welcome, but no childcare provided.

**December 26: RE teachers off.** Infant-toddler childcare available. Activities, geared toward kids PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade, will be available in Rosa Parks. Older kids welcome to serve as helpers.

**January 2: First Sunday.** Our regular RE schedule resumes.



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU ...** to RE Greeter Jan Hay; to Steve Roth for his continued A/V assistance in Jefferson (we now have sound so the worship service can be heard in the infant-toddler room); to Judy Buxton, Josie Arens, and Rick Prairie for their financial help and advice to keep our many fundraising projects straight; and to everyone who collected and/or contributed to Trick-or-Treat for Unicef (a total of \$216.32 was donated)!

Got suggestions? Send me an email ([youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto: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 Tu/Wed/Thu from 9 a.m-1:30 p.m.



## Church Calendar

Sunday, December 19  
11:00 am Choral Service  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
2:00pm Search Committee

Monday, December 20  
12:00pm LDC Leadership Development  
7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, December 21  
10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, December 22  
6:30pm Goddess Gathering

Thursday, December 23  
10:00am Meditation  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 24  
7:00am Office closed  
7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 25  
7:00am Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 26  
11:00am No RE classes.  
11:00am Service  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

Tuesday, December 28  
10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, December 29  
6:30pm Goddess Gathering

Thursday, December 30  
7:00am Office closed  
10:00am Meditation  
5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE  
6:00pm NO Tai Chi this week

Friday, December 31  
7:00am Office closed  
7:00pm Game Night

Saturday, January 1, 2011  
12:00pm Soup's On Party, 5300 Hamilton Ave

Sunday, January 2, 2011  
11:00am Service, RE First Sunday  
12:30pm Adult RE Registration & Bookstore  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
6:00pm Men's Group

Tuesday, January 4, 2011  
10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm YADA  
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

Wednesday, January 5, 2011  
7:00pm Chalice Group Darner  
7:00pm Membership

Thursday, January 6  
10:00am Meditation  
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Choir

Friday, January 7  
4:30pm OWL Over night  
6:30pm OWL Gathering #2

Saturday, January 8  
12:00pm OWL Gathering #2  
10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)

Sunday, January 9  
9:30am Sound Team  
10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00am Service  
12:30pm Friends Luncheon  
12:30pm Adult RE Registration and Bookstore  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

## From the ffice

*By Josie Arens  
St. John's Office Administrator*

Wishing all the board, staff, members and friends of St. John's Happy Holidays and a Blessed New Year. Josie will be out of the office on Friday Dec 24, Thursday and Friday Dec. 30 & 31.

# Thoughts of the Week

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“Let no pleasure tempt thee, no profit allure thee, no persuasion move thee, to do anything which thou knowest to be evil; so shalt thou always live jollity; for a good conscience is a continual Christmas.”

*-Benjamin Franklin*

To strip human nature until its divine attributes are made clear, to inform ordinary activities with spiritual fervor, to give wings of eternity to that which is most ephemeral; to make divine things human and human things divine; such is Bach...”

*-Pablo Cassals*