

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 28, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 10:30am (summer); 11:00am starting Sept. 11. Child care is available.

August 28 at 10:30 a.m.

"How Then Shall We Lead? Re-imagining Leadership in a Time of Crisis"

Mary Pierce Brosmer, Consulting for (a) Change, LLC. Based on an excerpt from her book, *Women Writing for (a) Change: A Guide for Creative Transformation*, (Notre Dame, 2009) Mary will share stories, poems and reflections toward a theory and practice of transformational leadership.

September 4 at 10:30 a.m.

"Standing on the Side of Love"

Community Worship Service. Frances May Brooks, Edie Holder, Kathryn & Jim McDonough, and Scott Roberts present their experiences of General Assembly, Charlotte, South Carolina, June 2011.

September 11 at 11:00 a.m.

"Hello/Goodbye" Reverend Helen Carroll

Hello - Family, furniture, pets and stuff have followed me across the country to settle in a new home in Cincinnati. We are mostly unpacked, mostly moved in, mostly acquainted with local amenities and mostly ready to begin a new year. And Goodbye - As I prepare to leave you, we have covenants to experience and plans to explore.

September 18 at 11:00 a.m.

"This Old House" Reverend Helen Carroll

Loren Mean wrote, "It is one thing to hire a new pastor. It is quite another thing for a congregation to enter a commitment to a new ordained leader and the possibility of new tasks and missions." It will take all of us, working together, to grow into a new vision of who we are to become. Hard, exciting, fun, exhausting, exhilarating work!

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. Helen Carroll

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

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Church Office Hours

Mon-Fri 7:00am to 2pm

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Next Newsletter Deadline

Wed September 7 at 5 pm

mUUings

from Rev. Helen Carroll



Greetings from your interim minister.

Family, furniture, pets and stuff have followed me across the country to settle in a new home in Cincinnati. My husband, Rob, and I are mostly unpacked, mostly moved in, mostly acquainted with local amenities and are mostly ready to begin a new year. To all of you who have extended warm greetings and helpful hints, my deepest thanks.

As a church community we are growing and stretching. This year, we continue the work of nurturing one another, being a witness and instrument for social justice, and exploring our ethical and spiritual connections. Together new members and friends join old-timers on committees, in worship and religious exploration, and over casual coffee and conversation. We have much to celebrate. And still, change is in the air.

How could it be otherwise? With the ending of a successful long-term ministry and a two-year interim, we are continuing a time of transition – a time for looking deeply at our history and becoming clear about who we are. That kind of reflection will lead us to shifts. There will be changes in what we do and how we do it. Likely, there will be new hands for old tasks as well as familiar voices in new roles. Our connection to the wider Unitarian Universalist world will strengthen. Yet, most exciting of all is the commitment to new leadership and a new future that will come out of this transition time.

Loren Mean wrote, “It is one thing to hire a new pastor. It is quite another thing for a congregation to enter a commitment to a new ordained leader and the possibility of new tasks and missions.” It will take all of us, working together, to grow into a new vision of who we are to become. Hard, exciting, fun, exhausting, exhilarating work!

All this change is both invigorating and exhausting, sometimes rewarding and sometimes unsettling. Growth is like that – a combination of embracing strengths, working through challenges and moving into the next stage. May we begin this time of transition patient with one another, remembering the past, honoring the present, and envisioning the future.

Faithfully, Helen (961-1994 or email minister@stjohnsuu.org)

Note: My regular office hours are 10 – 1, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Other times are available by appointment. My day off is Monday.

Opportunities and Thanks



Celebration! Sunday September 4th

Plan on attending a special celebration for Larry Wolf's 90 birthday during coffee hour on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011. Help us shower Larry with love on his special day. If you are interested in bringing finger food to share, please notify Ann Schuur. Cake will be provided.

LIVELY AFTER FIFTY

The LAFs group (Lively After Fifty) is a social group for St. Johners and their friends who are close to or over 50 years of age. We welcome newcomers and old friends as well. We usually meet the second Friday of the month for dinner though we have had a summer break.

Our next event will be 6:30 PM on Friday, September 9. We hope you can join us at **Wild Ginger (3655 Edwards Rd.) in Hyde Park**. We'll be in the back room where we hope to have a quieter space for conversation. Reservations are required. Please contact Jan Hay by Thursday, 9/8 at 9:30 PM. Remind me to give you a parking hint or let me know if you want to arrange carpooling. ~ Jan Hay

Memorial Garden Welcomes Hands on Saturday, September 17th

Volunteers are needed Saturday, September 17 at 10 AM to move a few small plants, pull up impatiens, plant 4 small shrubs and 3 grasses, and tidy up the planting beds. Many hands will make less work for everyone. Even a small amount of your time will be greatly appreciated by your St. John's friends.

Please contact Linda Linker if you are willing to help with your Memorial Garden on September 17. A sign-up sheet will also be in the lobby. Rain date will be September 24. Many thanks to all of you who have helped this year.

~ Linda Linker

Children & Youth RE-minders!!

1: RE Teacher Orientation—Saturday, August 27 from 9:30am-12:00pm.

2: Registration for 2011-12 Religious Exploration program is underway. See the table in Haehnle before/after worship service from now thru September 18. For planning and safety reasons, **ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH** (birth thru high school) must be registered to participate in our RE program.

3: RE teachers needed! Still seeking TWO teachers for our 4th-5th grade class, who will study world religions with the much-loved curriculum, Holidays and Holy Days. Contact DRE Elizabeth Wilson at youthre@stjohnsuo.org to receive additional information.

4: 2011-12 RE programming year kicks off on Sunday, September 11. Until then, Summer RE continues for kids in grades PreK-4th grade in Rosa Parks. Elizabeth Wilson

Adult Classes for the Fall

The Adult Religious Education Committee has been working on our fall class schedule.

Some of the never-before-offered classes will be:

- Crime and Punishment in the U.S. dealing with the questions of punishment vs. rehabilitation, looking at it from a social justice perspective, led by Ethel Ingalls (3 sessions)
- Immigration as a Moral Issue, based on our UUA curriculum, led by Marty Harrington (4 sessions)
- Not Fit for Our Society: Immigration and Nativism in America, led by Howard Tolley (3 sessions)
- What Moves Us - UU Theology, a UU Tapestry of Faith program, led by Carol Fencl (5 sessions)
- Three workshops by the Caring Circle: Vision Loss, Hearing Loss, Art of Self Care

Continuing programs will include:

- Meditation, led by Nina Tolley.
- Tai Chi, with Nan Fox as the new leader.
- Food for Thought, a bi-monthly movie series based on thought-provoking movies - this year branching out from the food theme. Leaders are Bo Wachendorf and Greg Terhune.

Our before-church Sunday morning Forums will resume on Sept. 18.

Some classes require registration; others are drop-in. The full brochure will be available in the next Reporter. Class Registration will be Sept. 18 & 25.

~ Carol Fencl

Sunday Morning Adult Forums *It takes a village.....*

Did you know that Ethel Ingalls has been single-handedly planning, getting speakers, advertising, setting up, and breaking down the Sunday morning adult forums for the past two and a half years?

It's been a huge job that most of us have not recognized. Finally, Ethel will have help, as a committee has been formed to handle the various responsibilities associated with this important aspect of Sundays at St. John's.

This committee is in the process of confirming topics and presenters for the next few months, and your input is welcome. If you have ideas for a speaker or dialogue, please contact Carol Fencl, John Kachuba, Ethel Ingalls, or Nancy Henry, or email adultre@stjohnsuu.org.

Mark your calendar for September 18 when an exciting year of forums will begin at 10:00 AM.
~Nancy Henry

Congregational Monthly Mailing from the Heartland District

Ministers, DREs, church administrators, executive directors, newsletter editors, presidents, treasurers, social justice and denominational affairs people will receive this monthly congregational mailing electronically.

We encourage you to share this information with others in your congregation. The mailing can also be found on the District's website at www.heartlanduu.org (see *Newsletter* in left side menu).

Spirit of Life. . .Come to RE (or, The Joys of Being a RE Teacher)!

With the beginning of our children & youth RE program just around the corner, we are still short several critical teachers and youth advisors. We still need 2 teachers in our 4th-5th grade classroom and at least one additional YRUU (high school) advisor.

One of the reasons our RE program requires a lot of volunteers is so we can tailor the volunteer opportunity to fit individual needs:

- Every teacher should be able to attend a minimum of 2 worship services a month (**I try to set things up so a teacher needs to lead/prepare for a class only once/month**). Our RE teachers can go on extended breaks if need be (e.g., long winter vacations).
- LOTS of support is available from your DRE and fellow teachers; and, most importantly, you are not expected to be an expert—either about UUism or in your teaching skills—you get to learn right along with our kids!!!

Here are a few beautiful statements we shared at a recent RE Committee meeting:

- If you want to find out how awesome our future is, get to know our kids!
- Making a difference in a child's life.
- Learning from a child—kids say the most insightful things!
- A feeling of connecting with others on a deeper level.
- Building relationships with co-teachers. My BFFs in the church are people I have taught with.
- Service is our prayer.

If you've ever considered being a part of our program, I invite you to learn more about becoming a part of our RE teaching team. Contact me at youthre@stjohnsuu.org or 513-961-1940 to learn more. ~ *Elizabeth Wilson, DRE*

Plate Collections Task Force

Last year the Board decided to set up a study group to examine how St. John's does the special plate collections for various causes - natural disasters, UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) projects, local charities, etc.

The group has met, come up with some recommendations, and will plan to hold a meeting this fall as a way to provide wider congregational input on this topic.

Eventually it is hoped that a new policy for plate collections will be presented to the Board for approval. Watch the Reporter for more details. ~*Frances May Brooks, Mission Council Director*

Caring Circle

St John's Caring Circle are the people to call for a ride to church or to the doctor, or just telephone support for a medical problem.

Committee co-chair Nina Tolley is the person to contact. Kathryn McDonough is now on a leave of absence, due to her shoulder surgery. If you cannot reach Nina, please call Josie at the church office, and she will forward your request on to another Caring Circle member.

Please call Rev Helen Carroll, 513-961-1994, or the church office if you have an emergency that requires a minister's attention.

From the fffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Please note: The church calendar is getting very full with activities - If you have scheduled something in the past but that activity was cancelled or has been changed, I need to know that. Please keep me informed.

I will be out of the office on Friday Sept 2 (vacation day) and Monday Sept 5 (Labor Day Holiday). Have a fun and safe holiday!

I am having minor knee surgery on Wed Sept 28th and will be out of office on the 28, 29, 30. If anyone can cover office phones on the 28 or 29 please let me know (9am-noon) I will be able to work from home on Friday the 30th - check phones/ emails etc.

I will be back in the office on Monday Oct 3rd - but office hours may be adjusted a little to accommodate my PT appointments.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Carol Fencl whose mother, Phyllis Deer, died Wednesday, August 24, in hospice in Schenectady, New York. Phyllis was a long-time leader in the work of the American Baptist across the country.

Thank You

I would like to thank all of you who hosted a summer potluck: Vivian Kline, Linda and Jack Linker, Linda Heath and Cliff Shisler, Nina and Howard Tolley and Jan Hay and George Dershimer.

The potlucks were well attended and I hope everyone enjoyed the good food and the company of others from the St. John's Community. Thanks to everyone who made this a success. ~ *LaDonna Fritz*

Please save the date, September 25th!

Rev. Barbara Child, the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the southern half of the Heartland UU District, will be leading a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 25th to begin the work of finding a settled minister. She will lead a workshop/meeting from 12:15 - 2:00 with all of the congregation and a Board specific meeting from 2:15 - 4:00. This is a very important meeting and will set the stage for the selection of a new search committee. I hope that you will make every effort to attend. More information to follow.

~ *Jim McDonough*

Congratulations

Congratulations and a temporary farewell to Tom Umfrid who travels on Friday, August 24, to Hong Kong where he will be teaching and working his wonders with theater set design for two years, while on sabbatical from his position at UC.

~ *Emily Hodges*

John Fine's Unveiling Ceremony

For several months, the Fine family had been planning for an unveiling ceremony (part of the Jewish tradition) for John Fine. It was to be held on September 12. The word of that ceremony was distributed to many of John's friends at St. John's.

Unfortunately, the family is going to have to postpone the ceremony until sometime in the spring. They will let us know the exact date when they are able to determine what it is. ~ *Dick Fencl*

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St. John's Board envisions stronger future

Led by new interim minister Rev. Helen Carroll, St. John's board of trustees participated in a retreat Aug. 19-20 that included an agreement to review the congregation's policies and procedures and devise more welcoming and productive means going forward.

The current board, made of elected officers and council directors, chose to immediately take on the self-reform of becoming a vision-led board. We believe this is needed at St. John's and will do our best to allow ourselves to better set and implement a vision.

Our first steps were to split the board temporarily into two teams: a visionary team and an implementation team, each with a list of to-dos for the next four weeks. Rev. Carroll is taking on a crucial task on the visionary team, which includes meeting with at least 50 congregation members to get to know us, our experiences and our desires for St. John's.

Among tasks the visionary team will work on:

- Identify factual and ideological inconsistencies in policies
- Determine communication methods for maintaining policy documents in an open manner
- Begin to develop the congregational visioning process: What do we care about? Are our core values expressed in our procedures and policies? In what direction are we headed?

The board implementation planning team will create an active implementation team to include representation from each council, though not necessarily the council directors (see front of our People Book to review councils and committees). This team will be asked to

- Identify well functioning committees and those that may need to transition
- Review committee structures and council structures. For instance, what if it's more efficient to combine two committees and place them thematically in a different group or council?

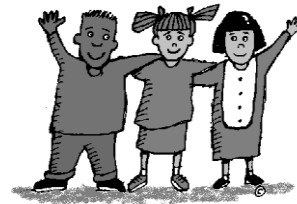
Through these steps, this team will be empowered to suggest reforms that make best use of congregational skills and energy, especially in matching programming goals and budgetary potential.

These first steps start us down the path to creating our vision. Once defined, the board and its teams intend communication about our vision to carry down, across and up various paths so that as a congregation, we know "where we're going."

If you are contacted for an interview by Rev. Carroll, or to participate in revising committee structure or related visioning activities, please know you will be helping shape St. John's not only to be a stronger congregation, but to be in a healthier condition to welcome a settled minister. ~ *Claire Wagner*

RE-flecti⊕ns

By Elizabeth Wilson
St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Summer RE Update

Our busy “travels” in Summer RE are winding down. On August 21, Nina Tolley led us on a delightful trip to South Africa. Be sure to ask your kids about Nelson Mandela, the clicking noise that’s often heard in South African music, and how to say “Good Morning”! Our summer journeys will end on August 28 with a trip to India and then we’ll conclude our program with an end-of-summer celebration—Super Sundae Sunday—on September 4.

Coming Soon. . .2011-12 RE Programming Year!

Our new RE year will begin on Sunday, September 11. Everyone will start in worship, as usual, and then go to classrooms when sung out. Some children will move to a new classroom with new teachers. Don’t worry. . .there will be plenty of help getting them where they need to be. Class configurations for the year will be: PreK-Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grades, 4th-5th grades, 6th-8th grades, and YRUU (senior high). (Childcare for kids ages birth-3 will continue in Jefferson.)

For most classes (1st-8th grades), the focus of their curricula will be World Religions. Our PreK-Kindergarten class will learn about the UU 7 Principles. YRUU will examine their personal faith journeys in the context of UUism, with the end goal being the ability to better articulate their own UU faith and beliefs.

In order to participate in our RE program, ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH (birth thru 12th grade) must complete a registration form. Only one form is needed per family. Requiring mandatory registration helps us plan for optimum classroom management as well as for safety issues (such as food allergies, medical/behavioral needs, etc.). Registration forms are available in Haehnle before and after worship—it only takes about 5 minutes to complete a form!

RE Parent Orientation—Sunday, September 18

The RE Committee would like to invite parents/grandparents (and anyone interested in our RE program!), to join us for a 45-minute informational session after worship service on September 18. You’ll learn more details about our RE program, including what we’re planning for the year, and then you’ll be able to meet your child(ren)’s RE teachers and view class curriculum. Snacks will be provided and childcare will be available.

Note these IMPORTANT DATES!

Ongoing thru Sept. 18: 2011-12 RE registration in Haehnle.

September 3: YRUU all-day picnic at Keehner Park.

September 4: “Super Sundae Sunday”—an end-of-summer celebration!

September 11: First day of 2011-12 programming year.

September 18: RE Parent Orientation meeting following the worship service.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940 (church office)). DRE church office hours are Tue/Wed/Thurs 9:00am-1:30pm and by appt.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, August 28

10:30am Summer Service Time
12:00pm YAL Young Adult Lunch (Clifton location)

Tuesday, August 30

10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, August 31

5:00pm eNews Deadline

Thursday, September 1

10:00am Meditation
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting

Sunday, September 4

10:30am Summer Service Time
11:30am Coffee Larry Wolf 90th BD celebration

Tuesday, September 6

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA(Young Adult Discussion & Action)
7:00pm Book Group (Nina Tolley)

Wednesday, September 7

5:00pm eNews Deadline
5:00pm Reporter Deadline
7:00pm Sound Team - Sanctuary

Thursday, September 8

10:00am Meditation
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 10

8:30am UU Council Meeting (Karolyn Schalk)
9:30am Sound Team Meeting - Library or Sanctuary

6:00pm Taste Event @ home of McDonoughs

Sunday, September 11

11:00am Service
11:00am First Day of 2011/12 RE Program
12:00pm YAL Young Adult Lunch (Clifton location)
6:00pm Men's Group - Krolfifer/Kitchen
7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

Tuesday, September 13

10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, September 14

5:00pm eNews Deadline
7:00pm Membership Committee @ Home of Nancy Colegrove

Thursday, September 15

10:00am Meditation
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 16

6:30pm Food For Thought Movie/Potluck

Saturday, September 17

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators

Sunday, September 18

9:00am Rachel Recital Rehearsal - Sanctuary
11:00am Service
12:15pm RE Parent Orientation - Krolfifer
12:15pm Adult RE Registration
12:30pm Leadership Development Council
12:30pm RE Parents Meeting
4:00pm Earth Spirit

Tuesday, September 20

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA(Young Adult Discussion & Action)

Wednesday, September 21

5:00pm eNews Deadline
5:00pm Reporter Deadline
6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, September 22

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

Saturday, September 24

9:00am Coffee Hour Introduction (refreshments provided)
6:00pm Taste event @ home of Miller/Meyer

Sunday, September 25

11:00am Service
12:00pm YAL Young Adult Lunch (Clifton location)
12:15pm Adult RE Registration/Bookstore
7:00pm Young Adult Jam

Thought of the Week

"Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely.
The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt