

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

December 18, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

Dec 18, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

"At the Gateway of the Year" Choral Service

Based on the music and lyrics of Malcolm Dalglish's *Hymnody of Earth*, this worship service will celebrate the complex themes of the Solstice season. Through the music of Voices of Variety (St. John's youth choir), St. John's Adult Choir and MUSE (Cincinnati's Women's Choir), we'll experience the power of the earth's turning through the dark of winter into the light of a new season.

Christmas Eve, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

"Lessons and Carols for Christmas" Rev. Helen Carroll

As civil rights leader and theologian Howard Thurman reminds us, the Christmas season is a time of joy despite all sadness, a time of hope where despair keeps watch, a time of courage where fear is ever present, and a time of peace for tempest-tossed days. On Christmas Eve we gather to remember the spirit of the season. In this service of readings, reflections and seasonal music we'll celebrate the themes of Christmas within our lives, our community and our world.

Christmas Morning, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

In this festival season, we celebrate the wonder of the holiday. Together we'll hear again the enduring stories and sing the familiar songs of hope and love and joy that are the warmth of Christmas. Join us for a UU celebration of carols and readings.



Jan 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

"This Is My Song"

The New Year's Day service welcomes three members of the congregation whose lives have been affected in meaningful ways by music. Karolyn Schalk, Manuel Susarret and Kari Olsen will share their stories with us.

Jan 8, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

"Another Year, Another Year" Rev. Helen Carroll

Here we stand at the dawning of a new year – a year that will be the best of times and the worst of times (to borrow from Mr. Dickens). We are well advised to learn from the past so that our steps might take us into a brighter future.

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

Ministerial Intern

Amy Shaw

Caretaker

Tim Johnson

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

M-F 7:00am to 2:00pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News Submissions

office@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Wed Jan 4 at 5 pm



mUUsings *from Rev. Helen Carroll*

A number of years ago, I discovered this paragraph about the meaning of Christmas – a paragraph I want to share with you.

- Every time a hand reaches out to help another
... that is Christmas.
- Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding
... that is Christmas.
- Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other ... that is Christmas.



The words have stayed with me through holiday seasons filled with the push/pull of commercialism and the hard lessons of changing relationships. I find myself comforted by the reminder that Christmas is about living our love for one another even in the most challenging settings. A reminder that a child was born in a remote part of the Roman Empire and grew up to teach all those who would listen that love freely given transforms us.

It's sometimes easier to be my "humbug" self, waxing cynical about the trials of life and pointing out the very real tragedy that surrounds us. Yet, the Christmas season invites us to our kinder, more loving selves.

May this Christmas bring us closer to the blessing of peace and closer to the spirit of unconditional love.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

Rev. Helen

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

If you're looking for the minister ... I'll be attending Meadville Lombard's January Learning Convocation from **January 3 – 6**. The seminary hosts a workshop each January for teaching pastors and their interns and this year we'll be meeting in the school's new home on S. Michigan Ave in Chicago. For emergencies, Contact Josie Arens, our office administrator, at 513-961-1938, and she will be in touch with me.

Sunday, December 18 – It's time! Return those **Guest at Your Table** Boxes filled to the brim with monies to support the work of the UU Service Committee in the U.S. and around the globe.



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT UU?

Save the date of **Friday, Jan 27** at 7PM for dessert and an informal discussion with Rev. Carroll. "UU for U" is especially for new members or people considering joining St. John's. For more info, contact Jan Hay.



'Tis The Season ...

and this December there's something for everyone here at St. John's. We'll gather to celebrate, to worship, to sing and to be still. We'll build gingerbread houses, decorate the sanctuary and raise wreaths inside and outside. We'll host guests, welcome strangers and offer the hand of fellowship to members and friends. Come celebrate the season!

At the Gateway of the Year – Sunday, **December 18**, 11:00 a.m.,

Based on the music and lyrics of **Malcolm Dalglish's** *Hymnody of Earth*, this worship service will celebrate the complex themes of the Solstice season. Through the music of Voices of Variety (St. John's youth choir), St. John's Adult Choir and MUSE (Cincinnati's Women's Choir), we'll experience the power of the earth's turning through the dark of winter into the light of a new season.



Christmas Eve Service – Saturday, **December 24**, 2011, 7:00 p.m. As

civil rights leader and theologian Howard Thurman reminds us, the Christmas season is a time of joy despite all sadness, a time of hope where despair keeps watch, a time of courage where fear is ever present, and a time of peace for tempest-tossed days. On Christmas Eve we gather to remember the spirit of the season. In this service of readings, reflections and seasonal music we'll celebrate the themes of Christmas within our lives, our community and our world

Christmas Day Service – Sunday, **December 25**, 2011, 11:00 a.m. In

this festival season, we celebrate the wonder of the holiday. Together we'll hear again the enduring stories and sing the familiar songs of hope and love and joy that are the warmth of Christmas. Join us for a UU celebration of carols and readings.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary We're decorating our worship

space with Poinsettias for the holiday season. The winter holidays are traditionally a time for loved ones, gatherings of family and friends, and memories of significant events. This year we're bringing some of the celebration into the Sanctuary with Poinsettias. Beginning on December 4, bring a potted poinsettia to leave in the Sanctuary in honor of your special person or event. There will be cards for indicating who or what you are honoring and the plants will be placed throughout our worship space. Together we'll build a beautiful memorial that brightens our space and lightens our hearts.



Hanukkah Potluck

Join us for our annual *John S Fine Memorial Hanukkah Potluck* at 6:00 PM on Tuesday **Dec 20** (the first night of Hanukkah). We'll meet at St John's UU in Krolfifer Hall.

Google "Hanukkah" for food or drink ideas. Everyone is invited! Children particularly welcome for lighting the Menorah, Dreidl games, chocolate gelt and stories of the



miracle of the light. Come early (4:00) if you want

to cook at the church. Call Mira Rodwan if you can help set up at 5:00. Call Marty Harrington to RSVP. ~ Mira Rodwan





Pledge Campaign 2012

Finance Council Director Penny Shada has appointed Barbara Hadden and Howard Tolley as co-chairs to lead the annual pledge campaign concluding April 15.

New Search Committee Members Announced

In accordance with our by-laws, elections were held, and the names announced of the new members of the Search Committee for a Settled Minister at a meeting following the church service on Sunday, Dec. 11.

Please share your thoughts and give your support to:

Rich Hoge
Joe Lampe
Stan Loeb
Ann Schuur

Susan Small
Greg Terhune
Ruth Anne Wolfe

The Mitten Tree is Blossoming!

The Mitten Tree sprouted in Haehnle a few weeks ago and it's looking more and more beautiful each week! There is still plenty of room on it for even



more lovely "fruit" to grow—so feel free to bring in warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks!! The 1st-3rd grade class will be collecting donations through January 1. In early January, donated items will be given to local needy schoolchildren to help them keep warm this winter! The Mitten Tree is located near the entry doors to Krolfifer.

Starting Jan 1!

Food Basket Collection – every week

On Sunday, November 20 we collected 3 grocery carts full of food items for the Freestore Foodbank. This kind of generosity makes a real difference in the lives of families all around Cincinnati. And since hunger is with us all year round, we've decided to add a food collection to our regular collection. Beginning with the New Year, we'll have a basket out each Sunday to collect foodstuffs. As you shop, remember to add non-perishable items for those who are served by the Freestore Foodbank.



LET IT SNOW!!

Join the Snow Removal Crew

If you are interested in joining the Snow Removal Crew

(shoveling walkways) into church (no lot plowing involved) contact Frank Meyer. Get a moderate workout AND do something for everyone- join our snow crew!!

St. John's

Service and Action Coordinating Committee (SACC) Be Part of the National UU Process

See www.uua.org/statements/current for more detail

Making a Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Immigration

St John's has been participating in a national UU study on Immigration as a Moral Issue. The next steps in the process are aimed at coming up with an official UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC) on the subject.

Each congregation has the opportunity to contribute ideas to the formulation of the SOC. We are being asked to answer the following two questions:

- WHY IS THIS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR UUs?
- WHAT CONCEPTS NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE ON THIS ISSUE?

St John's needs to submit a response to the UUA's Commission on Social Witness, or CSW, by February 1, 2012. CSW will then prepare a draft Statement of Conscience for individual congregations and finally the 2012 General Assembly to consider. At the 2013 General Assembly, a final SOC can be adopted.

If you would like to take part in this process, contact Howard Tolley or Marty Harrington for a copy of our working draft and then offer your comments. Here are some helpful reference materials:

- Summary of past UUA statements on Immigration since 1960 at www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/immigration/studyguides/handout6.2.pdf
- The position statement by BRIDGES for a Just Community at www.bridgescincinnati.org/issues/statements.html
- MARCC's immigration action plan is at www.marcconline.com/current-issues/immigration/

Though the process may seem cumbersome, it does guarantee that we as individuals and as a church can contribute to national UU policy. This is what makes us a democratic organization rather than a top-down hierarchy!

CLF PRISON WRITING MINISTRY

Are you one of the people at St. Johns who participate in the prison letter writing ministry of the UUA's **Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)**? If the answer is yes, please let Tom Darner know. Tom would like to get the St. John's letter writers together to talk about our individual experiences, both good and bad. This program matches new UU's who are incarcerated with UUs from congregations around the country. If you'd like to learn more about this program, go to the CLF's web site at www.questformeaning.org and click on "prison ministry" at the bottom of the page - or contact Tom.

~ Tom Darner

Choosing the Next Study Action Issue 2012-2016

At the Justice GA next June delegates will select one four year study-action social witness issue (CSAI) from a list of proposed topics. We can endorse one or more and may also rank order the issues based on our priority.

SACC will identify St. John's preferences after polling the Congregation with paper ballots in Haehnle on Sunday January 8.

To prepare for a vote on our preference for the next study action issue see the five proposed below and described at www.uua.org/statements/current/.

- Climate Action and Adaptation Plans: Why Greenhouse Gases and their Effects Matter to Us
- Ending Slavery
- Exploring Class Barriers
- Families, Population, and the Environment
- Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling

All five issues will be put to the vote at GA in June 2012 and the top one will be the CSAI for 2012-2016. The only exception to this process would occur if fewer than 25% of UU Congregations participate in the preliminary voting. In that case, the choice of a CSAI would be postponed to another year.

Nowhere to Go For New Year's Eve?

St Johners with nowhere to go on New Year's Eve can BYOB and a snack to share to 3900 N. Cliff Lane, Clifton, for an 8:30 to 12:30 open house at the Tolley's. Board games will be appropriate. For early-to-bed types concerned about making a safe drive home, there's no need to stay around until 2012. Come and go as you wish. If planning to drop in, please RSVP to Nina; but feel free to drop in unannounced if you decide at the last minute..

~ Howard and Nina Tolley



UUs at UC

It won't be official until UC's student activities board gives final approval in January, but UUs at UC returns to campus with four officers, all from St.

John's: President Micky Humler, Vice President Anna Daigle, Secretary Jean Henry, and Treasurer Melissa Rowland, whose registration efforts met all the bureaucratic obstacles. Howard Tolley serves as adviser. Three members celebrated by joining other St John's young adults at the YAL lunch on December 11. Student organization funds should be available for activities on campus and travel to UU programs and conferences. ~ Howard Tolley

“CONS” for the Kids - These are district-wide, overnight, supervised events. To register for any of the following, go to the Heartland District UU site: www.heartlanduu.org.

POETI-CON POETRY SLAM and Mini-CON for High School students currently in grades 9-12. **Jan 14-15**, 2012 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of **Indianapolis** (UUI). Registration deadline: **Jan 9**. Fee \$20.

Create-A-CON for Middle School and Jr. High youth grades 6th-8th and their Youth Advisors. Con Bands, Workshops, and Caughy Haus. **Jan 21-22**, 2012 at the UU Church of **Lexington**, KY. Registration deadline is Monday, **Jan 16**. Fee \$20.

Con-fuzion for Middle School and Jr. High youth grades 6th-8th and their Youth Advisors. Explore world religions through activity stations. Workshops to experience rituals and games from different religions. Con Bands, Caughy Haus, and SUPER SECRET SURPRIZE! January 27-29, 2012 at the People's Church of **Kalamazoo, MI**. Registration deadline is Monday, **Jan 23**. Fee \$30.

A little hUUmor

You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise women instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable (biodegradable, of course) diapers as a gift!



It's a Holiday!

St. John's will be closed:

- Monday, December 26 and
- Friday, December 30

Josie will be out of the office from Dec 23 through December 30

Rev. Helen will not be keeping regular office hours the last week of December, but she will be working from home.

Written order of service announcements for both Dec 25 and Jan 1 are due Monday **Dec 19** so that Josie can write them before she leaves.

ENews will be taking a break on Dec 28. Please submit items concerning early January by the **Dec 21** deadline.

The **Reporter** will be shut down on January 1. Regular biweekly publication will resume on January 8 (submissions due January 4).

See the **RE**-flections page for details on the RE Holiday Break schedule. Children of all ages are welcome in the Sanctuary!

~ Josie and Rev Helen

Adult RE resumes for 2012

Registration and the bookstore will be open two Sundays:
January 15 & 22.

TECHNIQUES FOR WISE THINKING AND DISCOURSE

Strengthen critical thinking (great for students) and cut through frustrating rhetoric (great for emotional and political topics) with thinking and discourse techniques from the founder of The Wisdom Array™. The course is a series of engaging exercises to build your awareness and skills. Open to teens and adults.

Leader: Tony Malinauskas

Tuesday nights - 3 sessions - **Jan. 17, 24, 31**

Time 7 - 8:15pm

**Due to the early start date of this class, please register by email to adultre@stjohnsuu.org, putting "Techniques" in the subject line*

YOGA

Classes will resume after the holidays on **Thursday evenings** from 5:45 - 6:45, meeting in Krolfifer (note the slight change in time from the fall session). Dates for the winter session are Jan. 5 - March 29. Leader will continue to be Nan Fox. It is not necessary to register for this class, but please wear comfortable clothing.

TEACHER, GUIDE, COMPANION: rediscovering Jesus in a secular world.

This one day class will be based on the book of the same name, which we will have available at the bookstore. It will be on **Sunday, Feb. 5** after church from 1 - 2:30, and be led by Carol Fencil. The UU author, Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, describes Jesus as "an old friend I seem intent on forgetting" and talks about how he has formed a completely different sense about Jesus from the one he had in his childhood.

A companion book, titled *Simply Pray: a modern spiritual practice to deepen your life*, written by the same author, will also be available in the bookstore.

The **GREAT DECISIONS** discussion group will also be on Sunday afternoons from 1 - 2:30 p.m., beginning on Lincoln's birthday, **Feb 12** and lasting through April Fool's Day. No registration necessary.

UU WEBINARS

Board Responsibilities Webinar is open to all UU's who are on a UU board or interested in being. This workshop will help folks understand the difference between their fiduciary, strategic and generative responsibilities, and how to be a better board member. Workshop will be offered twice: Thurs, **Jan 12**, and Tues, **Jan 17, 7:45 - 9:00 p.m.** Workshop Presenter: Rev. Dr. Lisa Presley, District Executive, Heartland District UUA. For more information and to register: www.psduua.org/drupal/Workshops/BoardResponsibilities

Social Justice Webinars are offered on a regular basis by different justice interest groups. To get advance notice, go to www.uua.org/justice and click on "Justice Action News Lists" at the bottom of the page. You can then subscribe to the email news lists that interest you.

UPCOMING FORUMS Sundays at 10:00 am

Dec. 18

Is there a Christ in your Xmas?

Many UUs have left Christian churches behind, yet they don't necessarily leave all of their former beliefs. Others reject their whole religious past. What happens to you in this holiday season? Is "Jesus the reason for the season?" If not, do you miss that or does it even affect you at all? Leader will be **Carol Fencil**, an American Baptist minister's daughter.

Dec. 25 and Jan 1

Forums on hiatus

Please join us again on Jan 8 when the topic is...

Jan. 8

What is "BeConcerned"?



From its beginnings as The Christmas Store in 1968 serving 30 families, to the present day operation which serves over 850 families on a monthly basis, **BeConcerned** assists in maintaining economic stability for the customers it serves. Volunteers provide much of this service at Northern Kentucky's only choice food pantry while being committed to honoring all of its customers. Come find out more about this amazing organization and how you can be a part of it. Presenter: **Kelly Hiltibrand**, new St. John's member, and a member of the family that helped found this group.

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Happy Holidays!

We had a terrific time during our December First Sunday learning about the winter solstice! Many thanks to our minister intern, Amy Shaw and Rev. Terri Dodd for their leadership and contributions! Not only did Amy and Terri provide a lesson that explained the meaning and importance of the winter solstice, but they provided our children and youth with practical, hands-on activities that were a lot of fun and helped reinforce the ideas brought forth in the lesson—things like creating a sacred space at home and making their own “wheel of the year.”

I hope you received a *Taking It Home* handout from the session (if you didn't, additional copies are available on the RE bulletin board near the church office). There are lots of recommended books and cool websites that will allow your child(ren) to learn more about the winter solstice. If you'd like to celebrate the winter solstice at home, consider eating dinner by candlelight on December 22—and have a “solstice ceremony” and/or make “solstice sun cakes” (the ritual and recipe are both found on the *TIH* handout). And, of course, attend the family-friendly concert on December 16 and/or the special worship service on December 18!!

****IMPORTANT**—RE Holiday Break Schedule**

Beginning this week, our regular RE classes will be on a 3-week holiday break. On December 18, there will be no regular RE classes so that all can enjoy the winter solstice choral service. Regular childcare will be available for children ages birth-3 years old.

On December 25 and January 1 there will be no RE classes AND no childcare, so that our volunteer teachers and paid childcare staff may enjoy the holidays with their families. Children of all ages are welcome to attend the worship services!

The Mitten Tree--Update

A big THANK YOU to our 1st-3rd grade class who once again have adopted the Mitten Tree as their service project—and to all who have donated so far! The tree is looking fabulous!! There is still time—and plenty of room on the tree—to contribute warm mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves. The collection will conclude on January 8 and items will be donated to needy schoolchildren in Cincinnati.

Looking for *Taking It Home* Workshop Suggestions!

I am considering offering several independent hour-long workshops that will help parents practice UU principles and beliefs at home with their children. I'm looking for ideas that interest parents—as well as “convenient” times to meet (with children, is there ever a “convenient” time?!). Examples of possible workshop topics—creating meaningful rituals, celebrating traditional holidays in a UU way, practical ways to reinforce the 7 UU Principles, UU songs every kid should know, etc. I'm very open to suggestions . . . let me know your thoughts!

Note these IMPORTANT DATES!

Fri., December 16: Family-friendly Music Series concert, featuring Malcolm Dalglish, 7:30pm.

Sat., December 17: Rehearsal/luncheon for December 18 worship service. VV parents—check your email for details!

Sun., December 18: Intergenerational service, “At the Gateway of the Year.” No RE classes; childcare for birth-age 3 ONLY in Jefferson/Nightingale as usual.

Sun., December 25 & Sun., January 1: No RE classes and no childcare—children of all ages are welcome in the worship services.

Sun., January 8: RE classes and childcare resume their regular schedule.

Sun., January 8: Senior High OWL, 1:00-4:30pm in Wells.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call at 513-961-1940 (church office). DRE church office hours are Tue/Wed/Thurs 9:00am-1:30pm and by appt.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, December 18

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer
10:00am SACC Service & Action Coordinating Committee –
Statement of Conscience on Immigration
11:00am **Choral Service** with Malcolm Dalglish, Voices of Variety,
MUSE Women's Choir, and the St John's Choir
12:30pm Outreach Committee – Library

Monday, December 19

4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St

Tuesday, December 20

10:00am Yoga
6:00pm Hanukkah Potluck - Sanctuary
7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen) - Library
7:00pm YADA Young Adult Discussion and Action

Wednesday, December 21

5:00pm e-News Deadline
7:00pm Board Meeting

Thursday, December 22

10:00am Meditation
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 23

~ Josie vacation day ~

Saturday, December 24

7:00pm **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Sunday, December 25

11:00am **Christmas Service**
~ No Forum ~

Monday, December 26

~ office closed ~
4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St

Tuesday, December 27

~ office closed ~
10:00am Yoga
1:00pm Wise Women of St. John's - Krolfifer

Wednesday, December 28

~ office closed ~
~ No ENews this week ~
7:00pm Caring Circle

Thursday, December 29

~ office closed ~
~ No Choir Rehearsal ~
10:00am Meditation

Friday, December 30

~ office closed ~
7:00pm Game Night

Sunday, January 1, 2012

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer
11:00am Worship Service
6:00pm Men's Group

Monday, January 2, 2012

~ regular office hours resume ~
4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St
7:00pm Chalice Group (Strong) - Library

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

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



Wednesday, January 4, 2012

5:00pm eNews Deadline
5:00pm **Reporter Deadline**
7:00pm Connections (Membership) - Gandhi

Thursday, January 5, 2012

~ No Meditation ~
5:45pm Tai Chi -Krolfifer
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 7, 2012

9:30am Sound Team
10:00am MLK Chorale - Krolfifer

Sunday, January 8, 2012

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer
11:00am Worship Service
12:15pm Friends Soup and Bread Luncheon
1:00pm Sr High OWL - Wells
6:00pm Men's Group - Krolfifer
6:00pm Men's Martian Literary Group - R
Hadden

7:00pm Deadline for **People Book Updates**

Monday, January 9, 2012

4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St
6:30pm Friends of Szentlaszlo - Library

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

10:00am Yoga

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

10:00am Chalice Group (Hadden) - Library
5:00pm eNews Deadline
7:00pm Chalice Group (Darner) – Library

Thursday, January 12, 2012

~ No Meditation ~
5:45pm Tai Chi -Krolfifer
7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 14, 2012

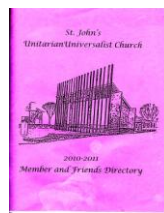
9:00am MLK chorale dress rehearsal - Sanctuary

Sunday, January 15, 2012

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer
11:00am Worship Service
12:15pm Adult RE Registration & Bookstore-Krolfifer

Monday, January 16, 2012

7:00am Office Closed MLK Day
4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St



Due January 8!

If you have a change or want to be added (or removed) from the People Book, please contact Josie at 513.961.1938 or by email office@stjohnsuu.org.

Interim updates are maintained by Josie's informal helper, Emily Hodges. If you want a copy, email Josie and ask her to add you to Emily's list.

~ Emily Hodges

People Book Updates Due Jan 8

A new edition of the church directory (informally called **the People Book**) will forthcoming in early February.

The final deadline is Sunday, Jan 8.

St. John's

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Thought of the Week

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
"Come; see the oxen kneel,

"In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,"
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

~ Thomas Hardy, "The Oxen"

