

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

December 4, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

December 4, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.

"The Church of Me" Rev. Helen Carroll

This is a congregation with a sense of warmth and connection and a sense of pride in the programs and activities that have long been a part of the history of St. John's. Here you will find a deep longing for more opportunities to grow and deepen spiritually and personally. This is a vibrant community of loving, committed invested individuals focused on a shared future. Except when it's not. Like many religious communities, we do the dance between the needs of the whole and our own personal desires, needs, preferences and prejudices – a dance between the Beloved Community and the Church of Me.

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

"Home for the Holidays" Rev. Helen Carroll

Remember the closing scenes from *The Wizard of Oz*? Dorothy is clicking her ruby slippers, eyes closed, saying fervently, "There's no place like home. There's no place like home." Even so, home and holidays are often challenging experiences.

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

"At the Gateway of the Year" Rev. Helen Carroll

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"

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 is the warmth of Christmas. Join us for a UU celebration of carols and readings.

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

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Next Newsletter Deadline

Wed Dec 14 at 5 pm

**Brief Congregational Meeting
Sunday 12/11/11
Final Election
Ministerial Search Team**

mUUsings *from Rev. Helen Carroll*

Could it get any busier? It seems like I have that thought more and more often these days. December is a complex and demanding month. There's the regular holiday parade of social gatherings and obligations in addition to the normal routine of work and family life. And – on top of that – we're a community caught up in the work of the world and beginning the search for a new minister. We continue to explore how to grow with the times as a Unitarian Universalist congregation involved in social justice work, committed to pastoral connections, educated in our values, dedicated to excellence in worship and challenged to be stewards of our resources. Could it be any busier?



It's sometimes difficult to find the calm in the storm when we're being tossed about in chaos. Staying centered and feeling connected is especially challenging in the frantic rush that is the winter holiday season. So let's take a step back and gather Tuesdays, December 6 and 13 at 6:30 p.m. for a service of readings, music and quiet reflection. This vespers service is a time for moving outside the demands around us and listening deeply to the rhythms of our spirit, heart and mind. A time for sitting quietly and paying attention to the sounds of silence. Come and sit in the peace of a candlelit sanctuary, be soothed in the silence, be inspired by seasonal readings, be filled with the music, simply be.

And join us at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve to remember the spirit of this wonderful, complex time. We offer a service of readings, reflections and seasonal music to celebrate the themes of Christmas within our lives, our community and our world. May your December bring joy, peace and happiness.

Faithfully,
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.



VESPERS ...

For Peace of Mind and Spirit –

Tuesday, December 6 with musician **Ron Hoffman**

Tuesday, December 13 with musician **Chris Wagner**

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 red 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. (*Want to place an order with Josie? There are forms on the wall outside the office.*)





'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!

Holiday Open House - Saturday, **December 10**, 2-4 p.m. at the Belvedere. Join other friendly folks at the annual open house hosted by Karen Miller and Frank Meyer, Richard and Barbara Hadden and their next door neighbor and St. John's friend, Eddie Langdon. Want to add to the cheer? Bring something to crunch or munch.

The Wild, Wild Word Show – Friday, **December 16**, 7:30 p.m. A marvelous blend of mime, rhyme, rhythm and song, **Malcolm Dalglish's** solo show combines story ballads and fast-paced antics with the mesmerizing sounds of hammer dulcimer and virtuoso spoon and bones playing. The Wild, Wild Word Show brings together Dalglish's background in physical theater and his vast and varied musical repertoire inspired by American and European folk traditions and the nature poetry of Wendell Berry. An internationally renowned composer and recording artist, Malcolm Dalglish leaves audiences of all ages with a new appreciation for the making of music and the music of words. Tickets are available online www.stjohnsuu.org by calling the St. John's office at 513-961-1938 or at the door. \$15 includes 1 adult/1 child, \$10 students and seniors, \$5 additional children 12 and under.



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.



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

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 is the warmth of Christmas. Join us for a UU celebration of carols and readings.



THE NEWS FROM SZENTLASZLO

The Friends of Szentlaszlo, St. John's partner church committee, was excited to hear from our partners in Transylvania via a skype call. We were able to talk with our partner church minister, Rev. Kiss, and his wife and two women members of his congregation. This is what we learned.

While we were celebrating the fall harvest at St. John's as a part of the Thanksgiving holiday, our friends in Szentlaszlo had already celebrated the harvest on a Sunday in late September. The good news is that the harvest in Transylvania was good in spite of four months of drought.



Everyone had worked in the fields picking corn, digging potatoes, gathering grapes and apples, and other fruits of the land. All this was done by hand!

Here our friend Tunde gathers grapes.

When harvesting field corn, individual ears are shucked by hand, thrown into a gunny sack, dumped into a wagon to eventually be loaded into corn cribs. Even Rev. Kiss and his family work in the fields.

This young Unitarian farmer was especially proud of his corn crop, one of the few planted using hybrid seed:



There was one bit of disturbing news relating to the crops. Because of the lengthy drought, the fields are now very hard. This will make plowing next spring very difficult; remember, plowing is done not by tractor but by horse or oxen drawn plow.

While we at St. John's were celebrating Thanksgiving, the Unitarians of Szentlaszlo were honoring the elderly members of the congregation, those over 70 years of age, with a special Sunday service. Nice idea! Maybe we should so honor our elders!

We want to report that the last soup and bread luncheon held on November 20th had another good turnout. \$502 was collected for the Bread for the Elderly Program in Szentlaszlo. This means we will be able to send this month \$950 to our Transylvania partners. We want to send a big thank you to everyone who helped with the luncheon.

Our next luncheon is on **January 8th**. We particularly need your help with **set up and clean up** so please make this luncheon the one where you step up and take your turn helping!

And we hope you will look for the "Szentlaszlo" Christmas tree in the lobby. It's decorated with craft items from Transylvania.

Also, the next meeting of the Friends of Szentlaszlo will be Wednesday evening, **December 7th, 6:30 PM** at the church. Please join us and experience the fun that is the Friends of Szentlaszlo!

~ The Friends of Szentlaszlo

UU Council News

At its November meeting at Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church, the representatives present elected First Church member Lee Meyer to serve as the UUC representative on the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC).

In related news, UU Council is planning a weekend event called "March Forth for Justice" which will include a major regional conference on Immigration Issues on Saturday, March 3. All UU congregations in the area are asked to include some aspect of immigration issues for their worship services that weekend. And, on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM, there will be a rally on the Butler County courthouse steps, with a short (0.3 mile) walk to the Butler County Jail, where a brief presentation and singing of a few songs in Spanish is planned, permits permitting, to demonstrate support for those caught up in Butler County's detention and deportation program.

Lee Meyer is chairing the Planning Committee for this project. Keynote Speaker for the conference is Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray of the First Unitarian Church of Phoenix, Arizona. Frederick-Gray has been involved at the vortex of Arizona's immigration battle and was jailed with UUA President Morales earlier this year. She is nationally recognized speaker on this issue. The conference will allow participants to build their own programs, depending on their specific interests and their level of prior understanding of the issues. A track that would be especially interesting to youth attendees is planned to include young adults and teens relating their own experiences. Other topics will include human trafficking, roadblocks on the path to citizenship, denial of constitutional rights, the "Dream Act" and who it would affect, private prisons and their financial interest in detention programs.

This program has already received co- sponsorship from a number of other local religious and social service organizations. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

The next UU Council meeting will be held at First Church on January 7, at 9:00 AM. Any member of a local UU congregation is welcome to come represent their UU community. The host congregation provides breakfast; the meeting typically lasts to 11:30. ~Lee Meyer, First Unitarian

Service and Action Coordinating Committee (SACC)

SACC will meet at 9 am in the Library Sunday **December 4** to consider Outreach, the Cincinnati UU Immigration Conference in March, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and other social justice projects. All are welcome.

Nominations for a \$1,000 Outreach award recognizing and supporting a local non-profit organization's ongoing work in actively representing the interests of and advocating for non-citizen immigrants are due to committee chair Howard Tolley by **December 10**.

MARCC (Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati Delegates Council) meets Wednesday **December 14**, noon in Synod Hall, St. Peter in Chains Cathedral 325 W 8th St. A Speaker on immigration has been invited to the monthly brown bag lunch, and all are welcome.

The Mitten Tree is Here!

Did you happen to see the special tree that sprouted during last week's worship service? The Mitten Tree has once again taken root in Haehnle—thanks to the efforts of some lovely church mice (aka our 1st-3rd grade RE class)!!

Let's beautify the tree and help **keep our fellow Cincinnatians warm** by filling it up with scarves,

hats, mittens, and gloves! The 1st-3rd grade class will be collecting donations throughout the month of December. Donations will be given to local needy schoolchildren in early January. 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.

Lively After Fifty (LAF)

The next LAFs outing is scheduled for Friday, 12/9/11 at Walt's Barbecue located at 6040 Colerain Ave. Please RSVP to Terri Freshley by Friday, 12/2/11.



Reporter Holiday Vacation



Just like the Car Talk Puzzler, the Reporter is going on vacation over the holiday! There will be no publication on January 1, 2012. Therefore, our upcoming deadlines will be:

- Wednesday **Dec 14**, for the Dec 18 issue
- (skip January 1 issue)
- Wednesday **Jan 4**, for the Jan 8 issue

If you need to publicize events in early January, please get your emails to us by Dec 14!

And while you're at it, send us a little holiday present of *pictures* with your articles!

Interweave Holiday Potluck

Please join us for a potluck in Krolfifer on Friday evening, 12/16.

Due to the music series Winter Solstice Celebration that same evening, we will forego our regular movie that evening. We will instead be meeting for our potluck at 6:00. Those who are interested are welcome to join us for the Winter Solstice Celebration at 7:30 (\$15 adult, \$10 students & seniors). Interweave is St John's social group for GLBT folks and friends/allies. All are welcome!



Office on Vacation, Too

Josie will be out of the office from Dec 23 through December 30th. If anyone is available to cover the office phones (especially on the 23rd) for a couple of hours - hours of your choosing - anytime between 9am-2pm, please let Josie know.

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

More Holiday Parties?

If you would like to host a pot luck or any kind of social occasion during December, contact Barbara Hadden.

WISE WOMEN

With age comes wisdom, we hope. If you are "wise" (i.e. of a "certain age") or even just think you are or wish to be, please give this group a try. We will be meeting on the last Tuesday of each month at 1pm at the church for discussion and/or activities. This is primarily a social group (with food if you bring your own brown bag lunch) focusing on female-oriented issues. Come join us Tuesday Dec. 27 at 1pm. for more information contact Gail Boggs.

GUEST AT YOUR TABLE



Jiggle your **Guest at Your Table** box and feel its weight. On **Sunday, December 18** we'll gather our boxes and return them as a part of our support of the work around the world being done by the UUSC. With only a few days to go, remember the poor, the displaced, the sick and those suffering from injustice, with your generous contribution to the Guest at Your Table box.

Guest at Your Table is an annual tradition in which UUs all over the country take home a box featuring people that the UUSC (the national UU Service Committee) has worked with recently. See the national UU website, www.uua.org, for more information.

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.

Adult RE classes to restart in the New Year

Registration and the bookstore will be held **Jan 15 & 22**.

One discussion group will be based on the short book *Teacher, Guide, Companion: rediscovering Jesus in a secular world*. It will be on Sunday, **Feb. 5** after church.

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 Fools Day.

Class Leaders Needed Winter & Spring

Adult RE has had several requests for a forum or class on the **legalization of marijuana**, but we need someone (or ones) with the expertise to present the pros and cons of the question. This could be for a Sunday morning 10 a.m. forum, a one-night class, or several sessions if desired. If you are able to do this, or can recommend a source, please contact either Carol Fencl or AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org.

If you are interested in helping to facilitate a class for our Adult Religious Education program, beginning in late January, February, or even this spring, please contact Carol Fencl at adultre@stjohnsuu.org. We have a number of UUA programs available that use facilitators, as well as the opportunity to develop your own class if that suits you better.

~ Adult RE Committee

UPCOMING FORUMS Sundays at 10:00 am

Dec. 4 –

How should St. John's Support Social Justice Financially?

We have supported local and international causes in a number of ways. We are now reviewing what methods are best to financially support these, whether they are planned, or arise out of a crisis need, (e.g. a natural disaster), or a particular cause (e.g. immigration reform). Some churches designate one plate collection per month, others split the plate, others write out checks from an outreach budget, etc. In the past we gave 5 % of the budget toward outreach. Who should decide what we give away? Talk with us about the implications of these and share your ideas about what factors are important to you.

Dec. 11 –

Fracking: How Does It Impact SW Ohio?

A report on the meeting held Nov. 14th for concerned non-profit and activist groups interested in the gas energy industry. Short presentations by three people from UC were followed by questions from the floor. Topics ranged from existing shale deposits to concerns for water pollution, methane release, infrastructure limitations and the need to educate people being approached to sign leases for drilling rights. Meeting was organized by NEOGAP (Network to Educate and Organize for Gas Accountability and Protection)

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 Fencl, an American Baptist minister's daughter.

Forums will not be held on Christmas and New Year's Day, but will be held the other Sundays of December and January. ~ Nancy Henry

St. John's Music Series features **Malcolm Dalglish** Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.

World-famous hammer dulcimer player and composer Malcolm Dalglish visits St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church on Resor Ave., for a weekend of enchanting and uplifting solstice choral music Dec. 16-18. He performs The Wild Wild Word Show at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16, in a solstice celebration, part of St. John's Music Series.

The Wild Wild Word Show brings together Dalglish's background in physical theater and his vast and varied musical repertoire inspired by American and European folk traditions and the nature poetry of Wendell Berry. A marvelous blend of mime, rhyme, rhythm and song, Malcolm Dalglish's solo show combines story ballads and fast-paced antics with the mesmerizing sounds of hammer dulcimer and virtuoso spoon and bones playing.



A founding member of the popular folk trio, Metamora, Dalglish has made more than 13 recordings, including solo offerings on the Windham Hill Label. He has been commissioned to write more than 80 pieces for choirs around the globe, with most of his work celebrating the beauty of the natural world.

A former music education student at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Dalglish has designed and built more than 60 hammer dulcimers. His folk choir, The Ooolites, have a pure and earthy sound featured on their two CD's Pleasure and, Hymnody of Earth. The latter is a spiritual celebration of nature inspired by and featuring the poetry of Kentucky-based environmentalist, farmer and writer Wendell Berry. For more information go to www.oooliticmusic.com.

Tickets for the St. John's Music Series:

- \$15 includes 1 adult/1 child
- \$10 seniors and students
- \$5 additional children 12 and under

Tickets and information are available on line at <http://www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/docs/music-series/or> by calling St. John's at (513) 961-1938. Tickets are also available at the door.

Dalglish will lead the St. John's choir and Voices of Variety children's choir in performing songs from Dalglish's Hymnody of Earth in a special concert Sunday, Dec. 18 at 11 a.m.

A little hUUmor

Do you have any idea how many members of the Tate family belong to our congregation?

There is old man Dic Tate who wants to run everything, while uncle Ro Tate tries to change everything. Their sister Agi Tate, stirs up plenty of trouble with help from her husband, Irri Tate. Whenever new projects are suggested, Hesi Tate and his wife Vegi Tate want to wait until next year.

Brother Facili Tate is quite helpful in church business. Cousins Cogi Tate and Medi Tate always think things over and lend a helpful steady hand. And, of course, there is the bad seed in the family, Ampu Tate who has cut himself off completely from the church community.

Work Area: Minister-In-Formation!

Shalom and bright blessings. My name is Amy Shaw, and I am excited to be serving St. John's as your ministerial intern and Meadville Lombard seminarian. I first visited St. John's a year ago, initially as a student observer, and was delighted to be able to return as an intern with the Rev. Helen Carroll. I consider myself incredibly blessed that St. John's was willing to embrace the challenge and joy of functioning as my teaching congregation.



Ministry was not my first profession, and I come to St. John's, and Meadville Lombard Theological School, after twenty years as a geriatric nurse, nurse executive, Licensed Nursing Home Administrator (Crisis Intervention Specialist), author, and college professor. I am married to Brian, a London, UK, native, and we share our Blanchester, Ohio home with two slightly demented cats.



Over the next 18 to 20 months, I look forward to meeting each of you, and to sharing my calling, ministerial journey and formation. Please take an opportunity to seek me out, and to ask questions or share ideas about your perspectives on UUism, the world at large, ministry, or any other topic you feel we need to engage. I am here to learn and to teach, to grow and to help others to do the same. Let us begin this marvelous trip together!

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TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The Transition Team meets regularly to support the process of transitioning to a settled minister. Along the way, we listen and remain sensitive to the struggle that naturally accompanies all change.

As a congregation we've had a very busy Fall and now the holiday season is here. We're already facing the challenge of change, now we add the holidays into the mix! The members of the Transition Committee are thankful we can serve this congregation as we all walk together through the holidays and into the New Year. Keep "the big picture" in mind and know we hold close your concerns as well as your celebrations. We welcome your thoughts and feelings...feel free to contact any member of the team: George Dershimer, Kathy Laufman, Melanie Malaviya, and Bo Wachendorf. ~ *Kathy Laufman*

Brief Congregational Meeting 12/11/11 to Elect the Search Team

A brief congregational meeting will be held after the service on **Sunday, Dec. 11**, to complete the process of electing our Ministerial Search Team. The Board will present a seven-member slate and ask you (per our bylaws) to approve it. If you've been a member for at least 90 days, please plan to stay a short while after church to complete the final step of this important collaborative process.



They're Coming !!! The International Choir Games will take place in Cincinnati July 4 through July 14 of 2012.

UU's have a unique opportunity to offer home hospitality to folks coming to experience these games/concerts. Your family could get acquainted with someone from another state or possibly from another country, and in the process, bring in some funds for your congregation.

An ad will be placed in the UU World offering home hospitality for a set price. All UU congregations in the area will be included in this opportunity. This effort is being initiated by the Cincinnati UU Council. Most of the proceeds will go to the church to which the hosts belong, and a portion will go to the UU Council.

If you have an extra room or two that could be used for a few days during that time period, please contact Connie Booth at 513.231-7758 or by email at ConnieJ.Booth@fuse.net. Arrangements will be confirmed in late winter/early spring. Thanks in advance for your participation.

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Winter Solstice Wonderland!

It's been quite a few years since the winter solstice was a focus of our December celebrations and I hope your family will choose to participate in a few of the exciting events we have planned! We'll start things off with the annual Gingerbread House Party (traditional!) and greening of the sanctuary (new!) on Saturday evening, December 3. Then Amy Shaw (our minister intern) and Terri Dodds will offer lessons about the winter solstice at our *First Sunday* session on Sunday, December 4th. In addition to learning some basic information, participants will break up into smaller groups—the younger kids will make a “wheel of the year” craft while the youth will participate in some traditional pagan rituals. We've got a great snack planned too!

We're hoping these “introductory” activities will help kids to better understand and appreciate the intergenerational worship service planned for Sunday, December 18. We'll welcome acclaimed composer/musician, Malcolm Dalglish, who will join our adult and children's choirs for a morning of beautiful words and music. Understanding the ancient traditions and rituals of celebrating the winter solstice allows our children and youth to better understand our “modern” traditions and rituals—since so many of them have pagan origins.

COMING SOON—Malcolm Dalglish “family-friendly” concert!

As part of our Music Series, Malcolm Dalglish will kick off our “winter solstice weekend” with a concert on Friday evening, December 16 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15 (1 adults/1 child), \$10 (student or senior), and \$5 (additional children under 12). ***BREAKING NEWS***. . .this is a concert you won't want to miss! If times are a bit hard during this holiday season, know that a limited number of free tickets are available—and tickets are also available on a “sliding scale” (pay what you can) basis. Contact Elizabeth Wilson or Rachel Kramer for these special ticket offers! Hope you will come join in the fun!!!

The Mitten Tree has arrived!

A big THANK YOU to our 1st-3rd grade class who once again have adopted the Mitten Tree as their service project. The kids and their teachers worked quickly and quietly last Sunday during worship service assembling the tree and hanging the cute posters they made! Now let's decorate the tree with warm mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves!! Items will be donated to needy schoolchildren in Cincinnati in early January.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

A total of \$52.98 was collected by our kids and donated to UNICEF this year. Though we fell short of our goal, every little bit does indeed help. Our donation could buy 662 packets of powder mix that will help prevent dehydration *OR* 53 protein biscuits for starving children *OR* 110 notebook/pencil sets to enable children to learn *OR*. . .you get the picture! Many thanks to the kids who participated in this very worthy project. . .and thank you to all who donated too!

Note these IMPORTANT DATES!

December 4: *First Sunday*—“*Winter Solstice*” with guest leaders, Amy Shaw and Terri Dodds.

December 4, 11: *VVs rehearsal* from 12:15-12:45pm in Rosa Parks.

December 4: *Senior Hi OWL*, 1:00-4:30pm in Wells.

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

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

December 18: Intergenerational holiday choral service—no regular RE classes; childcare for birth-age 3 **ONLY** in Jefferson/Nightingale as usual.

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, December 4

9:00 Service and Action Coordinating Committee - Library
 10:00am Forum-Krolfifer
 11:00am Worship Service
 11:00am RE First Sunday
 12:15pm Congregational Meeting to announce search team nominees
 12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal

12:30pm Raise the Wreath

1:00pm High School OWL

6:00pm Men's Group



Monday, December 5

4:30pm Peace Vigil Central Pkwy & Vine St

7:00pm Chalice Group (Strong) Library

Tuesday, December 6

9:00am UU Clergy Meeting - Library

10:00am Yoga

6:30pm Vespers - Chapel

7:00pm Young Adult Discussion Action (YADA)

7:00pm Book Group (N. Tolley)

Wednesday, December 7

5:00pm e-News Deadline

7:00pm Membership Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 8

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 10

10:00am Tentative MLK Chorale Rehearsal-Krolfifer

2:00pm Holiday Open House at the Hadden, Miller-Myer,
and Langdon residences

Sunday, December 11

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer

11:00am Worship Service

12:15pm Leadership Development Council LDC-Library

12:15pm Voices of Variety - Rosa Parks

6:00pm Men's Martian Literary Group

Monday, December 12

4:30pm Peace Vigil (Central Pkwy & Vine St)

Tuesday, December 13

10:00am Yoga

6:30pm Vespers- Chapel

Wednesday, December 14

10:00am Chalice Group (B Hadden) - Library

5:00pm e-News Deadline

5:00pm **REPORTER DEADLINE**

7:00pm Chalice Group (M Darner) - Library

Thursday, December 15

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 16

6:00pm Interweave Potluck – *Note early start time*

7:30pm “The Wild Wild Word Show” with Malcolm DalGLISH

Saturday, December 17

8:00am Dress Rehearsal Voices Of Variety & Choir

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators

Sunday, December 18

10:00am Forum-Krolfifer

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

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

7:00am 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 ~

5:00pm 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

Sunday, January 8

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



St. John's

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Thought of the Week

“Our best friends and our worst enemies are our thoughts. A thought can do us more good than a doctor or a banker or a faithful friend. It can also do us more harm than a brick.”

~ *Dr. Frank Crane*