

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

July 17, 2011

## Sunday Community Worship Services

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

### July 17th at 10:30 a.m.

**"Did you ever build castles in the sand?"** The Rev. Bonnie Meyer will explore creativity as first seen in child's play, its importance to our spiritual well-being throughout our lives, and how it can help us through the experience of facing terminal illness and death. Rev. Meyer is an affiliated minister at St. John's, and is the Director of Spiritual Care and Bereavement for Hospice of the Bluegrass.

### July 24, 10:30 a.m.

**"Blessing of the Animals"** We invite you to bring your animal companions to be blessed in this intergenerational summer service. Leader Cindy Huff has 9 years' experience working as an animal communicator and is certified as a practitioner of Healing Touch for Animals. **For this service, we welcome well-behaved, people-friendly pets to join us in person in the sanctuary.** Please keep dogs on leashes, and other pets in appropriate cages or travel crates. **Alternatively,** if your animal companion is departed, or might be overwhelmed by the presence of many people or other creatures, **please bring a photograph to the blessing ceremony instead.**

### July 31, 10:30 a.m.

**"Lammas-tide, the height of summer"** Members of EarthSpirit, St. John's neo-pagan group, will lead an intergenerational service celebrating the mid-point of summer and reflecting on the seasons of the year and of life itself.

### Sunday August 7, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.

#### **"The Promised Land"**

Bruce Beisner, candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. As the summer moves along and St. John's prepares to welcome a new interim minister, we will be focus on our hopes and dreams for the future. Can our dreams of building a utopian world of pure justice and fairness ever really be realized? Is there hope in the knowledge that we may never be perfect and our world may never become all that we want it to be? Can there be joy and affirmation in living with imperfection and uncertainty?

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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. Helen Carroll  
(effective August 16)

### 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

### Church Office Hours

#### **Summer Schedule**

T W Th 7:00am to 1:30pm

### 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 July 27 at 5 pm

## First Impressions: Our New Interim Minister, Helen Carroll

Who is our new interim minister, Rev. Helen Carroll?

We have the basic facts. Rev. Carroll comes to us with nine years experience as a settled minister, and one year as an interim minister in a mid-sized congregation. She has an additional 20 years management experience in other settings.

We also have some of her own insights, which she submitted with her application packet to St John's:



*Rev. Helen Carroll*

“Our principles remind us to be intentionally committed to the search for truth and meaning. Our practice encourages us to draw together for mutual support, empowerment and dialogue. Together such a community struggles to make sense of life in the twenty-first century through worship, meditation, study, action and caring. Together we become a vital, organic body that grows and changes, responding to life’s challenges.”

“Worship is at the center of our spiritual life, providing an opportunity for the community to gather for reflection, meditation, prayer and centering. Together we celebrate the rituals that speak to our experience, explore new possibilities and nurture our spirits. Creating effective worship opportunities for Sunday mornings and for special occasions is often a collaborative effort between interested parties (minister, choir director, musicians, artists, adults, youth, other folks ...) I relish working with others to offer an environment and experience in which members of the congregation can be encouraged, nurtured, connected, reminded ... perhaps, even, transformed.”

“It is not possible to be a growing congregation without the committed involvement of the membership. We depend on each other to take care of the details. Together we pay the bills, maintain the buildings, keep records, answer phones, and tend to the tasks at hand. As the minister, I offer over 30 years of management experience, from a variety of settings. I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff and volunteers. In my experience, developing a team of committed individuals is the most successful practice for meeting objectives and responsibilities.”



Perhaps more telling than all the above is a simple, generous offer made by Rev Carroll to our Board leadership. Though Rev Carroll’s tenure does not officially begin until August 16, she has agreed to step up for us in case of an emergency. This is a priceless offer ... of which we dearly hope not to have to avail ourselves!

***If you have an emergency***, please contact the Caring Circle (Nina Tolley or Kathryn McDonough). They will forward your concern on to Rev. Carroll if it is a situation that requires a minister’s attention.

## SUMMER SERVICES at ST JOHN'S



### A Few Words from the Worship Arts Committee

We hope you've enjoyed the first few summer services. See our front page for a preview of upcoming worship experiences, led by a variety of members, friends, and guest speakers. Please plan to attend these thought-provoking worship experiences, and watch your Reporter for more information about upcoming services.

If you have questions or comments about the content of summer services, please contact a member of the Worship Arts committee (Pamela Wilz, George Dershimer, Barbara Hadden, Steve Roth, and Allison Sterrett-Krause).

- Allison Sterrett-Krause

## REDS TIX AVAILABLE!

Three tickets are available for the St. John's trip to the Cincinnati Reds ballgame on **Monday, August 8** at 7:10pm. These View Level seats are \$7.50 each (half price!)

If you are interested in joining 38 other St. John-ers for this fun event, contact Elizabeth Wilson ASAP at youthre@stjohnsuu.org, or 513-961-1940.



## HELP WANTED R.E. (Religious Exploration) TEACHERS NEEDED! 2011-2012

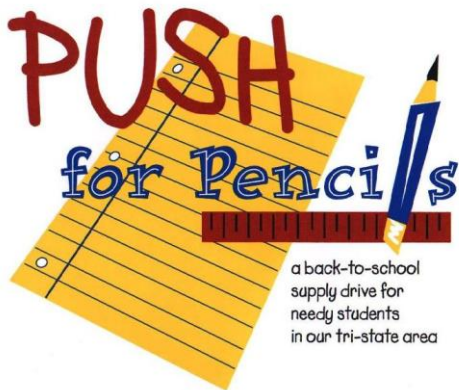
It's an exciting time. . .planning for the 2011-12 RE programming year! In order for our program to be successful, we need to fill approximately 8 teaching slots. Our class configurations this year will be:

Grades	Additional Teachers needed
PreK-K	1-2
1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	0
4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	3-4
6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	2
YRUU	1-2

Though teachers do not need any previous experience (trust me, you'll receive LOTS of support!), we do ask that prospective teaching candidates have a minimum one year affiliation with St. John's.

If impacting the lives of our youngest congregants is something that intrigues you, please contact me and I'll share more info on expectations and curriculum. You can reach me at youthre@stjohnsuu.org or 513-961-1940. Thanks!

~ Elizabeth Wilson



Our annual collection of school supplies for needy children starts July 17. All items will be donated to the Push for Pencils drive sponsored by Crayons to Computers. There is a large box in Krolfifer, waiting for your donation.

Here are the items most frequently requested by teachers when they come to pick up supplies for the children in their classrooms:

- Construction paper
- copy paper
- notebook paper
- folders
- spiral notebooks
- crayons
- pencils
- pens
- scissors
- glue

## Adult RE Ongoing Planning

If you missed attending the planning meeting on 7/14 for our adult religious education courses, you can still pass your ideas on to Carol Fencl, [adultre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:adultre@stjohnsuu.org).

We still need:

- people to work on the sub-committee that plans our before-church SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS
- a few more volunteers who are interested in co-leading a class in the fall, winter or spring.

~ Carol Fencl, Adult RE Committee

## Reminder

**NEW REPORTER  
DEADLINE**  
WEDNESDAY before  
publication date, at **5:00 pm**.

# Cincinnati Pride 2011

St John's and the UU Council took a leadership role in organizing and celebrating Cincinnati Pride Equinox Parade & Festival 2011. The Festival kicked off on July 7 with the Cincy Pride Interfaith Service, hosted by the UU Council at St John's church.

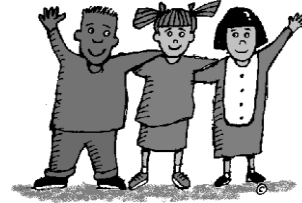
Culmination of the Festival was the annual Cincinnati Pride Parade & Festival, in which our UU presence was proudly displayed:



*Photo by Mary Jean Pierson, UU Council*

# RE-flecti⊕ns

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



By Elizabeth Wilson  
Director of Religious Education

## **WHERE IN THE WORLD IS R.E.?**

Our kids continue their “travels” around the world. On July 3, we stayed close to home and celebrated the good ol’ USA. On July 10, Herr Doktor David Wilson took us to the enchanting country of Deutschland. Participants went home with smiles on their faces and a schultüte in their arms! On July 17, Sarah Elmore will take us to the beautiful land of Italy. Rumor has it we may encounter gelato in our travels!

## ***A BRIEF BREAK***

We’ll be taking a two-week break from our journeys to participate in two multigenerational worship services on July 24 (Blessing of the Animals) and July 31 (Earthspirit). There will still be childcare available in Jefferson for children ages birth-3. Though these services are being designed with the presence of children in mind, there will be activity folders and other quiet activities available for children who may get the wiggles.

## **“BEHIND THE SCENES” . . .**

Even though our regular RE classes are taking a summer break, there is still much work going on—both for our more casual summer programming as well as planning for our 2011-12 year. Many thanks to Alexandra Wilson for serving as an RE helper on July 3 and to Dave Wilson for taking us on a wunderbar trip to Deutschland on July 10! I also appreciate the helpful efforts of a few older kids, Hannah Wilson and Emily Stein, who’ve done a super job working with our younger children. Connie Prairie has been hard at work this summer making improvements to our Rosa Parks room, as well as writing curriculum; and Barbara Tonne has been aiding me with curriculum selection and mapping. It does, indeed, take a village!!

## **TEACHERS NEEDED FOR 2011-12**

It’s that time of year to begin recruiting teachers for our 2011-12 programming year. Approximately 8 slots need to be filled. . .opportunities are available at nearly every age level. See article elsewhere in this issue!

## **Upcoming Schedule**

**July 24:** Annual multigenerational “Blessing of the Animals” service—no RE class; childcare for birth to age 3 only.

**July 31:** Earthspirit multigenerational service—no RE class; childcare for birth to age 3 only.

Got suggestions? Send me an email ([youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:youthre@stjohnsuu.org)) or give me a call (961-1940). NEW SUMMER OFFICE HOURS are Tu/Thu from 7:00am-12:00pm.

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Sunday, July 17**

10:30am Summer Service Time

## **Tuesday, July 19**

10:00am Yoga

6:30pm **Summer Potluck - Linkers**

7:00pm YADA

## **Wednesday, July 20**

5:00pm eNews Deadline

6:30pm Board Meeting

## **Thursday, July 21**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Sunday, July 24**

10:30am Summer Service Time

11:45am Art Reception

## **Tuesday, July 26**

10:00am Yoga

6:00pm **Summer Potluck -Heath/Shisler**

## **Wednesday, July 27**

5:00pm eNews Deadline

5:00pm **REPORTER DEADLINE**

7:00pm Caring Circle

## **Thursday, July 28**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Friday, July 29**

7:00pm Game Night

## **Saturday, July 30**

5:30pm Earth Spirit

## **Sunday, July 31**

10:30am Summer Service Time

## **Tuesday, August 2**

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm YADA

7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

## **Wednesday, August 3**

5:00pm eNews Deadline

7:00pm Membership

## **Thursday, August 4**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Sunday, August 7**

10:30am Summer Service Time

6:00pm tentative David Gordon-Johnson recital

## **Monday, August 8**

7:00pm Fund Trustee Mtg

## **Tuesday, August 9**

7:00am Josie Vacation - office coverage 9-12

10:00am Yoga

## **Wednesday, August 10**

7:00am Josie Vacation Day

5:00pm eNews Deadline

5:00pm **REPORTER DEADLINE**

## **Thursday, August 11**

7:00am Josie Vacation Day

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Sunday, August 14**

10:30am Summer Service Time

6:00pm Men's Group - Away

7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

## **Monday, August 15**

7:00am Regular Office Hours Begin

## **Tuesday, August 16**

10:00am Yoga

6:00pm **Summer Potluck - Hay/Dersheimer**

7:00pm YADA

## **Wednesday, August 17**

5:00pm eNews Deadline

6:30pm Board Meeting

## **Thursday, August 18**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Friday, August 19**

6:30pm Interweave Movie

## **Saturday, August 20**

9:30am Tentative RE Teachers Orientation

10:00am Chalice Facilitators

## **Sunday, August 21**

10:30am Summer Service Time

## **Tuesday, August 23**

10:00am Yoga

## **Wednesday, August 24**

5:00pm eNews Deadline

5:00pm **REPORTER DEADLINE**

## Thought of the Week

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“... [S]ecurity may be the last frontier of equality:  
‘Why do I deserve security, when another does not?’”

*~ Lisa Shannon, founder of A Thousand Sisters, quoting Katy Grant, co-founder of Prism Partnerships. Both women are working with Sister Somalia, a new organization devoted to helping victims of gender-based violence in Somalia.*