

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 19, 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.

### June 19th at 11:00 a.m.

#### *"The Taming of Lucy"*

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This sermon on love and connection will be Rev. Tracy's last as our interim minister.

### June 26th at 11:00 a.m.

#### *"Impermanence: The Only Lesson You Will Ever Need"*

Bonnie Beverage, author of the book by the same name and teacher at the Buddhist Dharma Center, will speak.

### July 3rd at 10:30 a.m.

#### *"Warriors for peace"*

Peggy Logue, peace activist, brings the message that "Only by becoming warriors for peace will war cease to exist." Ms. Logue is the author of the 2010 book *Skin in the Game: Journey of a Mother and Her Marine Son*, and her talk will draw on her personal experiences as a parent who opposes the war in which her son participated. Ms. Logue will challenge us to take steps to practice peace and end war while supporting the military families who suffer most from it.

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

#### *"How Science Helps Religion"*

St John's own Frank Meyer shares his ideas about how science gives religion an even more astounding world to deal with, and leaves much of our understanding to the realm of faith. This is our congregation's bonus prize from Frank, who purchased the sermon-for-sale from the Taste of St John's auction, and wrote this sermon of his own in the process.

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**Our Mission:** St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought.

### Interim Minister

the Rev. Denise Tracy

### Minister Emerita

the Rev. Annie Foerster

### Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

### Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

### Director of

### Religious Exploration

Elizabeth Wilson

### Caretaker

Tim Johnson

### Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

### Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

### 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 June 29 at 5 pm

# *Minister's Musings*

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

This is my next to the last column for the newsletter. Whew!

This past Sunday I showed you the quilt I made from ties collected from the members and friends of St John's. When the youth and young adults were redecorating their room, I anonymously offered to donate \$1.00 for every necktie they collected. Over 100 ties were collected.

From those, I hand sewed 48 crazy quilt squares! The crazy quilt was invented, most people think, in America during the reign of Queen Victoria. It was an exercise in creativity influenced by the era of the impressionist painters and the invention of the car, telegraph and telephone.



Lessons I learned from creating this crazy quilt.

- What you envision is not necessarily what you end up with.
- You start by putting pieces next to each other but as you work often pieces need to be adjusted or changed, for no apparent reason.
- Colors that you think will go together when put next to each other, do not necessarily end up looking or feeling quite right.
- When you suspend control, the elements do wonderful things on their own, without your intervention.
- In the midst of the process, it is understandable that, it being a crazy quilt, you as creator feel just a little crazy!
- All pieces of fabric no matter how big or small make a contribution to the whole.
- All pieces are important and contribute to the finished project.
- The finished project is quite miraculous because the creator cannot figure out the beginning or the end.
- In the final stage, inviting others, who know more than you do, into putting the pieces/squares together, is fun and satisfying.

Thank you, Ruth Ann Wolfe and Lisa Siders, for your help in the piecing together; and to everyone who contributed ties; and to YRUU and YADA for their redecoration project, which got me started.

Blessings,

***Denise***

Your Interim Minister

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

Private line at church 513-961-1994

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

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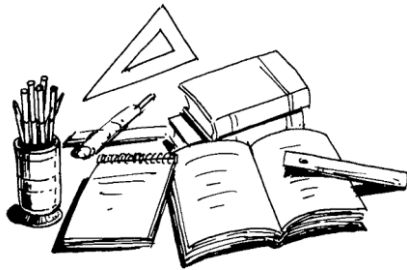
## UNOFFICIAL SUMMER MUSIC



### St John's Summer Singing Thursday nights at 7 pm – Gandhi room

The choir is officially on break during the summer, but some of us who miss singing during the summer are planning to meet on Thursday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. to do some a capella singing. Singers who are not in the choir (or, not yet in the choir!) are also welcome to join us. Our first songfest will be on Thursday June 23. This will be an informal group, primarily singing for our own enjoyment and practice, though we might contribute our song to a summer service or two (or who knows, be discovered on Youtube and go on to fame and fortune?)

If you are interested and not on the choir listserve, please contact Judy Strong by phone, or email her at [chalicegroups@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:chalicegroups@stjohnsuu.org).



## Push for Pencils

Many needy children in the Cincinnati area lack the basic school supplies most of our families are able to afford for their own children. Once again this summer, St. John's will have a **collection bin** in Krolfifer Hall to collect school items to be distributed by Crayons To Computers network. Our dates will be July 17 - August 21.

~ Carol Fencil

## 2011 CINCINNATI PRIDE INTERFAITH SERVICE

Thursday July 7, 2011

7:00pm

At St John's

St John's is honored to host this very special multi-faith worship event! Clergy and lay leaders from across the rainbow of spiritual and religious perspectives will gather to celebrate how their diverse faiths respect and embrace people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. All are welcome to attend!

The theme will be "**Together in a Spirit of Love**" and the service will include rousing music, inspirational readings, prayers and rituals from Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Native American, Pagan and many other religious traditions.

The Pride Service is being organized by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati. For more information, please visit [www.cinciuu.org](http://www.cinciuu.org) or [www.equinoxcincinnati.com](http://www.equinoxcincinnati.com)

## From the ffice

**Summer Office Hours.** Starting the week of June 20, Office hours will be T-W-Th only, from 7am to 1:30pm. There will be no coverage on Mondays or Fridays.

I am still seeking **one volunteer** to cover office phones 9am-noon on Aug 11. Contact Josie if you can help out.

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# NEWS from the BOARD

## New Board Policy Gifts to St. John's

The board has modified the policies concerning people who would like to give a gift to St. John's or who would like to make a bequest to the church. These will take effect on July 1, 2011.

The first is that gifts that are specifically earmarked by the donor must be approved by the board before they are accepted by the church. This means, for example, that if someone wanted to donate \$25,000 to construct a steeple to the church, St. John's would not accept the gift unless the board agreed to do so. Any designated gift accepted by the board will continue to be used for the designated purpose, and not co-mingled with other church funds.

The second is to allow our regular operating budget to continue more smoothly. For undesignated bequests (for example, in someone's will), gift funds will first pay off that person's pledge for the year, as well as half the amount pledged for the following year, before the remainder of the money is put into the Legacy Fund, which is where undesignated funds are placed to support future church special projects.

For questions, please see new Finance Council Director, Penny Shada.

*Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board*

## New Board Policy Oral Announcements at Sunday Worship



At the request of the Worship Arts Committee, the Board has revised our policy on how oral announcements are to be made on Sundays.

Committees are still asked to have announcements printed in the Order of Service if possible.

Any written announcements to be read must be placed in the "announcements" mailbox in the church office no later than **15 minutes before the start of the service.**

The following paragraph is now in effect:

"If a committee wishes to have their own representative give the announcement (rather than have their announcement read with the other announcements), they will need to contact the Office Administrator in the church office no later than **noon on the Thursday before** the Sunday they wish to speak. This deadline is to give the Worship Arts Committee and the Minister time to make sure that the service schedule can accommodate these spoken announcements and their appropriateness. In general, if there are multiple requests, one speaker per service will be chosen based on the most timely and appropriate message."

*~ Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board*

## *Introducing ....*

### **NEW OFFICERS 2011-2012**

Effective as of July 1, 2011, the following persons will serve as St. John's Board of Trustees:

- President -  
***Jim McDonough***
- Vice-President -  
***Claire Wagner***
- Secretary -  
***Kathy Rentz***
- Finance Council -  
***Penny Shada***
- Administrative Council -  
***Kathleen Smythe***
- Building Council -  
***Frank Meyer***
- Community Council -  
***Jan Hay***
- Mission Council -  
***Frances May Brooks***
- Religious Development Council -  
***Diana Long***

Thank you all for your service to our congregation!

~ *Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board*

### **NEW DEADLINES**

#### **REPORTER DEADLINE**

##### **PERMANENT CHANGE!**

Effective immediately, Reporter articles will be due **WEDNESDAY** before publication date, at **5:00 pm.**

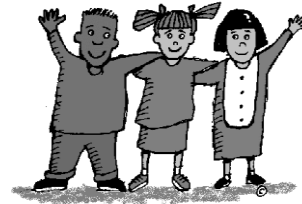
**ONE-TIME SPECIAL SUMMER DEADLINE:** ANNOUNCEMENTS for the PRINTED ORDERS OF SERVICE for **JULY 3, 10, & 17** are all due on **Tuesday June 28th at 8 am.** (These 3 services will be printed early due to summer vacations.)

**DEADLINE for ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE READ** aloud during service by the person officiating: These must be placed in the "announcements" mailbox in the church office no later than **15 minutes before the start of the service.** See New Board Policy on Oral Announcements.

**DEADLINE for ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE READ** aloud during service **BY YOUR OWN COMMITTEE SPOKESPERSON:** These must be submitted to the Office Administrator by **noon on the Thursday before the Sunday they wish to speak .** See New Board Policy on Oral Announcements.

# RE-flecti☉ns

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



Our 2010-11 RE year has officially come to an end and 2011 Summer RE is now underway! Our focus this summer will be “World Travel.” Summer programming is geared for kids in PreK through 4<sup>th</sup> grades. We meet in the Rosa Parks room when the kids are sung out of the worship service. (Note: Older kids/youth can remain in worship, or are welcome to join us as participants and/or helpers in Rosa Parks.) We will offer childcare for children ages birth-3 in Jefferson every Sunday throughout the summer.

Claire Wagner helped us kick off our “travels” by taking us to Spain on June 5! It was a great session. Your kids are so sophisticated. . .they were super listeners and asked great questions!! When Claire asked if anyone knew where Spain was on our world map, 8-year old Noah E-L. hopped right up and, without a moment’s hesitation, pointed it out on the map! Claire shared loads of pictures and stories, let the kids see and/or touch a real leather bota (wineskin), castanets, and a beautiful fan. And the Spanish tortilla she made was a big hit! Way different from the Mexican tortilla we are used to tasting, it is more like an egg and potato omelet.

After the tortilla tasting, the kids were given passports to fill out and a Spain sticker to add to it. The passports will be kept at church and each week they’ll be able to add a new sticker. In coming weeks they’ll be traveling to Russia, Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands, Turkey, Italy, El Salvador, and more!! I’m really excited about the variety of countries and experiences our congregants are willing to offer to our kids!

## OUT OF OFFICE

I will be on vacation from June 11-21.

## THANK YOU.S . .

- to our world-travel RE leaders: Claire Wagner (June 5), Carol & Dick Fencl (June 12), Connie Prairie (June 19), and Corey Long (June 26);
- to Taliana L-S., Maya M., Emily S. and Hannah W. for their help at our June 5 session; and
- to two very hard workers who are always willing to help out—this time, serving as DRE substitutes while I’m away on vacation: Connie Prairie (June 12) and Penny Shada (June 19)!!

## Upcoming Schedule

**June 11-21:** Elizabeth Wilson will be on vacation.

**June 19:** Ecuador & the Galapagos Islands with Connie Prairie.

**June 26:** Turkey with Corey Long.

**July 3:** USA & Independence Day with Elizabeth Wilson.

Got suggestions? Send me an email ([youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:youthre@stjohnsuu.org)) or give me a call (961-1940). My office hours are Tu/Thu from 9:00am-2:00pm.

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Sunday, June 19**

12:15pm Farewell Reception for Rev Tracy  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

## **Monday, June 20**

~ Office Closed ~

7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

## **Tuesday, June 21**

10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm YADA

## **Wednesday, June 22**

1:00pm COCC (Congregational Concerns)  
7:00pm Caring Circle

## **Thursday, June 23**

10:00am Meditation  
7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) - Gandhi

## **Friday, June 24**

~ Office Closed ~

7:00pm Game Night

## **Saturday, June 25**

10:00am Worship Arts Group

## **Sunday, June 26**

10:30am Service Time  
5:00pm Goddess Gathering @ home of Linda Linker

## **Monday, June 27**

~ Office Closed ~

## **Tuesday, June 28**

10:00am Yoga

## **Wednesday, June 29**

5:00pm *Reporter Deadline*

## **Thursday, June 30**

10:00am Meditation  
6:00pm Board (special mtg)  
7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) - Gandhi

## **Friday, July 1**

~ Office Closed ~

## **Sunday, July 3**

10:30am Summer Service Time

## **Monday, July 4**

~ Office Closed ~

## **Tuesday, July 5**

~ Office Closed ~

10:00am Yoga

7:00pm YADA

7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

## **Wednesday, July 6**

~ Office Closed ~

7:00pm Membership

## **Thursday, July 7**

9:00-noon shortened office hours

10:00am Meditation

6:00pm UU Council GLBT Service

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) - Gandhi

## **Friday, July 8**

~ Office Closed ~

## **Sunday, July 10**

10:30am Summer Service Time

6:00pm Men's Group potluck (away location)

7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

## **Monday, July 11**

~ Office Closed ~

## **Tuesday, July 12**

10:00am Yoga

## **Wednesday, July 13**

5:00pm *Reporter Deadline*

## **Thursday, July 14**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## **Friday, July 15**

~ Office Closed ~

6:30pm Food For Thought

## **Sunday, July 17**

10:30am Summer Service Time

Monday, July 18

~ Office Closed ~

## **Tuesday, July 19**

10:00am Yoga

6:00pm Summer Potluck At Home Of Linkers

7:00pm YADA

## **Wednesday, July 20**

6:30pm Board Meeting

## **Thursday, July 21**

10:00am Meditation

7:00pm Informal Choir (Strong) Gandhi

## Thought of the Week

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I am incapable of conceiving infinity,  
and yet I do not accept finity.

*~ Simone de Beauvoir*