

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 5, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

June 12th at 11 a.m.

"Quilting as a Metaphor for Church"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

How do we create something from many smaller pieces?

If you have a quilt, bring it and we'll place it in the sanctuary.

June 19th at 11 a.m.

"The Taming of Lucy"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

A sermon about love and letting go. There will be a ceremony of separation and letting go between me and thee, as part of the worship service.

June 26th at 11 a.m.

"Impermanence"

Bonnie Beverage, teacher at the Buddhist Dharma Center of Cincinnati and author of the book, "*Impermanence: The Only Lesson You Will Ever Need*," will speak.

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

"Only by becoming warriors for peace will war cease to exist."

Peggy Logue, peace activist, will speak. She 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.

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

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

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

5 p.m. Thursday, June 16

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am packed and ready for the trip to Transylvania. I have written my sermon and sent it ahead to the translator. I have my black wool robe packed. (One must wear a robe the book says, to be taken seriously.) I have packed the 50 scarves we blessed in worship today plus some cartoon band-aids and some trinkets for children. I have 21 dish cloths that Emily Hodges knit and lots of sweets from Mary Darner. Mary and I each knit shawls for our host families. We have one suitcase just for gifts for our partner church friends.

This trip is a dream come true for me. I have read and studied Unitarian History for over 40 years. I have read about Francis David whose powerful oratorical skills convinced a king that religious freedom was the better way. (Up until this point everyone had to change their religion when the King changed, or be killed.) David's leadership gave the world its first taste of religious freedom. We have not been the same since. This is our heritage.



I have wanted to see churches older than our own country and towns where every child born is Unitarian. I will preach about my trip on June 5th...a few hours after I return. I want to thank everyone who has made it possible for me to travel. The gift of the money to pay for my trip is an unbelievable treasure. I also want to thank Tom and Mary Darner for all their work to keep our partnership with St Laszlo alive. Their vision gives St John's a connection across the globe and all of us are better for it.

I take your love with me and will share St John's with St Laszlo, and when I return I will share St Laszlo with St John's. I am glad to be a minister and especially to be your Interim Minister.

Blessings,
Denise
Your Interim Minister

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Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

direct line at church 513-961-1994

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

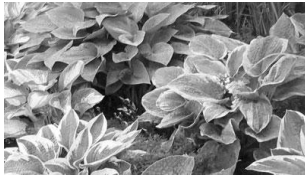
pportunities & Invitations

Memorial Garden dedication

June 5th after worship we will dedicate the church's memorial garden. We will have coffee hour outside. If you could help Rosina by carrying tables and setting up snacks, please let Josie know at 961-1938 or office@stjohnsuu.org.

Please attend this meaningful event. This garden was prepared with much love for all of you. Thanks,

Linda Linker



Those plants need water

The Memorial Garden will need lots of watering this summer. We would like to involve many St. John's people in its care. The garden belongs to all of us. Please help to maintain it.

Please contact Linda Linker or Marcia Schoeni if you are willing to help with watering. Thanks so much.

Memorial Garden Committee

Summer potlucks

It is time to plan for our summer potluck dinners. In the past, members or friends of the church volunteered to host a dinner at their house and everyone brought a dish to share. The host usually furnishes service ware and drinks and anything else they chose. The dinners have been on a Tuesday evening in June, July and August, starting around 6 p.m. If you would like to host an event please contact LaDonna Fritz.

- LaDonna Fritz

Dinner out for LAFs-June 10

Lively After Fifty social group will meet for wining, dining and conversation at Mecklenburg Gardens at 6:30 pm, Friday, June 10. Weather permitting, we'll be on the patio. We invite you to come and get better acquainted with other St. John's and friends.

Mecklenburg's is located at 302 E. University Avenue in Clifton. You can see their menu at <http://www.mecklenburgs.net/food/menu.htm>. Reservations are required. Please contact Jan Hay by Thursday, June 9.

Sunday morning forums

June 12 - forum - 10 a.m. Collaborative Divorce - Collaborative law is an approach to divorce that turns the traditional notion of litigation on its head. Instead of "fighting it out," collaborative lawyers meet with the couple and often a mental health professional to "work it out." The team resolves issues surrounding parenting, property, finances etc. This method seeks to minimize short term financial costs on families and to minimize the long term impact on children involved in a divorce. Peter Dillon, psychologist, who works in UC's psychiatry dept., will be our guest speaker.

There will be no forum on June 19. Sunday morning forums are discontinued for the summer season and will convene again in September. If you run across interesting articles or books this summer, hear a speaker, learn of a new bill coming up in Congress, anything that you think would make a good forum, don't let that idea get lost. Make a note of it; send an email to Carol Fencl. Thank you. Enjoy your summer.

-Ethel Ingalls

Interim Minister announced!

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the selection of an **interim minister for 2011-2012.**

We will welcome the **Rev. Helen Carroll** on August 15. Ordained in 2001, Rev. Carroll brings nine years experience as a settled minister and one year as an interim minister in mid-sized congregations:



years of worship, teaching, social witness, stewardship and pastoral connections. Among her accomplishments:

Settled Ministry.

Rev. Carroll worked with lay leadership to transition the congregation to policy-style governance, develop a 12-month stewardship plan to eliminate the annual canvass, grow membership by 31% and receive recognition as a “Breakthrough Congregation.”

Interim Ministry.

Together with the lay leadership, Rev. Carroll addressed the five developmental tasks of an interim Congregation (history, identity, infrastructure, denomination, and future) and also implemented a 12-month canvassing plan to eliminate the annual pledge drive.

She and her husband, accompanied by two Norwegian elkhounds and a boxer, will be moving to Cincinnati from California for a new adventure with us— *“There is a special joy for me in being alive at this time in history, in being on my particular journey, and in sharing the company of the companions that journey with me.”*

-Penny Shada

Summer Services Preview

On June 19th, we will bid a fond farewell to our interim Minister, Reverend Denise Tracy; in the fall, we will welcome our new interim Minister, Reverend Helen Carroll. But don't think that nothing will be happening at St. John's over the summer! The Worship Arts Committee has been hard at work planning services that will bring our community together during this period of transition. Our theme for the summer's services is “The Road Not Taken: A Journey of Possibilities,” and we have invited a number of speakers from many different paths to speak on this theme. We will also celebrate some of our favorite traditional summer services, including the Blessing of the Animals.

Services will continue at 11 a.m. through June, and we will switch to our earlier service time of 10:30 a.m. beginning July 3. Please watch your *Reporter* in the next few months as we share more information about summer services. For now, we'll offer you the details on the first two summer services we have planned, so that you can mark your calendars and make plans to attend these thought-provoking worship experiences.

June 26, 11 a.m.: Bonnie Beverage, teacher at the Buddhist Dharma Center of Cincinnati and author of the book *“Impermanence: The Only Lesson You Will Ever Need,”* will speak.

July 3, 10:30 a.m.: We will welcome Peggy Logue, peace activist, who will speak on the subject of “Only by becoming warriors for peace will war cease to exist.” She is the author of the 2010 book *Skin in the Game: Journey of a Mother and Her Marine Son.* See p.1 for details.

We look forward to worshipping with you at St. John's over the coming months. If you have questions or comments about the content of summer services, please contact a member of the Worship Arts committee (Pamela Wilz, Flavia Bastos, George Dershimer, Barbara Hadden, Diana Long, Steve Roth, Allison Sterrett-Krause, and Wendy Waters-Connell).

Allison Sterrett-Krause for the Worship Arts Committee

Goddess Gathering

June's Goddess Gathering takes us to Linda Linker's home and her beautiful gardens in Wyoming, Ohio, on **Sunday June 26, at 5 p.m.** Note the date change to give more time to relax and enjoy time together.

It will be a potluck so bring food to share. Drinks will be provided. Linda's glassed porch will be air-conditioned if the weather is hot. RSVP to Linda Linker.

-Pamela Wilz



New policy on 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.

Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board

Many Summer RE volunteers still needed!

Our regular classroom teachers need, and deserve, a break! For those of you interested in working with children and/or may be new to RE or just don't have the time for a 9-month commitment, volunteering to teach for a session or two during the summer would be a wonderful gift to our families!!

Our focus for summer RE this year will be on World Travel and Environmental Sustainability—with programming geared to the PreK-4th grade age group. Have you traveled to a foreign country? Do you have an interest in environmental issues? Would you be willing to share your knowledge and adventures with our kids? I hope so!! A "tips sheet" is being developed that will offer recommendations on how to plan a session and additional organizational assistance will be provided.

Contact DRE Elizabeth Wilson at

youthre@stjohnsuu.org if interested. A sign-up sheet is now posted on the south wall in Krolfifer.

Clemency support opportunity

In a unanimous 7-0 recommendation the Ohio Parole Authority has urged the Governor to grant clemency to Shawn Hawkins, scheduled for execution on June 14 as punishment for two 1989 drug-related killings in Mount Healthy.

St. Johners are urged to inform themselves about the flawed trial and Hawkins possible innocence by reviewing the Amnesty International appeal to commute the sentence at

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/uaa14111.pdf>, then to contact Governor Kasich requesting that he

accept the Parole Authority recommendation and stay the execution.

Governor John Kasich, Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-6117 Phone 1-614-466-3555 Fax: 1 614 466 9354 Email:

<http://governor.ohio.gov/ShareYourIdeas.aspx>

Hawkins has been on death row protesting his innocence over half of his life since Feb. 1, 1990.

-Howard Tolley

RE-flecti ☉ns

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

A thousand thank-yous are still not enough to thank the Dewald and Waters-Connell families for coming to the rescue on incredibly short notice and providing a dynamic Native American experience for our kids on RE Sunday!! Deep gratitude to Wendy, Angie, Steve, Holly, Cameron, and Jackson who taught us ways to be more respectful, were so wonderful to encourage questions, and were willing to endure the stifling hot day in their beautiful regalia to help us better understand native culture. We all learned a LOT!

Summer RE will officially begin on Sunday, June 5. While programming is geared for kids in grades PreK-4th, we welcome the participation and/or help of our older youth. We will meet, in general, in Rosa Parks when the kids are sung out of the worship service. Childcare for children ages birth-3 years is available, as usual, in Jefferson. Many volunteer opportunities are available for the remainder of the summer—contact me if you are interested in helping (see “ad” elsewhere in this issue).

At our May RE committee meeting, we discussed programming and goals for the 2011-12 year. We want to continue with our traditions—both old and new—that encourage multigenerational interactions. We also want to focus on involving parents more in their child(ren)'s religious education and promote activities that allow families to get to know one another better.



Among the activities in the planning stages are: a RE parent orientation meeting in September that will not only be informational, but will allow parents an opportunity to provide feedback; and a trip to see a Reds game (a multigen event) later this summer.

Stay tuned for details via Enews, Facebook, and, of course, *The Reporter*.

THANK YOUS:

- to the most cheerful computer guru I know, Frank Meyer, for his efforts in helping me recover from a massive computer crash;
- to the continuing efforts of the Reiman Crew (Stan & Bill) who assembled new A/V carts so we can improve our access to video technology throughout the church; and
- to the Memorial Garden team for making the church grounds a more beautiful and sacred space. It's nice to pull into the drive and see the gorgeous new garden!!

Upcoming Schedule

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

June 12: Summer RE program (Pre-4th grades): A visit to Russia with Carol & Dick Fencil.

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940). NEW SUMMER OFFICE HOURS are Tu/Thu from 7 a.m.-12 p.m.

UUA Heartland District info.

The Heartland District to which St. John's belongs offers Congregational Monthly Mailings and other communications on its website, <http://www.heartlanduu.org/communications.htm>.

Lots o'pop tabs!

Last week 17.2 pounds of pop tabs were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House from the overflowing 5 gallon water bottle in the sanctuary. Thanks to all contributors, and please keep bringing your pop tabs for the next delivery.

-Emily Hodges

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, June 5

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am Service
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
12:30pm Music Committee
6:00pm Men's Group

Tuesday, June 7

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)

Wednesday, June 8

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden
6:00pm Congregational Search Meeting
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

Thursday, June 9

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

Saturday, June 11

10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)
6:30pm TASTE EVENT – Prairie's home

Sunday, June 12

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am Service
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

Tuesday, June 14

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, June 15

6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, June 16

10:00am Meditation
5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE
7:00pm Choir

Friday, June 17

7:00pm Interweave Potluck Movie

Saturday, June 18

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators
6:00pm TASTE EVENT @ Nichols' home

Sunday, June 19

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am Service
12:15pm Coffee Hour Reception for Denise
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)

Monday, June 20

7:00am Summer Office Hours Begin (closed on
Monday and Fridays)
7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, June 21

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA

From the Office

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Starting the week of June 20 the office is on summer hours – closed on Mondays and Fridays. Deadline for written announcements will be **on Tuesdays at 10 am** through August the 14, except for the special deadlines below.

Josie still needs volunteers to cover office phones 9 am-noon on the following days: July 13, 14 and Aug. 11.

If no one can help, Josie will **try** to check phones (but it may not be on a daily basis).

The weeks of July 4 and 11 and August 7 there will be no eNews sent. Except for the weeks where there is no eNews the deadline will be the same, Wednesdays at 5 pm. **DEADLINES FOR ORDER OF SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAYS JULY 3, 10, 17 is Tuesday June 28th at 8 am.** These 3 services will be run and printed in the same week.

Reminder: To ensure that all your articles get to the REPORTER editors please send REPORTER pieces to reporter@stjohnsuu.org. You can cc Josie at office@stjohnsuu.org if you wish.

All enews pieces come to me through the office at office@stjohnsuu.org (mark subject line "eNews")

Thought of the Week

“...in these sweet June days
The teacher and the scholar trust
Their parting feet to separate ways”

John Greenleaf Whittier