

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

March 27, 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.

A Three Week Series: "A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH"

### April 3 at 11:00 AM

#### *"The Earth Is Our Beloved Home"*

The Rev. Denise Tracy

What does our liberal theology say about earth centered spirituality?

Featuring: Special Music by the Choir.

### April 10 at 11:00 AM

#### *"Earth Seeks Peace"*

St John's annual Spring Choral Program.

### April 17 at 11:00 AM

#### *"We Belong To The Earth"*

The Rev. Denise Tracy

We have several families in our congregation who have as their heritage Native American Spirituality. These families will share leadership of this service with our minister, and teach us of their ancient ways.

### April 24 at 11:00 AM

#### *"Alleluia"*

The Rev. Denise Tracy

On Easter Sunday we will have a combination of Word and Music for the word *Alleluia!* The choir and our Interim Minister will meld their gifts as a meditation on this powerful work of praise.

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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

Mon-Fri 7:00am 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

Thurs April 7 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

Jack Sherman, Chair of the Search Committee, and Search Committee members Jan Hay, Sharon O'Neil, Douglas Striker, Manuel Susarret (and Melissa Orr-Asman, in absentia) made an announcement this past Sunday Morning. The announcement is that the Search Committee has no candidate at this time. There were 24 people interested in St John's and these exchanged profiles with our committee. The committee interviewed 11 by phone. They then selected 4 for pre-candidating. They spent a weekend with each. From this they felt there were two people who were excellent and prioritized these two. The job was offered and turned down by both---each has accepted another call.

The Transitions Office has offered the possibility of a second list. The Search Committee has accepted this possibility. They will review and let us know what the prospects are. If there is a person they are interested in, they will have to interview and invite...and if accepted, a candidating week would be in the late spring.

This is not what we hoped for. Our committee has worked hard and they deserve our thanks and praise for their work. It is a difficult time for ministers to move. Houses to sell and spouses' jobs to find make it a time where people are very careful about when and where they will choose to move. St John's is a wonderful place and it is better to wait for the right person than to select someone who is not a correct fit.

So *thank you* Jack, Jan, Sharon, Douglas, Manuel and Melissa from an appreciative congregation.

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

## ⊕pportunities & Invitations

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### UU sponsored PARENTING WORKSHOP for Secular Humanists and Atheists

The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati ([www.cinciuu.org](http://www.cinciuu.org)) will be hosting a parenting workshop with author **Dale McGowan** on Saturday **April 9**, from 9am – 12 noon. Location will be at Northern Hills Fellowship, 460 Fleming Road. The registration fee will be \$35 for individuals and \$50 for couples; free childcare will be provided.

Dale McGowan is the editor and co-author of *Parenting Beyond Belief*, and co-author of the companion guide *Raising Freethinkers*, which contains practical advice for freethinking parents who want to introduce their children to the best literature, movies, games, and traditions, all within a secular worldview. The seminar will feature ideas that help parents foster a sense of fairness, tolerance, altruism, respect, and happiness in their children.

For more information on how to register for this workshop, see DRE Elizabeth Wilson, or contact Colin Thornton at [ticktock.colin@gmail.com](mailto:ticktock.colin@gmail.com).

### HEARTLAND DISTRICT SPRING ASSEMBLY - April 1-3

The Spring Assembly will be Friday, April 1, 5 PM through Sunday, April 3, 12 noon. It will be held at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, IN 47308 (about a 2-hr drive). Information will be available in Krolfifer Hall during Coffee Hour. Additional information at [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org), or contact Frances May Brooks.

## TASTE OF ST JOHN'S



### And Silent Auction



Taste of St John's will be held Saturday, **April 16** from 6 pm to 9 pm. This year, the festivities will start with a **special reception to thank the Ministerial Search Committee**.

A Community **Potluck** and **Silent Auction** will follow. Many great items have been donated. Please contact Ann Schuur if you would like to donate. Child care will be available and will include a pizza party (suggested donation of \$3 per child). This is a community event and all are encouraged to attend. Please look for the volunteer signup sheet outside Krolfifer and indicate how you can help and what type of dish you will be bringing to the potluck. – *Ann Schuur*

### Lively After Fifty (LAFs) Apr 8

April 8, at 7:00 PM, LAFs will be enjoying highly recommended southern cuisine at The Greyhound Tavern, 2500 Dixie Highway in Ft. Mitchell, KY (close to Buttermilk Pike). Talk to Jan about carpooling to avoid I75.

LAFs is a social group made up of St. Johners and friends over the age of 50. Newcomers will find this a good way to get acquainted.

**Reservations are required by Wed, April 6.**  
Please contact Jan Hay. - *Jan Hay*

## SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

Forums are held at 10-10:45am on Sunday morning, in Krolfifer Hall.

### April 3 – “Should St. Johns Seek Abolition of Ohio's Death

**Penalty?”** In 2005, our congregation called on public officials to impose a moratorium on executions. Since then, Ohio has put over thirty to death, and the current schedule of one per month puts our state second after Texas in the number executed per year. New Jersey, New Mexico and Illinois recently abolished capital punishment in their states. Democratic State Reps Ted Celeste and Nickie Antonio have announced legislation in the Ohio General Assembly that would abolish the death penalty. Should we revise /update our 2005 Moratorium resolution and now call on our elected officials to abolish capital punishment? Drawing on his work with Ohioans to Stop Executions, Howard Tolley will advocate abolition and facilitate a discussion that fully and fairly considers the views of proponents as well as opponents.

**April 10 - Leadership Forum –**  
Details TBA

**Future topics:** If you have a topic you would like to discuss in forum, please let me know. - *Ethel Ingalls*



## MUSIC VIVACE

### CINCINNATI'S BEST BARBERSHOP!

**Sunday, April 3, 3:00**

Two award-winning groups, **Cincinnati Sound Chorus** (women) and **Southern Gateway Chorus** (men), will take center stage at St. John's, for the Final Concert in the 2010-2011 St John's Music Series. Tickets are \$15.00, for one adult and one child.

These wonderful singers do not mess around, they are serious, highly competitive, and practice to perfection. These are not quartets, but full ensembles of 70-100+ singers apiece. They are coming to us at the top of their game, one week before hitting the road for national competition.

### Spring Choral Service, “EARTH SEEKS PEACE”

**Sunday, April 10.** As we near Earth Day, our choral music focuses on the beauty of our planet and the necessity for our collective stewardship. We humans do challenge the Blue Green Hills of Earth. Some of our choral music will be unaccompanied, some pieces accompanied by piano; and two poetic pieces will be accompanied by solo oboe. The selections are exquisite.

The wonderful Dr. Seuss story, *The Lorax*, is the children's story for the morning service on the 10th. Kathleen Smythe will share a recent journey (a homily of sorts) and Lisa Siders-Kenny will participate in the service.

The beautiful sonorities of the St. John's Choir will resound through our stunning sanctuary, built to bring the outside inside. And our music will serve to bring we who are inside outside--to step consciously on mother earth, the blue green orb that sustains our very life. Please join us for this reverent and uplifting choral Sunday morning service.

**RE First Sunday on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Rachel and I will teach the children the Rainforest Song (to be sung at the choral service). The young ones will make rainsticks to accompany us. We will sing of the parched and barren land, and we'll sing of plentiful water. The youth will supply the much needed rain. - *Peace, Cathy*

## Like St John's even more!

### – on Facebook

It's time to celebrate - 150 people now follow St. John's on Facebook! Why don't you join us too? Search for St John's on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) And don't forget the apostrophe in St. John's. :-} *Linda Heath, Facebook Team*

## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

On Sunday April 3rd 1/2 of the plate collection will go the Interfaith Hospitality Network to support their mission of providing shelter for homeless families. Please give generously. For more information, visit [www.ihncincinnati.org](http://www.ihncincinnati.org).

## THANKS RECEIVED!

Check out the wonderful thank you letters posted on the RE bulletin board near the back staircase. These lovely letters were sent to our 5th-6th grade class from the beneficiaries of the "World Service Bazaar" proceeds. Freestore Foodbank (local), Angel Flight East (national), and Conservation International (international) each received \$600 to help with their missions.

## CINCINNATI WALDORF SCHOOL

...began life in the basement of St John's, and is still connected to many of our families. They invite St John's members to their Starry Night Gala Fundraiser on Saturday, April 16th at the Kingsgate Marriott in Clifton. For more information, phone (513) 541-0220; or visit their website at [www.cincinnatiwaldorfschool.org](http://www.cincinnatiwaldorfschool.org), and click on the "CWS Spring Gala" link on the left.

## From the ffice

If anyone could volunteer to cover in the office for me (answer phones and check messages) on Mon, April 4, Wed, April 13, or Friday, April 22 from 9am to noon, please let me know. Summer dates will also be available!

Thanks, *Josie*



Stewardship cards were handed out Sunday to seek pledges to support St. John's for 2011-2012. So far, we have received 80, or about one half of our stewardship units. We are asking that everyone return them as soon as possible by mail or in the Sunday morning offering plate. In order to make this year's budget, if it possible, we are asking for a 10% increase. If you need a pledge card, there will be some with the ushers on Sunday or you can call the office and Josie will mail one to you. You can call Rick Prairie if you are unsure about what you gave last year, and renew over the phone. If you can increase you can tell Rick over the phone.

Save us having to call you! If your stewardship card is not in, we will need to call you, so we can have a complete accounting of our finances to plan for raises, and next year's budget!

Thank you for your timely and generous support of St John's!

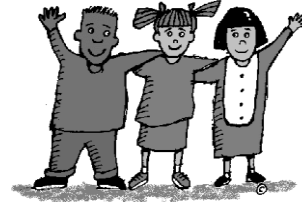
*-Claire Wagner, Jim McDonough, Rick Prairie and Denise Tracy*

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# RE-flecti⊕ns

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



**OWL 2010-11:** Our biannual citywide OWL program came to a close with a worship service/ceremony on Saturday, March 19. Congratulations to St. John's OWL "graduates" Ashley Armstrong, Emily Armstrong, Maya Borrero-Smith, Colin Fanselow, Jordan Lobsiger, Hugh O'Neill, and Liz Schuster!

It takes a lot of work to provide this valuable programming for our youth and, as has been the case since its inception, adult leadership from St. John's has been stellar. Extra special thank you's are in order for our St. John's OWL Facilitators—Jay Guenther, Marty Harrington, and Stan Loeb. These folks gave an extraordinary amount of their time and energy to this effort and it is deeply appreciated! And finally, thanks to all of you who provided much-needed help with food, clean-up, chaperoning, etc. All of these contributions helped make this year's program a success!

**EXCITING FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES** are coming up ...

- **Saturday, April 9: Parenting Beyond Belief Workshop** at Northern Hills UU Fellowship from 9:00am-1:00pm, featuring Dale McGowan. Cost is \$35.00 per person or \$50 per couple. Free childcare provided. See the feature article elsewhere in this issue of *The Reporter*.
- **Saturday, May 14: "Stand Together to Make It Better," a MUSE concert** at SCPA beginning at 7:30pm. This concert is dedicated to the enduring spirits of today's youth and its focus will be to reach out to young people, to speak out against bullying, and to learn to become better allies. More info about this inspiring event will be distributed to RE families in the coming weeks.

**THANK YOUs. . .**

- To Sarah Elmore, Amy Fletcher, and Becca Siekbert for coordinating the fabulous All-Church Birthday on March 20. . .it was great fun!! Thanks also to everyone who contributed the splendid birthday cakes!!
- And a million thanks—yet again—to Stan Loeb, Bill Luerssen, and Dave Wilson for their ingenuity (and muscles!) in getting the TV, whiteboard and shelving mounted in the Wells Room. You guys are the best!!

## Upcoming Schedule

**Ongoing:** Book collection drive—new or gently used books suitable for children in PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grades—sponsored by our junior high class. See the specially marked box in Krolfifer (near the west wall).

**Sunday, April 3:** First Sunday in Krolfifer for grades PreK-8<sup>th</sup>. Cathy Roma & Rachel Kramer will join us for some musical fun!!

**Saturday, April 9:** *Parenting Beyond Belief Workshop* from 9:00am-1:00pm at Northern Hills UU.

Got suggestions? Send me an email ([youthre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:youthre@stjohnsuu.org)) or give me a call (961-1940) ... I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours are Tu/Wed/Thu from 9:00am-1:30pm.

# St. John's Church Calendar

## Sunday, March 27

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum (Immigration)  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
12:30pm Leadership ID Meeting  
1:00pm Great Decisions "Financial Crisis"

## Monday, March 28

7:00pm Adult RE Class: *The Death of Josseline*

## Tuesday, March 29

10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group

## Wednesday, March 30

6:30pm Goddess Gathering

## Thursday, March 31

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

## Friday, April 1

5:00pm Heartland District Assembly-Muncie IN

## Saturday, April 2

7:00am Heartland District Assembly-Muncie IN  
10:30am Nominating Committee

## Sunday, April 3

7:00am Heartland District Assembly-Muncie IN  
10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00am RE First Sunday  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
1:00pm Great Decisions  
3:00pm **Music Series Concert - Barbershop Extravaganza**  
6:00pm Men's Group

## Monday, April 4

7:00pm "Farmville" Movie /Discussion Adult RE

## Tuesday, April 5

8:30am Staff Meeting  
10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group  
7:00pm YADA  
7:00pm Book Group (Nina Tolley, leader)

## Wednesday, April 6

7:00pm Chalice Group Darner  
7:00pm Membership

## Thursday, April 7

10:00am Meditation  
5:00pm **REPORTER DEADLINE**  
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Choir

## Saturday, April 9

9:00am Choral Dress Rehearsal  
1:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)  
10:30am Nominating Committee

## Sunday, April 10

9:30am Leadership Development Council  
10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
11:00am **Spring Choral Service**  
12:30pm Friends Luncheon  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
1:00pm Great Decisions  
7:30pm Men's Martian Meeting

## Tuesday, April 12

10:00am Yoga  
7:00pm Tuesday Night Ladies Coming Out Group  
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

## Wednesday, April 13

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden  
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough

## Thursday, April 14

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

## Friday, April 15

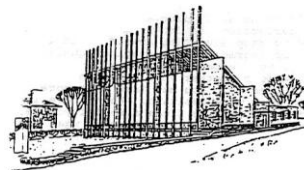
7:00pm Interweave Potluck Movie

## Saturday, April 16

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators  
12:30pm **Taste of St Johns**

## Sunday, April 17

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum  
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)  
12:30pm New Member Class  
1:00pm Great Decisions



## Thought f the Week

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"The problem with people who have no vices is that generally you can be pretty sure they're going to have some pretty annoying virtues."

*~ Elizabeth Taylor, 1932 -2011*