

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

May 8, 2011

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

May 15th at 11:00 a.m.

"Sermon for Sale"

Frank Meyer purchased the "Sermon for Sale" at the Taste of St John's. No title yet. What surprise will our scientist-turned-preacher have in store for us?

May 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

"Living Thankfully"

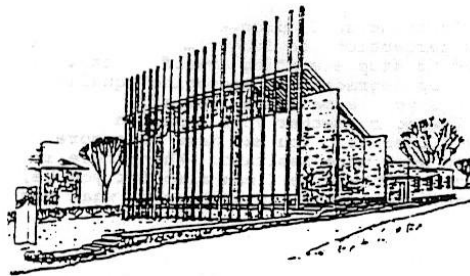
Gratitude will be the sermon topic. We will recognize new members and thank the Sunday school teachers.

May 29th at 11:00 a.m.

"Lost Enough To Find Yourself"

Joan Kahn Schneider

We face transitions everyday in our lives and we are facing a transition as a congregation. Transitions are not easy. Joan will talk about the importance of paying attention in these times so we remain connected to ourselves and each other.



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

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

5 p.m. Thursday, May 19

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.

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy

Dear Friends,

A while ago I sent you the list of my favorite (fiction) novels. I was then asked for my favorite non-fiction books. I love to read. On a vacation I usually read one or two books a day ... so here is a list of books that have, at some point or other, changed my point of view. They are in no particular ranking ... just books that over time remain deeply loved for what they gave me in terms of opening my eyes and letting me see the world differently.

Singing Lessons by Judy Collins
The Art of Possibility by B & R Zander
My Grandfather's Blessings by Rachel Remen
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard
Travelling Mercies By Anne Lamott
The Inner Voice by Renee Fleming
The People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn
God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality by Phyllis Tribble
The Gnostic Gospels by Elaine Pagels

Happy reading.



Blessings,
Denise
Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

cell 847-431-8282, private line at church 513-961-1994,
Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

pportunities & Invitations

Food for Thought: Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us in Krolfifer for the grand finale in our series of food-related films. We'll start with a potluck at 7 p.m. Friday, May 20th. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients). Beginning at 7:30 we will be showing the movie "Big Night".

-Bo Wachendorf

Sunday Morning Forums

May 15 there will be no forum so that RE teachers can enjoy a relaxing Teacher Appreciation Breakfast before church.

Those who have presented or helped with forums this past year include: Frances May Brooks, Howard Tolley, Krysta December, Chris Reed, Prasana Malaviya, Tom Darner, Paul Bowen, Frank Meyer, Steve Roth, Denise Tracy, Linda Linker, Marcia Schoeni, Linda Fowler, Bill Luerrsens, Cliff Shisler, Karen Miller, Sarah Elmore, Pamela Wilz, Marty Harrington, Linda Heath, Maria Yunker, Martha McLeod, Tony Malinauskas, Nina Tolley, Amy Monson, Carol Fencl, Dick Fencl, Penny Shada, Devin Moore and LaDonna Fritz. Sometimes people have commented about the variety of interesting topics presented in the forums. These are the people responsible. When you see them thank them for their time and their contribution.

May 22 10 a.m. Forum - **The Answer to How is Why.** Learn how having a mission, vision and action plan can make you or your group more successful. Led by Dick Fencl and Cliff Shisler, who teach the topic to clients of the Executive Service Corps, normally boards of local not-for-profits.

-Ethel Ingalls

UUA General Assembly

General Assembly will be held in Charlotte, N.C., June 22-26. General Assembly provides worship opportunities, the opportunity to meet UUs across the country, to increase your understanding of UUism, to learn via classes, to socialize and to shop in the UU marketplace for books, CDs, UU apparel, jewelry, etc. Registration for the full conference is \$360 or \$145 per day. Fees for youth are less. Day care and adult supervision is available for a fee. Registration will continue through June 26.

If you wish to be a delegate for St. Johns, meaning that you can vote on issues/positions at the Assembly, tell Penny Shada or Frances May Brooks. They will take your request to the board, which will vote on your request. There are funds in the budget to reimburse part or all of the registration cost for chosen delegates. For more information talk to someone on the board and/or go to

www.generalassembly@uua.org.

--Frances May Brooks, Mission Council

Summer UU Opportunities

MUSSA. Family summer camp in Potosi, Mo., July 3-9. www.mussa@uua.org or 317- 251-7346.

AMMUUSE. Single adults of all ages. One-week camps in Saugatuck, MI, June 12-18 and August 7-13. www.amuuse.org or email ssamuuse@aol.com.

SUSSI. Family summer camp at Radford University in Va. July 17-13. www.suusi.org.

FERRY BEACH PARK ASSOCIATION. Choose from 36 conference and camp offerings or vacation on your own. www.ferrybeach.org or call 207-282-4489 or 207-284-8612 or email fbregs@maine.rr.com.

Check the Mission Council bulletin board and/or mailbox or contact Frances May Brooks.

Among ourselves

Annual meeting May 22

St. John's annual meeting will be held after church on Sunday, May 22. On this date, we will have an election of officers and the adoption of our annual budget. The church year annual report will also be available. If you are a member and are not able to be present to vote, you may get an absentee ballot for the election from Josie in the office or request that one be mailed to you.

Budget questions?

On Sunday May 15, there will be a brief time after the service to meet with board president Penny Shada and vice president Jim McDonough to answer questions you may have about the budget to be voted on at the May 22 annual meeting. The board-recommended budget will be available to view outside the church office, or you may get a copy from Josie, anytime after Thursday, May 12.

Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following list of candidates for this year's election, to be held during the annual meeting scheduled for Sunday May 22.

Vice President: Claire Wagner
Secretary: Kathy Rentz
Director of Administrative Council:
Kathleen Smythe
Director of Community Council: Jan Hay
Director of Finance Council: Penny Shada
Director of Property Council: Frank Meyer
Director of Religious Development
Diana Long
Fund Trustees: Don Fannin,
Barbara Gomes
Nominating Committee:
Barbara Hadden, Pamela Wilz

Jim McDonough, current vice president, will become president of next year's board.

Immigration talk

Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, (MARCC) of which St. John's is a member, hosts attorney Al Gerhardstein, a member of First Church, at its next delegates council meeting at noon, Wednesday, May 11. He will speak on Legal Protections Afforded to Citizens and Non-Citizens. All are welcome.

-MJ Pierson of UUCGC

Thank You Sunday, May 15

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul"—Luther Burbank. The Leadership Development Committee invites you to share a flower with someone that you appreciate at the third Thank You Sunday event May 15. Visit our table in Krolfifer to pick out a flower. The 5th and 6th grade class will help deliver the posies.

-Leadership Development

Committee

2011 Severe Storm Fund

Communities and families in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee were devastated by storms and tornadoes on April 27. Unitarian Universalist families have major property damage or lost their homes. The Mid-South UU District has established a 2011 Severe Storm Fund to assist UU families. If you wish to donate, checks can be made out to "2011 Severe Storm Fund." They can either be put in our Sunday collection plates or mailed to Mid-South District Bookkeeper, 4605 Elkins Ave., Nashville, TN 37209. Donations can also be made through the Mid-South website: www.msduua.org.

-Mission Council Director

Memorial Garden request for ferns

Needed early in the second week of May to be planted that week. Contact Linda Linker or Marcia Schoeni. You can leave ferns in pots of soil under the landing at the end of the sacred space of the Memorial Garden May 8, 9, or 10. Some help planting ferns later that week would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

-Linda Linker

Coffee Sign-up

The sign up board for coffee hosts is in the lobby for the months of June, July, and August. If you are a new member and entertaining the idea of hosting a Sunday these are the ideal months to learn the ropes since the attendance is lower and the pace is slower. Thank you,
-Rosina Janus

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday morning, May 15, is our annual breakfast celebrating the contributions of our teachers—both for children & youth and adult RE. The saying “It takes a village ...” really holds true as we have 98 people (teachers and their family members) on our guest list!! In order to feed the people who have done such a wonderful job nourishing our souls, we need your help!!

Donations of main dishes (eggs, breakfast casseroles, etc.), fruit, drinks (milk, juices), baked goods (muffins, bagels/cream cheese), etc. are needed. We also will need a small team of folks willing to help with set-up and clean-up.

If you can help, please contact coordinator Beth Molinario, Carol Fencl, or Elizabeth Wilson at youthre@stjohnsuu.org.

-Elizabeth Wilson



Memorial for Susan Montauk

A Quaker service to honor and remember Dr Susan Montauk will be held at St John's at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 15th. Come to join with others and be together with Stan.

New Adult RE Offering: Long-term care planning

Have you considered what would happen if you suddenly had a stroke and could not take care of yourself? Do you have somebody willing and able to take care of you 24 hours a day? If not you, are you taking care of a parent who might need this kind of care? Join Caring Circle's workshop on long-term care plans on May 12th from 1 to 3 p.m. to talk about these and other issues related to aging. This is an opportunity to begin the planning process by exploring alternative long-term plans and learning from others about what they are doing. Contact Nina Tolley, Ann Schurr or adultRE@stjohnsuu.org to register.

-Nina Tolley

Joys and Concerns

Kate Radkey recently (April 20) had successful knee replacement surgery for her right knee. She is currently at the Western Hills Retirement Village and is working very hard on her physical therapy so that she can come back to church soon.

Summer RE volunteers needed!

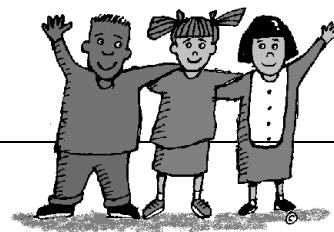
Our regular classroom teachers need, and deserve, a break! For those of you interested in working with children and/or may be new to RE or just don't have the time for a 9-month commitment, volunteering to teach for a session or two during the summer would be a wonderful gift to our families!!

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

RE-flecti⊕ns

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



Many thanks to the YRUU crew—led by youth advisors, Karen Miller & Karolyn Schalk—for their excellent service on May 1. Many, many compliments were received and once again the youth shared their UU beliefs in a creative and vibrant way! Bravos to Alexandra, Ashley, Caleb, Daniel, Emily, Erin, Jacob, Jo Ellen, Jon, Mat, Richard, and Shelley for their wonderful words and music!! (And thanks, also, to Bill Surber and Rachel Kramer for their support.)

Celebrating Differences

Because of several unsettling moments in our RE classes over the last few months, the focus of our First Sunday in May programming was our First Principle—“the inherent worth and dignity of every person.” We did a fun large group activity where the kids could decide on what activities were more boy-like or girl-like, with the final message being that activities and interests shouldn’t be determined by a person’s gender. People should be free to choose activities and hobbies based on what interests them and what brings them enjoyment — not the preconceived notions of what others think is “right.” I think the message was well-received, with the kids sharing many poignant examples of struggles they have faced, especially at school.

Here are several upcoming opportunities that can help you reinforce the “celebrate differences” concept with your kids:

“Stand Together to Make It Better,” a MUSE concert—Saturday, May 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Corbett Theater of SCPA. This concert is dedicated to the enduring spirits of today’s youth. Its focus will be to reach out to young people, to speak out against bullying, and to learn to become better allies. Dreams of Hope, a group from Pittsburgh, will join MUSE for a portion of the concert. Dreams of Hope is an exciting and multifaceted performance group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight allied youth ranging in age from 13-21. This concert is appropriate for all ages — so any child who can sit still will enjoy terrific music with an inspiring message. Tickets are \$5 for youth and \$8-15 for adults. Childcare is available. For more info. about this event, contact Rachel Kramer at rkmlb1@earthlink.net or Elizabeth Wilson at youthre@stjohnsuu.org.

- **“Freedom Riders”—Monday, May 16th on your local PBS station.** An inspirational and highly acclaimed documentary chronicling six months in 1961 that changed America forever. It eloquently illustrates the lesson that great change can come from a few small steps taken by courageous people — young people, no less. The documentary is not rated, so you will need to use your own judgment on whether the material is developmentally appropriate for your youth.

Upcoming Schedule

May 14: “Stand Together to Make It Better, MUSE concert at SCPA, 7:30pm.

May 15: Teacher Appreciation Breakfast in Krolfifer, 9:15am.

May 22: *RE Sunday*—Teacher recognition, OWL graduates recognition, and high school seniors recognition at beginning of worship service.

May 22: Special programming for our PreK-6th grades classes—a visit from Sunflower, who will share Native American stories and music in her tipi on the front lawn!

Got suggestions? Send me an email (youthre@stjohnsuu.org) or give me a call (961-1940). My office hours are Tu/Thu from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Many Thanks!

A big thank you to all who contributed canned goods to our Easter Hunt on April 24. Though Mother Nature was uncooperative this year, I am pleased to inform you that 132 food items—totaling 123 pounds—were donated to the Freestore Foodbank!

-Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, May 8

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

Monday, May 9

7:00pm Fund Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 10

10 am Yoga (depends on candidating events)
7:00pm Chalice Group - Strong

Wednesday, May 11

10:00am Chalice Group Hadden
5:30pm TASTE Event Cooking Class-NTolley
7:00pm Chalice Group McDonough
7:00pm Special Board Meeting (budget)-Wells

Thursday, May 12

10:00am Meditation
1:00pm Taking Charge of Your Future
6:00pm Tai Chi
7:00pm Choir

Friday, May 13

4:00pm John Fine's Treasures Rummage Sale
(benefit St. John)
5:30pm LAFS @ Home of Linda Heath & Cliff
Shisler

Saturday, May 14

10:30am Chalice Group (Nunn)

Sunday, May 15

8:30am Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
11:00am Service
12:15pm Thank You Sunday (in Coffee Hour)
12:30pm Go Group (Board Game)
2:00pm Susan Montauk Quaker Memorial Service

Monday, May 16

7:00pm Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Tuesday, May 17

10:00am Yoga
7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, May 18

6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, May 19

10:00am Meditation
5:00pm REPORTER DEADLINE
6:00pm Tai Chi 7:00pm Choir

Friday, May 20

7:00pm Food for Thought Potluck

Saturday, May 21

10:00am Chalice Group Facilitators
6:30pm TASTE Event-Home of Miller/Meyer

Sunday, May 22

10:00am Sunday Morning Forum
11:00am Final Sunday of 2010-11 RE Year
11:00am Service
12:30pm CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



From the **ffice**

By Josie Arens, St. John's Office Administrator

If your group or committee has events/meetings ready to schedule July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 the calendar is posted on the wall in Krolfifer for you to add your events. Please note, if there are double bookings between groups for the same space on the same day Josie will notify all groups involved. The calendar will be posted in Krolfifer through Wednesday May 25th.

The office will be closed on Friday, May 27, and Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day weekend. Summer office hours begin the week of June 20 - the office is closed on Mondays and Fridays through August 14.

Josie is looking for "vacation" volunteers for office coverage for this summer. If anyone can cover any of these days (answer phones and check messages) from 9am-noon please contact Josie. She will be glad to show you how the phone system operates (you can stop in anytime during her office hours) These are the days that she needs someone: Tues., Wed., Thur., July 5, 6, 7. - Tues., Wed., Thur., July 12, 13, 14, and Tues., Wed., Thur, Aug. 9, 10, 11. Please contact Josie 961-1938 if you can help.

Thank you!*The Reporter, May 8, 2011* **PAGE 7**

Thought of the Week

“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing.”

—Mother Teresa