

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 22, 2010

Summer Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration during the summer begin each Sunday at 10:30am. Child care is available.

Sunday August 29 at 10:30 am "In Tune: Creativity in Worship"

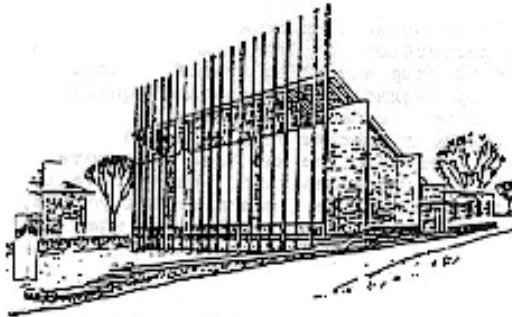
Minister of Music Cathy Roma and Associate Director of Music Rachel Kramer will present this service about music in worship.

Sunday September 5 at 10:30am "Are You Happy in Your Work?"

the Rev. Joan Schneider

For Labor Day weekend, our visiting minister from Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah will ask us to consider how content we are with our labors. Joan has been a UU minister since 1980 and has served congregations in Ohio, New York, South Carolina, Connecticut, Tennessee and Georgia.

Our Church 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

Summer Office Hours

Tues, Wed and Thurs

7:00am to 1:30pm

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

Thursday Sept. 2 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

St. John's is a congregation that prides itself in caring for others. One committee that works invisibly is called Committee On Congregational Concerns. This committee works to resolve disagreements between members. It is helpful to anyone who needs to be listened to. Blessings, Denise. It is described as follows:

Committee on Congregational Concerns (COCC)

This committee was commissioned by the board of directors to serve the congregation by coordinating a safe process for managing church-related concerns and conflicts. It comprises at least one past president, a current board member, and one person experienced in conflict management. Its purpose is to:

- Nurture a healthy religious community
- Promote shared power -Help resolve natural conflict
- Support diversity -Smooth decision-making
- Resolve conflicting individual and community needs
- Reconcile differences -Learn more about one another

Concerns appropriate to this committee include the following:

- Organizational/administrative -Property usage
- Interpersonal conflict relating to church life
- Sunday morning experience -Scheduling
- Membership responsibilities -Committee work

How to access the committee:

Feel free to contact any committee member. The committee members are:

- Sarah Loar Seibert, Chair person
- Kathy Laufman
- Susan Small
- Rev. Denise Tracy
- Representative from the Board of Trustees:
- Tom Darner

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

pportunities & Invitations

Summer Potluck on Aug. 24

Our last St. John's Potluck of the summer will be on Tuesday August 24 at 6:30pm at the home of Jim and Kathryn McDonough in Clifton. Please bring a dish to share and the grill will be hot so you can cook any meat that you bring. For questions contact Kathryn or Jim. All St. John's members and friends are welcome.

-LaDonna Fritz

Goddess Gathering

All women of St. John's are invited to our next Goddess Gathering on Wednesday August 25. Goddess Gathering is a monthly dinner open to all St. John's Women. The August Gathering will be at Mecklenburg Gardens (302 East University Avenue in Corryville). Please RSVP to Beth Molinaro if you plan to attend.

-Pamela Wilz

People Book Updates

Deadline from members and friends for all people book updates is Sunday August 29. Please send changes/updates etc. to office@stjohnsuu.org or leave a note in Josie's mail box in the office. Any changes that come in after this date will not be guaranteed to make it into the next issue.

-Josie Arens

RE Volunteers Needed

Enjoy kids? Got enthusiasm? WE NEED YOU!! There are many non-teaching opportunities available to help in our RE program. See the DRE column on the RE page of this issue and contact Elizabeth Wilson if you are interested in lending a hand!

-Elizabeth Wilson

Join the Singing!

Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday August 26 at 7:00 p.m. We'll not meet Thursday September 2 (Labor Day weekend), but will rehearse on Thursday September 9, for our first performance of the fall on Sunday September 12. Gather in, join the singing!

-Cathy Roma

Classes for Adults to Resume in the Fall

We are looking forward to an exciting, energizing array of topics with our Adult Religious Education program this fall. We'll continue our before-church forums, have a special world religions for youth and adults program after church, a Breaking Free group for women on Sunday afternoons, some Tuesday night classes, a book night with a new publication about Louisa May Alcott and more. Additional details will be shared in the next several Reporters.

-The Adult RE Committee

The Caring Circle

The Caring Circle at St. John's offers support to members and friends in need, such as transportation, meals, phone calls, notes and cards, and other acts of caring on a short-term basis. If you are aware of someone who may benefit from these services, or would like to offer your services occasionally, please contact Nina Tolley or Kathryn McDonough or Josie Arens in the church office.



Among ourselves

Sunday Service Time Change

Please note that starting on September 12, our Sunday worship services at St. John's will change back to the usual 11:00am starting time.

Pakistan Emergency

Up to 20 million victims of monsoon flooding in Pakistan are in desperate need of immediate assistance. The St. John's Board has approved a special plate collection for the service on Sunday August 29 that will be sent to the UN High Commission on Refugees. In accord with established policy, half of cash placed in the offering baskets will be provided for Pakistan relief. Checks designated for Pakistan relief and cash in an envelope marked for the emergency will go entirely for assistance to the victims. Donations to UNHCR can be made immediately at http://www.unhcr.org/emergency/pakistanfloods/global_landing.html

-Howard Tolley

Immigration-Congregational Study/Action Issue for 2010-2014

At this year's General Assembly, the delegates chose *Immigration* to be the topic UU congregations across the country would focus on for the next four years. There is much to be learned, and many ways we will be able to take action after we learn and explore more of the complexities surrounding Immigration. Look for Forum topics, special Adult Religious Education programs, as well as efforts combined with other local churches and groups. If you would like to work on this issue at St. John's, please contact Carol Fencl, Adult RE Chair.

-Carol Fencl

Adult RE Chair & General Assembly Delegate

Library News

A big thank you to Elizabeth Wilson for our first new donation to St. Johns Library. Elizabeth donated Common Fire: Leading Lives of Commitment in a Complex World by Deloz, Keen, Keen & Parks, 1996, pprbk. This book chronicles the lives of actual people who are extraordinarily committed to serving the common/public good. It lets us see how they shaped their lives to have meaning in the midst of what seems like confusion too great to overcome. An inspiring book. If you have books you would like to donate, please take a look at the guidelines for books that we want (posted on the table in the back corner of Krolfifer) and fill out a donation form if you have any to donate. Take your books to the library with the donation form included. You will be notified when the books are placed on the library shelves. Please do not shelve them yourself or they may not get included in the new listing. You may receive a copy of the donation guidelines by contacting Ethel Ingalls.

-Ethel Ingalls

Thank You

The Saturday Morning Chalice Group wants to extend a big thank you to everyone who contributed reading or eye glasses during our "Can You See the Need" eye glasses collection drive this past spring. The Saturday morning group is excited to announce that with your help we collected over 250 pairs of glasses. Giving the gift of sight or improved sight is a wonderful gesture and we so happy that the church could be a part of this effort. These reading and prescription glasses are being distributed to the Lion's Club and Cincinnati Health Care for the Homeless. So again – a big thank you to everyone who contributed and hopefully we can make this a yearly event.

-Jim Nunn

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson
Director of Religious Exploration

We're just a few weeks away from the beginning of our new RE year on Sunday, September 12. Teachers have been lined up for our 4 class configurations, however it takes more than just teachers to make an RE program happen! There are abundant opportunities available—including many easy, short-term ones. Here are a few of them:

Classroom Helper: This job consists of serving as the classroom teacher's assistant. Ideally you would arrive about 10:45am and check in to see if the teacher needs any help setting up the class; then provide hands-on assistance and supervision during the class. Help with class clean-up is also appreciated. No prep work and no experience needed. Time commitment: approx. 75 min.

Caring Coach: Similar to the Classroom Helper, this job involves helping one child with special needs during a class. No prep work and no experience needed. Training available from in-house specialist. Time commitment: approx. 75 min.

RE Greeter: Help the DRE welcome families as they enter the church on Sunday morning and acquaint visiting families with our program/facilities. Need to be available at 10:40am. No prep work and no experience needed. Cheat sheet available! Time commitment: 20 min.

First Sunday Speaker: We'll continue with our First Sunday multi-age program this year. Do you have knowledge or a special interest/circumstance to share that illustrates our 7 Principles or UU values? No experience needed and plenty of assistance available. Time commitment: approx. 60 min. for the actual session plus planning time.

Special Events Coordinator: In addition to some of our traditional events (Gingerbread House, Partner Church Dinner, etc.), I'd like to offer some other fun family and multi-generational opportunities but need assistance. Family Movie Night, Mystery Pals, and All-Church Birthday Party are some of the ideas I'd

love to make happen. No experience needed—advice provided! Time commitment: Approx. 2-10 hours overall (much of it planning work), depending on event.

“Many hands make light (and fun!) work!” Let me know if any of these opportunities interest you. Volunteering in our RE program is a great way to get to know our St. John's kids, makes for an exciting and invigorating program, and helps us grow lifelong UUs!

Summer RE Happenings

Sunday, August 29: “Dr. Dave's Cool Chemistry Show” led by Dave Wilson. We'll mark our final summer RE session and celebrate the upcoming new RE year by enjoying a fun and interactive demo. Is it magic or is it science? Come and find out!

Important Upcoming RE Dates—

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday September 4 (tentative): YRUU overnight event to celebrate the beginning of a new school year and welcome incoming freshmen.

Sunday September 5: NO regular RE— we'll have a multigenerational Water Communion Service. Infant-toddler child care only.

Sunday September 12: First session of the 2010-11 RE year.

Sunday September 26: First rehearsal of our children's choir, Voices of Variety, from 12:15pm to 12:45pm in Rosa Parks.

Got suggestions? Contact me at 513-961-1940.

I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!!

My office hours, starting August 25, will be Tues/Wed/Thur from 9:00am-1:30pm.



St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, August 22

10:30am: Worship Service
11:30am: Farewell Reception for Cassie Howe
11:30am: Newsletter Collating
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday, August 24

10:00am: Yoga
6:30pm: Summer Potluck
at home of Jim and Kathryn McDonough

Wednesday, August 25

6:30pm: Goddess Gathering Women's Group
7:00pm: Caring Circle

Thursday, August 26

10:00am: Meditation
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 27

Church Office Closed
7:00pm: Game Night

Sunday, August 29

10:30am: Worship Service
5:00pm: Earth Spirit
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday, August 31

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday, September 1

10:00am: Chalice Group (Hadden)
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Prairie)
7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday, September 2

10:00am: NO Meditation
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting

Friday, September 3

Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 5

10:30am: Worship Service
11:30am: Newsletter Collating
6:00pm: Men's Group
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday, September 6

Labor Day
Church Office Closed 7:00am

Tuesday, September 7

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Book Discussion Group

Thursday, September 9

10:00am: NO Meditation
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 10

5:00pm: Board of Trustees Retreat

Saturday, September 11

9:00am: Board Retreat

Sunday, September 12

9:30am: Sound Team
10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Worship Service
12:30pm: Adult RE Registration
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday, September 14

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday, September 15

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

From the fice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Regular office hours started the week of Monday August 16 (Monday thru Friday 7am-2pm). I will be out of the office on Friday August 27, Friday September 3 and Monday September 6 (Labor Day Weekend). Thank you to Barbara Tonne and Frances May Brooks with office coverage last week. All updates and changes for the People Book directory need to be submitted by Sunday August 29. Please send changes/updates to me at office@stjohnsuu.org or leave a note in my mail box in the office.

Thought of the Week

“Even as the fingers of the two hands are equal,
so are human beings equal to one another.
No one has any right, nor any preference
to claim over another. You are brothers.”

- from Final Sermon of The Prophet in the Koran

Fall Adult Religious Education

Registration will be held on Sundays, Sept. 10, 17, & 26 or by e-mailing adultre@stjohnsuu.org. There is no charge for any of the classes. For most classes, registration is required, but a few do allow drop-ins. It will be important to register no later than a week before the class since the class to ensure adequate enrollment. Below is the tentative list for classes. The full descriptions will be in the next Reporter.

World Religions - for Youth and Adults

New this year are two classes which are geared for youth and adults. You may attend with a family member or on your own.

When family members make different religious choices, family life becomes challenging. Such challenges are better handled if family members are better informed.

St. John's Adult Religious Education Program offers an introductory series of four classes this fall for families, including parent(s) and youths, 8th grade and up. The purpose is to become better informed about religions of interest, and to plan ways to continue learning.

Classes meet after church, October 3, 10, 17 & 24. Families wishing to share the cost may order lunch from a local restaurant. Families wishing to bring their own lunch may do so, using and cleaning up St. John's kitchen facilities.

This group is led by Charles Seibert. Charles has been a member of St. John's UU Church since 1995, and has taught several "World Religions" classes in the Adult Religious Education program. He is currently Professor of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati.

The Wisdom Array

If you thoroughly apply UU Principles to your life, you can avoid many of the hidden traps that prompt us to think, feel, act and express unproductively. Explore how through a series of compelling activities and thought experiments. Open to adults and teens 8th grade and above.

Tony Malinauskas, a St. John's member, is an author and long-time trainer to Fortune 500 companies. He has especially designed this course for St. John's.

Breaking Free - Women of Spirit - Sun. at 4 p.m., 5 sessions, starts Oct. 24.

Immigration Myths - Mon. at 7 p.m., 3 sessions, starts Nov. 1

Talking to Strangers-Spiritual Hospitality - Tues at 7 p.m. Choose either Oct. 5 or Nov. 9.

Speaking Peace - Tues. at 7 p.m. 6 sessions, starts Oct. 12.

Tai Chi - Thurs. at 6 p.m. weekly, starts Sept. 30

Services for the Elderly - Mon.. at 7 p.m., 1 session, late October

Louise May Alcott - Tues. at 7 p.m. 1 session, Oct. 26

With One Voice - Tues at 7 p.m. 1 session Nov. 30

The Adult RE Committee