

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 27, 2010

## Summer Worship Services

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

### Sunday July 4, 2010 at 10:30am "Sufferable Evils"

Diane Wright

The Declaration of Independence includes this sentence: "...mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed." On this Independence Day, join us for this opportunity to reflect on those words, and consider the circumstances and inspiration that move people to change.

### Sunday July 11, 2010 at 10:30am "Non-Creedal Religion in Changing Times"

Charles Seibert

Unitarian Universalism requires no creed of its members. Let us inquiry what that might mean, and what consequences might follow for us in changing times.

### Sunday July 18, 2010 at 10:30am "Blessing of the Animals"

Bruce Beisner, Aspirant for UU Ministry

We will celebrate the sacredness of the animal kingdom and our personal relationships with our furry, feathered and scaly friends.

**Plan to bring your dog, cat, hamster, fish, snake or other family pet(s) with you to church** for this special worship service. Bruce

Beisner will lead the service. There will be an opportunity to introduce your animal companion(s) to the congregation. For the safety of everyone involved, all dogs MUST be on a leash, all cats and other in cages, aquariums or other carriers. Don't this fun annual St. John's tradition!



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 Thur

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

Thursday July 8 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

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from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

It used to be that Unitarian Universalist churches closed completely during the summer. The UU church nearest my home had a sign board that read – “God Trusts Us: Closed For The Summer.” Over the years everyone realized that spiritual needs do not end during the summer. People still need a place to commune, think about higher purpose, connect to like minds and be nourished by the loving community. So most congregations have a summer schedule, services led by members, so that worship continues. This summer the theme for our summer services is creativity. On page 3 of this newsletter is a list of upcoming services. You may want to cut it out and post it on your fridge at home.

Blessings,  
***Denise***  
Your Interim Minister

**Interim Minister's Schedule:** Rev. Denise Tracy is currently away on study and vacation leave. She will be back in Cincinnati during the middle of July and will return to the pulpit at St. John's on Sunday July 25. In case of emergency, she can be reached through the church office at 513-961-1938.

**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.

**Welcoming Congregation:** We are pleased to be designated a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and as such we honor and value the racial, cultural, economic, religious, physical ability, sexual orientation and gender diversity of our members and visitors, young and old.

## Upcoming Worship Services at St. John's

**Summer Sunday Services begin at 10:30am**

**July 4:** "Sufferable Evils" Diane Wright ...a great speaker, NOT to be missed.

**July 11:** "Non Creedal Religion in Changing Times" Charles Seibert Philosophy Professor who is well known and highly respected for his World Religion Classes at St. John's

**July 18:** "Blessing of the Animals" Our own aspirant for ministry Bruce Beisner, will bless the animals. Bruce will be the Intern Minister at Heritage UU Church next year...so this will be his last sermon with for us for a while.

**July 25:** "The Creative Spirit in Worship" Part One. Rev Denise Tracy, our Interim Minister will speak to us about worship and creativity. The thoughts behind quality worship experience.

**August 1:** "Creativity to Express" Nina Tolley, painter, cook and artful living. Nina will share how she lives in creativity.

**August 8:** "Creativity and Stress" Our own Cassie Howe will speak to us on stress and the creative impulse. This will be her last sermon with us before she goes off to Portage, Michigan as a Consulting Minister.

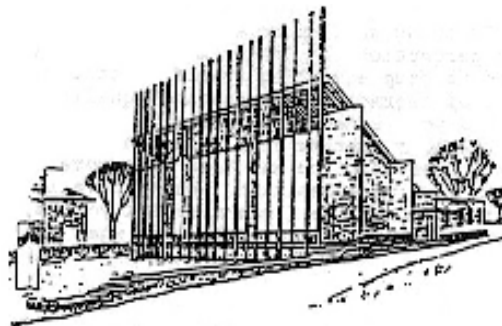
**August 15:** "Everyday Creativity" Flavia Bastos, the "little c" and the "BIG C" of creativity--an essential component for full living

**August 22:** "The Creative Art of Poetry" Our own poet in residence, Vivian Kline.

**August 29:** "In Tune: Creativity in Worship" Part Two. Rachel Kramer and Cathy Roma will speak about music in worship.

**September 5:** guest preacher Rev Joan Schneider. Part of the service will be a water communion...done differently. Joan is one of the UUA's finest preachers. She will knock your socks off!

**September 12:** Service time returns to 11:00am Opening of the Church Year...  
"The Ocean in a Bucket" Rev Denise Tracy



# pportunities & Invitations

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## Summer Potlucks

Mark your calendar for these upcoming summer potlucks at the homes of your St. John's friends:

**Tuesday July 13** at 6:30pm at the home of the Linda and Jack Linkers

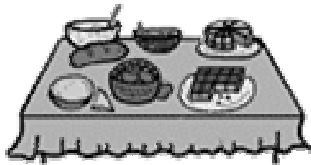
**Sunday July 25** at 5pm at the home of Marcia Schoeni

**Tuesday August 3** at the home of Susan Montauk and Stan Loeb

**Tuesday August 17** at the home of Linda Heath and Cliff Shisler

All are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share. If anyone else would like to host a potluck this summer, please contact LaDonna Fritz

*-LaDonna Fritz*



## Push for Pencils

Here's a way for all of us to contribute in a visible way toward helping our area's schoolchildren have the supplies they need for learning. Start looking for small things you (and your family) can pick up at the grocery store, pharmacy, office supply or discount store to put in our collection box - Push for Pencils. Starting July 11 the large box will be in Krolfifer, with the summer collection being donated to Crayons to Computers like we did last year. The children will talk about this in summer RE as well.

*-The Fencl Family*

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## Food for Thought Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us for the next in our series of food-related films. On Friday July 16 in Krolfifer, we'll start with a potluck at 7:00pm. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients). For our movie, we've decided to show a film that celebrates food, rather than a documentary about food. Beginning at 7:30, we'll be showing the award winning film "Chocolat."

*-Bo Wachendorf*

## Pride Interfaith Service

St. John's is pleased to be hosting this year's GLBT Pride Interfaith Service. The service will be on Saturday July 3 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm in our sanctuary. The theme will be "Nothing Less Than Beautiful." The service is being presented by the Unitarian Universalist Council of Cincinnati and will celebrate the worth and dignity of all people with readings, hymns, prayers and meditations from many faith traditions. All St. Johnners are invited to attend.

*-The Cincinnati UU Council*

## From the Search Committee

In Krolfifer, now you will find posted the Ministerial and Congregational Profiles. These documents are the results of the survey and interviews with members. They are a part of the Congregational record that will be used in the search for our next minister. Please see any member of the Settled Search Committee with questions or comments.

*-Jan Hay*

## Programs at The Mountain

A wide variety of programs for all ages are available this summer at The Mountain, our UU retreat center atop a beautiful mountain near Highlands North Carolina. Talk with Carol or Dick Fencl, Mountain Ambassadors, or see The Mountain website at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org).

*-Carol Fencl*

## Among ourselves

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### **Will Wagner Named 2010 Roma Scholarship Recipient**

On June 21, Will Wagner was named the fifth Catherine Roma Scholarship Recipient. The award is given annually to a graduating senior from an area UU church or high school who exemplifies outstanding abilities in the arts, academics and social justice.

*-The Music Committee*

### **New Newsletter Emails**

Please send articles to be included in the Reporter to the following email: [reporter@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:reporter@stjohnsuu.org). Please send requests regarding the emailing of the Reporter to the following new separate email address: [reportermail@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:reportermail@stjohnsuu.org). For example, if you want to be added to the emailed Reporter list, or dropped from the list, or change the email at which you receive the Reporter, send an email to [reportermail@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:reportermail@stjohnsuu.org). If you are getting a snail mail copy, please indicate if you want to be dropped from that list, or be kept on the list and get both the printed version and the email version.

*-Emily Hodges*

### **The Caring Circle**

The mission of the Caring Circle at St. John's is to support a culture of caring within the church community. The Circle 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, contact Kathryn McDonough or Nina Tolley or Josie Arens in the church office.

*-Kathryn McDonough*

### **Religious Exploration Director**

Elizabeth Wilson has been named the Director of Religious Exploration. Elizabeth has been serving as our Interim DRE since the fall and was just selected as the permanent Director. She has been a member of St. John's for nearly 8 years and has been involved with Unitarian Universalist religious education programs for over 15 years. During that time she has served in a variety of volunteer capacities—as a Sunday School teacher at every grade level from preschool thru 8th grade, as grade level team leader, and several stints on RE committees, including four years as RE Committee chair. In addition to her work at St. John's, Elizabeth has worked extensively with children and youth, serving as an elementary school reading tutor and Girl Scout leader for two troops.

*-The Board of Trustees*

### **In the Haehnle Gallery...**

On display thru July 25 will be works by artist Jan Connelly. The exhibit, *The Art of Healing*, explores her emotional catharsis following a breast cancer diagnosis and mastectomy. Works include a realistic self-portrait titled *Post Operative Disclosures*, and *Mastectomy before a Mirror*, an appropriated work based on Picasso's painting *Girl Before a Mirror*. Jan says this work has been personally gratifying and has the added benefit of creating healing, understanding and activism. We are pleased and honored to display her work.

*-Sandy Geiser*

### **People Book Updates**

If you would like to receive regular updates to the St. John's People Book Directory on a weekly or monthly basis, please contact Emily Hodges at [emilyhodges7@mac.com](mailto:emilyhodges7@mac.com).

*-Emily Hodges*

# RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

Greetings from the Northwoods! My family has traveled to Minnesota this week so that Hannah can participate in the UU Children's Choir at this year's General Assembly—along with Maya Malaviya and Julia Hoge. The girls are busy rehearsing and making new friends. Many thanks to Rachel Kramer for her efforts in preparing the kids for this wonderful musical experience!

Is your family busy enjoying some summertime fun? Don't forget to send a postcard or picture to me at St. John's!! I'd like to set up a bulletin board in the RE hallway that displays the many adventures our kids took part in over the summer. You don't need to have traveled out of town to participate. . . a picture of you at the park or zoo would be great!

## Summer RE Update

Volunteers are still needed for summer RE sessions—leaders and helpers alike. If you have a special talent or interest you'd like to share with our kids, please contact me!! We're grateful to those who have already stepped up to help out. We have some really exciting special learning opportunities scheduled for July! On July 11, John Fanselow will be leading a session about his family's work and travels in Africa and on July 25, Bill Luerrson and Susan Small will share some of their scuba diving adventures with the kids.

## Blessing of the Animals

Mark the date for our Animal Blessing on July 18. There will be no RE classes on Sunday July 18 so that all children ages 3 and up can enjoy the annual "Blessing of the Animals" worship service. Encourage your child(ren) to bring their well-behaved pets!! (Remember that cats should be in a carrier, dogs on leash, pocket pets in a secure cage, etc.) If this event might be too stressful for your pet,

know that photos are welcome substitutes! There will also be a time for remembering beloved pets no longer with us.

You might have noticed that the "Acting" part of my title has disappeared. For those of you who missed the worship service on Sunday, June 20, it was announced that the Board of Trustees had approved the recommendation to hire me as Director of Religious Exploration on a permanent basis. I am honored and humbled to be selected. . . and excited to continue this important work! The RE Committee—with special assistance from Barbara Tonne—and the newly formed Youth Advisory Committee are already hard at work planning for the 2010-11 RE year!

Got suggestions? Contact me at 513-961-1940. I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My summer office hours are Tuesdays/Thursdays from 7:00am-12:00pm beginning July 1.



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## Summer Worship Time Change

Sunday Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration will begin each week at 10:30am starting on Sunday July 4. We will return to our regular 11:00am start time on September 12.

-The Worship Committee

# St. John's Church Calendar

## Sunday June 27

10:00am: Adult Forum  
12:30pm: Young Adult Group  
5:00pm: Goddess Gathering  
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## Monday June 28

Church Office Closed

## Tuesday June 29

10:00am: Yoga

## Wednesday June 30

5:00pm: eNews Deadline  
6:00pm: Caring Circle

## Thursday July 1

10:00am: Meditation  
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting

## Friday July 2

Church Office Closed

## Saturday July 3

4:00pm: Pride Interfaith Worship Service

## Sunday July 4

10:30am: Community Worship Service

## Monday July 5

Church Office Closed

## Tuesday July 6

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

## Wednesday July 7

7:00pm: Membership Committee

## Thursday July 8

10:00am: Meditation  
5:00pm: Deadline for the Reporter

## Friday July 9

Church Office Closed

## Sunday July 11

10:30am: Community Worship Service  
10:45am: Religious Exploration Activity  
11:30am: Newsletter Collating  
6:00pm: Men's Group

## Monday July 12

Church Office Closed

## Tuesday July 13

10:00am: Yoga  
6:30pm: Potluck at the home of home of Linkers

## Thursday July 15

10:00am: Meditation

## Friday July 16

Church Office Closed  
7:00pm Food For Thought



## From the ffice

*By Josie Arens*

*St. John's Office Administrator*

The church office is closed on Mondays and Fridays during the summer months. I will be out of the office the weeks of July 5 and 12. There will be office coverage on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to noon for these weeks. Deadline for order of service announcements for Sundays July 4, 11 and 18 is Tuesday June 29th at 10am. Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday.

## Thought of the Week

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“I” and “you” focus light like decorative holes cut in a lamp shade.

But there is only one light.

“I” and “you” throw a thin veil between heaven and earth.

Lift the veil and all creeds and theologies disappear.

When “I” and “you” vanish, how can I tell whether I am  
in a mosque, a synagogue, a church, or an observatory?

*-13th Century Sufi poet Sa'd Ud Din Mahmud Shabistari  
author of The Secret Rose Garden*