

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

September 5, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

Sunday, September 12 at 11:00am

"The Ocean in a Bucket"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This is a service on the gifts of Unitarian Universalism. Why it is important to have and support liberal religion?

Sunday, September 19 at 11:00am

"Little Temples of the Holy: The Theology of Robert Fulghum"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

He splashed into contemporary culture with his "All I Ever Needed to Know I Learned In Kindergarten." This little poem began a new career for Fulghum, a UU minister. Learn about both him and his beliefs.

Sunday, September 26 at 11:00am

"Goodness"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

This summer I read The Rev Desmond Tutu's new book "Made for Goodness". I was struck by his view of the world and it connected to me about why I believe in Original Blessing, not Original Sin.

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

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,

At many churches the first Sunday after Labor Day is called "Homecoming Sunday". Homecoming because many people have more relaxed church habits over the summer or travel and are away a good bit, or during the summer they worship at the church of the New York Times (with a cup of coffee in a comfortable chair...in their jammies). It is thought that as school begins and a new year starts that people will tend toward a life as usual ... and create the habit pattern of church attendance on a more regular basis.

Many Unitarian Universalist Churches used to close down completely during the summer. The UU Church nearest my home had a sign out front that read from mid-June to Labor Day, "God Trusts Us...See You In September."



But times have changed. What we have learned is that during the summer people still desire the company of like minded friends, still move and look for a new church, and still have losses and needs...so summer church is now a must for most congregations. We need each other during the summer...and fall and winter and spring.

If you have relaxed your church habits over the last few months, I want to invite you to get back into the swing of things...and splurge on your well being. Attend Church!!! Fill a chair in our sanctuary on a regular basis. Exercise your mind. Fill your spirit. Get your weekly quotient of positives in conversations and hugs. Lift your heart to the common blessings that surprise and renew our being human. And fill your ears with the Word and the Song. You won't be disappointed. Rachel, Cathy, Elizabeth and I have a great year planned for everyone, young and old ... and in between.

This is an important year for St John's. We will continue our work to prepare St John's to receive a new minister. We will continue to build the energy and vitality of this beloved congregation. Witness the wonder and be part of the potential...

Blessings,
Denise
Your Interim Minister

Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule and Contact Numbers

cell 847-431-8282, private line at church 513-961-1994, home 513-376-6775 (in case of emergency)
Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment

pportunities & Invitations

LAF'S (Lively After Fifty) DINNER OUT

The second Friday of most months, the LAFs enjoy a dinner out and it's a great way to get better acquainted with fellow St. Johners, newcomers and friends. We'll gather on **Friday, September 10 at 6:30 PM** at InCahoots Restaurant in Blue Ash (4110 Hunt Road, www.incahootsohio.com). Reservations are required by Thursday evening, Sept 9 with Jan Hay.

-Jan Hay

Food for Thought: Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us in Krolfifer for the next in our series of thought provoking evenings learning about the food industry.

Friday, September 17th in Krolfifer we'll start with a potluck at 7:00. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients).

Beginning at 7:30 we will be showing "Fresh," which celebrates the farmers, thinkers, and business people across America who are reinventing our food system.

-Bo Wachendorf

Sunday Morning Forums

Sunday Morning Forums are back, starting September 12. The forums are held in Krolfifer before worship, from 10:00-10:45. Come join us. Registration is not necessary.

Sept. 12 "Are You A Humanist?" Did you get a chance to read your UUWorld over the summer? Read again the article Black Humanism, (page 21, Summer Issue) Frances May Brooks will lead a discussion about Rev. Bossen's thoughts on what the humanist concepts of the black community bring to our UU ideas of suffering and responsibility.

Sept. 19 "Preview of Wisdom Array Class" Join a fun group learning game to see how well you use UU Principles and Wisdom Array skills. This forum includes an introduction to the Wisdom Array RE class being given this Fall. All 8th grade and older teens and adults are welcome to this forum and to the class. We need at least 8 people to participate in the game. Here's your chance for a "sneak peek." RE class sign-ups start Sept 12.

-Ethel Ingalls

PAKISTAN EMERGENCY

Up to 20 million victims of monsoon flooding in Pakistan are in desperate need of immediate assistance. Donations to the UN High Commission on Refugees can be made online at www.unhcr.org/emergency/pakistanfloods/global_landing.html

-Howard Tolley

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

Among ourselves

MUSIC VIVACE

The St. John's Choir started the rehearsal year with a wonderful gathering on Thursday, August 26. Do not fear. If you did not make it, you are still more than welcome to join us. Our next rehearsal is 7:00 Thursday, September 9, in preparation for our first Sunday Service sing on September 12. (Rehearsal time is Thursday at 7:00 on a regular basis.)

Our first musical offering will be "It Takes a Village (to Raise Our Children)," a rhythmically enticing, energy-filled, choral work that features several of our own UU young people and the adult choir. Instrumentalists will pepper the performance with shakere and conga drums. Composer Joan Szymko is well known among UUs, and her music is frequently sung at UU churches across North America.



The upcoming Music Series is shaping up to have something exciting for everyone to enjoy. Look for more information in the next issue of the Reporter.

-Cathy Roma

We're Growing— Volunteers Needed!!

Enjoy kids? Got enthusiasm? Wanna practice our Principles? WE NEED YOU!! There are many non-teaching opportunities available to help in our RE program. Classroom helpers, special event coordinators, RE Greeters, etc. are needed. Contact DRE Elizabeth Wilson if you are interested in lending a hand!! See me at church or give me a call at 513-961-1940. Thanks!!

- Elizabeth Wilson

Library News



Even though we have not finished organizing the books in the church library, there is now a sign-out sheet on a clipboard in the library on which you can record books you borrow and return. We have received two new books for the library, both books that have recently been used for RE classes: *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*, by Mark Morrison Reed, 2009; and *Lifecraft*, by Frank Church, 2000. Thanks once again to Elizabeth Wilson for these donations. If you have books you would like to donate, there are donation slips in the library on the bulletin board. Donated books should be non-fiction, for teens and adults, related to UU principles, and copyrighted no earlier than 1980. See guidelines on the table in Krolfifer and in the library.

-Ethel Ingalls

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RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

“Happy” Problems!

Exciting times in RE as we prepare for the kick-off to our new church school year on Sunday, September 12!! Based on records from last year and the addition of 19 new kids since late Spring, our classes are growing and I anticipate significantly more participation this year. Just this week we have added an additional class and are making plans to split the nursery up into a second room to accommodate tremendous growth (and mobility!) of our young ones. Our YRUU group is exploding—with 24 high schoolers in our congregation!

All of this growth means more help is needed. I'm looking, especially, for people interested in working with the following age groups: 2-3 year olds (3-4 adults), Jr. High (at least 1 adult), and YRUU (2 adults). Please contact me if you are interested in helping or would like more information on what these volunteer opportunities would involve. Every little bit helps!!!

2010 RE Registration Underway!

No, I'm not a communist. Really. I'm not. (That's what I was jokingly accused of last Sunday when an announcement was made that RE registration was mandatory for participation in our church school program!) Historically it has always been a struggle to get families to fill out RE registration forms. RE registration forms gather important information—such as names/ages of kids, emails/phone #s, important medical/behavioral issues, as well as photo use permission. This information helps us improve our planning so we can better meet the needs of ALL of our kids by providing appropriate classrooms (and curricula), safe snacks, and caring support for our children and youth.

Will we really demand registration? *Yes*. But your child won't be “kicked out” of RE without it—at least not right away! I have class rosters for every RE room. By the end of a child's third visit, a registration form must be completed for continued participation.

Registration is easy and free—filling out a form takes about 5 minutes. Look for the RE registration table in Haehnle on Sunday, September 5, 12, and 19. There will also be registration forms located in every classroom. Our first Sunday of registration was August 29 and 34 kids are already registered for our program! Thanks parents!!

Important Upcoming RE Dates— Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, Sept. 12:

First session of the 2010-11 RE year.

Sunday, Sept. 5, 12 and 19:

RE registration in Haehnle.

Sunday, Sept. 26:

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

Got suggestions? Give me a call (961-1940). . . I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My office hours, beginning August 25, will be Tu/Wed/Thu from 9:00am-1:30pm.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, September 5
6:00pm: Men's Group
6:00pm: Search Committee

Monday, September 6
Office Closed LABOR DAY

Tuesday, September 7
10:00am Book Group (Nina)
7:00pm YADA

Thursday, September 9
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 10
5:00pm Board Retreat

Saturday, September 11
9:00am Board Retreat

Sunday, September 12
9:30am Sound Team
10:00am Adult Forum
11:00am 2010-11 RE Year begins
11:00am Worship Service
12:30pm Adult RE Registration
5:00pm Earth Spirit - Sew robes
6:00pm Search Committee

Wednesday, September 15
6:30pm Board Meeting

Thursday, September 16
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 17
7:00pm Food for Thought potluck & film

Sunday, September 19
10:00am Adult Forum
11:00am Service Time
12:30pm REPORTER Collating
12:30pm Adult RE Registration
6:00pm Search Committee

Tuesday, September 21
6:30pm OWL Planning Committee
7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, September 22
4:00pm COCC (Tom Darner's)
7:00pm Caring Circle

Thursday, September 23
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 24
7:00pm Game Night

Sunday, September 26
10:00am Adult Forum
11:00am Service Time
11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer
12:15pm Voices of Variety Choir
12:30pm TENTATIVE
Friends Szentlaszlo Lunch
12:30pm Town Hall Meeting
12:30pm Adult RE Registration
6:00pm Search Committee

From the office

By Josie Arens
St. John's Office Administrator

The deadline for sending in updates for the new version of the **People Book** has been changed to Oct. 1st. Please continue to send in your changes and updates to office@stjohnsuu.org. Non-members who attend regularly are encouraged to submit their listings as "friends of the church."

The office will be closed **Friday Sept 3 and Monday Sept 6** (have a great Labor Day Weekend!!)

If there is anyone who can cover the office for me on **Thursday or Friday Oct 21 or 22nd** from 9AM to noon, please contact me.
Thank you!



St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church
320 Resor Avenue
Cincinnati OH 45220-1698
www.stjohnsuu.org

Adult Religious Education Fall 2010 Classes

Our purpose is to provide a program of religious growth and learning that meets the needs of adult members and friends. We have attempted to offer a variety of experiences on different days. This brochure lists the details of the classes this fall.

Registration is normally done at the Adult RE table before and after church on Sept. 12, 19 or 26. Individuals may also contact either AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org, or the listed teacher for the course.

Please do not delay signing up for a class. Classes may be cancelled if sufficient registration is not received one week in advance .

Accessibility: Forums and classes listed in this brochure that will meet on the main floor of the building have an "Accessible" listed with the offering.

Bookstore with Beacon Press and Skinner Press books is available on registration days in Krolfifer. Participants are free to use the public library or other sources.

Drop In vs. Registration Required: Note that each class lists whether or not it is necessary to register.

Cost: There is no charge for any of the classes.

Religion: Theology and Faith Development

Breaking Free – Women of Spirit in Midlife and Beyond

Register

Text: same as class title by Marilyn Sewell

This program brings women together to discuss aging as the development of character, a breaking free of old restraints, and an opportunity to deepen their spiritual lives.

Leaders: Carol Fencl and Susan Rivers-Payne

Sunday afternoons Oct. 24 – Nov. 21 4 - 5:30 p.m. 5 sessions

Accessible

With One Voice

Register

On this DVD the modern day mystics of many faiths discuss their experiences and share their comments on religious intolerance, the way to peace, the essence of love and the many paths to truth. In addition they each give a message to the world. Join us and share your reaction to their messages.

Leaders: Ethel Ingalls and Nina Tolley

Tuesday evening Nov. 30 7 - 8:30 p.m. one session

World Religions for Families

Register

Families are frequently the focus of outreach by the world's religions. Ours is a time of increased religious openness, as well as increased religious tensions. Family members may make different religious choices, sometimes challenging family peace. Such challenges can be turned into opportunity when family members are better informed about the valuable variety of the world's religions.

This introductory series of 4 classes is for family members – parent(s), youth in grades 8-12
Leader: Charles Seibert, UC Prof. of Philosophy, Leader of past World Religions classes
Sunday afternoons Oct. 3 - 24 – 12:45 – 2:15 p.m. 4 sessions

Spiritual Practice

Speaking Peace

Register

Text: *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict: What You Say Next Can Change the World* by Marshall B. Rosenberg, Ph.D. Book can be purchased online www.cnvc.org or at Aquarius Star on Ludlow.

We'll be exploring the basic components of Non violent communication, broken into three sections- "The Mechanics of Speaking peace," "Applying NVC," and "Speaking Peace for Social Change." Speak Peace is filled with chapters on conflict resolution, transforming business structure and authoritarian structures, transforming enemy images, addressing terrorism, expressing and receiving gratitude, and effective social change.

Leader: Maria Yunker

Tuesday evenings Oct. 12-Nov. 16 7 - 9 p.m. 6 sessions

Tai Chi

Drop-In

Through a simple repetition of movements representing images of nature, we learn to enjoy this ancient practice. We will learn the basics involved in the Five Elements. Wear layered, loose clothing and non treaded shoes. No prior experience necessary.
Leader: Rev. Denise Tracy

Thursday evenings Sept. 30 Ongoing 6 - 6:50 p.m.

Talking to Strangers – Spiritual Hospitality

Register

Spiritual Hospitality is a practice meant to make you comfortable with yourself so you are able to welcome in others. Mindful communication is the foundation of the practice. This workshop will take you on a look inward and suggest some daily practices so you are more comfortable meeting and talking to people you don't know at St, John's or anywhere!

Leader: Karolyn Schalk - Before entering the corporate world she was an Instructor of Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication at Penn State University

Tuesday evenings. Choose either **Oct. 5 OR Nov. 9** 7 - 8:45 p.m.

Community Building and Personal Growth

Services for Seniors

Registration preferred

"Services Offered by the Council on Aging" will be led by Paula Smith. She will describe all the services provided by this agency for folks older than 55 years of age living in Hamilton County.

Presented by Caring Circle

Thursday afternoon Nov.18 1 - 3 p.m. One session

Accessible

The Wisdom Array

Register

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.

Leader: Tony Malinauskas, author, and long-time trainer to Fortune 500 companies

Thursday evenings October 7 – Nov. 4 7 - 8:30 p.m. 5 sessions

Social Justice and Ethics

Food for Thought

Drop-In

Bimonthly series of thought-provoking sessions learning about the food industry. Sept. movie will be FRESH, celebrating the farmers, thinkers and business people reinventing our food system. If possible, bring either food with organic ingredients or locally produced.

Leaders: Bo Wachendorf & Greg Terhune

Fri. Sept. 17 and Fri. Nov. 19 7 p.m. Potluck 7:30 p.m. Movie Accessible

Immigration: What Happens to the Family?

Drop-In

When the parent is working and an immigration officer shows up, what happens to the family? This skit, presented by Guatemalan immigrants and Americans, is based on the new Arizona Immigration law. After the skit, we will have a discussion as we begin our study of Immigration Reform.

Presenter: Margaret Singer, Social Worker from Su Casa, Catholic Charities

Monday evening, Oct. 25 7-8:30 p.m.. Krolfifer Hall Accessible

Immigration Myths 101

Register

Recommended text: *They take our jobs! And 20 Other Myths about Immigration* by Aviva Chomsky

This series focuses on commonly held myths about immigration. Each week we'll tackle a different topic, looking to see if there is a grain of truth in the myths and why they are so strongly believed. Participants are encouraged to bring in outside resources to share.

Leader: Carol Fencl and Marty Harrington

Monday evening November 1 - 15 7 - 8:30 p.m. 3 sessions

The World of Books

Louisa May Alcott

Register

Text: *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman behind Little Women* by Harriet Reisen.

Available from Cincinnati Public Library, or used from Amazon.com for around \$5 + shipping.

Maybe you saw the PBS program of the same title. The book describes Alcott's father with his dreams of a utopian life and the influence of the Transcendentalists on her life. After reading the book, you'll have a completely different view of this great "UU?" woman author.

Leader: Deb Combs, retired school librarian

Tuesday evening Oct. 26 7 - 8:30 p.m. One session

Forums

Time for presentations and discussions before the service. See bulletin, eNews or the Reporter for topics. Come occasionally or weekly – your choice.
Forum Coordinator: Ethel Ingalls.

Sunday mornings 10 - 10:45 a.m. Held in Krolfiffer Hall

Accessible

Web resources

If you'd like to take an online class through the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship, check out their website at www.clf.uua.org/learn/

Webinars – Heartland District – Leadership Day on **Saturday, Oct. 9** has variety of free workshops. www.heartlanduu.org

Other St. John's Adult Programs - Chalice groups

Small groups that meet monthly for discussion and to foster connections among St. John's members and friends. For more details, see Judith Strong .

Thought of the Week

As we come marching, marching, we bring the greater days.
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler -- ten that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: Bread and roses! Bread and roses!

-final stanza, "Bread and Roses"