

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

September 13, 2009

## Community Worship Services

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

### Sunday September 20 at 11:00am

#### *"The Art of the Possible"*

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Rev. Tracy's sermon will be based on the book by Benjamin and Rosamund Zander looking at possibility, believing and thinking. The children's story will be "Keeping the Dream Alive" by Antionette Brown.

### Sunday September 27 at 11:00am

#### *"Atonement: Yom Kippur"*

the Rev. Denise Tracy

A service that will look at the human need for atonement and forgiveness.



## What's Happening...

Rev. Tracy Arrives (page 2)

Chalice Groups (page 3)

Adult RE Classes (pages 8-9)

All Council Meeting (page 5)

Peace Potluck/Video (page 3)

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Exploration (page 6)

### 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

Omope Daboiku

### Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

### Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

### Church Office

513-961-1938

[office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org)

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

### Church Website

[www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org)

### e-News

[enews@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:enews@stjohnsuu.org)

### Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday Sept. 24 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

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from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

In the children's book "Hope for the Flowers," one caterpillar communicates to another the fear of change...the change of becoming a cocoon...the wise one responds, "A Cocoon is where the change takes place." I am not silly enough to think of St. John's as a cocoon...there are too many people and much too much activity for this to be a complete metaphor... but this year is a year where change is already happening.

My being your Interim is already a new experience. Because I am different than your past minister, Dr. Frank Carpenter, I will sound different and respond differently. This is not deliberate. It just is. We Unitarian Universalist ministers are a diverse group. So this year you will experience a change in both style and gifts of ministry. Hopefully you will have the opportunity to see another style and think about the style of the person who will become your called minister. There is no one right style. In fact a healthy congregation adapts to the style of its minister and says, "Hmmm, our minister is great at this and not so good at this...let's create a group to fill in the gap of the leadership of this minister." Less healthy churches focus on what the minister is not good at and criticize and expect the minister will become better at things that may not be their gifts. All this is adapting to change.

There are times when working with the Board, Search Committee, and Transition Team and other leaders and members, we will try new and different things. These times the change will be deliberate and we will be trying to flex and see how we can adapt new ideas to different areas of the congregation.

The Search Committee, the Board, and the Transition Team will all have ideas and desires to improve St. John's so you will be ready for the next era before you.

All this is exciting! This is the place and time to strengthen our faith, to try new ideas and to evaluate the life of the congregation. I am delighted to be with you as minister, resource, guide and friend.

Blessings and Looking Forward,  
Denise

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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.

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.

# Opportunities & Invitations

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## Chalice Groups Forming

We are excited to announce sign up for Chalice Groups beginning in the fall. Opportunities to sign up include Church service dates of September 13 and September 20. There will be available information at both services and you can also request a separate sign up form if need be.

The purpose of the Chalice group program is to provide an opportunity for friends and members of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church to develop deeper connections, foster individual growth, and encourage service within the church and beyond through small groups.

Chalice Groups have been a great way to meet new people, to strengthen or build friendships and connections while discussing a variety of selected topics. You can sign up on Sunday September 20 after the service. If you have further questions, please ask a Chalice Group representative.



*-Jim Nunn*

## Knitting or Crocheting

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting or do you want to learn how? If so, join the Knitting for Peace group. We meet every other Sunday morning from 10:00 until 10:45 am in the library. Last year we made hats and scarves for local school children and some made afghans for a hospice group. We had a good time chatting, knitting and learning from one another. The group will meet again this year starting on Sunday September 27. The remaining dates set for 2009 are October 11 and 25, November 8 and 22, and December 6 and 20. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Supplies are available. For information call Debbie Combs..

*-Debbie Combs*

## Peace Activist Potluck and Video

The St. John's Peace Task Force will host a potluck dinner at 6pm on Tuesday September 22 featuring a PBS video "Soldiers of Conscience." The 90-minute feature is a dramatic window on the dilemma of individual U.S. soldiers in the current Iraq War – when their finger is on the trigger and another human being is in their gun-sight. Made with cooperation from the U.S. Army and narrated by Peter Coyote, the film profiles eight American soldiers, including four who decide not to kill, and become conscientious objectors; and four who believe in their duty to kill if necessary. The film reveals all of them wrestling with the morality of killing in war, not as a philosophical problem, but as soldiers experience it - a split-second decision in combat that can never be forgotten or undone. Those planning to attend should contact Nina Tolley, if possible identifying a dish to be shared and noting availability to assist in either set up or clean up.

*-Howard Tolley*

## Join the Voices of Variety Choir

Under the direction of Rachel Kramer, Associate Director of Music, the Voices of Variety will begin rehearsals on Sunday September 20 at 12:15pm in the Rosa Parks Room. The 30-minute rehearsals are open to ALL RE students, ages K to 8th grade. The Voices of Variety will prepare their holiday service music in 11 rehearsals on Sundays September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. There will be a final rehearsal and lunch on Saturday December 5 at 10am. The performance will be at 11am on Sunday December 6. Word sheets and rehearsal CDs will be available to all voices and you need not attend all of the rehearsals to participate. Questions? Contact Rachel Kramer.

*-Rachel Kramer*

## Adult Forum on September 27

"What is General Assembly and What Happened There This Summer" Come join St John's members Judy Buxton and Karen Miller to find out about this year's Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly and learn in what direction our denomination is heading. In addition to the election of a new UUA President, various other topics were debated this June in Salt Lake City. Please join us on Sunday September 27 at 10:00am in the Darwin Room.

-Pamela Wilz

## Missing Valuable Items

Please check your bookshelves, DVD drawers, and old VHS tapes for these items which belong in our lending library: "The Color of Fear" -VHS "White Shamans and Plastic Medicine Men" -VHS and "Shortcut to Nirvana" -DVD

If found, please return to librarian Barbara Hadden.

-Barbara Hadden

## Read a Good Book Lately?

The St. John's Bookstore will be open September 20 and 27. In addition to carrying books used in our classes, you will find a variety of books - meditation manuals, social justice topics, theology, and basic readings from Unitarian and Universalist thinking. We are able to carry books from both Beacon and Skinner Press at significant discounts, so look here for a book for yourself or as a gift.

We'll have two book discussions this fall, led by Debbie Combs. The first on October 25 will feature the book by our own member, Vivian Kline. It is titled: *Let Freedom Sing of 19th Century Americans: An Historic Novel or Could it be a Musical?*

Then in December we'll discuss *Thousand Pieces of Gold*, a fascinating story of a 19th century Chinese American woman who was sold by her father.

-The Adult RE Committee

## St. John's Photo Board

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures of new members and anyone else who wants to update photos for our photo board on October 4 and 11 in the chapel adjacent to the sanctuary.

-The Membership Committee

## Adult Classes This Fall

Pages 8 and 9 in this Reporter list the classes which are being offered at St. John's this fall. In addition to our Sunday morning forums before church, we'll also have classes running on Sundays after church and on Tuesday evenings and one Saturday morning. Most of the classes require registration, either by email at [adultre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:adultre@stjohnsuu.org) or at the registration table at church on Sundays September 20 and 27.

Full descriptions and registration information can be found on pages the church website at [www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/re-adult](http://www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/re-adult).

Our classes will be offered in 5 different categories:

### I. UU History and Identity

***UU Roots*** -drop-in in November after church, led by Carol Fencel

### II. Religion: Theology and Faith Development

***Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*** -Tuesday nights in October, co-led by Pamela Wilz and Marcia Schoeni.

***Love and Death*** - Tuesday nights in October, led by Carol Fencel

### III. Spiritual Practice

***Tai Chi: a Moving Meditation*** - Saturday morning, October 3, led by Rev. Denise Tracy.

***Mindfulness Meditation*** - Tuesday nights in November., led by Nina Tolley.

### IV. Social Justice and Ethics

***Menu for the Future*** - Tuesday nights in November and December, co-led by Bo Wachendorf and Marcia Schoeni

### V. Community Building and Personal Growth

***NonViolent Communication*** practice group - alternate Sundays after church, led by Maria Yunker. Child care is provided for this group only.

-The Adult RE Committee

# Among ourselves

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## Report from the Settled Minister Search Committee

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's,  
We begin our church year with an interim minister. This means our next obligation is to find and select a new, permanent minister. This obligation is an important one because the future, vitality and success of our church is inextricably connected to the person we choose as our next spiritual leader. The duty to find falls upon our St. John's Settled Search Committee. The decision to approve and confirm belongs to you, the congregation. Help us find the right minister for this church at this time.

You will soon receive a survey seeking your views regarding St. John's and church in general. Please fill it out and return it. Members of the Search Committee are attempting to discuss the issue of minister selection with as many members and friends as possible. If we have not reached you please seek us out if you have ideas to share. We are interested.

Selecting and "settling" a Unitarian Universalist minister is a long and well thought out process primarily established by the UUA. Our Search Committee will keep you informed as we proceed along the way. We want and need your thoughts, your practical and emotional support. Please join us in this important and promising effort.

*-Your Settled Minister Search Committee,  
Jan Hay - Arranger  
Sharon O'Neill - Secretary  
Melissa Orr-Asman - Survey Editor  
Jack Sherman - Chair/Negotiating Team Rep.  
Douglas Striker - Reference Checker  
Manuel Susarret - Packet Editor  
Cynthia Villacis - Vice Chair/Treasurer*

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## \$ The Finance Corner \$

Budget for 2009-2010	\$247,000
July Income	
Pledges	\$30,616
Plate and donations	973
Other	<u>1,437</u>
	\$33,026
July Expenses	
Building and utilities	2,699
Salary & benefits	14,604
UU dues	0
(\$14,868 dispersed over entire year)	
Other	<u>240</u>
	\$17,543

**Financial updates** (balance sheets and income statement s) are posted on a bulletin board to the right of the office door following each Board of Trustee meeting (third Wed of each month). Reports from the Fund Trustees are posted quarterly.

*-The Finance Committee*

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## Look Outward and Ahead- All Council Meeting on Sept. 26

Now is the time to look outward and ahead for our beloved community. All committees members and chairs, staff, and interested church members are invited to the All Council Meeting on Saturday September 26. Our workshop will start with a celebration of where we are - then, through an affirmative and energizing process, help us see the places we can go and how we want to get there. It won't be as much fun if you don't come. Please RSVP to the church office at [office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org). A light breakfast will be served.

*-Penny Shada*

# RE-ally!

By *Ompoe Daboiku*

*Director of Religious Exploration*



Summer has turned the star-wheel; autumn is upon us! The School Year as begun and our RE Program has resumed, also. We are terribly excited about this year's programming as the RE Visioning Team stretches to create social/social justice opportunities for our children and youth. Currently, we are considering a **Fall Festival** for late October that would include a clothing and book exchange, making treats like popcorn balls and caramel apples, clowns, jugglers, magicians, and classic activities such as that challenging musical chair game called a "cake walk", the "fish pond", and other aspects of our childhood memories of autumn. We'll need your help to make it happen. Bakers (cakes and pies, both are welcome!), performers, and general volunteers are all on call. Stay tuned for more details as they develop.

**First Sunday** continues to be a part of our RE tradition, but with a slight twist this year. Our children and youth will service as Chalice Lighters in the Community Service under the guidance of their teaching team; and, our associate director of music, Rachel Kramer, will lead us in singing some traditional children's songs as a part of the Community Service. After singing, RE attendees will move into Krolfifer and the same designated Chalice Community will lead a worship service they have designed. The focus of this time together will be learning about individuals who have made a positive global impact by implementing UU principles in their lives and continuing to learn new music. This enhanced design gives multiple benefits -- broadening our children's leadership potential, deepening their experience with worship design, and inspiring them to be life-long UU's. Plus, it gives our RE teachers a guaranteed off-Sunday, reducing their load and providing opportunity for them to be restored and enjoy the worship service once a month.

Come October 4 as we kick-off this new venture with our high school YRUU community as Worship Leaders.

## **Want to know what teens have to say about life?**

Volunteer to be Con-Driver and you'll get an earful. Our YRUU community has become very involved with Heartland DYSC sponsored convocations; however, finding transportation can be challenging as many of our youth are independent attendees, meaning their parents are not involved in St. John's church life. Drivers must stay over and provide supervision, but the rewards are awesome. Interested parties should contact Jay Guenther, Karen Miller or Marty Harrington for details.

## **Contribution for Special Guests on August 30**

St. Johners attending the August 30 service contributed \$532.50 to the Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Africa, Sumbawanga, Tanzania after hearing Srs. Mariastella Wampembe and Theresia Khamsini describe their work with orphans and a school for girls. Howard Tolley's sermon that Sunday on "Liberal v. Conservative Conscientious Objectors" has been posted in the St. John's website archive under "Worship."

*-Howard Tolley*

## **Sunday Coffee Hosts**

Coffee hour hosts for September 20 are: Melissa Orr, Pete Asman and Dani Powley

Coffee hosts for September 27 are: Emily Hodges, Joy Thomas and Bonnie Southwind

## **In the Kitchen....**

Pots and plates and dishes galore  
Found in the kitchen behind the door  
Please pick yours up and take it away  
So we'll have room  
for more on another day.



# St. John's Church Calendar

## Tuesday September 15

Primary Election (Polling at St. John's)  
10:00am: Yoga  
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

## Wednesday September 16

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

## Thursday September 17

10:00am: Meditation  
12:00pm: Leadership Development Com.  
7:15pm: Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday September 19

8:00am: Leadership Development Com.

## Sunday September 20

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am Adult Forum  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
12:15pm: Adult RE Registration and  
Chalice Group Signups  
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners  
12:30pm: Search Committee Q&A Session  
4:00pm: Earth Spirit Mabon Ritual  
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## Tuesday September 22

10:00am: Yoga  
6:00pm: Peace Task Force Potluck

## Wednesday September 23

6:30pm: Caring Circle

## Thursday September 24

10:00am: Meditation  
5:00pm: Reporter Newsletter Deadline  
7:15pm: Choir Rehearsal

## Friday September 25

7:00pm: Game Night  
7:00pm: CMA

## Saturday September 26

9:00am: Fall All Council Meeting

## Sunday September 27

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am: Adult RE Forum  
10:00am: Knitting For Peace  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
12:15pm: Adult RE Registration  
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm: Search Committee Q & A Session  
12:30pm: Web Team  
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## Tuesday September 29

10:00am: Yoga

## Thursday October 1

10:00am: Meditation  
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting  
7:15pm: Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday October 3

9:30am: Adult RE: Faith and Mental Illness  
6:00pm: St. John's Music Series Concert

## Dates and Deadlines to Remember...



**Fall Adult RE Classes:** registration is on Sundays September 20 and 27 after church or by email at [adultre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:adultre@stjohnsuu.org)  
**Chalice Groups:** sign up on Sunday Sept. 20  
**Newsletter:** Deadlines for The Reporter are every other Thursday at 5pm. All submissions should be sent via email to Bruce Beisner. The next deadline for the newsletter will be Thursday September 24.  
**Order of Service Announcements:** Deadline is the Wednesday prior to the Sunday service. Send these announcements to Josie at [office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org)  
**eNews Deadlines** are Wednesdays at 5pm. eNews announcements go to [enews@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:enews@stjohnsuu.org)  
Kari Olson edits the eNews then sends it to Josie to send out in all church email on Thursdays. Submissions should be brief, a sentence of two (if more information is called for, a reference to a link may be provided). Submissions should be timely, only events in the next week.

## Adult Religious Education

### Fall 2009-2010 Classes

The purpose of the Adult Religious Education Program is to provide a program of religious growth and learning that meets the needs of adult members and friends.

**Registration** is normally done at the Adult RE table September 20 and Sept. 27. Persons may also contact either AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org, the Adult RE Chair, Carol Fencl at 513-272-1820 or the listed teacher for the course. The Registration form is also on the web. 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. Persons are asked to contribute to expense of childcare for NonViolent Communication if they are able to do so.

**Bag Lunch:** For all mid-day classes, attendees are invited to bring a bag lunch.

### Classes

#### **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven**

REGISTER

Exploration of Women's Spirituality through learning about goddess-centered religions of ancient times.

Leaders: Pamela Wilz & Marcia Schoeni, Accessible (except ??)TTT

**Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm to 9:00pm, October 6 – November 3 (5 sessions)**

#### **Love and Death**

REGISTER Text required

Ultimate questions of life and death are dealt with by Forrest Church, a well-loved UU minister.

Through his book, we'll discuss these questions, as he shares with us how he is living the end of his life in a "manner worth dying for."

Leader: Carol Fencl

**Tuesday evenings, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, October 6 – 27 (4 sessions)**

#### **Mindfulness Meditation**

REGISTER

This will be an introduction to meditation for those who have never meditated and a renewal for those who have had some experience.

Leader – Nina Tolley

**Tuesday evenings, November 17, 7:00 to 8:30pm (4 sessions)**

#### **Menu for the Future**

REGISTER Text required.

How are Food and Sustainability connected? Goals are to explore food systems and their impacts on culture, society and ecological systems; to gain insight into agricultural and individual practices that promote well-being, and to consider the individual's role in creating or supporting sustainable food systems.

Leaders: Bo Wachendorf and Marcia Schoeni.

**Tuesday evenings , November 10 – December 8, 7:15pm to 8:45pm (6 sessions)**

**NonViolent Communication**

REGISTER Text required

A group-led practice group supporting each other in a mutual desire to connect with ourselves and others in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish. Uses text *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life* by Marshall Rosenberg, plus workbook.

Organizer:: Maria Yunker Childcare available if reserved at registration.

**Sunday afternoons, 12:45pm to 2:15pm, starts October 4 and meets alternate weeks.**

**Let Freedom Sing - Book Discussion**

REGISTER

*Let Freedom Sing Of 19th Century Americans-An Historical Novel, Or Could It Be A Musical?"*

Story with 37 real folks, both black and white, who come to life as a group of ex-slaves travel from Nashville through Cincinnati and onward. Author Vivian Kline will participate.

Leader: Debbie Combs

**Sunday afternoon October 25, 12:45pm to 2:15pm (One session) Accessible**

**Tai Chi: A Moving Meditation**

REGISTER

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. We will have an enjoyable session.

Leader: Rev Denise Tracy, known to members of our congregation from her Tai Chi classes at Lake Geneva Summer Assembly. She has studied and taught Tai Chi for over 30 years.

**Saturday morning October 3, 9:30am to 11:30am (One session) Accessible**

**Thousand Pieces of Gold - Book Discussion**

REGISTER

Biographical novel of 19th century Chinese American woman who was sold by her father.

Leader: Debbie Combs

**Sunday afternoon, December 6, 12:45pm to 2:15pm (One session) Accessible**

**UU Roots**

DROP IN

Our Unitarian Universalist leaders from around the country tell the stories of our UU heritage through brief presentations. These will be stand-alone sessions.

Leader: Carol Fencl

**Sunday afternoons, November 1-15, 12:45pm to 2:00pm (3 individual sessions)**

**Adult Forums**

Sunday morning presentations before the church service, usually 10:00am to 10:45am

See web site or newsletter for topics and specific dates. NO Registration needed.

If you wish to present, contact Ethel Ingalls or Pamela Wilz.

## Thought of the Week

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“Let us not look back in anger,  
nor forward in fear,  
but around in awareness.”

-JAMES THURBER