

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 3, 2010

## Sunday Community Worship Services

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

**October 3, 2010 at 11:00am**

### ***"What is Worship?"***

the Rev. Denise Tracy

What do we do on Sunday Mornings? Is it worship? Do Unitarian Universalists worship? What do we hold sacred?

**Sunday, October 10 at 11:00am**

### ***"You can love whomever you will"***

We celebrate Coming Out Sunday with personal stories from our own vibrant St John's community, and with special music written for the occasion, from the choir.

**Sunday, October 17 at 11:00am**

### ***"Universalism"***

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Who are the Universalists? What did they believe? How does this heritage affect us in our UU practice today?

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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.

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### **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**

Thursday Oct 14 at 5pm

# *Minister's Musings*

from Rev. Denise Tracy



*Dear Friends,*

Feedback: We all need it. We all get it. But what's the way to deliver feedback to build a relationship - rather than to break or harm it?

Something NOT to do:

Send/give an unsigned note

Yell at someone. Point your finger. Say "you always, you never."

You know the drill. We have all done it and regretted it. The delivery interferes with another's ability to hear or listen.

If you have feedback for another person-

Some things TO DO:

Send a note. Say something positive. Suggest another option. Offer to talk in person. Sign your name. Ask to talk to your friend.

Speak gently. Use "I think, I feel" statements. Allow spaces in the conversation so the other person can ask questions. Allow that there is a lot of grey in life.

If you are scared, practice with a friend, ask a friend to go with you - to help keep you centered. Assume good intentions. Life is complicated.

Part of being a congregation that is open and accepting is working to communicate successfully in ways that make it possible to hear and respond.

As we move through a second transition year, there will be more changes and adjustments. Everyone at St. John's loves this church. We have a variety of different beliefs and practices-most of which are perfectly okay. Remember if you don't like something - this is a UU Church - and someone else is loving that very thing that you do not.

As an Interim it is my job to help you, to accustom you to new ways and to assist you in practicing communicating.

Blessings,

*Denise*

Your Interim Minister

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## **Rev. Denise Tracy's Schedule**

Office Hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00am to noon, or by appointment. Call the St John's office line at 513-961-1938.

# pportunities & Invitations

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## Friends of Szentlaszlo Soup & Bread Luncheons resume Oct 10

Homemade bread, soup, and dessert - the best deal in town, at \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids. Luncheons this year will be right after church **Oct 10, Nov 14, Jan 9, Mar 13 and Apr 10**. Proceeds buy bread for the elderly in our partner Unitarian congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. Please sign up on the board outside Krolfifer to donate your own homemade delectables for one of these events, or your organizing/ dishwashing skills.

Note also: this year's Partner Church Dinner on **Sat, Feb 12**. and a possible group Transylvania trip in the **spring**.

*-The Friends of Szentlaszlo*

## Interweave Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krolfifer on **Friday evening, Oct 15**. The doors will open at 7:00 for the potluck, and the film is scheduled to begin at 7:30. We'll be showing "Lavender Limelight", which is a 1998 documentary about lesbians in film. Interweave is St John's social group for GLBT folks and friends/allies. All are welcome!

## Special Welcome!

We welcome Mohan Jayatilake, who is from Sri Lanka, to do some volunteer work with our custodian, Tim Johnson from now until mid November. Mohan is Buddhist and is looking forward to meeting open and accepting people. Tim has some rather large jobs that need four hands. Welcome Mohan!

*-Denise Tracy*

## ADULT RE Classes

### Talking to Strangers - Spirituality Hospitality

Get more comfortable meeting and talking to people you don't know at St John's or anywhere! Contact Karolyn Schalk to join the class. There will be 2 alternative nights: either **Tues Oct 5 or Tues Nov 9**, from 7-8:45 p.m.

### Speaking Peace

A follow up on our previous Non-Violent Communication classes, but previous training in NVC is not required; all are welcome. For more information or to register, contact Maria Yunker. **Six Tuesday evenings, starting on Oct 12**.

### Immigration - our new UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue

The series begins with Immigration: What Happens to the Families? - a skit presented by a mixed group from Su Casa Catholic Charities. This is open to the public, so please invite your friends. **Monday, Oct 25**, 7-8:30 p.m. in Krolfifer .

The following **3 Mondays, Nov 1-15**, we will have a group study on Immigration Myths. Contact Marty Harrington or Carol Fencl to join the group.

### Services for Seniors

If you or someone you know is over 55 and living in Hamilton County, there are many services offered by the Council on Aging. This class, sponsored by the Caring Circle, will be led by Paul Smith. For more information or to register, please contact Nina Tolley or anyone in the Caring Circle. The session will meet **Thurs, Nov 18**, from 1 - 3 p.m in Krolfifer Hall.

*-Carol Fencl*

## 2010-2011 MUSIC SERIES OPENS

The first concert in St. John's 2010-2011 Music Series will be:

### **ReCycle - ReUse - ReFashion – Cabaret and Fashion Show 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct 9**

DO NOT MISS THIS SINGULAR EVENT! The Music Series (our 22nd second year) kicks off and will feature a cabaret and fashion show. People you know well will strut their stuff to great music by Scot Woolley and Steve Milloy. Distinguished judges will add flair. The whole event is a terrific happening, brought to you by Rachel Cook, Lisa Siders Kenny, Catherine Roma and Rachel Kramer. The MC for the evening will be Bruce Preston from the Cincinnati Men's Chorus. Not to be missed, I promise. Fun for all.

#### Ticket Information:

Season ticket \$60 (a \$15 savings for 5 concerts).

Single tickets \$15 (adult + child under 12).

Additional child (under 12) \$5

Student tickets \$10 with student ID.

Tickets available at the door, or by calling 961-1938.

Or you can buy the tickets online at [StJohnsUU.org](http://StJohnsUU.org) (click on "Music Series – Buy Tickets" in the left column).

## TASTE OF ST JOHN'S

### Save the date!

This fun-filled annual gathering and service auction will be **Saturday, January 22, 2011**. Look for more information as well as service donation forms to follow soon.

*Ann Schuur*

*- Jan Hay*

## MUSIC VIVACE

### St John's Choir

Join us for our December Choral Service rehearsals starting **Thursday October 7**, at 7:00. We will present John Rutter's Brother Heinrich's Christmas. The work for young and old alike, features a narrator (Dale Hodges), oboe, bassoon, chorus and piano.

We then will present Bach Cantata #191, an actual Christmas cantata that JS stole from himself. The material he stole was from his b minor mass. He must have been pressed for time, or perhaps he felt uninspired, or might have been applying for another job; whatever the cause, we will sing sections from the Gloria of the Mass. Bach orchestrated the work for trumpets, oboes, flutes, strings and timpani.

The choir will sing "Everything Possible," for Coming Out Sunday (**October 10**), written by UU Minister Fred Small, and arranged by Willi Zwosdesky of the Vancouver Gay Men's Chorus.

## LIVELY AFTER FIFTY DINNER OUT

LAFs group will gather for socializing and dining at 6:30 PM **Friday, October 8** at Arnold's Bar and Grill, located at 210 East 8th Street in Cincinnati. You can check out their menu on line.

Open to all St. Johners and friends who are 50 or over, LAFs is a great way to get better acquainted and have a nice evening out. We will be on the second floor, and hope you can join us. Please reserve with Terri Freshley by Wednesday, Oct 6.

*- Jan Hay*

# Among ourselves

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### is back!

With the start of the fall season, we're back to gathering folks interested in leadership at St. John's, to talk about needs in the church and how your gifts may help.

The date is **Sunday October 10**, 12:30 in Rosa Parks in the basement. It's a Partner Church soup lunch day, so please grab soup & bread and bring it with you to the meeting. If you like, we'll pay for lunch-- just give your name to the soup kitchen money handler. (We'll also have dessert downstairs). Hope to see you October 10!

*-Linda Heath*

## PHOTOS for Picture Board

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures for the Picture Board on **Sunday, October 10**, right after the service in the chapel. Pictures can be of individual, couples or families.

## LABYRINTH at St. John's

As a follow-up to the workshop on Sacred Geometry and Labyrinths given at Northern Hills UU Fellowship on Sunday, Oct. 3rd, a temporary labyrinth will be placed on the lawn in front of St. John's for our use. This labyrinth will be laid out in a 7 circuit Classical (Cretan) design and will be constructed of rope pegged to the ground so as to not harm the grass. Labyrinths have long been used for walking meditation and spiritual exploration. A brief discussion concerning labyrinths and their use will be given after services on Sunday, Oct. 10th in the Chapel. The labyrinth will be at St. John's through November. For additional information, please contact David Mast.

*David Mast*

## AUDIOVISUAL TRAINING

On **October 17th**, starting at 1:00pm, there will be a training in Krolfifer for people who want to learn how to operate the audiovisual system there for movies, presentations, meetings, etc. Anyone who has already received training is asked to come to the training to refresh their memory and share what they know. Please bring food to share, and contact Pete Asman) to let him know you're planning to attend.

*-Pete Asman*

### got yardwork?

YRUU youth are seeking basic yardwork chores (raking leaves, spreading mulch, etc.) as a fundraising project to make improvements to their meeting space—the Clarke Wells room upstairs.

Contact YRUU Advisor, Karen Miller for more info.

### wanted

**Cassette tape players** for use by dedicated RE teachers who miss the sermon while teaching our kids. We know there is an old cassette player in your closet that you don't need anymore! Please leave it with DRE Elizabeth Wilson, or in the office with a note indicating whether this is a loan, or a thrilled donation of some of that extra "stuff" you've been meaning to unload. Thanks!

# RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Director of Religious Exploration

## “Love is the Spirit of this church. . .”

One of the discoveries we made at our RE Visioning workshop last Spring was that there were lots of examples of age segregation in our church. While not every interest group needs to cater to everyone, we feel in order to have a thriving RE program it is important to offer plenty of opportunities that allow our entire church community to interact in meaningful, affirming, and fun ways! To this end, we’ve made it a priority to invite adults as speakers/presenters in our program and we are working on some simple special events that can be enjoyed by all. Because these are all “works in progress” plans are still a bit tentative, but we expect to offer the Gingerbread House Extravaganza in December, Mystery Pals beginning in January, and an all-church Birthday Party in March! At a recent YRUU overnight, Frank Meyer introduced the youth to the ancient game of “Go” and it proved so popular he is working on setting up an all-ages “Go” group to meet after church on select Sundays. More details on all of the events and activities will be communicated as they become available. . .so stay tuned!

## “. . .and Service is its prayer”

Another area we’re focusing on this year is not just learning about our UU values and beliefs—but making a concerted effort to *live* them. Our initial First Sunday multi-age program will be held in Kroffter on **October 3** and we’ll be talking about how small contributions can make a big difference. The Ronald McDonald Pop-Tab project, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, and making cards for St. John’s shut-ins will all be part of our discussions/activities for the day.

**2010-11 RE Registration.** Thanks so much to the families of the 74 kids who’ve registered for our RE program so far this year! The information you provided and your commitment to volunteer are invaluable. Though registration in Haehnle has ended, registration forms will be available throughout the year in RE classrooms, on the RE bulletin board downstairs (near the DRE office), and from me. Registration for our program is mandatory after a child’s third visit to a classroom.

## Important Upcoming RE Dates— Mark Your Calendars!

**Sunday, Oct. 10, 17 & 24:** Voices of Variety rehearsals, from 12:15-12:45pm in Rosa Parks.

**Monday, Oct. 18:** OWL Parent Orientation at First Unitarian Church, 7:00-9:30pm.

**Tuesday, Oct. 26:** OWL Parent Orientation at Heritage UU Church, 7:00-9:30pm.



Got suggestions? I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! Call me on the St John’s office line, 513-961-1938. My office hours are Tu/Wed/Thu from 9:00am-1:30pm.



# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Sunday, October 3**

12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm REPORTER Collating  
2:00pm Art Show Reception  
6:00pm Men's Group  
6:00pm Search Committee

## **Tuesday, October 5**

7:00pm YADA  
7:00pm Book Group (Nina)  
7:00pm Talking to Strangers  
7:30pm Tues Night Coming Out Group

## **Wednesday, October 6**

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

## **Thursday, October 7**

10:00am Meditation  
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Wisdom Array  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Saturday, October 9**

9:00am Heartland Online Training  
8:00pm Music Series Concert "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"

## **Sunday, October 10**

10:00am Adult Forum  
11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer  
12:15pm Member Picture Taking  
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm Soup & Bread Luncheon  
12:30pm Leader ID Meeting  
6:00pm Search Committee

## **Tuesday, October 12**

7:00pm Speaking Peace  
7:30pm Tues Night Coming Out Group

## **Thursday, October 14**

10:00am Meditation  
5:00pm REPORTER Deadline  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Wisdom Array  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, October 15**

7:00pm Interweave Movie/Potluck

## **Saturday, October 16**

1:00pm Memorial - Krista Briese

## **Sunday, October 17**

10:00am Adult Forum  
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
12:30pm REPORTER Collating  
1:00pm Krolfifer Sound Training  
6:00pm Search Committee

## **Tuesday, October 19**

7:00pm Speaking Peace  
7:00pm YADA  
7:30pm Tues Night Coming Out Group

## **Wednesday, October 20**

6:30pm Board Meeting

## **Thursday, October 21**

7:00am Josie out of office  
10:00am Meditation  
6:00pm Tai Chi  
7:00pm Wisdom Array  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, October 22**

7:00am Josie out of office

## **Saturday, October 23**

9:00am All Council Meeting  
10:00am Worship Group

## **Sunday, October 24**

10:00am Adult Forum  
11:00am YRUU in Krolfifer  
12:15pm Voices of Variety Rehearsal  
4:00pm Breaking Free women spirit  
6:00pm Search Committee

## **Monday, October 25**

7:00pm Immigration Skit by Su Casa

St. John's

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
320 Resor Avenue, Cincinnati OH 45220-1616

## Thought of the Week

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“We don't want our chains made more bearable.  
We want our chains removed.”

- *Archbishop Desmond Tutu*