

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

February 21, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

Sunday February 28 at 11:00am

" Our Faith in Action:

Experiences That Bring UU Values to Life"

Describing Unitarian Universalism to friends, co-workers and strangers can be a big challenge. What if we tried telling a story of an experience we had at church which illustrated our religious values? Ted Chism, Ethel Ingalls, Alexandra Wilson and Rick Prairie will share tales from their times at St. John's. Bruce Beisner will lead the service.

Sunday March 7 at 11:00am

"The Art of Acknowledgement "

the Rev. Denise Tracy

How do we affirm each other? How do we listen and respect one another?

Sunday March 14 at 11:00am

"The Future of Ministry: Where To from Here"

Guest speaker: Art Hill

Art Hill is a consultant with the Heartland District and with the UUA about the settled ministry and especially focusing on the policies and costs. He will preach in church and then be available for a town meeting after church for questions.

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

Acting 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

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

bbeisner@advantext.com

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday March 4 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

In our second session in the Transition Process we talked about the identity of St John's. After studying and reading our earlier history we brainstormed words that described our church in earlier times, some of them were:

liberal, welcoming, caring, unaffiliated, educational, resilient, progressive, nonconformist, justice and peace seeking, musical, fun, creative with the ability to grow and change.

People wrote letters from the vantage point of ten years from now, reporting what St. John's is now like. These are some of the themes:

We want to feel loved.....Financial stability..... building in good condition.... strong RE....vital youth groups...we leave Sunday service inspired, thoughtful and proud.... green sanctuary...recognized in the larger community....diverse membership... vibrant music....active members....leadership and volunteerism strong...increased outreach..... a caring place....members who feel nurtured and valued...liturgical dance...a church bus... and last but certainly not least... an energetic and inspiring minister who has been with us for a decade!!!!

What are your dreams for St John's? Write them on the last segment of the history... enter yourself...and your hopes and dreams...read the thoughts of others. A congregation is as strong as its members hopes and dreams.

Blessings and thanks to the 88 people who participated in the History and Identity nights.

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

Vigil for Esme

On March 7, there will be a Quaker service in our sanctuary from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. March 7 is the anniversary of Esme Kenney's death and this is an opportunity to come and be with others, if you feel so inclined. The sanctuary will be open for anyone who wants to sit for a bit or for a while. The trial begins on March 1 and we will open the service to the families of the other victims.

-Denise Tracy

Exploring UU Class

Several times each year we invite visitors and frequent attendees to an orientation session about St. John's and the history of Unitarian Universalism. The date this Spring is Saturday April 10. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, take a tour of the church, discuss some UU philosophy and history and learn about the programs and activities available at St. John's. The session starts at 9:00am with coffee and conversation and ends about 12 or 12:30 following lunch. Child care is provided if requested several days prior to April 10. Call the church office at 513-961-1938 or contact Kathryn McDonough to reserve a place and to let us know your dietary and childcare needs. RSVP by April 6 for reservations.

-The Membership Committee

New Group for Young Adults

Are you between the ages of 18 and 35? Looking for a relaxed way to get more involved at St. John's? Come to the newly formed young adult group at St. John's! We gather the second and fourth Sundays of the month for lunch and conversation. Any questions, contact Cassie Howe or Craymon Maples.

-Cassie Howe

Let's Do a Little Stargazing

On Sunday March 7, the stars will really shine in Krolfiefer Hall at St. John's! Dean Regas, astronomer in residence at the Cincinnati Observatory, will lead us on a tour of our universe. The program is sponsored by the St. John's Men's Group and is open to all members and friends of St. John's of all ages. There will be potluck dinner at 6:00pm (bring a dish to share), followed by Dean's tour at 7:00pm. Feel free to come to both, or just the tour of the heavens. The program will be over by 9pm. Be sure to bring your questions about the "what's out there." Contact Geroge Dersheimer to let him know you are coming so we have enough chairs.

-Dick Fencl

St. John's Music Series Concerts On February 27 & March 7

The St. John's Music Series concert earlier this month was postponed because of the snow. Please plan to join us as we present Wild Carrot and the Roots Band on the new date of Saturday February 27 at 10:30am at the church for a kick-back family friendly concert. This "edutainment" program will be fresh and fun for the young and young at heart. Wild Carrot – Pamela Temple and Spencer Funk – will be joined by the Roots Band, Brandt Smith and Brenda Wolfersberger. On Sunday March 7, we will present our next concert featuring the Cincinnati Boy Choir. Founded in 1965, the Cincinnati Boy Choir celebrates its 44th year during the 2008-2009 school year, presenting its own six-concert subscription series and giving approximately thirty-five outreach performances for symphonies, television, community organizations, churches, nursing homes, weddings, clubs, and retirement homes. Tickets for these great concerts are \$15 (includes one adult and 1 child), \$10 for students, and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at www.stjohnsuu.org, by calling the office at 513-961-1938, or at the door.

-Rachel Kramer

Interfaith Hospitality Network Volunteers Needed

In late March we begin the fourth year St. John's will partner with First Unitarian Church and four other congregations to host homeless families at First Church for total of four weeks. Our weeks are March 28 to April 10 and May 23 to June 5 (the weeks before and after Easter and two weeks around Memorial Day weekend). Volunteers are needed to:

- * Host suppers on four Saturdays: April 3, April 10, May 29 and June 5.
 - * Host recreation/social activities after supper those same four Saturdays and on Fridays April 2, April 9 and June 4
 - * One of two overnight hosts Saturdays April 3, April 10, May 29, June 5 and Friday May 28.
- Bear in mind, Memorial Day weekend is May 29-31.
- * St. John's is also responsible for food shopping for the fourth week (May 30-June 5) AND laundering linens at the end of the fourth week.

Supper hosting consists of buying, preparing and serving/sharing supper with/for our guests (up to 4 families, 16 people maximum; most usually 4-5 adults and 6 or more children ages infant to 16 years old). Your supper prep group can be as large as you like, but please no more than 2-3 of your group actually hosting and eating with our guests and the volunteer coordinators (2 of whom are on site). Recreation/social activity hosting needs at least two people each evening, one of whom could be a teen. Two adults and a school-age child would be an ideal activity host/group. Bring a few ideas and materials for simple crafts, or games. We have children's books and some toys onsite. Overnight hosts arrive around 8:00 pm. Please bring your own sleeping bag or linens to save our having to launder extra bedclothes. Overnight hosts monitor/lead clean-up of the recreation room and guests readying for bed. After the families are in their quarters, check that all outside doors are locked. Approx 5:45am hosts awaken families; set out foods, dishes for simple breakfast. Our guest families must be ready for

pick-up between 6:30 and 7am each morning. Please talk to Chris Reed, Wanda Crawford, Francis May Brooks, Bill Luerssen, Joan Robinson, Winnie Goodridge for more info; we have all volunteered and are happy to talk about what's involved and how much we have got back from our volunteering. Questions, additional details, to volunteer, call Chris Reed or sign up on Sundays in Krolfifer. There will be a Volunteer Training and Orientation lunch at First Unitarian Sunday March 7 at 12:30pm. Veterans and newbies should attend.

- Chris Reed, St. John's IHN coordinator

Adult Forums

We have enjoyed the "resonating" theme of this month's forums. On Sunday February 28 our forum will be on the Spiritual Meaning of Yoga Practice. Nina Tolley will discuss the deeper meanings of yoga beyond the physical benefits. This will be discussion only; no yoga practice. On Sunday March 7, we welcome Mary Day from ProSeniors, managing ombudsman for senior services. She has a fund of information about the rights of seniors and the options available to families who are thinking about some form of care for a family member, be it assisted living, long-term care facility or nursing home. She will be happy to answer questions. Adult forums are held every Sunday morning from 10-10:45am in Krolfifer. Registration is not required.

- Ethel Ingalls

On the Same Page

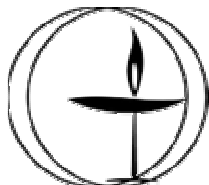
Read the book that all Cincinnati is talking about this month: *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. This award-winning teen novel is both a gripping survival story and a thought-provoking critique of our society. Teenaged Katniss has kept her family from starving in grim post apocalyptic America. Now she must survive the Hunger Games, to-the-death reality-TV 'games' by which the central government punishes rebellion. Watch the next newsletter for the date that we'll be discussing this book at St. John's. Reserve your copy today at www.cincinnati.library.org.

- Carol Fencl, Adult RE Chair

All-Church Work Day

Mark your calendars for Saturday May 15. That will be the day for an all-church work day being organized by the Thursday night Chalice Group. Volunteers will be gathering to do needed work around the church building. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

-Bruce Beisner



Wanna Go to Camp?

Many of us from St. John's will join other UUs for a fun-filled week at Trout Lodge, in Potosi, Missouri from July 4 to 10. MUUSA (Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly) provides programming for everyone in the family, plus great food and facilities. Trout Lodge also has a large staff offering everything from horse-back riding and caving to pontoon boat rides on the beautiful private lake. This year there will be room for expanding the total number attending. Registration is occurring now. Check out this great opportunity at www.muusa.org.

-Jan Hay

UUA General Assembly

The Unitarian Universalist Association's 2010 General Assembly will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 23-27. Join thousands of UUs from across the United States. General Assembly is the way that our faith does business. Actions of social witness are passed at GA, elements that make up future policies are discussed... and YOU have a voice in the discussion. You'll hear terrific speakers. There will be hundreds of entertaining programs and informative work-shops, offering excellent support and learning for leaders in our congregations. You'll be able to join the witness for our faith and values, in moving and exciting ways. Anyone interested in attending as a delegate from St. John's should contact Ann Schuur, Director of Mission Council.

-Ann Schuur

Plan to Attend

The Partner Church Dinner

Join us for a very joyful Partner Church Dinner on Saturday March 13 at 6:00 pm, featuring appetizers, wine for those who wish it, mild Indian foods, and a short musical program. This is our biggest dinner of the year. At the same time younger children can partake of a dinner and program designed for them. Adults and youth will be helping out at this family style candlelight dinner. Tickets are \$15 for adults through Wednesday, March 3 and \$20 for tickets bought March 4-10. Children's tickets, ages 12 and under are \$5. So be sure to buy your \$15 tickets after church.. The last Sunday before the dinner, March 7, is when ticket prices will go up to \$20. Tickets can also be bought by sending your check to the St. John's church office. Inquiries can be made to Josie at 513-961-1938 or to Tom and Mary Darnier. Partial and full scholarships are available. Last Sunday's Soup and Bread lunch raised \$508. Thanks to all for your hard work, donations and wonderful fellowship together.

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo

Great Decisions on Sunday Afternoons

This discussion group allows us to tie our UU values and concerns to topics of vital interest to the current world situation. We meet on the main floor, usually the chapel, after church on Sundays from 1-2:30pm. Brown bag lunches welcome.

Upcoming titles for this series are:

Sunday February 28: *Halting Atrocities in Kenya*

What does it mean for the UN's emerging "responsibility to protect" doctrine?

Sunday March 7: *Global Crime*

How can countries better protect citizens seeking the benefits of a globalized world from being exploited? What international actors can effectively fight global organized crime?

-The Adult RE Committee

Among ourselves

Search Committee Update

As you are probably aware, the time frame for selecting our new minister has been extended from one year to a two year period. This means the Search Committee will be presenting a ministerial candidate to the Congregation in the Spring of 2011 rather than 2010. While this has given our committee some needed breathing room, we remain busy. We meet bi-weekly, each member has accepted a major responsibility, and we have developed an interactive "Task Spread Sheet" with dates and duties which helps keep us on target. We have begun putting together a Congregational Record which describes the life and history our church. Potential candidates will read this document on line to decide whether they are interested in St. John's. Your input, through the survey and many other contacts with members of the Search Committee, is vital to the successful development of this Record. We are also beginning work on a Candidate Packet. This will be a colorful binder given to potential candidates, telling them all about us and our surroundings in words, photos and video. We also need and appreciate your input in this project. Several have asked why we can't present more than one candidate to the Congregation. The UUA and UUMA has determined that offering more than one candidate tends to be destructive to both the candidates and the congregations to which they are presented. Congregations tend to split when there are several candidates, creating factions and making it unlikely any candidate will receive the vote of confidence needed for a successful ministry. From the point of view of the candidates, the confidentiality of the process would be broken and their effectiveness in their congregations seriously impaired. So, at the end of a long process of interviewing, evaluation, reference checking, and consensus building, your Search Committee will present you with the one candidate who is, in our opinion, best for our Congregation. Then after a full

week of Sunday services, meetings, and social engagements, when you will be able to meet and size up the candidate for yourselves, you will make the final decision in the congregational vote to call or not to call.

-The Ministerial Search Committee: Jan Hay, Sharon O'Neill, Melissa Orr-Asman, Jack Sherman, Douglas Striker Manuel Susarret, Cynthia Villacis

A Reminder from the Board

April 15 is the spring deadline for proposals from the congregation for both the Legacy and Lorentz Property Fund. Another round will be accepted in the fall.

-The Board of Trustees

The Shoveling Team

The Shoveling Team is a small group of volunteers that helps keep the church's entrances and main walkways free of snow and ice. The following people have worked hard to help keep these areas safe so far this Winter: Bo Wachendorf Devin Baker Tony Malinauskas Scott Roberts Caleb Roberts Daniel Holder Monica Pellman JoEllen Pellman Melissa Rowland If you see any of them, please thank them for their service. And if you would like to join the shoveling team, we could definitely use more help. Please contact Pete Asman. Thank you.

-Pete Asman

Volunteer to Keep Unitarian Church Doors Open

Giving 2-4 hours of your time to preparations for the Partner Church dinner on March 13 will make it possible for us to send funds to support our partner church minister and the needs of the Unitarian church in Szentlaszlo. Working with others to shop, cook, serve, set-up and clean-up can be a rewarding and fun experience, and it is a good way to make new friends at St. John's. There are opportunities for children, youth, adults and family groups to lend a hand. Please help us finish filling volunteer slots on the sign-up board. To volunteer, contact Mary Darner .

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo



RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson
Acting Director of Religious Exploration

I know we're all inundated with more paperwork than most of us would like, but some paper is truly important. Such is the case with our RE enrollment forms!! A great many parents of our RE kids have still not completed registration information for the 2009-10 year. This is not just random data collection—it is a safety issue. It's important that our DRE and RE teachers are aware of medical and behavioral issues so that we can serve your kids to the best of our abilities.

Over the next few weeks, please take time to go down to your child(ren)'s RE classroom(s) and make sure we have completed enrollment forms for your kid(s). At the same time, you may be asked to sign a photo release waiver if you have not already done so. Each classroom will have a list indicating what forms are needed and from whom. Any child/youth who has attended RE for more than two sessions should complete an enrollment form. The enrollment form is designed to accommodate an entire family's info on one form! Your help in this matter is appreciated!!

RE Greeters Schedule:

February 21-Nancy Colegrove

February 28 and March 7- Jay Guenther

Mark your calendars and consider participating in these wonderful family-oriented opportunities at St. John's:

Saturday February 27 at 10:30am: A terrific family-friendly concert from our Music Series, *Wild Carrot & the Roots Band* will be performing. Come hear music that will warm your soul on a cold day! Tickets are \$15 (includes 1 adult and 1 child), \$10.00 student w/ID, and \$5.00 children 12 and under. Tickets are available online, through the church office or at the door.

Friday & Saturday March 12-13: The Partner Church Dinner. Many opportunities are available for our children and youth to help with this annual event. Younger kids can help with table set-up and decorations on Friday night. Our older youth can help with food prep on Friday night or serving/kitchen help at the dinner on Saturday. We also need some older youth and adult help for the kids' dinner/activities held concurrently in Rosa Parks on Saturday evening. Contact me, Connie Prairie, or Mary Darner if you'd like to help this worthy cause.

Thank you for bringing your kids to church and thank you for involving them in R.E. Please feel free to share your thoughts/ideas on how we can improve the experience for your children/youth. You can contact me at 513-961-1940. My office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9am-2pm.

Thought of the Week

“Faith is love taking the form of aspiration.”

-William Ellery Channing

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday February 21

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult RE Forum
10:00am: Knitting for Peace
11:00am: Community Worship Service
and Children's Religious Exploration
12:30pm: PR Committee
1:00pm: Great Decisions
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday February 22

4:00pm: Proverbs of Ashes
5:30pm: Transition Team

Tuesday February 23

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Luerksen)
7:00pm: Praxis Committee for Bruce Beisner
7:00pm: Intro to Teachings of the Buddha

Wednesday February 24

6:30pm: Caring Circle

Thursday February 25

10:00am: Meditation
7:15pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday February 26

7:00pm: Game Night

Saturday February 27

10:00am: Worship Study Group
10:30am: Music Series Concert

Sunday February 28

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult RE Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
and Children's Religious Education
12:30pm: Young Adult Group
1:00pm: Great Decisions
1:00pm: Non Violent Communication
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday March 1

4:00pm: Proverbs of Ashes

Tuesday March 2

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Book Discussion Group
7:00pm: Intro Teachings of the Buddha
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday March 3

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

Thursday March 4

10:00am : Meditation
5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting
6:00pm: Tai Chi
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday March 5

7:00pm: Greeters Potluck

Sunday March 7

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Re Forum
10:00am: Knitting for Peace
11:00am: Community Worship Service
and Children's Church
1:00pm: Music Series Concert
1:00pm: Great Decisions Class
6:00pm: Esme's Vigil
6:00pm: Men's Group (all church event)
6:00pm : Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday March 9

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Intro Teachings of the Buddha

Wednesday March 10

6:30pm: Executive Board Meeting
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Strong)

Thursday March 11

10:00am: Meditation
6:00pm: Tai Chi
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm : Chalice Group (Brooks)

Saturday March 13

6:00pm: Partner Church Dinner