

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 13, 2010

Sunday Community Worship Services

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

Sunday June 20 at 11:00am

"Father's Day"

Rev. Denise Tracy

This winter we had a Taste of St John's Auction. Rev. Tracy auctioned a sermon. Cathy Roma auctioned choosing a piece for the choir to sing. On Sunday June 20, Rev. Tracy will offer a traditional Father's Day sermon. Rick Prairie has chosen as his auction item a wonderful gospel musical piece for the choir to close out the year.

Sunday June 27 at 11:00am

"Peace Work"

Howard and Nina Tolley, Mira Rodwan and Maria Yunker

We celebrate the second anniversary of the St. John's Peace Pledge a day after delegates to the UUA General Assembly conclude a four year study by voting on a denominational Statement of Conscience on Creating Peace. Howard and Nina Tolley, Mira Rodwan, and Maria Yunker will address the multiple dimensions of our work for peace in ourselves, the Congregation, interpersonal relations, American society, with mother Earth, and in conflicts around the world.

Sunday July 4, 2010 at 10:30am (NOTE time change)

"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.

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 Submissions

enews@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Submissions

reporter@stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Email List

reportermail@stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday June 24 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

As the regular church year comes to an end, I am so pleased that we have improved and changed some areas of the congregation.

First: Attendance. Last year the average was 80 adults per Sunday. This year we have slowly built our average to over 140. The average attendance figure is how we can tell how the worship experience is satisfying the congregation. There is no greater show of support than people showing up to say, "We are a part of this community."

Second: Finances. We collected most of the outstanding pledges from last year and as a result we will finish up the year with a surplus. This year's stewardship campaign blessed us with generous folks who increased giving from \$182,000 to nearly \$238,000. We have people who don't pledge who are regular givers, (usually about \$4,000) so we have accomplished our goal of \$240,000. Yippee!

But more than that, a member said to me. "My daughter was in church for Mother's Day last year and again for Mother's day this year and she said the church felt completely different." The daughter described an energy and a new spirit...and I know what she is talking about. There is a positive feeling. At the Budget hearing, the meeting ended with statements of support for leaders and staff alike. I was not at the annual meeting (my son was graduating from middle school) but reports were that the feeling was upbeat and looking toward the future.

We have accomplished much. I thank you for a year filled with promise and renewal. I am looking forward to a second year to build on this first one...and to our welcoming a new minister to lead to you to your next exciting phase of congregational life.

Blessings,
Denise
Your Interim Minister

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.

Opportunities & Invitations

Goddess Gathering for Women

June's Goddess Gathering will be Sunday June 27 at 5pm at Linda Linker's home/extensive gardens in Wyoming, Ohio. Please bring a casserole, quiche, salad, or dessert to share. She will supply appetizers, drinks, ice, utensils, napkins, and dishes. All St. John's women are welcome! RSVP to Linda Linker. The house and glassed in porch are air conditioned, and will be closed with air conditioning on if very hot.

-Pamela Wilz

Interweave Potluck & Movie

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krolfifer on Friday evening June 18. The doors will open at 7:00pm for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to begin at 7:30. We'll be showing the movie "Hedwig and the Angry Inch". This is a 2001 rock opera which was nominated for a Golden Globe, among 26 other award nominations and wins. Interweave is St John's social group for GLBT folks and friends/allies. All are welcome!

-Greg Terhune

Books, Books, Books

Take a few minutes one Sunday in June to browse through the books on a table in Krolfifer. These books have been culled from St. Johns library and are available for you to take if you would like one or more. Happily some books have already found a new home. Books that remain at the end of the month will be donated. If you have questions about the library or the guidelines we are using to cull and replace books, please contact me.

-Ethel Ingalls

Summer Potluck Schedule

The first summer potluck will be on Tuesday June 15 at 6:30pm at Colerain Twp. Park (4725 Springdale Rd.) We will be under a shelter, near restrooms and a playground. It is handicapped accessible. A charcoal grill be will hot so you can grill any meat that you bring. Also, please bring a dish to share. All service ware and drinks will be provided.

For more information contact LaDonna Fritz.

Other summer potlucks scheduled so far are:

Tuesday June 22 at 6:30pm at the home of Jim and Sharon Nichols

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

If anyone else would like to host a potluck this summer please call LaDonna.

-LaDonna Fritz

Push for Pencils

Once again this summer we'll be participating in the Push for Pencils Drive, sponsored by our local Crayons to Computers. Look for the large bin in Krolfifer from July 11-August 15. You can donate school supply items to be shared with needy children in the Greater Cincinnati area. The top four items requested are pencils, crayons, glue and lined paper. If you prefer, you can donate other types of supplies such as folders, markers, pens, rulers, scissors, etc. If you'd prefer to donate cash instead, make your check out to Crayons to Computers and give it to Carol Fencil or go to their web site at www.crayons2computers.org

-Carol Fencil

Adult Forums

Sunday June 20: "Coming soon to a state near you? Arizona's Immigration Law" Do you think that Arizona's law has nothing to do with you? Think again as pressure grows around the country to adopt similar laws, even here in Ohio. In June at General Assembly, UU's will be asked to vote on whether we should boycott AZ in 2012. This forum is our kick-off to an ongoing focus on where we stand, and how we might react proactively to immigration issues here in our area. Will we Stand on the Side of Love? And what does that really mean for us? Discussion facilitated by Carol Fencl.

Sunday June 27: "Can We Change? Can UUism adapt to a changing society?" Despite efforts to broaden their appeal, UU churches are no more diverse today than they were 10 years ago. At the same time, American society is changing rapidly. Can we adapt to an increasingly multicultural society? As preparation for discussion, read the article on page 33 of your Spring 2010 copy of *UUWorld*, and the response by Rosemary Bray McNatt on page 39. All members of St. Johns should get a copy of the *UUWorld*. If you do not get the *UUWorld* a copy of the article can be obtained by contacting Ethel Ingalls or Pamela Wilz. Discussion facilitated by Martha McLeod. These are the last two forums for the year. There will be **no forums during the summer**.

-Ethel Ingalls

UUA General Assembly Website

To find out more information about what will be happening at the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly to be held in Minneapolis, go to the website at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly. Some of the large sessions will be streamed live. Our St. John's delegates this year are Judy Buxton, Janie Cashon, Carol Fencl, Dick Fencl, and Jack Sherman. Dates of GA will be June 23-27.

-Carol Fencl

Summer Religious Exploration Volunteers Needed

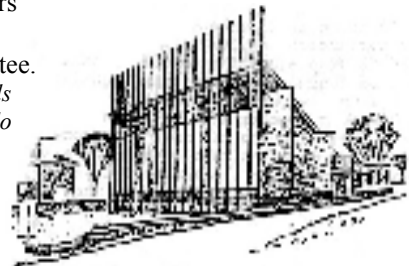
We've got some wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to help with our summer RE programming, but we need to fill up a few more Sundays! Do you have a special skill or interest (think writing, painting, yoga, gardening, etc.) you'd be willing to share with our kids ages 3-10? I'd be glad to help you turn an offer of help and an idea into an Activity Plan! Some of the exciting offerings we've got on tap for this summer include: a visit with the Sneetches, learning about scuba diving, Africa, and RV travel, and we'll have an encore performance of the Big Bang Chemistry show! This is a great opportunity to support our kids and give our regular teachers a much-deserved break, and fits nicely for those unable to make a lengthy commitment during the school year! Contact Elizabeth Wilson at 513-961-1938 for info.

-Elizabeth Wilson

Friends of Szentlaszlo Announces Plans for Trip to Transylvania

At its year end picnic, the Friends of Szentlaszlo, St. John's Partner Church Committee, announced plans for a trip to Romania and our partner church in the spring of next year. The trip of up to 14 days will include an extended time visiting our partner church and its surrounding areas. For first time travelers, an optional side trip to key Transylvania historic, scenic and UU sights will be offered. More details will be available next fall. If you are interested in learning more about this trip, please contact Tom or Mary Darnier, Co-chairs of our Partner Church Committee.

-The Friends of Szentlaszlo



Among ourselves

From the Search Committee

In Krollfifer, 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

Thanks from UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee thanks St. John's members for contributing \$998.26 to the "Guest at Your Table" campaign this year. This money will support UUSC efforts to defend the human right to water, protect civil liberties, ensure worker rights and help those left vulnerable after disasters. Information on the UUSC's work is at www.uusc.org.

-Carol Fencil

New Newsletter Emails

Please send articles to be included in the Reporter to the following email: reporter@stjohnsuu.org
Please send requests regarding the emailing of the Reporter to the following new separate email address: 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. 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

Summer Worship Time Change

Sunday Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at 11:00am. We will be changing to our summer worship time of 10:30am starting on the first Sunday in July.

-The Worship Committee

People Book Updates

Emily Hodges is keeping a running update of additions and corrections to the St John's People Book directory. If you want to be added to her list, please email office@stjohnsuu.org and let her know if you prefer to get a weekly update, or a monthly one.

-Emily Hodges

Peace Work Sunday on June 27

We celebrate the second anniversary of the St. John's Peace Pledge a day after delegates to the UUA General Assembly conclude a four year study by voting on a denominational Statement of Conscience on Creating Peace. Howard and Nina Tolley, Mira Rodwan, and Maria Yunker will address the multiple dimensions of our work for peace in ourselves, the Congregation, interpersonal relations, American society, and in conflicts around the world.

-Howard Tolley

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

Acting Director of Religious Exploration

Of all the UU Principles, I think the one that resonates the most with kids is the Seventh Principle—“We believe in taking care of our Earth.” Last Sunday I was in the 1st-3rd grade class and joined in their chalice lighting which included the phrase, “we remind ourselves to take good care of the Earth because it is our home.” The environmental catastrophe taking place in the Gulf of Mexico is troubling enough to comprehend as an adult, imagine how helpless and overwhelmed our kids must feel. It’s heartbreaking to see pictures of animals who are suffering and to think about the long-term impact to our ecosystem.

As my 10-year old became acutely aware of what was going on, I was wondering about how to discuss the situation with her in a way that didn’t make the situation appear hopeless. I found a great resource at the National Wildlife Foundation. There is a whole guide that offers age-appropriate ways to talk about the situation with kids as well as suggestions on how to diffuse the fear they might be feeling and empower them to take action on their own. See: <http://www.nwf.org/Kids/Ranger-Rick/Parents-and-Educators/How-To-Talk-With-Kids-Gulf-Oil-Spill.aspx> . Hope you find it helpful!

Summer Vacation

Our summer RE participation wanes a bit as folks take much-needed vacations or grab the opportunity to spend time in a more relaxed way. I hope you’ll consider taking a picture or two during your time away from church (or grab an extra postcard!) and send them on to St. John’s. I’d like to create a welcome back bulletin board in the RE hallway that reflects the kids’ summer adventures. Thanks!

Summer RE Volunteers Needed

We’ve got some wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to help with our summer RE programming, but we need to fill up a few more Sundays! We still need leaders for 4 summer sessions plus LOTS more helpers! See the article on page 4 and contact me if you can be of assistance as either a leader or helper!

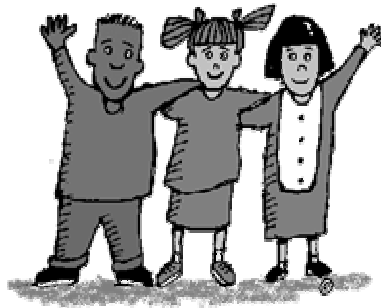
Congratulations to Our High School Seniors

A big shout out to our high school graduates—Tinu Daboiku, Cynthia Roth, and Will Wagner. You three have made amazing contributions to St. John’s. . .we can’t wait to see what more you will bring to our world community in the future!

Out of the Office

I will be out of the office beginning Monday June 21 through Tuesday June 29 as our family heads to Minneapolis with Hannah for GA and the UU Children’s Choir. You can reach me via email during this time.

It’s so great to work with your kids! Always feel free to share your thoughts/ideas on how we can improve the experience for them. You can contact me at 513-961-1940.



St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday June 13

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: GA Children's Choir Rehearsal
12:30pm: Young Adult Group
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday June 15

10:00am: Yoga
6:30pm: Summer Potluck Picnic
7:00pm: Fund Trustees
7:00pm: YADA

Wednesday June 16

5:00pm: eNews Deadline
6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday June 17

10:00am: NO Meditation Today
6:00pm: Tai Chi

Friday June 18

6:30pm: Interweave Potluck and Movie

Saturday June 19

10:00am: Chalice Group Facilitators

Sunday June 20

9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: GA Children's Choir Rehearsal
4:00pm: Earth Spirit Summer Solstice
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday June 21

Church Office Closed

Tuesday June 22

10:00am: Yoga
6:30pm: Summer Potluck Picnic
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Luerssen)

Wednesday June 23

5:00pm: eNews Deadline

Thursday June 24

10:00am: NO Meditation Today
5:00pm: Reporter Deadline

Friday June 25

Church Office closed
7:00pm: Game Night
7:00pm: Darwin

Saturday June 26

10:00am: COCC Course
10:00am: Worship Group

Sunday June 27

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
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

From the office

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Summer office hours begin the week of June 21. The church office will be closed on Mondays and Fridays. Deadline for written order of service announcements starting the week of June 21 will be **Tuesdays at 10am**. Please note: Deadline for written announcements for the July 4, 11 and 18 services will be **Tuesday June 29 at 10am**. I will be out of the office the weeks of July 5 and July 12 and August 9th.

Thought of the Week

“At times our own light goes out
and is rekindled by a spark from another person.
Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude
of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

-Albert Schweitzer