

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

July 11, 2010

Summer Worship Services

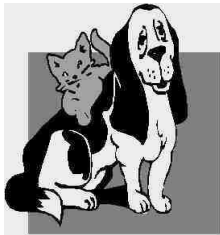
Summer Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration begin each Sunday at **10:30am**. Child care is available.

Sunday July 18, 2010 at 10:30am

"Blessing of the Animals"

Bruce Beisner, Aspirant for UU Ministry

We will celebrate the sacredness of the animal kingdom and our personal relationships with our furry, feathered and scaly friends.



Plan to bring your dog, cat, hamster, fish, snake or other family pet(s) with you to church for this special intergenerational worship service.

There will be an opportunity to introduce your animal companion(s) to the congregation.

For the safety of everyone involved, all dogs **MUST** be on a leash, cats and other in cages, aquariums or other carriers.

Sunday July 25, 2010 at 10:30am

"The Creativity of Worship"

Rev. Denise Tracy

What goes into the process of creating vital worship? How does the Word appear in this process...and how does the Word connect with the music. This is part one of a two service series. Rachel Kramer and Cathy Roma will be doing part two on August 29 on how Music connects to the Word.

Sunday August 1, 2010 at 10:30am

"Coming to MY Senses"

St. John's member Nina Tolley will talk about how mindfulness practice has helped her art and cooking.

Sunday August 8, 2010 at 10:30am

"Creativity and Transitions"

Cassandra Howe, candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry

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 July 22 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but after months of hard work, I find it difficult to let go and just relax! My parents mantra was "Busy hands are happy hands." I grew up in a family that was always busy. My mother knit while she watched television. My father rubbed linseed oil into his wood pieces while listening to music. There was no time when they were not fully occupied. Sitting on the deck watching the sunset over the mountains of Vermont, was time to prepare vegetables for freezing. No minute of the day was wasted. So I grew up thinking that being idle was, if not sinful, at least, not a good use of time.

When I began to study Tai Chi, my teacher said two things...first, "Don't just do something, sit there." I wasn't sure he'd said it right. I asked for clarification. No he had meant it just as he said it. He talked about the need for everyone of us to alternate between doing and being...he started singing...to the tune of a Frank Sinatra song...do be do be do...(think the tune from "Strangers in the Night.") This was food for thought for me.

The second thing he said was, "When you are alone, you are with someone very important." I was so dense, it took me several hours until I could out figure who that could possibly be. I finally asked the man I was to marry who I was with when I was alone...oh dear...I admit it this. It is true.

So for a few weeks, I have been relearning these lessons, learned so long ago, about relaxing. My four year old grandson learned to float yesterday. Then he kicked himself into shore on a small surf board. I have been reading trash novels with no point to them, whatsoever, except that words can be fun. Spending time meandering through antique stores and seeing things I grew up with, now on sale for more than I could possibly pay for them...and eating fresh blueberries picked a few hours before being sold. Oh, such simple, renewing pleasures.

I hope you are spending time with yourself and being as much as you are doing...

I'll be in Cincinnati to preach on July 25. So stop by on Sunday morning to say hello. I have a board meeting, and some pastoral appointments to keep.

The old song says, "See you in September." And we can talk about our lives and the simple pleasures we rediscovered over these summer weeks.

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

Last issue I wrote my piece while in Minnesota. Traveling to Minneapolis included about 5½ hours of driving through my former, beloved home, Wisconsin! How I love the sights, smells and sounds of the Northwoods. While staying with relatives, we watched little TV and I realized how much I didn't miss it. It made me think, once again, about being more mindful of how I choose to spend time with myself and my family. I decided to reflect more on all that is good about life instead of focusing on all of the bad news delivered by various media. So during the month of July, I'm writing down 5 good things that happen each day. (Believe it or not, today's first good thing was bathing our dog at 1:30am as Dave and I "rescued" her from a midnight skunking! The fun wasn't in the job itself, but in the teamwork, patience, and good humor that was shared!!)

How is your family celebrating their blessings? In Matthew Fox's book, *Sins of the Spirit, Blessings of the Flesh*, he lists some "awesome things" to ponder. Here are a few of my favorites—in a single season, a large elm tree makes about six million leaves; squashes have been measured to exert a lifting force of five thousand pounds per square inch; and, in a lifetime, a heart beats about four billion times!! While laying in a hammock under a tree or weeding in your garden, take time to call your kids over and talk about the wonder and power of nature. And stay cool in this oppressive heat!!

Summer RE Happenings

Sunday, July 18: Reminder—No RE due to the annual "Blessing of the Animals" service.

Children ages 3 and up will enjoy this fun, meaningful service! Encourage your child(ren) to bring their well-behaved pets!! (Remember that cats should be in a carrier, dogs on leash, "pocket" pets

in a secure cage, etc.) If this event might be too stressful for your pet, know that photos are welcome substitutes! There will also be a time for remembering beloved pets no longer with us. *Sunday, July 25: "Adventures in Scuba Diving"* led by Bill Luersson and Susan Small. Bill and Susan will be teaching the kids all about scuba diving—with words, pictures, and equipment demos. They'll also be describing some interesting adventures. . .including caring for the Newport Aquarium manatees!

Got suggestions? Contact me at 513-961-1940. I want your kids to enjoy their RE experience and your feedback matters!! My summer office hours are Tuesdays/Thursdays from 7:00am-12:00pm.



From the ffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

Thank you to Kathy Laufman, Barbara Tonne, Mira Rodwan and Melanie Marsh for covering the office for me this week and next. Also a special thanks to Pete Asman, Linda Heath and Cliff Shisler for taking care of the office computer repair. Thanks to Bruce Beisner for putting together his July 18 animal service. I will back in the office on Tuesday July 20. The office will be on summer hours thru August 15. I will be out of the office the week of August 9. Hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer.

Among ourselves

Food for Thought Movie Night

Please join us for the next in our series of food-related films. On Friday July 16 in Krolfifer, we'll start with a potluck at 7:00pm. Please bring a dish to share (preferably one that contains local and/or organic ingredients). For our movie, we've decided to show a film that celebrates food, rather than a documentary about food. Beginning at 7:30, we'll be showing the award winning film "Chocolat."

-Bo Wachendorf

Summer Potlucks

Mark your calendar for these upcoming summer potlucks at the homes of your St. John's friends:

Sunday July 25 at 5pm at the home of Marcia Schoeni, in Union, KY,

Tuesday August 3 at the home of Stan Loeb and Susan Montauk

Tuesday August 17 at the home of Linda Heath and Cliff Shisler in Melbourne, KY

All are welcome to attend. Please bring a dish to share. If you'd like to host a potluck this summer, contact LaDonna Fritz.

-LaDonna Fritz

SingCinnati Bon Voyage Concert

On Sunday July 18, St. John's will host a special Bon Voyage Concert for the SingCinnati Choir as they prepare to travel to the World Choir Games competition on July 22-26 in Shaoxing, China. The concert will begin at 4:00pm and admission is free, with a free-will offering. St. John's participants include: Catherine Roma, artistic director, Bo Wachendorf, JoEllen Pellman and David Gordon Johnson. For details, visit www.singcinnati.com.

-Emily Hodges

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Town Hall Meeting on July 25

Plan to stay after church on July 25 to for our Town Hall meeting. This will be an opportunity to hear our General Assembly delegates report on what happened on important votes, other GA highlights, and to hear how our children enjoyed being in their special choir. It is also your time to talk with your Board about any concerns about St. John's.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Push for Pencils

Our collection box is now in Krolfifer, waiting for your summer donations of school supplies for needy area children. In the fall teachers are able to pass these things out in their classrooms and children benefit from your generosity. Checks may be made out to Crayons to Computers and given to the Fencl/Villacis family who are helping coordinate.

-The Fencl/Villacis Family

Congregational Mtg. Summary

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on June 6 with 68 members signing in. The pledge drive was successful and we passed the 1010-11

budget indicating our appreciation for our Interim Minister Denise Tracy's first year with us, as well as increasing staff salaries and some of our program funding. The Settled Search Committee gave an update on their process, with candidating week expected to be next April or May.

Newly elected board members were:

Vice President/President Elect: Jim McDonough
Secretary: Carol Fencl

Director of Administrative Council: Tom Darner

Director of Community Council: Karolyn Schalk

Director of Finance Council: (unfilled-Jim

McDonough will serve as Acting Director)

Director of Mission Council: Frances May Brooks

Director of Property Council: Krysta Devenber

Elected Fund Trustees were Dick Fencl and Bob

Mersfelder. Elected to the Nominating Committee were Bill Luerksen and Greg Terhune.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday July 11

10:30am: Community Worship Service
10:45am: Religious Exploration Activity
11:30am: Newsletter Collating
6:00pm: Men's Group

Monday July 12

Church Office Closed

Tuesday July 13

10:00am: Yoga
6:30pm: Potluck at home of the Linkers

Thursday July 15

10:00am: Meditation

Friday July 16

Church Office Closed
7:00pm: Food For Thought Potluck & Movie

Sunday July 18

10:30am: Blessing of the Animals Service
4:00pm: SingCinnati Choir Send Off Concert
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday July 19

Church Office Closed

Tuesday July 20

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday July 21

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday July 22

10:00am: Meditation
5:00pm: Reporter Deadline

Friday July 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday July 24

6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Sunday July 25

10:30am: Community Worship Service
11:30am: Town Hall Meeting
5:00pm: Potluck Picnic at Marcia Schoeni's

Monday July 26

Church Office Closed

Tuesday July 27

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday July 28

6:30pm: Women's Goddess Gathering
7:00pm: Caring Circle

Thursday July 29

10:00am: Meditation

Friday July 30

Church Office Closed
7:00pm: Game Night

Sunday August 1

10:30am: Community Worship Service
6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday August 3

10:00am: Yoga
5:30pm: Potluck at the home of Montauk/Loeb
7:00pm: Book Discussion Group

Wednesday August 4

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Pastoral Concerns for Sunday Worship Services

If you have a pastoral joy or sorrow to be announced during the Sunday services during the summer (June 27 thru Sept 5) please email them to Emily Hodges and she will give them to each Sunday's worship leader.

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

Thought of the Week

“Every creature is full of God
and is a book about God.”

-Meister Eckhart