

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

July 25, 2010

Summer Worship Services

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

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

"The Opening in Goodbye"

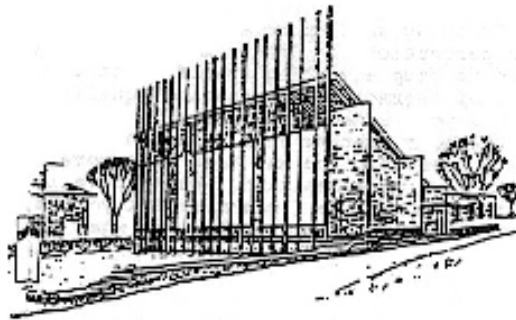
Cassandra Howe
candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry

Our lives are filled with goodbyes through death, moves, and losses of various kinds. What is beyond the dread of goodbyes that can open us to new awareness and connection? Join our student minister Cassie Howe as she reflects on the meaning of goodbye- a pertinent topic as she prepares for her departure from Cincinnati and the St. John's community.

Sunday August 15, 2010 at 10:30am

"Everyday Creativity"

St. John's member Flavia Bastos will explore the "little c" and the "BIG C" of creativity—an essential component for full living.



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 August 5 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

Change is always interesting where ever and whenever it comes about. In congregations that are based on the premise that they are open...well sometimes the dynamics that surround change are surprising.

This year Worship Arts (we work on worship) did an evaluation of the Joys and Concerns element of the worship service. We had some feedback that the joys and concerns were taking too long. people were making announcements instead of sharing a joy and some people were weary of the way it was being done and the time it was taking. We studied and read. The general theory is that churches with 100 people or less, joys and concerns are workable, if people respect the limits. But once worship attendance grows above 100, joys and concerns become unwieldy. After some reflection, the 8 people on the committee decided to try some different ways of sharing joys and concerns. We tried three different things. One in January, one in February and one in March. The March one was that concerns could be called in by phone and would be shared before the meditation. We received the best feedback about this method. So, we have adjusted this element of our worship service. It has taken months to refine and change. It was done with input, care and reflection.

We received some feedback that people were missing the joys and concerns in the newsletter. The Caring Circle is now putting some joys and concerns into the newsletter as was done in the past, with people's permission.

The first Sunday on September is usually a water service. Worship Arts has received some feedback that some people are staying away because they feel the water portion well...it has become...you put a word here. We will have a guest Minister that Sunday and as a result of the feedback and having a guest there will be a change in how we do this service. When people bring water they will silently pour it in the beginning of the worship service as they enter and the place where the water has come from will be shared in another way elsewhere during the service. We'll see if this pleases or is acceptable to people.

These types of adjustments and changes are ways that we listen to one another and try to accommodate the diversity among us. There is no right answer...just lots of possibilities.

Have a good summer and see you in September!

Blessings,

Denise

Your Interim Minister

Among ourselves

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 Susan Montauk and Stan Loeb in Clifton

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

Programs at The Mountain

Upcoming programs at the Unitarian Universalist Retreat Center in beautiful Highlands, NC include: August 1 to 5: "*Choral Singing: The Art of Community*" This is a program for all who love to sing. Persons of all faiths are invited to come on the musical journey which will be led by Choral Clinician Dr. Ken Nafziger, a Mennonite. Cost is priced on a sliding scale basis of \$400 -\$700.

August 5 to 8: "*Kindling the Common Fire of Commitment : Citizenship and Leadership in the 21st Century*". Today's world is both amazing and treacherous. How do we practice citizenship and leadership? Who do we want to become as men and women in a world of suffering and wonder? What is now asked of us? How will we respond? Cost is priced on a sliding scale. Adult (above 32) : \$296-400 Young Adult (18-32): \$240-295. Car pooling is available with Carol and Dick Fencl. For more information, visit www.mountaincenters.org

-Carol and Dick Fencl

Town Hall Meeting on July 25

Plan to stay after church on Sunday July 25 for a brief Town Hall meeting. This will be your opportunity to hear a report from our GA delegates, as well as voice your concerns and ideas to the Board of Trustees.

-The Board of St. John's

RE Teachers Needed

Enjoy kids? Got enthusiasm? We need you!! We need at least one additional teacher on the PreK-1st grade and 5th-8th grade teaching teams. Both teaching teams already have wonderful, experienced members so there will be plenty of guidance and support available. Adding an additional teacher to each team will mean no one has to teach more than once/month! Please contact the Director of Religious Exploration Elizabeth Wilson, if you are interested.

-Elizabeth Wilson

Push for Pencils

Attention, Children, Parents, Grandparents, Anyone who has ever attended school. Remember how important it is to have the crayons, pens, notebooks, paper to get started at the beginning of the school year? Our local teachers want to make sure that children who can't afford these basic supplies have the same advantages you did. Either bring in new supplies and put in our large box in Krolfifer, or bring a check made out to Crayons to Computers and give to either Carol Fencl or Cynthia Villacis.

-The Fencl/Villacis Family

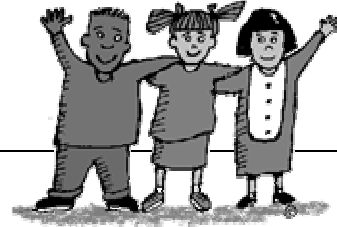
Goddess Gathering

All woman of St. John's are invited to our next Goddess Gathering on Wednesday July 28. Goddess Gathering is a monthly dinner open to all St. John's Women. The July Gathering will be at Suzy Wong's at 1554 Madison Rd. Please RSVP to Diana Long .

-Diana Long

RE-flections

By Elizabeth Wilson
St. John's Director of Religious Exploration



It might be the lazy, hazy days of summer, but our RE Committee has been hard at work preparing for the 2010-11 programming year. Many changes are occurring with regard to RE curriculum at the national level. The UUA is no longer supporting the “pillar” approach to delivering religious education. Instead they are advocating a new approach, with programs and resources for all ages—called *Tapestry of Faith*—that is more focused on outcomes, including UU identity, spiritual growth, ethical development and faith development.

During the 2009-10 year, our 4th-5th grade class used the *Tapestry of Faith* curriculum, “Windows and Mirrors” with great success. Both teachers and kids alike really enjoyed their experience with it. The teachers appreciated the resources and flexibility provided by the lesson plans and the kids found the activities more exciting, interactive and relevant to the world they live in. With that in mind, we will be utilizing additional *Tapestry of Faith* curricula at all age levels from PreK through 8th grades. During the holiday season—from Thanksgiving to New Year’s Day—we are planning to take a break from classroom curricula and focus on service projects at all grade levels. . .we want to put our UU values to work!

That’s not all. . .our Youth-Adult Committee (YAC) has re-formed and is busy planning for the upcoming YRUU year. They’ve chosen “The Gospel According to the Simpsons” as their curriculum for the first half of the year and are also busily planning welcoming activities for incoming freshmen, a fundraising event, redecorating Wells, and many other exciting things! Stay tuned for more info!

Summer RE Happenings

Sunday August 1: “On the Road with Cliff and Linda” led by Cliff Shisler and Linda Heath.

OK, we won’t actually be *going* on the road, but Cliff & Linda will share pictures and tales of their traveling adventures in the US and Canada—and will give a tour of their RV!

Sunday, August 8: TBD.

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday August 21: RE Teacher Orientation and Training in Krolfifer from 9:30-11:30am

Saturday Sept. 4 (tentative): YRUU campout at the Hoge farm to welcome incoming freshmen.

Sunday September 12: First class session of the 2010-11 Religious Exploration year.

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.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, July 25

10:30am: Worship Service
and Children's Religious Exploration
11:30am: Town Hall Meeting
5:00pm: Potluck Picnic
at home of Marcia Schoeni

Monday, July 26

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 27

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday, July 28

6:30pm: Goddess Gathering Women's Group
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: Worship Service
and Children's Religious Exploration
6:00pm: Men's Group
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday, August 2

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, August 3

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

Wednesday, August 4

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday, August 5

10:00am: Meditation
5:00pm: Reporter Deadline
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting

Friday, August 6

Church Office Closed

Sunday, August 8

10:30am: Worship Service
and Children's Religious Exploration
11:30am: Newsletter Collating
6:00pm: Men's Group
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Monday, August 9

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, August 10

Josie Vacation Day
10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Our Whole Lives (OWL) Planning

Wednesday, August 11

12:00pm: Leadership Development

Thursday, August 12

Josie Vacation Day
10:00am: Meditation

Friday, August 13

Church Office Closed

We're on Facebook!

St. John's now has over 100 people who follow us on Facebook! Join the conversation at <http://www.facebook.com/>

Church Office Hours

Summer church office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:00am to 1:30pm. The office is closed on Mondays and Fridays through August 15. Josie Arens will be out of the office the week of August 9. There will be office coverage on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of that week from 9:00am to noon.

Security Reminder

Reminder to congregants, committees, and anyone else who uses St. John's facilities, please remember to turn off lights (and other electronic things like fans, room air conditioners, copier, etc.) when leaving the building. Also make sure that doors are closed and locked--both inside and outside doors.

Celebrating ur History

A look at the women of St. John's.....

St. John's has had an active women's group since the early 1830s. Over the years the group has gone by many names including the Ladies Society, Women's Alliance, Women's Club and UU Women of Cincinnati. For a period from 1900 to 1960s there was a Women's Evening Alliance and a Women's Day Alliance. Membership has varied over the years, at high point in 1930s over 100 women involved.

In 1870, St. John's planned to build a tower (steeple) addition to the church building on Elm Street. The Women's Society offered to organize a Ball to help raise funds for the addition. In early November, the all male Church Council voted to deny the women authority over such an important fundraiser. Uproar over this led to a special meeting being called two weeks later at which the congregation voted to over-ride the Board and give the women responsibility for the Ball.

In 1949, Kate Haehnle, a longtime active member, was instrumental in the move to Resor Avenue. Her family offered to buy a house and property on Resor Avenue and donate it to St. John's. There was much debate since there was not enough money to erect both a building and a sanctuary. The members of the Women's Alliance were instrumental in breaking the impasse. Women's Alliance president Mrs. Harry Schueschner, authored a pamphlet titled "What Women Hope to See in the New Building" which advocated for a simple but unique worship space, well equipped kitchen, spacious classrooms and a chapel of the Church School and adequate room for the women to continue their sewing activities for charity. The all male Building Committee was replaced by a committee with 8 women and 8 men, which included 3 representatives from the Women's Alliance. The congregation voted to move ahead in construction, without erecting the planned sanctuary.

Women in Leadership

1928- Installation of Rev. Gladys B. Wheeler, as Assistant to the Pastor Eisenlohr

1949- Petition in support of allowing women to serve on Church Council signed by 65 members,
all but 2 of those who signed were women

1952- First women to serve on Church Council- Amanda Grimm and Florence Jung.

A survey of church committee records shows that by the early 1950s, lay leadership became increasingly equally shared between men and women, almost all committees show women in leadership positions

1965- first woman President of Church Council- Margaret Koehnke

1987- first female minister, Rev. Diana Heath

All ministers from 1987 to 2001 were women.

2000- minister, DRE, choir director, administrator and all members of the Board of Trustees
and the treasurer were women!

St. John's has been the sponsor congregation for 7 candidates for UU ministry since 1990,
all but 2 have been women.

-compiled by Bruce Beisner from St. John's archives

Thought of the Week

“Nothing is ever said until someone listens.”

-PAUL CARNES