

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 30, 2009

Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration classes during the summer season begin each Sunday at 10:30am. Our service time will change back to 11:00am starting on Sunday September 13. Child care is available.

Sunday September 6 at 10:30am "Gathering of the Waters"

Plan to bring some water from your summer travels for our annual Water Communion worship service.



Sunday September 13 at 11:00am "SHMILY"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

We will kick off the fall season at St. John's with a service on the importance of love. This will be our new interim minister's first Sunday in the pulpit. The service will include a children's story titled "Thank you, Joseph" and the presentation of the Cathy Roma Scholarship.

Sunday September 20 at 11:00am "The Art of the Possible"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

Rev. Tracy's sermon will be based on the book by Benjamin and Rosamund Zander looking at possibility, believing and thinking. The children's story will be "Keeping the Dream Alive" by Antionette Brown.

Sunday September 27 at 11:00am "Atonement: Yom Kippur"

the Rev. Denise Tracy

A service that will look at the human need for atonement and forgiveness.

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

Omope Daboiku

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

Church Office

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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 Sept. 10 at 5pm

Minister's Musings

from Rev. Denise Tracy



Dear Friends,

This is my first newsletter column as your Interim Minister during this time of transition. I am pleased to be with you this year and to work with you to be ready to welcome your next fully called Minister.

My task is to listen, learn and reflect with you about both the strengths and needs of your congregation. Together we will work on areas of congregational life which might need to be addressed in order for St John's to be at its best for a new era of congregational life. This ministry during this time of transition is interesting and challenging. As I learn about you, I will have questions and I hope to know the story of St. John's as well as those qualities that make it the thriving church that it is.

There are several things I would like to request of you.

- 1) Attend worship and meetings. Your presence is a gift- to you, to me and to others.
- 2) Let me know what you think. Your ideas and opinions are important.
- 3) Wear your nametag. It will be easier for me to remember you.
- 4) There will be transition activities that the Transition Team and I will plan. These activities will help the Search Committee know what you think and help them keep this in mind as they prepare their search on your behalf. Attend them and speak up.
- 5) Invite me to your meetings, Chalice Groups and other activities. Don't assume I will know that you want me to be present. If you invite me, I will do my best to attend.

My schedule will be as follows:

Mondays (off); Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (office hours 9:30am-noon); Tuesday and Wednesday evening meetings; Thursday evenings choir rehearsal; Friday worship preparation
I am available for appointments at other times. For the present the office is the best way to reach me.

My family will continue to live in Elgin, Illinois. I will travel to be with them for 4-7 days each month. I look forward to living in Cincinnati with its rich diversity of culture and the variety of arts. I have known of St. John's for many years from attending Lake Geneva and have always found the people I have met from this church to be spirited and inspiring.

See you on the opening Sunday of the church year, September 13.

Blessings and Looking Forward,
Your Interim Minister,
Denise Tracy (The Rev Ms)

opportunities & Invitations

Lively After Fifty (LAFS)

LAFs will be reconvening after our summer break at Four Seasons Marina, off Kellogg Avenue on Friday September 11. We'll catch up a bit at riverside at Pirate's Cove starting at 6:1pm for pre-dinner snacks/drinks. Then we will proceed to the Four Seasons Restaurant for dinner at 7:00pm. All St. Johners and friends who are approaching or over 50 are encouraged to join our social time. We meet usually the second Friday of the month. It's a great way to meet new people. Reservations are required for dinner. Please contact Jan Hay by Thursday September 10 to reserve or for more information.

-Jan Hay

Knitting or Crocheting

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting or do you want to learn how? If so, join the Knitting for Peace group. We meet every other Sunday morning from 10:00 until 10:45 am in the library. Last year we made hats and scarves for local school children and some made afghans for a hospice group. We had a good time chatting, knitting and learning from one another. The group will meet again this year starting on Sunday September 27. The remaining dates set for 2009 are October 11 and 25, November 8 and 22, and December 6 and 20. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Supplies are available. For information call Debbie Combs.

-Debbie Combs

St. John's Photo Board

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures of new members and anyone else who wants to update photos for our photo board on October 4 and 11 in the chapel adjacent to the sanctuary.

-The Membership Committee

Chalice Groups Forming

We are excited to announce sign up for Chalice Groups beginning in the fall. Opportunities to sign up include Church service dates of September 13 and September 20. There will be available information at both services and you can also request a separate sign up form if need be.

The purpose of the Chalice group program is to provide an opportunity for friends and members of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church to develop deeper connections, foster individual growth, and encourage service within the church and beyond through small groups.

Chalice Groups have been a great way to meet new people, to strengthen or build friendships and connections while discussing a variety of selected topics. We hope that you

will mark your calendar to sign up on September 13 or September 20 at the church service. If you have further questions, please ask a Chalice Group representative.



-Jim Nunn

Adult Forums Resume on September 27

We start the year with a facilitated discussion "What is General Assembly and What Happened There This Summer" on September 27. On October 4, a guest from the Public Library will share information about that valuable local resource. Then, on October 11, we'll learn more about the new UU President Peter Morales and what he sees as the four challenges facing the UUA. All forums will be held in the Darwin room from 10:00am to 10:45am. Please join us! If you have a topic you think would be of interest for future Forums, please call Pamela Wilz.

-Pamela Wilz

Lectures on Ethical Eating

St. Johners are invited to two upcoming lectures at Xavier University which will address some issues relevant to the current UUA Congregational Study/Action issue on "Ethical Eating"...

September 27 at 1pm:

"In Defense of Food: The Omnivore's Solution"

Michael Pollan is a contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine* and the Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of California Berkeley. He is the nationally recognized author of numerous books including *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* (2008) and the award-winning *Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (2006). Prior to the November election, he published an open letter in the *Times* to the "Farmer-in-Chief" of the United States, claiming that agricultural and food policies will become the next administration's most important agenda item even though they figured little in the national election campaigns.

October 28 at 7pm:

"Soil Not Oil : Food Security in Times of Climate Change"

Vandana Shiva is a physicist, author, and environmental activist from India. She has worked for changes in agricultural and food production systems, calling for greater protection of indigenous rights to biodiversity, particularly for seeds of food crops. She also has played an important role in the ecofeminist movement, calling for greater participation of women in agriculture as a means to achieve sustainability. Among her books are *Biopiracy: the Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* (1997), *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*, and *Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed*.

These lectures are free and open to the public. They will be held at Xavier University's Cintas Center in the Schiff Family Conference Center.

-The Social Action Coordinating Committee

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Adult Religious Education

Offerings This Fall at St. John's

Here's a preview of some of the Adult Religious Education offerings coming this fall at St. John's. Registration for these classes and the St. John's bookstore will be held before and after church on Sundays September 20 and 27. There is NO charge for any of the classes. Look for full descriptions of these offerings in the next issue of The Reporter.

Faith & Mental Illness- Saturday October 3 from 9:30am -11:30am

Cakes for the Queen- 5 sessions starting Tuesday

Love & Death- 4 sessions starting TBD 7-8:30pm

Book Discussion: Let Freedom Ring with Vivian Kline- Saturday October 25, 12:45pm-2:15pm

UU Roots- 3 sessions starting Sunday November 1 from 12:45pm-2:15pm

Menu for the Future- 6 sessions starting Tuesday November 10, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Mindfulness Meditation- 4 sessions starting Tuesday November 17, 7:00pm-8:30pm

Book Discussion: Thousand Pieces of Gold- Sunday December 6, 12:45pm to 2:15pm

-The Adult RE Committee

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for September 6 are: Nancy Johnson, Susan Rivers-Payne and Ches Arthur
Coffee hour hosts for September 13 are: Claire Wagner, Chris Wagner and Debbie Combs
Coffee hour hosts for September 20 are: Melissa Orr, Pete Asman and Dani Powley

-Kim Stein

Thought of the Week

"For a thought to change the world, it must first change the life of the person who carries it."

-ALBERT CAMUS

Among ourselves

Search Committee News

I'm sure none of you are aware of it, but on August 15 and 16 you were on a retreat with the Settled Search Committee. Your thoughts, opinions, and dreams for the future of St. John's were on the table, on the charts and in the discussions as they related to our task of organizing ourselves for the important work of finding the right minister for this church at this moment in time. All seven of us are committed to this challenge. We selected roles and looked at the timeline for the work ahead. Whew! Not a cakewalk, but a tough job where we will work together and call on many of you for your opinions and talents. Please call on us if you have questions about the process or wish to contribute in any way. Currently, we ask that you look for media that shows Cincinnati and St. John's off to be a lovely place to call home. This will be used as part of a packet to show prospective ministers what we have to offer.

We have scheduled meeting in the chapel again for Sunday September 20 and 27 at 12:30pm for those of you who have not met with us or who feel you have not been heard in previous sessions. Please join us then. These discussions play an important role in recording congregational desires. Thanks to all of you for your passion and interest in this process. I am so excited to be a part of our investment in St. John's future!

Here are our assigned committee roles:

Chairman/Negotiating Team Representative-
Jack Sherman

Vice Chairman/Treasurer- Cynthia Villacis

Secretary-Sharon O'Neill

Reference Checker-Douglas Striker

Packet Editor-Manuel Susarret

Survey Editor-Melissa Orr-Asman

Arranger-Jan Hay

-Your Settled Minister Search Committee

Don't Forget....

Community Worship Service
time changes back
to 11:00am starting on
Sunday September 13.



Esme's Garden

For several months, just inside the playground fence, a small garden has been planted and tended by loving hands. It's very simple- just butterfly bushes and a few hanging baskets. Each time we pass we remember her shining presence among us. It has been suggested that we might do more flowers around the church to extend the garden. If you would like to become involved with this small project, please contact Barbara Hadden,

-Barbara Hadden

District Leadership Conference Online Workshops

New this year, the Heartland UU District Fall Leadership Conference will be online rather than in-person. The six workshops cover running effective meetings, volunteer and new member involvement incorporation, being a congregational president, a new treasurer or DRE. The URL is www.heartlanduu.org. The conference will be September 19 with three sessions on one day:
Session 1: 10:00 - 11:30 AM (Eastern Time)
Session 2: Noon - 1:30 PM
Session 3: 2:00 - 3:30 PM

You'll need phone and internet hookup and using Krolfifer is an option. \$10 per computer connection per session. Scholarships are available. Contact Linda Heath if you have questions.

-Leadership Development Committee

Join the Voices of Variety Choir

Under the direction of Rachel Kramer, Associate Director of Music, the Voices of Variety will begin rehearsals on Sunday September 20 at 12:15pm in the Rosa Parks Room. The 30-minute rehearsals are open to ALL RE students, ages Kindergarten through 8th grade. The Voices of Variety will prepare their holiday service music in 11 rehearsals each Sunday September to November with a final rehearsal and lunch on Saturday December 5 at 10am. Word sheets and rehearsal CDs will be available to all voices and you need not attend all of the rehearsals to participate.

Voices of Variety Schedule

September 20: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
September 27: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
October 4: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
October 11: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
October 18: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
October 25: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
November 1: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
November 8: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
November 15: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
November 22: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
November 29: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm
December 5: Rehearsal and Lunch 10:00am
December 6: Dress Rehearsal at 10:00am
Performance at 11:00am

Please join the Voices of Variety, now in their 12th season! Questions? Contact Rachel Kramer.

-Rachel Kramer



Peace Activist Potluck and Video

The St. John's Peace Task Force will host a pot luck dinner at 6 pm on Tuesday September 22 at 6pm featuring a 90 minute PBS video "Soldiers of Conscience." Notice of the free event is being sent to local activists associated with the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center as well as a newly established activist network of Peace Churches -- Quakers, Mennonites, Brethren -- that has welcomed UU participants. Those planning to attend should email Nina Tolley, if possible identifying a dish to be shared and noting availability to assist in either set up or clean up.

"Soldiers of Conscience" is a dramatic window on the dilemma of individual U.S. soldiers in the current Iraq War -- when their finger is on the trigger and another human being is in their gun-sight. Made with cooperation from the U.S. Army and narrated by Peter Coyote, the film profiles eight American soldiers, including four who decide not to kill, and become conscientious objectors; and four who believe in their duty to kill if necessary. The film reveals all of them wrestling with the morality of killing in war, not as a philosophical problem, but as soldiers experience it - a split-second decision in combat that can never be forgotten or undone. PBS Broadcast Oct. 2008 <http://www.soldiers-themovie.com/>

-Howard Tolley

Sanctuary Flowers

Brighten the sanctuary with a flower arrangement for the altar. Flowers are purchased and arranged to honor someone you love or wish to remember in a special way. The cost is \$35.00-checks made out to St. John's Flower Fund. Sign up on the flower clip board outside the office. You get to take the flowers home after the Sunday service if you promise to return the container.

-Barbara Hadden

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday September 1

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Book Discussion Group
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday September 2

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday September 3

10:00am: Meditation
6:00pm: Music Committee

Friday September 4

Church Office Closed

Sunday September 6

10:30am: Water Communion Service

Tuesday September 8

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Nominating Committee
7:30pm: Book Group

Wednesday September 9

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

Thursday September 10

10:00am: Meditation
5:00pm: Reporter Deadline
7:15pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday September 11

6:00pm: Greeters Potluck

Saturday September 12

10:00am : Chalice Group Facilitators Meeting

Sunday September 13

11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:30pm: Chalice Group Signups
12:45pm: Town Meeting
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee
6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday September 15

Primary Election (Polling at St. John's)
10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday September 16

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

From the ffice

by *Josie Arens*
Office Administrator

I will be out of the office on Friday September 4 and Monday September 7 (Labor Day Weekend). Have a safe and enjoyable holiday! Please make a note of deadlines and where articles should be sent. **Reporter Deadlines** are listed on the church web calendar and on the front of each issue. Newsletter articles should be sent to Bruce Beisner via email. **Order of Service Announcements:** Deadline is the Wednesday prior to the Sunday service. Send these announcements to me at office@stjohnsuu.org **eNews Deadlines** are Wednesdays at 5pm. eNews announcements go to enews@stjohnsuu.org Kari Olson edits the eNews then sends it to me to send out in all church email on Thursdays. I do not edit or add any information. Submissions should be brief, a sentence or two (if more information is called for, a reference to a link may be provided). Submissions should be timely, only events in the next week.