

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

January 11, 2009

Sunday Community Services

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

Sunday January 18 at 11:00am

"The Meaning of Non-Violence"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter contemplates Martin Luther King Day and the approaching inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Sunday January 25 at 11:00am

"Endings and Beginnings"

Lucas Hergert, who came of age in our congregation and who is soon to be ordained as a UU minister, will speak about those parts of our lives that begin and end, and also about the theology of time and how we conceptualize beginnings and endings.

Sunday February 1st. at 11:00am

"Growing Up In Cincinnati - Reflections Of A Black Man"

Jack Sherman, esteemed St John's member, opens Black History Month for us with these reflections from his own life experience.

Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship services are on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, at 9:00am in Krolfifer Hall. Childcare is available.

Sunday January 18 at 9:00am

"Blessed are the Peacemakers"

Exploring the UU principles that support peaceful living, those UU's who dedicated their lives to peace-making, and how our personal lives can effect the change we want to see in the world. A meditative slide show, live music and group singing, and a thoughtful game will be included in the service.

Sunday February 1st at 9:00am

"Abolitionists and the Underground Railroad: What did UU's Do?"

Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Affiliated Minister

The Rev. Bonnie Meyer

Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Director of

Religious Exploration

Omope C. Daboiku

Worship Coordinator

Omope C. Daboiku

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

Church Office

513-961-1938

stjohnuu@fuse.net

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. January 22 at 5pm

Send submissions to

stjohnuu@fuse.net

Carpenter's Workshop

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

How do you imagine Heaven? Is it a choir of seraphs? How about heaven as a learning opportunity? I was struck with the founder of Unitarianism, William E. Channing's thought of heaven as a place of continuous learning, life's graduate school I guess. As liberal religionists, salvation is about growth, personal development.

"Professional development" is what we call it when we seek to enhance our performance in areas of our expertise. A professional sabbatical is an opportunity for professionals to have time away from their day-to-day activities to refresh and recommit to the mission at their professional positions. Last year I had the privilege of a four month sabbatical.

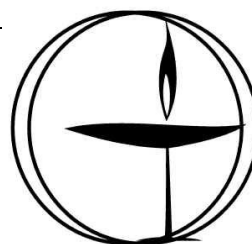
At it's December meeting the Board of St. John's voted to support the request of our Minister of Music, Dr. Catherine Roma, for a three month sabbatical, from mid-March to mid-June. Dr. Roma will be revisioning her mission of social transformation through music.

A task force has been set up to support Cathy in this endeavor. On the task force are Ken Harbaum, Jim McDonough, Elizabeth Wilson, Rachel Kramer, Cathy Roma, Barbara Hadden and Frank Carpenter. They are preparing a brochure about the how, what, when and why. With the shortfall in the church budget a pressing question on everyone's minds has been what the costs would be. Everyone is flexible so we are anticipating no additional costs to the church.

This is an opportunity not only for Cathy, but for all of us who will need to adapt to the absence, however short, of such an important presence at St. John's. Believing in the inherent worth of each person, we lift up this opportunity for growth of each of us. Indeed, I see in this opening of possibilities the very meaning of the dignity of the individual. We owe Cathy a great deal, not just for the heavenly sounds she evokes, but for calling us to this conversation about personal growth. –

Peace,
Frank

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. We are pleased to be designated a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and as such we honor and value the racial, cultural, economic, religious, physical ability, sexual orientation and gender diversity of our members and visitors, young and old.



pportunities & Invitations

Partner Church Soup & Bread

Lunch on Sunday, Jan 11th. Please join us for homemade soup and bread while supporting the elderly folks of our partner church in Romania. Adults - \$5.00, Children -\$3.00. Thanks to everyone who supported the November lunch. We raised about \$300.00. If you would like to donate a pot of soup for February's lunch, please contact Diane Antestenis.

- Diane Antestenis

Adult RE Registration & Bookstore

Sign-up for winter classes for adults will be held on Sunday **Jan. 11 & 18**. See the Reporter insert for more details; or check the St John's website. **The St. John's Bookstore** will also be open those Sundays in Krolfifer. We have a wide variety of books available, as well as textbooks for some of the Adult RE programs. Cash or checks accepted.

- Carol Fencl

“From Oprah To Laura Bush:

The diversity of people who helped create the Freedom Center.” A talk and Q&A with John Pepper about his personal participation in the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. **Sunday Jan 18th** 12:30 Sanctuary

-Frank Carpenter

Racial Reconciliation Discussion

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati will sponsor a presentation and discussion titled “African American Family History: A Pathway to Racial Reconciliation” on **Jan 17** from 12:30pm to 2pm. The program will be followed by a reception and a voucher to attend the Race Exhibit at Cincinnati Museum Center.

-Carol Fencl

Adult Forums

Sundays at 10 AM in the Darwin Room downstairs.

“Israel vs. Hamas: Alternatives to War” will be the topic on **Sun Jan 18**, led by Howard Tolley. For related activities of the St John's Peace Team, see page 5.

“Pluralism in the US and India” will be the topic on **Sun Jan. 25**, led by Linda Heath and Nina Tolley. What can India teach us about intermingling with people who are "different" from us?

The discussion of Byron Katie's book has been postponed until February.

To suggest a future topic, please contact Ethel Ingalls.

-Ethel Ingalls

Pizza Night at Tuesday Community Night.

Dinner begins **Jan 20** at 5:45. The cost is \$5. To reserve, email or call Nanda Araujo by no later than 4pm that day. You can state your topping likes and dislikes and have some slices put aside if you'll be late.

-Nanda Araujo

Taste of St. John's, Part 2– Warm Up Your Winter

On Sunday, **Feb 1** following the worship service, signups will begin on another round of delightful dinner (or other meal) offerings from fellow St. Johners! To make the event possible, we need your creativity and talents. Perhaps you have a special family recipe or something experimental for which you need participants. Consider making a donation of a meal event and complete the form located in today's order of service. If hosting a party at your house is too stressful, consider making your favorite soup or entree to drop off at someone's house. Meal/gathering donation forms need to be returned by Jan. 18 to be included in the catalog.

While browsing the dinner signup offerings, you will be able to snack on (and take home) items from **St. John's bake sale**, also on **Feb 1**. **Please consider donating** homemade bread, cake, cookies, muffins, etc. How about homemade candy? Tapas? Deviled eggs? Finger sandwiches? Please help the Taste team plan the bake sale by telling them of your donation by **Jan. 25**.

This year's **raffle** continues the “warm up your winter” theme with items handcrafted by St. John's members. Stop by the Taste table during coffee hour to see these items. Raffle tickets are \$5 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$25. Raffle drawing will be held **Feb 1**; need not be present to win. All proceeds benefit St. John's operating budget. - *Wanda Crawford*

The Essence of Reality Lecture

Tom Nehrer, the author of *The Essence of Reality: A Clear Awareness of How Life Works*, will be offering a lecture here at St. John's on Monday evening, **Feb. 16**, from 7-9 p.m. This is free and open to the public, so invite your friends to come. He has spoken to other UU groups around the country, and we have invited our other local UU churches to attend.

In Memoriam.

A memorial service for **Dr. David Jackson**, Emeritus Minister of Music at First Unitarian Church will be held on Saturday, **Jan 24** at 4PM at First Church. The choir will sing in his honor. The family is preparing food for after the service.

The family of **Lily Ryan** invites her St. John's friends to a Time of Remembrance for Lily following the church service and coffee hour on Sunday, **Jan 25**, 2009. Lily died on October 29, 2008 at her son's home in Lynchburg, Virginia. Following the Time of Remembrance a light lunch will be served. People wishing to join the family for this event are asked to contact the church office, via email or phone, so the appropriate amount of food can be prepared. The family looks forward to sharing memories of Lily with those able to attend.

St. John's Music Series

The Jan 10 concert was cancelled, but it will be replaced by a concert **celebrating International Women's Day**, on Sunday, **March 8** at 3:00. Featured performers: MUSE - Cincinnati's Women's Choir, the Bowling Green State University Women's Choir and the Indian Hill High School Girls Choir in celebration of International Women's Day. Season ticket holders can substitute their January 10 concert tickets for March 8 and single tickets are available for \$15.00 (includes 1 adult and 1 child).

For the full music series schedule, visit the St John's website and click on “music.” You would not want to miss the folk band **Elberon** on **Feb 21**; or the **May Festival Youth Chorus** on **Mar 29**.

St John's Peace Team News.

1. Forum on ISRAEL v HAMAS 10am on Sunday Jan. 18 at 10 AM.

Howard Tolley of the St. John's Peace Team will lead a discussion on peacemaking efforts in the Middle East related to the latest outbreak of violence in the region at 10am on Sunday Jan. 18.

2. Alternate SOC (Statement of Conscience).

With considerable input from Meadville Provost Sharon Welch and Rev. Paul Resor, director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College, the Peace Team has prepared an ambitious alternative Statement of Conscience to the draft prepared by the UUA Commission on Social Witness. Comments on the proposed denominational SOC are due to the CSW by **February 1**. In order to enlist other UU churches in joining our recommendations, the Peace Team has posted our proposed alternative SOC on the St. John's website under Social Action Peace Initiative and will be sending emails to UUs we know at other churches who might encourage endorsement of the alternative by their church. Howard.Tolley@uc.edu is seeking names of contacts at other UU churches who might be willing to support the alternative SOC.

3. Peace Seminar, Saturday March 7.

Rev. Frank Carpenter has arranged a program on the SOC featuring Meadville Provost Sharon Welch and Mennonite Theologian Gerald Schlabach, with commentary by Civil Rights Attorney Al Gerhardstein and Professor Howard Tolley.

Contemporary Service News.

Our alternative/contemporary services are held at 9am on the First and Third Sundays of each month. Last Sunday, we welcomed the **Wolfersberger-Smith Family** (Brandt, Brenda, Schuyler and Ellery) to our fellowship. It was good to see them back at St. John's and they remarked at how well the early hour meets their family's needs; Brenda even spontaneously shared her music talent with us.

And, a big shout out to our YRUU as they consistently turn out the early service, and last week offered the idea of a 1PM worship service for those who don't relish getting up for 9am. ("After all", one said, "we like our music loud, but we don't even want to listen to loud music this early in the morning!") So, to honor the input received from YRUU and YADA, all those interested in an afternoon service geared to teens and young adults should put a message in Omope's box or join her on Sunday, January 25th in the Chapel after Community Service. To all others, thank you for your continued support as we explore contemporary worship at St. John's.

Omope Daboiku

Adult RE thanks our teens!

Our Nonviolent Communication class has proven to be very popular this year. With a number of parents of young children participating, the teens in St. John's volunteered to provide babysitting for this class that meets every other week on Sunday afternoons. A huge "thank you" goes out to the following: **Alexandra Wilson, Seth Weber, Signee Schloss, Amanda Dias, Sola Daboiku, and Tinu Daboiku**. Group leader Maria Yunker has been impressed with their dedication and willingness to help out.

– Carol Fencl

RE-ally!

By Omope Carter Daboiku
St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

Kudos and big thanks to all who designed and managed our large group activities during the Winter Holidays. And now, with the New Year, we are back on our "regular" schedule. So, each Sunday during January and February (with the exception noted below), children grades 1-6th will start out in the Sanctuary with their families; then, after the story and congregational blessing, go to individual classrooms. Childcare for infants and toddlers will resume on Sunday 1/11 as our Xavier students return from their winter break.

FLASH: New News....RE First Sunday returns with a new music component! Thanks to the generosity of our own Rachel Kramer, we are adding a new element to our RE programming. She will join us in Krolfifer on February 1st and together we'll explore the joy of being together in community and building camaraderie. We'll sing songs we already know and learn new ones; we may even be able to have a year-long youth choir. So, warm up your vocal cords and bring suggestions for songs to your RE teacher.

The Lunar New Year is fast approaching. Expect our traditional **Dragon Parade on January 25th** during the 11 am Community Service.

Adults, *please* come downstairs and see the impact of our RE teachers' dedication. They are doing wonderful things in each classroom. Remember, a word of thanks is much encouragement for those who give service to our children every week.



From the ffice

By Josie Arens
St. John's Office Administrator

I will be back in the office starting Monday Jan.12. I have been granted limited driving duties from my doctor (to and from work) Thanks to Emily Hodges, Frances May Brooks and Barbara Hadden for running off the services. To Judy Buxton for instructions setting up my home computer so I could work from the house. Special thanks to my husband Mike for making regular trips to the post office to pick up church mail for me. Thanks to Cathy, Rachel, Omope, Frank and St. John's Board Members for getting information to me in a timely matter to help make working at home be without any major problems. To the members and friends of St. John's who sent emails and cards, THANK YOU! Just a reminder that the deadline for written announcements for the Order of Service is the **Wed. 11am** prior to the Sunday you want it in.

(And submissions for the Jan 25 edition of the reporter should be submitted by Thursday, Jan 22, at 5:00 PM! Please send submissions to Josie at stjohnuu@fuse.net and NOT to Bruce's email, as Bruce is enjoying a brief vacation. -ed.)

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday, January 13

10:00am Yoga
5:30pm Leadership Dev. Committee
5:45pm Brown bag & conversation with the minister
7:00pm Chalice Group-O'Neill
7:00pm Dharma Reader
7:00pm Fund Trustees

Wednesday, January 14

10:00am Chalice Group - Hadden
12:00pm Clutterers Anonymous
5:30pm Board Executive Meeting
7:00pm PPT
7:15pm Chalice Group-Strong

Thursday, January 15

10:00am Meditation
7:00pm SJ Adult Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, January 17

9:00am PPT Rehearsal
12:30pm African American Family History
@ Museum Center (see page 3)

Sunday, January 18

9:00am Contemporary Service
10:00am Adult Forum "Israel vs Hamas"
10:00am Knitting For Peace
11:00am Community Service,
followed by Coffee in Krolfifer
12:30pm Adult RE Registration
12:30pm St John's Bookstore open
12:30pm Coffee Hour w/John Pepper
12:30pm Green Sanctuary Partnership
1:00pm Non Violent Communications

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed

Tuesday, January 20

10:00am Yoga
5:45pm Community Dinner PIZZA Night
7:00pm YADA

Wednesday, January 21

12:00pm Clutterers Anonymous
6:30pm Board Meeting
7:00pm PPT

Thursday, January 22

10:00am Meditation
5:00pm REPORTER Deadline
7:00pm SJ Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 23

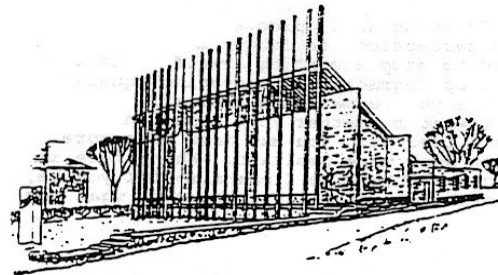
6:00pm OWL Overnight

Saturday, January 24

12:00am OWL
9:00am CLT Rehearsal
10:00am CGCC
4:00pm Memorial, Dr. David Jackson (see page 4)
at First Unitarian Church, 536 Linton & Reading

Sunday, January 25

10:00am Adult Forum
"Pluralism in the US and India"
11:00am Community Service,
followed by Coffee in Krolfifer
11:00am Lunar New Year Dragon Parade @ 11am
service
12:30pm PR Committee
12:30 Memorial, Lily Ryan (see page 4)



Thought of the Week

”Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”

- *Alfred, Lord Tennyson*