
THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

January 25, 2009

Sunday Community Services

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

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.

Sunday February 1st. at 11:00am

"Darwinian Ambiguities" with the scientist himself. And why were Darwin and Lincoln born on the same day, February 12, 1809?

Contemporary Worship Services

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

First Sunday, 2/1 "Abolitionists and the Underground RR:

What did UU's Do?" This service will be hands-on and interactive. Increase your knowledge of "talking" quilt patterns, sing Freedom Songs and Spirituals, and play "Who? Who was UU?" and "Who Said That?" It's going to be different!

Third Sunday, 2/15 "Happiness" Do you know that Nepal actually measures their citizen's "happiness quotient"? Kari Olson brings forth the question, "Just what does it take to be happy?" An original member of our program planning team, Kari's service will include hip contemporary music and a special appearance by Oscar-nominated "actor," Wall-E !

First Sunday, 3/1 "The Regenerative Power of Life" Thank goodness, Spring is just around the corner. What's blooming in your soul?

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. Feb 19 at 5pm

Send submissions to

stjohnuu@fuse.net

Carpenter's Workshop

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Our monthly Bread and Soup supporting our Partner Church in Naradszentlaszlo is one of our most popular programs. Most recently 85 people attended and we are sending \$422 for the Bread for the Elderly Program, providing a loaf of bread a week for elderly members of our partner church. Friends of Szentlaszlo is also seeking ways to provide a van for them.

Our Partner Church is in Transylvania, Rumania. We work with a number of UU congregations in the United States who also have Partner Churches supporting these historic Hungarian congregations. American UU churches, members of the UUA, also work with UU congregations in India, South America, Africa and the Philippines, as well as Europe. The UUA's Office of International Resources describes work among the Philippine congregations, "Traveling to the congregations can be challenging, but the majority of them can be reached by four-wheel vehicles. When this is not possible, the means of transportation would be habal-habal (a motorcycle used to carry passengers), tricycles, or walking. There are always rough roads, sometimes it is necessary to cross the same river several times. Though the people that are met along the way are very friendly, sensitive and curious."

The Office has a program to enrich congregations' awareness of international Unitarian Universalism called "Faith Without Borders". They offer "Five Guiding Principles of Faith Without Borders:"

- Our international engagement must emerge from a place of deep humility and intentionally seek relationships based on equality and mutuality.
- Our international engagement is most effective when it comprehends the abundance and variety of resources our congregations and international partners already have.
- Our international engagement is most transformative when it is grounded in faithful reflection, including integration of the history of our international engagement.
- Our international engagement is truest to our highest values when it responds with wisdom and passion to institutional oppression and injustice.
- The Unitarian Universalist universe of international programs is incredibly diverse and highly decentralized. Our international engagement is most comprehensive when we understand and utilize partner organizations well.

You can find out more on the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/withoutborders/index.shtml>.

Our Friends of Szentlaszlo program, reaching out to the historic roots of Unitarianism in Hungary, reminds us that faith does not know any borders. We cannot live in a world defined solely by nationalistic agendas.

Peace,
Frank

Opportunities & Invitations

Tuesday community dinner.

Jan 27 5:45 PM Please join us! Bring dinner for yourself and a dessert to share. Hope to see you there!
-Jennifer Richards

Final Friday Game Night

Please join with your fellow St. Johner's this **Fri 1/30** as we gather in Krolfifer at 7 p.m. for an evening of board games. There will be several to choose from, as usual, or you may bring your own. You may drop in at anytime from 7 p.m. til about midnight for one game or many. If you have never attended and have questions, please feel free to contact Pete Asman or Karen Miller.

Adult Forums,

Sundays at 10 AM, Darwin Room.

Feb 1, Ethel Ingalls will lead a discussion of Byron Katie's book, *Loving What Is*. Katie experienced a life-changing event and subsequently developed **The Work**, a process of inquiry, by which she helps us understand the difference between reality and our perception of it. It is not necessary to read the book before the forum. A dialogue from the book will be presented for discussion.

In March, date TBA, Susan Montauk will lead a discussion of *The Soloist*, by Steve Lopez, which is this year's "On the Same Page" book for Cincinnati. "On The Same Page" is the Library's annual effort to enhance a sense of community through shared reading all around the county.

To suggest a future topic, please contact me at 859-581-5022.
-Ethel Ingalls

The Groundhog is Coming!

We will meet at 7:35am on **Mon, Feb 2**, at Mt. Storm Park. After a brief ceremony at sunrise (when the groundhog may or may not see his shadow) we will come to St. John's for a potluck breakfast. Please join us in this long standing St. John's tradition.

- Melanie Marsh

First Friday Flick

Please join us in Krolfifer on **Fri, Feb 6** at 7 p.m. for the German film: *The Lives of Others*. East Berlin, November 1984.

Five years before its downfall, the former East-German government ensured its claim to power with a ruthless system of control and surveillance. Party-loyalist Captain Gerd Wiesler hopes to boost his career when given the job of collecting evidence against the playwright Georg Dreyman and his girlfriend, the celebrated theater actress Christa-Maria Sieland. After all, the "operation" is backed by the highest political circles. What he didn't anticipate, however, was that submerging oneself into the world of the target also changes the surveillance agent. The immersion in the lives of others--in love, literature, free thinking and speech--makes Wiesler acutely aware of the meagerness of his own existence and opens to him a completely new way of life which he has ever more trouble resisting. But the system, once started, cannot be stopped. A dangerous game has begun.

A discussion will follow the viewing. As usual, feel free to bring your own chair for comfort. Contact Karen Miller with any questions.

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

Combat the cold with hospitality and good food! 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. For a preview of offerings, see the **Taste of St. John's** catalog on the SJ website.

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 making bread, cake, cookies, muffins, candy, etc. for the bake sale.

This year's **raffle** continues the "warm up your winter" theme with items handcrafted by St. John's members. Stop by the Taste table in the social hall 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*

Super Bowl / Boardgame Party

YADA and the 30s & 40s Group will gather for a Super Bowl / Boardgame party at Alicia and Quinn Shamblin's home in Batavia on Sunday, **Feb 1st**, beginning at 5:00pm. Contact Alicia Shamblin (550-1171) or Pete Asman (699-0939, pete_asman@yahoo.com) to RSVP and get directions. Please bring food or drink to share, and feel free to bring games you enjoy, too. Newcomers are welcome. This is a kid-friendly event.

Adult RE classes

If you'd intended to sign up for an adult class but didn't make it last Sunday, contact Carol Fencel at AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org and let her know **immediately**.

There is still room in both the Building Your Own Theology and Lifelines classes. If minimum enrollment is not reached, classes will be cancelled, so don't delay. The complete brochure can be found on the website under Adult RE.

Without a Map - Book Discussion

Join us next Sunday afternoon, **Feb. 8**, from 4-6 p.m. for a discussion of the very personal memoir, *Without a Map*, written by Meredith Hall. We'll share our reactions to her story of growing up in the 60s. All invited to go out to supper afterwards.

The Essence of Reality- Mon **Feb 16**

Tom Nehrer will be with us in person to focus on his book, *The Essence of Reality: A Clear Awareness of How Life Works*. He examines the inner source of the patterns we create in our lives and how they can be changed. This is a free lecture, open to the public. It will be held in Krolfifer Hall at 7 p.m. Please come and invite your friends. For more information, check out his website at www.nehrer.net.

Great Decisions begins

On Sunday afternoon, **Feb. 15**, our Great Decisions series will begin. This is a drop-in group, with no registration necessary. **Every week** we'll be covering a different topic. The complete list is posted on the Adult RE bulletin board near the church office as well as on the web site www.stjohnsuu.org/index.php/re/re-adult.

Our first topic will be **The U.S. and Rising Powers**. Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, some rapidly developing countries are emerging. How will that change the global balance of power and how will our country react?

The series will meet in the Chapel from 1-2:30, led by Dick Fencel and Frank Meyer.

Monthly All-Church Potluck - Tues Feb 3

Let's mingle and share our dishes starting at **5:45** on the first Tuesday in February. All are invited and there will be time enough to eat and socialize even if you have a class or meeting that night. Soft drinks and milk will be provided. Contact Jan Hay (591-0957) if you have any questions, but no reservations required.

Partner Church Soup and Bread Lunch

The last soup lunch of the winter will be **Feb 8**. We'll have plenty of soup and healthy bread for all to enjoy. Please join us and continue to support our partner church bread for the elderly program.

January's lunch was our most successful yet. We raised \$422.00 for the bread program for the elderly of Szentlaszlo, Romania.

Thanks to soup makers Nina Tolley, Meg Harman, Emily Hodges, Kathryn McDonough, Diane Antestenis and Melanie Marsh; our brownie maker, Connie Prairie; Ethel Ingalls and Bear Sheppard for set up; Jan Hay, Tom Darner, Rick Prairie, and especially the coffee crew, Diana Long, Melinda Smith and daughter Maya, for double duty.

-Friends of Szentlaszlo

LAF's - Lively After 50 Dinner Out

Just for laughs, good eating, and conversation, the LAF's will be congregating at Ferrari's Little Italy Friday, **Feb 13** at 6:30 pm. The restaurant is at 7677 Goff Terrace just off Miami Road in Madeira. All St. John's and friends near or over 50 are welcome to come, but reservations are required. Please contact Jan Hay (janhay@fuse.net, 513-591-0957) by **Thurs, Feb 12** to be included.

-Jan Hay

Interweave Movie Night – “Fire”

Interweave's next movie night is scheduled for **Fri 2/20**. We'll be showing a highly-rated, lesbian-themed, Indian movie entitled “Fire”.

Doors open at 7:00 PM and the movie will begin at 7:30. Please bring food or drink to share. If you'd like a more comfortable chair than those available in Krolfifer, feel free to bring your own.

Please join us for some food, fun, and fellowship and bring a friend or 2. This event is free and open to the public.

St. John's Music Series

Single tickets are available for \$15.00. For more information, go to the St John's website and click on “music.”

Feb 21, the folk musicians of **Elberon** will perform acoustic Celtic, country, folk, bluegrass, and fusion music.

March 8 at 3:00, **International Women's Day concert**. Featured performers: MUSE - Cincinnati's Women's Choir, the Bowling Green State University Women's Choir and the Indian Hill High School Girls Choir. Season ticket holders can substitute tickets for the cancelled Jan 10 concert for this concert.

Mar 29, the **May Festival Youth Chorus**, including St. John's own David Gordon-Johnson.

The proceeds from all these concerts benefit St. John's music program and various non-profit organizations as part of the St. John's outreach program.

UU Peace Theology

Symposium, Sat March 7.

Rev. Frank Carpenter is arranging a program to discuss peace theology from a UU perspective, especially as relates to the proposed UUA peacemaking Statement Of Conscience.

Symposium will feature:

- Mennonite Theologian Gerald Schlabach, author of *Just Policing, Not War*;
- Sharon Welch, Provost of Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, and author of *Real Peace, Real Security*; *After Empire*; and *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*;
- Paul Sawyer, VP of the UU Peace Fellowship;
- Lt. Col Seanan Holland, military chaplain;
- Civil Rights Attorney Al Gerhardstein;
- Political Science Professor and human rights activist Howard Tolley.

Guest at Your Table

If you haven't already, please bring Guest at Your Table boxes to church this week! You can place them at the chalice table during the prelude. Please remember to put your name on the box and if possible, convert cash to check.

Thanks for your support of UUSC.

Time for a Vacation?

Check out the UU bed and breakfast directory at www.UUreHome.com. Reasonably priced accommodations all over the country, with fellow UUs. Online listings or printed guide for \$25. Snail-mail users can request a copy at UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806

Among ourselves

St John's Gifts And Needs

Following the service Sun **Feb 8** the Leadership Development and Nominating Committees invite members to bring Partner Soup lunch down to Rosa Parks for a **review of St. John's leadership and service needs** in the coming year – 11 positions to be filled by election in June 2009, not including members of the settled minister search committee and a variety of other service roles. Our diverse membership offers extraordinary gifts to enlist and organize in a year of significant transition. **RSVP** to Linda Heath 859/441-9670 lheath@insightbb.com.

Wheel Of Life

Will Hamrick is out of the hospital with his "rehabbed" pace maker and feeling good!
Karen Miller is celebrating another milestone in her body remaking.
Kay Sloan is recovering from hip replacement.
Mira Rodwan's cracked elbow and ankle, from a Hanukkah party mishap, are healing nicely.
Bruce Beisner thanks everyone subbing for him while in Chicago for a seminary class.
Hanna Stampe is playing violin with the Asheville, NC symphony.
David Koehnke is recovering from spinal surgery on Jan 14.

St. John's eNews

Each Wednesday St. John's eNews is emailed to many of our friends and members. It includes last-minute information and updates between bulletins. If you are not receiving and it would like to, please inform the Church Office, office@stjohnsuu.org.

Unsung Hero Recommendations

Individual St. John's members are invited to submit recommendations with no more than a one paragraph explanation for the **2008 Unsung Hero** award to Karolyn Schalk by email to kaschalk@ix.netcom.com or in the Vice President's mailbox in the church office no later than **Feb 15**.

The Unsung Hero Award honors outstanding effort during the January to December calendar year and may also recognize additional effort from prior years. It is *not* intended to recognize:

- Work of members of our Board of Trustees
- Work performed by St. John's paid staff
- Efforts honored during the church year, such as service of teachers recognized in an annual ceremony
- Efforts readily visible to the congregation throughout the year
- Work of major committee or task force chairs

Currently active St. John's members identified on the plaque in the chapel honored since 1989: Curt Miller, Sam Cauffield, Melanie Marsh, Emily Hodges, Penny Shada, Bruce Beisner, Kathy Laufman, Jonena Jones, Bill Surber, Bill Luersson, and Carol Fencl.

Can We Be Greener?

Old houses are a challenge when it comes to saving energy. Judy Strong purchased foil backed insulation and attached it to frames making panels that she puts up over the windows at night to prevent heat radiation. She also figured out a way to make a revolving compost bin from a 55 gal. drum. Her family is using only one car now. She likes the new bike racks on the public buses. She can ride her bike to the bus stop, take the bus near her destination and then bike the rest of the way. What are your ideas for a greener 2009? - *Green Sanctuary Partners*

District and National UU Conventions Coming Up!

Our **national Unitarian Universalist**

Association (UUA) is holding its annual meeting, better known as General Assembly (GA), in Salt Lake City, **June 24-28**. There will be six general areas of content: Justice Ministries; Theology in a Secular Age; Governance: Lighting the Leadership Chalice; Generosity, Ministry across the Generations; and Soul Work: Multi-Cultural Community. Participants select one of these "tracks" when they register.

Can't make it to Salt Lake City for almost a week? Why not join other UUs from KY, IN, OH and MI for our regional **Heartland District** annual meeting, **April 3-5** in Muncie, IN.? Most activities take place on Saturday. The theme of this meeting is: A Heritage of Peace, Love and Justice. Listen to keynote speakers, participate in workshops, enjoy an evening of music and dance, worship together (Friday 9:30 PM- Young Adult Worship). Make it a family weekend - supervised activities utilizing Safe Congregation Guidelines are available for children- including a field trip to the Muncie Children's Museum and pottery making.

For more information (costs, carpooling, hotels, room sharing, and delegate status) please contact me at 513-777-4351 or pshada@zoomtown.com.
-Penny Shada

RE-ally!

*News from your Director of Religious Exploration,
Omope Carter Daboiku*

Well, it's that time of year again....time for our **Hungarian Dinner**, sponsored by the Friends of Szentlaszlo on behalf of our partner church in Transylvania. This St. John's tradition is a part of our service to the larger fellowship and a wonderful opportunity to teach and model for our children. As usual, we invite children grades 1-4 (along with parent or guardian) to assist with table setting on Friday, March 13. The dinner is Saturday, March 14 and includes special programming for children and childcare for the wee ones. More details are forthcoming. To register for Friday and Saturday activities, contact Omope or speak with your child's RE teacher.

We are almost mid-way in our Church Year, and our RE community is preparing to evaluate our weekly programming and curriculum. **Please drop a note** and let us know how we can continue to support your children's spiritual development.

Don't forget First Sunday, February 1st: all children grades 1-6 will gather in Krolfifer for joint worship and singing.

Speaking of February --- Soon we'll be seeing crocus peek their heads above the frozen ground and the sap will begin to move in our tree-friends again. If you drive past Caldwell Park (Hartwell), you'll see sap drip buckets on the trees. They actually collect it, boil it down to make syrup, and sponsor a pancake breakfast where the local syrup is served. This Cincinnati Parks event is a great way to connect with the Earth.



Upcoming events for the teens: Spiritual Development Con Feb 6-8 (in Michigan), and St. John's YRUU-directed Earth Day Worship Service on April 19.

Contemporary Service Update

*News from Worship Coordinator,
Omope Carter Daboiku*

Young Adults (that means you if you're under 40!), as we plan for our next Church Year, we need your input. How can St. John's assist you on your spiritual journey? What elements of worship do you need in your life? Looking for "fellowship"? Let us know how you define that concept in your ideal community. Let us know; **remember, we work for you.** You can drop a note addressed to the PPT into the black wire box on the office door, or slip a note in Omope's mailbox. Others who are over 40, but young at heart, are invited to give comments also that tell us how the early service meets your spiritual needs. Signing your note with phone number or e-mail will facilitate communication. Comments will help prepare our grant review for the UUA. Thanks!

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday, January 27

10:00am Yoga
5:45pm Community Dinner -Brown Bag
7:00pm Committee Of Ministry
7:00pm Dharma Reader

Wednesday, January 28

6:30pm Caring Circle
7:00pm Program Planning Team

Thursday, January 29

10:00am Meditation
10:00am Interfaith planning meeting
7:00pm SJ Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 30

7:00pm Game Night

Saturday, January 31

9:00am Contemporary Service Rehearsal

Sunday, February 1

9:00am Contemporary Service
10:00am Adult Forum
10:00am Knitting For Peace
11:00am Children's RE First Sunday Worship
11:00am Community Service,
followed by Coffee in Krolfifer
12:30pm TASTE OF ST JOHN'S
1:00pm Non Violent Communications
5:00pm SuperBowl Party @ Shamblins
Sponsored by YADA and 30&40 group
6:00pm Men's Group

Monday, February 2

7:30am Annual Ground Hog Day Breakfast
in Krolfifer

Tuesday, February 3

10:00am Yoga
5:45pm Community Potluck
7:00pm BYOT class
7:00pm Life Lines Holding On and Letting Go
7:00pm YADA - Gandhi
7:00pm Chalice Group – Luersson

Wednesday, February 4

8:30am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Membership committee
7:00pm Program Planning Team

Thursday, February 5

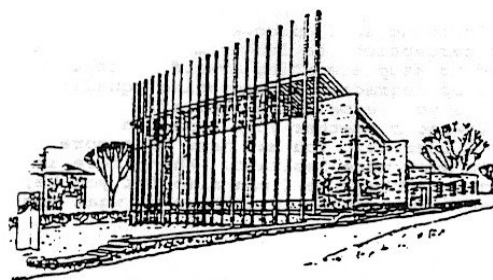
10:00am Meditation
5:00pm Reporter deadline
6:00pm Music Committee Meeting
7:00pm SJ Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 6

7:00pm First Friday Flicks – Krolfifer

Sunday, February 8

11:00am Community Service,
followed by Coffee in Krolfifer
12:30pm Budget Meeting w/Congregation
12:30pm Leadership ID Meeting
12:30pm Szentlaszlo Bread and Soup Lunch
1:00pm Interweave Lunch @ The Melt
4:00pm Book Discussion "Without a Map"



Thought of the Week

“Our power alone cannot protect us;
nor does it entitle us to do as we please.”

- President Barack Obama