

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

March 8, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday March 15 at 11:00am

"Welcoming Mihaly and Rozsa Kiss"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Mihaly Kiss is the Minister of our Unitarian Partner Church in Naradszentlaszlo, Transylvania. We will continue our Partner Church Weekend at St. John's with a dialogue with the Kiss's as Rev. Carpenter leads a discussion with them about this history of Unitarianism in Hungary and changes in their village.

Sunday March 22 at 11:00am

"A Curious Baptism"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Rev. Carpenter will share about his spiritual path, from growing up Episcopalian through travels as an Interim Minister to today.

Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship services are on the first and third Sunday of each month. They begin at 9:00am and are held in Krolfifer Hall. Childcare is available.

Sunday March 15 at 9:00am

"Reflections on Women's History Month"

Jacque Rosseau

Our newest Program Planning Team member, Jacque, brings a wealth of experience in worship design. Come and support her as she serves as Contemporary Service Leader for the first time at St. John's.



Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Directors of

Religious Exploration

Omope Daboiku

Worship Coordinator

Omope 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

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thurs. March 19 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

The Heartland District annual Meeting is the first weekend of next month, April 3-5, in Muncie, IN. The Heartland UU District is one of the regional organizations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and comprises 53 UU congregations in Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and western Ohio.

In preparation I went to the District website, <http://heartlanduu.org/> to check out registration, and that sort of thing. Looking over the Annual Meeting Registration Brochure, <http://www.heartlanduu.org/documents/AM09WebBrochure.pdf>, one of the first things I noticed was a list of the member congregations by date of founding. Guess what? We lead this list! Of the 53 congregations St John's was founded first, 1814. Next is Heritage UU, founded 1827; and then First Unitarian Cincinnati, 1830.

The Annual Meeting is planned as a family activity. Besides the business and workshops, there will be pottery possibilities and a dinosaur dig. Really! Check it out: <http://www.heartlanduu.org/am09.html> One of the speakers, Elizabeth Strong, is a Minister of Religious Education.

I will be going. Another speaker is Sharon Welch. She is Provost and Professor of Religion and Society at Meadville Lombard Theological School (Unitarian Universalist). Welch is currently a member of the International Steering Committee of Global Action to Prevent War. She is the author of five books, her most recent being *Real Peace, Real Security: The Challenges of Global Citizenship* (Fortress 2008). She is also the author of *A Feminist Ethic of Risk*. Welch is the recipient of numerous awards, many of which recognize her excellence in teaching. She was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology by Starr King School of Ministry in May 2007.

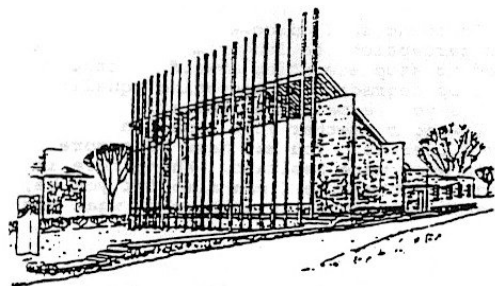
Dr. Welch is speaking Saturday morning on "Peacemaking, Peacebuilding, and Peacekeeping." As she serves on the UUA Congregational Study and Action Issue Peacemaking Team, Dr. Welch and I have been part of the ongoing conversation about the UUA's developing a Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. I am co-leading a workshop with following her talk in Muncie.

I hope that you will explore this possibility. If you are interested, speak with Penny Shada on the Board. And then hurry back from Muncie as I will, for our Pledge Sunday on April 5!

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.



Opportunities & Invitations

Upcoming Sunday Forums

March 15 at 10am: "Saving the Earth...With Our Forks" We'll discuss Cincinnati's Climate Protection Plan, specifically in relation to the suggestion that we eat less meat. We will look at this subject from the economic, environmental, nutritional and spiritual viewpoints. Do you eat any less meat now than you did twenty years ago? Ten years ago? Come and share your perspective. Discussion will be led by Ethel Ingalls

March 22 at 10am: "Paths to Membership" If you have questions about UUism or membership at St. John's that you feel most comfortable asking in a more personalized setting or your schedule keeps you from attending the "Exploring UU" class on March 28, the upcoming conversation "Paths to Membership" is your opportunity. This dialogue will be facilitated by Karolyn Schalk.

-Ethel Ingalls

Compassionate Communication Potluck on March 25

Please join us on March 25 from 6:30pm to 9pm in Krolfifer Hall for a Compassionate Communication Potluck. Child Care will be provided. An introduction exploring the fundamentals of Nonviolent Communication (NVC), as developed by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg. We will also have exercises for those with more experience. NVC is also referred to as Compassionate Communication, a language that strengthens our ability to inspire compassion from others and ourselves. Compassionate Communication guides us to re frame how we express ourselves, how we hear others and resolve conflicts by focusing our consciousness on what we are observing, feeling, needing, and requesting. Contact Maria Yunker or visit www.uuspeakerpeace.org/web.

-Maria Yunker

Ticket Sales for Transylvanian Dinner End This Wednesday

What an amazing journey it has been to be partnered with the Unitarian church in Nyaradszentlaszlo for nineteen years and to be celebrating our fifteenth Transylvanian Dinner Saturday March 14 at 6 pm. Dinner attendees will enjoy music presented by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Nouveau Chamber Players, foods of Transylvania, and fellowship with friends and our partner church minister and his wife, Rev. Mihaly Kiss and Rozsa. If you've not yet bought your tickets (\$15 adults, \$5 children) you can still do so through Wednesday by downloading the order form from our website www.stjohnsuu.org and sending a check to the office or by calling the church office at 513-961-1938 or Mary Darner with names of attendees, request for vegetarian food, etc. and then getting your check to church. Scholarships for the dinner may be arranged by calling Mary Darner.

-Friends of Szentlaszlo

Party With the Earth

St. John's will celebrate Earth Day 2009 with a booth at Sawyer Point on Saturday April 18 from noon-7pm. We need your help telling others about St. John's and our commitment to the natural world. Spend two hours at the St. John's booth and the rest of your time enjoying the festival! Talking points provided by Green Sanctuary and PR Committee. If you can help, contact us at pr@stjohnsuu.org.

-The PR Committee

Community Pizza Night

Join us on Tuesday March 17 at 5:45pm. Cost is \$5. To reserve, contact Nanda Araujo no later than 4pm on Tuesday afternoon. If you can't arrive until later in that dinner hour, let me know and I will set aside slices. Also, you can tell me what you prefer on your pizza as well as what toppings are unacceptable and we'll see if we reach consensus.

-Nanda Araujo



Adult Religious Education

Registration:

Registration for Spring Adult Religious Education classes will be held on Sundays March 15 and 22. Please see the newsletter insert for class details.

Great Decisions:

Join us for the fourth of our Great Decisions programs on Sunday afternoon March 8 from 1-2:30.

Frank Meyer and Dick Fencil are the leaders for this group. This Sunday only the meeting will be held in Krolfifer due to the afternoon concert setup and rehearsal. Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and intercontinental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

On March 15 the topic will be **Egypt in the 21st Century**. Egypt has long played an important role in the Arab world while maintaining a strategic relationship with the U.S. With elections scheduled for 2009, how will Egypt deal with serious domestic issues, ranging from Islamic radicalism to food shortages? What factors will influence the path of this regional heavyweight?

March 22 will focus on **Global Food Supply**.

Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?

-The Adult RE Committee

Paths to Membership at St. John's

If you are considering becoming a member of St. John's, here are four possible ways, or "paths," from which you can choose to insure that you will have a clear understanding of the St. John's community. The paths include: attending "Exploring UU," a Saturday morning and lunch workshop (with child care as needed), offered several times a year (next one on March 28), OR participating in one of the church classes such as "Building Your Own Theology," OR scheduling a conference with the minister to discuss membership, OR participating in a church activity or group, such as choir, a committee, or a Chalice group. For more information on membership, please contact Barbara Hadden.

-The Membership Committee

RE-ally!

By Omope Daboiku

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

Seen any signs of Spring yet? Sure you have -- buds on trees and the sprouts of daffodils and tulips which will soon open their faces to the sun. Plus, there are other things we expect in the Spring around St. John's, such as our Partner Church Dinner that supports our sister church in Romania. Parents, this is the perfect time to extend the geography lesson we experienced in our March First Sunday RE Gathering. We located Romania on a globe and viewed a slide show of the Darners' great photos from the St. John's visit there. We want our young ones to understand the energy that is building as we expect our friends, the Kiss Family. Teachers, I have supplemental materials that may be used to support our children's understanding of how special this event is in our church's programming. And, children, don't forget this is an opportunity for you to be involved in a very meaningful tradition. So, as we find ourselves distracted by the possibility of Spring, let us think of those less fortunate than ourselves whose lives need more rays of hope.

Among ourselves

Pledge Campaign to Focus on the Gifts We Receive at St. John's

Please mark your calendars for Sunday April 5, Stewardship Sunday. This will be the kick off of this year's Pledge Campaign in support of the 2009/2010 St. John's operating fund. You'll be receiving a personal letter in the next few days giving you more information about the campaign. This year's campaign will highlight the many gifts each of us receives through the services, programs and activities at St. John's. Perhaps this year, more than any other year, we must insure that a strong and active St. John's is there to serve our members, friends and community. Next year will be an exciting year at St. John's as we ready ourselves for a new settled minister and continue our efforts to make peace in our world a reality.

-Tom Darner, Stewardship Chair

St. John's Pledge Income

At the end of February 2009, our pledge year is 2/3 complete. Of the 157 pledge units, here's how we stand with respect to pledge balances.

% Pledge Paid	#	Balance
100	28	\$ 0
68 - 99	20	4,471
66 - 67	34	16,476
50 - 65	29	25,342
>0 - 49	22	31,886
0	24	20,690

0 - 100	157	98,765

Total Pledges \$227,937
% Total Pledges Unpaid 43
% Pledge Year Remaining 33

Keep those pledges coming in!

-Rick Prairie, Financial Secretary

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for March 15 are: LaDonna Fritz, Bruce Beisner and Diane Antestenis.

Coffee hour hosts for March 22 are: Will Hamrick, Rosina Janus and Michael Janus.

-Kim Stein

News from the St. John's Board

Decisions:

St. John's will cover the mileage reimbursement expense for expenses incurred for DRE Omope Daiboiku to attend the Renaissance Module training in March. There is \$500 budgeted, and we will cover up to \$600.

We are willing to participate in Joint Services with other local UU churches in July. Details will be worked out among the participating churches and announced to the congregations.

Discussion:

Tom Darner, Stewardship Chair presented plans for the Stewardship Campaign this year. Stewardship Sunday is April 5, and the theme will be "From you I receive."

Individual board members volunteered to donate blank tapes to be used for recording the Sunday Services since Worship & Liturgy has exceeded their year's budget. Other ways of copying the service are being investigated.

We reviewed a list of current service needs of the church. There is some concern over the large number of volunteers needed for various parts of the church and the suggestion was made that a Volunteer Coordinator might be helpful.

The Town Hall meeting is scheduled after church on Sunday March 8. We will review both the Interim and Settled Minister Search Processes and gather more input from the congregation. At this point the Interim Search Committee consists of Winnie Goodrich, Waltke Paulding, Barbara Hadden, Nina Tolley, with Kelly McMichael as Board Liason. Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Peacemaking Developments

UUA Statement of Conscience:
The St. John's Peacemaking
Task Force submitted to the
Commission on Social Witness
extensive recommendations in
the form of substitute sections to
the November 2008 first draft.



Our recommendations were posted online for consideration by participants in the UUA Peacemakers network, discussed at a weekend seminar in February offered by Sharon Welch at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary, and received several favorable responses. The Meadville students responded with additional suggestions, and Rev. Paul Rasor subsequently developed his own proposals that incorporate some of our ideas. Members interested in reading the considerable debate over the numerous proposals can review the archives by joining up at <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/peacemaking-network>. Somehow the CSW will digest the voluminous submissions and prepare a revised draft for a discussion and likely vote at the June General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Despite Frank's considerable effort to draw participants to St. John's for a Saturday program on the Statement of Conscience, the response did not warrant proceeding with the planned event and the Peace Theology Seminar planned for March 7 was cancelled.

Peace Sign for St. John's: The date for creating a peace themed sign has been postponed from the original March 7 target. As soon as warm weather permits outdoor work, Bill Luerson has volunteered to do the heavy lifting required to prepare the cast iron surface for new printed vinyl sheets with "peace" in many languages and the church name, address. Mauricio Villacis is nearing completion of the soft-ware program required by the printer for sheets that will be fixed on for all eight sides of our church sign.

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Military Recruiting in Cincinnati Schools: In collaboration with the Inter Community Justice and Peace Center three members of the St. John's Peace Team – Judy Cirillo, Francis May Brooks and Nina Tolley – received training for meetings with high school guidance counselors. They will share with the counselors literature for students on promising alternative careers as well as handouts that suggest questions to ask when military recruiters seek voluntary enlistment. The IJPC has been lobbying the school board with some success to subject military recruiters to the same limitations on access to students that apply to all other recruiters who visit public schools.

Non Violent Communication: Maria Yunker has proposed a formal affiliation of St. John's with Compassionate Communication of Greater Cincinnati and members interested in learning more can attend a potluck she has arranged at church for Wednesday March 25 or online at www.cincinnatiinvc.org. The related UUA site promoting Nonviolent Communication is at www.uuspeakpeace.org/web.

-Howard Tolley

The Wheel of Life

Joys:

Rick Prairie's son in law, Scott Ransom, has received tenure at National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Sherry Tippey has a new grandniece. She is Clover Agnes Faul.

Waltke Paulding will be participating in an NIH research project at UC Medical School. He'll be back in the lab this summer.

Sharon and Robert Jones are married 18 years.

Concerns:

Cynthia Villacis's cousin Becky's premature baby will have heart surgery soon.

Nancy Johnson's mother is still undergoing tests and will start chemotherapy.

John and Sherry Tippey's friend, Lew Tillebein, is undergoing cancer treatment.

-The Caring Circle

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday March 10

10:00am: Yoga
5:45pm: Conversation w/Minister Brown Bag
7:00pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill

Wednesday March 11

10:00am: Chalice Group - Hadden
5:30pm: Board Executive Meeting
7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)
7:15pm: Chalice Group-Strong

Thursday March 12

10:00am: Meditation
5:30pm: Friends Szentlaszlo Closed Business Meeting and Potluck
7:00pm: NO Choir Rehearsal

Friday March 13

6:30pm Partner Church Cooking
7:00pm Partner Church Dining Hall Setup

Saturday March 14

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal
10:00am: Food Prep Partner Church Dinner
6:00pm: Partner Church Dinner

Sunday March 15

9:00am: Contemporary Service
10:00am: Adult Forum
10:00am: Knitting For Peace
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:30pm: Adult RE Registration
12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners
1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion
1:00pm: Non Violent Communications

Tuesday March 17

10:00am: Yoga
12:00pm: Book Discussion "All Souls:
A Family Story from Southie"
5:45pm: Community Pizza Night
7:00pm: E Mail Pitfalls Class
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday March 18

8:30am: Staff Meeting
6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday March 19

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

Saturday March 21

9:00am: Dream Group

Sunday March 22

9:45am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion
1:30pm: EarthSpirit Gathering
5:00pm: Art Gallery Reception

From the fice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

I will be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday March 16 and 17. There will be office coverage from 9:00am to noon on each day. Just a reminder that the deadline for Order of Service announcements is **11am on Wednesdays** prior to the Sunday you want your announcement in. Announcements can be left in my mailbox or emailed at stjohnuu@fuse.net. The next newsletter deadline will be Thursday March 19 at 5:00pm. All submissions should be sent to Bruce Beisner via email.

Great E-News!

Kari Olson is now editing the Weekly eNews. Send her your reminders of immediate upcoming St. John's events at eNews@stjohnsuu.org with 'eNews' in the subject line. Not receiving eNews? If you do not receive the St. John's Weekly eNews but would like to, contact Josie at 513-961-1938 or stjohnuu@fuse.net and she will put you on the eNews list.

-Linda Heath

Thought of the Week

“Another world to live in—
whether we expect ever to pass wholly over into it or no –
is what we mean by having a religion.”

-George Santayana

Adult Religious Education Spring 2008-2009 Classes

The purpose of the Adult Religious Education Program is to provide a program of religious growth and learning that meets the needs of adult members and friends. We have attempted to offer a variety of experiences. This brochure lists the details of the classes this spring.

Registration is normally done at the Adult RE table March 15 or March 22. Individuals may also contact either AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org, the Adult RE Chair, Carol Fencel at 513-272-1820 or the listed teacher for the course. The Registration form is also on the website under Community – Adult Religious Ed. Please do not delay signing up for a class.

Classes may be cancelled if sufficient registration is not received one week in advance .

Accessibility: Forums and classes listed in this brochure that will meet on the main floor of the building have an "Accessible" listed with the offering.

Bookstore with Beacon Press and Skinner Press books is available on registration days in Krolfifer. Participants are free to use the public library or other sources.

Drop In vs. Registration Required: Note that each class lists whether or not it is necessary to register.

Cost: There is no charge for any of the classes. Persons are asked to contribute to the expense of childcare if they are able to do so.

CLASSES

Book discussion

DROP-IN

All Souls: A Family Story from Southie by Michael Patrick MacDonald . Story of the poor Boston neighborhood where integration issues are presented from the Irish-American perspective.

Leader: Carol Fencel

Tuesday, March 17 noon-1:30 (brown bag lunch) One session

Building Your Own Theology (BYOT)

REGISTER

This is the intensive workshop on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. We say we are each responsible for our own beliefs. St. John's mission statement says we celebrate freedom of belief. You will be invited to share your thoughts about God, suffering, vocation and death, among other topics, and then come up with a 'credo' or personal statement of belief.

Leader: Bruce Beisner

Accessible

Thursday evening, 7-9 p.m. 5 sessions April 2 – 30

eMail Pitfalls

DROP-IN

Who doesn't have problems with e-mails and occasionally make a bad situation worse?

Join us to talk about this. Leader: Frank Carpenter

Tuesday evening, 7-9 p.m. March 17 - One session

First Friday Flicks

DROP IN

View a film with a theme (such as a UU principle, spirituality, ethics/morality, politics or religious issues) that leads to discussion. Watch *The Reporter* for announcements containing the film titles each month.

Leader: Debbie Combs (859) 781-2147 & Karen Miller (513) 861-0005

First Friday evening of each month, **7 -9: 30 p.m.**, Accessible

April 3 – *The Visitor*

May 1 – *Away from Her*

Forums

DROP-IN

Time for presentations and discussions between services – 10 – 10:45 a.m.

See bulletin and newsletter for topics and specific dates. If you are interested in presenting a Forum, contact Ethel Ingalls.

Sunday mornings 10 - 10:45 a.m.

Great Decisions

DROP-IN Text helpful

Get informed about current topics around the world by reading the Great Decisions articles and participating in lively discussions with others. This spring's remaining topics are: March 15 - Egypt in the 21st Century; March 22- Global food supply; March 29 - Cuba after Castro; April 5 - Universal Human Rights.

Leaders: Dick Fencel and Frank Meyer

Accessible

Sunday afternoon, March 15-April 5 1-2:30 p.m., 4 remaining sessions

Reading Thich Nach Hanh

REGISTER

Bring your lunch and Rev. Carpenter will read selections from this Zen Buddhist monk for our reflections.

Tuesday noon, 5 sessions May 5 - June 2

Writing as a Spiritual Practice:

REGISTER Text required

This six week group will offer the participants an opportunity to find their writing voices through weekly writing exercises and writing prompts. We will write brief responses to prompts in class and share with others in the group. We will have the chance to do more in-depth writing during the intervening weeks and bring new writing to class each week. This class is for those who seek to develop a writing practice that could include poetry, prose, journal entries, essays, or other forms of writing. It is open to those who have never written before as well as more experienced writers. We will not critique each other's writing but learn to be good listeners as we support one another.

Text for this class: *Finding the Voice Inside* by Gail Collins-Ranadive,

Leader: Kathryn McDonough

Tuesday evening, 7-8:30 p.m. 6 sessions April 14, 21, 28 & May 12, 19 & 26 (skip May 5)