

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

March 22, 2009

## Community Worship Services

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

### Sunday March 29 at 11:00am

*"Patience and Other Slow Things"*

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Healing. Justice. No magic wand can make quality healing speed up faster than it moves along.

### Stewardship Sunday

#### Sunday April 5 at 11:00am

*"To You I Give: Supporting Our Compassionate Congregation"*

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

with Tom Darner and Karolyn Schalk

Please join us for Stewardship Sunday!



## 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 April 5 at 9:00am

*"The Regenerative Power of Life"*

Omope Daboiku and Karen Heaster with special guest speaker and live music.



### Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

### Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

### Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

### Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

### Director 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. April 2 at 5pm

# Frankly Speaking....

*by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter*

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Our compassionate community came together to hold one another, friends and family of Esme Kenney, her classmates and their parents, in this horrible time of tragedy. I join with our Board President, Kelly McMichael, in thanking all of you who have cared for Esme's family and St. John's in these days. After we learned about her death on Sunday March 8, I met with our Junior and Senior youth, their parents and others in the Wells Room. There were expressions of grief; the need to memorialize the kindness and light of Esme's spirit, and also concern for safety. How safe are our children? The experience of violation extends into all of us.

I have also had conversations with persons who have lost family members, close friends and other loved ones to random acts of violence. These memories come back up in these terrible hours. In consultation with the Caring Circle and Board President Kelly McMichael, we have invited the UU Trauma Response Ministry to be with us on Friday March 27 and Saturday March 28. Find out more about the Ministry at <http://www.traumaministry.org/index.htm>. There will be an opportunity for everyone to meet with them as well as for the leadership to see our way forward. More information will be available on Sunday March 22 and in the eNews. St. John's can be a beacon of healing, compassion and justice, not only for us, but also, continuing in our long tradition, for our broader Cincinnati community. May the evil revealed in Anthony Kirkland be a challenge to us to keep fresh before us the moments of our high resolve.

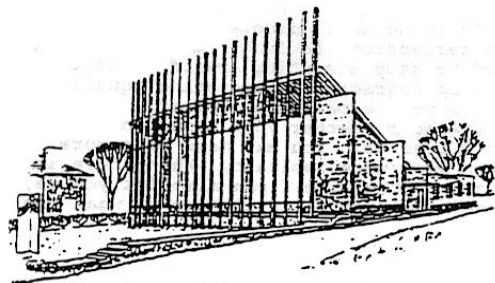
Our community gathers to celebrate compassion and justice. Each of you will recall varied moments of what our gathering mean to you. As we come up to our Stewardship Campaign in the next weeks, led by Tom Darner, we have ample reason to know why your financial support means so much to St. Johns. In abiding gratitude for the presence of this congregation, I urge you to respond to the Stewardship team in a spirit of sacrifice which the present spiritual crisis warrants.

Peace,  
*Frank*

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**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

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## Sign-up for Adult RE Classes by Email

If you missed the in-person registration for our Adult Religious Education classes at church, you can still register by emailing the Adult RE Committee at [adultre@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:adultre@stjohnsuu.org). Classes are starting soon so don't delay! We will be offering *Building Your Own Theology* led by Bruce Beisner on Thursday nights, *Writing as a Spiritual Practice* led by Kathryn McDonough on Tuesdays and *Reading Thcjh Nach Hanh* led by Rev. Frank Carpenter on Tuesday noons. Complete class descriptions are available on the church website [www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org) with a link on the home page.

-Carol Fencl

## Sunday Morning Adult Forums

This coming Sunday, March 29 is Social Justice Sunday. Check the church calendar or Enews for information on the forum topic. If you have a topic or issue you would like discussed in Sunday morning forum, please contact Ethel Ingalls.

-Ethel Ingalls

## 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 the PR Committee. If you can help, contact us at [pr@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:pr@stjohnsuu.org).

-The PR Committee

## First Tuesday Potluck

We continue our tradition of the first Tuesday Potluck on April 7 starting at 5:45pm. Got a class? a meeting? or just like the idea of making one dish to share and eating from a lot of dishes --not to mention the social time. Come to Krohlfifer with your dish to share and we'll have milk and soft drinks available. We'll finish by 7:00 in plenty of time for any other obligations.

-Jan Hay

## Exploring UU Class

Several times each year we invite visitors and frequent attendees to an orientation session about St. John's. The date this spring is Saturday March 28. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, take a tour of the church, discuss some UU philosophy and history and learn about the programs and activities available at St. John's. The session starts at 9am with coffee and conversation and ends about 12 or 12:30 following lunch. Child care is provided if requested several days prior to March 28. Call the church office at 513-961-1938 or contact Kathryn McDonough to reserve a place and to let us know your dietary and childcare needs. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday March 25.

-The Membership Committee

## LAFS (Lively After Fifty) Dinner

The Old Spaghetti Factory, one of our favorites, will be our destination for our second Friday outing in April. We'll gather there (6230 South Gilmore in Fairfield) at 6:30pm on April 10 for dinner and conversation. All St. John's members and friends approaching or over 50 are welcome to attend. We especially enjoy meeting newcomers. Reservations are required by April 9 by contacting Jan Hay. Carpooling from the church can be arranged if requested.

-Jan Hay

## St. John's Music Series Concert

Please join us on Sunday March 29 at 3:00pm for the fifth and final Music Series concert of this year's season. We will welcome the May Festival Youth Chorus -Back by Popular Demand! Now in its 19th season, the May Festival Youth Chorus was organized to give high school students the opportunity to rehearse and perform challenging choral music in a highly stimulating artistic environment. Under the inspiring direction of James Bagwell, the May Festival Youth Chorus will delight you. We welcome back this stunning ensemble of young musicians, including St. John's own David Gordon-Johnson. Tickets are \$15.00 (includes 1 adult/1 child) \$10.00 (students w/ID) \$5.00 (children under 12). Tickets available online at [www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org), by calling 513-961-1938, or at the door.

*-Rachel Kramer*

## Knitting for Peace

Please join us in the library from 10:00 to 10:45am on Sunday mornings for knitting and conversation. We'll meet on March 29, April 5, April 19, May 3, May 17, and May 31. After that, we'll take a break for the summer and resume in the fall. Our last donation of hats and scarves went to Crayons to Computers, a free store for teachers from low income schools. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Call Debbie Combs for information.

*-Debbie Combs*

## Plant Swap on April 19

After church on April 19, bring those extra hostas you divided or any other hardy offerings and take home something new. Please label your plants and let us know how much light they'll need. We'll invite others we meet at the Earth Day celebration on April 18. If you have nothing to offer, come buy a plant for \$1, or just come to see what St. John's gardeners have been growing.

*-Jan Hay and Yew Yew Garden Club*

## Building Your Own Theology

Religious freedom and the responsible search for truth and meaning are the foundations of our UU faith. We regard everyone as their own personal theologian. This 5 week class will offer you a chance to reflect more deeply on your thoughts about the big spiritual issues in life: God, suffering, death, sin, love, justice and the afterlife. As part of the class experience, you will be invited to create your own personal 'credo' or personal statement of belief. Bruce Beisner will facilitate the class. The class will be on Thursday evenings April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 7pm to 9pm at the church and registration is open to all interested in attending. To sign up, email to [AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org)

*-Bruce Beisner*

## First Friday Flicks

On Friday April 6 at 7pm, join us for "The Visitor" rated PG13. This is the story of a lonely widower named Walter Vale (played by Richard Jenkins). He befriends a young couple, Tarek and Zainab, who are illegal immigrants. Tarek repays Walter's kindness by teaching him to play an African drum and a friendship develops. After an incident in the subway, Tarek is threatened with deportation. In helping Tarek, Walter finds that his life is rejuvenated. A discussion will follow the film. As always, feel free to bring your own chair for comfort's sake. Contact Karen Miller or Debbie Combs with any questions.

*-Debbie Combs*

## Mountain UU Summer Camp

A UU summer camp experience can be a wonderful time! We have a UU camp and conference center in the mountains of North Carolina, appropriately called "The Mountain." There are camp experiences for a variety of ages. Check out the Mountain website at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org) or talk with Dick or Carol Fencl, Mountain Ambassadors. Some scholarships are available.

*-Dick and Carol Fencl*

## Among ourselves

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### Stewardship Sunday is April 5

By now, each of our St. John's members and friends will have received a letter from me announcing the start of this year's annual pledge campaign. The campaign will kick off on Sunday April 5. In my recent letter, you can see St. John's suggested pledge guide. Please review this guide with your spouse, partner, and family and start thinking about what your pledge will be for the 2009/2010 operating budget. With your strong financial support, St. John's be able to meet the many exciting challenges of the new fiscal year. In the next few days, you'll be able to see more stewardship information on the church website including a copy of this year's pledge card.



*-Tom Darner, Stewardship Chair*

### Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for Sunday March 29 are: Peggy Judy, Ginny Creasman and Andy Jewel.  
Coffee hour hosts for Sunday April 5 are: Curt Miller, Wanda Crawford and Waltke Paulding.

*-Kim Stein*

### Friday Flicks Coordinator Needed

For the past two years Debbie Combs and Karen Miller have coordinated our monthly First Friday Flicks, arranging movies of interest for St. Johners to view together and then discuss. Over the time they have shown a variety of stimulating movies related to our Seven Principles. The series has run from October through May. They are ready to pass the task on to some other movie-lovers. If you (by yourself or with a partner) might be interested in leading this part of our Adult Religious Education program, please contact Carol Fencl.

*-The Adult RE Committee*

### Trauma & Grief Resources

Trauma and grief resources are posted on the church website at [www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org) under current news.

As we seek to strengthen our bonds as a compassionate community, we will have more opportunity to listen to one another and to consider some of the concerns which will come up down the road. Kathy Laufman and Kathryn McDonough of our Caring Circling are in conversation about creating our own response team. Feel free to talk with them, Rev. Carpenter and those you feel safe with about your feelings.

*-The Caring Circle*

### Can We Be Greener?

Green eggs and ham were not quite the subject of last week's forum, but there was a lively discussion about eating less meat and the benefits of growing your own for those who have that option. The United Nations expects meat consumption world-wide could double by mid-century and meat production is responsible for almost a fifth of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. In addition many of the forests in developing countries are being cut down to provide grazing land for cattle, reducing the number of trees available to absorb carbon dioxide from our atmosphere. The University of Chicago has done enough research to indicate that reducing our meat consumption, even some, will benefit our climate, and much quicker than we can make changes in transportation emissions.

Larry Filkin, who helped develop Green Cincinnati's Plan, responded to "what can we do?" by suggesting that if we want meat in our diet, let beef be our last choice because cattle production releases far more gases into the atmosphere than the production of other meat animals. We can consider adding one meatless day to our week's menus. We can stop help stop the trend towards more meat in our diets by replacing meat with more vegetables and grains.

*-Green Sanctuary Partners*

## **Rev. Mihaly and Rozsa Kiss's Visit to Cincinnati**

Our partner church minister and wife arrived Wednesday evening March 11 and Tom and Mary Darner welcomed them at the airport and settled them into guest quarters at the Darner's. They brought hand carved, handwoven and hand embroidered gifts for our congregation. On Thursday they had lunch with several church members and listened to a piano concert at the CSO Symphony Club. Thursday evening and Sunday evening they met with Friends of Szentlaszlo and some other St. Johners and talked about future partnership activities. Of immediate interest is setting up monthly videoteleconferencing between members of the two churches. Rev. Kiss expressed that, with the current economic conditions and the value of the dollar, they will be able to buy a used van with the \$9000 recently sent by St. John's. Their weekly bread program for the elderly currently serves 37 persons and is delivered to homes by members of the women's club. Bread funds sent to them from St. John's will last into August. Rozsa and Mihaly enjoyed the Transylvanian Dinner and were appreciative of the gifts they received. Aside from a scarf for Rozsa and a Red's ballcap for Mihaly, they were given notecards with drawings of the two churches. During their visit St. Johners purchased eyeglasses for Mihaly and Rozsa and took them shopping for several small items that they will share with the congregation and with the 34 village school children. They went home with \$100 for women's group activities after selling the crafts Rozsa brought with her. Other activities they enjoyed were listening to the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Friday evening and having dinner with Rev. Carpenter and Jacquie Rousseau on Monday. The Sunday morning talk with Rev. Carpenter during the worship service and our many conversations together deepened our mutual understandings and strengthened our partnership connections. We are grateful to individual St. Johners for purchasing the Kiss's flight tickets to Cincinnati, for buying items for the Kiss's to share with villagers, and giving them \$250 additional funds so they can purchase a supply

of scissors, toothbrushes and vitamins for their congregants. Our thanks also for the hospitality St. John's extended to Mihaly and Rozsa and for the 7 Hungarian translators who volunteered many hours to help with communications. All in all it was a very successful visit. Rev. Kiss hopes that members of St. John's will soon plan a trip to Szentlaszlo. Mihaly and Rozsa departed from Cincinnati to Los Angeles on March 17 to visit their daughter, Marta, before returning to Transylvania.

## **Transylvanian Dinner a Success**

More than 130 adults enjoyed appetizers, a music program by the CSO Nouveau Chamber Players, and a Hungarian ethnic dinner at St. John's on March 14. It was one of the largest partner church dinners we have held. The beef and pork ragout was a hit. Slides of Szentlaszlo and the bread program for the elderly were viewed in the dining hall. Hannah Wilson wore the Szekely costume and greeted the guests. The musicians were well received and told us they really enjoyed playing at St. John's. Several of our children helped with set-up for the dinner Friday night. Our young people served appetizers, bussed dishes, helped clean up the kitchen and move furniture back in place after the dinner Saturday. We are deeply appreciative of their efforts. Our hearty thanks also to everyone who planned the dinner, sold tickets, invited guests, shopped, cooked, set-up for the dinner, hosted a table, came to the dinner, cleaned up afterwards and helped in other ways to make the dinner a great success. The children who attended were provided with a good meal and fun activities led by Connie Prairie and Omope Daboiku. We are grateful for their leadership. It was good to have time to be together in community and celebrate our partnership of 19 years with Rev. Kiss and Rozsa in our midst. My personal appreciation to all of the Friends of Szentlaszlo for their hard work and to Melanie Marsh who planned the meal. We will let you know shortly how much money was raised for our partner church.

*-Tom and Mary Darner*

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Tuesday March 24**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Night Potluck  
7:00pm: Committee on Ministry (COM)  
7:00pm: Dharma Reader

## **Wednesday March 25**

6:00pm: Non Violent Communications Potluck  
6:30pm: Caring Circle

## **Thursday March 26**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: NO Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday March 27**

7:00pm: Game Night

## **Saturday March 28**

9:00am: Exploring UU  
10:00am: CGCC

## **Sunday March 29**

10:00am: Adult Forum  
10:00am: Knitting For Peace  
10:45am: Leadership Development Comm.  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion  
1:00pm: Non Violent Communications  
3:00pm: Music Series Concert  
    featuring the May Fest Youth Choir

## **Tuesday March 31**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Night Soup Potluck  
7:00pm: Adult RE

## **Wednesday April 1**

7:00pm: Membership Committee  
7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

## **Thursday April 2**

10:00am: Meditation  
6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday April 3**

7:00pm: First Friday Flicks

## **Saturday April 4**

9:00am: Dream Group Rental  
9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

## **Sunday April 5**

### **Stewardship Sunday**

9:00am: Contemporary Worship Service  
9:45am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am: Adult Forum  
10:00am: Knitting for Peace  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
11:00am: RE First Sunday Service  
12:30pm: PR Committee  
1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion  
6:00pm: Men's Group

## **Tuesday April 7**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Night Potluck  
7:00pm: Adult RE  
7:00pm: Chalice Group-Luersson  
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion  
7:30pm: Book Group

## **Wednesday April 8**

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

## **Thursday April 9**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## Thought of the Week

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“There is the possibility and the necessity of living in a dimension of meaning in which the urgencies of the struggle are subordinated to a sense of awe before the vastness of the historical drama in which we are jointly involved; to a sense of modesty about the virtue, wisdom and power available to us for the resolution of its perplexities; to a sense of contrition about the common human frailties and foibles which lie at the foundation of both the other’s demonry and our vanities.”

-Reinhold Niebuhr

