

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

May 3, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday May 10 at 11:00am

"Religious Exploration Sunday"

led by Director of Religious Exploration Omope Daboiku

During this service, RE allies will be honored for their year-long efforts, and our First Sunday Singers will make their debut.

Sunday May 17 at 11:00am

"What's It All About?"

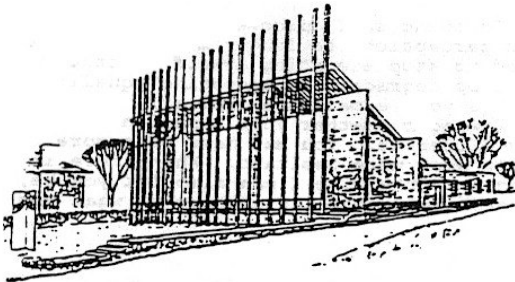
led by the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

On May 17, we will honor all new members who have joined St. John's in the past year. We will also acknowledge our graduating seniors and recognize all those who have been members 25 years or more. There will be a special coffee hour afterwards.

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.

Our next Contemporary Service will be on Sunday May 17.



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. May 14 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Recently I attended my UU minister's study group, Greenfield Group, on the Emergent Church and the New Media. I had written / blogged an essay comparing the present situation of our churches with the Transcendentalist reforms of the early 1800's. One thing that emerged was the leadership by a group of friends, then Ralph Waldo Emerson and Theodore Parker. Now? Too early to tell amongst UU's. Maybe Rev. Tony Lorenzen of Dallas who lead our discussions.

One concept the Transcendentalist ministers all shared was the "Church of the Future," which would be focused mostly around social justice. As we talked about the present church of the future we wondered about social networks, such as Facebook. Will people find belonging to a virtual community enough for their spirit? People are emailing less as their sharings on Facebook communicate with their friends. Ministers and other church leaders who don't rigorously follow on Facebook may miss important family information. Facebook etiquette is still in formation.

Speaking of the "Church of the Future," was I ever impressed by our YRUU in their service on Earth Day. They have a clear grasp of the challenges ahead for us and in particular there generation. They have good insight of responses to these challenges. I sat there wondering in how many churches you might hear their remarks, their fears, their hopes? Some of the churches, some of the time. And here were our youth, up straight! Awesome!

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.

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pportunities & Invitations

Reading Thich Nach Hanh

For the next five Tuesdays (May 5 to June 2) at noon, we will listen to readings from the teachings of Thich Nach Hanh. Rev. Frank Carpenter will lead the sessions, with readings and reflections. There is no need to register for the group. Please come as often as you are able. Bring your lunch and join the group at noon.

-the Adult RE Committee

Adult Forums

Forums are held on Sunday mornings at 10:00am downstairs in the Darwin Room.

Sunday May 10 - Mother's Day. There will be no forum. A day to celebrate all Motherhood.

Sunday May 17 – Building Value -a Nonprofit Re-Use Center. Do you hate to see used building materials, cabinets, etc. go to the dump?

Building Value, a subsidiary of Easter Seals Work Resource Center, may be able to use what you no longer can. Their business involves light deconstruction services, a reusable building materials center, and product reconstruction from recycled materials. They provide hands-on job training opportunities for individuals with disadvantages and disabilities seeking employment in construction and retail. Director Jerry Janszen will join us to explain their program and answer questions. If you would like a forum discussion of a particular topic, please contact Ethel Ingalls. All suggestions welcomed.

-Ethel Ingalls

In the Haehnle Gallery

Our featured artist for May will be Barbara Boncheck. On display will be a collection of her hand drawn geo-motion designs titled "Dizzy Art." The exhibit will run from May 3 to June 1.

-Barbara Boncheck

Spiritual Hospitality in a Public Setting on May 6

The Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati is conducting the first workshop for the volunteers from our member congregations who will staff the UU booths at Pagan Pride, Pride Alive, and Juneteenth Cincinnati events this spring and summer. The workshop will take place on May 6 from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Heritage UU Church (2710 Newtown Road) and will cover the topics: how to make a meaningful connection in a busy, public setting; a unified approach to talking about our denomination learning about one another's denominations so we can speak knowledgeably and respectfully about them. For more information, visit www.cinciuu.org

-Karolyn Schalk

Lively After Fifty Dinner Out

The LAFS will be gathering at the Mechlenburg Gardens in Clifton at 6:30pm on our usual second Friday of the month (May 8). All St. Johners and friends approaching or over 50 are invited to come and enjoy dinner and conversation. Newcomers are particularly encouraged to participate. Please reserve by Thursday May 7 by contacting Jan Hay.

-Jay Hay

New Programs at The Mountain

The Mountain, a UU Retreat and Learning Center near Highlands, North Carolina, has announced new programs for this summer. The next issue of the Reporter will have more details. Sample flyers are posted near the church office, or can be viewed at www.mountaincenters.org. Of special interest are the Mountain Mini Retreats, Small Group Ministry Institute, and an Institute with Holly Near.

Mini Retreats: June 5-7, June 12-14, June 19-21

Faith & Meaning in Troubling Times: Aug. 12-17

Small Group Ministry Institute: Aug. 16-21

Arts & Social Change Institute: Aug. 27-30

For more information, please contact Dick or Carol Fencl, Mountain Ambassadors.

-Carol Fencl

Among ourselves

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 7 has been set for our St. John's Congregational meeting. All are invited to attend, but only persons who have been members as of March 10 will be allowed to vote. We have important business to decide for the future of our church. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us that day.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Unsung Hero— Judy Buxton

Tribute from St. John's President at the 2008 award presentation on Sunday April 26:

"This year's unsung hero has quite a history at St. John's. This person likes to keep things working, **and** wants to be involved in projects that provide lasting change. This is someone to whom other members of the congregation look for advice and guidance, and who thoughtfully shares history and perspective. This individual is the main resource person for the staff on our computers and their updates.

This person has helped St. John's in many capacities - as a Board Member, Board President, Fund Trustee, and has worked on the Leadership Development Team, Committee on Ministry, Technology Committee, Congregational Survey, and Strategic Planning. Those who have served with her say, "I knew I could call on her for guidance when needed" "She was always prepared" "I have been impressed with her knowledge and work" "I was inspired by her" "She's the best"

As Treasurer she gives hours of her time weekly to track all the expenditures for Saint John's, plus she prepares our monthly financial statements. Because of her tax knowledge, she recently managed to procure an additional \$50,000 for the church from one of our trust funds.

She's a member of the Heartland District Board and next year will be President of that Board. She makes us proud in **so** many ways."

-Howard Tolley

Budget Information Meetings

We encourage all to attend our budget information meetings. The first in a series of three opportunities for open discussion about what is important to us to fund next year will be held this Tuesday, May 5, at 6:30pm in Krolfifer. Follow-up meetings will be held on Sundays May 10 and May 17 at 12: 30 in the sanctuary.

-Your Board of Trustees

The Time is A-Changing!

The date for the 2008-09 Taste of St. John's offering of a folk song sing-along has been changed from Friday May 8 to Saturday May 20. For more information, please contact John Fine or Myra Rodwan.

-Myra Rodwan

Thought of the Week

"The mind is not
a vessel to be filled,
but a fire to be kindled."

--PLUTARCH

ancient Greek historian,
biographer and essayist

Calendar for Next Year

This is the time of year when we schedule things for the church year that starts July 1st. Through 8pm on May 11, large sheets of paper (one per month from July 2009 thru June 2010) will be posted in the rear of Krolfifer. Each group or organization in the church should ensure that all its meetings are listed. Small pieces of paper and tape, along with directions, will be provided. Please list your group's name, the date of the meeting/event, the time (from the start of setup to the end of cleanup), your name, your email address, your phone number, and the room requested (or "off-site"). If your group meets weekly/monthly, please make sure you put something on the calendar on each date when you plan to meet. Josie will then compile all the dates, conflicts will be resolved and the annual calendar distributed. Unless specifically requested and needed, rooms will be assigned based on size of groups, etc. Note: This is NOT a first-come, first-served process, but it is important that each group in the church get its events onto the calendaring sheets by May 11. Please contact Josie Arens or Pete Asman with any questions.

-Pete Asman

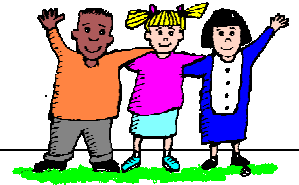
Earth Day Booth

The PR Committee and Green Sanctuary took a booth to Earth Day 2009 at Sawyer Point. Over 500 people received free sunflower seeds with the opportunity to be part of Bee Monitoring project. Many took plans for Judy Strong's home-made composter. We chatted with those curious about Unitarian Universalism and handed out RUUU? cards with a link to www.beliefnet.com and an invitation to visit St. John's.

Thanks to LaDonna Fritz, Dick Fencl, Carol Fencl, Judy Strong, Mira Rodwan, Cliff Shisler, Jan Hay, Claire Wagner and Joan Lane for putting a personal face on St. John's welcoming community.

*-Linda Heath
for the PR Committee*

RE-ally!



By Omope Daboiku

St. John's Director of Religious Exploration

A big thank you to all who have shared themselves as facilitators, teachers, and helpers in the many aspects of our Religious Exploration Program. And we look forward to honoring you on RE Sunday, May 10, during our Community Service. As the RE Visioning Team plans our 2009-10 program, we ask for your input and your participation. Our children have asked for more opportunities to model church leadership. So, we are discussing how to facilitate their request and congregational requests that would strengthen intergenerational relationships focused on hospitality, social and environment justice, and stewardship. And, as a church that truly loves the arts, we want to create more opportunities for artistic expression that reflects on our spiritual journeys.

To be effective, we'll need to use all the talents with which our congregation has been blessed. What gifts do you have that could help someone else along their path? Do you love to sing and could spare 20 minutes one Sunday a month to support our First Sunday Singers? Do you write poetry or draw and would like to conduct one workshop during the next year? Or, could you spare one Sunday to support another adult who just loves to teach? Have you looked back in wonder at how you got over troubled water and can now help others come back from the edge plan a new, safer path?

I'm excited about our upcoming year and look forward to hearing how each one of us can support religious exploration at St. John's. Let us know how you can serve. Calls, e-mail, and notes in my box are all acceptable.

And the N minees are...

Candidates Recommended by the St. Johns Nominating Committee for June 7 Election

In a year when thirteen St. Johners are needed for two ministerial search committees, we still have a strong slate of candidates for regular offices. Photos to accompany these candidate statements are posted in Krohlfifer. As noted, a few are nominated for the final year of a two year term, and all others are for a full two year term. Non-members wishing to vote must sign the membership book no later than Sunday March 10. Absentee ballots will be available for those unable to attend the Congregational Meeting on June 7. The Nominating Committee of Howard Tolley, Chair, Wanda Crawford, Bill Gordon and Francis May Brooks greatly appreciates the candidates' willingness to serve St. Johns in this time of transition.

President--Karolyn Schalk (One year)

I joined St. John's on April Fools day in 1995. Raised as a UU in Palatine, IL, my hometown congregation was Countryside. Since joining St. John's I've served the church in a variety of roles, including Executive Vice President, the Worship & Liturgy Committee, Adult RE, Board Secretary, Membership chair, coordinator for several Taste of St. John's events, and chorister. I'm also the current President of the UU Council of Greater Cincinnati where I'm most proud of my efforts that led to the creation of the council website, a strategic framework, two year strategic plan and a schedule of joint congregational marketing efforts at multiple public events for summer 2009.

Throughout my life I've looked for opportunities to create and learn and experiment -I've worked a deranged variety of jobs; everything from horse trainer to short order cook to computer programmer, and published poetry and a book of card game instructions (Check out the website HowStuffWorks.com to see my instructions on Whist!) I've been told that all my hobbies are work: to relax I sew, garden, cook and invent exotic cocktails.

But I also like to read and sometime just sit and watch the world go by. In large part I attribute my satisfaction in everyday life and the many successes I've had in the world to the lessons and examples set by the principles of my chosen faith.

Vice President/President Elect --Penny Shada

I began attending St. John's in 1988 with my children, then 14 and 8. Within a few months I became involved with the Religious Exploration program I stayed with RE for many years, teaching various levels (Grades, 1, 7-8, YRUUU) and serving on the RE committee first as a member and later as RE Chair. More recently, I've worked with SAC the Peacemaking Initiative, Membership (Greater Exploring UU) and Green Sanctuary Partners. I've been inspired by interactions with colleagues and programs presented at many UUA conferences and meetings, from local to national, including the Heartland District Annual Meeting, Muncie, 2009; Heartland/Prairie Star District Online workshops, 2008; Leadership Camp, Beloit WI, 2008; Heartland's Smart Church Training in Conflict Management (Lansing, 2008); Heartland District Annual Meeting (Lexington); GA (Quebec, 2002). Local I've taken part in some UU Council events and most St. John's All Council meetings in recent years, including co-developing the program for the fall 08 event. I have a particular interest in supporting the peacemaking initiatives begun at St. John's last year; I began by taking part in the training in nonviolent communication, currently offered through Adult Learning. I will also continue to support Green Sanctuary Partners' efforts at encouraging sustainability and achieving certification as a Green Sanctuary. But of greatest importance to me right now - because we believe it will be a foundation for everything else we do - is to encourage the continued development of a pervasive culture of "radical hospitality" that will enrich this St. John's community by opening it up, more and more, to everyone who walks through our doors.

**Director of Religious Development Council –
Melanie Malaviya**

My family and I have been attending St. Johns for 2 ½ years. I have been active in teaching for RE for 2 of those years. Last year, I was one of the teachers for the PreK-K group and this year I have co-taught the 4th grade class. In addition to teaching, this year I have been the Chair of the Religious Exploration Visioning Team. Last summer, I attended the Midwest Leadership School for UU's, in Beloit, WI. I hope to bring the things I learned there and my skills as a parent to the board. I also plan to bring an understanding of different religious traditions. As a parent, I appreciate the opportunity we have at St. Johns to provide a diverse community for our children to grow and explore.

Director of Mission Council – Ann Schuur

I joined St John's in 1989. I have been involved with St. Johns at varying levels over the years. I currently have more free time and feel a commitment to St. Johns that includes a willingness to be on the board. I am well organized and dependable. I currently help out in the 1st-3rd grade RE class. On a personal note, I am married and have a twenty year old son. I am a licensed independent social worker and have worked in the chemical dependency and community mental health fields, and I currently work for hospice. I attend Unitarian summer assembly each year and enjoy dancing, hiking, and reading mysteries. I would be proud to serve St Johns's as the Mission Council board representative.

Fund Trustee -Claire Wagner

I joined St. John's in 1988 when I was expecting Calvin, and Chris and I were looking for a spiritual community in which to raise a family. Folks brought me into service immediately, so that once in a while I was bringing baby Cal to membership committee meetings. I transitioned to Religious Education/Exploration within a few years, and spent 13 years as a teacher in the RE program. Currently I serve as an active public relations

committee member and our representative to the UU Service Committee.

I believe being a fund trustee would enable me to engage more fully in the regular workings of the church, and although communications is my profession, I have a solid understanding of financial transactions. I'd like to take this step to contribute to St. John's fiscal health.

Fund Trustee- Judy Buxton

(See *Unsung Hero* article on page 4)

Fund Trustee -- Kari Olson

I am running for fund trustee because I care about the future viability of St. John's. Well-managed funds provide a foundation for our ability to transform our strategic plans into a vibrant, sustainable community. I have a passion for all things quantitative, scientific, and technical (I am an engineer from 9-5) and am an avid student of investing. I follow business news and programs like marketplace and, with Brian, manage our portfolio of savings and retirement investments. I am currently the editor of St. John's weekly eNews and I have previously served St. John's as a YRUU advisor, member of the contemporary service program planning team, Krolfifer audio/visual system expert, and member of the 2008-9 FUNdraising committee.

Fund Trustee- Dick Fencil

I have been a UU since 1963, serving in various roles at the different churches I belonged to, such as Board Chair, Treasurer, Canvass Chair, search committee member, etc. My background includes an engineering degree and an MBA. Professionally, I was employed for many years as manager in P&G's Product Supply system, working on various consumer products as well as industrial chemicals, and experimental products.

While I am not an expert in the field of investments, I do have a basic knowledge of the various common financial instruments.

While serving as a Trustee, I will work to assure that the funds entrusted to St. John's are used wisely.

Nominees continued...

**Nominating Committee Member-
Sylvia Mersfelder**

If you are looking for a person with a long history here, who is still active in the church and willing to look for the best candidates for the governance of the church, here I am!

When we first joined about 50 years ago, I was particularly interested in the Religious Education program for our two children, and became very active in that aspect of church life. Since then I have served on the Membership, Outreach, Personnel and Social Action Committees and the Welcoming Congregation Task Force. I have participated in Chalice Groups, was a founding member of the Women's Book Group (now defunct) and usually attend the monthly dinners with LAFs (Lively After Fifty).

I worked on the St. John's resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty, was active in support of the Cincinnati Collaborative Agreement (working for better relations between the Cincinnati Police Department and members of the black community), and refining St. John's Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking to be presented at the denomination's General Assembly in June.

St. John's is very important to me and I want it to be "in good hands."

Nominating Committee Member- TBA

Director of Community Council- TBA

Director of Administrative Council- TBA

Director of Finance Council- TBA

Settled Minister Search Committee

The Board of Trustees will present a balanced membership of seven for a Congregational vote to accept or reject the entire slate.

-Howard Tolley for the Nominating Committee

Honoring Our New Members

On Sunday May 17, we will honor all new members who have joined St. John's in the past year at the 11:00am service with a special coffee hour afterwards. We will also recognize all those who have been members 25 years or more. In addition, we will be honoring our graduating seniors. Please plan to attend and show support to these valued members of our community.

-the Membership Committee

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for May 10 are: Gail Boggs, Joan Robinson and Waltke Paulding.

Coffee hosts for May 17 are: Carolyn Banfield, Cynthia Villacis and Victoria Girard.

-Kim Stein

Summer Vacation Idea

The Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute will be July 19-25 in Radford, VA. SUUSI is "an intentional community of UU and like-minded people. We convene for a week in July each year to explore our interconnectedness, delight in the out-doors, enjoy music and learn new ways of seeing our world and each other." Special programs for Youth, Teens and Young Adults. Brochures available in the Denominational Affairs mailbox in the church office.

-Penny Shada

We're ready!

Sudden cardiac arrest kills over 1000 people every day in the US. If someone at St. John's has a heart attack, we have an AED (automated external defibrillator) in the lobby beside the social hall door. And the following people have been CPR-AED certified to use it: Pete Asman, Carolyn Banfield, Carol Fencl, Dick Fencl, Linda Heath, Emily Hodges, Jonena Jones, Sally Larson, Cliff Shisler, and Claire Wagner. (Names are also beside the AED.) If you're trained and your name isn't listed, please let Linda Heath know. We need to stay ready, while hoping we'll never have the need.

-Linda Heath

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday May 5

10:00am: Yoga
12:00pm: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
5:45pm: Community Night Potluck
6:30pm: Budget Meeting
7:00pm: Chalice Group (Luersson)
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion
7:30pm: Book Group

Wednesday May 6

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday May 7

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

Sunday May 10

MOTHER'S DAY

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour
12:30pm: Budget Meeting

Tuesday May 12

10:00am: Yoga
12:00pm: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
5:45pm: Conversation with the Minister
7:00pm: Chalice Group (O'Neill)
7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice

Wednesday May 13

5:30am: Executive Board Meeting
6:30am: Special Board Meeting
10:00am: Chalice Group (Hadden)
7:00pm: Chalice Group-Strong
7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday May 14

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

Saturday May 16

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

Sunday May 17

9:00am: Contemporary Worship Service
9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
10:00am: Adult Forum
10:00am: Knitting For Peace
11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour
12:30pm: Budget Meeting
12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners

Tuesday May 19

10:00am: Yoga
12:00pm: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday May 20

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday May 21

10:00am: Meditation

Friday May 22

Church Office Closed

Sunday May 24

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour

