

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 31, 2008

Sunday Worship Services

Sunday Community Worship Services begin at 11:00am. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers. Religious Exploration classes are offered for older children. Please park in the Fairview School lot (located directly behind the church, entrance is from Clifton Avenue). The church's small parking lot is reserved for visitors, families with children, older members, and those with handicapped permits.

Sunday September 7 at 11:00am

"Journeying Together"

Ingathering Sunday at St. John's

We'll gather together to begin this new church year. Our DRE Omope Daboiku and Rev. Carpenter will lead the dedication of our teachers to the new work this year of lifting up our youth to the high cause of our faith. The choir will once again grace our sanctuary with their inspiration!

Sunday September 14 at 11:00am

"Participating in the Web"

the Rev. Dr. Frank carpenter

What does it mean to you to be a UU on a day to day basis? It isn't easy living without ultimate answers, especially when we feel like running away.

Sunday Forums

Adult Forums are held on Sunday mornings from 10am to 10:45am before the 11am Community Service. No registration is necessary for these - just join us as you are able. The location will be posted on the entrances to the church the day of the Forum.

Upcoming topics are:

Sept. 14: "(Not) Watching the News," led by Bruce Beisner

Sept. 21: "Non-Violence & Church Safety," led by Rev. Carpenter

Sept. 28: "The Great Story: The Marriage of Science and Religion for Personal and Planetary Well-Being," a DVD presentation featuring UU minister Rev. Michael Dowd

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 Daboku

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 thru Friday

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday Sept. 11 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Being a minister in the 21st century is a people job. One hundred years ago, the ideal was the minister as ivory tower scholar. No more.

But I had that fantasy. The day to day work of ministry is intensely involved with people, even on days in my study writing as I am now. I think of him, her, and even YOU! So I had a surprise learning during my Sabbatical last spring.

You see, I had this fantasy that I would enjoy doing a lot of reading during my sabbatical, hole dup by myself. While I read some, I found I was missing people. Big time! I tested this out on vacation! Too much time home alone. This was a new learning about myself.

So even though I still find I can get my full of other human beings, I now remind myself that basically I want to be with people. (I'm even trying to remember to practice liking meetings.)

I am looking forward to the church year starting on September 7. Besides worship, choir and the dedication of teachers, there will be a Town Meeting with the Board, and the Web Committee will be unveiling the new Website. **Y'ALL COME!**

Community is important, essential to our lives. We say this in St. John's mission statement. Community is our vision. Community is also the path we walk to reach our vision. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us that our means must match our ends. "We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means," he says.

If community is important in our lives, not just sharing space for our cubicles, it means we walk together, listen to one another. Community means we each acknowledge our own as well as others failings. Community means we seek to reestablish peace with each other. It means that we welcome each moment as an opening for reconciliation. Living in community means we know we have risen above the slavery and terrorism of our daily lives.

-Peace,
Frank

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for peace and social justice, and celebrating beliefs that respect freedom of thought. We are pleased to be designated a Welcoming Congregation by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and as such we honor and value the racial, cultural, economic, religious, physical ability, sexual orientation and gender diversity of our members and visitors, young and old.

pportunities & Invitations

Home Energy Use Workshop

A free Home Energy Use Workshop, presented by the University of Cincinnati, will be offered to all members and friends of St. John's on Saturday September 20 from 1:30pm to 4pm. The workshop will highlight your home energy use and help you discover ways to lessen the impact on your energy bills and the environment. Anyone 12 and up can attend and there will be babysitting available for those who register for it. To register, call Susan VonderHaar.

-Penny Shada

Lively After Fifty Dinner

Join the LAFS (Lively After Fifty) for dinner and conversation at Mecklenburg Gardens on Friday September 12 at 6:30pm. All St. Johners and friends who are 50+ (or hang out with those who are) are welcome to attend. Newcomers are especially encouraged to come and get to know us better. Mecklenburg Gardens is located on University Avenue at Highland Avenue in Corryville. Please reserve with Jan Hay by Thursday September 11.

-Jan Hay

Adult Forums

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-Carol Fencil

Chalice Groups at St. John's

We're quickly approaching the time to sign up for this fall's Chalice Groups. We would like to thank everyone who participated and we hope you enjoyed the experience as much as those of us involved with organizing them did. Everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for the new church year's set of Chalice groups starting on September 14 through September 28. Sign up forms will be available, and you'll be hearing more about this moving forward. The purpose of Chalice Groups is to provide an opportunity for friends and members of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church to develop deeper connections, foster individual growth, and encourage service within the church and beyond through small groups. The cornerstone of the monthly Chalice Group meetings are broad ranging discussions about a diverse collection of thought provoking, spiritual, and timely topics selected in advance of each meeting. Again, we encourage new members and returning members to sign up when the opportunity arises in September. See you soon.



-Jim Nunn

Coming This Fall: Tuesday Community Nights

This fall in the first week of October, we will begin *Tuesday Community Nights* at St. John's. Each week there will be an opportunity for you to get together for food, fun and fellowship. We'll share a meal together, talk and get to know each other better. Afterwards we'll have Chalice groups, adult discussion classes, and even a committee meeting or two. The church will be buzzing with people gathered together, building community, learning, and having fun. You can come to eat together, or just to take a class, or participate in some other activity. Watch your Reporters for more details.

-Tuesday Night Planning Group

Sunday September 7 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary

St. John's

TOWN HALL MEETING



After the 11am service on September 7,
grab a cup of coffee and come to the
Town Hall Meeting!

Bring your ideas about anything and everything
related to St. John's
directly to your Board of Trustees.

Sunday September 7 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary

Dr. William Schultz to Speak in Dayton on Sept. 20

All St. Johners are invited to attend an evening with Dr. William Schultz on Saturday September 20 at Sinclair Conference Center in Dayton.

Dr. Schulz, past executive director of Amnesty International USA and former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will speak on "Building a Culture of Peace: Human Rights in a Post-9/11 World." Amnesty International has been a worldwide force for preserving and promoting human rights for over forty years. Schulz spent 12 years on Amnesty's front lines combating injustice and inhumane treatment of prisoners, the use of torture and providing support for other people denied their human rights around the world. He is a dynamic, informed and committed speaker. The evening with William Schulz on September 20 will begin at 6:30pm with display tables and the sale of Schulz's books in the theater lobby. He will speak at 7:30pm. Tickets (\$20 adults, student scholarships offered) are available by calling the Miami Valley UU Church office at 937-436-3628. The Sinclair Community College Conference Center is located at 444 West 3rd Street. Parking is available under the Conference Center for \$2.

-Howard Tolley

Exploring UU Class

Several times each year we invite visitors and frequent attendees to an orientation session about St. John's. The date this fall is Saturday October 18. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, and to learn about our UU history and activities. The session starts at 9am with coffee and conversation and ends about 12 or 12:30 following lunch. Child care is provided if request-ed several days prior to October 18. 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 will be Wednesday October 15.

-The Membership Committee

"Be Our Guest" Breakfast

Bring a friend to church on Sunday October 26 and also enjoy a tasty pancake breakfast. Newcomers eat free while members and friends pay a nominal charge. The breakfast will be from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you there.

-Jan Hay



Voices of Variety Youth Choir

It's that time of year! Voices of Variety will kick off its 12th year on September 14 and we need each and every voice age Kindergarten through 8th grade! This is a fantastic year to be involved! Here's why: this is the first ever, city-wide UU Holiday Youth Choral Fest! That's right, all four UU churches will add voice to this year's special holiday fest! Don't be left out! We need all of you to make it happen! The Voices of Variety program brings so much joy to all who have ever participated and all who have ever listened - - it's a wonderful celebration of our UU principles, our rich St. John's music program and it's just a great time! There are only 9 rehearsals! They go quick - only 30 minutes each 12:15 to 12:45pm on September 14, 21, 28, October 5th and 12, November 2, 16, 23, 30 and Friday, December 5, Saturday, December 6 (performance) and Sunday, December 7 (performance). Even if you can't make all of the rehearsals - that's ok! Everyone is welcome! I need you! The other singers need you! I look forward to seeing you downstairs in the **Rosa Parks room on September 14th at 12:15 pm** - grab your friends and come on down! Questions? Contact Rachel Kramer.

*-Rachel Kramer,
Associate Director of Music*

International Convocation of UU Women

UU women from around the world will gather Feb. 20 to March 1, 2009 in Houston, Texas for the first ever International Convocation of UU Women. From their flyer: "Join us at this first ever International Convo-cation of UU Women. Gather with us as we listen to the women leaders of our faith. Connect with UU women from all around the world. Take stock of the status and condition of women. Learn how we can take care of ourselves and how we can find our voice in the world." The Early Bird Registration (\$299) deadline is September 15! More information, including discount flights and hotel rooms, can be seen at the website: www.icuuw.com.

-Heartland UU District

Music Vivace

*By Dr. Catherine Roma
St. John's Minister of Music*



The St. John's UU Church Choir is starting back up, and you are invited to join in the music making. Come sing with us. We extend a hand to one and all. Join us, rejoin us, let's gather to sing together as we prepare music to amplify our spiritual lives through worship. We celebrate what we believe and understand about the world through music making, for and through our UU principles, purposes, sources. We work hard, enjoy what we do, and we enjoy each other. Rehearsals start this Thursday September 4, at 7:15 and every Thursday. The Music Series for the upcoming season is terrific. The next reporter will include more information about the dynamite artists and musicians, and I will write more about the December Winter Choral Service. I look forward to singing with you next week. Join us.

Meditation on Thursdays

Meditation day is now Thursdays from 10am to 1pm in the Wells Room at St. John's. Those interested may come at any time during those hours and stay as long or as little of the time as they choose. We do alternate sitting and walking meditation from 10 to 12 and then eat our lunch. Join us.

-Nina Tolley

Kroger Cards

Kroger cards that benefit St. John's are available for purchase from Rick Prairie after the service each Sunday. Every time the card is "loaded" with additional money, St. John's is credited with 4% of that amount. You can pay for your groceries, gas and prescriptions purchased at Kroger with your card. The church is currently receiving over \$300 a month as a result from this program.

-Rick Prairie

"The Smart Church" Training

You're invited to attend a training for the health of your congregation focusing on systems theory and how healthy congregations respond to anxiety and change. The training will be a valuable experience for ministers, religious educators, and lay leaders who are serving on congregational boards, committees, and program councils. The Smart Church training will be on Saturday September 27 from 10am to 4pm at the UU Church of Indianapolis. Registration fee is \$40 per person and the deadline to register will be September 19. For more information, please visit www.heartlanduu.org.

-Heartland UU District

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for September 7 are: Debbie Combs, Bear Sheppard and Lisa Siders-Kenny. Coffee hour hosts for September 14 are: Andy Jewell, Bonnie Southwind and Kay Sloan-Schloss. Coffee hour hosts for September 21 are: Vivian Kline and Sandy Allen

-Tracy Flanagan

St. John's Church Calendar

Monday September 1

Labor Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday September 2

10:00am- Yoga
7:00pm- YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday September 3

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

Thursday September 4

10:00am- Meditation
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

Saturday September 6

8:00am- UU Council Meeting

Sunday September 7

Ingathering Sunday
11:00am- Community Worship Service
12:30pm- Town Hall Meeting
6:00pm- Men's Group

Monday September 8

7:00pm- Fundraising Committee

Tuesday September 9

10:00am- Yoga

Wednesday September 10

5:30pm- Executive Board Meeting
7:00pm- Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday September 11

10:00am- Meditation
5:00pm- Deadline for The Reporter
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

Friday September 12

6:30pm- Lively After Fifty (LAFS) Dinner

Sunday September 14

10:00am- Adult Forum
11:00am- Community Worship Service
12:15pm- Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm- Taste of St. John's Taco Lunch
1:00pm- Interweave Lunch

Tuesday September 16

10:00am- Yoga
7:00pm- YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday September 17

6:30pm- Board of Trustees Meeting
7:00pm- Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday September 18

10:00am- Meditation
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

Saturday September 20

9:00am- Dream Group
9:00am- Contemporary Service Rehearsal
1:30pm- Home Energy Workshop
6:30pm- William Schultz speaks in Dayton

Sunday September 21

9:00am- Contemporary Service
10:00am- Adult Forum
11:00am- Community Worship Service
12:15pm- Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:30pm- Green Sanctuary Partners



Thought of the Week

“Let me keep the doors of my mind open
for the possible knock of some vagrant truth.
Let me swing wide the shuttered windows of my heart
that perchance some winged messenger of love
might light upon my sill.”

*-Clinton Lee Scott
Universalist Minister
1887-1985*