

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

October 12, 2008

## Community 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.

### Sunday October 19 at 11:00am

*"Minding the Light Within: The Quaker Path to Peacemaking"*  
guest speaker: Paulette Meier

Just who are the Quakers? What do they believe? And why are they such passionate peace and social justice activists? Ms. Meier is a Quaker, a peace educator and an award-winning singer/songwriter.

### Sunday October 26 at 11:00am

*"Human Rights for All"*

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter and Prasanna Malaviya

October 26 is United Nations Sunday and also a time during the celebration of Dewali. Prasanna will deepen our appreciation of this festival. For more details, see page 4.

### Sunday November 2 at 11:00am

*"Fighters and Lovers"*

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

On All Souls Sunday, we remember our ancestors. If you wish you may bring a picture of someone for the Chalice Table. Also, if you wish to have a loved one remembered in the service, please give the church office their name and relation to you.

## Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship Services are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month in Krolfifer Hall beginning at 9:00am. Childcare is provided.

### Sunday October 19 at 9:00am

"Dancing the Dream" explores the concept of spiritual guidance through the symbolism in our dreams. Our speaker will be Barbara Barrett, a registered nurse and Reiki Master. See page 6 for more details.

### 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 October 23 at 5pm

# Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

The All Council meeting this past Saturday lead by Penny Shada and Karolyn Schalk was thought provoking. In well developed ways, they asked us to consider whether St. John's is a 'pastoral church' or a 'program church.' Simplistically put, does everybody at St. John's know everybody, or do you not know everybody? Everybody agreed they didn't know everybody. But in many ways our customs and practices are those of a pastoral church. As with many churches our size, we are on what is known as a 'plateau' between these two, and have been for some years; the membership oscillating about 250 or so, expressing ambivalence about growth.

Those gathered Saturday morning did not express any ambivalence. I want to share with you two of the ideas which came up.

There was a general sentiment I be at the front door greeting people before worship. I pointed out this meant I could not do any other business before church: checking in with Cathy and Rachel would have to be more intentional, before choir rehearsal; no getting photocopies or People Books for folks, no showing a family how to light the Chalice, no talking about Announcements, no going into a corner and talking in some depth with someone about what is happening in their lives. 'Greet people' at the front door was the general sentiment. I agreed, in significant part, as I want to model church business should not be done on Sunday. We're in transition on this one. Let the leadership know how it works.

Karolyn and Penny developed an excellent instrument which showed that people speaking during worship about joys and sorrows is not part of a program church. A number of years ago I recall hearing John Wolf, then minister of the largest church in our Association, in Tulsa, saying that in a church such as his with 1,000 members, people couldn't line up to share joys and sorrows. Joys and sorrows are meant for an immediate significant family event, a death, a marriage, not political advocacy nor fund-raising. I will be experimenting with another form of joys and sorrows. On Sundays, Oct 26, Nov. 23, and Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, I will offer a prayer and read the names of family that you give me who you want remembered at that time. You may email them to me before 8:00am Sunday morning or give them to me on a slip of paper before 10:50 as you find me at the front door.

The spiritual theme of the All Council gathering was 'radical hospitality.' One of the tests of whether we are fulfilling our mission of being hospitable, is more and more people will come. Which means we need other opportunities than worship to get to know one another and to serve one another. The Caring Circle is enhancing its functions and understandings on how best to serve our members who are in crisis or transition. One of the best ways to grow spiritually and relationally at St. John's is joining a Chalice Group. Adult RE offers opportunities to get to know others while expanding your mind. And the new Tuesday Community Evenings have just begun with a resounding success. Nothing like a common meal to enhance a sense of community.

In this growing diversity of opportunities, I hope you will find ....

-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

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## Game Night at St. John's

Anyone interested in attending game night in October, please note that our usual night would fall on Halloween, so we have moved it one week earlier, to Friday October 24. As always, all are welcome to attend. We have plenty of games and you can stop in beginning at 7pm for one game or many. We are also excited to announce that our November gathering will be a **Final Friday Game Marathon** held on Friday November 28 beginning at noon and running til midnight. We will have family friendly games, so if you are looking for an alternative to the shopping madness, please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for all or a part of this all-day gaming event. More details coming soon. Any questions can always be directed to Karen Miller and Pete Asman.

*-Karen Miller*

## Interweave Movie Screening

St. John's Interweave GLBT social group and Equality Ohio will present the film "Freeheld" on Friday October 17. This award winning movie tells the story of a terminally ill police officer's struggle to leave her pension to her long time partner. Doors open at 7pm. Join us!

*-Peggy Vaughn*

## Bread for the Elderly Lunch

The Friends of Szentlaszlo, St. John's partnership with the Unitarian Church of Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania, will offer its first soup and bread lunch of the year on October 19. Join us for homemade soups, specialty breads, brownies and fresh fruit. Lunch is \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. The money raised helps our partner church provide bread each week to the elderly members of that congregation. For more details, contact Tom Darner or Diane Antestensis.

*-Tom Darner, Friends of Szentlaszlo*

## Tuesday Community Nights

All members and friends, adults and children, are welcome for the Social Time every Tuesday. Each week a slightly different food arrangement will be announced. This is followed by classes/activities.

**Tuesday October 14:** Social Time 6pm to 7pm  
Conversations with the Minister. Bring your own brown bag/carry out dinner and have an informal conversation with our minister, Frank Carpenter.  
Activities: 7:15pm to 8:45pm.

Occurring at the same time in different rooms:  
Chalice Group (Sharon O'Neill) Wells room upstairs  
Dharma Reader (Richard Blumberg) Rosa Parks  
Evensong (Carol Fencl & Joy Haupt) Darwin room

**Tuesday October 21:** Social Time 6pm to 7pm  
Pizza with \$5 donation requested. Contact Jennifer Richards no later than Sunday October 19 at noon  
Activities: 7:15pm to 8:45pm  
Occurring at the same time in different rooms:  
YADA Young Adult Discussion & Action in Wells  
Evensong - downstairs in Darwin  
7pm to 8:45pm: Spiritual Hospitality (Karolyn Schalk) downstairs in the Library. Call Karolyn if you would like to register for this.

*-Adult Religious Education Committee*

## Coffee Hour Sign Up

Sign-up for coffee hour hosts for Sundays in December 2008 and all of 2009 will be held on November 9, 16, and 23. Be sure to stop in Krolfifer Hall after service any of these days to add your name to the list.

If you can't drop by, feel free to contact Tracy Flanagan to let her know your choice of dates.

*-Tracy Flanagan*



## **'Be Our Guest' Pancake Breakfast**

Please come and enjoy a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday October 26 from 9:30am to 10:30am before church. Bring a friend or two or just come to welcome other newcomers. First and second time visitors will eat free while the rest of us pay \$4. Children under 12 also are free and we encourage costumes on this last Sunday before Halloween. Please help us in planning the food by registering with Josie at the church office by Wednesday October 22.

*-Jan Hay*

## **Adult Forum on Proportional Representation**

Cincinnati voters will decide on November 4 whether to bring back Proportional Representation as the way to elect City Council. Cincinnati used this method for 30 years, until 1957. At the adult forum on October 19 Dan Zavon (member of First Unitarian Church) will present information about "PR" and lead a discussion about the merits of Issue 8. Join us downstairs in the Darwin Room at 10am (just after the Contemporary Service) to participate in this forum. No registration is necessary. (Note: There will be no Adult Forums on October 26, November 2 and 9 when we are offering the class "Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age.")

*-Adult Religious Exploration Committee*

## **MARCC 40th Anniversary Gala**

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) invites all St. Johners to come celebrate with us on Monday October 27. Join us in reflecting on MARCC's history and celebrating its future endeavors with speakers, displays, and conversation with old and new friends. Featured speaker Bishop C. Joseph Sprague plus reflections from friends of MARCC. The event will be from 5pm to 7pm at St. Peter In Chains Cathedral. For additional information, call the MARCC office at 513-721-4843. The Cincinnati UU Council is a member of MARCC.

*-Mary Jean Pierson*

## **Dewali Celebration on Sunday October 26**

Dewali, also known as Deepawali ("deep" = lamp or light; "awali" = string or line), is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains all around the world as the "festival of light." While the religious symbolism behind Dewali varies significantly from one religion to another and also from region to region, spiritually it signifies the triumph of light over darkness within every human being, the awakening of one's inner light or "Atman" which dispels ignorance. Celebrated according to the lunar calendar, Dewali falls on October 28 this year. We will be celebrating it during our Community Worship Service on October 26, the same day as United Nations Sunday. As part of the celebration we will build a small altar consisting of items or objects that inspire us spiritually and consuming "Prasad" (consecrated fruits or dried fruits.)

You are all invited to participate in the celebration in two ways. First, **bring an item or object for placing at the altar.** This may be a religious symbol, an inspiring book, a picture of someone you look up to for spiritual guidance, a small piece of art, or anything else that encourages you toward spiritual growth. I will be bringing pictures of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi. Second, **bring a few pieces of fruit or dried fruits** that can be offered as "Prasad." According to Hindu and Sikh beliefs, Prasad, first offered to what inspires you spiritually and then consumed, is a vehicle for spiritual enlightenment, carrying the essence of the spiritual light from the object of inspiration into the consumer of the Prasad. I will be bringing some dried fruits and nuts such as raisins and almonds (the less "processed" the food is the better.) I look forward to celebrating this aspect of our diverse UU spirit with you all. Happy Dewali to you!

*-Prasanna Malaviya*

# Among ursevles

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## Can We Be Greener?

Ginny Creasman and Jonena Jones made some home improvements last year. Among other things they installed a heat pump, a more energy-efficient A/C unit and insulated garage doors. Their energy bill was reduced by 7%. They suspect the new A/C unit made the biggest difference. They are great recyclers: plastic, glass, paper, cardboard. Jonah and Joseph have discovered uses for recyclables in their projects or play. If you are considering replacing an appliance, pay attention to the energy-efficient information, and shop around. Many appliances on the market are made in other countries and their standards may vary widely. Also check how much energy the appliance draws when it is not in use. A U.S. study estimates that roughly 5% of residential electricity use is consumed by appliances in standby mode. It is not only lights we need to be aware of and shut off when not in use. Of course, the one appliance that is rarely disconnected is the refrigerator. How old is your refrigerator? Is it time to replace it? Some of the new refrigerators use from 50 to 75% less energy than refrigerators produced only a few years ago.

*- the Green Sanctuary Partners*

## Bring Your Empty RX Bottles

The Caring Circle's project of collecting empty prescriptions bottles was so successful that many continued to bring them after the project ended. Thanks to Bear and Melissa Sheppard's willingness to transport the bottles to Matthew 25 Ministries, you can continue to bring bottles to church. This is both an action that helps people in Third World countries where clinics do not have bottles to put medicine in for patients, but also reduces waste for a greener world. The large collection box is in Krolfifer Hall.

*-Frances May Brooks*

## Message About Partisan Politics

During the election season it is important to remember that St. John's does not endorse a particular political party or candidate. We are a religious organization. By law we may only endorse or sponsor specific action on issues. Events held at and sponsored by St. John's should not be used as forums for partisan politics. Members of the St. John's staff, Board, and others in leadership positions within the congregation are asked to be thoughtful in their expression of political preference so that personal opinion and endorsement are not assumed to be those of the congregation at large. Our message of radical hospitality also calls us to go beyond partisan lines.

*-the Executive Board*

## Finance Corner

Are you an online shopper? I know of some who have a fondness for Amazon.com, Best Buy, Land's End, Starbucks Store, and even Bass Pro Shop. You can now contribute to St. John's as you do your online shopping. Simply go to iGive.com, find and select St. John's Unitarian Church as your cause, register, and begin shopping at any of the 700 stores listed. The donation to St. John's varies by store but averages about 2%. If you make a purchase within 45 days of registering, an additional \$5 will be donated to the church. In the last year, we earned \$50 from this website. Shop away and be sure to tell your family and friends about the site, too. Questions can be directed to Rick Prairie or Jonena Jones.

*-Jonena Jones*

## Coffee Coordinator Needed

A new coordinator is needed for coffee hour, beginning with the sign-up period in November for 2009. While requiring minimal commitment, this ministry allows for the maximum rewards of interacting with members and always making new friends. Give it a try! If interested, contact Tracy Flanagan or Karolyn Karolyn Schalk.

*-Tracy Flanagan*

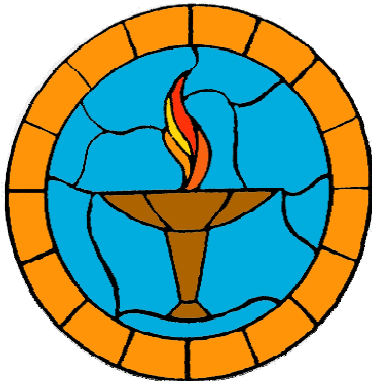
## A Note from Lucas Hergert...

I heard my call to ministry when I was in the Youth Group at St. John's. As I was soon to learn, the process by which one becomes a minister in the Unitarian Universalist tradition is a long one. Full of evaluations, academic degrees, and interviews, it took nearly ten years for me to complete.

A big part of this process came to an end on September 27th. I went to see the Ministerial Fellowship Committee and was cleared to be ordained as a minister in our tradition. I think a sigh of relief is in order!

So what's next? This year, I will need to finish my internship as well as my Master of Divinity degree from Harvard. I will then go into search for my own congregation. I will always be grateful to my mentors, the Revs. Frank Carpenter and Linda Eppert, and to the larger community of St. John's, for supporting me through this long journey.

Many blessings, and many thanks,  
Lucas Hergert



## Contemporary Worship Opportunities at St. John's

**September 18:** "Dancing the Dream" Workshop at 2:30 pm with our service presenter Barbara O. Barrett. Come explore the connection between myth, ancient written text, and the traditional concepts of ancestor reverence, spirit guidance, and dance a method of worship. Interactive.

**September 19:** "Dancing the Dream" explores the concept of spiritual guidance through the symbolism in our dreams. A registered nurse and Reiki Master, our speaker Barbara Barrett (Cleveland, OH) is also an initiate of Orisa Oshun in the Yoruba-based Ifa/Lukumi systems and serves her Afrocentric Roman Catholic Church community's music and liturgical dance ministries. A graduate of UC's CCM and accomplished jazz singer, Barbara will guide us in moving and making music together.

**September TBA:** Haehnle Artist of the Month UC professor Saad Ghosn will speak about his peace-oriented work and its impact on his visual art.

**November 2:** "All Souls' Day" honoring our personal ancestors, heroes and she-roes with service leaders Karen Heaster and Omope Daboiku. Bring short stories, pictures and artifacts for our collective altar. Live music and great hospitality!

*-Omope Daboiku*

## Thought of the Week

"The earth is too small a star  
and we too brief a visitor upon it,  
for anything to matter more  
than the struggle for peace."

*-Coleman McCarthy*

# Taste of St. John's

Saturday, November 15, 2008

Dear St. John's Supporter,

It's hard to believe that that 2008 Taste of St. John's is just around the corner. We need your support to make it a success. Event sign-ups offered by St. Johners are a perennial money-maker. Please consider donating a dinner, a party, a gathering, a soiree, a sing-along, a tea, a wine-tasting, a salon, a baking, a get-together . . . be creative!

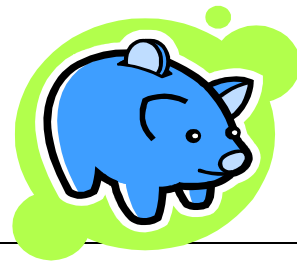
Work together—with a friend, a classmate, your committee members—or on your own.

This year we will have two big Taste of St. John's events, one in the fall and one in the spring.

Sign-ups for gatherings through February will be offered this fall; gatherings later in the year will be offered at the spring event.

What you do:

1. Find a partner (if you like)
2. Fill out donation form—return by October 26
3. Hold the event—Don't forget to have fun!



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## Taste of St. John's Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_ Offered by \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Guests \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Event:

Please return this form to the fundraising box in the St. John's church office  
by October 26.

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# St. John's Church Calendar

## Monday October 13

7:00pm: Friends of Szentlaszlo Meeting

## Tuesday October 14

10:00am: Yoga

12:00pm: Adult RE "A Good Woman"

5:00pm: Financial Advisory Committee

6:00pm: Community Building with the Minister

7:15pm: Adult RE: Evensong and Dharma Reader

7:15pm: Chalice Group (O'Neill)

## Wednesday October 15

6:30pm: Board Meeting

7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

## Thursday October 16

10:00am: Meditation

7:15pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

## Friday October 17

Office Closed - Josie Vacation Day

7:00pm: Interweave Movie Night

## Saturday October 18

9:00am: Dream Group

9:00am: Exploring UU

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

## Sunday October 19

9:00am: Contemporary Worship Service

11:00am: Community Worship Service

12:15pm: Szentlaszlo Bread & Soup Lunch

12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners

## Monday October 20

Office Closed Josie Vacation Day

## Tuesday October 21

10:00am: Yoga

6:00pm: Social Time- Pizza (please RSVP)

7:00pm: Adult RE- Talking To Strangers

7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

7:15pm: Adult RE- Evensong

## Wednesday October 22

7:00pm: Caring Circle

7:00pm: Program Planning Team

## Thursday October 23

10:00am: Meditation

5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter

7:15pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

## News in the ffice

*by Josie Arens*

*St. John's Office Administrator*

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the request of turning in keys that are not in use.

If you still have a church key in your possession and are no longer the "in charge" person for a committee or group please return your key and a note who the key is from.

A special request - if you enter the building with your key during office hours, please stop by the office and let me know you are in the building. If you ring the bell - I can see you on the monitor and leave you in - but if you enter with your key I only hear the door close and I don't know who came in or what part of the building you are in.

I will be out of the office on Friday October 17 and Monday October 20th.

I am no longer taking any updates for the new People Book. Hopefully the new edition will be going to press in the next week or two.