

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

November 9, 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 November 16 at 11:00am

"Creating a Heritage of Peace, Love, and Justice"

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

The Unitarian Universalist Association's Peacemaking Statement of Conscience has been released. It is available on the UUA website at: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml>. Rev. Carpenter's main sabbatical focus was on this process, so this sermon will be an update on where that is at.

Sunday November 23 at 11:00am

"Breaking Bread Together"

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

This will be an all family gratitude service for Thanksgiving. We will share breads of various cultural /ethnic sources in celebration of the inclusiveness of our welcoming table.

Sunday November 30 at 11:00am

"From Gratitude to Giving"

Bruce Beisner

By focusing on where we find strength, we will be better able to give of ourselves this holiday season.



Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship Services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month in Krolfifer Hall at 9:00am. Childcare is provided.

Sunday November 16 9:00am

"Learning to Love the Unknown"

service leader: Omope Daboiku

Want less stress? Learn to appreciate the unknown! We will have special music by Les Tacy of Northern Hills Fellowship.

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

Thurs November 20 at 5pm

The Carpenter's Workbench

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

I should be out raking leaves. The back lawn is practically yellow. I was out a couple of days ago, filled a barrel or two with leaves and things. The front lawn is brown and orange from the huge maple tree that almost took down my power lines. A branch came down the other day, left over from the great wind. I should be out raking, cutting the branch. The 'yard waste' truck comes early tomorrow. But Bruce wants this material NOW. The yellow lawn, the fallen branch must wait.

When did this happen? It's in the mid-70's today. Just gorgeous weather. Of course it was pretty chilly last week. Must have caught the leaves unawares and so they shed their chlorophyll.

I was looking at the calendar. Do you believe how close Thanksgiving is? The next time you read the Reporter may be after Thanksgiving! Before it passes you by, take time to be grateful!

What does gratitude feel like? To me, in part it feels like trust. Opening to the gifts I receive, as simple as a breath, means I can trust the world I live in. Releasing, being open to the new, to hope, these are gifts. It expands my trust. Gratitude places me at my ease. I am thankful.

In his SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION, Ernie Kurtz reminds us gratitude is much more than feeling. He does not let us forget that Linus once asked Charlie Brown, "Do you want a shivery-warm feeling that makes you tingle all the way through your body?" And pausing, continues, "Well, go pee in your pants."

Gratitude is the vision, a take on life that recognizes "gift." Gratitude is a perspective on existence that knows that life is a gift, freely given. And if we hope for our world, do we know why, other than we now have hope?

Peace,
Frank

Our Mission: St. John's is committed to creating a safe and caring community, working for 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

Did Someone Say Luau!?

St. John's big fundraiser is THIS SATURDAY (November 15) at 6pm. Tickets for this family-friendly event are only \$12 for adults; children are free. The luau features pulled pork and beef brisket, dance music, a limbo contest and piñatas. Luau-goers have first chance to sign up for social gatherings hosted by members in their homes. All seats at these gatherings are for a set price, with all money going to St. John's operating budget. With a range of offerings from casual chili supper to elegant candlelight dinner, you will easily find something to satisfy your palate and your wallet. St. John's relies on fundraising for a significant part of its budget, so come on out for a rockin' evening and support St. John's at the same time! Catalog of donations is available on the church website.

-Wanda Crawford



Pictures for St. J's Picture Board

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures for the new Picture Board on Sunday November 16. They can be individuals, couples or families. Come to the Chapel right after the 11am service.

-Sam Cauffield

Lively After Fifty Dinner

The LAFs will be dining out together as usual on the 2nd Friday in November. This time we will meet at the Four Seasons, (4609 Kellogg), for dinner at 6:30pm on November 14. Newcomers to St. Johns are especially encouraged to attend. Reservations are required by November 13. Please contact Jan Hay for more information and to reserve.

-Jan Hay

Tuesday Community Nights

All members and friends, adults and children, are welcome for the Social Time every Tuesday. This is followed by classes/activities in different rooms:

Tuesday November 11

Social Time 6 to 7pm – Community Potluck

Activities 7:15 to 8:45pm

Cincinnati Wing of the Art Museum

Chalice Group (O'Neill) - Upstairs in Wells

Dharma Reader - Downstairs in Rosa Parks

Evensong - Downstairs in Gandhi

Tuesday November 18

Social Time 6 to 7pm -Conversations with the Minister. Bring brown bag or a carry-out and join Frank around the table.

Activities: 7pm to 8:45pm

YADA Young Adults – in Wells

Spiritual Hospitality- Downstairs in Library

Activities: 7:15 to 8:45pm

Evensong - Downstairs in Gandhi

Living in Balance - Downstairs in Lincoln

-Adult Religious Education Committee

Community Potluck on Nov. 11

The next Tuesday Community Night Potluck will be on November 11 from 6 to 7pm. Come bring the whole family and a dish or two to share. Soft drinks and milk are provided. You'll be finished in time to attend classes, chalice groups or committees if you like. Any questions, call Jan Hay.

-Jan Hay

Cincinnati Wing Slide Tour

On Thursday, November 11, Stan Smith, a docent at the Cincinnati Art Museum, will be presenting a slide show covering the famous "Cincinnati Wing" of the museum. The show will be in Krolfifer Hall, starting at 7:15 (immediately after the Community Night potluck). Come and enjoy sharing something while you chat with other members and then stay for the show. If you can't make the dinner, that's OK too, just drop in. The show will be over by 8:30. Call Dick Fencil with questions.

-Dick Fencil

Adult Forums at St. John's

All forums meet downstairs in Darwin before the Community Service. Members and friends who would like to present a forum are asked to contact Carol Fencel at AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org. We try to present a variety of viewpoints on topics of interest to the St. John's community. At this time we need a coordinator for this forum to ensure it keeps going.

Sunday November 16- "Relating to the Bible" led by Bruce Beisner. We'll talk about how we personally relate to what many consider sacred scripture. What value does the Bible have for us?

Sunday November 23- "Knitting for Peace" led by Debbie Combs, Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other fiber crafts? We'll discuss making hats and scarves for children from low-income families or other projects of interest to the group. If you don't have knitting needles and yarn, some will be available. Please contact Debbie Combs at 859-781-2147 for information.

Sunday November 30- "The Good News about Global Warming," led by Will Hamrick. Forum will present information about the Oregon Petition, which has signatures from 31,000 scientists. This presents an alternative view of the dangers and benefits of global warming.

-Adult Religious Education Committee

Holiday Poinsettias

Our Christmas Eve Service will be enhanced by decorating the front of the sanctuary with traditional poinsettia plants. You may pick up your plant right after the service to brighten your home. They are available in red or white. The plants are from Rahn's Greenhouses are of top quality and color. Cost is \$11 for a 6" plant and \$20 for a 8" plant. Please send in your order to the church office at 513-961-1938 or stjohnnuu@fuse.net. Indicate color and size. We will send you a bill after we pick them up at the greenhouse.

-Omope Daboiku

Partner Church Soup & Bread Luncheon on November 16

Please join us and help support our Unitarian partner church in Nyaradszentlaszo, Romania. Each year we support the "Bread for the Elderly" program, providing a loaf of bread each week for every elderly person in the village. Your generous donations have kept this program going for several years. Adults - \$5.00, kids -\$2.50. So, come and enjoy the delicious soups donated by members of the congregation. If you would like to make soup or help in the kitchen please contact, Diane Antestenis

-Friends of Szentlaszo

Thanksgiving Game Marathon

All friends and members of St. John's are invited to participate in a twelve hour game marathon taking place on Friday November 28 beginning at noon at St. John's. You are welcome to come for one hour or for all twelve, just stop over anytime between noon and midnight! The Final Friday Game Group will have lots of games for all ages available for you to play, and you may, of course, bring your own. Some snacks will also be provided, but again, feel free to bring your own. If you and/or your family are looking for an alternative to the shopping madness, look no further and join us in Krolfifer to play your favorite board games, card games, party games, etc. Please contact Karen Miller with any questions.

-Karen Miller

Daytimers Lunch

On Thursday December 18th we welcome all those who can come to a special holiday lunch. What's a Daytimer? A retiree, a mom or dad whose children are in school, a recent visitor with a long lunch hour, etc. We will join for food and fellowship provided by the Membership Committee. Following lunch, if you have time, we will be showing a wonderful documentary called Young At Heart. It will truly make your holidays more joyful. Bring a friend. Please email or call the church office to make reservations at stjohnnuu@fuse.net or 513-961-1938.

-Omope Daboiku

Adult Religious Education

End-of-Life Issues Series

The following two programs will be held at First Unitarian Church, (536 Linton and Reading Rd.) on Saturday mornings. No pre-registration is necessary. For more details, contact Carol Fencil, at AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org.

"The Legal Matters"

Saturday November 15 from 10 am to noon

For 31 years, Elder Law Attorney Greg French has been helping families plan for disability and death through will, trusts, powers of attorney, and health care directives. In this program, he will offer advice on these critical matters as well as address the means of obtaining and paying for health and long-term-care in ways that maximize family resources. Greg has chaired the Elder Law Committees of the Ohio State and Cincinnati Bar Associations and serves on the Board of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Come prepared with all your legal questions. This program promises to be beneficial for participants of many ages.

"Dealing with Death and Dying with the Family - Emotional Aspects" December 6, 10 to 11:30am
An open discussion of people's experiences and things that worked and things that were a problem. Presenter will be Nina Tolley.

Spiritual Hospitality: Talking to Strangers

This course, developed here at St. John's, is now a workshop offered through the UU Council to UU congregations and other faith communities at a cost of \$2 per person. Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the one-night workshop will be offered free of charge at 7pm on Tuesday November 18. There is a limit of 8 participants. Seen through the lens of our UU Principles, mindful communication is the key to Spiritual Hospitality and is a way to actively demonstrate a belief in the inherent worth and dignity of each person by working towards an active empathy in our relationships. To register, contact Karolyn Schalk or email to AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org.

Living in Balance

Class focuses on learning to live in harmony with your self. It will meet on Tuesday evenings for four sessions, Nov. 18 to Dec. 9. For more details, talk with Nina Tolley or e-mail AdultRE@stjohnsuu.org.

-Adult Religious Education Committee



RE-ally!

*News from Your Director of Religious Exploration
by Omope Daboiku*

Thanks to all who helped make our Halloween Party so successful with over 50 children, 10 RE parent helpers, fun activities and healthy snacks! Our next venture will be the Inter-generational Service on November 23, with me as the Storyteller. So, do your research and be prepared to perform along with me as we explore how to make good bread.

Our end-of-year holiday season starts on December 6 with our UU Youth Choir Concert and "Breakfast with the Elves". So, all you allies, I'll be calling on you to see how you will support our Voices of Variety as we host the city-wide choir and participate in Community Service on December 7. Plus, plans are also in the works for our annual Gingerbread House Extravaganza (DTBA) and RE Christmas Party on Sunday, December 21st.

We at St. J's continue to work toward creating and maintaining a safe and caring congregation.

To that end, the 4th grade RE class is modeling the "deep covenanting" process that will guide this year's RE program; and, their families have received copies of the Class Covenant that they created for themselves. Comments from parents and children say that the process has made great improvements in communication and cooperation. We look forward to seeing this process continue in each RE community.

Among ourselves

People Book Directories

New updated People Books are ready to be picked up. If you did not get a copy this past Sunday, they can be found in the office in a box under the wall calendar. If you are not able to pick one up please call the office 513-961-1938 or email stjohnuu@fuse.net and I will mail you a copy.

-Josie Arens

Coffee Hour Sign Up

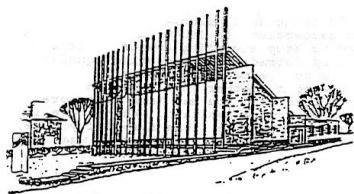
Sign-up for coffee hour hosts for Sundays in 2009 will be held on November 16 and 23. Be sure to stop in Krolfifer Hall after service any of these days to add your name to the list. If you can't drop by, please feel free to contact Tracy Flanagan to let her know your choice of dates.

-Tracy Flanagan

Thanks for the Pancakes

The "Be Our Guest" Pancake Breakfast on October 26 was well attended and about 100 hotcakes were served. Thanks to all of you who came and made our visitors feel welcome. Also thanks to the many volunteers who worked to make this effort run so smoothly, namely Melanie Marsh, Will Wagner, Claire Wagner, Brian Isbell, Joan Lane, Linda Heath, Cliff Shisler, George Dersheimer, Barbara Hadden, Barbara Tonne, Elizabeth Wilson, Dave Wilson, Alexandra Wilson, Judy Cirillo, Jordan Case, Greg Ternune, LaDonna Fritz, Vivian Kline, Sharon O'Neil. Also thanks to RE's fourth grade class who made the table decorations and to the staff who helped --Omope, Josie, and Mike.

-Jan Hay, Pancake Coordinator



Compassionate Potluck

On Monday November 24 from 6:30-9:00 we will have an Introductory Meeting exploring the fundamentals of Non Violent Communication, AKA Compassionate Communication, a language that strengthens our ability to inspire compassion from others and respond compassionately to others and ourselves. Compassionate Communication guides us to reframe how we express ourselves, how we hear others and resolve conflicts by focusing our consciousness on what we are observing, feeling, needing, and requesting. The recently released draft Peacemaking Statement of Conscience makes several references to Compassionate Communication. Come found out more! Please come if you are interested, satisfy your curiosity and appetite, while meeting your needs for community, connection, compassion and peace! Brought to you by the St. John's Peacemakers and the Cincinnati NVC Planning Committee. Please contact Maria Yunker for more information

-Frank Carpenter

October 15 Board Mtg. Summary

David Wilson presented a summary of the Congregational Survey on behalf of the Committee on Ministry. The Board decided that Karolyn Schalk will fill the unfilled position of Board Vice President for this Church Year. The Nominating Committee was asked to work on finding a replacement for Karolyn who was serving as the Community Council Director. Work is still proceeding on the development of the Peace designations for the front lawn of the church. The Finance Council Director, Jonena Jones, expressed concern for the cash flow situation of the church due to delayed receipts of pledges.

Based on the combined hours for the two positions of Contemporary Worship Coordinator and Director of Religious Education, Omope Daboiku will receive benefits retroactive to August 2008.

The next Congregational Meeting will be held after church on Sunday December 7.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Contemporary Worship

Despite short notice, a few regulars did come out for 1st Sunday 9am worship and enjoyed the exploration of our ancestral gifts. Join us on **Sunday November 16 at 9am** as we contemplate the "unknown" with music by Les Tacy of the Northern Hills Fellowship. After eight months of weekly services and funding reductions, we ask for your continued support as your PPT designs two programs per month that encourage alternative worship and contemporary expression. We are currently working with two worship models. Our 1st Sunday gatherings will be more interactive, while 3rd Sunday will be more electronic. If you have a burning zeal on a specific topic and would like to present, let us know. Lay-lead worship is a strong tradition at St. John's and we'll provide the support you need.

-Omope Daboiku, Worship Coordinator

Voices of Variety to Participate in First Youth Holiday Festival

On Saturday, December 6, the Voices of Variety will host members of youth choirs from Heritage Universalist Unitarian and Northern Hills Fellowship. All youth, ages Kindergarten through eighth grade have been rehearsing on their own and will come together for a dress rehearsal on Friday, December 5 at 6:30pm. The concert on Saturday morning at 10:00 am will be followed by "Breakfast with the Elves".

Omope Daboiku, St John's RE Director, has been coordinating the pizza party on Friday night and the breakfast on Saturday and would welcome any all to assist with food preparation, serving, clean-up, etc! Omope is joined by the RE Director from Heritage, Hollie Johnson, and Brenda Bene, the RE Director from Northern Hills, who have been working with the choir members from their churches and coordinating efforts.

The concert is a set of nine pieces representing various holidays and traditions of the season - - there is much to celebrate! The songs will be interspersed with spoken word and the variety

of pieces will delight the audience.

On Sunday December 7 at 11:00, the Voices of Variety will present the same program by themselves at the Community Service and we look forward to seeing all of you there! We will have guest musicians and the Voices of Variety have done a wonderful job preparing for this performance! There is no better way to begin your holiday season!

-Rachel Kramer, Associate Director of Music

Music Vivace

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



To complement themes upcoming services, the choir will sing "Deep Peace" by Bill Douglas on Sunday November 16, and we will sing a beautiful, deeply-American-sounding arrangement "Let Us Break Bread Together" by Kirke Meachem (reminiscent of especially Aaron Copland) on Sunday November 23.

The second concert in the music series is coming up. I hope everyone will take the opportunity to hear MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir on Saturday November 22 at 8pm and Sunday November 23 at 3:00. Your attendance creates a "two-for," you get a great concert, and you support the music program at St. John's. What is new and exciting about this concert? Nicola LeFanu, a world renown composer from York, England will be with us as we premiere a commission she wrote for us called Rossetti Songs. For more information how all of this came to be, visit the MUSE website (it happened over tea in York, long ago). Her mother was the second British woman to be "Damed," and Nicola is charming, and the short works she's written to texts by Christina Rossetti, are delightful. Please support the Music Series.

Keep the date of Sunday December 14 in the back of your minds. This is the Winter Choral Service. More to come in future Music Vivace articles.

The Caring Circle

The Caring Circle is the St. John's ministry that provides support during times of life change and/or crisis. The new co-chairs, Nina Tolley and Kathryn McDonough, are continuing a long tradition of listening for needs then making connections between those needs and our network of volunteers and resources. Nina and Kathryn hear of our community's needs in many ways—Rev. Carpenter, Josie Arens, individuals in the church community, directly from those who are requesting support... and from YOU. Anyone in the St. John's community should feel free to contact Nina and/or Kathryn regarding any concern.

-Kathy Laufman



Thought of the Week

“Gratitude is a mind-set,
a way of seeing and thinking
that is rooted in a remembrance –
the remembrance of being
without the gift.”

--Ernest Kurtz

Sunday Coffee Hour Hosts

Coffee hosts for November 16 are: Karen Miller, Connie Prairie and Rick Prairie

Coffee hosts for November 30 are: Bob Meyer, Nance Meyer and Melissa Rowland.

-Tracy Flanagan

UUSC Holiday Note Cards

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's 2008 holiday and note cards are now available for purchase. This year's eleven new designs include an assortment pack of note cards with inspiring images from UUSC work around the world.

By purchasing UUSC cards, you can share special holiday greetings with your loved ones while helping to make a difference. All proceeds help UUSC to advance human rights in the U.S. and throughout the world. To see them and buy them, go to <http://www.uusc.org/holidaycards>.

-Claire Wagner

Job Opening: Position at the UUA Washington Office

Title: Legislative Assistant for Women's Issues, UU Women's Federation Clara Barton Internship

Primary Role: Advocacy on public policy issues within the portfolio of gender and sexual justice, including monitoring legislation, working in coalitions, lobbying, mobilizing and supporting UU congregations and activists.

Term: Jan 2009 - Jan 2010 with a possibility of a one year extension through January 2010

The goal of the UUA Social Justice Internship Program is to combine service, learning, and faith development in order to produce energetic young adults with the professional skills and strength of character to be lifelong leaders in Unitarian Universalism and working for social justice.

Applications must be received by noon EST on Monday, November 17. For an application, see <http://www.uua.org/aboutus/careeropportunities/socialjustice/index.shtml>

-Adam Gerhardstein

St. John's Church Calendar

Monday November 10

7:00pm- Friends of Szentlaszlo Meeting

Tuesday November 11

10:00am: Yoga

6:00pm: Community Potluck

7:15pm: Adult RE- Evensong

7:15pm: Adult RE- Dharma Reader

7:15pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill

7:15pm: Cincinnati Wing of Art Museum

Wednesday November 12

8:30am: Staff Meeting

10:00am: Chalice Group - Hadden

5:30pm: Board Executive Meeting

7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

7:15pm: Chalice Group-Strong

Thursday November 13

10:00am: No Meditation Today

6:45pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday November 14

5:00pm: Set up For Taste of St. John's

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

7:00pm: OWL Parent Orientation

Saturday November 15

9:00am: Dream Group

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

6:00pm: Taste of St. John's Luau

Sunday November 16

9:00am: Contemporary Service

10:00am: Adult Forum- Relating to the Bible

11:00am: Community Worship Service

12:15pm: Friends Szentlaszlo Soup/Bread Lunch

12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal

12:15pm: Green Sanctuary Partners

Tuesday November 18

10:00am: Yoga

6:00pm: Community Building w/Minister
Brown Bag Dinner

7:00pm: Adult RE- Talking To Strangers

7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

7:15pm: Adult RE- Evensong

7:15pm: Adult RE: Living in Balance

Wednesday November 19

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday November 20

10:00am: Meditation

5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter

6:45pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday November 21

8:00pm: Music Series Concert featuring MUSE

Saturday November 22

10:00am: CGCC

8:00pm: Music Series Concert featuring MUSE

Sunday November 23

10:00am: Adult Forum- Knitting for Peace

11:00am: Community Worship Service

1:00pm: Adult RE- Non Violent Communication

3:00pm: Music Series Concert featuring MUSE

Monday November 24

6:00pm: Non Violent Communication Potluck

Tuesday November 25

10:00am: Yoga

6:00pm: Social Time & Brown Bag Dinner

7:15pm: Adult RE- Dharma Reader

7:15pm: Adult RE- Evensong

7:15pm: Adult RE: Living in Balance