

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

May 31, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday June 7 at 11:00am

"When One or Two Are Gathered Together..."

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Before the annual Congressional Meeting, we'll figure out what it means to be in religious community.

Sunday June 14 at 11:00am

"Reflections of a Cat Herder"

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

In my last sermon as your settled minister, I will take the opportunity to express my gratitude to you for the opportunity to serve you.

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 Worship Service will be on June 7.

Congregational Meeting!

The annual St. John's Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday June 7 following the Community Worship Service. All members of the church are asked to attend. **For details on the meeting agenda, please see page 5.**



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. June 11 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

In this time of transitions for St. John's, two of our members offer us opportunities to reflect on what it means to become a minister, Lucas Hergert and Bruce Beisner. Lucas is finishing his seminary education and Bruce is a year into it. What can we say does it take to be a UU minister?

St. John's by-laws have an article on your "Minister," reading "No candidate shall be called unless he or she is an ordained Minister in fellowship ... with the UUA." This lifts up two aspects, 1- recommendation by the UUA; and 2- ordination. The UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee, which both Bruce and Lucas are in dialogue with, considers a person's educational and psychological fitness for our ministry. The MFC, as it is fondly called, can only say, "yes, this person would make a good minister." Neither the UUA nor its MFC can make a minister.

How to 'make' a minister? Besides the recommendation of the UUA, St. John's by-laws say a minister needs to be 'ordained.' How does a minister become ordained? In some traditions bishops ordain ministers. In other traditions, other ministers ordain new ministers.

It is the greatness and power of our democratic tradition of congregational polity that only a congregation can ordain a minister. Having received the recommendation of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and by the authority of a vote of the congregation, a congregation ordains a woman or man to the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

At the Congregational Meeting on June 7, this unique power of our congregation will be placed before you. You will be asked two questions. Firstly, whether this congregation will ordain Lucas. Secondly, whether this congregation will sponsor Bruce, for the UUA asks each candidate for minister to have a sponsoring congregation.

St. John's has played a significant role in the formation of the religious identity of both Lucas and Bruce. It is an honor for us to be asked to support their continuing development. Lucas has served as an intern minister in Needham, MA, with Rev. John A. Buehrens as his mentor. Rev. Buehrens served as UUA President from 1993 to 2001 and will be Lucas's ordination preacher.

As St. John's moves through its own ministerial transitions, I am grateful to both of these men for offering the chance to reflect on the meaning of ministry. I hope you will join in that reflection.

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

Adult Forums

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

Sunday June 7 - UUA Presidential Election
St. Johns has five votes to cast in our Association's election of a new President. Howard Tolley will lead a discussion of the candidates and explain the absentee voting procedures that are available for this election. (see article on page 4 for details)
Sunday June 14 - No Forum is scheduled at this time. Watch the Enews for a possible update. If you have a topic you would like discussed at an upcoming Forum, please contact Ethel Ingalls.

-Ethel Ingalls

GLBT Pride Interfaith Service

All St. Johners are invited to attend this year's Pride Interfaith Worship Service on Tuesday June 9 at 7:00pm at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (103 Taft Road). The theme for the service is "Pride and Joy." The featured speaker will be Rev. Keith M. Haithcock, pastor of St. John United Church of Christ of Bellevue, KY. Our own Rev. Carpenter will be among the many local clergy participating. If you'd like to sing in the choir for this service, please arrive at the church no later than 6pm.

-Frank Carpenter

AED Volunteer Needed

Will someone with AED certification be willing to take responsibility for the AED device itself, maybe while your certification is active? Please contact Krysta December immediately for important information about the AED. And to all who are certified on the AED, thank you for being willing to take care of others in our community. You are awesome!

-Krysta December

Summer Potlucks are Back!

The tradition of all-church family summer potlucks is being revived starting with three homes in June.

Our hosts will provide the place, something cold to drink, and tableware, while the guests each bring a dish/food enough to share with about six others. It always works out to be plenty of food and a lot of fun. Here are the hosts for June. Suggested times are 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Tuesday June 9 at the home of Judy Cirillo,
A gas grill is available for cooking.

Tuesday June 16 at the home of Vivian Kline

Tuesday June 23 at the home of Diane Antestenis,
Parking is an issue so carpooling is recommended.

Attend one or attend all! Also, please mark your calendars for these additional potlucks in July.

July 7 at the home of Jim and Sharon Nichols in Ky.

July 31 - at the farm of Marcia Schoeni near Rabbit Hash, Ky.

If you would like to host a potluck this summer either at your home or in a park, contact Jan Hay.

-Jan Hay

In the Haehnle Gallery....

"Angels & Saints" The ceramic sculptures of Jan Wiesner and the paintings of her husband Mark will be on display at St. John's throughout the month of June. Both Mark and Jan are Art teachers at The Summit Country Day School and are residents of the Oakley community. For the past year Mark has been humorously revisiting the lives of the saints while Jan has been exploring the not-so-sweet guardian angels, who cast guilt and shame with abandon. Jan and Mark, who work out of their studio at the Pendleton Art Center, are excited in having this opportunity to share with you their more recent works.

-The Art Committee

Paint Houses in East Price Hill

Wish you could have gone with others from St. Johns to repair and paint houses in New Orleans? Here's a chance to do the same thing in Cincinnati, with the luxury of going home to get a clean shower and sleep in your own bed. Adults and students completing 7-12th grades are invited to join together to paint houses right here in Cincinnati's Price Hill Community. This event is sponsored by Price Hill Will. The goal is to paint 60 houses on Saturday June 13. Go to

www.paintthetowncincinnati.org/faq.aspx.

for more information or get in touch with Frances May Brooks. You can register on line at www.givebackcincinnati.org. We can meet at St. John's parking lot and go as a group or meet at the Price Hill site. Youth will need permission slips from their parents to participate.

-Frances May Brooks

June 7 Forum on UUA Presidential Election

St. Johns has five votes to cast in our Association's election of a new President to succeed William Sinkford for a four year term. To date three St. Johners have indicated plans to attend General Assembly June 24-28 in Salt Lake City. In prior years only delegates at GA have voted, and St. Johns has left the choice to our uninstructed representatives. This year we have the opportunity to cast absentee ballots by June 17. St. Johners interested in the denominational election, discussing the candidates, and our voting procedures should attend a forum at 10am on Sunday June 7.

Information about the two presidential candidates: the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman, minister at large of First Unitarian Church of Dallas, and the Rev. Peter Morales, senior minister of Jefferson Unitarian Church of Golden, Colorado, can be found online at www.uuworld.org/news/articles/133424.shtml

-Howard Tolley

Help Spread the Light of Unitarian Universalism

The Cincinnati UU Council will be sponsoring booths at the Juneteenth Celebration on June 20 in Eden Park and at the Gay Pride Festival on June 13 and 14 at Hoffner Park in Northside. Members of all of the area UU congregations are needed to volunteer to staff these booths (1-2 hour shifts). To sign up to help with either of these important outreach efforts, please contact Karolyn Schalk or email the Cincinnati UU Council at uucouncil@cinciuu.org

-Karolyn Schalk

Chalice Camp is Coming

Mark your calendars for Chalice Camp! The Northern Hills UU Fellowship is hosting a 3-day children's camp featuring UU Principles through Dr. Seuss this summer. The camp for children going into Pre-K through fourth grade will be held on July 8, 9 and 10 from 9am to 1pm (brown bag lunch). The registration fee is \$30 per child, and no more than \$60 per family. Registration forms are available through your child's RE teacher. Also, adult and teen volunteers are needed. If you can help, contact the NHF office at 513-931-6651.

-Northern Hills RE Committee

Our Renewable Nation

The members of Heritage UU church invite you to join them for a "green" potluck and presentation by the McCollough family on June 22 at 6:30pm. The McColloughs, a UU family from Massachusetts, are crossing the country in their vegetable-oil powered VW Beetle to film an eco-video series for kids about renewable energy and sustainable living. They'll be staying in Cincinnati for several days and will be giving a presentation on Monday June 22 at Heritage Church where they'll be showing a selection of their nationally award winning eco-videos. For more information, visit their website at www.OurRenewableNation.org.

-Jean Crocker-Lakness

Among ourselves

Annual Congregational Meeting

All members of St. John's are asked to please attend the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday June 7 following the 11am service. Items on the meeting agenda will include-

Budget: The Board of Trustees has approved the 2009-10 budget to be voted on at the Congregational Meeting on June 7. It is posted on the church website. For those without internet access, a copy may be seen in the Church Office.

Settled Search Committee: The following persons will be presented as a complete slate to be voted on as a group during the Congregational Meeting. There will be no substitutions or partial voting allowed. Members nominated to serve on this group which will be responsible for identifying and recommending a settled minister for the church are: Sharon O'Neill, Melissa Orr-Asman, Jack Sherman, Douglas Striker, Manuel Susarrett, Cynthia Villacis and Jan Hay.

Congregational Election: Voting on June 7 for the positions listed below will conclude prior to the start of the Congregational Meeting. Members unable to vote that day should request absentee ballots from the church office before June 5. Completed absentee ballots must be sealed in a blank envelope accompanied by a slip with the member's signature in a different envelope addressed to the Nominating Committee and submitted before the close of the voting on June 7.

Candidates for election:

President- Karolyn Schalk (One year)
Vice President/President Elect- Penny Shada
Director of Religious Development Council-
Melanie Malaviya
Director of Mission Council - Ann Schuur
Fund Trustee - Claire Wagner
Fund Trustee - Judy Buxton
Fund Trustee - Kari Olson (One Year)
Fund Trustee - Dick Fencl (One Year)
Nominating Committee - Sylvia Mersfelder
Nominating Committee - Jim Decker

Other agenda items: The Congregation will also be voting on the ordination of Lucas Hergert and on sponsorship of Bruce Beisner as a candidate for the UU ministry.

Note: The Nominating Committee continues to seek candidates for two Board positions- Administrative Council (2 years) and Community Council (1 year). After June 7, the bylaws permit the Board to fill a vacancy with a one year appointment until the next election. Vice President/President Elect Penny Shada has agreed to perform the Finance Council Director's responsibilities for the coming year with the support of Treasurer Fund Trustee Judy Buxton, Financial Secretary Rick Prairie, outgoing Director Jonena Jones and former President and Fund Trustee Cliff Shisler.

-Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board

Summary of Board Meeting May 20, 2009

Decisions:

Rev. Denise Tracy will be the Interim Minister for St. John's beginning August 15, 2009. She was recommended by the Interim Search Committee and authorized to be hired.

The 2009-2010 Congregational Budget was adopted for presentation at the Annual Meeting on June 7. The Board will request the Fund Trustees to use \$8000 from the Legacy Funds as a Special Project for the Settled Ministerial Search.

The following persons will be presented as the slate for the Settled Search Committee, to be voted on as a group at the Annual Meeting: Jan Hay, Sharon O'Neill, Melissa Orr-Asman, Jack Sherman, Douglas Striker, Manuel Susarrett, Cynthia Villacis. Up to \$2,000 was approved to send two persons to the Midwest Leadership School in July.

A plate collection in July will be donated to the Metropolitan Area Religious Council of Cincinnati (MARCC).

-Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board

The Times They Are a Changin'

Ready or not, with Frank's retirement things are going to change. The Leadership Library (in the Eisenlohr library) has resources to help us. The book Managing Transitions (2nd Edition, William Bridges, 2003, De Capo Press) discusses what to expect in an organization during times of change, including: letting go of the old, the neutral zone, launching a new beginning, and leaders' roles in times of transition. Curious...check it out.

-Your Leadership Development Committee

Blogger Visits St. John's

What do visitors *really* think about us? Read one local blogger's opinion in his recent visit to St. John's. It's part of a year-long Church Experiment" visiting 52 churches in 52 weeks. There's also a response from our incoming Board President, Karolyn Schalk. Check it out at

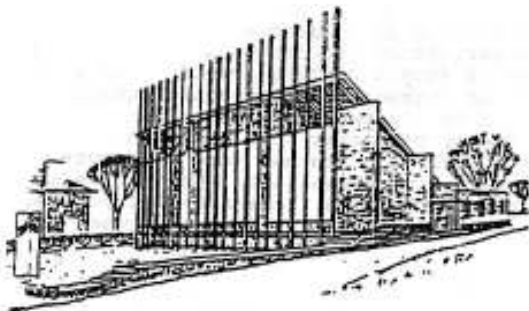
<http://churchexperiment.blogspot.com/2009/04/church-14-st-johns-unitarian.html>

-Linda Heath

Joint Services Coming in July

St. John's will again be hosting special joint worship services this summer with some of our neighboring UU friends. On all four Sundays in July, we will welcome the members of Northern Hills Fellowship for joint worship services. The services will be held here at St. John's and will begin at 11:00am.

-The Worship Committee



Can We Be Greener?

At the Edie Holder and Scott Roberts household they have a programmable thermostat. During breakfast it is set for 64, while people are away to work and school it is set for 58 and in the evening it stays at 61. Anyone in the family who cannot get enough clothes on to be comfortable knows they are free to start a fire in the wood stove in the cellar. There is a vent in the floor so heat rises to the rest of the house. They also have a stack hugger so less heat goes up the chimney. We may shiver just thinking about 61 degrees, but our bodies do adjust to cooler temperature. A lowered thermostat saves energy - and money.

Now we are into the Air Conditioning season so we need to think of setting the thermostat *higher* for the A/C. Overhead fans that circulate the air and help to cool the house allow us to use our A/C on fewer days. The cost of the fans can be returned in one or two summers of reduced A/C usage. Open the house up in the evening and morning when it is cooler and close it up and pull the shades in the afternoon. Use the A/C briefly in the evening on the most humid days to cool the house quickly a few degrees before bedtime. Get the family involved. Teach your children to read the electric meter and record how much electricity is used each day. See the difference on the days when the A/C is used and when it is not.

-Green Sanctuary Partners

Recycling Your Old Electronics

Do you have old TVs, computers, cell phones and other electronic equipment that you'd like to dispose of in an environmentally friendly way? I suggest taking them to 2trg (formerly Technology Recycling Group), 11093 Kenwood Road, Building #7 in Blue Ash. Hours are Mon-Fri 9am to 6pm and some Saturdays. For info call 513-761-5333.

-Frank Meyer

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for Sunday June 7 are: Chase Tonne, Barbara Tonne and Jan Hay

Coffee hosts for Sunday June 14 are: Melissa Sheppard, Bear Sheppard and Judy Sengewald

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday June 2

- 10:00am: Yoga
- Noon: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
(brown bag lunch w/Rev. Carpenter)
- 7:00pm: Chalice Group-Luersson
- 7:00pm: Young Adult Discussion & Action
- 7:30pm: Book Group

Wednesday June 3

- 7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday June 4

- 9:00am: Take Down May Art Show
- 10:00am: Meditation
- 6:00pm: Music Committee Meeting

Friday June 5

- 6:00pm: Hang June Art Show

Sunday June 7

- 9:00am: Contemporary Worship Service
- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour
- 11:00am: RE First Sunday Service
- 12:30pm: Annual Congregational Meeting
- 6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday June 9

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 6:30pm: Summer Potluck
(at the home of Judy Cirillo)
- 7:00pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill
- 7:00pm: Gay Pride Interfaith Service
(at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church)

Wednesday June 10

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

Thursday June 11

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

Saturday June 13

- 7:00pm: Art Reception

Sunday June 14

- 9:30am: Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
- 12:15pm: Reception for Rev. Carpenter

Monday June 15

- 7:00pm: Fund Trustees Meeting

Tuesday June 16

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 6:30pm: Summer Potluck
(at the home of Vivian Kline)
- 7:00pm: Young Adult Discussion & Action

From the fffice

*By Josie Arens
St. John's Office Administrator*

I will be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday June 15 and 16. There will be office coverage from 9am-noon on both of those days. Thank you to Frances May Brooks and Kathy Laufman.

Please note: I **do not** assemble the "eNews" information. All submissions come from the people who want info included in eNews. If you want an event to show up in the weekly eNews, you must submit it to enews@sjohnsuu.org by 5pm on Wednesdays. It is then sent back to me on Thursday mornings for me to send out an all church email. If you are not receiving the eNews and would like to, please send your email address to stjohnuu@fuse.net and put in Subject Line: "Please add to weekly eNews." Summer Office Hours begin the week of June 22. The office is closed on Monday and Fridays (no office coverage); with hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30am-2pm.

Thought of the Week

“There is in human nature a want which the world cannot supply; a thirst for objects on which to pour forth more fervent admiration and love than visible things awaken.... Most of you who here have probably had moments when a new light has seemed to dawn, a new life to stir within you; when you have aspired after an unknown good; when you have been touched by moral greatness and disinterested love; when you have longed to break every chain of selfishness and sensuality, and enjoy a purer being.

It is on this part of our nature that religion is founded.”

-William Ellery Channing