

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 16, 2009

Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration classes during the summer season begin each Sunday at 10:30am. Child care is available.

Sunday August 23 at 10:30am

"Scenes from Mark Twain's Adam and Eve"

Three friends who have collaborated on past theatre projects for St. John's present a special Sunday service: a staged reading from a little known work by Mark Twain, America's foremost humorist which introduces us to the irrepressible personalities of the first couple. Jane Goetzman edited and directs, Bob Elkins, a respected local actor plays Adam, and Barbara Hadden, known for her sensitivity to the spoken word, plays Eve.

Sunday August 30 at 10:30am

"Do Religious Liberals Accept Conservatives' Right of Conscience?"

Howard Tolley, Jr.

Religious liberals invoke the first amendment free exercise clause to defend conscientious objection to military conscription and on behalf of minorities who oppose compulsory flag salute in school. Does liberal religious tolerance also extend to fundamentalist Christians opposed to gay marriage who seek exemptions from anti-discrimination laws and to creationist high school students seeking to opt out of mandatory instruction on evolution? When the state bars animal sacrifice and drug use by indigenous Americans and immigrant groups in worship or mandates medical care in violation of church doctrine, how do religious liberals draw the line between free exercise and community norms?

Sunday September 6 at 10:30am

"Gathering of the Waters"

Plan to bring some water from your summer travels for our annual Water Communion worship service at St. John's.

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

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

e-News

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Newsletter Editor

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Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday August 27 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

As I wrap up my service with you August 15, this is my last column to you, friends and members of St. John's. I don't have any special wisdom, other than what I've said a few times before. As we sing in the hymn, we are called to stand on the side of love.

Once again we have come to a time when sides seem to be clearly drawn. Shall we choose fear? Or shall you choose love?

Ours is not a faith in a vengeful deity. Out of the mystery we sense that at our core is the Golden Rule, empathy. The "interdependent web of all existence" is an ecologically sensitive word for love. We have come to recognize ourselves as a part of this existential web.

One of the programs which started shortly after I arrived at St. John's seeks to deepen our practice of empathy. I am glad that Chalice Groups has great leadership and will continue. We get to know one another, walk along each other's path, through sharing in small groups. And at the center, we find holy love.

Albert Einstein was fascinated by Mohandas Gandhi. He watched newsreel after newsreel of Gandhi in India. Seeing Gandhi greet people in the street with his hands placed together, as if in prayer, and with a bow, he wondered what Gandhi was saying. Einstein wrote Gandhi and asked him what he was saying. The simple reply: "Namaste."

Einstein then wrote again to ask the meaning of this Hindu word, and the reply was: "I honor the place in you where the entire universe resides. I honor the place in you of light, love, truth, peace and wisdom. I honor the place in you where, when you are in that place, and I am in that place, there is only one of us." Choose between fear and love.

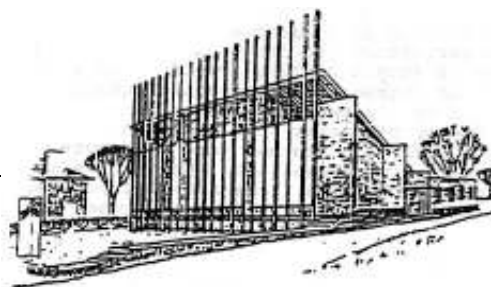
Stand on the side of love. Choose love.

Namaste!
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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Opportunities & Invitations

Interweave Potluck & Movie

Interweave will sponsor a potluck and movie in Krolfifer on Friday evening August 21. The doors will open at 7:00pm for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to begin at 7:30. We'll be showing the movie "Were the World Mine." This 2008 movie is a musical fantasy which received critical acclaim and won several film festival awards. Interweave is St. John's social group for LGBT folks and friends. All are welcome to join us.

-Greg Terhune

Adult Classes Coming This Fall

The Adult Religious Education Committee is busy lining up the schedule of classes to be available this fall. We'll continue to have the forums before the 11am service, and in addition, a number of offerings on Sundays, Tuesday nights, and Saturday mornings. There will be **Book Discussions** (including our own Vivian Kline's book *Let Freedom Sing of 19th Century Americans*, and others by liberal thinkers who will stimulate your mind. Other fall groups include: **Cakes for the Queen of Heaven**, led by Pamela Wilz; **Love and Death** (based on Forrest Church's new book), led by Carol Fencl; **Menu for the Future** (looking at food sustainability), led by Marcia Schoeni and Bo Wachendorf; **Meditation**, led by Nina Tolley, and **NonViolent Communication**, led by Maria Yunker. More details coming soon.

-The Adult RE Committee

St. John's Photo Board

Thanks to two generous donors who have paid for our new picture boards. Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures of new members and anyone else who wants to update photos on October 4 and 11 in the chapel adjacent to the sanctuary.

-The Membership Committee



All Church Summer Potlucks

Join us for these upcoming All Church Potlucks:

Sunday August 23 from 1-4pm at the home and garden of Susan Montauk and Stan Loeb. The "Our Chalice Group Rocks" will be hosting the potluck to celebrate their appreciation for the role St. John's has played in their lives. Please feel free to bring church friends as well as others who may not be very familiar with our church community who would enjoy an afternoon with St. Johners. Directions to the potluck on August 23 are available in the printed version of this issue of The Reporter or by calling the church office at 513-961-1938.

Friday August 28 from 6-8:30pm at the home of Sylvia and Bob Mersfelder in Finneytown. Summer will be over before you know it and this is the last of the scheduled potlucks. So let's soak up some good old summer air and relax together sharing our dishes. Newcomers are welcome. For directions to the potluck on August 28, contact Bob and Sylvia or call the church office at 513-961-1938.

-Jan Hay

Sanctuary Flowers

Brighten the sanctuary with a flower arrangement for the altar. Flowers are purchased and arranged to honor someone you love or wish to remember in a special way. The cost is \$35.00-checks made out to St. John's Flower Fund. Sign up on the flower clip board outside the office. You get to take the flowers home after the Sunday service if you promise to return the container.

-Barbara Hadden

Learn About the Work of Tanzanian Catholic Sisters

Srs. Mariastella Wampembe and Theresia Khamsini, of the Sisters of Our Lady Queen of Africa, are the Mother Superior and her assistant for an indigenous organization of Catholic Sisters based in Sumbawanga, Tanzania, where I have lived (for a total of about three years off and on since 1995) and conducted research. They are here in the United States for a month visiting a number of different places, including Cincinnati.

Their congregation is 360 in number, more than half of whom have yet to take their perpetual vows. So they are a young congregation. The Catholic Church in the region is the most important institution and the sisters are by far some of the most respected Catholics (more than the priests) in the region and the most effective at maintaining themselves and promoting projects and activities that benefit the wider community. Their work is largely directed at creating a more just and humane community in western Tanzania where they live and work. Their work includes a number of dispensaries and clinics. In addition, they run an orphanage for about 70 children (all under the direction of one sister, who, in turn employs and directs a number of female employees). They also began about 5 or 6 years ago an ambitious project, a girls' secondary school. The sisters will be making a brief presentation on Sunday August 30 during the 10:30am service at St. John's and will be available after the service for some informal conversation.

Nina and Howard Tolley are also hosting a get-together at their home on Saturday August 29 at 2pm. The sisters will speak briefly about their work and then answer questions. All St. Johners are welcome and RSVPs would be appreciated but are not required. For more information, please contact Kathleen Smythe.

-Kathleen Smythe

A Season of Song for the Voices of Variety: Pictures of December

Under the direction of Rachel Kramer, Associate Director of Music, the Voices of Variety will begin rehearsals on Sunday September 20 at 12:15pm in the Rosa Parks Room. The 30-minute rehearsals are open to ALL RE students, ages Kindergarten through 8th grade. The Voices of Variety will prepare their holiday service music in 11 rehearsals each Sunday September to November with a final rehearsal and lunch on Saturday December 5 at 10am.

Word sheets and rehearsal CDs will be available to all voices and you need not attend all of the rehearsals to participate.

Voices of Variety Schedule

September 20: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

September 27: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

October 4: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

October 11: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

October 18: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

October 25: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

November 1: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

November 8: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

November 15: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

November 22: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

November 29: Rehearsal in Rosa Parks 12:15pm

December 5: Rehearsal and Lunch 10:00am

December 6: Dress Rehearsal at 10:00am

Performance at 11:00am

Please join the Voices of Variety, now in their 12th season! Questions? Contact Rachel Kramer.

-Rachel Kramer



Among ourselves

Introducing Denise Tracy

The Interim Search committee and the entire congregation is pleased to welcome Rev. Denise Tracy in September. She was delighted to receive our invitation since she is no stranger to many members of the community who have shared activities with her as worship leader and participant at the former Lake Geneva Summer Assembly in Wisconsin. Her rich background, education and role as UU minister equip her with the skills needed to support and enrich our beloved community until a new minister is called. In addition to her many ministerial talents and experiences, Denise has taught Tai Chi for many years, likes to sing, walk marathons and write. Her family, son, and daughter will remain in Elgin, Illinois, where they will receive as many visits home from Denise as practicable and possible.

We will greet her for the first time on August 23 at the Sunday service as she visits to begin moving books and household necessities. Help moving boxes to her apartment near the church on Bishop Street will be welcomed on that day after church. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be September 13. Look for Denise's own words as she introduces herself and begins sharing her thoughts with the congregation in future issues of The Reporter. We all look forward to an exciting interim year as we begin worship together.

-Interim Search Committee

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for August 23 are: Mary Ball, Ralph Davis and Mike Dennett

Coffee hour hosts for August 30 are: Manuel Susarrat, Edit Susarrett-Marrero and Sally Larson

Coffee hour hosts for September 6 are: Nancy Johnson, Susan Rivers-Payne and Ches Arthur

Gather Your Waters!

Don't forget to collect some water during your summer travels to bring to our annual **Water Communion Service on Sunday September 6 at St. John's.**



Push for Pencils

Thanks to all of those who have brought in either school supplies or written checks for the Push for Pencils drive for Crayons to Computers. August 16 is the day the box will be available at church, but of course the organization can accept donations year round. For more information, visit their website at www.crayons2computers.org.

-The FencI/Villacis Family

First Friday Flicks

Movies anyone? We have the equipment and space, but lack a person or team to continue showing movies and lead a discussion the first Friday of each month. If you are interested, contact Carol FencI.

-Carol FencI

First Unitarian Church Seeks Facilities Manager

First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati is seeking to hire a facilities manager. Job responsibilities include building maintenance, coordination of facility usage and rentals, and supervision of custodial staff. The position is 10 hours a week and applicants should have building management experience, good communication skills, and must be familiar with MicroSoft Windows. Please submit a resume and salary history to firstchurchjob@gmail.com.

-Rozy Park

Lectures on Ethical Eating

St. Johners are invited to two upcoming lectures at Xavier University which will address some issues relevant to the current UUA Congregational Study/Action issue on "Ethical Eating"...

September 27 at 1pm:

"In Defense of Food: The Omnivore's Solution"

Michael Pollan is a contributing writer to the *New York Times Magazine* and the Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of California Berkeley. He is the nationally recognized author of numerous books including *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto* (2008) and the award-winning *Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (2006). Prior to the November election, he published an open letter in the *Times* to the "Farmer-in-Chief" of the United States, claiming that agricultural and food policies will become the next administration's most important agenda item even though they figured little in the national election campaigns.

October 28 at 7pm:

"Soil Not Oil : Food Security in Times of Climate Change"

Vandana Shiva is a physicist, author, and environmental activist from India. She has worked for changes in agricultural and food production systems, calling for greater protection of indigenous rights to biodiversity, particularly for seeds of food crops. She also has played an important role in the ecofeminist movement, calling for greater participation of women in agriculture as a means to achieve sustainability. Among her books are *Biopiracy: the Plunder of Nature and Knowledge* (1997), *Stolen Harvest: The Hijacking of the Global Food Supply*, and *Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed*.

These lectures are free and open to the public. They will be held at Xavier University's Cintas Center in the Schiff Family Conference Center.

-The Social Action Coordinating Committee

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Music Vivace

by Dr. Catherine Roma
Minister of Music



Rachel Kramer and I returned from an amazing UUMN Conference in Portland, Oregon. Both of our workshops were well received, with good attendance, and good feedback. We have lots of great musical ideas to share (and we survived consecutive days of triple digits in the un-airconditioned UU church)!

Spread the word about our first choir rehearsal. Brian Tate, composer of "Gate, Gate" wrote "We Are One," our first choral offering for September 13. Rachel and I plan to play a new arrangement of "Morning Has Broken" in a one-piano four-hand arrangement with the choir. I will have a fairly complete schedule soon. I'll send it and we'll post it on the web.

To get reacquainted, we will rehearse at 7:15pm on Thursday August 27. (Remember, no rehearsal Thursday September 3) I look forward to sharing some ideas about our Holiday Choral Service with you. I've also decided the Spring Choral Service, and it will be a winner!

RE-ally!

by Omope Daboiku
Director of Religious Exploration



Exciting things are happening in our RE program in these last weeks of the summer season.

August 23: Big Bang Chemistry Show!

Science comes alive with our own Mr. Wizard (bka Dave Wilson).

August 30: Our Youth and Children's Religious Exploration Communities resume meeting!

September 6: Gathering of the Waters: a special intergenerational service in the sanctuary. Bring some water from your family's summer travels.

September 13: Rev. Denise Tracy's first sermon; a story for all ages included.

St. John's Church Calendar

Monday August 17

Regular Office Hours Resume
10:00am: Worship Committee

Tuesday August 18

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday August 19

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday August 20

10:00am: Meditation

Friday August 21

6:30pm : Interweave Potluck & Movie Night

Sunday August 23

9:30am: Leadership Development Committee
10:30am: Community Worship Service
12:00pm: PR Committee
1:00pm: All Church Potluck (at the home of
Stan Loeb and Susan Montauk)
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday August 25

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday August 26

6:30pm: Caring Circle

Thursday August 27

10:00am: Meditation
5:00pm: Newsletter Deadline
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday August 28

7:00pm: Game Night

Sunday August 30

10:30am: Community Worship Service
6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

Tuesday September 1

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Book Discussion Group
7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday September 2

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday September 3

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

Saturday September 5

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

Sunday September 6

9:00am: Contemporary Service
10:30am: Community Worship Service

From the ffice

*by Josie Arens
Office Administrator*

Regular church office hours (Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 2pm) resume this coming week.

My goal is to publish a new People Book church directory in October. If you have any updates, send them via email to office@stjohnsuu.org, leave a hard copy in my mail box or mail to the church. Please do NOT leave changes by voicemail. There is a "draft" copy of the People Book now hanging on the wall in Krolfifier. You can update your information on this copy as well. Deadline for People Book updates will be September 20.

The next eNews deadline will be on Wednesday August 19 at 5pm. Please send submissions to enews@stjohnsuu.org

Thought of the Week

“It is in our lives, and not from our words,
that our religion must be read.”

-THOMAS JEFFERSON