

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

May 17, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday May 24 at 11:00am

"For Everything There is a Season: A Time to Mourn."

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

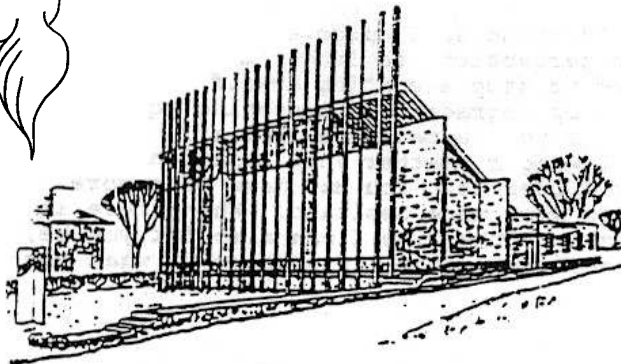
For Memorial Day Sunday we consider the many changes happening all about us. Most of us don't like upsets in our daily routine. All of us need some changes to stay alert; too much overwhelms us.

Sunday May 31 at 11:00am

"For Everything There is a Season: A Time of Peace."

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

The UUA draft Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking is out. The AF-Pak War (War on Terror redivivus?) is looming over the horizon. Maria Junker leads the Forum on "Compassionate Communication." And this day St. John's dedicates our Peace Pole. We shall celebrate peace!



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

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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. May 28 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

“Commit a crime and the world is made of glass. Commit a crime, and it seems as if a coat of snow fell on the ground, such as reveals in the woods the track of every partridge and fox and squirrel and mole.” Emerson wrote in *Compensation*. An older, less optimistic view left accountability to the afterlife.. in the great Requiems of Mozart, Verdi, etc., the choir sings the *Dies Irae*, the rise of the Dead to Judgment.

“Something must be left to God,” Robert Frost concludes a poem, but I don’t think he meant accountability was the left over. And even with the afterlife a pretty weak notion, at least perhaps for some Wall Street bankers and Washington lawyers?, that seems to be the what will happen with major issues of our day .

I have been disturbed by the dismissal of accountability for torture and the torture memos. Torture, waterboarding has been against the law here in the US and against international law. The counter argument is that it was necessary. If it was necessary, what’s the hesitation over going to court? Take it to Federal court, do the investigation, make the case. Do we Americans need to live in blindness, trusting, not in God as it says on our money, but in frail human beings? Do we want to live in denial about what is going on? The law is broken: the world is not made of glass; there is no Day of Judgment; no accountability.

If torture is permissible, what is left of America to defend? ‘Cruel and unusual punishment’ suggests governments shall not inflict such treatment. The concept is in the English Bill of Rights, of 1689 following the ‘Glorious Revolution’ of 1688. These words later appeared in the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution (1787). The British Slavery Amelioration Act of 1798 also used the term, forbidding slave owners from using "cruel and unusual punishment" Very similar words ['No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment'] are in Article Five of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly, 1948. Will you open the door to cruelty? To slavery?

In a recent piece Karen J. Greenberg, Executive Director of the Center on Law and Security at the NYU School of Law argues that the implication of the lack of accountability for the torture memos is that “The Human Rights Movement Is History.” <http://www.tomdispatch.com/post/175066> Yet, let us continue the struggle against torture, against cruelty. Be accountable.

Make a difference!

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

Final Friday Game Night

All are invited to join us on Friday May 29 at 7pm in Krolfifer for a night of board games. Have you heard of European style board games like Settlers of Catan or Ticket to Ride? We play these as well as many others. Come see what it's all about. Contact Karen Miller or Pete Asman with any questions.

-Karen Miller

Adult Forums

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

May 24 - Cremation or Burial

A discussion of how we make decisions about our opportunity to say goodbye to those who have died. Preparations can be made well in advance of the end of life or done when death is impending or has happened unexpectedly. Discussion facilitated by Ethel Ingalls

May 31 - Compassionate Communication

Taking our intellectual understanding of our first principle, "respect the inherent worth and dignity of each person," and applying an emotional intelligence that helps us to live it out! Led by Maria Yunker.

-Ethel Ingalls

Journaling Class at First Church

Our Adult RE Committee has been asked to pass on that First Unitarian Church will be offering *Journaling: Conversations with Yourself*, led by Annie Foerster, on Monday afternoons, starting June 1. If you are interested, please contact pastoralcare@firstuu.com.

-Adult RE Committee

Send off Party for St. Johners

Please attend a Send- Off Party for Jonena Jones, Ginny Creasman, Jonah and Joseph, and Kelly McMichael, Jennifer Richards, Jacob, Jaden, and Asher. We will all meet Saturday, May 30, at 6pm at Clinton Hills Swim Club in North Avondale at 53 Clinton Springs Avenue. Plenty of room to spread out for the kids and gather for adults. It is a potluck. Bring memories and a delicious contribution. Contact Sharon O'Neill to RSVP. Celebrate, commemorate, cry. A little of each. Hope to see you there!

-Sharon O'Neill

The Time is A-Changing!

The date for the 2008-09 Taste of St. John's offering of a folk song sing-along has been changed from Friday May 8 to Saturday May 30 at 5pm. For more information, please contact John Fine or Mira Rodwan.

-Mira Rodwan

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



Among ourselves

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday June 7 has been set for our St. John's Congregational meeting. All are invited to attend, but only persons who have been members as of March 10 will be allowed to vote. We have important business to decide for the future of our church. Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us that day.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Gay Pride Volunteers Needed

Practice Radical Hospitality and help grow our denomination! The Cincinnati UU Council has organized a booth and a float for all member congregations to share in at Pride Alive June 13 and 14. We need hospitality volunteers for the booth (a 1-2 hour commitment) and encourage everyone to participate in the parade. Folks to decorate the float are welcome too! To sign up to volunteer, contact Sarah Conlan of Heritage UU Church or Peggy Vaughn of St. John's.

-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 RE teacher. Also, adult and teen volunteers are needed. If you can help, contact the NHF office at 513-931-6651 or info@uunhf.org.

-Northern Hills RE Committee

Programs at The Mountain

Mountain Mini Retreats: Need a vacation but can't really afford one? The Mountain, our UU Conference and Retreat Center in Highlands North Carolina, is offering you three opportunities for retreat and renewal during June that fit within your tight budget. These are designed especially to give you plenty of time and space to just relax and do your own thing, whether on your own, with friends or with your family. Special "economy fee" for the weekend includes meals, housing and program.

Adults \$90, Youth(13-17) \$44, Children (4-12) \$33.

The Institute: Holly Near will be August 27-30.

This Thursday-Sunday program is only \$295 for adults and \$173 for young adults ages 18-30. Holly is a unique combination of entertainer, teacher and activist. If you have loved Holly's music, and believe that the arts can be used as a catalyst for social change, this may be the time for you.

MountainCamp: It's not too late to register your child for this unique UU experience.

For more information, see the notice posted near the office door, visit www.mountaincenters.org, or talk with Dick or Carol Fencl. Contact Carol if you are interested in carpooling.

-Dick and Carol Fencl

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for May 24 are: Jill and Joe Lampe

Coffee hosts for May 31 are: Karen Miller,

Dave Rentz and Kathy Rentz.

-Kim Stein



Peace Sign Celebration on May 31

As we approach the first anniversary of our Congregational Peacemaking Resolution, St. Johners will dedicate a new church sign displaying the term for peace in fifteen languages. Following lunch in Krolfifer immediately after the May 31 service, a program featuring Clifton area clergy and other invited guests will begin on the front lawn at 1pm.

Father Grogan of Annunciation Church across Resor Ave will give a blessing in Latin and Riyad Shamma, an imam at the Clifton Ave mosque will offer a blessing in Arabic. Rev. Suzanne Fontaine of Clifton Ave Methodist and several others will also offer blessings, and Steve Sunderland from the Peace Village will attend. Members are welcome to invite other guests to join our celebration. We are indebted to Mauricio Villacis for assistance in the design and to Bill Luerson for his labor in the installation.

For early risers, Maria Yunker will conduct a 10am forum on Compassionate Communication before the community service. Maria is preparing for a Compassionate Communication Conference in Cincinnati July 16-18. In preparation for the Inter-national Day of Peace on Tuesday September 14 the Peace Team will host a pot luck at church and show the video "Soldiers of Conscience." Please notify Nina Tolley if you can bring a dish to share for the May 31 lunch and help us in planning for how much food is needed by signing up in Krolfifer.

The Commission on Social Witness has revised the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience which now includes considerable input recommended by the St. Johns Peace Team. Following discussion and possible further revision at the annual General Assembly delegates may adopt the statement this year.

-Howard Tolley

People Book Updates

A listing of changes and updated addresses, phone numbers and emails for some St. John's members and friends is included in the paper version of this issue of The Reporter. For privacy reasons, these listings are not included in the online version of the newsletter. If you wish to have a copy of these listings, please contact Josie Arens in the St. John's church office.

Thought of the Week

"The roots of violence:
wealth without work,
pleasure without conscience,
knowledge without character,
commerce without morality,
science without humanity,
worship without sacrifice,
politics without principles."

-Mahatma Gandhi

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday May 19

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 12:00pm: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
(brown bag lunch w/Rev. Carpenter)
- 7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice
- 7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday May 20

- 8:30am: Staff Meeting
- 6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday May 21

- 10:00am: Meditation

Friday May 22

- Office Closed (Josie Vacation Day)

Saturday May 23

- 10:00am: CGCC

Sunday May 24

- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour

Monday May 25- Memorial Day

- Office Closed

Tuesday May 26

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 12:00pm: Reading Thich Nhat Hanh
(brown bag lunch w/Rev. Carpenter)
- 7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice

Wednesday May 27

- 6:30pm: Caring Circle

Thursday May 28

- 10:00am: Meditation
- 5:00pm: Reporter Deadline

Friday May 29

- 7:00pm: Game Night

Saturday May 30

- 5:00pm: Taste of St. John's Event
Folk Song Sing-A-Long

Sunday May 31

- 9:00am: RE Breakfast
- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 10:00am: Knitting For Peace
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
followed by Coffee Hour
- 12:15pm: Peace Task Force Lunch
and Sign Dedication

From the ffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

If you leave a check or any other important document in my mail box in the office, please put them in envelope with my name on it and put in box. DO NOT put it into any folders or binders that I have in my box or they may get overlooked. There is a Lost and Found box on the file cabinet in the office near Frank's office door. It is over-flowing with items. If you've lost anything, please check there. I will clean out the box the week of May 25. Any items that are not claimed by then will be discarded.

If you return church/office keys to me, please put them in a envelope or tag them with your name so I know who is returning them. I have found a couple of sets of keys on my desk in the past weeks (and one in my desk drawer) and I do not know who returned them.

Summer office hours begin the week of June 22. (7:30am-2pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, closed Mondays and Fridays). I am looking for volunteers to cover the office on the following days from 9am to noon: July 2, 7, 8 and 9. If you can help, please contact me at 513-961-1938 or stjohnnuu@fuse.net