

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 14, 2009

## Community Worship Services

Beginning on Sunday June 21, Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration classes will begin at 10:30am. This time change will last until the end of the summer season. Child care is available.

### Sunday June 21 at 10:30am

*"A Conversation with Harriet Beecher Stowe"*

Rev. Frank Carpenter will interview Mrs. Stowe, channeled through Martha McLeod.

### Sunday June 28 at 10:30am

*"Stand By This Faith"*

Bruce Beisner, Aspirant for the UU Ministry

As we start the transition process of moving forward into an era of new ministerial leadership, we may want to begin by looking at ourselves and who we are as a community. What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? A St. Johner? While we embrace and affirm the truths of many religious traditions, the question still comes up "What do UUs believe?" Can we or should we seek to articulate a "UU theology," a statement of faith which expresses what we have in common? Is it possible?

### Joint Worship Services 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 all be held here at St. John's and will begin at 10:30am.

### Contemporary Service on Hiatus

Our Contemporary Worship services will be on hiatus for the summer. These exciting interactive worship experiences will return on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00am starting in September.



### 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

office@stjohnsuu.org

### Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed. and Thur.

7:30am to 2pm

### Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

### Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

bbeisner@advantext.com

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday June 25 at 5pm

# Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

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This past Wednesday a security guard was killed and another injured at Washington, DC's Holocaust Memorial Museum. Longtime white supremacist James W. von Brunn allegedly opened fire shortly before a play at the Museum about how hate kills, an imaginary dialogue between Anne Frank and Emmitt Till.

This is the third killing by 'right wing extremists' in the United States in the past two months. I call them *religious* extremists. May 31<sup>st</sup> saw the murder of George Tiller allegedly by anti-abortion activist Scott Roeder. Roeder was a former member of the Freemen, a white nationalist militia organization. On April 4th, a white supremacist in Pittsburgh shot dead three police officers.

In April when Homeland Security released its report, 'Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment,' <http://www.fas.org/irp/eprint/rightwing.pdf> it was general scoffed: "What, me worry?" Noting, however, that while there was no information about specific acts being planned, DHS warned "The Economic downturn and the election of the first African American president present unique drivers for rightwing radicalization and recruitment." Yes, me worry!

As I contemplate my legacy of seven years service amongst you, one thing I hope to be recalled for is preaching that Unitarian Universalism is inherently a human rights religion. From the time of William Ellery Channing's writings against slavery through St. John's work to overcome the death penalty and homophobia, we have celebrated and honored human rights. Our First Principle, "The inherent worth and dignity of every person;" founds human rights, and others lift up the rights of conscience and democratic process. These are not abstractions but daily experiences of what gay rights means, what justice in the work place is about and how health care for everybody is a right.

The history of human rights is the story of increasing empathy for others. Moving beyond chauvinism and supremacist movements is not up to government but the citizenry. We who are residents of this country can stand up, say to the white nationalists and the anti-immigrant movement that we support human rights for all people.

Peace,  
**Frank**

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**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

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## **Celebrate the Ordination of Lucas Hergert**

At the annual meeting on June 7, the congregation voted to ordain Lucas Keith Hergert. Lucas grew up as an active part of the St. John's community before moving to Boston to pursue his ministerial studies. Last fall he was confirmed for ministerial fellowship by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and this month he graduated from Harvard Divinity School. Lucas will begin serving the UU Church of Livermore, California as their settled minister in August.

The Ordination Service will be on Sunday July 12 at 4:00pm at St. John's. The Rev. John Buehrens, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will give the sermon. St. John's Board president Carolyn Schalk will give the act of ordination. Special choral music is also planned. Ordination Service Planning Committee chairs are Rev. Frank Carpenter and Bruce Beisner. All St. John's members and friends are invited to attend. This is a big event for Lucas, as well as for us, and we will want to make the reception following the service as festive as we can. There will be about 150 guests, and we will need lots of appetizer-type finger foods, and help with setting up Krolfifer and clean-up afterwards. If you can give some of your time on that day, please volunteer. If, like some of us, you know you will be out of town, please consider making some appetizers ahead of time to be refrigerated or frozen and reheated. There will be sign-up sheets in Haehnle hall. Please contact Melanie Marsh for more information.

*-Bruce Beisner & Melanie Marsh*

## **Interweave Potluck & Movie**

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krolfifer hall on Friday June 19. The doors will open at 6:30 for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to

begin at 7:30. We'll be showing the movie "Ma Vie en Rose" (My Life in Pink). It's a sweet and touching French film about a young boy dealing with gender identity issues. Interweave is St. John's social group for LGBT folks and their friends.

*-Greg Terhune*

## **Summer Potlucks are Back!**

Enjoy the fellowship and food from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. Please bring a dish to share and maybe a folding chair. Children are welcome.

**Tuesday June 16** at the home of Vivian Kline, No need to reserve but if you have any questions, call Vivian.

**Tuesday June 23** at the home of Diane Antestenis, Parking is an issue on Diane's Street, so if you would like to carpool, please be at the church by 6:15pm. So far in July, here's the schedule: July 7 at Jim and Sharon Nichols' home; July 14 at the home of Nina and Howard Tolley; and July 31 at the farm of Marcia Schoeni in Rabbit Hash, KY.

If you'd like to host a potluck this summer, please contact Jan Hay.

*-Jan Hay*

## **Push for Pencils with Crayons to Computers**

St. John's will be participating in the annual Push for Pencils campaign which helps to provide basic school supplies for needy children. Distribution is through Crayons to Computers, and handled by the classroom teachers who "shop" in their store and bring back things to share in their classrooms. Starting in mid-July, we'll have a box available to accept donations. More details in the next Reporter.

*-the Fencil/Villacis family*

## Get Dirty for St. John's!

On June 27 at 9am (rain date, June 28 after the service), volunteers will be walking the grounds, then manicuring them. This may involve: weeding, trimming bushes, cutting suckers from trees, designating weed-free areas, and mulching or planting. Wanna get involved? Either come get dirty with us, bringing any and all garden tools you have that will be useful for the above, OR donate leftover annuals, perennials, or mulch from your gardening efforts this spring. Sound fun? Great! This low-cost, high effort event will have great rewards in karma! RSVP to Krysta December or just show up that morning. Thank you!

*-Krysta December*

## Help Spread the Light of Unitarian Universalism

The Cincinnati UU Council will be sponsoring a booth at the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday June 20 in Eden Park. Members of all of the area UU congregations are needed to volunteer to staff this booth (1-2 hour shifts). To sign up to help with this important outreach effort, please contact Karolyn Schalk or email the Cincinnati UU Council at [uucouncil@cinciuu.org](mailto:uucouncil@cinciuu.org)

*-Karolyn Schalk*

## 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 [www.huuc.net](http://www.huuc.net).

*-Jean Crocker-Lakness*

## Summer Programs at The Mountain UU Center

Our UU center in the mountains of North Carolina still has some open spaces for summer programs. Visit their web site for complete descriptions and registration forms at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org) or talk with Carol or Dick Fencel for more information. The Peace program is August 7-12. The feminist songwriter/activist Holly Near will be featured The Institute: Holly Near August 27-30. Some of the summer camp programs for young people also still have room.

*-Carol & Dick Fencel*

## 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. Mark's work humorously revisits the lives of the saints while Jan's explores the not-so-sweet guardian angels.

*-The Art Committee*



## Among ourselves

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### Interim Minister News

The Rev. Denise Tracy was selected as St. John's Interim Minister. She will be visiting with the Board and Interim Committee the week of June 22 to begin the transitioning process. Rev. Tracy's first day in the pulpit will be September 13. Look for more news about the transition in the weeks to come. A special thank you to our dedicated Interim Search Committee: Nina Tolley, Waltke Paulding, Tracy Flanagan, Karen Heaster, Winnie Goodridge and Barbara Hadden. Their effort has been a gift to our congregation.

*-Karolyn Schalk*

### Can You Hear Me Now?

If you are hard of hearing, and especially if you wear a hearing aid, this message is for you! St. John's has purchased a new type of assistive hearing device that has a "telecoil," designed to work with telecoil-enabled hearing aids. Two steps are involved: Set your hearing aid to "telecoil," and wear the assistive device with the telecoil around your neck like a necklace. Everything in the service that comes through the audio system will come to you through the telecoil. Please ask the ushers for the assistive device when you arrive. We currently have three, and will get more if they are popular! P.S. They can be used with a one-eared head phones to amplify St. John's audio system into your ear if you do not have a telecoil-enabled hearing aid. Please let me know what you think!

*-Krysta December*

### Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for Sunday June 21 are: Winnie Goodridge Julie Mitchell and Kay Sloan-Schloss  
Coffee hosts for Sunday June 28 are: Barbara Casson, Mary Anthony and Scott Roberts

*-Kim Stein*

### Friends of Szentlaszlo News

A tele-conference call using skype software and the church's new webcam was successfully held on Sunday, May 31st. Members of St. John's partner church committee were able to talk with and see Rev. Kiss, Rozsa and several members of our partner congregation. The two groups have agreed to have a call once a month on the last Sunday of the month starting at 1:30 pm, Cincinnati time. During our first skype call, we learned that our partners in Szentlaszlo had received the \$9,000 sent from St. John's for a used van. They indicated they were in the process of looking for a vehicle and hoped to buy one within the next 30 days. Rev. Kiss indicated that most of the spring planting has been completed, but that there had been great concern because of three straight weeks with no rain. However, the rains have arrived and they expect good crops of barley, oats, wheat and corn. Additionally, every family has a large vegetable garden with many families having grape arbors. The Szentlaszlo congregation had just celebrated communion which is done four times a year in the Transylvania Unitarian Church. Our partners asked lots of questions about our peace pole and the peace pole ceremony which we tried to answer. We indicated that Rev. Kiss's prayer had been read in both Hungarian and English. We told them about the selection of our new interim minister, Rev. Denise Tracey. The group will not meet over the summer but will pick up again in September. We hope to continue the skype calls to Szentlaszlo.

*-Tom Darner, Friends of Szentlaszlo*

### Kudos to Our Members

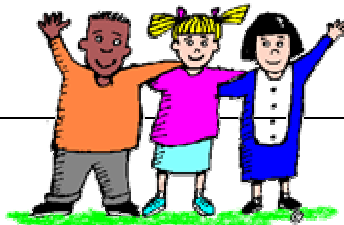
St. John's member **Judy Buxton** has been a member of the Heartland UU District Board and in the coming year will serve as the President of that Board. This spring Judy was selected to receive the St. John's Unsung Hero award.

Thank you, thank you to **John Fanselow** who single-handedly kept Shared Ministry going for 2+ years. You're a St. John's hero!

*-The Shared Ministry Team*

# RE-ally!

By Omope Daboiku  
St. John's Director of Religious Education



Thanks to all who helped make the RE Appreciation Breakfast such a success; it was a real example of the "Loaves and Fishes" story.

As schools dismiss for the Summer, our regular RE communities are also "on vacation". However, we are now gathered in Rosa Parks during morning worship service. Lead by Connie Prairie and Maria Yunker, volunteers and paid childcare staff are facilitating age appropriate groups. The children spend their time playing board games, drawing, listening to stories, making new friends, and learning everyone's name. The Wilsons (Dave and Elizabeth) will be conducting two science workshops this summer; they promise to be quite "explosive". Keep your eyes out for more details, and think of a workshop you'd like to present. It doesn't have to be complex, and you'll have helpers. Song sessions, art lessons, dance, finger weaving – all ideas are welcome.

Here's a congregation-wide social service opportunity for families: The Fencl and Villacis families are inviting us all to participate in a popular project called "Push for Pencils." There will be a designated box in Krolfifer for your generous donations that will go to Crayons to Computers, a non-profit organization that supports teachers and school children. Teachers can earn shopping points by volunteering in the story. Then they can come to shop for materials that help stretch their classroom budgets. Don't forget: pencils also need eraser tips and self-contained sharpeners!

Remember that June 14 is our minister's last day in our pulpit; and, there's a special reception after 11am service. On June 22, we will move to our Summer Schedule and our 11am service will begin at 10:30am.

As we receive visiting families members, those curious about what St. John's offers, and our neighboring UU churches, let's remember to extend our most gracious hospitality.

## Chalice Camp is Coming

The Northern Hills UU Fellowship is hosting a 3-day children's camp featuring UU Principles through Dr. Seuss this summer. The camp is for children going into Pre-K through fourth grade and 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 .

## First Church Seeking Director of Religious Education

First Unitarian Church is currently looking to hire a Director of Religious Education. Job requirements include management of the church's RE program, curriculum development, communication, supervision and evaluation. This is a full-time 40 hour a week position. Interested applicants are asked to email resume, letter of interest, and compensation history to [firstchurchcincinnati@gmail.com](mailto:firstchurchcincinnati@gmail.com). Put "DRE Application" as the subject. Please do not call or email the church.

# St. John's Church Calendar

## Monday June 15

7:00pm: Fund Trustees Meeting

## Tuesday June 16

10:00am: Yoga

6:30pm: Summer Potluck

(at home of Vivian Kline)

7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

## Wednesday June 17

6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

## Thursday June 18

10:00am: Meditation

## Friday June 19

6:00pm: Interweave Potluck & Movie Night

## Saturday June 20

10:00am: Worship Committee Meeting

## Sunday June 21

*Father's Day and Summer Solstice*

10:30am: Community Worship Service

## Monday June 22

Church Office Closed

## Tuesday June 23

10:00am: Yoga

6:30pm: Board and Interim Potluck

6:30pm: Summer Potluck

(at home of Diane Antestenis)

## Wednesday June 24

6:30pm: Caring Circle

## Thursday June 25

10:00am: Meditation

5:00pm: Reporter Deadline

## Friday June 26

Church Office Closed

7:00pm: Game Night

## Sunday June 28

10:30am: Community Worship Service

## Monday June 29

Church Office Closed

## Tuesday June 30

10:00am: Yoga

## From the office

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*By Josie Arens*

*St. John's Office Administrator*

I will be out of the office on Monday and Tuesday June 15 and 16. Frances May Brooks will cover the office on the 15th 9am-noon and Kathy Laufman will cover office on the 16th 9am-noon. Thanks to Frances May and Kathy.

Office summer hours begin the week of June 22. The office is closed on Mondays and Fridays (there is no office coverage on these days).

I am looking for someone to cover the office the following days 9am-noon: Thursday July 2, Tuesday July 7, Wednesday July 8, Thursday July 9. (I will be out of town and will not have access to the church phones or email) If you can help, please contact me at 513-961-1938 or [office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org)

## New Office Email

Please note that the St. John's church office email address has changed. The new address is [office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org)



# Thought of the Week

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“To live is to change,  
and to be perfect  
is to have changed often.”

-CARDINAL JOHN HENRY NEWMAN