

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

May 13, 2007

## Sunday Community Services

---

Sunday services and Children's Religious Exploration classes at St. John's begin at 11am. Child care is available. Parking can be found behind the Clifton Mosque (located across Clifton Avenue from the Clifton School construction site) or in the Clifton Recreation Center lot on McAlpin Avenue. The church parking lot is reserved for visitors, families with small children, our older members, and those with handicapped permits.

### Sunday May 20

"YRUU Sunday"

Our youth will lead their annual service, including bridging of seniors. Two of our Coming of Age youth will also participate.

### Sunday May 27

*"Between Memory and Hope"*

- the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

A special service to commemorate Memorial Day Sunday.

## Contemporary Services

---

### Sunday May 20 at 9am

*"What Does God Look Like In Your World?"*

service leader: Karen Heaster

Our ideas about deity often go unexamined yet have great impact on our perceptions of ourselves and the world that we inhabit. Gods have come in all shapes and sizes throughout history... what is yours like?

**St. John's annual Congregational Meeting  
will be held on Sunday June 3.**

*See page 4 for details.*

### Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

### Affiliated Minister

The Rev. Bonnie Meyer

### Minister Emerita

The Rev. L. Annie Foerster

### Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

### Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

### Directors of Religious

### Exploration for Children

Mary Darner

Barbara Hadden

### Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

### Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

### Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

### Church Office

513-961-1938

stjohnuu@fuse.net

### Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday

7:30am to 2:30pm

### Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

### Next Reporter Deadline

Thursday May 24 at 5pm

Send articles to Bruce Beisner  
via email

# Frankly Speaking....

*by the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter*

How do you feel about e-mail?

Barbara Pinzka recently 'forwarded' to me a copy of an email from a list sent her daily. She knows it is on a topic of value to me. I found myself responding to her that I am getting hostile to email.

It's not just the spam, which gets filtered out fairly well anyway. I'm on a number of 'listservs.' I dropped off a number of them some years ago after getting flamed. You can't post on some of them without someone somewhere deciding they have a right to give you a bit of one too.

I get daily emails from several. I'm on the UUA's Peacemaking listserv, the UU Historical Society's, the Heartland UUMA's. A number of church groups such as the Board send out emails regularly on their listserv. It's very helpful. Often I find I am reading about things that don't concern me. It takes a lot of time. There are pluses and minuses.

Today, I spend more time than I care to count working as the convener of the PR Committee of the Friends of the Collaborative. Sylvia Mersfelder and I have been meeting regularly with that group since last fall. Our objective is to place as many articles and stories in the Cincinnati print media about the Collaborative Agreement as possible.

I send 'the media' articles via email. Nothing happens. We try phone calls. Nothing came through. Our email isn't working. Today I had four phone calls to the editor of one of the local print medias trying to get email through. I'm always leery that 'the email didn't come through' is not the full story. Maybe means, "We're too busy to notice it." Or whatever. So I kept trying. Finally we connected.

From what I can tell, email doesn't work that well. A number of church folks are proficient with email but their provider won't accept mail from fuse.net. Other problems arise.

In the late seventies I jumped on the home computer bandwagon with a Sinclair (8K memory extra!), then an Osborne, then Amiga. Whether high tech is servant or master, I do know it continues to demand I expand my skill set.

*-- Frank*

---

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

---

## Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will meet at the home of Debbie Combs at 7:30pm on Friday May 18. We'll discuss *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress* by Sijie Dai. This short novel tells the story of two young men who were sent to a Chinese village for "re-education" during Mao's Cultural Revolution. The book for June's meeting will be *The Birth of Venus* by Sarah Dunant. All women are welcome. For directions or information call Debbie Combs.

-Debbie Combs

## Interweave Camping Trip

Over the weekend of May 18 to 20, St. John's Interweave social group for GLBT folks and their friends will be tent camping at Natural Bridge State Park in Kentucky. There is electrical hook up and showers. Hike on Saturday or just enjoy the camp-fire. Campgrounds are available on Friday after 2pm. A small good faith deposit is required. Please contact Peggy Vaughn.

-Peggy Vaughn

## Evolutionary Evangelists

First Unitarian Church invites us to "Thank God for Evolution!" on Wednesday evening June 6 from 7pm-9pm. It will be presented by the Reverend Michael Dowd, a former UCC pastor, and Connie Barlow, a popular science writer and UU humanist, who have been called "America's Evolutionary Evangelists." They were featured in the Spring 2006 issue of *UUWorld* magazine. See the RE Board near the church office at St. John's for more information.

-Carol Fencl

## Spring Choral Service to Pay Tribute to New Orleans

Do not miss the Sunday Choral Service on June 3. There is an all-important Congregational Meeting afterward, and we will fill our time with Music and then we all can be together to discuss our future. The music you will hear is a tribute to New Orleans. Many of us in the choir met with people from the Cincinnati Hurricane Relief organization, saw part of Ken Burns Jazz series about the rich gumbo of musical cultures and styles that create the roux that is jazz, and we saw the opening act of "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in 4 Acts" by Spike Lee. The music, and the band we have to accompany us, honors the tradition that has brought us much of the popular music we love today. We will sing several Creole numbers as well as a great mix of other music: "Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans," "When the Saints Go Marching In," a Ragtime Piece by Joplin with words and vintage dancers from the congregation. This will be a great celebration. Please join us at 11am on June 3rd.

-Cathy Roma, Minister of Music

## 30s & 40s Group Outing

The St. John's 30s & 40s group is planning to go to Taste of Cincinnati after the Community Service on Sunday May 27. We'll meet in Haenle Hall at 12:30pm. This is a kid-friendly event. Please contact Pete Asman with any questions.

-Pete Asman

## GLBT Pride Interfaith Service

All St. Johners are invited to attend this year's GLBT Pride Interfaith Service. This special gathering of people from many different spiritual traditions will be held on Tuesday June 5 beginning at 7pm at St. John United Church of Christ in Bellevue, KY. Mark your calendars and look for more details in the next issue of *The Reporter*.

-Bruce Beisner

## Congregational Meeting to be Sunday June 3

Absentee ballots for the election of new officers at St. John's will be available starting May 13. Please contact Josie Arens or Cliff Shisler to get a ballot. All absentee ballots must be returned in time for the election on June 3, 2007.

### Candidate Profiles:

**Pete Asman-** *Candidate for*

*Director of Administrative Council*

My past service at St. John's includes chairing the Visioning Task Force, three years as coordinator of YADA, and three years as a member of the Committee on Ministry. I currently serve as Director of Administrative Council, as a tech operator for the Contemporary Service, and as one of the co-organizers of the 30s & 40s Social Group. For the past few years, I have been working in the administrative and operations areas of small local money management companies. In addition to working with the Office Administrator and the Administrative Council committees, I would like to help deal with building use issues.

**Jonena Jones-** *Continuing as*

*Director of Finance Council*

Since joining St. John's in 1993, I have served on the Ministerial Search Committee, Intern Committee, Curriculum Committee, Nominating Committee, Finance Council and as Treasurer. I have also been involved with social groups, coffee hour preparation, YRUU, and fundraiser dinners. My partner, Ginny Creasman, and I are raising our sons, Joseph and Jonah, in this blessed community. The ongoing support of this "village" solidifies my devotion to St. John's. I am currently employed as a medical social worker at the VA Medical Center. However, I have a Bachelor degree in accounting and previously worked for Chevron and the J. Peterman Company. "Blooming" is what comes to my mind as I think

about St. John's. While serving as Finance Council Director, I've been fortunate to witness the evolution of the many opportunities and happenings within our community. I am committed to the positive promotion of our mission and progress on our strategic plan. I look forward to serving the church as Finance Council Director for another two years.

**Elizabeth Wilson-** *Candidate for*

*Director of Religious Development Council*

I am a stay-at-home mom who is married to David Wilson. We have two daughters, Alexandra (almost 13 years old) and Hannah (who just turned 7). Our family moved to Cincinnati 5½ years ago and we've been members of St. John's for nearly five years. Prior to moving to Cincinnati, we lived in West Lafayette, IN and were members of a fellow Heartland District church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lafayette, for seven years.

Though I am taking the year off from teaching RE at St. John's, I have been an RE teacher for the previous ten years (at both St. John's and our former church in Indiana). While at St. John's, I have taught the fifth-eighth grade levels and while in Indiana, I taught younger children—preschool through second grade levels. As Chair of the RE Committee at our Indiana church, I helped run the RE program for one year when our DRE had to take a medical leave of absence. In addition, I served for 2½ years on St. John's Strategic Planning Committee and I help out occasionally with other "one-shot" opportunities (e.g., baking/grocery shopping, etc. for the Transylvanian Dinner).

I am a Leader of a first grade Brownie Girl Scout Troop and a Co-Leader of a seventh grade Cadette Girl Scout Troop. I also volunteer as a Brownie Consultant for the Woodland Mounds Service Unit Team. For the upcoming 2007-08 academic year, I will continue working in these leadership positions and will also take on the Events Coordinator position on the Service Unit Team.

I also do extensive volunteering at my children's schools—particularly at the elementary school. In addition to weekly tutoring in a first grade classroom, I help out wherever needed for special events

“one-shot” opportunities (e.g., helping with rehearsals for musicals, working on fundraising events, etc.) and have served as Chair on several committees (e.g., sixth grade Recognition Committee— a committee in charge of all special activities related to the “graduation” of the elementary school class, including coordinating a party for 125 kids at the local YMCA). I am excited by the prospect of serving St. John’s as Religious Development Council Director. Though I view both the Children and Adult RE programs as being in good shape, I will work to continue to improve and strengthen both areas. I believe my experience serving as an RE teacher and in church leadership positions will allow me to help facilitate growth and change in a positive way. I think I have a somewhat unique perspective to understand the differing needs of the Board and RE staff/volunteers and I look forward to helping facilitate the significant transitions that lie ahead.

**Tim Dewald-** *Candidate for Nominating Committee*

Born and raised in Cincinnati Area, I currently live in Colerain Township with wife Angie, and children Weston (20), Sam (19), Sophie (10), and Cameron (8). I am employed at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College as a Network Systems Administrator and Adjunct Instructor. Since 1992 I have served St John’s as third-fourth grade RE teacher and on the RE Advisory Group. I recently joined the Technology Committee. I enjoy camping, hiking and baseball.

**Bill Gordon-** *Candidate for Nominating Committee*

I joined St. John’s about nine years ago. Since then I have done many things as part of the St. John’s community –taught in the RE program for 8 years; served on the Finance Council; set up the church

membership database and taught Josie how to use it; provided advice and assistance on other computer matters; been parliamentarian for congregational meetings; represented the interests of the church during the planning process for the new school; helped in the kitchen for Hungarian dinners and other events at the church; and other stuff I can’t even remember. We moved to Cincinnati 12 years ago and have lived in Clifton, a few blocks from St. John’s, for the past 8 years. Our son David went to Fairview School and is just finishing 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Walnut Hills High School. I am currently a board member of the Clifton neighborhood community council. I was raised as a Quaker, and Nancy as a Methodist. We were married in a Unitarian church in Buffalo, but had not attended a UU church regularly before moving to Cincinnati. We first came to St. John’s because it was a UU church close to our house with interesting architecture. Then we discovered the wonderful music program, and Barbara Hadden asked me to teach in the RE program, and that was that. Outside church, I work as a database designer/architect. Since last fall I have been working at a printing company to develop a single system that the company and its customers can use to track the progress of jobs through a complicated production process involving many stages and players. Other things I like to do in my spare time (What spare time?) include running, listening to and playing music, and gardening.

**Bob Laufman-** *Continuing as a Fund Trustee*  
(see bio posted in Krolfifer Hall)

# Among Ourselves

---

## Chalice Group News

More news from the St John's Chalice Groups, which continue in full swing this spring. Our most recent topic for discussion in the groups was "Peacemaking." Group leaders reported a variety of very interesting and diverse discussions took place during the individual Chalice Group meetings. Upcoming topics are "Reverence" followed by "Loneliness" and then "Connectedness." As you can see, we do our best to come up with thought provoking subjects that allow individual group discussions to go a variety of different directions.

Related to the discussion of "Reverence," it could include anything from being in awe of super human acts of courage and love such as Dr. Martin Luther King, to being in awe of the incredibleness of nature. Once again, it is up to the individual group just what direction the discussion takes.

Each Chalice Group is moving forward with community focused project plans such as a barbecue on Memorial Day for I.H.N. (the Interfaith Hospitality Network). Another Chalice Group plans to make their community contribution one of doing extensive yard work for a member of the congregation. Other projects include donating clothes to the Mustard Seed and cleaning and redecorating one of the men's bathrooms (no doubt a major task!).

The Chalice Groups are a way for individuals to make new friends, build deeper connections with people we may already know, all combined with interesting & thought provoking discussions and community service. Anyone interested in joining a Chalice Group should contact Rev. Carpenter or or Josie in the church office for information.

-Jim Nunn

## Give Less, Get More

Too bad it doesn't actually work that way! We need your financial help to keep providing the programs at St. John's. The operating budget pledge drive has not yet raised the money needed to do so. Part of this is due to people moving away, and part is due to the large number of our members who haven't yet pledged. Without these pledges, AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING from those already pledging, programs will be cut back.

Those of you who've already pledged have increased pledges by an average of 11%. **THANK YOU.** Will you re-think your pledge and increase it by \$100? \$50? Forms to increase your pledge are available at the Pledge Table in Heahnle or by contacting Jonena Jones.

For those who have yet to pledge, **please do so NOW.** We will have major program cuts without all the pledges in. (68 have not pledged to date). If you need a pledge card please contact Jonena Jones. St. John's needs your help. Please be generous. For more information about the proposed budget, meetings will be held on May 20 and 27 immediately after church.

-Cliff Shisler

## "Fearful Brains in an Anxious World" Lecture on May 31

All St. Johners are invited to a free lecture titled "Fearful Brains in an Anxious World" by Dr. Joseph Ledoux, Professor of Neural Science at NYU. The lecture will be on Thursday May 31 at 11am at Kresge Auditorium in the Medical Sciences Building, 231 Albert Sabin Way E level (across from Children's Hospital). Dr. Ledoux's work is focused on the brain's mechanism of emotion and memory. The talk is sponsored by Vivian Kline's family and friends with a fund set up in her husband, Dan Kline's name. For more information, please call Vivian Kline.

-Vivian Kline

## **St. John's Delegates to Attend UUA General Assembly**

This June, three St. Johners are traveling to Portland Oregon to attend the 2007 UUA General Assembly. They are Karen Miller, Dick and Carol Fencl. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. General Assemblies make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees. All three of our St. Johners have asked to be delegates to GA. Per St. John's policy, the delegate slate will be presented and voted on by The Board at this month's meeting. "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society" was selected by the 2005 General Assembly for two years of study. The 2007 GA will vote to adopt the Statement of Conscience resulting from the study and debate of this issue. One of the most exciting aspects of General Assembly is the unfolding Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) process. People come with a wide range of issues, engage one another in conversation, sign petitions, debate the issues, vote, and bring to life the Principles of Unitarian Universalism, all within the span of one General Assembly. Unlike a Statement of Conscience, an AIW does not carry the full authority of the Unitarian Universalist Association; rather, it expresses the conscience of the delegates at the GA at which it is passed. The AIW process allows Unitarian Universalists to respond quickly to social issues deemed urgent. Adopted AIWs are used by congregations in local efforts and empower the Washington Office for Advocacy to take action and recommend action through other departments of the UUA and other UU groups. To learn more about the issues to be discussed and voted on at this year's General Assembly, please log on to [www.uua.org/GA](http://www.uua.org/GA).

*-Janie Cashon*

## **Thank you Volunteers**

Many thanks to those who worked to make the RE Teacher Recognition breakfast this year a great success. Nancy Colegrove pulled together the willing workers: Jean Ashcraft, Omope Diaboku, Melanie Marsh, Diane Antestenis, Philip, Veronica, and Heath Colegrove, Jan Hay, Elizabeth and David Wilson, Kyra McKinney, Judy Strong, Christopher Douglas, and Howard Tolley. Thanks again, one and all!

*-Dick Fencl*

## **Attention St. John's Artists!**

Those having work for the group show at St. John's please leave pieces (if they are small) in Josie's office or deliver along with those having large work, on Sunday after church May 27. You may also deliver your work instead on Monday before the 2pm May 28 hanging time. Please be sure to read and sign the sheet giving rules and insurance info which is available in Josie's office in the art slot. We must have your signature before hanging your work. The show will be up for the four Sun-days in June. Work can be removed on June 25.

*-Vivian Kline*

## **From the Office**

---

If you have had any recent changes in your email addresses, phone numbers or mailing address please notify me at the office so I can update our records. I will not be in the office on Friday May 25th. There will be office coverage from 9am-noon. If using the building for a meeting or event please remember when locking up, the back black door (into Haehnle) after coming up the back steps from the parking lot needs to be locked also. This door needs to be locked at night for security and also it is a fire door.

*-Josie Arens, Office Administrator*

# St. John's Church Calendar

## Tuesday May 15

9:00am- Staff Meeting  
10:00am- Meditation  
10:00m- Yoga  
7:00pm- Adult RE: World Religions  
7:00pm- YADA Young Adults Discussion

## Wednesday May 16

6:00pm- Board of Trustees Meeting  
6:00pm- Contemporary Service Rehearsal

## Thursday May 17

Noon- Adult RE: Sabbath Book Discussion  
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

## Friday May 18

7:30pm- Friday Eves Book Group

## Saturday May 19

Armed Forces Day  
9:30am- Dream Group  
6:30pm- YRUU Service Rehearsal

## Sunday May 20

9:00am- Contemporary Service  
10:00m- PR Committee  
11:00am- Community Worship Service  
12:30pm- Budget Forum  
12:30pm- Green Sanctuary Partners  
7:00pm- A Course in Miracles

## Monday May 21

7:00pm- Cont. Service Planning Team

## Tuesday May 22

9:00am- Role Clarification Task Force  
10:00am- Mediation  
10:00am- Yoga  
7:00pm- Adult RE: World Religions

## Wednesday May 23

6:30pm- Tech Committee  
7:00pm- Adult RE Committee

## Thursday May 24

Noon- Adult RE: Sabbath Book Discussion  
5:00pm- Deadline for The Reporter  
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

## Friday May 25

Church Office Closed- Josie Vacation Day  
7:00pm- Game Night

## Saturday May 26

10:00am- CGCC

## Sunday May 27

9:00am- Chalice Group (Strong)  
11:00am- Community Worship Service  
12:30pm- Social Action Coord. Committee  
12:45pm- RE Associates  
7:00pm- A Course in Miracles

## Monday May 28

Memorial Day- Church Office Closed

## The Wheel of Life

---

**Dick Reiman** wishes to thank the many members and friends of St. John's for their support and good wishes as he undergoes treatment for bone cancer. Dick will be starting chemotherapy soon.

**Emily Hodges and Andy Wolf** celebrated their 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month.

**John Fine** is now recovering at the Dupree Community. He would appreciate visitors, cards and cookies.

**Larry Wolf** was profiled in the May issue of "Greater Cincinnati GLBT News." The article celebrated Larry's work for gay rights over the past 30 years here in Cincinnati.

**Barbara Pinzka's mother** recently returned home from the hospital and is recovering. Congratulations to **Brian Sebastian** who recently appeared on "The Price is Right." Brian, who has been a huge fan of the show since he was a kid, not only got to meet Bob Barker but was the big winner of the Showcase Showdown.