

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 24, 2007

## Sunday Community Services

Summer services and Children's Religious Exploration classes at St. John's begin at 10:30am. 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.

**The services on all five Sundays in July at St. John's will be special JOINT SERVICES with our friends from First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati and the Northern Hills UU Fellowship.**

### Sunday July 1 at 10:30am

*"Can't You Call It Something Else?"*

the Rev. Annie Foerster, Minister Emerita of St. John's

We Unitarian Universalists have a love/hate relationship with religious language, don't we? I have long thought we ought to take it back instead of throwing it away. I also think we ought to teach our children to be fluent so they can talk with their peers on an equal footing. Music for the service will be provided by Kenny Smith from First Church and Fred Stoll from Northern Hills Fellowship.

### Sunday July 8 at 10:30am

*"Spiritual Surprises I Have Found in Myself"*

Our spiritual journeys are rarely a direct path towards the truth. Along the way we often encounter life changing events and clari-fying moments which profoundly alter our course. Dave Beato of Northern Hills Fellowship, Jennifer Richards of St. John's and Anne Packham of First Church will offer personal observations on such events from their lives. Music for the service will be provided by Phillip Burkhead from Northern Hills Fellowship.

### Sunday July 15

Contemporary Service at 9am (*see page 3 for information*)  
Joint Sunday Service at 10:30am led by Rev. Frank Carpenter

#### 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

#### Summer Office Hours

Tues, Wed and Thur

7:30am to 2pm

#### Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

#### Next Reporter Deadline

Thursday July 5 at 5pm

Send articles to Bruce Beisner  
via email

# Frankly Speaking...

*by the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter*

I had hoped to get this done earlier. I wanted to have it done before summer began, but, busy, busy.

When did summer begin? Supposedly, today, June 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:06 PM. On June 21, there are 24 hours of daylight north of the Arctic Circle (66.5° north of the equator) and 24 hours of darkness south of the Antarctic Circle (66.5° south of the equator). The sun's rays are directly overhead along the Tropic of Cancer (the latitude line at 23.5° north, passing through Mexico, Saharan Africa, and India) on June 21.

That's the astronomical definition of the beginning summer. For many of us, turning on the air conditioner is a significant mark of the beginning of summer, if not Memorial Day. I was pleased to see the electrical bill that came recently, as I feared that it might be high because of how much the air conditioning has been running. The bill is the lowest I've seen in some months. It must be the new unit that we had to purchase last year which is much more energy efficient.

I don't function well in 95 degree weather. There has been a lot of it. Recently we were visiting with friends in Marietta. To pass the time we ending up reading the local paper which had a long article about the crop damage due to the recent drought. My friend has been very interested in global warming for many years and recently published a book, *NOTES FROM A DYING PLANET*, about the interconnectedness of many issues around climate change, the environment and other matters.

I've been making a list of good things about the drought: I don't have to shovel snow. I don't have to mow the lawn as often. It isn't very humid, either, which makes the heat much more bearable.

I've been surprised how quickly the low eighties is beginning to feel comfortable, normal. It's remarkable what we human being can adapt to. That's our great strength. Our creatively and imagination begins at a deep biological level. Perhaps it is a major factor in what has brought us this far and good reason to trust that we can continue to find our way along the bending road of the future.

---Peace,  
***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

---

## Final Friday Game Night

All are welcome to join us as we gather on the final Friday of each month to play games of all sorts. We meet in Krolfifer Hall at St. John's at 7pm and stay until the last games are finished. If you are so inclined, you may bring some sort of snack, but it's strictly optional. Please join us at our next gathering on June 29. Contact Karen Miller for details.

*-Karen Miller*

## Rebuilding the Gulf Coast

A group from St. John's will be going to the Gulf Coast during the last week of September to help with rebuilding efforts. To join the group (seven so far) contact Jim Decker of the Social Action Coordinating Committee or Cliff Shisler.

*-Linda Heath*

## Summer Potlucks

The Chalice Group led by Judy Cirillo has decided to organize the Summer Potlucks, an old tradition of St. John's, for this summer. Potlucks will begin July 4 and end Labor Day. If you want to host a potluck at your home or a park, just sign up on the posted form in Krolfifer. There are also posted sign-up sheets for those who plan to attend. Members of First Church, Northern Hills and St. Johns can sign up to host or attend. It's a great way to get to know each other.

*-Frances May Brooks*

## Summer Service SING

Please join in the July SING. Rehearsal will be Thursday night July 19 at St. John's for a big Singing Sunday on July 22. I am starting to cook up something great. All are welcome. Please join us!

*-Cathy Roma, Minister of Music*

## Joint Services in July

On all five Sundays in July, St. John's will be welcoming our friends from Northern Hills Fellowship and First Unitarian Church for special Joint Summer Worship Services. Each of these special services will feature participants from all 3 congregations. Each Sunday's program will include rituals and traditions from Northern Hills, St. John's and First Church. These joint services will be a great opportunity to hear different speakers, share music and musicians, and get to know other local UUs.

*-the Worship & Liturgy Committee*

## Contemporary Service on July 15 at 9am

Our next "Celebrate Life Together" Contemporary Service will be on Sunday July 15 starting at 9am. The theme will be "What Calls Me To The Good?" Service leader George Dershimer



and guest speaker Bruce Beisner

will offer thoughts on the choices we have in guiding our actions in a world of conflicting values and religions. Please join us on July 15 at 9am in Krolfifer Hall at St. John's.

*-Contemporary Service Planning Team*

## Women's Book Group

The Women's Book Group will NOT meet in July and August but will resume meeting on Friday September 21. We will discuss *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides. This is a story of a gene that passes down through three generations of a Greek-American family and flowers in the body of a teenage girl (from the cover of the book). All women are welcome. For more information call Debbie Combs.

*-Debbie Combs*

# Among Ourselves

---

## Finance Corner

### Stewardship 2007:

As of June 10, annual pledges totaled \$212,000 and capital pledges totaled \$71,000.

### Audit:

An audit of fiscal year 2005-06 financial records was completed earlier this year. The records were found to be in compliance with accounting standards. Some of the auditor recommendations have been incorporated into our bookkeeping practices. If you are interested in seeing the full audit report, copies are available in the church office and from Jonena Jones, Finance Council Director.

### Finance Council:

Like numbers? Like people? Have opinions and foresight? The Finance Council, an advisory and action committee in consult with the Director of Finance, is now forming! Contact Jonena Jones

*-Jonena Jones*

## Coffee Hour Donations

Due to the high cost of Fair Trade and organic coffee, as well as our tight budget for the upcoming year, we've decided it will be necessary to raise the suggested donation for Coffee Hour from 50 cents to \$1. We regret the increase, but think it is necessary and hope you agree that drinking Fair Trade and organic coffee is worth it.

*-Greg Terhune, Community Council Director*

## In the Haehnle Gallery...

For those of you who have had art work up as part of the group show, please remove it after church on June 24 or in the next few days. A new show will be going up for July. Cliff Shisler's son-in-law will show his photographs.

*-Vivian Kline*

## Coffee Hosts in July

For those hosting in July, please be sure to make it on the day you're scheduled. If you're not sure, the assignment list is located on the announcement board outside of Josie's office. With guests from other churches in attendance for the month it will difficult if we are short staffed in the kitchen. In addition, it would be greatly appreciated if we had treats other than packaged cookies to serve. Any donations from the congregation would be welcomed. Call Tracy Flanagan if you'd be willing to donate and I'll coordinate the offerings.

Coffee hosts for July 1 are Kathryn McDonough, Frances May Brooks and Jean Dye. Coffee hosts for July 8 are Maria Yunker, Mannuel Susarrets and Edith Susarrets.

*-Tracy Flanagan,  
Coffee Hour Coordinator*

## Northern Hills Sees DRE

The Northern Hills Fellowship is seeking a Director of Children's Religious Education (DRE). The job is 10 hours a week, with 2 weeks paid vacation a year. Tasks include: recruiting, training, and supporting volunteer teachers; maintaining RE supplies and resources; providing at least one teacher training session per year; and working with RE Committee to review and select curricula, create RE budget, and prepare and distribute the RE Prospectus. For more information, call the NHF office at 513-931-6651.

*-Bruce Beisner*

## Escape to Vermont!

The members of the UU Church of Rutland, VT invite you to join them for their 13<sup>th</sup> annual B&B Weekend on September 21-23, 2007. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, great UU hospitality, and a choice of activities including hiking, kayaking, visits to studios of local artists, and tours of historic sites and quaint towns. Register before August 1 to receive reduced rates. For more details, call 1-800-353-7969 or visit [www.rutlanduu.org](http://www.rutlanduu.org)

*-UU Church of Rutland, VT*

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Sunday June 24**

9:00am- Chalice Group (Judy Strong)  
10:30am- Sunday Community Worship Service  
with Rev. Frank Carpenter  
12:30pm- Social Action Coordinating Committee

## **Monday June 25**

Church Office Closed

## **Tuesday June 26**

10:00am- Meditation  
10:00am- Yoga

## **Wednesday June 27**

6:30pm- Tech Committee Meeting

## **Thursday June 28**

4:30pm- MUSE Women's Choir

## **Friday June 29**

Church Office Closed  
7:00pm- St. John's Game Night

## **Sunday July 1**

10:30am- Joint Sunday Worship Service  
"Can't You Call It Something Else?"  
the Rev. Annie Foerster

## **Monday July 2**

Church Office Closed

## **Tuesday July 3**

Church Office Closed (Josie Vacation Day)  
10:00am- Meditation  
10:00am- Yoga  
7:00pm- YADA Young Adults Discussion

## **Wednesday July 4**

*Independence Day Holiday*  
Church Office Closed

## **Thursday July 5**

5:00pm- Deadline for The Reporter

## **Friday July 6**

Church Office Closed

## **Sunday July 8**

10:30am- Joint Sunday Worship Service  
"Spiritual Surprises in My Life"  
1:00pm- Interweave Luncheon  
6:00pm- St. John's Men's Group

## **Monday July 9**

Church Office Closed  
7:00pm- Contemporary Service Planning Team

## **Tuesday July 10**

10:00am- Meditation  
10:00am- Yoga  
7:00pm- Chalice Group (J. Cirillo)

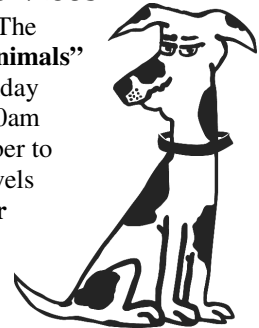
## **Wednesday July 11**

5:30pm- Executive Board Meeting

---

## **Special Summer Services**

Mark your calendars now! The annual "**Blessing of the Animals**" Service will be held on Sunday morning August 19 at 10:30am at St. John's! Also, remember to get some water on your travels this summer for the "**Water Communion**" Service on Sunday September 2.



# Thought of the Week

---

“At times I think the truest image of God today is  
a black inner-city grandmother in the U.S. or  
a mother of the disappeared in Argentina or  
the women who wake up early to make tortillas in refugee camps.  
They all weep for their children and in their compassionate tears  
arises the political action that changes the world.  
The mothers show us that it is the experience of touching  
the pain of others that is the key to change.”

*-Jim Wallis  
founding editor of Sojourners magazine*