

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

July 19, 2009

## Community Worship Services

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

### **Sunday July 26 at 10:30am:** *"A Celebration of UU Hymns"*

We'll welcome guest musicians Les Tacy and Steph Tacy from Northern Hills Fellowship for a special music-oriented summer worship experience. This will be the final of our joint summer services with our UU friends from Northern Hills.

### **Sunday August 2 at 10:30am:** *"The Blessing of the Animals"*

Please join us as we celebrate the sacredness of the animal kingdom and our personal relationships with our furry, feathered and scaly friends. Plan to bring your dog, cat, hamster, fish, snake or other family pet(s) with you to church for this special service. Bruce Beisner will lead the service. There will be an opportunity to introduce your animal companion(s) to the congregation. For the safety of everyone involved, please remember that all dogs MUST be on a leash, all cats and other critters in cages, aquariums or other carriers. Don't miss this fun annual St. John's tradition.



### **Sunday August 9 at 10:30am:** *"Compassion and Non-Violence"*

Guest speaker Jeffrey Brown will explore how the language of non-violence strengthens our ability to inspire compassion from others and respond compassionately to others and ourselves.

#### **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

#### **Board President**

Karolyn Schalk

#### **Office Administrator**

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

#### **Caretaker**

J. Michael Skaggs

#### **Church Office**

513-961-1938

[office@stjohnsuu.org](mailto:office@stjohnsuu.org)

#### **Church Office Hours**

Tues, Wed. and Thur.

7:30am to 2pm

#### **Church Website**

[www.stjohnsuu.org](http://www.stjohnsuu.org)

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Bruce Beisner

#### **Next Newsletter Deadline**

Thursday July 30 at 5pm

## Opportunities & Invitations

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### **Blessing of the Animals Service**

On Sunday August 2, we will celebrate the sacredness of the animal kingdom and our personal relationships with our furry, feathered and scaly friends. Plan to bring your dog, cat, hamster, fish, snake or other family pet(s) with you to church for this special service. Bruce Beisner will lead the service. There will be an opportunity to introduce your animal companion(s) to the congregation. For the safety of everyone involved, please remember that all dogs MUST be on a leash, all cats and other critters in cages, aquariums or other carriers. Don't miss this fun annual St. John's summer tradition.

*-Bruce Beisner*

### **Final Friday Game Night**

Please join us on Friday July 31 at 7pm for our monthly gathering where we play board games of all types. All ages are welcome—bring yourself and a favorite game or two, or there are always several games to choose from. We are often still playing until midnight or later, so drop in at your convenience. Please contact Karen Miller or Pete Asman for more information.

*-Karen Miller*

### **Worship Corner**

The second gathering of the Worship Study Group will take place on Saturday July 25 from 10am until noon. If you are interested in discussing the hows and whys of worship at St. John's, please feel free to join this interesting group. We will be part of planning for lay-led services beginning in October.

*-Barbara Hadden*

### **All-Church Summer Potluck**

Everyone is welcome to come for fellowship and food. Just bring a dish to share. Our next potluck will be on Friday July 31 at 6:00pm at the farm of Marcia Schoeni near Rabbit Hash, Ky. Bring the kids and enjoy the landscape and meet Marcia's miniature horses! Directions to Marcia's farm are available from the church office. If you would like to carpool to the potluck in Kentucky, contact Jan Hay by 5pm of the day before the event.

*-Jan Hay*

### **Push for Pencils**

Imagine a child trying to color without a crayon or trying to write without a pencil. Public school supply budgets have been slashed. Teachers spend an average of \$500-\$1000 per year to buy supplies for their students. And you can help by contributing to Push for Pencils, a citywide collection to fill the shelves at Crayons to Computers where teachers can "shop" free for school supplies. Our box will be at St. John's beginning July 19 for five Sundays. Start looking for the advertised specials so your family can help others in this easy, fun way. Items needed: crayons, pens, pencils, folders, scissors, glue sticks, glue/glue sticks, backpacks, binders, copy paper, construction paper. Checks made out to "Crayons to Computers" can be mailed to the church office or given to either Carol Fencil or Cyndi Villacis.

*-The Fencil/Villacis Family*

### **Tech Committee Needs You**

The Tech Committee serves St. John's by helping with technology issues. This committee does its work on a project-by-project basis, with most coordination done by email. By using its knowledge, the committee is sometimes able to help save the church money by avoiding expensive professional service calls. If you have computer or network expertise, as well as a little time and energy, please join the committee by contacting Pete Asman. Thanks.

*-Pete Asman*

## **Conversation with the Ministerial Search Committee**

Grab your coffee and come to the chapel on Sunday July 26 and Sunday August 9, 15 minutes after the end of worship service, to share your thoughts on what we should look for in a new minister and learn what the Settled Search Committee is doing. Please see Jack Sherman, Jan Hay, Melissa Orr-Asman, Sharon O'Neil, Doug Striker, Manuel Susarret or Cynthia Villacis with any questions.

*-Cynthia Villacis*

## **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. Anyone have the round glass fishbowl? (Return to the kitchen with no penalty.)

*-Barbara Hadden*

## **Fall Adult Religious Education Opportunities at St. John's**

Each year we revise our program, trying to come up with the best combination of programming, matching our resources to the needs of the church. We will be holding our next meeting of those interested in planning Adult RE for the coming church year in July, date TBD. We currently have no one who has volunteered to continue the First Friday Flicks, so unless someone comes forth, that will not be offered this fall. We also will be redesigning the Sunday morning Forums. If you would like to be involved, either in the planning, or in actually leading a group/class, please contact Carol Fencel, Adult RE Committee chair.

*-The Adult RE Committee*

## **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*

## **Join the Choir!**

The St. John's Choir will return from its summer break in late August. The first rehearsal will be on Thursday August 27 at 7:00pm. There will be no rehearsal on September 3. Please contact Minister of Music Cathy Roma if you have suggestions or input for the coming season.

*-Cathy Roma*

## **Sunday Coffee Hosts**

Coffee hosts for Sunday July 26 are: Hugh O'Neill, Sharon O'Neill and Krysta December

Coffee hosts for Sunday August 2 are: Carol Fencel, Trish Hoge and Rich Hoge

Coffee hosts for Sunday August 9 are: Cliff Shisler, Linda Heath and Marta Donahue.

*-Kim Stein*



## Among ourselves

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### Frankly Speaking....

Rev. Frank Carpenter is away on study and vacation leave. His last day as our Minister will be August 15. He is available until then for urgent pastoral calls. Rev. Denise Tracy will begin her service as our Interim Minister in mid August.

### Spiffy!

Over a dozen of our own here at St John's sweated and toiled with our own hands and tools, and the results are beautiful. Sharon and Jim Nichols, Ann Shuur, Pamela Wilz, Penny Shada, Judy Strong, Ethel Ingalls, Mira Rodwen, Frances May Brooks and her granddaughter (who also donated some plants), Bo Wachendorf, Greg Terhune, Marcia Schoeni, and John Carr brought our grounds to a more manageable level for the summer. It looks neat and tidy, and we have plants growing where weeds once thrived. Did you miss out? Not to worry. We'll have another clean-up day in September to remove the rest of the invasive plants, mulch for the winter, and weed the children's play area. Also, we may have opportunities for "adopt-a-garden" areas until then. If you are interested, contact Krysta December or let Josie in the office know.

*-Krysta December*

### Ordination Service Thanks

A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the Ordination Service and reception for Lucas Hergert on July 12 such a special event. Appreciation goes to Melanie Marsh and all the volunteers who made food and put together the reception, Cathy Roma, Rachel Kramer and our choir for their special music, and all the members of the St. John's family who came together to celebrate Lucas' ministry.

*-Bruce Beisner*

### Stand With Knoxville

On Sunday, July 27, 2008, a man walked into the sanctuary of my church--Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church--and opened fire. Two dedicated Unitarian Universalists were killed: Greg McKendry, an usher, and Linda Kraeger, a member of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church. Six other people were injured. Every member of our two congregations was affected. In the aftermath of that tragic morning, the surrounding community embraced us. We kept our hearts and our doors open, and love came rushing in from every direction. One year later, I remain deeply grateful for the countless hugs, cards, meals, and prayers that sustained us. I could not have known then that our commitment to love in the face of violence would inspire the Unitarian Universalist Association, to launch the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign. I couldn't be more pleased, however, because experience has taught me that brokenness can only be healed with love.

As we approach the first anniversary of the shooting, I ask you to join this campaign by pledging to stand on the side of love. Unfortunately, our experience is not unique. People across the nation face exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their immigrant status, sexual or gender orientation, religion, race, political views, among other identities. Such dehumanization must be challenged. This campaign invites people of every faith and belief to stand together in the name of love. Our nation is at a critical moment, when our collective voice and action can heal families, towns, cities, states, and nations. One week after the shooting, I returned to the pulpit to rededicate our sanctuary. I said, "A man came into this space with a desire to do an act of hatred, but he has unleashed unspeakable amounts of love." Join with me in that unleashing of love. I invite you to open your hearts and join thousands of others who are standing on the side of love. Join us by visiting [www.standingonthesideoflove.org/](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/)

*-Rev. Chris Buice, minister of the  
Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church*



# St. John's Church Calendar

## Sunday, July 19

- 10:30am: Community Worship Service
- 11:30am: Green Sanctuary Partners
- 12:00pm: July Art Reception
- 6:00pm : Settled Minister Search Committee

## Tuesday, July 21

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

## Wednesday, July 22

- 6:30pm: Caring Circle

## Thursday, July 23

- 10:00am: Meditation

## Saturday, July 25

- 10:00am: Worship Study Group

## Sunday, July 26

- 10:30am: Community Worship Service
- 11:30am: Search Committee Forum
- 6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## Tuesday, July 28

- 10:00am: Yoga

## Thursday, July 30

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

## Friday, July 31

- 6:30pm: Summer Potluck  
at the Marcia Schoeni's farm
- 7:00pm: Final Friday Game Night

## Saturday, August 1

- 4:00pm: Earth Spirit Lamas Gathering

## Sunday, August 2

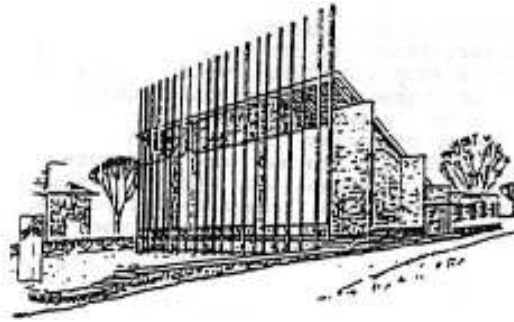
- 10:30am: Blessing of the Animals Service
- 6:00pm: Settled Minister Search Committee

## Tuesday, August 4

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

## Wednesday, August 5

- 7:00pm: Membership Committee



## From the fice

*By Josie Arens*

*St. John's Office Administrator*

Here is my schedule for the rest of this summer as it now stands. I will be taking vacation days on Thursday July 30, Thursday August 6, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday August 11, 12 and 13, and Friday September 4. Can anyone cover the office from 9-noon on any of these days?

Remember, the office is on summer hours, closed on Mondays and Fridays until September.

Thanks to Emily Hodges, Frances May Brooks Kathy Laufman, and Carolyn Banfield for you help last week.

Deadline for announcements for the order of service for Sundays through August 16 will be Tuesday mornings at 11am (not Wednesday).

## e-News Deadlines

Because of the summer schedule, please note the following deadlines for the St. John's e-News:

For week of July 20: Wednesday July 22 at 5pm

For week of July 27: Tuesday July 28 at 5pm

For week of August 3: NO e-News this week  
(Kari, our editor, will be on vacation)

For week of August 10: NO e-News this week  
(Josie will be on vacation)

## Thought of the Week

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“Life is no brief candle for me.  
It is a sort of splendid torch  
which I have got hold of for the moment,  
and I want to make it burn as brightly as I can  
before handing it on to future generations.”

- GEORGE BERNARD SHAW