
THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

February 8, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday February 15 at 11:00am

"Of the People, By the People and For the People"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

While a few days past Lincoln's 200th birthday, it's still Black History Month and so we'll pause to consider what slavery and the Union meant to this man.

Sunday February 22 at 11:00am

"The Power Of Envy"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

As liberals in religion, our perspective on human nature is that people are good. Liberals are nice. We'll take a brief look under the hood, and considers some daily temptations off the path of niceness.

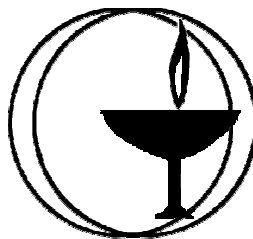
Contemporary Worship Services

Contemporary Worship services are on the first and third Sunday of each month. They begin at 9:00am and are held in Krolfifer Hall. Childcare is available.

Sunday February 15 at 9:00 am

"Happiness"

Do you know that Nepal actually measures their citizen's "happiness quotient"? Kari Olson brings forth the question, "Just what does it take to be happy?" An original member of our program planning team, Kari's service will include hip contemporary music and a special appearance by Oscar-nominated "actor," Wall-E !



Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Directors of

Religious Exploration

Omope Daboiku

Worship Coordinator

Omope Daboiku

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

Church Office

513-961-1938

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. February 19 at 5pm

Carpenter's Workshop

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Well, I've gone and done it. Today, I signed up at facebook.com. I also opened a blogging account. Another social networking site I've joined is Creative Worship Tour.

Why, you ask, have I taken such drastic measures? The immediate cause is that my UU ministers study group, Greenfield Group, has as its spring topic, **The Emergent Church and New Media** http://www.uugreenfieldgroup.org/current_reading_list.html I am preparing one of the papers, mainly about the Transcendentalist movement, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker & Co, as emergents in their day. Actually, for the first time we won't present papers, we will BLOG. SCREAM! I've never blogged. Today was sign up day for me. Not all of us have to blog, only presenters.

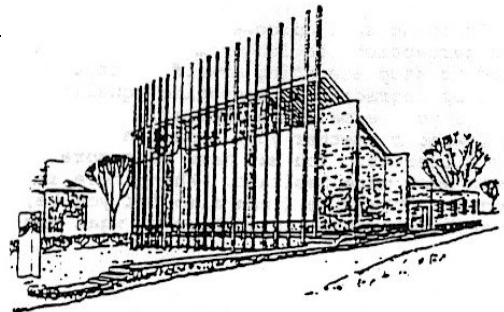
A lot of UU ministers are already blogging. You can go to UUPLANET and <http://discoveruu.com/> for a sense of what is going on. I have been working one way or another with computers since I typed punch cards in FORTRAN during my undergraduate days at MIT. For some years I was quite fascinated by the whole thing. I owned a Sinclair, an Osborne and then an Amiga, before succumbing to the PC. But now that my son is working in the field, I've slowed down. I'm feeling that we need to slow down and learn how to use email properly before entering these brave new worlds. It's too easy to click that 'reply' or 'reply all' button. But as an early print writer penned, time and tide wait for no one.

A truly inclusive agenda, which I think is at the core of St John's vision, requires us to be up to speed on some of this technology. Young people today communicate through social networking sites such as Facebook. As an historian, I look backward, but it is only to get a good bead on the future. The future belongs to others, our children and theirs. And today, I need to constantly be learning to keep up with them rather than asking them to linger with me.

Peace,
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.



⊕pportunities & Invitations

Lively After Fifty Dinner Out

Just for laughs, good eating, and conversation, the LAFs will be congregating at Ferrari's Little Italy on Friday February 13 at 6:30pm. The restaurant is at 7677 Goff Terrace just off Miami Road in Madeira. All St. John's and friends near or over 50 are welcome to come, but reservations are required. Please RSVP by contacting Jan Hay by Thursday February 12.

-Jan Hay

Tuesday Night Pizza Dinner

February 17 is Pizza Night at Tuesday Community Night. Dinner begins at 5:45 and the cost is \$5. To reserve, contact Nanda Araujo by no later than 4pm on Tuesday afternoon when I will be calling Adriatico's. If you can't arrive until later in that dinner hour, let me know and I will set aside slices. Also, you can tell me what you prefer on your pizza as well as what toppings are unacceptable and we'll see if we reach consensus.

-Nanda Araujo

Day of Dialogue

On Sunday February 22 from 2-5pm, First Unitarian Church will host a Day of Dialogue on "The Lemon Tree": A Palestinian, An Israeli, and the Heart of the Middle East. Inspired by the true family histories recounted by Sandy Tolan in "The Lemon Tree." Go beyond the sound bites. Deepen your understanding through listening to people of differing viewpoints and sharing your insights. Registration and refreshments will be at 1:30pm. The opening presentation begins at 2pm with facilitated small group break out sessions from 3:45-5pm. All are welcome to attend.

-Frank Carpenter

Sunday Adult Forums

February 15 - Human Trafficking: Anywhere from 4 to 27 million men, women and children are trafficked annually in the world today. In the US alone, an estimated 200,000 children are at risk for trafficking in the sex industry. How does this impact our daily lives and what can we do about it?

The discussion will be led by Ravensong Baumer

February 22 - Non-violence & Compassion: Nina Tolley will lead a discussion about how having compassion for ourselves may enable us to have more compassion for others. Does non-violence, "doing no harm," begin with forgiveness of ourselves?

If you have a subject of interest that you would like to discuss in a forum, contact Ethel Ingalls.

-Ethel Ingalls

Knitting for Peace

Knitted hats and scarves along with items from St. John's Christmas tree were donated to Taylor Academy (formerly Millvale Primary School). A thank you note from students is posted on a bulletin board near the entrance to the chapel. The Knitting for Peace group will continue to meet at 10am in the library on Sundays February 15 and March 1, 15 and 29. All skill levels are welcome. Call Debbie Combs for more information.

-Debbie Combs

Interweave Movie Night

Interweave's next movie night is scheduled for Friday evening February 20. We'll be showing a highly-rated, lesbian-themed, Indian movie titled "Fire." Doors open at 7:00pm and the film will begin at 7:30. Please bring food or drink to share. If you'd like a more comfortable chair than those available in Krolfifer, feel free to bring your own. Please join us for some food, fun, and fellowship and bring a friend or two. This event is free and open to the public. Interweave is St. John's social group for LGBT folks and their friends.

-Greg Terhune

Transylvanian Dinner on March 14

Dinner plans are underway for our 15th partner church dinner of Hungarian and Romanian foods with proceeds benefitting our Unitarian partner church in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania. The date is Saturday March 14 at 6 pm at St. John's. This year we are delighted to announce that our partner church minister, Rev. Mihaly Kiss and his wife, Rosza, will be joining us for the dinner. This is only Rev. Kiss's second visit to St. John's so this will be a wonderful time for celebration together. The dinner begins with hors d'ouvres and drinks in the lobby. The pre-dinner musical program in the sanctuary will feature the CSO Nouveau Chamber Players, a group of high school African American strings players who are coached by Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra staff. Dinner will follow in Krolfifer and the main dish will be a beef and pork Hungarian ragout or vegetarian mushroom croquets. This dinner is made possible by the generosity of St. John's volunteers of all ages who are table hosts, servers, cooks, and dinner set up and clean-up crews. Please look for the large bulletin board with volunteer opportunities and sign up to help beginning Sunday February 8. The dinner cost remains the same as in recent years, \$15 for adults and \$5 for the young children's dinner and activity program in Rosa Parks. Children in 5th grade through high school are asked to help with serving and clean-up the night of the dinner and a pizza dinner is provided for them. Questions? Contact Mary Darner.

*-Mary Darner
Friends of Szentlaszlo*



Music Series Concerts

Our next St. John's Music Series concert will be on Saturday February 21 at 8pm. The program is titled "Folk & More: Awaken to the Sounds of Cincinnati's Beloved Elberon" This band made up of eight of Cincinnati's finest folk musicians has been around for 30 years. Their name comes from the street in our beloved town, Elberon, and it has served them well. You can expect acoustic Celtic, country, folk, bluegrass, and fusion music, played with heart, soul, and audience-connecting sensitivity. St. John's own Chris Wagner penned some of the pieces, and is joined by favorites Betsy Lippitt, and members of the Kroner family. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door or in advance by calling the church office.

On March 8 at 3pm, we'll present a International Women's Day concert featuring the MUSE Women's Choir, the Bowling Green State University Women's Choir and the Indian Hill High School Girls Choir. This concert will be in place of the January 10 concert which was cancelled.

-The Music Committee

Unsung Hero Recommendations

Individual St. John's members are invited to submit recommendations with no more than a one paragraph explanation for the 2008 Unsung Hero award to Karolyn Schalk via email or in the Vice President's mailbox in the church office no later than February 15. The Unsung Hero Award honors outstanding effort during the January to December calendar year and may also recognize additional effort from prior years.

-Karolyn Schalk

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee Hour Hosts for February 15 are John Carr, Nina Tolley and Howard Tolley.

Coffee Hour Hosts for February 22 are Kathy Laufman, Bob Laufman and Jane Goetzman.

Coffee Hour Hosts for March 1 are Melanie Malaviya, Prasana Malaviya and Elizabeth Wilson.

-Tracy Flanagan

Among ourselves

Stewardship: From You I Receive

This year's annual pledge campaign will have as its theme "**From You I Receive.**" We will celebrate the many gifts each of us receives as a member or friend of the St. John's community. We'll also celebrate the many gifts we provide to others both here in Cincinnati and around the world. Stewardship Sunday, the kickoff of the pledge campaign, will be on Sunday, April 5th. Mark your calendars now so you'll be sure to attend. The upcoming campaign will involve individual pledge canvassers meeting with each potential St. John's financial supporter. Please help make this year's campaign another successful year by volunteering to help with the campaign when called upon.

*-Tom Darner
Stewardship Chair*

Taste of St. John's Dinner Signups Still Available!

A warm thank you from the Taste Team to all of you for supporting the bake sale, raffle and dinner signups last Sunday. We have raised about \$2200 so far—this could go up to \$3000 if all the seats at all the dinner offerings are taken, and there are some great offerings still open. Signups are posted in the social hall—find Rick Prairie to settle up your bill (or he will find you later!) A shout-out goes to many bakers who brought such a variety of goodies. Wondering who won the raffle? Sherry Tippey won the sweater and Bruce Beisner won the rocking chair. Congratulations!

-Wanda Crawford

♪ Return to Lender ♪

If you will bring back copies of the DVD "Voices of a Liberal Faith" that you've picked up at the Greeter's table...we can lend them out again. Thanks!

-Linda Heath

Exploring UU Class

Several times each year we invite visitors and frequent attendees to an orientation session about St. John's. The date this Spring is Saturday March 28. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, take a tour of the church, discuss some UU philosophy and history and learn about the programs and activities available at St. John's. The session starts at 9am with coffee and conversation and ends about 12 or 12:30 following lunch. Child care is provided if requested several days prior to March 28. Call the St. John's church office at 513-961-1938 or contact Kathryn McDonough to reserve a place and to let us know your dietary and childcare needs. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday March 25.

-The Membership Committee

CLF Letter Writing Ministry

Last Sunday, during the invitation to social action, I spoke about the UUA's Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) letter-writing ministry for the incarcerated. This program matches current UUs with prisoners wishing to have a pen pal. The correspondence is done using only first names. All letters from prisoners are funneled through the Boston officers of the CLF. Letters to prisoners use only a Boston return address. The only criteria for being a part of the program is that you have been a UU for six months. If you'd like more information about this program go to the CLF's website at <http://clf.uua.org/penpals.html> where you can read a synopsis of the program and, if you wish, preview the Notes and Guidelines. About 10% of the CLF's membership is comprised of incarcerated individuals and about half of that 10% participate in the letter writing program. The commitment is not overwhelming. Be prepared to write once a month to your pen pal with a commitment to try it for at least six months. I've been writing to my pen pal for over two years. I can tell you, it's an opportunity you won't want to miss. Contact me if you'd like to learn about my first hand experience in the program.

-Tom Darner

Adult Religious Education Opportunities at St. John's

Essence of Reality

Since publication of Tom Nehrer's unique perspectives on Consciousness/Reality in March, 2008, he has driven 23,000 miles to give over 60 talks to open-minded, seeking groups. Tom illustrates the Oneness with which life flows, showing how we each create patterns in our lives, weaving our own nature into recurring relationships, health issues and success/failure – and explaining how to delve inward to accomplish change. His insights cover various healing techniques, spiritual disciplines, indications of conscious survival beyond death, religions and teachings of great masters – exploring each in light of life's innate flow, but also exposing shortcomings and fallacy in those pathways. Tom comes highly recommended from other UU churches where he has spoken. There is a poster near the church office with more information about him. St. John's will host Tom to make his presentation on Presidents Day, Monday February 16 from 7-9pm. This lecture is free and open to the public, so please come and invite your friends.

Great Decisions series begins

It is time once again for our public affairs discussion series, based on material prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. A brief video will give additional information to the material presented in the text. Each week we will meet in the chapel on Sundays from 1-2:30pm. You are free to bring your lunch with you and enjoy some stimulating conversation. Dick Fencl will lead the programs, assisted by Frank Meyer. Registration is not necessary, and you may attend any or all of the programs without charge.

February 15 - U.S. and Rising Powers: Since the end of the Cold War, the U.S. has emerged as the world's predominant power. However, in



the 21st century some rapidly developing countries have become increasingly influential. Who are these "rising powers?" Will their emergence change the global balance of power? How will the U.S. react?

February 22 - Afghanistan/Pakistan: Newfound hopes for stability in Iraq have shifted the U.S. military focus back to Afghanistan and Pakistan, one of the most volatile border regions in the world. What impact will this renewed interest have on the two states as well as on U.S. defense strategy?

March 1 - Energy and the Global Economy: Rising energy prices, driven by instability in key producing regions such as the Middle East and increasing demand from developing countries, are affecting the global economy. What are the potential consequences of huge wealth transfers to oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

In Between - Memoir of an Integration Baby

Book discussion will be held on Wednesday February 25 at 7:30pm. This is based on book by UU minister Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, an Afro-American who writes of his personal perspective on his upbringing, his ministry, and the world around him. It contains strong insights on racism, in both the church and the world. It is an interesting contrast to the view presented by Jack Sherman who recently spoke at St. John's.

Building Your Own Theology Cancelled

The Building Your Own Theology class scheduled for this winter/spring has been cancelled because only five people signed up. We will offer this course again soon.

UU It's Black ^ History Month!

Unitarian Universalists have a proud history of working for racial justice. Yet our movement has not historically been very racially diverse. There are many reasons for this, some of which stem from actions by some of our fore bearers who did not support people of color becoming UU leaders. In celebrating Black History Month, let us find inspiration in the stories of some amazing Unitarian and Universalist African American women and men from our past...

Don Speed Smith Goodloe (1878-1959)

Don Goodloe was born in Lowell, Kentucky in 1878, and attended Berea College before it became segregated in 1904. He became the second African American to be enrolled at the Meadville Unitarian Theological College and the first to graduate from the school. He pursued the Unitarian ministry even though her knew it was unlikely he would be ordained because, at the time, no congregation would accept a Black minister. Following his graduation, Goodloe became a teacher and went on to found Bowie State University in Maryland. His legacy is honored by our church in Bowie which is named the Goodloe Memorial Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Florida Ruffin Ridley (1861-1943)

Born and raised in Boston, Florida Ruffin Ridley graduated from Boston Teacher's College in 1880 and became the second African American woman to be appointed teacher in Boston Public Schools. She helped to organize the Woman's Era Club, the first Black women's civic organization in Boston in 1894. She was an essayist and short story writer who chronicled African American life and race relations in New England. Much of her work was published in the *Saturday Evening Quill*. She was a founding member of Second Unitarian Church in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Rev. W.H.G. Carter (1891-1962)

Rev. W.H.G. Carter trained as a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal church but found he disagreed with many of their beliefs, starting with the divinity of Jesus. He read about Unitarianism and in 1918 founded one of the only African American Unitarian churches in American history. His congregation, known as the Church of the Unitarian Brotherhood, was located in Cincinnati's West End. Rev. Carter also operated a friendly neighborhood pool hall and ran unsuccessfully as a Republican candidate for City Council. He was a dedicated provider of food, money, clothing, and advocacy to poor Blacks in Cincinnati. He and his church were ignored by the other Unitarian churches in Cincinnati, including St. John's, because they were poor and African American. When a representative from the American Unitarian Association came to town to investigate Rev. Carter's church, he was told by our Rev. Krolfifer that the West End church "did not amount to much" and "was in the wrong part of town." Lacking support and recognition from the denomination, the Church of the Unitarian Brotherhood closed its doors in 1938. In 2001, First Unitarian Church, working with Northern Hills Fellowship, set up a weekend of activities to acknowledge this chapter in our history and the begin the process of reconciliation. Over 100 members of Rev. Carter's family attended, as did many members of St. John's.

Read more stories of African American UUs at www.uusankofa.org!

-Bruce Beisner



Church Calendar

Sunday February 8

- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
- 12:30pm: Budget Meeting w/Congregation
- 12:30pm: Leadership ID Meeting
- 12:30pm: Szentlaszlo Bread & Soup Lunch
- 1:00pm: Interweave Lunch at The Melt
- 4:00pm: Book Discussion "Without a Map"

Tuesday February 10

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 5:30pm: Leadership Development Council
- 5:45pm: Conversation with Minister Brown Bag
- 7:00pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill
- 7:00pm: Dharma Reader
- 7:00pm: Life Lines Holding On and Letting Go

Wednesday February 11

- 10:00am: Chalice Group - Hadden
- 5:30pm: Executive Board Meeting
- 7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)
- 7:15pm: Chalice Group-Strong

Thursday February 12

- 10:00am: Meditation
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday February 13

- 6:30pm: Lively After Fifty Dinner

Saturday February 14

- Valentine's Day*
- 9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal

Sunday February 15

- 9:00am: Contemporary Service
- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 10:00am: Knitting For Peace
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
- 12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners
- 1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion
- 1:00pm: Non Violent Communications

Monday February 16

- President's Day*
- Church Office Closed
- 7:00pm: Adult RE- Essence of Reality

Tuesday February 17

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 5:45pm: Community Pizza Night
- 7:00pm: Life Lines Holding On and Letting Go
- 7:00pm: Living in Balance
- 7:00pm: YADA for Young Adults

Wednesday February 18

- 8:30am: Staff Meeting
- 6:30pm: Board of Trustees Meeting
- 7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday February 19

- 10:00am: Meditation
- 5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday February 20

- 7:00pm: Interweave Movie Night

Saturday February 21

- 10:00am: RE Vision w/B Weber
- 8:00pm: Music Series Concert Folk & More

From the office

*By Josie Arens
St. John's Office Administrator*

If you are member or friend of St. Johns, have a email address, but you do not receive the Weekly eNews or all church emails that occasionally go out, please email Josie your email address so her records can be updated. You may have noticed the last couple of weeks that the announcement page insert in the order of service is on a different size layout. (1 page back to back) Running it this way saves the use of paper compared to the way it was being done. Bruce Beisner has returned from his studies in Chicago and has resumed his duties as our newsletter editor. Please start forwarding all your submissions for The Reporter to Bruce. A special thank you to Marty Harrington who put together the newsletter while Bruce was away.

Thought of the Week

“Hierarchy and control lose out to community, collaboration, and self-organization.”

-Anne-Marie Slaughter,
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Jan./Feb. 2009,
on the coming world of the 21st century.