

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

February 22, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday March 1 at 11:00am

"Shanti, shalom; hasita, salaam; heiwa, dohiyi; pax, paco, mir... Peace."

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

These different words for peace from different cultures remind us that love of neighbor, reaching out across cultures and boundaries are at that heart of all faiths. The Choir will sing "All Lifted Hearts" based on our UUA *Sources* with lyrics by Kendyl Gibbons and music by Jason Shelton, celebrating the golden rule in all faiths.

Sunday March 8 at 11:00am

"Being a Conscientious Objector"

Guest speaker Dr. Jim Crocker-Lakness was a Conscientious Objector during Vietnam. With no current military draft we do not think of this as an issue today, but, military registration is still required. Jim will talk about his on personal journey and will talk about current issues in Conscientious Objector status. Jim is a professor of Communications at University of Cincinnati and a member of Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church. He is a past president of the UU Council and has been active in our denomination a long time.

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 March 1 at 9:00 am

"The Regenerative Power of Life"

Spring is just around the corner. What's blooming in your soul?

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. March 5 at 5pm

Carpenter's Workshop

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

According to the rhyme, "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe the horse was lost. For want of a horse the rider was lost. For want of a rider the battle was lost. For want of a battle the kingdom was lost. And all for the want of a horseshoe nail."

Just what happened to the nail in the first place we don't know, but in these financial short times it's easy to imagine someone thought they'd save a quarter. They were being cheap, not frugal. There's a big difference between frugality and cheapness. Perhaps the main difference is cheapness is driven by anxiety, frugality results from thoughtfulness.

Googling on "cheap frugal" results in some thoughtful distinctions. When we're in cheap mode, we worry about the cost of something; in frugal mode, we wonder about its value. Cheap people keep track of what their friends, family, and co-workers spend. Cheap people and frugal people both look for deals, but frugal folk know it's a negotiation and they are not entitled. Cheap people think short term; frugal people think long term.

An important step is recognizing when resources dry up, the time has come to reassess how to allocate our limited supplies. If a child's allowances drops from \$25/ week to \$5, it's a learning opportunity. Time to ask what's really important? Jobs are disappearing; retirement funds turning into someone else's ponzi scheme. First things first.

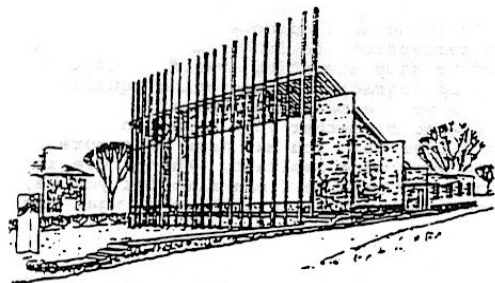
Organizations as well as individuals need to seize the day. Crisis? Opportunity? Time to ask what are we about; what is St. John's about? As the congregation of St. John's spends the next months pondering digits, why not ask, what's it all about?

What's important to you? How is it an integral part of St. John's? How are you an integral part of St. John's?

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

Sunday Adult Forums

"We Are Gentle Angry People" will be the subject of the forum on Sunday March 1 led by Bruce Beisner. Whether we like it or not, we all get angry. We'll talk about what really makes us angry and the powerful emotions that come at these times. What do we do with moral outrage? How can we embrace our anger and transform it into a force for spiritual growth? Is it ever acceptable to be angry? Join the group for a discussion of this often troublesome topic.

On Sunday March 8th, Susan Montauk will lead a discussion on the book The Soloist by Steve Lopez. This is the book people all across the city are reading and discussing this month as part of the On The Same Page campaign. There is still time to find a copy and read it so you can join our discussion. What does a homeless man who studied at Julliard and plays a two-stringed violin on a street corner have to teach the pragmatic journalist who befriends him? Whose world was changed more by their interaction? Come and share your insights.

-Ethel Ingalls

International Women's Day Concert on March 8

The St. John's Music Series will present the MUSE Women's Choir, the Women's Chorus of Bowling Green State University and the Indian Hill High School Women's Choir in a special concert commemorating 100 years of International Women's Day. The concert will be on Sunday March 8 at 3:00pm at St. John's. Tickets are \$15 for one adult and one child, \$10 for students, and \$5 for kids under 12. Tickets are available through the St. John's church office.

-The Music Committee

Final Friday Game Night

Have you got the winter blahs? Well, perhaps a little family-friendly board gaming would brighten your week! Please join us at 7pm on Friday February 27 in Krolfifer Hall for an evening of friendly (or not) competition. As always, there will be several games to choose from, or feel free to bring your own. We start at 7 and are often still playing at midnight, so feel free to drop in whenever your schedule permits. See Pete Asman or Karen Miller for further info.

-Karen Miller

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 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

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 March 1, 15 and 29. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, call Debbie Combs.

-Debbie Combs

CSO Nouveau Chamber Players to Perform at Transylvanian Dinner on March 14

This year's Transylvania dinner on Saturday March 14 will feature music by the CSO Nouveau Chamber Players. This group of outstanding high school strings players sponsored by the Corbett Foundation perform at many events in the Cincinnati area. We are pleased to have them lead off the evening's festivities. The evening will also be special with the attendance of our partner church minister, the Rev. Mihaly Kiss and his wife, Rozsa, from Romania. Get your tickets early as we expect seating to be limited. Adult tickets are only \$15; children's tickets \$5. Scholarships are available. Also, offer to help with the dinner by signing up for one of the volunteer opportunities listed on the bulletin board at church. Contact Mary Darnier for more information.

- Friends of Szentlaszlo



First Friday Flicks

Please join us on Friday March 6 at 7pm for "The Cats of Mirikitani." Filmmaker Linda Hattendorf becomes an integral part of the action in this heartfelt documentary about her efforts to help aging Japanese-American artist Jimmy Mirikitani get off the streets of New York City and make peace with his complicated past. As she and Jimmy sift for long-lost relatives and even revisit the internment camp where he was forced to spend several years during World War II, Hattendorf hauls her camera along to capture every moment. A discussion will follow the film. As always, feel free to bring your own chair for comfort's sake. Contact Karen Miller or Debbie Combs with any questions.

-Karen Miller

Adult Religious Education News

Great Decisions Series:

Our Great Decisions series meets on Sundays after church, from 1-2:30pm in the Chapel. March 1 topic will be "Energy and the Global Economy", led by Frank Meyer. 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 by oil-exporting states? Are there any realistic alternative energy scenarios on the horizon?

The following week, March 8, the topic will be "The Arctic Age." Rising global temperatures have created new opportunities in the Arctic for resource extraction and intercontinental transport. How will sovereignty disputes among the five countries that border the Arctic affect its potential development? What impact will this race for the Arctic have on an environment already in serious flux?

Book Discussions:

In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby, by Mark Morrison-Reed on Wednesday February 25 from 7:30pm to 9:00pm. This new book by a retired African American UU minister is a frank personal account of growing up in an interracial family

during the era of the Civil Rights movement.

All Souls: A Family Story from Southie, by Michael Patrick MacDonald. This national bestseller is the story of a Boston neighborhood with the highest concentration of white poverty. Integration and busing take on a different aspect when seen from the Irish-American point of view. Join us on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at noon and bring your brown bag lunch.

Planning for Spring:

We are in the process of deciding what Adult Religious Education programming will be offered this spring at St. John's. If you have any input, please contact Carol Fencl, Adult RE Chair.

-The Adult RE Committee

Among ourselves

Got the Return-to-Winter Blues?

Reach out for warm food and hot conversation with fellow St. Johners! Several Taste of St. John's offerings still have seats available. How about Easter dinner celebrated the UU way? Or a mini-vacation (1 evening only!) to the Burgundian region of France, hosted by the intrepid Haddens? Or an elegant evening of Spanish/Portuguese cuisine? Or an encore of "Talking with Your Mouth Full"? Or a folksong singalong? Prices are \$5-35, depending on the event, and all proceeds go to St. John's operating budget. Check out the sign-up sheets posted in Krolfifer and reserve today!

-Wanda Crawford

Donate Your Old Eyewear

Any time during the month of March please bring in any reading or eye glasses you are not using that you would like to donate to in need individuals. They will be distributed to the Free Store and Homeless Shelters. Many of us have eye glasses that no longer do the trick or glasses we have simply set aside because they are out of style or for whatever reason we no longer use them. The Sunday Morning Chalice Group hopes you will donate these eye glasses and the accompanying cases, when available, to those in need. Just think how frustrating it must be to be limited by not having the proper glasses to read or do other important daily tasks. There will be a box in the Krolfifer Hall where you can simply deposit your unused glasses. Please help supply eye glasses to those in need by bringing your glasses to St Johns. Any questions, please contact Jim Nunn.

-Jim Nunn

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for March 1 are: Prasanna and Melanie Malaviya, and Elizabeth Wilson. Coffee hour hosts for March 8 are: Carole Baker, Ric Rowland and Jonena Jones.

-Kim Stein

Talent Search

The floor is now open for nominations to more than fifteen elected positions including Vice President/President Elect, Finance, Administrative and Religious Development Council Directors, three Fund Trustees, and seven members of a search committee for a new settled minister. The job description and Board Member's responsibilities for each position can be found in the Members' Corner at www.stjohnsuu.org. The Nominating Committee would like to hear from members willing to be considered for positions as soon as possible, but no later than March 7. Non-members wishing to vote and/or to run for office must sign the membership book no later than Sunday March 8 ninety days prior to in the June 7 congregational elections. Any individual who submits a nomination signed by five members before the close of nominations on May 1 is assured a place on the ballot.

ELECTED POSITIONS TO BE FILLED AT JUNE 2009 ELECTION

(all positions for 2 year terms unless otherwise indicated):

President (2nd year of VP vacancy filled by appointment through June 09): Carolyn Schalk

- **Vice President 2009-10/President 2001-11**
- **Council Director/Board Members:**
 - Administrative
 - Community (Melinda Smith appointed through June 2009 eligible for election to 2nd year)
 - Finance
 - Religious Development
- **Nominating Committee:** 3 nominees required for 2 positions
- **3 Fund Trustees:** 2 to serve 2 year terms, one
- **Settled Minister Search Committee:** Seven members, some likely to serve with a new 2010-11 Committee on Ministry. A search committee for a 2009-10 interim minister will be appointed by the Board to serve thru Aug.

If willing to volunteer your talent, proposing a nominee, or needing additional info, contact: Howard Tolley, Wanda Crawford, Bill Gordon, or Francis May Brooks.

It's A Mystery!

Where is our new announcement board? You have seen it in the foyer for the last few months just inside the front door. It's used to give newcomers as well as frequent attenders, members and friends current information about upcoming services and events. We'd love to see it back in the coat closet. If you know what might have happened to it, please call the office to leave a message. Josie will know whom to contact. Thanks to helping resolve this problem.

-Barbara Hadden

District & National UU Conventions Coming Up

Our **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)** is holding its annual meeting, better known as **General Assembly (GA)**, in Salt Lake City on June 24-28. There will be six general areas of content: Justice Ministries; Lighting the Leadership Chalice; Theology in a Secular Age; Governance: Generosity, Ministry across the Generations; and Soul Work: Multi-Cultural Community. Participants select one of these "tracks" when they register.

Can't make it to Salt Lake City for almost a week? Why not join other UUs from KY, IN, OH and MI for our **Heartland District Annual Meeting** on April 3-5 in Muncie, IN.? Most activities take place on Saturday. The theme of this meeting is: A Heritage of Peace, Love and Justice. Listen to keynote speakers, participate in workshops, enjoy an evening of music and dance, worship together (Young Adult Worship Friday at 9:30pm). Make it a family weekend-supervised activities utilizing Safe Congregation Guidelines are available for children- including a field trip to the Muncie Children's Museum and pottery making. For more details (costs, carpooling, hotels, room sharing, and delegate status) please contact Penny Shada.

-Penny Shada

PAGE 6 *The Reporter February 22, 2009*

Can We Be Greener?

From a climate point of view, it is very difficult to justify bottling water, often tap water to begin with, hauling it long distance and selling it for outlandish prices. Although clever marketing has convinced many consumers that bottled water is safer and healthier than what they can get from their faucets, a detailed study by the World Wide Fund for Nature could not find any support for that claim. It notes that in the United States and Europe there are more standards regulating the quality of tap water than of bottled water. (Lester R. Brown, Plan B 3.0)

Now some reports are telling us that the water bottles themselves may not be good for our health. Part of what we do as good stewards of our world is assess the quality of the information we are presented with by the marketers on TV, in magazines, on billboards. We need to ask ourselves why anyone started bottling water in the first place. Can we justify the carbon emissions produced by bottling water when safe water is readily accessible at our faucets?

-Green Sanctuary Partners

News from The Mountain

Summer Camp Registration is open:

MountainCamp 2009 dates have been announced and applications are now being accepted for programs at The Mountain, our UU conference and retreat center in western North Carolina. Programs are planned for elementary through high school age youth. A number of young people in our church family have found this to be a wonderful experience - check it out today.

Spring programs:

Living from the Inside Out- March 26 to 29

Take some time off from the everyday stress and join us in the beautiful natural setting of The Mountain for an extended weekend of creating self-awareness and community. Cost: \$250 for adults, \$175 for students

Women's Retreat Weekend- April 17 to 19

This is an opportunity for women to get together and gain strength through being part of a community, yet also through giving yourself time for self-reflection and energy renewal. Cost: starts at \$148

For more information or to register, visit the website at www.mountaincenters.org.

-Carol Fencl, Mountain Ambassador

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday February 24

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 5:45pm: Community Brown Bag Dinner
- 7:00pm: Dharma Reader
- 7:00pm: Life Lines- Holding On & Letting Go

Wednesday February 25

- 7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)
- 7:30pm: Book Discussion "In Between"

Thursday February 26

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

Friday February 27

- 7:00pm: Final Friday Game Night

Saturday February 28

- 9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal
- 10:00am: CGCC
- 5:30pm: Accent09 Celebration Concert

Sunday March 1

- 9:00am: Contemporary Service
- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 10:00am: Knitting For Peace
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
- 11:00am: RE First Sunday Service
- 1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion
- 1:00pm: Non Violent Communications
- 1:00pm: Our Whole Lives (OWL)
- 6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday March 3

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 5:45pm: Community Dinner
- 7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion
- 7:15pm: Chalice Group-Luersson

Wednesday March 4

- 7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday March 5

- 8:30am: Staff Meeting
- 10:00am: Meditation
- 5:00pm: REPORTER Deadline
- 6:00pm: Music Committee
- 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday March 6

- 7:00pm: First Friday Flicks

Sunday March 8

- 10:00am: Adult Forum
- 11:00am: Community Worship Service
- 12:30pm: Adult RE Registration
- 12:30pm: Town Hall Meeting
- 1:00pm: Great Decisions Discussion
- 1:00pm: Interweave Lunch
- 3:00pm: International Women's Day Concert

Tuesday March 10

- 10:00am: Yoga
- 5:45pm: Conversation w/Minister Brown Bag
- 7:00pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill
- 7:00pm: Dharma Reader



From the ffice

By Josie Arens

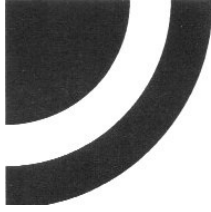
St. John's Office Administrator

A kindly reminder - If your group or committee has scheduled an event that was put on the calendar but then the event is canceled for some reason, please notify me and let me know so I can remove the event from the calendar and I **do not print on the calendar in the order of service something that is not happening**. This will also free up space for groups that had requested space but could not meet because the room they needed was in use previously. Thanks.

Thought of the Week

Cherish your doubts, for doubt is the servant of truth.
Question your convictions, for beliefs too tightly held strangle the mind
and its natural wisdom.
Suspect all certitudes, for the world whirls on -- nothing abides.
Yet in our inner rooms full of doubt, inquiry and suspicion,
let a corner be reserved for trust.
For without trust there is no space for communities
to gather or for friendships to be forged.
Indeed, this is the small corner where we connect
and reconnect with each other.

-Michael Schuler



St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

320 Resor Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45220

January 15, 2009

Friends and Members of St. John,

I write to share with you, that after serving as your Minister since August 2002, I have decided to move on to other adventures. Our work together has been a great journey. In conversation with the Board, August 15, 2009 is my final day serving as the pastor of St John's.

We have reason to feel good about our common work in the past years. I look forward to hearing what you recall as highlights from our years together. Among mine are:

- Our Chalice Groups have brought the small groups ministry concept to St. Johns.
- St John's received The Friends of the Collaborative Award for working with the *Community Police Partnering Center* to "help create a safer Cincinnati."
- Our Policy on Congressional Initiatives provides a non-divisive means of addressing controversial social issues, implemented on the Death Penalty, Gay Rights in the City Charter, and the Peace Initiative.
- The UUA's "Peacemaking Congregational Study and Action Issue" has lead to deep engagement by the congregation.
- The Contemporary Worship exploration has expressed St John's ambitious interest in responding to diverse worship needs which we continue to perfect to meet our vision.
- Our Safe Congregation Policy has enhanced our mission to be a safe community, protecting everyone, especially our youth from abuse.
- Our pledge of mutual support to one another between St John's and our Partner Church in Naradszentlászlo.
- Our development of the responsibilities of the Minister as Head of Staff.
- Expanded understanding of professional development through sabbaticals for Settled Ministers and the Ministers of Music

St. John's will continue to make its historic and exciting contributions to its members, the Tri-State region, and humanity as well as the denomination. I am honored to have played a part.

Peace,

Frank

(Rev.) Frank W. Carpenter, D.Min.

February 11, 2009

To The Congregation of St. John's,

Our spiritual leadership is going to change. We have accomplished a lot with Frank in the seven years he has been with us. His list of highlights covers the most public and obvious of our work together. It makes no mention of the many instances of care he has given to individuals and groups over that time. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf and wish him well in his future adventures.

We can look forward to our next adventure together too – hiring an interim minister and selecting a settled minister. The searches will be organized using the UUA Interim and Settled Search Handbooks and recommendations as a guide. Over the period of the search processes town hall and other forums will be organized to give you a chance to ask questions about what's going on, regular status announcements will be made in the Reporter and on the web site. The timeline for the processes will be posted in the near future.

Interim Search

A committee appointed and guided by the Board of Trustees conducts the process of hiring an interim minister. The selection of this committee is underway. The hiring process begins in March and the interim begins at the start of the new church year in September. Our current plan is to hire an interim on a year contract.

Settled Search

A special committee handles the Settled Minister search process. This committee will be presented to and approved by the congregation at our June Congregational meeting. The formation and activities of the Settled Search committee overlap the Interim search activities. The Settled Search Committee also becomes the new minister's Committee on Ministry.

There is a lot of work ahead of us, it will be rewarding and interesting work. A search is just another kind of journey and I look forward to your company on the trip.

In community,

Karolyn Schalk

Karolyn Schalk
Vice President, The Board of Trustees