

# THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

April 5, 2009

## Community Worship Services

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

### Sunday April 12 at 11:00am

*"Celebrating Rebirth"*

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Rituals of rebirth and resurrection are among the oldest promises that we have for a renewal of our hopes. As poetry and song, they contain much hope for us as we find ourselves in a new world.

### Sunday April 19 at 11:00am

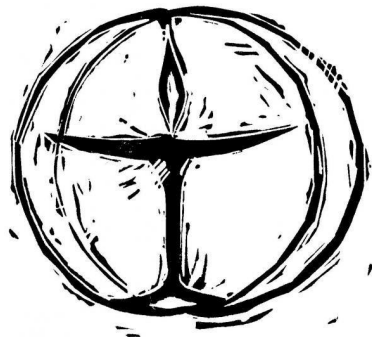
*"Earth Day"*

Our YRUU high school youth, along with the Green Sanctuary Partners Committee, will present this service which promises to be "enlightening and entertaining." Please come out and support our future church leaders.

## 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.

**Our next Contemporary Service will be on Sunday April 19.**



### 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

### 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

Thursday April 16 at 5pm

# Frankly Speaking...

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

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Rebirth is visible now. For well over a month it was in the air, perhaps invisible but for the promise of lengthening days. Now crocuses have broken through the earth; tulips splashing color. I am counting violets, only a few so far: my favorites reminding me of my Mother.

After a long cold, dead season, we need rebirth. Just to walk a bit more freely helps. We get back into that sense that we too are part of nature, instead of fighting it. It is time to revisit the old cults of rebirth and resurrection. Perhaps even they have been part of the discarded past, but in a new time, a rejoicing of rebirth, metaphor and song, poetry and dreams can renew the roots of our old hopes, overcome the old disappointments. Do we not want to see infinitely further than the finite reach of our actions? If our dreams are limited by our practice, we are poor shriveled things. Let us dream again this season of rebirth.

I'm going to be busy reinventing myself. The Monday after Easter, I go off to a UUA seminar for 'mature' ministers, entitled "Culminating Chapter" in which we will explore what our legacies might be. We'll also bring our financial portfolios to see if we can gain some wisdom for coping in the current economy. Then the following Monday I go to Houston for the UUA's Interim Training, as I plan to take up once again the Interim Ministry. I really felt very useful as an interim but did not like packing my bags every year or so. I'll see what it is like once again.

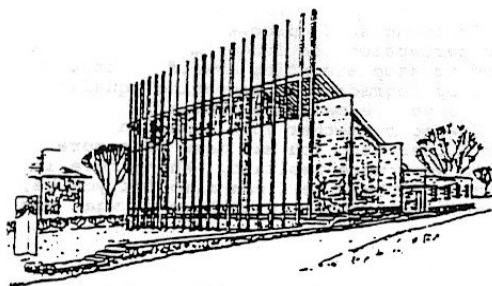
Reinventing myself is for me part of this season of rebirth. It's time for me to shake some dust off my feet, or at least some of those old reports off my desk, and get ready for the next stage of life, as they call it. We shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye, says the good book.

Let it come!

*Frank*

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**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.



# Opportunities & Invitations

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## **Plant Swap on April 19**

Rain or Shine, plant swapping should be fine. Now is a great time to divide those plants and get some free ones in return. Bring your sprouts and extra plants Sunday April 19 and we'll do our swapping in the front yard between our services (10 to 10:45am). Or, if you have no offerings, you can make a donation and pick up something new. It's a great way to celebrate Earth Day.

*-Jan Hay  
Publicity Committee  
and Yew Yew Garden Club*

## **Knitting for Peace**

Please join us in the library from 10:00-10:45am on Sunday mornings for knitting and conversation. We'll meet on April 19, May 3, May 17, and May 31. After that, we'll take a break for the summer and resume in the fall. Our last donation of hats and scarves went to Crayons to Computers, a free store for teachers from low income schools. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Call Debbie Combs for information.

*-Debbie Combs*

## **LAFS (Lively After Fifty) Dinner**

The Old Spaghetti Factory, one of our favorites, will be our destination for our second Friday outing in April. We'll gather there (6230 South Gilmore in Fairfield) at 6:30pm on April 10 for dinner and conversation. All St. John's members and friends approaching or over 50 are welcome to attend. We especially enjoy meeting newcomers. Reservations are required by April 9 by contacting Jan Hay. Carpooling from the church can be arranged if requested.

*-Jan Hay*

## **Adult Forums on Sunday Mornings at 10am**

**Sunday April 12** –“What You Wanted to Know About Solar Panels.” John Fanselow will provide information and answer questions regarding what is involved in the installation of solar panels on your home. Are they a good deal for you? Does home orientation or building style change your options? If you have been curious but have not had the opportunity to get your questions answered, here is your chance.

**Sunday April 19-** “What's Working In Avondale” Fulton Jefferson will tell us about the programs of the Avondale Community Council and Youth Council aimed at reducing violence, creating a sense of community and improving housing. This forum is a follow-up to Jack Sherman's sermon in which he challenged us to be talking about race in Cincinnati. Avondale's Cease Fire program was implemented last year. Come and learn more.

Adult Forums are held from 10:00 to 10:45am downstairs in the Darwin Room next to the Library. If you have a forum subject you would like to discuss, contact Ethel Ingalls.

*-Ethel Ingalls*

## **Interweave Potluck & Movie Night**

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krollfifer on Friday evening April 17. The doors will open at 6:30 for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to begin at 7:30pm. We'll be showing the movie “But I'm a Cheerleader” (rated R). It's a humorous look at a serious topic (reparative therapy).

We'd also like to use this as an opportunity to discuss upcoming plans for Interweave. This will include our involvement in the Pride parade and festival, as well as what type of future events we'd like to plan (such as picnics, lunches, camping trips, or anything else you can brainstorm!). Interweave is St. John's social group for LGBT folks and their friends. Everyone is invited to join us.

*-Greg Terhune*

# Among ourselves

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## Summary of the Board Meeting March 19, 2009

### Decisions:

Interim Search Committee named: Tracy Flanagan, Winnie Goodridge, Barbara Hadden, Karen Heaster, Waltke Paulding, Nina Tolley. This group will review prospective Interim Ministers and make a recommendation to the Board.

Salary approved for Interim Minister as a Total Ministerial Compensation package of \$65,000 for the year.

### Discussions:

-Discussion of the salary range for the settled minister who will follow the Interim Minister.

-Congregation will vote on the slate for the Settled Search Committee at the June 7 meeting.

Applications are currently being accepted.

-UUA Trauma Response Ministry will work with church members March 27-29.

-Building Use Committee – decided to allow Brighter Day Victory Temple to use rooms in the building at a discounted rate on June 6.

-Discussion of the Contemporary Service and Young Adult Ministry at St. John's. These two are linked because the UUA's Young Adult and Campus Ministry grant funds the Contemporary Service. That office has suggested changing to a focus on Young Adult Ministry and dropping the service. Discussed how to incorporate the many positive things the Contemporary Service has brought and how we might meet the needs of those served by it should the service be dropped. Decision to be made at next month's board meeting.

Upcoming financial meetings: Budget hearings after church on May 3, 10, & 17. Special Board budget meeting on May 13 with Board budget approval on May 20. Congregational approval of budget at the June 7 meeting.

*-Carol Fencl, Secretary to the Board*

## Quilt for the Kenney Family

St. Theresa's Treasure Trove on Hamilton Avenue is collecting squares to be made into a quilt to keep Esme's memory alive. It will be given to her family when completed. Quilt blocks should be made to be 12"x12" when finished. If you want to participate make a block that's 13"x13" or 14"x14" and leave a seam allowance. You can use beads, paint or anything else. Please let me know if you can help with this wonderful project. I will collect and deliver the squares.

*-Barbara Hadden*

## Planning for Summer Potlucks

The potlucks in Krolfifer will end May 5. Through the summer months (June to September), I hope to line up at least twice monthly potlucks at people's homes/yards. At one time, St. John's had weekly potlucks and it really worked well to keep us in touch. Please let me know if you are willing to host and when. Another option is to host at a park. A host need only provide something cold to drink and the plates, utensils, and napkins. Guests will bring the rest. Tuesdays are preferred but we can also be flexible. Contact Jan Hay to line up a date for hosting or for questions/suggestions.

*-Jan Hay*

## Photo Board Picture Taking

Sam Cauffield will be taking pictures for the new picture board, after the 11:00 service on April 19 and 26. If your picture isn't on the new board and you wish to have a picture there, please plan to have your picture taken on these dates. Pictures can be individual or family. In addition, we are soliciting contributions for a second picture board and picture holders for it. The cost will be approximately \$250. Send checks made out to St. John's UU Church with a notation that they are for the picture board. Please send to the church office.

*-Membership Committee*

## Spring All Council Meeting

Committee Chairs and interested committee members mark your calendars for the Spring All Council Meeting coming up on Saturday morning, April 25. We'll work on a new strategic framework and revisit our mission statement.

*-Karolyn Schalk*

## Pledge Campaign Has Started

This year's pledge campaign is already underway. If you were at church on Sunday, April 5th, you will have had a chance to complete and submit your pledge card in support of the 2009/2010 operating budget. If you weren't at church on the 5th, you'll be receiving a mailing with your pledge card and pledge guide. If, for some reason, you do not receive a pledge card either on the 5th or by mail during the week of the 5th, please contact Tom Darner, our Stewardship Chair. Tom will see that you get your card. If you'd like to look at this year's pledge card and pledge guide on-line, you can do so by going to the St. John's website and entering the "Members Corner". You'll see a section for stewardship and pledging. If you click on the reference to the pledge card and pledge guide, you'll be able to see both and download them if you wish. We are strongly urging our members and friends to consider paying their pledges by electronic transfer directly from a bank account to St. John's. Rick Prairie, St. John's financial secretary, can help you make the arrangements. We hope you will use this year's pledge guide in making a pledge that reflects both your annual income and your commitment to our St. John's community. **Next year's budget will be tight so we ask that you be as generous as possible.** Please return your pledge card to St. John's by April 20. St. John's members will be voting on next year's budget at our annual meeting scheduled for June 7. **Act today to make sure that St. John's remains financially strong.**

*-Your Stewardship Committee*

## RE-ally!

*By Omope Daboiku*

*St. John's Director of Religious Education*

Your RE team is busy planning activities to support our Intergenerational Service on **Easter Sunday, April 12**. You can help by volunteering to donate 50 pennies to hide inside plastic eggs (10 allies needed), donating a bag of regular jelly beans (5 allies needed), or by contributing a special snack or baked good for the "Children's Coffee Hour", which will be at the north end of Krolfifer. Our PK-K class will have a plastic "egg" hunt (filled with pennies and candy) during the 11am worship service; and, children and adults will be invited to design boiled, pre-colored eggs with markers, stickers, and decoupage afterwards. We have 4 dozen promised; but, if your family is coloring eggs and you want to bring a few to design at church, feel free. It's going to be fun! Call Omope or send e-mail confirmation to volunteer.

Other upcoming activities include **YRUU-led Earth Day Service on April 19 at 11am**. Our teenagers, along with our Green Sanctuary committee, are designing this service which promises to be enlightening and entertaining. Please come out and support our future church leaders.

**CON news:** Those that attended Senior High CONtemple at TJUU in Louisville reported having a really good time. Specifically mentioned were the workshop on White Privilege, mentoring youth leadership, and enjoying the company of others on the ride to and from the event. Jr. Hi CONabulation is coming up; see Edie Holder for more information. Your **RE Visioning Team** (M Malaviya, B Wilson, N Colegrove, J Guenther, C Prairie) is asking for input on other family or intergenerational activities for our RE Program, such as the Spring Tea Party, Family Ritual Workshops, and a monthly intergenerational Social Service Project. Drop a message in Omope's RE box in the Office or bend our ears at Coffee Hour.

## Transylvania Dinner a Success!

This year's Transylvania dinner, held in support of St. John's partner congregation in Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania, was another huge success. Attendance at the dinner was over 135 people. We're not sure we could have seated many more. We were able to net \$1,836.14. In addition, our dinner guests, the Rev. Mihaly and Rozsa Kiss, were able to take \$120 back to Romania for the Szentlaszlo women's group. While this year's dinner continued a string of 15 yearly successes, the Friends of Szentlaszlo have been discussing possible changes in the dinner for next year. We would like to hear your comments on the following issues: 1) Should the dinner continue to be held in March or should it be moved to the fall? 2) Should we continue to have a musical offering before or after the dinner and, if so, what kind of music should be offered? 3) Should a different type of food be offered? Perhaps Indian, Chinese, Italian, French, African, or Mexican instead of Hungarian/ Romanian! 4) Should ticket prices remain the same (currently \$15) or should they be raised? 5) Should we offer two smaller events instead of one large dinner that involves many volunteers from the congregation or should we even consider a fundraising event that is not a dinner? If you have thoughts on any of these issues or have other comments and ideas to offer, please send them to Tom Darner. On a separate note, the Kiss's indicated that they currently have sufficient funds to pay for the Bread for the Elderly Program through June. Additional funds have been sent which should carry the program into the fall.

*-The Friends of Szentlaszlo*

## In the Haehnle Gallery...

Our featured artist for May will be Barbara Boncheck. On display will be a collection of her hand drawn geo-motion designs titled "Dizzy Art." The exhibit will run from May 3 to June 1 with an opening reception on Sunday May 3 from 1:30 to 3:30pm. All St. Johners are invited to attend.

*-Barbara Boncheck*

## Planning for Next Year's Adult RE Classes

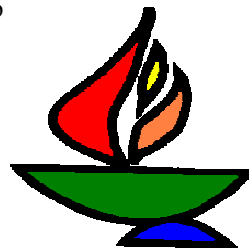
If you have participated in our Adult Religious Education classes in the past, you know what a varied set of offerings we have had. Now it is time to look ahead to the next church year to begin consideration of what we'll offer in the 2009-2010 Adult RE program. We will hold a meeting of those interested in giving input, suggesting classes or maybe even considering leading a group in the future. We have a good library of curricula, plus there is the opportunity to develop your own if desired. Coming to this meeting does NOT commit you to being on a committee, but it will allow you to participate in our planning. We will meet at St. John's on Wednesday evening April 29 at 7:30pm. Any questions, contact Carol Fencl.

*-Carol Fencl, Adult RE Chair*

## Hospitality in a Public Setting

On Wednesday April 8, the Unitarian Universalist Council of Greater Cincinnati is conducting the first workshop for the volunteers from our member congregations who will staff the UU booths at the Pagan Pride, Pride Alive and Juneteenth Cincinnati events this spring and summer. The workshop will cover the topics: how to make a meaningful connection in a busy, public setting; a unified approach to talking about our denomination; learning about one another's churches so we can speak knowledgeably and respectfully about them. The workshop will be held at Heritage UU Church in Anderson Township and will begin at 7pm. For more information, email [uucouncil@cinciuu.org](mailto:uucouncil@cinciuu.org). A repeat of the workshop will be held at Northern Hills Fellowship, date TBA.

*-UU Council of Greater Cincinnati*



## New Book by St. John's Member

A new novel has just been published by member Vivian Kline titled "Let Freedom Sing: of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Americans- An Historical Novel or Could It be a Musical?" This is a tale of real people who lived in Cincinnati plus others, making this story an easy read for high schoolers on up. The novel is available at Amazon.com or Joseph Beth. More description and excerpts of the novel are posted at [www.outskirtspress.com/leftfreedomsging](http://www.outskirtspress.com/leftfreedomsging) or you can talk to the author herself.

-Vivian Kline

## Get on the Bus on April 23

The Contact Center of Cincinnati will spearhead a statewide lobbying day in Columbus. We're lobbying for legislation to help low income families, with Kinship Care (grandparents caring for grandchildren) poverty reduction and health care for Ohioans. All lobbying information will be provided to those who attend. A bus will leave the Contact Center (1227 Vine St) at 7:30am and return that evening at 5pm from Columbus. Lunch is provided. A donation of \$10.00 covers your trip. If you cannot attend, consider donating to the Contact Center so that a low income person can be part of the action. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, contact Cassandra Barham.

- Judy Cirillo

## News from The Mountain

Our UU center in the mountains of North Carolina has announced spring and summer programs. See their website at [www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org) for complete information. Some of the highlights are:  
**Women's Retreat at The Mountain** (April 17-19) Picture yourself in the magnificent nature glory of the Mountain. All inclusive pricing of \$148 covers dinner Friday thru breakfast on Sunday, plus lodging.  
**Summer Camp** -registrations are still being taken for children and youth.  
**Annual Peace week** (August 12-17) several from St. John's have attended and found it an inspiring week. Special discounts available for young adults.

-Dick and Carol Fencel

## Walk Past Coal for a Sustainable Future

Join Footprints for Peace and Bellarmine Chapel at Xavier University for a peace walk on April 20 from 9am to 1:30pm. The beginning point is at Bellarmine Chapel at Xavier University and the end will be at Fountain Square. We will be walking five miles from XU to downtown, circling the Duke Energy headquarters on the way. The goal is to be in solidarity with a protest and civil disobedience on the same day in Charlotte NC against Duke's proposed coal-fired power plant and to send the message to Duke headquarters here as well that we don't want any more new coal-fired plants and an end to mountaintop removal. All four Duke coal-fired plants that feed Cincinnati get coal from mountaintop removal. There will be a 15-minute video and several speakers at the end at Fountain Square. For more information on this issue, visit [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org). For more information on the walk, contact Kathleen Smythe.

-Kathleen Smythe

## From the ffice

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

The office will be closed on Friday April 10th (there will be no office coverage this day) On Monday April 20 I will be out of the office. There will be office coverage from 9am-noon. If your group or committee have supplies/books etc.....shipped to the church for any reason- please request the company you are ordering from to mark the packages (office closes at 2pm -deliver by 2pm) Since I am actually here to 2:30 this gives the drivers a little lead way if they are running late. If we get missed deliveries three days in a row the item is returned to sender or held at the delivery depot and we have to pick it up. Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

*The Reporter, April 5, 2009* **PAGE 7**

# St. John's Church Calendar

## **Tuesday April 7**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Night Potluck  
7:00pm: Chalice Group-Luersson  
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion  
7:30pm: Book Group Discussion

## **Wednesday April 8**

10:00am: Chalice Group - Hadden  
5:30pm: Executive Board Meeting  
7:15pm: Chalice Group-Strong

## **Thursday April 9**

### **Passover**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology  
7:00pm: Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday April 10**

### **Good Friday**

Church Office Closed

## **Sunday April 12**

### **Easter**

9:45am: Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am: Adult Forum  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
12:15pm: Picture Taking Member/Friend Board

## **Tuesday April 14**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Potluck (Brown Bag)  
Conversation with the Minister  
7:00pm: Chalice Group-O'Neill  
7:00pm: Dharma Reader  
7:00pm: Writing As Spiritual Practice

## **Wednesday April 15**

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

## **Thursday April 16**

10:00am: Meditation  
5:00pm: Deadline for The Reporter  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology

## **Friday April 17**

6:30pm: Interweave Movie Night & Potluck

## **Saturday April 18**

9:00am: Contemporary Service Rehearsal  
6:00pm: Burgundy Dinner (from Taste)

## **Sunday April 19**

9:00am: Contemporary Service  
10:00am: Adult Forum  
10:00am: Knitting For Peace  
11:00am: Community Worship Service  
12:15pm: Picture Taking Member/Friend Board  
12:30pm: Green Sanctuary Partners  
12:30pm: Plant Swap  
1:00pm: Non Violent Communication  
6:00pm: New Member Potluck

## **Tuesday April 21**

10:00am: Yoga  
5:45pm: Community Pizza Night  
7:00pm: Adult RE  
7:00pm: Writing as Spiritual Practice  
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion

## **Wednesday April 22**

6:30pm: Caring Circle

## **Thursday April 23**

10:00am: Meditation  
7:00pm: Building Your Own Theology

## **Friday April 24**

7:00pm: Game Night

## Thought of the Week

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“God of Easter and infrequent Spring;  
Announce the large covenant to distant lands,  
Drive the sweet liquor through our parched veins,  
Lure us to fresh schemes of life.  
Rouse us from tiredness, self-pity,  
Whet us for use, fire us with good passi  
Restore in us the love of living.  
Bind us to fear and hope again.”

-Rev. Clarke Dewey Wells  
(minister of St. John's 1961-1968)

