

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 17, 2008

Sunday Worship Services

Summer services at St. John's begin each Sunday at 10:30am. **NOTE: Our Sunday Service time will change back to 11:00am starting on September 7.** Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers. Religious Exploration class activities are offered for older children. Please park in the Fairview School lot (located directly behind the church, entrance is from Clifton Avenue). The church's small parking lot is reserved for visitors, families with children, older members, and those with handicapped permits.

Sunday August 24 at 10:30am

"What's Happening Theologically"

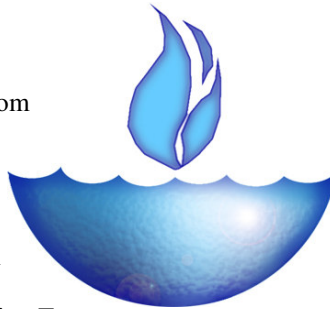
the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

I'm pleased to welcome Lucas Hergert, one of our seminarians, for a dialogue about what's hot in seminary.

Sunday August 31 at 10:30am

"Gathering of the Waters"

Please plan to bring some water from a source that has meaning for you and your family. During the service we'll share our stories and mix our water in a symbolic coming together in community. This year's Water service will be lead by Omope Daboiku and the Contemporary Service Program Planning Team.



Sunday September 7 at 11:00am

"Ingathering at St. John's!"

the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Y'all come to celebrate the beginning of a new church year!

*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.*

Minister

The Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Affiliated Minister

The Rev. Bonnie Meyer

Minister Emerita

The Rev. Annie Foerster

Minister of Music

Dr. Catherine Roma

Assoc. Director of Music

Rachel Kramer

Interim Director of

Religious Exploration

Barbara Hadden

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 thru Friday

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday August 28 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

In July, friends were saying the summer was almost over. “Noooo!” said I, “Noo!” I pointed out that it was still July. Half the summer was left, at least.

No, school would start within a couple of weeks for some students, they said. And, now, already Mother Nature has dropped the temperature. It’s been a number of days since it’s been in the 90’s. Yet August is only half over as I write, and the title of Barbara Tuchman’s book, “The Guns of August” grabs my attention.

It’s been a topsy turvy August. The shootings in Knoxville with two UUs killed and five wounded has challenged us to ask if we are serious about of the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals; whether there is a sustaining love which is available to all. We wonder about our own safety and realize our national agenda of balancing security and freedom comes to our faith community. How shall we balance our commitment to be welcoming congregations **and** safe congregations? I will be holding several conversations on this for you; the first will be the evening of Wednesday, August 27: Balancing values and fears.

And then, of course, we have been anguished over our nation’s shift in the global scene with the incursion of Russian military into Georgia Apparently Mr. Putin didn’t get Sec’y of Defense Gates’ memo that the United States Armed forces will be fighting asymmetrical wars in the 21st century.

So we draw together. A new church year is in process. In our new beginnings this year will be community building on Tuesday evenings.

Participants in the web of existence, we know our escapes from fear our brief and our fellowship with one another is our hope. The interdependent web of all existence is both fragile and resilient. In its mystery is the love and power to guide us in the challenges of our daily lives. Let us prepare for a new beginning!

-Peace,
Frank

ppportunities & Invitations

Gather Your Water!

During your summer travels, be sure to remember to pick up some water from a source that has meaning for you and your family. Plan to bring your water and take part in our annual Water Communion service on Sunday August 31.

-the Worship Committee

Bill Schultz to Speak in Dayton

In celebration of their 50th anniversary, the Miami Valley UU Fellowship in Dayton will welcome former Unitarian Universalist Association President and Director of Amnesty International USA Bill Schulz for a public lecture on September 20. He will speak at the Sinclair College Conference Center starting at 7:30pm. The lecture topic will be "Building a Culture of Peace in a Post 9/11 World". Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased in advance by calling 937-436-3628. Rev. Dr. Schulz will also be speaking at the Sunday service on September 21 at the Miami Valley UU Congregation in Dayton. All area UUs are invited to attend these events.

-Frank Carpenter

Home Energy Use Workshop

A free Home Energy Use Workshop, presented by the University of Cincinnati, will be offered to all members and friends of St. John's on Saturday September 20 from 1:30pm to 4pm. The workshop will highlight your home energy use and help you discover ways to lessen the impact on your energy bills and the environment.

Anyone 12 and up can attend and there will be babysitting available for those who register for it. To register, please call Susan VonderHaar.

-Penny Shada

"Georgia on My Mind"

Adult Forum on August 24

Please join us for an Adult Forum discussion on Sunday August 24 starting at 9:30am at St. John's. The forum will be titled "Georgia on My Mind." Dick and Carol Fencl visited friends in Georgia this past June. They are staying in touch through phone and email with their friends in Gori, as well as friends in Russia. Dick will share with us what it is like for people seeking to survive great power struggles.

-Frank Carpenter

End of Summer Potluck for Women

All women of St. John's are invited for a potluck on Tuesday August 26th at noon. Please contact Nina Tolley if you plan to come so she can know how many to plan for.

-Nina Tolley

Coming This Fall:

Tuesday Community Nights

This fall in the first week of October, we will begin *Tuesday Community Nights* at St. John's. Each week there will be an opportunity for you to get together for food, fun and fellowship. We'll share a meal together, talk and get to know each other better. Afterwards we'll have Chalice groups, adult discussion classes, and even a committee meeting or two. The church will be buzzing with people gathered together, building community, learning, and having fun. You can come to eat together, or just to take a class, or participate in some other activity. Watch your Reporters for more details, and plan to check out the sign-up tables for the Adult Classes and the Chalice groups in September.

*-Tuesday Night
Planning Group*



Adult Classes This Fall

The complete schedule of St. John's Adult classes will be in the next newsletter, but here is a preview of some of our new classes to be offered. The classes will be more concentrated on fewer days, enabling people to travel with someone else or combine trips to the church.

On Sundays before church we'll have some Adult Forums, plus a 3 week class on UUism. After church, a *Non-Violent Communication* practice group will meet.

Tuesday Community nights will have several class choices. A *Buddhist Dharma Reader* group will study Buddhist scriptures. *Menu for the Future* will have discussions about sustainable food systems and your possible role in relation to them.

Evensong will be a series of gatherings to share thoughts, experiences, doubts and beliefs about traditional religious concepts. *Living in Balance* will be investigate learning to live in harmony with your self.

First Friday Flicks will continue to offer films, followed by discussion. And to close out the week, on Saturdays, we will be co-sponsoring with First Unitarian Church, a 3 week series on End-of-Life Issues which we all face, "ready or not".

Registration will be held the first three Sundays of September, the 7th, 14th & 21st. Watch for the complete brochure in the next newsletter.

-the Adult RE Committee

Child Care Givers Needed

In an effort to be a more family-friendly church, we are trying to offer child care at St. John's when it is needed. If you are interested in working on a regular or occasional basis, either as a paid person or volunteer. Contact Carol Fencl. Also, if you know someone else who might be, or a reliable teen who is earning Community Service hours for school, pass it on.

-Carol Fencl

Contemporary Service Hiatus

There will be NO 9:00am Contemporary Services during the month of August. Our new rollout in September will include a 9:00am contemporary styled service on the third Sunday of the month with an additional monthly service, date and time to be announced. Stay tuned for more details.

-Omope Daboiku

Notes from July 2008 St. John's Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board's Orientation topic was a review of necessary timelines for all board members. Next month the topic will be Understanding the Church's Financial Statements. The date for the Board Retreat was set as Sept. 12 & 13, to be held off-site. Karolyn Schalk and Penny Shada will be responsible for the Fall All-Council meeting to be held Sat. Oct. 4. There is still no Vice Presidential prospect yet for this church year, so the duties will be divided among current Board members where possible. The Salary Distribution Package for our minister, the Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter, was approved. Board approved two items of carryover income from the year just passed for the 2008/9 budget year. The amounts were \$2,500 for the Contemporary Service budget and \$1,390 for Major Repairs. The final 2008/9 Terms of Employment for the Contemporary Worship Service Coordinator are in the process of being worked out. The Board approved offering the Director of Religious Exploration position at 30 hours per week to Omope Daboiku. This will be in addition to her current 10 hour weekly position as Contemporary Worship Service Coordinator.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for Sunday August 24 are:

Joe Lampe, Jill Lampe and Ann Schurr

Coffee hour hosts for Sunday August 31 are:

Penny Shada, Rich Hoge and Trish Hoge.

-Tracy Flanagan

RE Joys

by Barbara Hadden
Interim Director of Religious Exploration

We're actively seeking candidates for our Childspace rooms to begin in late August. If you are interested or know someone who might be a candidate, please let Elizabeth Wilson know at beth8044@yahoo.com. It entails being at St. John's almost every Sunday throughout the year and requires training in CPR and First Aid for young children.

Teachers, leaders, guides, helpers, and advisors are really needed! Please contact Barbara Hadden. Fall classes start in only a month and we need to hear from you as soon as possible.



From the Office

by Josie Arens
St. John's Office Administrator

Please have any updates or corrections for your listing in the "People Book" to me by no later than Monday August 25. You can email them to me at stjohnuu@fuse.net or put a written copy of your change in my office mail box. Please do NOT leave voice messages for changes. I will need a hard copy. I cannot guarantee that any changes that come in after the due date will make it into the new book. It is my intention to have new People Books available by the first Sunday in October (if all goes as planned). Many thanks to Kathy Laufman, Peggy Judy, Elizabeth Wilson, Carolyn Banfield, Frances May Brooks for covering the office phones for me while I was out with my surgery.

St. John's Church Calendar

Monday August 18

Regular Church Office Hours Resume
7:00pm- Fundraising Committee

Tuesday August 19

10:00am- Yoga
7:00pm- YADA Young Adults Discussion

Wednesday August 20

10am- DRE Cluster Meeting
6:30pm- Board of Trustees Meeting
7:00pm- Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday August 21

10:00am- Meditation
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

Saturday August 23

9:00am- RE Teacher Training

Sunday August 24

9:30am- Adult Forum:
"Georgia on My Mind" Dick & Carol Fencil
10:30am- Community Worship Service
"What's Happening Theologically"
Rev. Frank Carpenter & Lucas Hergert

Tuesday August 26

10:00am- Yoga
Noon- End of Summer Women's Potluck

Wednesday August 27

7:00pm- Safety Discussion
7:00pm- Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday August 28

10:00am- Meditation
5:00pm- Deadline for The Reporter
7:15pm- Choir Rehearsal

Friday August 29

7:00pm- Game Night

Saturday August 30

9:00am- Dream Group

Sunday August 31

10:30am- Community Worship Service
"Gathering of the Waters"

Thought of the Week

“National leaders, armies, guerillas, and terrorists alike all compete not so much against each on the field of battle as they do for the power that resides in civil society. But in doing so, they have acknowledged in backhanded ways that real and decisive power is social and political, not violent.”

-Gerald W. Schlabach