

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

September 28, 2008

Community Worship Services

Sunday Community Services begin at 11:00am. Childcare is provided for infants and toddlers. Religious Exploration classes 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 October 5 at 11:00am

"Singing Our Living Association"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter and Minister of Music Catherine Roma

Reverends Carpenter and Roma are teaming up to tell some of our UU history through the music in our gray hymnal, "Singing the Living Tradition." This is our way of celebrating the UUA's Association Sunday this year. The offering will be an opportunity for you to fund the growth programming of the UUA. For more details, see the article inside this issue of The Reporter.

Sunday October 12 at 11:00am

"How Far Out Have You Come?"

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Coming Out Sunday is a programming concept of the Human Rights Campaign, the major GLBT rights organization. It's all about telling loved ones, co-workers, soul-mates who you really are.



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

Director of Religious

Exploration

Omope Daboku

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 October 9 at 5pm

Frankly Speaking....

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

Association Sunday is Oct 5th. It is described elsewhere in the Reporter. What strikes me immediately is this probably isn't the best time to come to you with my hand out asking for money.

As many of you, I'd like to know what is going on. Senator Shelby, Ranking Member of the Senate Banking Committee, said most economists are against the bail out. Most folks window shopping on Main Street are against it too, seeing the fat cats asking for welfare checks.

I received an email from George Soros this morning saying he thinks it's a bad idea. Naomi "Shocked" Klein thinks it's another attempt to railroad people as Milton Friedman of the Chicago School talked about. Paul "Cash for Trash" Krugman has been warning us about this for months in his columns in the NY Times.

The most comprehensive take is that of Michael Hudson, an advisor to Dennis Kucinich. Hudson has his own website. His best quick read is today (25/09/08) on Counterpunch.org: <http://www.counterpunch.org/hudson09252008.html> My quick read of his quick read: All great empires, from the time of the invention of credit in Assyria to the present, have ended in the collapse of credit. Rome didn't fall because of the lead in the pipes but because of the failure to wipe out the debt overhead. The Hebrews of the Old Testament, as did a number of middle eastern societies, had a time when debt was erased, a year of the Clean Slate. In Leviticus 25, it's called the Jubilee Year. Hudson argues Jesus' good news was that he was calling for a Jubilee Year, a wiping out of all debt. Was Hilary Clinton coming close to this when she suggested during her campaign there be a year moratorium on foreclosures?

I have CNBC on as I write. I note with interest what is recommended as places to put your / my money: the necessities: food, energy, perhaps computers. One advisor points out 30% of the pipes in NY City were put in during the Lincoln administration. I guess he's in pipes, PVC most likely even though GreenPeace warns us against PVC.

One question remains. What counts in your life as a necessity? When a loved one dies, or you are going through a divorce, what's a necessity? When absurdity overwhelms your sense of meaning; when life's outrageous fortunes afflict you; when your soul is withering, what is a necessity? When you're so down and lonesome.... In your life, is spirituality a necessity... or a luxury?

So, here I am with my hat out for a little change. The only question is whether you think spirituality is a necessity in your life. If you do, please invest.

-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.

Opportunities & Invitations

First Friday Flicks

Join us on Friday October 3 in Krolfifer Hall for the Adult RE offering called First Friday Flicks. Starting promptly at 7pm, we'll watch *Gone Baby Gone* (rated R) followed by a discussion ending at 9:30. The content of the film is about making moral and ethical choices involving a kidnapped girl in Boston. For comfort, please bring your own chair such as a folding lawn chair. For information For more information, contact Debbie Combs or Karen Miller.

-Debbie Combs



Adult Forum Topics

Please plan to join us on Sunday mornings before the Community Service from 10am to 10:45am. On September 28, October 5 and October 12, we'll have a 3-session series on *The Great Story* by Rev. Michael Dowd. Debbie Combs will lead discussion after we watch part of the DVD. The theme is the marriage of science and religion for personal and planetary well-being. For more information visit www.TheGreatStory.org. Please feel free to come to as many of these as you are able - you don't need to attend the first to benefit from the second.

Cincinnati voters will decide on November 4 whether to bring back Proportional Representation as the way to elect City Council. (Cincinnati used this method for 30 years, until 1957.) At the forum on Sunday October 19, Dan Zavon (member of First Unitarian Church) will present information about "PR" and lead a discussion about the merits of ISSUE 8.

-the Adult RE Committee

Tuesday Community Night Potluck on October 7

On Tuesday October 7, we will launch a monthly potluck in connection with the many activities of the weekly Tuesday Community Night. Please come and bring food to share with others. Soft drinks and milk will be provided. The potluck and fellow-ship will be from 6:00 to 7:00 and children are welcome. It would be greatly appreciated if some of you would come early (5:40pm) and help set up tables and chairs. Other meetings and classes will begin at 7:15pm if you choose to stay. Childcare is NOT available on Tuesdays unless it has been pre-arranged at the time of Adult RE signup. Our plan is to have these potlucks the first Tuesday of the month. In November, we have to make an exception because the first Tuesday is election day and our space will be taken up by polling booths. So, in November, plan on the potluck being Tuesday November 11. Hope to see you there on Tuesday, Oct 7.

*-Jan Hay and
the Tuesday Night Planning Group*

Exploring UU Class

Several times each year we invite visitors and frequent attendees to an orientation session about St. John's. The date this fall is Saturday October 18. This is an opportunity to share your spiritual journey, and to learn about our UU history and activities. The session starts at 9am with coffee and conversation and ends about 12 or 12:30 following lunch. Child care is provided if request-ed several days prior to October 18. 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 will be Wednesday October 15.

-The Membership Committee

Adult RE Classes

Fall classes for adults are beginning at this time. There are still openings in 3 of the classes. If you are interested in one of these, please contact Carol Fencil ASAP.

Complete class descriptions are on the website or can be viewed on the Adult RE display board.

Evensong on Tuesday nights 7:15-8:45, for 8 weeks beginning on October 7.

Living in Balance - Tuesday nights, 7:15 - 8:45, for 4 weeks beginning on November 18.

Spiritual Hospitality: Talking to Strangers.

Choice of October 21 or November 18, 7 - 8:45.

As we went to press, we just received notice that the End-of-Life Issues series which St. John's is sponsoring with First Unitarian Church has had a change. Dr. Bernstein who was to present the Medical Issues on Oct. 11 has needed to reschedule. There will be NO meeting on that date. As soon as the new date is arranged, we will pass it on.

-Adult RE Committee

“Be Our Guest” Breakfast

Bring a friend to church on Sunday October 26 and also enjoy a tasty pancake breakfast. Newcomers eat free while members and friends pay a nominal charge. The breakfast will be from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Mark your calendar. We hope to see you there.

-Jan Hay

Music Series Kick Off Concert

This year's St. John's Music Series will kick off on Saturday October 4 at 8pm with “Rock the Vote: A Musical Rally for Justice and Responsibility.” Performers will include: Voices of Freedom, MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir, Ma'at (OTR Rappers), Drums for Peace, Poco Loco, and storyteller Omope Daboiku. Emcee will be Roxanne Qualls. The program will be an upbeat musical celebration of our right and responsibility as citizens to vote and be counted. Advance tickets are available by calling the St. John's office at 513-961-1938.

-Rachel Kramer

Lively After Fifty (LAFs) Dinner

October's dinner will be at Slatt's Pub (4858 Cooper Road in Blue Ash), one of our favorite restaurants. As usual, we will meet on the 2nd Friday of the month (October 10 at 6:30pm) for great food and conversation. Newcomers to St. John's or LAFs are especially encouraged to come and get acquainted. Please contact Jan Hay by Thursday October 9 to reserve.

-Jan Hay

Bread for the Elderly Lunches

Start October 19

The Friends of Szentlaszlo, St. John's partnership with the Unitarian Church of Nyaradszentlaszlo, Romania, will offer its soup and bread lunches again this year. The lunches include homemade soups, specialty breads, brownies and fresh fruit. The money raised helps our partner church provide one loaf of bread each week to the elderly members of that congregation. **The first lunch will be on October 19** and will be followed by lunches on November 16, January 11 and February 8. This year's Transylvania dinner will be on March 14. Mark your calendars now with these dates. The lunches are \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids 10 and under. We hope you will consider adding a few extra dollars when you purchase your meal ticket. The cost of providing bread in Romania gets more expensive each year and particularly this year with the falling value of the dollar around the world. In the past, we have raised about \$330 at each lunch, but we need to raise more than \$400 in order to insure that the delivery of this much needed bread continues on a regular basis. The soup and bread lunches are a great opportunity to enjoy great food, enjoy good friends, and, at the same time, provide critical help to the elderly members of our partner congregation. Please be as generous as you can! If you'd like to provide a homemade soup, some specialty bread, or otherwise help with one of these lunches, please contact Diane Antestensis.

-Tom Darner, Friends of Szentlaszlo

Taste of St. John's: Rockin' Luau on November 15

Imagine this: pig, pineapple and vegetarian fare, grass skirts, tiki lamps, fruity drinks, fun music, a limbo contest—and first chance to sign up for social gatherings in members' homes. Mark your calendar for this family-friendly event! St. John's relies on fundraisers for a significant portion of the operating budget. This year's Taste of St. John's will be solely about "taste"—no live auction or silent auction, only dinner sign-ups. Start thinking about what you would like to offer in your home, at church, or with a friend. Donation forms will be available September 21. To get in on the fun of planning the luau, contact one of the Fun(d)raisers: Debbie Anderson, Wanda Crawford, Rosina Janus, Jonena Jones, Karen Miller, Kari Olson.

—Wanda Crawford

Paid Work at Polls on Nov. 4

Hamilton County poll workers receive up to \$155 in compensation to attend a 4 hour training class, to do poll set up from 7pm-7:30pm on Monday November 3, and to work on Election Day from 6am to about 8:30pm. If interested apply by contacting one of the following at the Hamilton County Board of Elections before September 30. Democrat call 513-632-7041 or Republican call 513-632-7042. For complete information, go to

<http://www.votehamiltoncounty.org/>

—Howard Tolley

Challenging Performances Concert at Northern Hills

The best in classical music returns to Northern Hills Fellowship! The 2008-2009 concert series will begin with Norwegian pianist Oyvind Sundvalen on Sunday October 5 at 3pm. The program will feature from the artist's homeland. For information or to order your tickets, please visit the website at www.cpconcerts.info. NHF is located at 460 Fleming Rd in Springfield Twnsp.

—Joan Wolking

Music Vivace

by Dr. Catherine Roma
St. John's Minister of Music

The SJ Choir seeks singers. Please stop by on any Thursday night at 7:15pm. We will welcome you with open arms. All voice parts needed!



Do not miss the first concert in the music series on Saturday October 4. Rock the Vote--a Musical Rally for Justice and Responsibility--includes a diverse line up of great musicians and Cincinnati personalities. Roxanne Qualls will MC. MUSE will sing as will the Voices of Freedom (including a dynamite rendition of Swing Low and Soon I Will Be Done--with great gospel soloists), Tracy Walker, Kathy Y Wilson, Ma'at (School for the Creative and Performing Arts slam poets), a samba drum line with Drums for Peace, Poco Loco Latin Jazz, and more. Each group will do a short set if two numbers. The concert is part of the 20/20 enjoy the arts programming across the city.

Get tickets in advance or at the door. Buy a Music Series, or a single ticket. This will be a feel good event, and an added bonus will be the non-partisan League of Women Voters in attendance to register you to vote. The last day to register is Monday October 6. Please come support the contemporary service planning team and the music program.

The St. John's choir will sing on October 5 (Jim Scott's *The Rainforest Song*) and October 12 (Ysaye Barnwell's *Will You Harbor Me*). We want to add singers for the December holiday choral service. Please let me know if you are interested. We start this next Thursday October 2 at 7:15pm.

Among ursevles

Association Sunday

During October UU churches across the continent will be celebrating Association Sunday. "The vision for these *Association Sundays* is that through them, our sense of connection will be strengthened, and we will become more effective in growing our faith and in helping to heal a wounded world."

During the service on Sunday, October 5 here at St. John's Reverends Roma and Carpenter will lead worship, "Singing our Living Association." During the service, the offering will go for funding growth program of the UUA. Some of these programs are grants for:

* Preference will be given to programs which have a strong lay theological education component, that have built on an idea that has a proven track record of success, and that involve more than one UU congregation or entity.

* Programs should be designed such that they can be replicated in other congregations; recipients of the grants will be asked to create resources and a case study that could be shared with others. The purpose of the grants is to support the creation of materials, rather than to provide for new staff positions.

* Grants will begin to be available in the spring of 2009. Rev. Harlan Limpert, Director of District Services, will convene a team in collaboration with the UUMA, LREDA, the UU Funding Panel, and lay leaders to determine the application process and criteria.

For more information, go to the UUA web site:
<http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday>

-Rev. Frank Carpenter

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hour hosts for Sunday October 5 are:
Nina Tolley, Howard Tolley and Douglas Striker
Coffee hour hosts for Sunday October 12 are:
Judy Beiting, Chase Tonne and Barbara Tonne

-Tracy Flanagan

All Council Meeting

At the All Council Meeting on Saturday October 4, we'll discuss the UUA's "Best Practices" for welcoming newcomers and handling growth issues gracefully. We'll incorporate data about St. John's demographics and compare some of our current structures and practices with the UUA's recommendations.

The goal of this All Council Meeting is to collect the insights and viewpoints of our most involved members on how we in the congregation can develop our own "Best Practices" and achieve our community goals. Accordingly, our focus will be on interactive evaluation, brainstorming, discussion and, finally, collection of the output to put together a plan of action.

Everyone is welcome! The meeting will be from 9am to noon coffee and light breakfast. RSVPs to the church office at 513-961-1938 appreciated. Childcare available -please register by October 2.

-Penny Shada

What's New With UUs

To see "what's up" with Unitarian Universalist leaders, check out the latest *Interconnections*.
<http://www.uua.org/publications/interconnections/117061.shtml>

UU storefront churches - yes!

"Branch" congregations - you bet!

UU bloggers - help, if you're interested

Addiction ministries - beyond just providing space for AA groups to meet

Green construction - Wooster, OH fellowship leads

Election year resources - what's legal

If you like what you see or start dreaming about how St. John's could use the ideas, sign-up to be notified by email when the next quarterly issue of *Interconnections* is published online.

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/interconnections-l>

-Linda Heath

of the Leadership Development Committee

Board of Trustees News

In the months of August and September, the Board of St. John's continued to receive training for the new members on reading the financial reports. We also had a report on the MidWest Leadership School attended this year by Penny Shada and Melanie Malaviya. We held a Board Retreat to talk about how we will work together, developed our covenant, and discussed some of the ongoing issues facing our church.

There will be a special plate collection on Sunday October 5, Association Sunday, to promote growth of the Unitarian Universalist movement across the country.

There was discussion about the room changes made in the downstairs, with concern expressed that not all of those using the rooms were consulted before changes were made. We talked about the need for improved communication in this type of matter, with more effort needed to identify the stakeholders for a particular decision and communicate with them. Krysta December, Property Council Director, reported on her efforts to meet code requirements in arranging the installation of the congregation-approved and funded chair lift to make the downstairs rooms more accessible.

Peace Pole: The Peacemakers will be asked to submit a design for their proposal to have a peace pole erected in front of the church.

The Terms of Employment for Director of Religious Exploration, Omope Daboiku, were approved and the agreement was signed.

The Board wanted to thank Kyra McKinney for her efforts in arranging the Home Energy Use workshop with the University of Cincinnati, through an EPA grant. Not only did this bring valuable information to our members who attended the class, it also brought in \$150 to the church budget! Thank you, Kyra.

The Building Use Committee agreed that the Cincinnati Men's Chorus may use the church at the member rate for room rental.

The following policies have been adopted or changed *UU Council delegates*: St. John's is entitled to 3 at large delegates to the UU Council. The Denominational Affairs Committee will recruit 3 delegates and one alternate.

Website policy: All St. John's programs and committee webpages must be contained within the St. John's website. Restrictions were made for which outside websites may have links on the St. John's website. Contact the Administrative Council Director, Pete Asman, for more information on this.

Childcare: Childcare will be provided free, within budgetary constraints, for adult education classes, as well as many other church functions such as committee and congregational meetings. When it is a purely social function, there will be a charge for childcare. Volunteers will be sought when appropriate. (It should be noted that we have 4 of our teens volunteering to do child care for the NonViolent Communication practice group this fall, an effort that is much appreciated.)

Complete minutes are on file in the church office.

-Carol Fencl, Board Secretary

News in the fice

by Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

If you are a previous key holder to the church (for any reason) previous Board member, previous committee chair etc...and you no longer are the "person in charge" to let people in for your group(s), please return the key to me in the office. Put it in an envelope and put your name on it and leave it in my mail box. If in the past you have signed a "key form" but I have no record of you returning the key - you will be getting reminder letter from me in the mail in the near future.

A reminder that the deadline for written order of service announcements is Wednesday at 11 am (prior to the week you want the announcement run) Any requests that come in after 11 am may not get into the printed announcements for that week.

St. John's Church Calendar

Sunday, September 28

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:45pm: Adult RE-
Non Violent Communication
1:30pm: Art Reception in Haehnle Hall

Monday September 29

Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown
Church Office Closed (Josie Vacation Day)
7:00pm: Fundraising Committee

Tuesday September 30

10:00am: Yoga
7:00pm: Committee on Ministry

Wednesday October 1

Eid al-Fitr begins at sundown
7:00pm: Membership Committee
7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday October 2

10:00am: Meditation
6:00pm: Music Committee
7:15pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal

Friday October 3

7:00pm: First Friday Flicks

Saturday October 4

9:00am: All Council Meeting
8:00pm: St. John's Music Series Concert

Sunday October 5

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am Community Worship Service
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal
6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday October 7

10:00am: Yoga
6:00pm: Community Potluck
7:00pm: Book Group
7:00pm: YADA Young Adults Discussion
7:15pm: Adult RE- Evensong

Wednesday October 8

Yom Kippur begins at sundown
5:30pm: Executive Board Meeting
7:00pm: Program Planning Team (PPT)

Thursday October 9

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

Friday October 10

6:30pm: Lively After Fifty (LAFs) Dinner

Saturday October 11

National Coming Out Day

Sunday October 12

10:00am: Adult Forum
11:00am: Community Worship Service
12:15pm: Voices of Variety Rehearsal
12:45pm: Adult RE-
Non Violent Communication
1:00pm: Interweave Lunch

Monday October 13

7:00pm: Friends of Szentlaszlo Meeting



Thought of the Week

“When you look inside yourself,
you see the universe
and all its stars in infinity.
There is an infinite mystery within you
as great as the one without.”

-C. G. Jung