

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

June 28, 2009

Community Worship Services

Community Worship Services and Children's Religious Exploration classes during the summer season begin at 10:30am. Child care is available.

Sunday July 5 at 10:30am:

"Interdependence Day"

We'll transform our usual Independence Day observance into a celebration of the interdependent web of all life. Members of the St. John's Green Sanctuary Partners will lead the service which will focus on ways to deepen our connections to the earth and our commitment to protecting it.

Sunday July 12 at 10:30am:

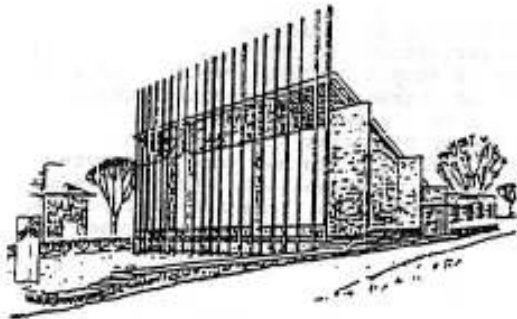
"The Life and Times of Maurice McCracken"

First Church member Tim Kraus will reflect on the inspiring life of Cincinnati's legendary pastor, pacifist and human rights activist.

Sunday July 19 at 10:30am:

"Demystifying Public Housing and It's Issues"

Past president of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) Dr. Alice Skirtz will talk about her work to combat homelessness and advocate for affordable housing.



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

Office Administrator

Mary Jo (Josie) Arens

Caretaker

J. Michael Skaggs

Church Office

513-961-1938

office@stjohnsuu.org

Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed. and Thur.

7:30am to 2pm

Church Website

www.stjohnsuu.org

Newsletter Editor

Bruce Beisner

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday July 16 at 5pm

(NOTE: No deadline on July 9)

Frankly Speaking...

by Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter

With my last Sunday services at St. John's behind me, I'm coming into the last lap as your minister. During July, I will be cleaning out the Minister's Study (hopefully the heat will break) and helping organize Lucas Hergert's Ordination Service on July 12. I will be on Vacation/Study Leave until August 15 and available to you until then for urgent pastoral calls. This is my next to last Reporter column; the last will be just before my final day of August 15.

In a variety of settings I have responded to questions about what I will do in retirement. One thing I haven't mentioned, at least not much but has been brought to my mind by recent events in Iran, is my fascination with well, what to call it, 'religious extremism,' seems to be the common term.

As Unitarian Universalists, as religious liberals, honoring doubt, diversity and love, the rigidity of religious supremacists as in Iran today only qualifies as 'religious' from habit.

If the term 'religious extremist' did not have negative connotations, might not the teachings of Gandhi and Dr. King about non-violence and love be considered extremist? What passes for religious extremism seems to me to be a certain puritanism common to both New England Puritans and ayatollahs, who suffer from the fantasy we can totally escape evil and corruption. The myth of an escape from evil underlies all totalitarianisms: Nazism, Christian Identity, Soviet Communism, and Islamism.

This myth was preached by Jesus: "The End of the World Is Coming" real soon. The genealogy of this myth goes back to him, but all too often practitioners forget that his preaching the imminent end was the basis of his ethic of non-violence. Non-violence may not be practical, but what is practical if the show is over tomorrow?

One day at a time! I continue my quest,

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

Celebrate the Ordination of Lucas Hergert

At the annual meeting on June 7, the congregation voted to ordain Lucas Keith Hergert. Lucas grew up as an active part of the St. John's community before moving to Boston to pursue his ministerial studies. Last fall he was confirmed for ministerial fellowship by the Unitarian Universalist Association, and this month he graduated from Harvard Divinity School. Lucas will begin serving the UU Church of Livermore, California as their settled minister in August.

The Ordination Service will be on Sunday July 12 at 4:00pm at St. John's. The Rev. John Buehrens, former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will give the sermon. St. John's Board president Karolyn Schalk will give the act of ordination. Special choral music is also planned. Ordination Service Planning Committee chairs are Rev. Frank Carpenter and Bruce Beisner. All St. John's members and friends are invited to attend. This is a big event for Lucas, as well as for us, and we will want to make the reception following the service as festive as we can. There will be about 150 guests, and we will need lots of appetizer-type finger foods, and help with setting up Krolfifer and clean-up afterwards. If you can give some of your time on that day, please volunteer. If, like some of us, you know you will be out of town, please consider making some appetizers ahead of time to be refrigerated or frozen and reheated. There are now sign-up sheets in Haehnle hall. Please contact Melanie Marsh for more information.

-Bruce Beisner & Melanie Marsh

Newsletter Deadline Change

Because of my summer class schedule at seminary, the deadlines for the next issues of The Reporter have been changed. We will be skipping one week at the beginning of July. The next newsletter deadline will now be **Thursday July 16** (instead of July 9) at 5:00pm. After that we will be back on our regular every two weeks schedule, with deadlines on July 30, August 13 and August 27.

-Bruce Beisner

Summer Potlucks in July

Everyone is welcome to come for fellowship and food. Just bring a dish to share. Here's the details:

Tuesday July 7 at 6:30pm at the home of Jim and Sharon Nichols, in Erlanger, Ky.

Tuesday July 14 at 6:30pm at the home of Howard and Nina Tolley, 3900 North Cliff Lane, Clifton.

Friday July 31 at 6:00pm at the farm of Marcia Schoeni near Rabbit Hash, Ky. Bring the kids and enjoy the landscape and meet Marcia's miniature horses!

For specific directions to the potlucks, please contact the St. John's Church Office at 513-961-1938 or see the printed version of this newsletter.



(For privacy reasons, this information is not included in the online version of The Reporter.)

If you would like to carpool to either of the potlucks in Kentucky, contact Jan Hay by 5 PM of the day before the event.

-Jan Hay

Joint Worship Services

St. John's will again be hosting special joint worship services this summer with some of our neighboring UU friends. On all four Sundays in July, we will welcome the members of Northern Hills Fellowship for joint worship services. The services will all be held here at St. John's and will begin at 10:30am. Please join us in July.

-The Worship Committee

Push for Pencils

Imagine a child trying to color without a crayon or trying to write without a pencil. Public school supply budgets have been slashed. Teachers spend an average of \$500-\$1000 per year to buy supplies for their students. And you can help by contributing to Push for Pencils, a citywide collection to fill the shelves at Crayons to Computers where teachers can "shop" free for school supplies. Our box will be at St. John's beginning July 19 for 5 Sundays. Start looking for the advertised specials so your family can help others in this easy, fun way. Items needed: crayons, pens, pencils, folders, scissors, glue sticks, glue/glue sticks, backpacks, binders, copy paper, construction paper. Checks made out to "Crayons to Computers" can be mailed to the church office or given to either Carol Fencl or Cyndi Villacis.

-The Fencl/Villacis Family

Tuesday Church Nights

This past year we've had Tuesday Church Nights, with a variety of meal coordination efforts. Jan Hay who has spearheaded the monthly First Tuesday potlucks during the last year, will be switching her energies to the demanding work of the Search Committee, so we are looking for another person or persons who would enjoy this way to serve St. John's and build our community. If you would be interested, please talk with either Jan Hay or Carol Fencl.

-Carol Fencl

Fall Adult Religious Education Opportunities at St. John's

Each year we revise our program, trying to come up with the best combination of programming, matching our resources to the needs of the church. We will be holding our next meeting of those interested in planning Adult RE for the coming church year in July, date TBD. We currently have no one who has volunteered to continue the First Friday Flicks, so unless someone comes forth, that will not be offered this fall. We also will be redesigning the Sunday morning Forums. If you would like to be involved, either in the planning, or in actually leading a group/class, please contact Carol Fencl, Adult RE Committee chair.

-The Adult RE Committee

Contemporary Service Hiatus

Our Contemporary Worship services will be on hiatus for the summer. These exciting interactive worship experiences will return on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00am starting in September.

-Program Planning Team

Spots Available for Northern Hills Fellowship Women's Pool Party

There are a few spots still available for the Northern Hills Fellowship's women's pool party held at the Sam and Sue's Wolinsky's pool on Sunday July 19 starting at 2pm. Cost is \$20 per person. All proceeds go to the NHF budget. Contact the NHF office at 513-931-6651 if you would like to attend.

-Sue Wolinsky

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for Sunday July 5 are: Greg Terhune Bo Wachendorf and Christine Reed

Coffee hosts for Sunday June 12 are: Jim Decker, Karolyn Schalk and Jay Guenther

Coffee hosts for Sunday July 19 are: Ann Combs, Karen Heaster and Ruth Anne Wolfe

-Kim Stein

Among ourselves

Church Safety & Security

On Wednesday night June 17, Barbara Hadden was frightened at church. Thankfully it was only a scare. Below is her description of what happened from an email sent that same night:

"There were several meetings at church tonight. When I came in about 7, a young man was standing near the brochures outside the office. I guessed he was looking for QCAA so I gave him directions. Waltke also saw him and we both wondered why he didn't go downstairs. After the membership meeting several of us came up from the library and he was at the water cooler. We stayed for awhile and I felt that he didn't look like he went all the way back downstairs to the meeting. At this point I got a creepy feeling and went down the front stairs to call one of the young men out of the AA meeting to ask him if there was a young man in the group fitting his description. The answer was yes, but after Kathryn and Sharon and I left the church and the AA group was outside chatting the young man in the AA group man wasn't the same guy I had seen hanging around. Then I knew something was wrong and asked one of the AA guys to go back inside with me to look around. Guess what? He was hiding behind the wall near the back of the organ. I told him he didn't want to be there and he went out that door. I went down to District 5 to report a description. I'm aware that this can happen so easily when there are so many groups meeting. Everyone knows to lock the doors, but if someone comes in with a group and then hides, (and there are so many places), we're pretty vulnerable."

We need to watch out for each other. Below is the paragraph from our policy manual that sets out the responsibilities for our renters and committees: Responsibilities of All Building Users: To assure the safety of the whole St. John's community by keeping doors locked before and during an event or meeting. Any unlocked door must be monitored by a member within sight of the door.

To assure that lights are turned off and all church doors are closed and locked at the conclusion of the event or meeting.

As Barbara reminds us, there are a lot of places to hide in our building. The QCAA has been asked to do a 'sweep' of the building after their meetings.

When we have concerts or other social events it is reasonable for a group of at least three or four to do a walk through before leaving.

We are all responsible for the safety of our community. If you are not in the entrance way or right by the door that is unlocked it is not being monitored. Do not think that you are monitoring one or both doors from the sanctuary, kitchen or Hahnle; or that because the church is full of meetings someone else is going to notice. If someone enters the building and you do not know them and they don't ask for a meeting or directions ask them yourself. You can do this politely, it is just a form of greeting. Spiritual Hospitality is about creation of a safe space. By being present and aware you could prevent a bad situation.

*-Karolyn Schalk
President, Board of Trustees*

Interim Minister News

The Rev. Denise Tracy was selected as St. John's Interim Minister. She recently visited St. John's to meet with the Board and Interim Committee and begin the transitioning process. Rev. Tracy's first day in the pulpit will be Sunday September 13.

-The Board of Trustees

Kind of Help You Really Need

Looking for fresh ideas for your St. John's committee or group? "Interconnections" is an online newsletter (published quarterly) stuffed with helpful hints. Back issues are searchable by topic or keyword. Check this great UU resource out at: <http://www.uua.org/publications/interconnections/>

-Leadership Development Committee



Music Vivace

*By Dr. Catherine Roma
St. John's Minister of Music*

Thank you to all who made my sabbatical possible, especially Rachel Kramer, members of the Board of Trustees, and Rev. Frank. Words cannot express my gratitude. I feel renewed and ready to go (after summer break). Thank you to the choir, who I hear had a great time, sang beautifully and partied well, too.

A very auspicious event is planned for St. John's UU Church on Sunday July 12. Our amazing "own" Lucas Hergert will be ordained, and to help lift him up, and celebrate the occasion, we will sing him into a bright future. Rehearsal is Thursday July 9 at 7:00. He has asked us to sing "We Are" (Ysaye Barnwell) and one other short introit/opening piece. We will meet again on Sunday at 3:00 to warm up and rehearse. This is an informal shout-out to all St. John's choristers--come sing! Rachel and I sent out an invitation to other UU church choir members, MUSE Women's Choir and The Men's Chorus.

Fast forward: on Thursday August 27 we will regroup, visit, and rehearse from 7:00 to 8:30. We will not meet on Thursday September 3. More about our new year soon. I want to be creative with scheduling. I am open to your input and suggestions. Send them on to me via email.

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From the Office

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

The church office is now on summer hours. Closed on Mondays and Fridays (Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays 7:30am to 2pm) I will be out of the office from Tuesday July 2 thru Monday July 13. Deadline for announcements for Orders of Service for July 5 & 12 is Monday June 29 at 7pm. Deadline for announcements for the services on July 19 & 26 is the Monday prior to the service at 7pm. Deadlines for the newsletter have been changed. We're skipping one week, so the next two deadlines will be July 16 and 30 at 5pm. Please send submissions directly to Bruce Beisner at bbeisner@advantext.com. Deadline for the next e-News has been moved from July 1 to Tuesday June 30 at 5pm. There will be no e-News the week of July 6. The office email is now office@stjohnsuu.org Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!

Can You Hear Me Now?

If you are hard of hearing, and especially if you wear a hearing aid, this message is for you! St. John's has purchased a new type of assistive hearing device that has a "telecoil," designed to work with telecoil-enabled hearing aids. Two steps are involved: Set your hearing aid to "telecoil," and wear the assistive device with the telecoil around your neck like a necklace. Everything in the service that comes through the audio system will come to you through the telecoil. Please ask the ushers for the assistive device when you arrive. We currently have three, and will get more if they are popular! P.S. They can be used with a oneeared head phones to amplify St. John's audio system into your ear if you do not have a telecoil-enabled hearing aid. Please let me know what you think!

-Krysta December

St. John's Church Calendar

Tuesday, June 30

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday, July 1

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday, July 2

10:00am: Meditation

Sunday, July 5

10:30am: Community Worship Service

6:00pm: Men's Group

Tuesday, July 7

10:00am: Yoga

6:30pm: Summer Potluck

(at the home of Jim & Sharon Nichols)

7:00pm: Book Group

7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday, July 8

5:30am: Executive Board Meeting

10:00am: Chalice Group (Barbara Hadden)

Thursday, July 9

10:00am: Meditation

Saturday, July 11

8:30am: Cincinnati UU Council Meeting

Sunday, July 12

10:30am: Community Worship Service

4:00pm: Lucas Hergert Ordination Service

6:00pm: Men's Group

Monday, July 13

7:00pm: Fund Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, July 14

10:00am: Yoga

Wednesday, July 15

7:00pm: Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, July 16

10:00am: Meditation

5:00pm: Reporter Deadline

Sunday, July 19

10:30am: Community Worship Service

11:30am: Green Sanctuary Partners

12:00pm: July Art Reception

Thought of the Week

“Every picture of God
is a self-portrait.”

-J. FRANK SCHULMAN

