

THE REPORTER

Newsletter of St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church

August 2, 2009

Community Worship Services

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

Sunday August 9 at 10:30am:

"Speaking Peace: What You Say Next Could Change The World"

Jeff Brown, a well known certified trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication, will share with us his passion for adding more compassion in our daily lives.

Sunday August 16 at 10:30am

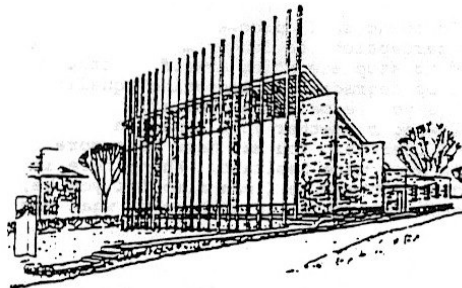
"How I Found Relief in the Buddha's Teachings and What I Was Released From"

Richard Blumberg has led a Dharma Reader class this year at St. John's. His understanding of the Buddha's teachings have led him to a regimen of practice leading him to live joyfully in spite of the pain and frustration endemic in our lives.

Sunday August 23 at 10:30am

"Scenes from Mark Twain's Adam and Eve"

Three friends who have collaborated on past theatre projects for St. Johns present a special Sunday service: a staged reading from a little known work by Mark Twain. America's foremost humorist which introduces us to the irrepressible personalities of the first couple. Jane Goetzman edited and directs, Bob Elkins, a respected local actor plays Adam and Barbara Hadden, known for her sensitivity to the spoken word, plays Eve.



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

bbeisner@advantext.com

Next Newsletter Deadline

Thursday August 13 at 5pm

Opportunities & Invitations

August All-Church Potlucks

The "Our Chalice Group Rocks" chalice group (none of its members, Jim Nunn, Ravensong, Mark Teschauer, Vivian Kline, Craymon Maples or Susan Montauk, could come up with a better name) will be hosting an All Church Garden Potluck to

celebrate our appreciation of the role St. John's has

played in our lives. It will be Sunday August 23 from 1-4 pm, in the Montauk/Loeb garden in Fairview Heights. Please feel free to bring church friends as well as others who may not be very familiar with our church community but who would enjoy an afternoon with St Johners. Directions will be in the next issue of The Reporter.

Then, mark your calendar for our last scheduled of this year's Summer Potlucks. It will be on Friday August 28 at the home and yard of Bob and Sylvia Mersfelder in Finneytown. We'll eat and mingle from 6-8:30pm. Newcomers are welcome. Call Sylvia or Bob if you have questions.

-Jan Hay

Push for Pencils

The ads are featuring back-to-school things, but some families won't be able to afford the basic school supplies. You can help, either by writing a check, or by purchasing the items and bringing to the Push for Pencils collection box in Krolfifer. If you want to give a check, make it out to Crayons to Computers and give it to Carol or Dick Fencil or Cyndi Villacis. Supplies needed include: pencils, crayons, notebooks, paper, etc. The teachers will distribute them to children in need.

-Carol Fencil

"Speaking Peace" Sunday

On Sunday August 9, we will welcome Jeff Brown, certified trainer with the Center for Nonviolent Communication for our 10:30am worship service. Jeff will share with us his passion for adding more compassion in our everyday lives, especially when we open our mouths. Nonviolent Communication, or Compassionate Communication, inspires an empathetic presence and an ability to acknowledge our interconnectedness through our universal human needs. Hopefully you will feel more inspired to walk the walk and talk the talk of your values and "live out" peace!

There will be a special community potluck following the service in Krolfifer Hall from noon to 2:30pm. Children are welcome. After we nourish our bodies, we'll begin with a multi-generational connection piece led by Jeff Brown (around 12:30), followed by separate learning activities on Compassionate Communication for children and adults. Please contact Maria Yunker if you have any questions.

-Maria Yunker

Interweave Potluck & Movie Night

Please join us for a potluck and movie in Krolfifer on Friday evening August 21. The doors will open at 7:00pm for the potluck, and the movie is scheduled to begin at 7:30. We'll be showing the movie "Were the World Mine." This 2008 movie is a musical fantasy which received critical acclaim and won several film festival awards. Interweave is St. John's social group for LGBT folks and friends. All are welcome to join us.

-Greg Terhune

Adult Classes

We are in the process of putting together a schedule for Adult Religious Education classes this coming church year. If you have any ideas, or would like to volunteer to help in any way, please contact Carol Fencil. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Church Bookstore which is open on the same Sundays we do Adult RE registration.

-The Adult RE Committee

First Friday Flicks

Movies anyone? We have the equipment and space, but lack a person or team to continue showing movies and lead a discussion the first Friday of each month. If you are interested, please contact Carol Fencil at adultre@stjohnsuu.org

-Carol Fencil

Gather Your Waters

Don't forget to collect some water during your summer travels to bring to our annual Water Communion Service on Sunday September 6 at St. John's.

-The Worship Committee

Holly Near at The Mountain

Spaces still remain for Arts and Social Change, the Institute featuring Holly Near at The Mountain UU Retreat Center in Highlands, NC. Dates are August 27 to 30, and the price is only \$295 for adults and \$173 for Young Adults ages 18-30. Our beautiful UU mountain-top retreat center in the mountains of North Carolina is the setting for this exciting program. If you've marveled at Holly's message through music, this may be the time for you! For more information, go to the website at www.mountaincenters.org or talk with the Fencils.

-Dick and Carol Fencil

Sanctuary Flowers

Brighten the sanctuary with a flower arrangement for the altar. Flowers are purchased and arranged to honor someone you love or wish to remember in a special way. The cost is \$35.00-checks made out to St. John's Flower Fund. Sign up on the flower clip board outside the office. You get to take the flowers home after the Sunday service if you promise to return the container. Anyone have the round glass fishbowl? (Return to the kitchen with no penalty.)

-Barbara Hadden



RE-ally!

By Omope Daboiku

St. John's Director of Religious Education

Summer is not over yet and many of us are still on vacation. While away, remember to gather your offering for Water Communion. Our children will be an active part of the Community Service at 11am as we share the sources of our waters, bless our Beloved Community, and honor WATER as the foundation of our physical lives. Hopefully, I'll be bringing water from the Pacific Ocean! We look forward to sharing photos from our train trip to California and the 42nd Ellis Family Reunion.

Children & Youth RE programming resumes on Sunday August 30 and we still need one teacher for both Team 1-3 and Team 4-5. Teams of three means preparing/teaching one lesson per month as Children's Church will be held in Krolfifer on First Sundays. Please contact Omope for details.

Upcoming RE Events:

August 9: Practice outdoor skills in the Camping Adventure Workshop with the Wilsons;

large group gathering in Rosa Parks

August 16: Summer fun! What did you do this summer? Large group in Rosa Parks

August 23: Big Bang Chemistry Show! Science comes alive with our own Mr. Wizard bka Dave Wilson. Invite your friends to see what's hot at St. John's!

August 30: Our Youth and Children's Religious Exploration Communities resume meeting!

September 6: Gathering of Waters: a First Sunday/Intergenerational service in the Sanctuary.

September 13: Rev. Denise Tracy's firsts sermon; a story for all ages included

Among ourselves

Conversation with the Settled Minister Search Committee

The Settled Search Committee is presently working on getting feedback from the congregation to identify the qualities most important for the future St. John's settled minister. We had a productive informal session on Sunday July 26 and we appreciate the input. We will be gathering again for a similar discussion Sunday August 9. Also, we will be glad to field questions about the planned search process, as well. We invite those of you who were unable to attend last time, or who did not feel heard, to join us in the Chapel immediately following the morning service on August 9. Childcare will be available. Thanks, Your SSC, Jan Hay, Sharon O'Neill, Melissa Orr-Asman, Jack Sherman, Doug Striker, Manuel Susarret, and Cynthia Villacis.

-The Search Committee

Help Rev. Tracy Move In

Our interim minister, the Reverend Denise Tracy, will be in Cincinnati August 22 moving in to her rental on Bishop St. (and be at our service on the 23rd) She will need help moving boxes and setting up a few things in the late afternoon. If someone has a hand truck to loan that would be a great help. Please contact Karolyn Schalk. Many hands make light work - six or seven people should do it.

-Karolyn Schalk

Frankly Speaking....

Rev. Dr. Frank Carpenter is away on study and vacation leave. His last day as our Minister will be August 15. He is available until then for urgent pastoral calls. Rev. Denise Tracy will begin her service as our Interim Minister in early September.

-The Board of Trustees



Music Vivace

By Dr. Catherine Roma

St. John's Minister of Music

Rachel Kramer and I are off to the UUMN in Portland, Oregon. We play one-piano four-hand duets on Wednesday at a noon concert, then I do a workshop on Thursday a propos of my sabbatical work, and Rachel does her workshop on burn-out on Thursday. It was 99 degrees in Portland today, 102 for tomorrow and Wednesday! I think the planners were planning a hot (read awesome) conference, but maybe not this hot!!

I've been busy planning music, met and have emailed Denise Tracy, and we're off and running. Please join us on Thursday August 27 at 7:00 for a rehearsal. Off on Thursday September 3 (prior to Labor Day weekend), and then back onto our regular Thursday schedule on Thursday the 10. We do have a few interesting changes, and I still welcome your ideas. Our Grailville Rehearsal Retreat will be November 7.

Sunday Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts for Sunday August 9 are:

Cliff Shisler, Linda Heath and Marta Donahue.

Coffee hosts for Sunday August 16 are:

Diane Wright, Richard Hadden and Sherry Tippey.

Coffee hosts for Sunday August 23 are:

Mary Ball, Mike Dennett and Ralph Davis.

St. John's Church Calendar

(check with your chalice leader, please)

Monday, August 3

10:00am: Worship Committee

Tuesday, August 4

10:00am: Yoga

7:00pm: Book Group

7:00pm: Young Adults Discussion & Action

Wednesday, August 5

7:00pm: Membership Committee

Thursday, August 6

10:00am: Meditation

Sunday, August 9

10:30am: Community Worship Service

11:30am: Search Committee Forum

12:00pm: Community Potluck

6:00pm: Search Committee Meeting

6:00pm: Men's Group

Monday, August 10

10:00am: Worship Committee

Tuesday, August 11

10:00am: Yoga

7:00pm: Chalice Group (O'Neill)

Wednesday, August 12

10:00am: Chalice Group (Hadden)

6:30pm: Executive Board Meeting

7:00pm: Chalice Group (Strong)

Thursday, August 13

10:00am: Meditation

5:00pm: Reporter Newsletter Deadline

Friday, August 14

6:00pm: Board of Trustees Retreat

Saturday, August 15

10:00am Board of Trustees Retreat

Sunday, August 16

10:30am: Community Worship Service

11:30am: Green Sanctuary Partners

6:00pm: Search Committee Meeting

Monday, August 17

Regular Church Office Hours Resume

10:00am: Worship Committee

Tuesday, August 18

10:00am: Yoga

From the Office

By Josie Arens

St. John's Office Administrator

I will be out of the office August 6 to 16. There will be office coverage on August 11 and 13. If you can volunteer to cover the office August 6 or 12, contact me at 513-961-1938 or office@stjohnsuu.org.

My goal is to publish a new People Book directory in October. If you have any updates, send them via email to office@stjohnsuu.org, leave a hard copy in my mail box or mail to the church. Please do NOT leave changes by voicemail. There is a "draft" copy of the People Book now hanging on the wall in Krolfifier. You can update your information on this copy as well. Deadline for People Book updates will be September 20.

I will need any announcements for the printed order of service for the August 9 and August 16 sent to me by no later than 10am on Tuesday August 4.

There will be NO eNews for the weeks of August 3 and 10. The next eNews deadline will be on Wednesday Aug 19 at 5pm. Send submissions to enews@stjohnsuu.org. Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer.

Thought of the Week

“We come from one ineffable One, source and goal of all that is.
We create a self, separate and unique, a window in the rosette of the soul
where divine light shines through in a rainbow of colors.
At journey’s end we discover what we always knew to be true
but only dimly perceived:
We are one with the One which alone truly is.”

-Richard Fewkes