THE CHURCH ON THE AVENUE
ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

PREVUES

St. John United Church of Christ Bellevue, Kentucky

June/July 2010 Volume 2010, Issue 4

Pastor Keith's Korner

Spirituality is a word that we throw around a lot these days. If I had a nickel for every time someone said to me, I'm not religious I'm spiritual, I'd be a wealthy man, a very wealthy man. What does it really mean to be spiritual? One dictionary definition of spiritual is, "relating to the soul or spirit, usually in contrast to material things." Most of the people I know who claim to be spiritual and not religious are very attached to their material things. They would never think of giving up the comforts of modern living for the simplicity of water from a rain barrel, recycling of reusable materials, wearing of secondhand clothing, or watching un-cabled TV. Why is this?

Every religious community, monastery, local congregation, Bible study or prayer group provides a structure that spiritual formation and practice can take place consistently. At St. John we seek to create ways to practice our spirituality through prayer, worship, reading and study of scripture, service, building relationships with one another and giving. The individual who attempts to be spiritual alone is an individual who has missed the very challenge of community that Jesus calls us to. Is it easier to be spiritual alone than within a community? Not really. We may not have the conflicts of interest, different opinions or beliefs as we do in community. But we also don't have the support, love, care and sharing of the journey and service with others either.

Thus, spirituality is not something we profess in opposition to religion; it is something we are by doing and "relating to the soul or spirit in contrast to material things". As followers of Jesus, Christians, we are spiritual, individually and together, by virtue of what we do with our time, our talents, our money, and our lives. So, are you spiritual or religious?

See y'all in the Church house!

Blessings,
Pastor Keith

VISION STATEMENT

"We risk to extend the extravagant welcome of Jesus by creating accessibility, pursuing spiritual formation, and engaging with the broader community. We will fulfill this vision by providing discipleship training, enhancing our building, growing our resources, and developing our staff." This statement is our vision for SJUCC over the next five years, 2006 through 2010.

Kids Konnection Summer Schedule

For June, July and August the Kids Konnection class (children, grades 1 through 5) will have a summer break. There will be a Special Time for Kids during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship time with an activity sheet for each child. Kids Konnection class will resume on Sunday, September 12th. Thanks to all of our faithful and dedicated teachers this year: Ginnie Kelley, Sandy Guckiean, Mary Ann Reilly, Doreen Johnson, Mitch Leigh and Anthony Jover. Special thanks to Anthony for coordinating the teachers. Additional teachers and assistants are needed for the upcoming Fall 2010 class session. Contact Pastor Keith if you are interested in helping. Training is available.

Youth Cluster Summer Events

For June, July and August the Youth Cluster (youth, grades 6 through 12) will have monthly fun events. Mark your calendar now for the following summer events: Saturday, June 26th Canoe Trip; Sunday, July 11th 6:05 p.m. Florence Freedom Baseball Game; Sunday, July 25th All River Valley Cluster Picnic and Vesper Worship service at Tower Park, Ft. Thomas, KY; Sunday, August 29th 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (dinner at 5:30 p.m.) Pool Party & Picnic at the Pendery Home (47 E. Vernon Ln., Ft. Thomas, KY). Further details will be posted soon in The Weekly (Sunday morning announcements) and at www.rivervalleycovenantcluster.org (click on Youth Cluster). Contact Pastor Keith for more information. The Wednesday program will break for the summer and resume September 15th.

CROP Hunger Walk Report

The "Crossing Bridges" CROP Hunger Walk, sponsored by Church World Service, which St. John and other congregations participated (October 2009) total income was a whopping $9,393.92! $4,704.92 was from Kentucky congregations alone. Good job. Mark your calendars for October 3rd, 2010 for the next walk. There will be a CROP Hunger Walk 2010 Organizational meeting on Thursday, July 8th at 7:00 p.m. in room 102 for all who are interested in helping with this year's walk.

Giving of Time & Talent

For several years, Esther Ries has uses her gifts of time and talent to minister (serve) at St. John Church through cleaning the Sanctuary weekly from the Altar to the Vestibule. After many years of serving in this way and health issues, Esther is relinquishing this ministry to another willing person. If you are interested as an individual, or with a team of people, to rotate cleaning (dusting, vacuuming, mopping, straightening hymnal racks, etc.) contact Pastor Keith at 859.261.2066, ext. 202 or Pastor@StJohnChurch.net. Many thanks to Esther for her faithful and generous ministry.

From Sarah Melcher:

Thank you to everyone who helped make my installation service a glorious event! Special thanks to Pastor Keith, Brad, Howard, the choir, Robert, Penny, Will, Debbie, Rev. Ruth, Rev. Nancy, Mark Behnken for the altar flower arrangement and all the wonderful people at St. John United Church of Christ . What a wonderful church home I have found!

A Thought from Justice, Peace and Mission Ministry For Us All to Consider

Who Is Your Macedonian?
Excerpt from Acts 16: 9-15
"During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.'"

Reflection by Anthony B. Robinson
Do you like studying maps? I do. If you happen to have a map of the Mediterranean world in the time of Paul (some Bibles have those in the back), take a look at it. Paul had been working the territory we know today as Turkey pretty hard. He had built and nurtured congregations all over the eastern end of the Mediterranean. But he hadn't ever crossed the Aegean Sea, which that stood between Asia and Europe. Then in a vision a Macedonian man (Macedonia is today's Greece) appeared to Paul and pled with him to come to Macedonia and help them.

Sometimes, maybe most of the time, we get really, really focused on our usual territory, people, social or ethnic group. We go there. We work with them. We pay attention to them. Our churches tend to minister to people who look a lot like we do. We look for people who will "fit in" with us.

But do you hear any "Macedonians" out there calling to you? Someone whose language you don't (yet) speak? Maybe they speak the Spanish language or maybe they speak street language. Maybe they speak something that sounds like Greek to you or they speak in strange tongues. But somehow you hear a plea, a request, a cry for help coming from someone in a territory to which you or your church have never been. Who is appearing to you in the night? Whose voice is calling to you? Is it someone out of your usual territory? It might be your "Macedonian."

Prayer
Give me ears to hear, O God, the voices that cry out that aren't in my usual territory, that aren't the people I am comfortable with and accustomed to. Go with me when I cross the wide sea to enter other worlds in response to your call. Amen. About the Author

About the Author Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher and writer. His most recent book is Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations. Read his weekly reflections on the current lectionary texts at www.anthony-brobinson.com.

The Daily Devotional is now on Facebook. Become a fan! Sign up to receive Daily Devotionals

The Stillspeaking Daily Devotional is a free service and is supported by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Ladders, Tool & Bricks, Oh My!

This old house needs some TLC. It takes an organizer, manager and a person of passion about buildings to serve as the Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee. Thank you to Bruce Murray for his ministry in the past few years in this capacity. Bruce has stepped aside from this responsibility to pursue his passion of ministry in other areas around the church. Thus, are you the one to step up and help take care of this old Church? We need a Chair (member of the Church) and a committee (non-members and members) to serve together in this capacity. If you are willing to offer your Time & Talent in this area, please contact Church Council President, Robert Moreland as soon as possible at Pres@StJohnChurch.net.

The Gift of Hospitality

St. John Church has a strong commitment to provide opportunities of hospitality to all who worship and minister here. At our monthly Welcome to the Table Luncheons, annual All-Church Picnics as well as food provided for receptions and funerals gathering around the table with one another is vital to our community life at St. John. We want to take the opportunity to thank Willie Tackett and Penny Poirier for serving as the co-Chairs of the Hospitality & Fellowship Ministry. At the end of May, Willie and Penny stepped down from this position. We are looking for a person who is a member of the Church, has a flair for food and fellowship and organizing groups of people to chair this ministry. If you are interested, please contact Church Council President, Robert Moreland, as soon as possible at Pres@StJohnChurch.net.

Pride Parade – July 4th

The 2010 Cincinnati Pride Parade will be on Sunday, July 4th. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance Ministry is sponsoring an entry. Everyone is invited and welcome to march. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at Fifth and Sentinel Streets. Line up starts at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in representing St. John Church by marching together please sign up at the Welcome Table in the back of the Sanctuary. Details regarding dress, and meeting locations will be emailed to you. For further information contact Kris Dickinson at GLBT@StJohnChurch.net. Although there is a conflict of time between worship and the parade, the Church Council feels it is important that those who wish to march do so under the Church's name and with our blessings and support.

Urban Ministry Conference

Pastor Keith, Sarah Melcher and Sandy Kerlin will travel to Washington, DC to attend the "City of God for American Cities" conference June 4-9. Let us hold these leaders in prayer as they are trained to help our congregation gain a clearer vision and insight of ministry in our urban area.

2010 STEWARDSHIP AT A GLANCE

	Offering	Need	Total +/-	YTD Total +/-
January	$11,062.45	$16,911.85	-$5,849.40	-$5,849.40
February	$10,840.67	$13,529.48	-$2,688.81	-$8,538.21
March	$10,222.00	$13,529.48	-$3,307.48	-$11,845.69
April	$10,585.90	$15,675.40	-$2,943.58	-$14,789.27

We are currently 26% behind budget

Attendance numbers

March 2010

7th 80
14th 67
21st 82
28th 99

Average Sunday Attendance for March 2010: 82

April 2010

1st 56 (Maundy Thursday)
2nd 30 (Good Friday)
4th 168
11th 77
18th 81
25th 79

Average Sunday Attendance for April 2010: 101

Average Sunday attendance for the Year of 2010: 85.2

RECENT MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of Glennus Merida from Ed & Janet Ulsas. (Memorial Fund)
In Memory of Roberta Reker from Debbie Reker (Accessibility Fund)
In Memory of Clara Goff from Crystal Dickinson (Pastor's Discretionary Fund)

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

520 Fairfield Avenue
Bellevue, KY 41073

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWPORT, KY 41071
PERMIT NO. 451

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.
Holy Communion First Sunday of Each Month

CLERGY
The Rev. Mr. Keith M. Haithcock, Pastor & Teacher
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Melcher, Scholar in Residence
Mr. Ken Weidinger, Student Minister
The Rev. Mr. Otto F. Artopoeus, Pastor Emeritus

STAFF
Mr. Brad Caldwell, Director of Music
Mrs. Debbie Cummings, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor
Mr. Jimmy Smith, House Keeper
Ministers: The whole congregation

OFFICE PHONE & 24-HOUR VOICE MAIL: (859) 261-2066

WEBSITE: www.StJohnChurch.net

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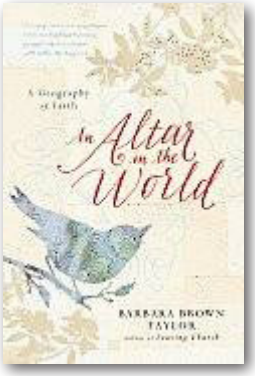
DESIGN & LAYOUT: Jennifer Miles

Address Service Requested

Summer Sermon Series



Barbara Brown Taylor, the best-selling author of *Leaving Church*, reveals how to see the sacred in our everyday life in her new book, *An Altar in the World*. Throughout the summer Student Minister, Ken Weidinger; Scholar In Residence, Sarah Melcher and Pastor & Teacher, Keith Haithcock will preach a summer sermons series based on this book. This series will lead us through twelve weeks (June 20th through September 5th) on the following themes: The Practice of Waking Up to God: Vision; The Practice of Paying Attention: Reverence; The Practice of Wearing Skin: Incarnation; The Practice of Walking on the Earth: Groundedness; The Practice of Getting Lost: Wilderness; The Practice of Encountering Others: Community; The Practice of Living with Purpose: Vocation; The Practice of Saying No: Sabbath; The Practice of Carrying Water: Physical Labor; The Practice of Feeling Pain: Breakthrough; The Practice of Being Present to God: Prayer; and The Practice of Pronouncing Blessings: Benediction. We will also offer a study group on this book during the Sunday Morning Bible Study time at 9:00 a.m. in Room 102 and encourage those who want to form their own discussion/study (self led) groups to do so, hoping that opportunities for conversation and interaction with the book, scriptures and sermons will be created in a relaxed manner over the summer. A limited copy of the book will be available at the Church for purchase ($13) or you may purchase yours through your local book store or obtain a copy through your Public Library.

June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 11:30 a.m. Accessibility Task Force Meeting – Riverside Korean Restaurant 512 Madison Ave. Covington 7:30 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Committee – Room 102 **Brenda and Gil Fauber	**2** 11:00 a.m. RVCC Covenant Cluster Meeting (Faith UCC-Anderson Township, OH) 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner & Youth Fellowship –St John – Bellevue – Room 102	**3** *Diane Cottingham	**4** Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C. 10:00 a.m. Worship Arts Ministry - Room 101 **Lisa and Aaron Carr	**5** Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C. *Scott LeCates
6 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C. 11:45 a.m. LGBT Ministry - Room 102 *Dale Sexton	**7** Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C.	**8** Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C. 6:15 p.m. Chancel Ministry - Room 102 7:00 p.m. Church Council - Room 102	**9** Pastor Keith, Sandy Kerlin and Sarah Melcher – Urban Church Conference, Washington, D.C.	**10** 6:15 p.m. JPM Ministry - Room 102	**11** Pastor Keith, Ohio Conference, Heidelberg University, Tiffin OH	**12** Pastor Keith, Ohio Conference, Heidelberg University, Tiffin OH
13 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 13*Mary Kahal	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17** 6:30 p.m. Song Book Project – Brad Caldwell's home (748 E. Epworth Ave. Cinti. OH 45232) *Alleyne Kess	**18** **Carol and Ed Stitt	**19** 10:00 a.m. Spiritual Formation Ministry (Kids Konnection teachers and helpers) room 102 *Brenda Fauber **James Myers and Tony Vaughn
20 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100	**21** **Ken Road and Richar Hazzard	**22** 7:30 p.m. Evangelism & Growth Ministry meeting –Room 102	**23** *Jennifer McGraw	**24**	**25**	**26** Youth Cluster Canoe Trip
27 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C. 12:00 p.m. Hands and Hearts Meal - LL100 *Theo Baldwin	**28** Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C. *Aaron Carr	**29** Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C. 7:00 p.m. Pride Interfaith Worship Service (location TBA) 7:00 p.m. Pride Interfaith Worship Service @ Wise Temple 8329 RidgeRoad	**30** Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C.		* Birthdays **Anniversaries ***Marriages If you are a member and your birthday or anniversary isn't listed that means we don't have it in our records. Please contact Office@StJohnChurch.net or (859) 261-2066.	

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C. **Tim Crouch and Kenneth Turner	**2** 10:00 a.m. Worship Arts Ministry - Room 101 Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C.	**3** Pastor Keith, Worship and Music Conference, Montreat, N.C. GLBT Pride
4 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 11:45 a.m. LGBT Ministry - Room 102 GLBT Pride	**5** *Darlene Fausz	**6** 11:30 a.m. Accessibility Task Force Meeting – Riverside Korean Restaurant 512 Madison Ave. Covington	**7** **Dean Clevenger and Freeman Durham	**8** 6:15 p.m. JPM Ministry - Room 102 7:00 p.m. Crop Hunger Walk Organization Meeting – LL100 *Tyler Poirier	**9**	**10** August/September Prevues articles and calendar items deadline
11 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 Youth Cluster Florence Freedom Game	**12**	**13** 6:15 p.m. Chancel Ministry - Room 102 7:00 p.m. Church Council - Room 102	**14** UCC LGBT Gathering, San Diego, CA	**15** UCC LGBT Gathering, San Diego, CA UCC Coalition Nation Gathering, San Diego, CA	**16** UCC LGBT Gathering, San Diego, CA UCC Coalition Nation Gathering, San Diego, CA	**17** UCC LGBT Gathering, San Diego, CA UCC Coalition Nation Gathering, San Diego, CA
18 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 *Brittany Montgomery *David Foust	**19** *Tony Phillips	**20**	**21** *Roland Peaslack	**22**	**23** **Bruce and Beth Murray	**24**
25 9:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study - Room 102 10:00 a.m. Krib Kids nursery (infants & toddlers) - Room 103 10:30 a.m. Worship - Room 100 12:00 p.m. Hands and Hearts Meal - LL100 Youth Cluster RVCC Picnic & Vespers Service at Tower Park, Ft. Thomas	**26**	**27** 7:30 p.m. Evangelism & Growth Ministry meeting –Room 102 *Jamie Schubert	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** *Debbie Reker*