



First Unitarian Church

# Steepletalk

## First Unitarian Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association

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and Friday, 10am-2pm or by appointment

**Celebrations of Life**

**Sunday Services begin at 10:55am**

**February 5, Working to build the Beloved Community** Part 1 of 3 in a series based on Rev. Cooley's work with the Healing History Academy

**Speaker:** The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**Offering:** Ministry Council and Heartland District

**Music:** First U Choir

**Children:** Religious Education for Children and Youth

**February 12, Global Warming**

**Speaker:** Ben Luoma

**Offering for:** Ministry Council and Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light

**Music:** First Unitarian Church Choir

**Children:** Religious Education for Children and Youth

**February 19 The Invisible Knapsacks We Carry** Part 2 of 3 in a series based on Rev. Cooley's work with the Healing History Academy

**Speaker:** The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**Offering:** Ministry Council and UUA

**Music:** First U Choir

**Children:** Religious Education for Children and Youth

**February 26 Racial Inequality Today** Part 3 of 3 in a series based on Rev. Cooley's work with the Healing History Academy

**Speaker:** The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**Offering:** Ministry Council

**Children:** Religious Education for Children and Youth

**First Hour Opportunities**

**9:30am to 10:45am**

**Every Sunday:** Round Table (see page 3 for more info)

**First Sunday:** Meditation with Edward

**Second Sunday:** Sunday Morning Books

**Third Sunday:** 12 Steps to a Compassionate Life book study

*Love is the spirit of this church...*

*Rev. Dawn also maintains a blog at <http://revdawn.wordpress.com>*

I had the opportunity to attend this year's Convocation at Meadville/Lombard – our Unitarian Universalist seminary located in Chicago. It was rejuvenating to be with colleagues – connecting with old friends and making new ones. It was enlightening to learn more about my role as Teaching Pastor to a Meadville student (who will be an intern at our congregation next year – watch this space next month for more details!). And it was challenging to bump up against something that I have been struggling with and to realize that I just need to do it – embrace the change and do it.

That “it” is to begin preaching extemporaneously. Without a script, and outside the pulpit. I have felt confined during sermons – feeling as though my hand motions cannot be seen very well, feeling rooted to one spot when I really want to be moving around. While I like the safety of having a script, I also am aware that it is when I go off script that service becomes more alive, more vibrant.

Worship in a Unitarian Universalist congregation is grounded in the relationship that the minister has with those gathered. It is not something that can be done to an empty sanctuary. Likewise, I think that after overcoming an initial period of discomfort and struggle, my preaching will improve as I take what I have spent time learning and processing and deliver it within the context of that relationship.

It may take more time on my part, at least in the beginning – more work to prepare, contemplate, and process the sermon. I am excited by this aspect, too, because I think it will help me to go deeper into the topic. It will be difficult for me to leave the safety of the pulpit, the script, but I am looking forward to the challenge because I think it will bring us into better relationship and make for better worship.

This move to extemporaneous preaching brought with it another realization: the question of attire. When I began at First Unitarian 2.5

years ago, I began to robe for worship for the first time in my ministry. I had several reasons for doing so: I wanted to create a feeling that what we do on Sunday mornings is special, that it is worship, and I felt that the liturgical robe would help. I also wanted a ritual for myself such that I put on the robe for worship, and then take it off for interactions during coffee hour. Plus there were some more practical reasons: women ministers struggle with the constant critique of what we wear and how we present ourselves. I did not want my new ministry with you to be distracted by what I wore.

Now, as our relationship deepens, I find myself feeling confined, rather than freed, by the liturgical robe. It makes me feel confined to the pulpit, it creates difficulties in interacting with the kids, it makes me feel like I am wearing a potato sack.

And so you will also see another change when I return in February. Not only will I be delivering the sermon extemporaneously, not from behind the pulpit, but I will no longer be wearing the liturgical robe except for ceremonial occasions.

So Sunday mornings are going to look a bit different. It is scary for me, and exciting. I believe that this is the direction I need to move in to make Sundays even more spectacular.

**PS** – One of the things we will lose in this transition is that I regularly post my sermon on my blog for others to read. If anyone is interested in transcribing the sermon each week (or running it through a program that will do it), I know that I (and folks who regularly read my blog) would greatly appreciate it!

### **Our church looked very nice for the Vespers Service!**

A huge Thank You from Resource Ministry to Ann Ulinski, Susan Wilburn, Carol Tobe, Eugenia Willner, David Runge, Janice Molnar, Carol Findling, Earl Reynolds and Edward Adamson for bringing Holiday items down from the 3rd floor, arranging them in a creative and tasteful manner, bringing vases etc. from home, finding fresh greenery, taking everything down, and putting it all away! We appreciate it.

**February REM Happenings**

Interestingly enough and hard as it is to believe, the first month of the new year is already history! Time passes so quickly. Please make Religious Education programming a priority for yourself and your family. There is something for everyone in a lifespan program that is continuing to grow.

RE for those in grades preschool through Middle School will meet EACH WEEK during the month of February! Senior High RE meets on a slightly different schedule; please contact Kathy Gapsis or the DRE for more information concerning this schedule.

**This is a reminder of how we operate:** The children and youth in those grades meet with the entire congregation in the sanctuary until all have shared in the Moment for All Ages. Following the sending song, they are then dismissed to follow the RE Chalice to the second

floor where age-graded classes are held until 12:15pm. Capable and approved leadership is in place each week to lead these young ones with UUA curriculum that focuses on the ways the Seven Principles are lived in the wider circles of the overall community.

Currently, the Middle School Youth are involved in "Our Neighboring Faiths." This curriculum is a challenging one that focuses on the wonderful variety of faith traditions that surround each and every one of us who live in this global network of people we call home. The class has already visited several centers of worship and has been enjoying learning about these traditions, having time in the classroom to discuss and share experiences. Like to join them one Sunday on a field trip? That might be an option. Simply check with the leaders, Phil Candee and Geneva Fry, be cleared through the DRE and be on the way to a new adventure in faith exploration.

**Round Table****Church Library****9:30 to 10:45am Sundays**

FAITH DEVELOPMENT is the purpose of Sunday Morning Adult Round Table, which meets at 9:30am each Sunday for programs on a variety of topics. Participants engage in their own faith development and contribute to that of others who are present.

Youth are encouraged to participate. Child care is available at 9:30 for infants and pre-schoolers. Adults are welcome to bring children in their care. For more information or to suggest a program, contact Jasmine Walston by email at [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com) or by leaving a message in the Religious Education mailbox in the volunteer area.

**February 5** *Race: The Power Of An Illusion.* Most of our common assumptions about race are wrong. Yet the consequences of racism are very real. First of a three-part documentary with discussion led by The Rev. Dawn Cooley.

**February 12** *Do You Believe In Love At First Sight?* Janice Molnar will lead a discussion based on her survey.

**February 19** *Each Step I Take.* A Christian contemplates the concept of "divine plan" in light of the twists and turns life's journey can--and often does--take. Edward Adamson will share the fantastic journey that he calls his own, as part of the My Faith Path series. .

**February 26** *Race: The Power Of An Illusion.* The idea of race originated with the conquest of the New World and the American slavery system. Second of a three-part documentary with discussion led by The Rev. Dawn Cooley.

**March 4** *Race: The Power Of An Illusion.* Institutions and policies provide advantages to some groups at the expense of others. Third of a three-part documentary with discussion led by The Rev. Dawn Cooley.

# Notes from the Ministries

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

**HOMELESS NEIGHBORS:** As the Coalition for the Homeless continues its efforts to arrive at an accurate count of the number of homeless people in Louisville, we continue to gather information about specific needs. We have learned that food is not a major problem, but that medical care is in short supply, as is shelter housing for those not in need of substance abuse programming. A particularly problematic circumstance is that there is no local shelter accommodating family units that include an adult male, adding enormous stresses to family cohesion. If you are interested in helping the Ministry develop recommendations for a meaningful response to the needs of homeless people in our area, please contact Kathy Gapsis or Jo Ann Dale.

**DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS:** Plans continue for the spring Heartland District Assembly, as well as for both the 2012 Phoenix General Assembly and the 2013 Louisville General Assembly. If you are interested in serving as a delegate to the District or UUA Assemblies, please contact Jill Sampson, the District representative on the General Assembly Planning Committee.

**IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE JUSTICE:** The Round Table study of the UUA's immigration issue has concluded, and First U's report has been submitted. As part of that study, the congregation developed specific action steps that we can take. You will hear more about these as the spring progresses, but the first opportunity for concrete action is on February 5: At the luncheon after the Celebration of Life, find the Social Action table, where you can get guidance is writing letters to Kentucky legislators who are considering bills (SB 6 and HB 3) modeled after the harsh Alabama and Arizona laws.

**STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE:** The "Thirty Days of Love" Campaign kicked off on January 16. For daily email messages, go to <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/tag/30-days-of-love/> and sign up to receive readings, reflections, and ideas for action and for witness. Wouldn't you love to have one of those nice bright yellow t-shirts that identify us as Unitarian Universalists when we are doing social action? Keep your eyes on FYI for an opportunity to participate in a bulk order.

**OCCUPY MOVEMENT:** Some First U congregants see support for the Occupy movement as an

appropriate expression of U Uism and some do not agree. To provide an exploration opportunity that is somewhere between corporate endorsement and leaving individual congregants on their own, the Mission and Outreach Ministry has created "U U Friends of Occupy" as a task team. For more information, contact George Schumann or Gail Helinger.

**40203 PROJECT:** The Coleridge-Taylor "Adopt a Family for the Holidays" project was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Women's Alliance, Mary Ballard, and many generous and loving congregants, and it will most certainly be back next year – if not before. We are pleased to report that Coleridge-Taylor is now able to participate in the expanded Blessings in a Backpack program, meaning fewer hungry children between Friday afternoon and Monday morning. Our congregation's support for HELP Ministries is going strong. The Free Will Offering to be collected on the February 5 Harry Pickens Contemplative Music Concert (7 pm) will go to further benefit HELP.

## MEMBER MINISTRY

**NEW UU CLASS** The Member Ministry is having a New UU Class on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9am to 2pm. If you'd like to know more about First Unitarian Church and a history of Unitarian Universalism and have some fun, please join us. We ask that you RSVP to [memberministry@firsttulou.org](mailto:memberministry@firsttulou.org) because the class includes lunch. If you have questions ask Bev Daly, Rita Sasse or Holly Hogue. Please call the office if you'd prefer to RSVP by phone (585-5110).

**POTLUCK/GAMES NIGHT** The Activities Team has scheduled a Potluck/Games Night on the second Saturday (February 11) from 6-9 PM, every other month. (Put these upcoming dates on your calendar: April 14, June 9, August 11.) Members, friends, and community are welcome! Bring a dish to share and your favorite games. If you don't have favorite games, don't worry because we have plenty to share. Please also bring a non-expired food donation to be given to the HELP food pantry which is run by our neighbor Calvary Episcopal Church. If you are interested in helping the Activities Team host the April, June or August games night, please contact Rick Hogue at [info@propertybyrick.com](mailto:info@propertybyrick.com) or call 502-649-3431.

# First U Happenings

## **STEWARDSHIP IS MORE THAN FUND RAISING**

[From a Reading to open a recent meeting of the  
Canvass Stewardship Team]

"Money is most meaningful when we can move from thinking of it as a way to pay the bills and regard it as a way to fulfill the ministry of the congregation. . . .

Some of today's healthiest faith communities focus more on stewardship than fundraising. While fundraising refers specifically to money-raising efforts, stewardship is an attitude that is reflected in all of the congregation's efforts. Fundraising emphasizes the need of the recipient; stewardship addresses people's spiritual need to give. Stewardship must precede fundraising. . . .

Stewardship is an act of worship. Worship includes the joyful sharing of *gifts* (aptitude, ability, and money), *call* (willingness to proclaim the congregation's spiritual message), and *spiritual vocation* (willingness to take up volunteer efforts to support the faith community). Note that *gifts* has a wider meaning than money.

*Stewardship*, then, is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of the *gifts, call, and spiritual vocation* of the members of a faith community. Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do."

Your Stewardship Team is fully assembled and actively putting together our best effort to Magnify Our Miracles for 2012-13. We also wish to acknowledge the Stewardship roles of our Minister, Ministries, Board, Task Teams, Staff and volunteers whose ongoing Stewardship roles expand the spiritual possibilities of all our members and friends.

**Nancy MacPherson, George Schuhmann, Angie Andriot, Cassandra Culin, Tiffany Taylor, Dan Hill, Suzanne Meeks and Jill Sampson.**

## **FREE MONEY FOR THE CHURCH!! (A REMINDER)**

Many of you think that Kroger will give the church a donation equal to 4% of what is spend there if you use your First U gift card. - Actually Kroger pays us 4% of what you put on your card when you reload it. So please use your cards and keep putting money on them. Don't have a First U Kroger gift card? See Gary Drehmel he will be happy to provide you one with \$20 on it already.

*P.S. They make great Valentines Day gifts!*

## **UU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

*Gospel of Thomas*. Sunday, February 19, 12:30 – 2:30pm, parlor. *The Gospel of Thomas* is a collection of Jesus' sayings. Jasmine Walston, who attended a Jesus Seminar workshop on Thomas, will lead the conversation. UUCF meetings are open to anyone who is interested of any gender identity or sexual orientation: seekers, doubters, skeptics, critical thinkers, former Christians, current Christians, questioning Christians, Christian-curious, believers, agnostics, atheists, and followers of other faith traditions. For more information, contact co-chairs Wynona Schaad at 502-432-7453 (cell) or Peggy Muller at 502-689-0909.

## **BROWNBAGGERS**

*Brownbaggers Reflect On Remodeling*

On Monday, February 13 the Brownbaggers will welcome our own Claudia Runge who will discuss First Church's rebuilding after the tragic fire in 1985. Claudia was a leader in making decisions about how our church home should look after that event. Come join us - bring your lunch to the church library at 11:40 am or so and stay for the program at noon.

## **WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

Save these dates: April 13 (evening) and April 14 (day) for the Women's Retreat which will take place here at First Unitarian. All women are invited to attend. Registration will begin in March. Shelly Graf will come down from Cincinnati to do music with us, and there will be two or three other workshops. There will be lots of time for sistership, which scientists have figured out is very important to women's health.... now didn't we already know that!!! The Retreat Committee, under the leadership of Nancy MacPherson, is busy working to make this Women's Retreat the best ever.

We thank Anne Miller who gave a lift to our Annual Business Meeting in January giving a talk on the determination and creativity of the National Women's Suffrage Association to be present at the final event of the 1876 Centennial Celebration in Philadelphia (PA) and to have the Declaration of Sentiments entered into the official documents of this event. Our next Full Membership Gathering will be on Saturday, March 17th. Goddesses will be the topic of the program after we have a pot luck lunch. Then if you wish you may stay after the program as Geneva leads us to create our own Goddess. Any questions please contact Kathy Thackeray, at [womensalliance@firsutlou.org](mailto:womensalliance@firsutlou.org) or see her in church.

## February's Ministry Theme: Beloved Community

Beloved Community is a term coined by philosopher Josiah Royce to denote an ideal community. The term was used frequently by Dr. King to describe a society of justice, peace and harmony which can be achieved through nonviolence. Unitarian minister Richard Gilbert claims “one of the central missions of the Unitarian Universalist movement is trying to fix these cracks, repairing the world and creating the Beloved Community of Love and Justice.”

### Reflection/Discussion Questions:

- Does the concept of the Beloved Community appeal to you? Why or why not?
- Some social activists have come to realize there is something missing in the struggle for justice and human rights when we replace a larger vision of Beloved Community with a less inclusive strategy of community-building and community organizing. What do we lose without this larger vision?
- Dr. Martin Luther King spoke of the Beloved Community requiring a “qualitative change in our souls.” What is a change that your soul might benefit from?
- Dr. Martin Luther King spoke of the Beloved Community requiring a “quantitative change in our lives.” What might be a change that you could make in your life?
- What vision might we help to make a reality by “acting so as to hasten its coming”?

Each month, our Covenant Groups engage with these ministry themes through readings, discussion and personal sharing. If you are interested in joining a Covenant Group, please contact the Rev. Dawn Cooley at [minister@firstulou.org](mailto:minister@firstulou.org).

## More First U Happenings

### FIRST U BOOK CLUB

Hello Fellow Readers,

The First U Book Club gathered Monday, Jan 9th to discuss our reading selections. Twenty-seven titles were suggested as candidates to be read in the next six months, six were chosen. Following is a list of those books and the date when they will be discussed.

**February 13th** *Abide with me* by Elizabeth Strout

**March 12th** *Buffalo Creek Disaster: How The Survivors Of One Of The Worst Disasters In Coal-Mining History Brought Suit Against The Coal Company—And Won* by Gerald M Stern

**April 9th** *Art Of Racing In The Rain* by Garth Stein

**May 14th** *Tender At The Bone: Growing Up At The Table* by Ruth Reichl

**June 11th** *Hungry Ghost* by Keith Kachtick

**July 9th** *Warmth Of Other Suns: The Epic Story Of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson

Thanks to all for the wonderful suggestions. We meet in the Parlor on the second Monday of each month at 6:00p.m. Please join us.

Kathy Rogers

### FOOD COLLECTION FOR HELP OFFICE

The youth groups continue to collect and deliver your food donations to HELP's food pantry at Calvary Church. **The February focus is on soups.** To celebrate Super Bowl Sunday, on Feb 5 both Calvary and First U will promote *Souper Sunday* to collect as many cans of soup as possible. Your donations directly fight hunger in our neighborhood and are much appreciated.



## An Inspirational Quote brought to you by your Committee on Ministry

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”  
- Theodore Roosevelt

### Partner Church

#### Conference Call - 2nd International Convocation of UU Women

The first conference was in Houston in 2009. There are plans for a second conference which will be in Marosvasarhely, Transylvania in October, 2012.

#### **What's the importance of having this convocation?**

Zsofie- from 1945-1989, Transylvania (and Romania) had a very repressive Communist dictatorship. After 1990, a rebirth was expected, but it didn't happen. At the Houston conference, the 12 women in attendance realized that they needed to make this change in a new generation. They needed to encourage the change NOW; there is a sense of immediacy.

#### **What do women hope to accomplish?**

Laura-They hope to develop leadership skills among women, leading to organizational development, not just in Transylvania, but in the EU.

Zsofie- They want women in the organizing of church and community, to build a more active women's organization. The main women's organization is composed mostly of women in their 60's and 70's. They need young women. They hope to interest younger women to become leaders.

#### **Are women from other parts of the world interested?**

Yes, there is some interest from the UK, Netherlands and Japan. There will be English translation at this conference.

Laura-At the beginning of the Houston conference, only men's names were coming to mind. Slowly women's names began emerging.

Cathy-a mechanism was used in Houston, called global sister's group, which is a process that gets people to *participate*, not just listen. This will be repeated at the upcoming conference.

Zsofie-The importance of the global sister's group comes from our legacy of Communism. Women were discouraged from getting together and discussing things that were on their minds. Women still don't get together with neighbors, friends, churches, much less in their community, to discuss issues.

#### **The Transylvanian church (led by men only) is fully behind this convocation and it means a lot to the congregations. They voted to give 3000 lei to the conference.**

Shirley-wants to give a service telling the history of the partnership.

Cathy-her husband, Ron, is doing a video project of the history of Unitarianism; it's 6 one-hour videos. Right now two are available from him. Money paid to him goes towards making the next 4 films. Contact either Cathy or Ron. His email is [rcordes@teamflow.com](mailto:rcordes@teamflow.com). Others praised the videos they had seen.

#### **Is there any effect of the Occupy movement on this convocation?**

It is a global movement and some goals are in harmony. Gizi and Laura talked to Margo Adler last week. She is focusing in her reporting on the Occupy movement. She is the one who reports for NPR, and who interviewed UUA presidential candidates in Houston.



## First Unitarian of Louisville Covenant of UU Pagans

### FULCUUPS

FULCUUPS is a free and open community of people who practice earth-based spiritualities. Please join us as we celebrate the turning of the Wheel of the Year with our Sabbat Celebrations. Sabbat Circles are open to the public and anyone with a positive path is welcome.

Our Sabbat Circles are held on Sunday night.

Doors open at 5:30pm and Circle starts at 6pm. A potluck dinner follows around 7 pm.

### 2012 FULCUUPS Sabbat Circle Schedule

**Ostara** March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Beltane** April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**Midsummer**/Walking the Labyrinth June 24, 2012

FULCUUPS offers classes meeting the First and Third Wednesdays of each month (unless otherwise noted).

Our classes are a blend of lecture and discussion with seekers, those new to the path and experienced practitioners in attendance.

Our classes start at 7pm and last till about 8:30pm.

We host a variety of topics that have included Four Cornerstones of Magick, Sabbat Lore/Traditions, Beginning Meditation, Divination, Herbal Magick and many other topics.

For more information, please email us at [cuups@firstulou.org](mailto:cuups@firstulou.org)



## An Opportunity to Help

### HELP BOTH FIRST U AND CENTER FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

On Saturday, Feb. 4, Kroger stores across Kentucky will host the fourth annual Shop and Share Day. From 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., volunteers will be working inside of each store, encouraging shoppers to purchase items from wish lists for donation to their local domestic violence shelter. Use your First Unitarian Kroger card and benefit two good causes!

### **STEEPLETALK**

Published every month by First Unitarian Church of Louisville  
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**Editor:** Rebecca Dimon

Next Deadline: February 15  
(Covers the month of March)

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## Interweave

"Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past."



• **CANADIAN POLYGAMY COURT CASE.** Sun, Feb 26, 12:30-2:30pm, library. What was the ruling in the case? What does a ruling on polygamy have to do with polyamory? With Unitarian Universalism? Please bring your own lunch or snack. All First Unitarian members, friends, and visitors of any gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship orientation, or faith path are welcome. Co-sponsored meeting.

### • COMMITMENTS

By voting to become a Welcoming Congregation, First Unitarian Church agreed to the "Commitments" listed in The Welcoming Congregation Handbook. Commitment # 6 states:

"A Welcoming Congregation offers congregational and ministerial support for services of union and memorial services for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons, and celebrations of evolving definitions of family."

### • REFLECTION

What action will I take in the coming month to promote civil rights and full inclusion for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people?

### • ADVOCACY

*Bi in the House?* Arizona state Senator Kyrsten Sinema is openly bisexual. In early January, she announced a run for the U.S. House. If elected, Sinema will be the first out, bisexual member of Congress.

*Lesbians Make Good Moms.* Newly released research from a 30-year longitudinal study shows that children from lesbian homes have a quality of life which is equal to children from heterosexual homes. This and additional studies can be downloaded from the National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study website at <http://www.nllfs.org>

*Abuse of Trans People in Kuwait.* Human Rights Watch has accused Kuwaiti police of torturing and sexually abusing transgender women, using a discriminatory provision which arbitrarily criminalizes "imitating the opposite sex." The organization has called on Kuwait to hold the officers accountable and to repeal the provision.

*Contact Kentucky Legislators.* Call 1-800-372-7181 to ask your Kentucky legislators to support a statewide anti-discrimination Fairness law and anti-bullying law in 2012. Visit [fairness.org](http://fairness.org) throughout the legislative season for updates.

*Contact Indiana Legislators.* Ask your Indiana legislators to support suicide prevention and anti-bullying laws in 2012. Voice your objections to the Indiana Marriage Discrimination Amendment (HJR-6). Visit [indianaequality.org](http://indianaequality.org) throughout the legislative season for more updates.

### • MORE INFORMATION

For more information or questions about Interweave, please contact Interweave co-chairs Jasmine Walston ([interweave@firsttulou.org](mailto:interweave@firsttulou.org)) or Clare Zigner, or leave a message in the Interweave mailbox in the volunteer area.

### **Solar Power in Kentuckiana**

John and I lived in a house that used solar power for 26 years. Once it was properly installed, we never had to call a repair person and there was very little upkeep. Our solar house did not use photovoltaic power, but I know other people who are using this type of solar power. While First Unitarian is not in a position to install photovoltaic solar panels now, doing so would save us money. Making our church a more energy efficient building by replacing inefficient equipment, sealing air leaks in duct work, weather stripping, caulking, etc. is inexpensive and saves money immediately as well as when we are ready to buy solar panels later on.

So I was excited to read an article prepared by Andy McDonald, Director of the Kentucky Solar Partnership. It was part of the Kentucky Resources Council report of January 8, 2012 and was presented to a committee of the Kentucky Legislature October 25, 2011. Here are some excerpts.

There are now hundreds of solar installations across Kentucky that demonstrate that solar energy works in Kentucky. We have good solar resources, the technology is established and proven, and there are Kentucky-based businesses selling and installing solar energy systems. These small businesses can be found in Berea, Bowling Green, Burlington, Danville, Hart County, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro, Paducah, and Somerset.

Richardsville Elementary in Bowling Green was designed to meet all of its annual energy needs with solar photovoltaics. Opened August 2010, 72,285 square feet, and designed to use 75% less energy than the average Kentucky school. It is the first Net-Zero-Energy School in USA - will meet its annual electricity needs with solar photovoltaics. The project cost per square foot was lower than state limits for new school construction, including the cost of solar photovoltaics.

Solar photovoltaic power costs have fallen below 20 cents per KWH. Solar water heating delivers energy in the range of \$0.06 - \$0.11/KWH, when factored over the 25-year life of the equipment.

#### ***“Barriers to Growth” section:***

Twenty-nine states have Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) driving the development of their renewable energy industries. Kentucky has no such state policies. The states with thriving solar energy industries have strong policies supporting renewable energy development.

Net metering enables electric customers to easily interconnect solar electric systems with the power grid. Kentucky’s net metering law limits the size of eligible systems to 30 KW, restricting the ability of business, industry, and the public sector to install larger-scale solar electric systems. Many states enable net metering up to 2,000 KW.

