



First Unitarian Church

# Steepletalk

## First Unitarian Church

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian  
Universalist Association

Volume 18 Number 4

April 2012

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and Friday, 10am-2pm or by appointment

**Celebrations of Life**

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

**April 1, *Voices from Our Past***

*The worship ministry will present brief, dramatized excerpts from former First U ministers. Their words are striking, poignant, and absolutely relevant to our modern church.*

**Music:** Bellarmine University Handbells

**Children:** Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

**April 8, *Flower Sharing Ceremony (Easter!)***

**Speaker:** The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**Music:** First Unitarian Church Choir

**Children:** Multigenerational Service



**April 15, *The Perfect is the Enemy of Good***

**Speaker:** The Rev. Dawn Cooley

**Music:** Shelley Graff

**Children:** Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

**April 22, Music Service**

**Children:** Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

**April 29, Fifth Sunday Social Justice Project – Backpacks (see page 5 for more info)**

**Children:** Multigenerational Service

**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 (see page 5 for more info)

**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>*

The energy here at First Unitarian Church is amazing right now. I love hearing the “complaints” of too many wonderful things to choose from. I think back on the last year and I am in awe of how much the congregation has continued to bloom. Spring is definitely a fitting metaphor for where we find ourselves these days, and I can see summer right around the corner.

One of the things I am excited about is our incoming ministerial intern. Starting in September, we will have a student, Chris Rothbauer, from Meadville/Lombard (our Unitarian Universalist seminary in Chicago) here with us in an observatory role for 20 hours a week. He will attend meetings, lead a few services, and spend a lot of time with me in reflection on the practice of ministry and the role of parish minister. The second year, he will again be with us for 20 hours a week, but it will be a more active engagement with the congregation.

You will be hearing more about our student in the coming weeks, and I will be putting together a ministerial internship committee to walk with him through his process. Chris is from this area and is currently attending the Clifton church. He has been very involved in our tri-church (us, Clifton and TJ) Social Justice Network and has done extensive work with coordinating UU outreach in regards to tornado relief.

I think First U will be a wonderful teaching congregation for Chris. We have so much to offer. For me, personally, I am looking forward to my role as mentor. The ministerial mentors I had during my formation process were so important to who I am today. It is a joy to be able to start returning the favor.

Speaking of formation and mentorship, I am hoping you have already marked your calendars for June 19-23, 2013. I know that feels like a long way away, but it really is just around the corner. That is when the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly will be here in Louisville! Imagine 5000 UUs from around the country, gathering here for a week of learning, growing, decision making and being together! Make sure you plan ahead to attend the many workshops that will be offered. Plus, we will be electing a new moderator of our Association, so our governance and plenaries will be abuzz. Registration is free if you volunteer, and they will need LOTS of volunteers, so it is also a cheap way to learn more about this fascinating faith tradition of ours, and your place in it!

Spring buds lead to summer flowers. Metaphorically, and physically. Which reminds me: Our Flower Sharing Ceremony will be on Easter (April 8) this year! Though this is earlier than our usual tradition, I am confident that we will find plenty of spring flowers to bring in. Especially if this warm stretch keeps up.

This is such an exciting, wonderful time to be a part of First Unitarian Church!

**Celebrating Life, Mourning a Loss**

Dolores White Baker died January 8, 2012. There was a Celebration of Life held February 4 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, Todd Hall. Dolores was very active in the Louisville community and had been active at First U. The program from the ceremony will be hanging in the Social Hall on the “First Folks” kiosk through the month of April.

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**Religious Exploration Items of Interest for April**

There are several important events coming up in the month of April that involve participation from all ages. Please make sure to put these on your family calendar and participate in any or all. There is something for everyone!

**Coming of Age introductions** of youth and mentors have been scheduled during the month of April on two different dates during the Moment for All Ages, April 1 and April 15. These opportunities are important because they allow the youth to have a “practice” moment before the community in order to prepare for the CoA Celebration when they each have the chance to share their prepared statements of belief. Mark your calendars now for that special Celebration of May 13.

**Easter with its First U traditions** is coming next month too! The Senior High Youth will be having a sleep-over on Saturday, April 7 and will be getting up early to prepare a **Pancake Breakfast** for the entire church family and any visitors that might join the community on Easter morning. Serving of breakfast will begin at 9:30am with the price of the meal being by donation. Give generously and come hungry!

An **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on Easter morning as well. The Middle School Youth Group is in charge of this event. Members of the church are

being asked to provide wrapped, peanut-free candies suitable for filling plastic eggs; remember than some children are allergic to nuts of all kinds and the desire is to provide a safe hunt with candies that honor the special needs of those who must take care with diet. One hunt will be geared for younger children (10:30 am) with another to follow for the older children (10:40 am). Both hunts will be well supervised by approved adults as well as the Middle School Youth. Be sure to have the youngsters bring a basket or bag and join the fun.

The **RE Schedule for April** is as follows: RE for grades Preschool thru Middle School is scheduled for April 1, 15, and 22. April 22 is Earth Day and the Preschool thru Grade 5 will be meeting together to make an Earth Day banner as we contemplate our interconnectedness of all on this life raft of our planet. Easter Sunday, April 8 and the fifth Sunday of the month, April 29, are both Multigenerational Sundays. The fifth Sunday will be utilized as a day when the community gathers to take care of a service project as guided by the mission of the congregation.

Be sure to participate as often as possible in the RE ministry of First Unitarian. There is a long history of quality programming and spiritual exploration at First. Let’s keep the torch proudly burning as we celebrate the coming of spring.

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

FAITH DEVELOPMENT is the purpose of Round Table, which meets 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.

**April 1** *What Is Marriage For?* Marriage has met many purposes at many different times. What does it mean to us today? How do UU values shape our understanding of marriage? First of three sessions. Ben Luoma, program leader.

**April 8** *All Church Easter Breakfast.* Breakfast provided by First Unitarian youth. No Round Table program.

**April 15** *What Is Marriage For?* Continue the discussion of marriage with a look at different views of marriage from a variety of historical and global perspectives. Second of three sessions. Ben Luoma, program leader.

**April 22** *What Is Marriage For?* Discuss how marriage fits into our theologies and the roll it has in our church community. Third of three sessions. Ben Luoma, program leader.

**April 29** *Exploration Hour Q&A.*

# Notes from the Ministries

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

Local Unitarian Universalists were quick to step forward to help those affected by the March 2 storms in Kentucky and Indiana. The **March 4 offering** for Red Cross Disaster Relief **raised \$1200**, and individual First U congregants continued to donate money, time, and materials. Working through Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice ("UUSJ"), the collaboration among the three Louisville UU congregations, we donated supplies and coordinated relief efforts from as far away as Boca Raton, Florida. Considering the alarming frequency of natural disasters in recent years, the UUSJ may consider training a UU Disaster Response team.

March saw First supporting justice on many fronts in Frankfort and in Indianapolis. Through lobbying, emails, phone calls, and rallies, we addressed legislation affecting reproductive freedom, voting rights, bullying, immigration, sex education, and environmental affairs. Also in March, the success (in terms of both fund-raising and FUN-raising) of the Dancing With Our Partner Church event convinced us to make this an annual affair. Through several avenues, we worked for Help Ministries to achieve its goal of earning a matching gift. Thanks for your participation in all these efforts.

So what's coming up in April? Be ready for the Pride Parade and the Immigration Justice event this summer with your very own bright yellow "**Standing on the Side of Love**" t-shirt. Look for the Mission and Outreach table in the social hall after church to get in on the bulk order – save on shipping and make sure a small portion of your purchase price goes to social justice funding. We will place the full order on **April 15**, so act quickly. We are delighted that the three churches are joining together to sponsor a refugee family, and during April we will be soliciting donations of furnishings for our family's apartment. On April 7, we will gather at the church – while some of us go out to clean up our neighborhood as we participate in Operation Brightside, others will stay at church to sort and organize jewelry for the **April 22** Jewelry Sale (to benefit our Partner Church). On **April 27**, join us for "Hot Coffee," the first in a new UUSJ social justice film series. The film is at 6:30 at Clifton Universalist Unitarian Church, with a discussion afterwards of what can be done to preserve access to courts. On **April 29**, Mission and Outreach and Women's Alliance co-sponsor a Fifth Sunday Social Action Celebration of Life, when we will fill back to school backpacks for needy kids.

And as a final note, check out uulouisville.org and its new listing of social justice events at all three UU churches in Louisville. Thanks to John Cooley for making this possible.

## RESOURCE MINISTRY

**New Purchases!** Thanks to the "Solar Array Fund" under the watchful eye of Joe Kremer, we now have a new freezer in the kitchen and a refrigerator in the pre-school room. Our freezer "died," and the old refrigerator upstairs was not energy efficient. Joe states, "Any reputable solar panel sales person will tell you that before you buy solar, the first and best use of your money is to cut your electricity usage. We've done that by replacing many of our lights with CFL's, turning up the AC threshold, and now we have replaced 2 refrigerators and a freezer. We used the money from the Solar Array Fund because by doing so we require fewer solar panels to generate the electricity the church uses. The less electricity we use the fewer solar panels we will need. The freezer cost \$497, the refrigerator was \$437 --- both are Energy Star models." Thank You to Joe Kremer for his guidance and advice in these purchases. Thank You to members and friends who have enjoyed many spaghetti dinners--- donating money to this most worthy fund.

**Churchyard Friends**, under the direction of Carol Findling, did a Great Job cleaning up, sweeping, raking, trimming, and pulling weeds to make our church grounds shine! Churchyard Friends is open to anyone who would like to come in, usually on a Saturday morning, and participate in getting to know other member and friends, enjoy the great outdoors, and do a good deed for the church! Watch for meeting times on List, Chat, Steepletalk, FYI, and Facebook.

**Kudos to Linda Parry and Kathy Thackeray** for their talents in working on our Church Banners! They did some fixing up of old banners, and made a few new ones. Very Appreciated. Thank You.

**Chairoteers!** The Chairoteers are reorganizing -- regrouping. Anyone can join up! Younger men and women -- we need you! Folks who would be willing to stop by church, usually late afternoon -- early evening --- to help move chairs and tables in the Sanctuary. This does not happen often; 5th Sundays and occasionally for a special Service. Please see the Rev. Dawn Cooley or Kathy Drehmel to sign up.



## First U Happenings

### EXTRA! EXTRA! KROGER BUCKS MATCHING "GRANT" CHALLENGE

An anonymous donor has pledged to contribute \$20 to the church for each Kroger gift certificate purchased. See Gary Drehmel in the social hall after service for more details (hurry before the anonymous donor sobers up).

### FIRST U BOOK CLUB

We meet in the Parlor on the second Monday of each month at 6:00p.m. Please join us.

**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

### JEWELRY SALE

Coming up soon is our popular jewelry sale on **Sunday, April 22** after Church. There's a lovely box on the counter of the Volunteer area for you to put your contributions of unwanted costume-type jewelry. Contact Carol Findling with questions.

### SUNDAY MORNING BOOKS

Sunday Morning Books Group will be reading and discussing the following;

**April 8:** *fathermothergod: My Journey Out of Christian Science* by Lucia Greenhouse

**May 13:** *Man Seeks God*, by Eric Weiner, Led by Jill Sampson

**June 10:** *Never Far From Home: Stories from the Radio Pulpit* by Carl Scovel

**July 8:** *Being Alive and Having to Die: The Spiritual Odyssey of Forrest Church* by Dan Cryer, Led by Kathy Rogers

All discussions are held in the Parlor unless otherwise noted and begin at 9:30. Please join us whether or not you have read the book.

### BROWNBAGGERS

*Brownbaggers to Visit the Orient!*

On **Monday, April 9** the Brownbaggers will eat their lunch around 11:30 AM in the church library then we will embark via car pool to the near by Crane House Asian institute for a guided tour of their fascinating exhibits. Come join us, Ko-mo-nitchee-wa You-all.

### UU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Topic To Be Announced. **Sunday, April 15**, 12:30 – 2:30pm, parlor. 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.

### BACKPACK STUFFING!

Mission and Outreach Ministry will partner with the Women's Alliance for the 5th Sunday, Social Justice Action during the Celebration of Life on **April 29th**. We will be filling backpacks for children in need at Coleridge Taylor Elementary School for the next school year. Coleridge Taylor Elementary is in the same zip code as our church. So we will be helping neighboring families. Mary Ballard works at Coleridge Taylor in the Family Resource Center. Mary is a member of our church and a member of the Women's Alliance. Thus we all have a special connection to this project. So before we can stuff backpacks we will need items to pack and backpacks in which to put the items!

On **April 1st, April 8th, and April 15 and April 22nd**, please stop by our *Stuffing the Backpacks Table* in the Social Hall and in the Library Lane Entrance Area to pick up a card or two and shop for the item(s) for the backpacks. We will have a card for each item. We have made this easy for all ages to contribute to this Social Justice Project. ( A Walking the Talk moment! ) If you don't wish to purchase items, you may donate with a check/cash. Any questions, contact Kathy Thackeray or Jo Ann Dale/Kathy Gapsis.



## Ministry Theme: Perfection

Perfection as being without flaw (aesthetically or in one's personality) is a mostly unattainable goal that at times has been either inspirational or oppressive (or both!) depending on one's perspective.

However, there are other ways to understand perfection. It can also mean having all of the required elements, qualities or characteristics – a much fuller, richer meaning of the word that could also be understood as complete, or whole.

Today, when looking at the concept of perfect as used in the Bible, the “without flaw” definition of perfect is often understood, but a better translation is actually “mature.”

### Reflection Questions:

- What is the difference between excellence and perfection?
- Which of these definitions most appeal to you (without flaw, whole, or mature)? Why?
- Do you find the idea of perfection as oppressive, as inspirational, both, or neither? Why?
- If you hold yourself, or others, to impossibly high standards, what would it be like to shift your understanding of perfect?
- Voltaire wrote “The perfect is the enemy of the good” when talking about the amount of effort it takes to accomplish something. What does he mean by this, and how do you see examples of it in your life?

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@firsttulou.org](mailto:minister@firsttulou.org). Cooley at [minister@firsttulou.org](mailto:minister@firsttulou.org).

## Green Scene

Ward Wilson

### Rain Catching

This time of year brings plenty of rain. Mostly, that is a good thing - April showers bring May flowers, singing in the rain, spring peepers, etc. But, in the city and the suburbs, rain can cause problems for our waterways. When we build roofs and roads, we seal off the surface of the ground and stop the natural process of rainwater soaking into the soil. Instead, the water quickly runs over the surface, carrying litter, oil, bird droppings – anything that's on the ground – right into the nearest storm drain and then to the nearest stream.

If you want to do something about this pollution problem, you don't have to tear out your driveway or remove your roof. You can install a rain barrel (or two or three) on your home's downspouts. This will allow you to use the water and keep it out of the storm sewer. Another approach is to install a rain garden in your yard. Think of a flower bed that, instead of being a mound of soil, is a dished-out low spot. Water collects in the rain garden during a storm and slowly soaks in over a period of hours. A good resource to learn more is the Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) web site at <http://www.msdlouky.org/aboutmsd/rainbarrels.htm>.

Some other ways to help our waterways:

- (1) If you wash your car at home, do it on the lawn instead of the driveway (water and soap will soak into the ground)
- (2) If you live in the city where there are combined sewers, don't use your washer when it's raining so as to not overload the sewers
- (3) Reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides on your lawn
- (4) Pick up after your pet
- (5) Don't litter; better yet, pick up litter on your walks

Do what you can and feel good about it.

## A letter from our Partner Church

Dear Brothers From Louisville!

February according to folk customs is named the winter's last month. Years of experience had shown that in this month, winter is losing it's cold grip and the first flowers of spring, the snowdrops appear.

This year's February showed nothing of the beginning of spring, but temperatures of -4 Fahrenheit. As I write these lines there is a winter atmosphere outside. At night there are still 17.6 degrees and snow in our gardens.

On the 11th of February I held a marriage ceremony which is very rare in our Church and it influences baptisms. This marriage was between one of our Unitarian members and a Calvinist girl. For the groom according to old folk-custom I wrote a sort of "valedictory", in which he said thanks and goodbye to his family and friends before entering into marital life and also a "perimition" for the bride's family to get the bride. All of it in rhyming form. But I don't know the correct English translation for these old local customs.

In February I held services in other Unitarian and Calvinist Churches. It is a custom that reformed churches in the first 3 months of the year hold 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' services. On February the 18th I held service in Harangláb and Szőkefalva which are 62 miles far from Nagyenyed. On the 20th I was to a nearby village called Szentkirály and Tompaháza on the same day, to Calvinist Churches.

On the 21st I was also in 2 nearby Calvinist Churches in Csombord and Magyarbagó. These services have the goal of meeting and knowing each other's faith, and to develop tolerance towards other religions. I held these services in this faith.

On February the 26th we held our annual Church-meeting and elected the leading members for the next term, 2012-2014. Mostly we reelected former members due to lack of interest from other people. Also we decided that we will have our 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' between the 19th and 25th of March. We invited Calvinist and Unitarian ministers and a Catholic priest.

Our family set a date for the baptism of our nephew on the 28th of April in our Church and as a grandfather I will conduct the ceremony. We are hardly waiting for this big event!



We wish all of You good health and may your work be fruitful!

Rev. Sándor Botond

## HELP Food Collection

The youth groups continue to collect food for HELP's food pantry, operated by our neighbor Calvary Episcopal Church. Any and all food donations are gratefully accepted. Place your food donations in the large baskets in the sanctuary. Personal care items are also collected for HELP clients - shampoo, soap, razors, deodorant, feminine hygiene, toothbrush/paste, toilet paper can be placed in the hamper by the kitchen.



Our Annual Flower Sharing Ceremony will be held on April 8 (Easter) this year.

Please remember to bring a cut flower (or several) to share!

## 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

*Beltane* **April 29th, 2012**

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

FULCUUPS offers classes meeting the First and Third Wednesdays of each mc

(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*

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

***"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others." ~ Peace Pilgrim***

## Help Ministries Food Closet Update

The Help Ministries Food Closet (maintained by Calvary Episcopal) has been running short on food recently. Donations are gratefully appreciated and much needed.

Please make plans to attend the Louisville Pipe Band Concert on **April 1, 4:30pm**, at Calvary Episcopal. Tickets are \$5. Sales benefit the Help Ministries Food Closet.

Tickets may be purchased by using PayPal on the band's website ([www.louisvillepipeband.org](http://www.louisvillepipeband.org)), purchased by phone at 502-241-6018, or at the door.



## Circles Within Circles – Women's Alliance Retreat

April 13 and 14 – First Unitarian Church

"We're a circle within a circle  
With no beginning and never ending"

"The circle is universal, sacred and divine. It represents the infinite nature of energy and the inclusivity of the universe." Avia Venefica

At the Women's Alliance retreat women are invited to create circles of meditation, circles of singing and circles of community and feminist heritage. On Friday evening, April 13th from 6 - 10pm, we will come together in a circle of sisterhood to share a supper followed by a gathering and centering service and bonfire. Saturday, April 14th, activities will include workshops and catered luncheon.

There will be four workshops that will be scheduled at various times so that participants can decide how to balance their day between workshops and unstructured activities. Here are the workshop offerings:

- "Singing in the Sacred Circle" Shelley Graff, Presenter. "This 'playshop' is an opportunity to look into your sister's eyes and share voice and spirit through song. While learning affirming, short, repetitive women-centered and earth-based songs from a variety of traditions, (Goddess, Native American, Buddhist) power rises from the center of the circle as all voices create an energy that is personally empowering, loving, healing and transformative." After attending Shelley's "playshop" Carolyn McDade, composer of "Spirit of Life," states, "We are fortunate to have Shelley Graff among us. She is generous of heart and skill - infused with love for the promise that comes when women sing together."
- "Creating Personal Mandalas" Holly Hogue, Presenter. Mandalas can help guide our meditation. Holly, along with Geneva Fry and Kris Philips, will show participants how to create their own mandalas using symbols and designs that are special to each person.
- "Urban Walk" Kathy Rogers, Presenter. Kathy will give a guided tour around our historic neighborhood pointing out landmarks and sharing stories.
- "Influential Women of Louisville" Kathie Johnson, Presenter. Kathie will introduce women in our community that have affected local history, culture and politics, but are not as well known.
- Unstructured Activities: Labyrinth walk, creative writing, contemplation and meditation, conversation

The all-inclusive fee for the retreat will be \$20. Opportunities for registration will begin at the Women's Alliance General Meeting on March 17th and again on March 18th, 25th, April 1st and 8th. Deadline for registration will be April 8th.

## 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."



- Business Meeting. **Sun, Apr 22**, 12:30-2:30pm, library. 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 # 8 states:

"A Welcoming Congregation seeks to nurture ongoing dialogue between people of different affectional/sexual orientations and gender identifications, and to create deeper trust and sharing."

- 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

**Kentucky Votes Down Anti-Bullying Bill.** In mid-March, a House committee voted down a bill to ban bullying motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or learning disabilities. Opponents argued that the existing anti-bullying law provides sufficient safeguards. Parents of students who committed suicide due to bullying argued that current law did not protect their children.

**Maryland Approves Marriage Equality.** In early March, Maryland's governor signed marriage equality legislation. The law is scheduled to take effect in January 2013, making Maryland the eighth state to allow same sex marriages. Opponents have begun repeal efforts in both Maryland and Washington.

**Maine to Vote on Marriage Equality.** This November, Maine voters will decide a ballot initiative to provide marriage licenses to same-sex couples. A favorable vote would overturn a previous voter initiative in 2009 that overturned marriage equality legislation signed into law that same year. If the vote is favorable, Maine would become the first state to approve marriage equality at the ballot box.

**New Jersey Override Attempt.** New Jersey's governor vetoed marriage equality legislation in mid-February. Supporters of the legislation have almost two years to accomplish an override of the veto.

**Lesbian Denied Communion.** A Catholic priest in Maryland denied communion to a woman at her mother's funeral, saying that she sinned by living with a woman. The archdiocese issued a statement that it should have been handled privately and that it is "looking into the incident... and will handle this as a personnel issue." (irishcentral.com)

- MORE INFORMATION

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