

# STEEPLETALK

## UNITARIAN

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### New Pledge Year Begins

by **Kathy Thackeray**

The Stewardship Team would like to gently remind you that July 1 was the beginning of the new church year 2001-2002. Many of you indicated on your pledge cards that you would like to make monthly payments toward your pledge.

If you are paying by check, please indicate in the memo line of your check that this check is payment toward your pledge for the church year 2001-2002. If you are paying in cash, usually there are blue envelopes on the table with the ushers book and basket just inside the door of the sanctuary. Ask the usher if you need help locating them. Be sure to indicate on the envelope your name and the enclosed is payment toward your pledge for the church year 2001-2002. *Thank you for your Stewardship.*



### Workshop Reminder

**Jeff Matthias** and a panel of experienced group leaders will present a workshop on how to start and facilitate discussion and activity groups on **July 14, from 9 to noon** in the social hall. Donuts and bagels will be served. If you have questions or wish to register, contact Jeff at xxx-xxxx or by e-mail at [jmatt49@aol.com](mailto:jmatt49@aol.com).

### Search Committee Members Attend Seminar in Chicago

**Jo Ann Dale, Linda Parry, and David Reed** attended a one-day seminar for search committees, held in Chicago on June 30. They shared information with the rest of the committee at their first meeting on July 8. The Search Committee is preparing for a retreat so that they can get to know one another and work well as a team. They will also plan the first phases of their work -- gathering information from the congregation and from records and archives to prepare information for prospective ministers.

### We All Are the Membership Committee

Summer services have begun, and we have discovered that many people use the summer as a time to look for a church community. The Membership Committee encourages all members and friends of First Unitarian to welcome all visitors. Please make it a point to talk to visitors at social hour after the service. Inquire if they have a yellow "Message To Our Visitors" and a *Steepletalk* (on the desk & the pamphlet stand at the Library Ln. entrance), and encourage them to complete the green "Visitor Information" card (in each hymnal).

A member of the Membership Committee and Greeters will be at the desk at the Library Lane entrance and the York St. entrance, but even then we may miss a visitor. Please also remember to talk to the visitor you saw last week and introduce him or her to other folks. Thank You!

"Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law."

## From the Interim Minister

Your editor, Claudia Runge, having invited me to add my word to this early summer issue of *Steepletalk*, I greet you with gratitude for this opportunity and with keen anticipation of our year together.

This congregation is known throughout the UU firmament for its leadership in the civic culture of Louisville and for its corporate commitment—attested in the church budget—to the empowerment of racial and ethnic minorities and other oppressed peoples within and beyond Jefferson County. I congratulate the congregation, and I congratulate Richard Beal, for your conspicuous efforts in behalf of women, children, the hungry, the homeless, the forsaken. Your leadership is an inspiration to me and to our entire continental community of faith.

The Louisville church is my ninth interim ministry assignment since joining the UUA's full-time interim ministry program in 1988. My earlier placements were in Exeter, NH; Andover, MA; Lexington, MA (Follen Church); Montreal; Spokane, WA; Ithaca, NY; Houston, TX (Emerson Church); and Richmond, VA. I love the challenge of a new congregation every year or two. Because it is a downtown church, because it has enjoyed excellent ministerial leadership through the years, and because it is in a part of the country that is relatively new to me, your church

was my first choice among the six congregations to which my name was sent by the UUA.

An interim minister is charged to maintain the ongoing offices of ministry—including preaching and conducting worship, welcoming newcomers, visiting those who are depressed, fearful, ill, infirm, or dying, developing new opportunities for growth with and for children and adults, vitalizing the church as an organization (including increased annual giving), standing with and advocating for the poor, the battered, and the despised, and making common cause with other UU congregations and diverse faith communities—during the year or two when the Ministerial Search Committee is seeking the best possible candidate for the settled ministry of the church. The interim minister is a consultant to the Board of Trustees, a companion to those who are seeking to grow in spiritual depth and in leadership skills, and a spokesperson for Unitarian Universalist principles and values in the congregation and in the community. The interim minister is a comrade to the lost and lonely, an energizer of communities, a living witness to the power of faith, hope, and love.

This is a tall order. But as one entering upon his 47th year of full-time ministry, I welcome it. Working together, we will reach out to each other's best powers and seek to build here, in all the connotations of that many-splendored word, a congregation worthy of First Church's traditions and of the glorious heritage of our global Unitarian Universalist faith. I pledge you my best energies on this journey.

Following visits with my children in Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, and New York, I will spend three weeks in Scotland and England in August with my daughter Alison, returning to Louisville at the end of August to take up my ministry. I look forward to meeting you in September and to growing with you in ways known and to be known. I am honored to be your Interim Minister.

**David B. Parke**

## Steepletalk

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## Welcome New Members of the "I Love First U" Club!

by Lynn Slaughter

Since the last edition of *Steepletalk*, we've acquired some new members of the "I Love First U" Club. Welcome and thanks for being such super stewards of First U: **Sam** and **Bonnie Avery**, **Joan Beal**, and **Phil Candee** and **danielle rogers**.

Please consider becoming a member of the "I Love First U" Club by upping your pledge for the coming year by just \$100 (less than \$2 per week). It's for a great cause (cutting down our deficit!) and we promise a rousing good time at our fall potluck. Come party with the folks whose names are listed below! **Sam** and **Bonnie Avery**, **Joan Beal**, **Phil Candee** and **danielle rogers**, **Bev Daly**, **Kathy** and **Gary Drehmel**, **Allie** and **Bill Hixson**, **Beverly Moore**, **Nell McGlothlin**, **Robert Parish**, **Isabel Silverman**, **Lynn Slaughter**, **Martha Smith**, **Lisa Willner**

## Keeping the Faith with our Partner Church

by Beverly Moore

As most of you know, but some new folks may not, First Unitarian Church has a Partner Church in Romanian, the Nagyenyed Unitarian Church in Transylvania. The partnership has been strengthened when we have had visitors from there or when groups of us have gone to Transylvania to visit. Between visits, we would like to keep our friendship growing by maintaining contact by letters and e-mails.

In our last letter we told them about our leave-taking with Richard so they could share in that experience. Richard's leaving is very important to them because he initiated and fostered this partnership and has developed very close relationships the minister and other members at our Partner Church. They were also curious about our new minister, so we explained a little bit about the search process.

**More information about our Partner Church and the complete text of our recent letter to them is available on our website ([www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org)).** We hope everyone will read it, so that we can all participate in this partnership relationship. A copy is also posted on the Partner Church kiosk space.

## Shared Ministry



Hi, everyone. I'm getting back in the swing of things after taking a week of vacation followed by a trip to General Assembly in June. GA was interesting and worthwhile. I looked for workshops on Shared Ministry, but the ones that sounded appropriate turned out to be about other topics. Still, I enjoyed most of those I attended, especially one on process theology (it was presented by a Montana minister who was an interesting cross between Sean Connery and Robin Williams). I was able to make contact with people from two different North Carolina churches that are working on Shared Ministry. We discussed the need for a network, and will be trying to set something up through the UUA.

Thanks to **Isabel Silverman** and **Kathy** and **Joe Kremer** who hosted **Gifts Discovery Workshops** in June, to **Kathy Drehmel** for facilitating, and to all the intrepid folks who attended! We are building a chain of linked hands on the Shared Ministry kiosk; each name represents a GD Workshop attendee. Ask one of them if you have questions about the experience. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to attend a workshop. We have several hosts who are now deciding on dates, and we can always use more hosts. Do you have a group of church friends you've been wanting to get together with? Are there people at church whom you would like to know better? Call me to set up a workshop with the guests of your choice! Have a great summer. Hope to see you in church.

*Laura*

**Shared Ministry Coordinator**  
**Laura Jennings**

Office hours: Fridays, 2 - 5 pm (Choir room)  
Home phone: xxx-xxxx  
E-mail: [ljsmc@juno.com](mailto:ljsmc@juno.com)

## RE Announcements

### Announcing a Special Summer RE Program

#### BRING YOUR KIDS TO CHURCH ON JULY 15TH!



Special guest **Randy Wilson**, master of storytelling, dance calling, and music will be presenting a very **special program for kids of all ages from 10:55 to noon upstairs in the Open Classroom.**

Randy is a faculty member at the Hindman Settlement School in Eastern Kentucky, and has been an artist in residence in eastern Kentucky schools for 20 years. He is fabulous!!! Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.

“ Thanks for your tremendous response to our call for RE teachers. Only 2 slots remain open for the fall, both with excellent co-teachers. Let's fill these openings! Please contact me if you are interested in teaching our pre-K/kindergarten class (co-teacher **Larry Elder**) or our junior high class (co-teacher **Lisa Summers**).

“ If you aren't teaching this semester, you can support our RE teachers by signing up to be on our substitute teacher list. Generally, substitutes get called to serve only occasionally, and you may request to sub (or not sub) for a particular age group. Contact Lisa if we can add you to our list.

“ Except for the July 15th special presentation, **there is no RE programming during the summer services.** Nursery care and childcare for children 2nd grade and younger is provided during the Celebration of Life. Children and youth 3rd grade and older who attend church are invited to attend the service seated with their families. If you have questions or concerns about childcare, please contact **Linda Parry** at xxx-xxxx. **(I have received several phone calls from people expressing concerns about kids milling around the church during services, leaving messes**

**in classrooms, etc. Please, parents, take responsibility for your children and youth, and be considerate of other churchgoers and those of us who must clean up the messes.)**

“ Congratulations to **Bev Moore** and the **A Chosen Faith** discussion group. The group was so successful that it is generating its own spinoff discussion series. (*Please see next article.*)

“ The **First U Reading Group** will continue this summer with *Awakening the Heroes Within: Twelve Archetypes to Help Us Find Ourselves and Transform Our World* by **Carol Pearson**. Groups will be meeting on both **Wednesday evenings and Thursday evenings (choose one)** at 6:30pm in rooms 202 and 204. The Wednesday group will begin meeting July 11 and go through September 12, the Thursday group will begin on July 12 and go through September 13. Childcare will be provided. Books (\$18) and more info are available from **Linette Lowe** at **LRLOWE@aol.com** or xxx-xxxx. Join us!



**Lisa Willner, RE Coordinator**

*Church office*  
(502) 585-5110

*Home*  
(502) xxx-xxxx

*E-mail*  
lis\_wil@bellsouth.net (at church)  
lisa@scruton.win.net (at home)

*Office Hours*  
Lisa is on vacation and not keeping  
office hours in July.  
You may contact her at home.

## Church Affairs

### Keeping Up with the Council

by Jeff Matthias

The Church Council started off the new church year with a quick orientation for new members, **Janet Markland** and **Gary Drehmel**. **Jeff Matthias**, who was re-elected Council chairperson for a second year, also welcomed back continuing members, **Kathy Kremer** and **Lisa Willner**. **Linda Parry**, another continuing member, will take a year-long sabbatical from Council work so she can concentrate on the ministerial search and coordinating childcare.

Other business included a review of the past year, a look ahead at Council and committee goals for 2001-2002 and distribution of committee liaison assignments.

#### The liaison assignments are as follows:

Board and Religious Education--Lisa Willner; Nominating and Personnel--Jeff Matthias; Worship and Music--Gary Drehmel; Social Responsibility and Public and Denomination Relations--Kathy Kremer; Membership and Activities--Janet Markland; Board committees, such as House and Grounds, Finance and Shared Ministry will be covered by the Board liaison to Council. The Council plans on carefully reviewing the purpose and function statement in the Constitution and By-laws and concentrate on the specified responsibilities.

The By-laws state that "the central task of the Council is to administer and coordinate the programming activities of the Church. It facilitates and coordinates the implementation of Church Goals by guiding and advising committees and other groups. It is also responsible for periodically reviewing the effectiveness of church programs and initiating new programs and activities...."

The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. All are welcome to attend to submit agenda items on any aspect of church programming. You may also contact any of the Council members.



### Death Penalty Resolution Passes at Congregational Meeting

The following resolution was voted on and passed at the Annual Congregational Meeting on June 6, 2001.

#### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

BECAUSE, our congregation affirms the worth and dignity of every individual; and

BECAUSE, we dedicate ourselves to the compassion and generosity of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, the death penalty undermines our fundamental respect for the inherent worth and dignity of human beings by sanctioning the deliberate act of killing an individual; and

WHEREAS, General Assemblies of the Unitarian Universalist Association have supported the abolition of the death penalty by resolutions in 1961, 1966, 1974, 1979 and 1989;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the First Unitarian Church calls for the abolition of the death penalty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the First Unitarian Church pledges itself to work for the abolition of the death penalty in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States by joining and leading community actions.

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### Music Staff Positions Open

Do you have any friends or contacts with musical talents who may be seeking extraordinary musical opportunities? Please let them know we are in the process of searching for music staff. Positions open include **choir director**, **accompanist**, and **music director**. These may be filled by one to two persons, depending on their qualifications. Please ask any interested applicants to forward their resumes to the church, to the attention of the Music Committee. **We hope to have all positions filled by August 1, with a starting date in late August.**

## Meetings, Gatherings, Ideas

☞ For many years **Brownbaggers** have planned the coming church year program during the summer. This year, we will meet on **Monday, July 30, at 11:00 a.m.**, in the church library. Plan to attend and bring ideas for outings and programs at church. Also, bring your brown bag lunch.



☞ The **Parenting Teens Discussion Group** will meet **Sunday, July 15**, from 9:45am to 11am, in the church parlor. This discussion group for parents of teens is facilitated by **Marti McDaniel**, and meets the 3rd Sunday of the month during the summer. The group will decide on the autumn schedule in September.

☞ All are welcome to join **CUUPs** on **July 22nd** from **12:30pm to 2:15pm** in the church library for a business and organizational meeting. Bring your sandwich and come prepared to discuss and hopefully approve a provisional set of bylaws. We will also do some final planning for the Breads & Spreads Luncheon & Workshop to be held August 5th.

☞ The **Polyamory Awareness Group** will discuss Children of Poly Families at **7:00 p.m.** on Thursday, **July 26**, in the Parlor. All are welcome.

☞ **A new group for adults is forming here at First Unitarian.** If you are single, married but without children, a youngish empty-nester with your kids raised and moved away, or simply an adult interested in the company of such people, this may be of interest to you. We plan on meeting as a part of the church's potluck dinners on the third Friday of each month, and eventually plan on other events of interest to young adults and other adults young at heart. (Plays, movies, hikes, brunches... the possibilities are up to us!). **Please join us at the church's family potluck dinner on Friday, July 20.**

### Board and Council to Hold Annual Leadership Retreat

The annual church **Leadership Retreat** is planned for **Friday and Saturday, August 10 - 11**. The general theme is "ministering to each other." The retreat planning team of **Lynn Lommasson, Laura Jennings** and **Jeff Matthias** are organizing the sessions to launch shared ministry with love and care for the diverse gifts of the church's members and friends. Sessions will include a gifts assessment, team-building activities and plenty of reflection and relaxation time. **Deborah Potts**, an experienced team-building consultant and member of Thomas Jefferson, will lead several activities on Saturday.

The Leadership Retreat will be held at the **Catherine Spalding Retreat and Conference Center** in **Bardstown**. The estimated cost is \$60. Members of the Board and Council, committee chairs or representatives and other potential leaders are encouraged to attend. Registration packets will be sent out by mid-July and will be available in the Board and Council mailboxes.

### Camp Out/Work Party Planned

Harmony Habitat is planning another camp out/work party on **July 14 and 15**. Volunteers should call **Peg Kesler** or **Jay Dolen** at (502) xxx-xxxx.

### Remembering Hiroshima, Practicing Nonviolence

**Interfaith Paths to Peace**, a group in which we have representation, is one of the co-sponsors of the **Remembering Hiroshima, Practicing Nonviolence** event on Sunday, July 29. It will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, Bishops' Hall, 421 S. Second St. It will feature John Dear, peace activist, Jesuit priest, author, and recent past executive director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Activities begin at 5pm.

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie, Indiana, is searching for a Director of Religious Education (DRE) to begin September 2001. A complete job description and application form are available in the church office: UU Church of Muncie, 4800 W. Bradford Dr., Muncie, IN 47304, 765-288-9561.

## Calendar: July 14 -- August 11

### July

#### 14 Saturday

8:00am-1:00pm Small Group Leadership (Social Hall)

#### 15 Sunday

9:45am Parenting Teen Discussion Group (Parlor)

**10:55am Special Children's RE Program (Open Classroom) See article, p.4**

#### 22 Sunday

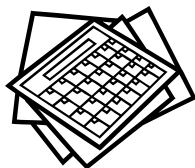
12:30pm CUUPs Planning Mtg (Library)

#### 26 Thursday

7:00pm Polyamory Discussion Group (Parlor)

#### 30 Monday

11:00am Brownbaggers (Library)



### August

#### 1 Wednesday

12:45pm ROMEOS (Piccadilly Cafeteria)

6:30pm UU Reading Group (Rooms202&204)

#### 2 Thursday

6:30pm UU Reading Group (Rooms 202&204)

#### 5 Sunday

12:00pm CUUPS Luncheon for entire church

1:00pm CUUPS Workshop - Library

#### 8 Wednesday

6:30pm UU Reading Group (Rooms202&204)

#### 9 Thursday

6:30pm UU Reading Group (Rooms 202&204)

#### 10 Friday

Leadership Retreat--Bardstown, Ky

#### 12noon Steepletalk Deadline

#### 11 Saturday

Leadership Retreat--Bardstown, Ky

## Just among ourselves

**Kathy and Frank Thackeray** are proud and happy to announce that their son **Sasha (Alex) Thackeray** graduated from Dennison University (in Granville, Ohio) in May. Kathy and Frank are most appreciative of the education and introduction to social action and experience he received in the First Unitarian Religious Education Program and the youth groups (Jr. High and Senior High). In college Sasha was a member of the Dennison Service Committee, through which he spent two weeks a year working in various capacities in an AIDS Hospice in Washington D.C., giving half the staff a vacation. This group also cleaned beaches for the manatees in Florida. Sasha was also a member of the Black Student League. He was one of four students on the university's Long Range Plan Team. He also helped organize a Students' Day of Service in which four hundred students participated this year. These are the things Sasha told us about! He is a Phi Beta Kappa, majoring in economics and mathematics and graduating with honors. Now he is on his way west, and then in August he is off to Australia to spend a year travelling and washing dishes to finance more travelling.

### Welcome New Members

**JoAnn Dale**

**Jay Dolen**

**Drew Foxworthy**

**Elizabeth Frey**

**Craig Garner**

**Charles Harper**

**James Allen Prunty**

**Evonda Walker**

**Toby Wilcher**

These members were given the right hand of fellowship on May 13, 2001. (The next ingathering of new members will be in mid-fall.) We are delighted and excited to have you counted among us; please make yourselves known to us as we work, worship and rejoice together.

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### Steepletalk Summer Schedule

#### Deadline

July 20

August 10

#### Covers

July 29 - August 18 (3 weeks)

August 18 - September 2 (2 weeks)

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### **Scryings**

#### ***Celebrations of Life***

*Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.*

**July 15**      ***Nature Talk Three: Right Relationships.*** Our nature discussion turns to the ethical this morning as we consider the human “right relation” to the world of nature, particularly to animals. **Roger Ohlman** co-leads with **Jen**.

**July 22**      ***Nature Talk Four: Dance!*** Throughout history, people have (naturally) assimilated or expressed their spirituality by movement. We’ll divide this morning into the “movers,” to be seated in a huge circle in the sanctuary, and the “enjoyers,” those who prefer to watch the morning’s proceedings from the choir risers. Movers will be invited to explore religion through elementary movement and dance. **Susan Moffett** will call contra dances for us.

**July 29**      ***Nature Talk Five: The Human Species.*** Most religious traditions have developed some explanation of who people are in relation to nature. Are we the best of creation, or the worst of it? A society’s creation story gives clues to its assessment of human beings. We’ll look at the “common creation story” (evolution) as a resource for developing a creation story for our time. **Beverly Moore** co-leads.