

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 9, Number 05

09 March 2003

809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446
www.firstulou.org • Office Hours: 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. M-F • Celebration of Life 10:55am Sundays
Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education (502)xxx-xxxx
John Miller, Board President (502)xxx-xxxx • Jen Lavery, Church Administrator
Marian Ziebell, Interim Music Director • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

Installation Of Our Minister

Installation may seem an odd choice of words when it comes to the official recognition of a person as a minister of a church congregation. Usually the word conjures up thoughts of installing a new air conditioning system, or maybe a CD player in a car. However, installation of a minister (or for that matter any official) gives formal recognition that the person is taking his or her place - settling in - according to the careful and judicious choice of membership or constituents.

On **Sunday, March 16 at 5:00 p.m.**, members and friends of First Unitarian, visiting UU ministers from the region, local clergy and officials, and friends of **Rev. Norm Stewart** will witness his installation - his settlement - as minister of one of the oldest and most active churches in the Greater Louisville area.

During its long history, 22 ministers have served at First Unitarian. Notable among them were **John Healy Heywood, Robert Terry Weston, Robert Reed, and Richard Beal**. Heywood, who ministered at First Unitarian from 1840 to 1880, introduced the resolution adding high schools to the Louisville public school system (one for girls and one for boys). Weston became minister in 1946. A community activist, he was one of the panelists for the weekly radio program, "The Moral Side of the News." The panel of four consisted of three ministers and one rabbi. Reed took over the ministry in 1968. He was instrumental in the beginnings of the Council on Peacemaking and Religion, and the formation of The Neighborhood Development Corporation and the Help Office in Old Louisville. Beal came to the ministry at First Unitarian in 1986 just after a devastating fire gutted the historic church at its present location at Fourth and York Streets. He led the rebuilding not only of the structure but also the congregation and church organization. He also developed greater involvement in Peace and Justice issues, and with the African-American community.

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



STEEPLETALK

Notes From Norm

You Can't Make Me....

I recently heard about a standoff of sorts between a teacher and a student. The teacher was asking for the student's cooperation on something during class. Using experienced skills of persuasion the teacher tried to enlist the student's participation in the classroom activity. The more the teacher tried to engage the student the more the student dug in their heels, resisted and said, *you can't make me*. A sad stalemate!

Hearing about that incident, my first thought was about the parallels between it and the current situations between the U.S. and Iraq and also the U.S. and Korea - whatever those situations might be by the time you get to read this. In part because of the day to day uncertainty of the world situation, I am not going to follow that particular thread in this column. **I do however, want to publicly thank Sam Avery and everyone who worked with him to put on the excellent Peace Forum hosted by our church on February 2.** Musicians, poets and speakers, each of whom is working for more peace on the planet in their own way offered an excellent, thought-provoking program. My guess is that as many as 60-75% of those present that Sunday afternoon were not regular members of our church community. Thanks to all who made this forum happen.

At the Peace Forum, jazz pianist **Harry Pickens** referred to the Buddhist teaching that says if we want peace in the world, we must begin with peace in our hearts, our homes and our communities. How do we find and/or create more peace in our hearts, our homes and our communities?

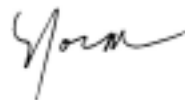
One way, is through the combined efforts of individual members in religious congregations such as ours.

The good news and perhaps the bad news of our Unitarian Universalist tradition is that our congregations are almost totally self-sufficient. We pay our own way because we value what we do together as a community of faith.

Hopefully, many of you will have been in church on March 2 when I talked about giving generously as part of a spiritual practice. By now, all of you should have been asked either publicly or privately to support this church to the extent which your heart, your abundance and your own discernment move you. If by some chance we have not already asked you for your support, I'm asking you now.

So this church is asking for your support but we definitely *can't make you* support it. Only **you** can decide what the First Unitarian Church of Louisville is worth to you, to your family (if they are involved here) and to the wider community where we all live. Frankly, I am proud of the fact that we *can't make you* do it and even prouder of the fact that so many of you choose to support this church based upon your own discernment, your unique personal circumstances, your commitment to the living tradition of Unitarian Universalism and to our church's mission and ministry. Thank you.

If you haven't already done it, please fill out your pledge card and return it by **Commitment Sunday, March 16**. Remember, we *can't make you*....Alleluia!



Coming of Age, Take Two

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole. You've probably been hearing, reading, singing these words a lot lately. The generation-to-generation theme reflected in this line underlies our stewardship campaign, our recent storytelling celebration of life, and our congregation's installation of our soon-to-be settled minister, Rev. Norm Stewart. The theme also underlies much of what we offer in our religious education programs for children and youth, as we pass down our traditions, our denominational and congregational stories, and our liberal theological heritage.

One important part of "keeping the circle whole" is represented by the **Coming of Age** program that we started last year, in which we recognize and celebrate our young people's passage out of childhood. Each participating youth is paired with an adult mentor, who accompanies them on a journey of self-exploration and an examination of Unitarian Universalist beliefs and practices. **A key component of Coming of Age is the mentor/youth relationship itself.** In our current Coming of Age class, several of the pairs have shared meals, visited other places of worship, and participated together in social action projects. The full group also gets together quarterly to share food, experiences, and ideas.

We will be launching our second year of Coming of Age with an orientation session on March 12 (7:00 – 8:30). The program is open to all current 8th and 9th graders. At the orientation session, we will give a program over-

view, and we will also begin the process of identifying possible mentors for all participating youth. **It is very important that youth and their parents take an active role in mentor selection,** so this will be an important meeting.

In American culture, we commonly mark many milestones - births, marriages, death - but we often forget to recognize and honor our children's transition into adulthood. I'm glad that our church has begun to "keep the circle whole" by formally marking this very important time in our young people's lives. Circle round for peace,

Lisa

Lisa Willner

Religious Education Director

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Tuesday 12 - 6

Wednesday 12 - 3 or by appointment

Friday is Lisa's day off.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join Us in Celebration of
the Installation of

Norm Stewart

Sunday, March 16, 2003 - 5:00 pm

Stewardship: Circle Round for Freedom

from Joanne Graf

Wow! Were you in church on February 23 to sing and hear *Circle Round for Freedom*, the hymn from which the theme for the Stewardship Campaign and the Installation Service is taken? As far as I know, that's the first time our congregation has sung that hymn, and not only did everyone pick up the melody easily, but also Norm's invitation to take a crack at singing harmony was accepted with confidence and skill, not to mention great beauty. Three part harmony! I have a hopeful suspicion that this music will turn up again soon, with verses added by some of Norm's UU associates: the song is too beautiful to be so short, and happily some congregants elsewhere thought so, too. As I was singing and listening, I was hoping that everyone else was as energized and awed as I was at the power of that simple and beautiful song to unite us in a common goal: to keep the circle whole for the children of our children.

One of my favorite tasks as Stewardship chair has been arranging for individuals to speak briefly on Sunday mornings prior to kickoff Sunday on their commitment to the church. I've had some very enjoyable conversations with people, even when they turn down my request. This amazes me, because there's very little in my personal history that indicates that asking anyone for anything, not to mention the matter of handling rejection, is something I either seek to do or enjoy. I guess what's happened is that the circumstance of needing to make the request has made me more aware of the importance of the attitude I'm holding when I'm doing the asking; and it occurs to me that some of the attitudes I've held when being asked in the past were less than noble. I mention all of this as food for thought for when your personal canvass encounter takes place, and I ask you to be aware of your thinking when the topic of stewardship comes up. I truly hope that sincere and useful communication takes place during the canvass process and that the end result will be a congregation that is stronger not only financially but also interpersonally. I also hope that the importance with which you regard First Unitarian Church's place in the community and in your life will be reflected in the most generous pledge you can afford. After all, it's the whole circle we're caring for, and we're in it for the long haul: our children, and their children and their children's children.

Now here's the plan.

- **March 2 is Kickoff Sunday.** Norm speaks on Stewardship; canvassers begin making contacts.
- Over the next two weeks, canvassers meet with pledgers; canvassers retain pledge cards and turn them in to their captains at the end of the campaign.
- **March 16 is Commitment Sunday.** Canvassing has been completed and cards are turned in either at the regular 10:55am Sunday service or at the Installation Service and Reception at 5:00 pm. We all celebrate our successful campaign and our delight in our newly installed minister, Norm Stewart.

If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, March 5, please call me at xxx-xxxx and I will see that you receive the attention and materials you need.

ADULT RE SURVEY

Please check your answers or fill in the blanks. All comments and suggestions welcome. We are especially interested in program suggestions. Thank you! - Your Adult RE Programming Team

SMART

In the past six months, have you attended at least one **Sunday Morning Adult Round Table (SMART)** session? **_Yes _ No**

What has been your favorite SMART program? _____

Why? _____

What programs/topics would you like to see offered at SMART? _____

Why? _____

Would you be willing to present a SMART program? **_Yes _ No**

Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Program Title: _____

What change would make you more likely to attend Sunday Morning Adult RE programming?

CHALICENIGHT

Listed below are the activities offered during the first six months of **Wednesday Chalice Nights**. Please check and rate (ABCDF) any program you attended at least one time:

Interweave

Games

Quilting

Paganism 101

Singing For Everyone

Picture Sorting

Evensong

Civil Rights

Parlor Listening Room

Old Testament

T'ai Chi

Feminism For Everyone

What Is Marriage For?

Work Life Group

Intro To Meditation

How To Plan A Service

Altar Building

SciFi/Fantasy

Articulating (Y)Our Faith

Globalization

Hemlock Society

Which did you like best and why? _____

Which would you like to see repeated? _____

Rate how likely would be to attend these programs if they were offered on Wednesday evening:

Introduction to Buddhism **_Not Likely _Somewhat Likely _Very Likely _Not Sure**

Our Whole Lives **_Not Likely _Somewhat Likely _Very Likely _Not Sure** (Adult Sexuality, UUA Curriculum)

Drawing For Beginners **_Not Likely _Somewhat Likely _Very Likely _Not Sure**

How To Say "No" **_Not Likely _Somewhat Likely _Very Likely Not Sure**

What other programs/topics would you like to see offered? _____

Would you be willing to help present a program? **_Yes _No**

Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Program Title: _____

Is the Chalice Service at a good time (6:30)? **_Yes _No**

Is the Chalice Service meaningful? **_Yes _No**

Does Chalice Night start at a convenient time (dinner 5:30-6:15)? **_Yes _No**

Length of Chalice Night: **_ Too Short _ Just Right _ Too long**

Would you like to help present or plan a Chalice Service? **_Yes _No**

Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Program Title: _____

Are you aware that a catered meal is served each Wednesday evening? **_Yes _No**

How many times have you tried the dinner offered? _____

Has the standard of food been good? **_Don't Know _Yes _No**

Is the price (\$5, \$6 with meat) reasonable? **_Yes _No**

Suggestions about the meal: _____

What change would make you more likely to attend Wednesday night programming?

CHILDCARE

Are you aware that **free** childcare is provided every Wednesday night? **_Yes _No**

Do you use Wednesday night childcare? **_Yes _No**

Are you aware that child programming begins at 9:30 every Sunday? **_Yes _No**

Do you use this children's programming? **_Yes _No**

Is free childcare a factor in whether you attend Chalice Night? **_Yes _No**

Is children's programming a factor in whether you attend SMART? **_Yes _No**

Are you satisfied with the childcare? **_Yes _No**

I am a First Unitarian: **_Member _Friend _Visitor**

My age is: **_ 5-17 _ 18-24 _ 25-39 _ 40-55 _ 55+**

My gender identity is **_ Female _ Male**

I am: **_ Partnered _ Single**. Will you attend if your partner(s) does not to attend? **_Yes _No**

What Other Suggestions would you like to make?

March for Peace

RE Announcements

from **Beverly Moore**

Despite driving rain, the first leg of the Louisville Peace March left 6th and Jefferson last Saturday with about 25 marchers, and arrived at Douglas Loop two hours and five miles later, gaining strength along the way. Nearly everyone who started made it the whole way, and a half dozen or so joined us along Bardstown Road. TV coverage along the way. Lots of honks and recognition! This is a great way to show the community our continuing efforts against this war. We have a strong core of marchers, and hope that others will join the next leg!

The second leg was Sunday, March 2 beginning at Douglas Loop and ending at the Louisville Theological Seminary. A service and refreshments were planned. We hope you were there.

Tentative plans for future marches:

3rd Leg: 1:00 Saturday, March 8: Louisville Theological Seminary along Alta Vista and Lexington Road into St Matthews, and then along Frankfurt Ave to Crescent Hill Baptist Church and possibly Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church as well: about 5 miles.

4th Leg: Sunday, March 9: From Crescent Hill Baptist Church or Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church.

5th Leg: From Clifton Unitarian Church to one of several Places of Peace downtown.

If you have questions, connections with a possible Place of Peace or would like to help with carpooling, contact **Sam Avery: aversam8@cs.com**.

from **Lisa Willner**

❑ **OWL parents** are invited to meet for discussion each Sunday morning in March, 9:45 - 10:45 in the R.E. Library.

❑ **8th and 9th graders and their parents:** Join **danielle rogers-candee** and **Lisa Willner** for an orientation to our **Coming of Age** program. Those who plan to participate in next year's program and their parents must attend in order to participate in mentor selection. **Call Lisa or danielle (xxx-xxxx)** with any questions. The **orientation** will take place during Chalice Night programs, Wednesday **March 12, 7:00 - 8:30**.

❑ **We're running low on juice.** If you have children enrolled in our R.E. program (or if you're just feeling generous!), please bring a bottle or two of juice to the Preschool Room refrigerator.

❑ **Congratulations** to all the participants in the Homemade Tales artist-in-residence program. Watch for details on our next artist-in-residence multigenerational series: planning and planting a butterfly garden. Details will be announced soon.



Interested in Learning a Little More about Unitarian Universalism?

Then please attend the 3 sessions of the **New UU Program, April 6, April 13, and April 27** after the Celebration of Life (Sunday Service) - lunch provided. Please contact **Kathy Thackeray** at **xxx-xxxx** or margituu@yahoo.com if you wish to come and or if you have any questions.

Our Building Matters

Some Pretty “Pleases” from John Durham

Dear First U friends and members of all ages,

Here are some thoughts about how we can all work together to keep our lovely building in the shape it deserves:

- √ If you take a coffee cup anywhere in the building, please return it to the kitchen.
- √ If you take a soda can anywhere in the building, please empty it and return it to the recycle bin next to the coke machine.
- √ If you SPILL coffee or a soft drink, please wipe it up.
- √ If you’re eating a doughnut or a brownie, take a napkin with you to catch your crumbs!
- √ If you set up a worship service or a special event, please take EVERYTHING down and return things to where they belong when the event is over. Remember if you’re working in the social hall to leave 5 tables up at all times for Chalice Night and 2 for the Social Responsibility displays

Also, please refrain from eating in the volunteer area, and be especially careful if you take food or drink into the sanctuary during a special event.



Sincerely yours for a better-looking building!
John D. Durham

Support the HELP Office

Our church is a partner in the downtown community ministries’ support of the HELP office. HELP supplies the **most essential needs** for the minimum comfort of the **homeless and the poorest of the poor**. Please continue to bring your donations of deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, toilet paper, and soap. **Just drop donations in the large box near the hall entrance to the Social Hall.**



Steepletalk

Published every two weeks (with exceptions) by

First Unitarian Church of Louisville

809 South 4th Street

Louisville, KY 40203

Next deadline: **Friday, March 14, 2003**

(covers March 23 - April 5)

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Events of Note

Brag Day Reminder

from Barbara Kearley

Brag Day luncheon is March 9th. On this day, we spend some time thinking about the things we appreciate about our church, be it people or activities or feelings. We'll write our thanks on paper leaves handed out during the Celebration of Life and then we'll post them on a giant paper tree in the Social Hall as we head to lunch. Not only will we see all the ways First U touches us, but we'll have a tree full of foliage to welcome spring!



Barbara Kearley
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Women's History Month

from Joan Beal

I just learned recently that Women's History Month used to be a week. The idea started in March 1977 as a student project at Sonoma State University, California. By 1980, feminists across the country were beginning to lobby Congress to set aside the week of March 8 as a national celebration of women's history. In 1987 the week was extended to the entire month.

This March, First U is celebrating Women's History month in various ways. On **Sunday, March 16, at 9:30, Allie Hixson**, coordinator of the group, Feminism for Men and Women, will lead the Round Table discussion, "Why a Women's History Month." On **Sunday, March 30, the Celebration of Life** will focus on women's issues and concerns. That afternoon, the League of Women Voters, as part of the "Women's Historical Marker's Project" will kick off an event honoring Susan B. Anthony. **The League is sponsoring a tour that reenacts Anthony's rousing visit to Louisville in 1867. I'm proud to say she spoke to a large group from the very steps of this church.**

Another event that is local and important will occur on **Saturday, March 22, 2003** at the Galt House. The **Kentucky Pro ERA Alliance is sponsoring a conference with Professor Carolyn Bratt, J.D.** University of Kentucky Law School as keynote speaker. Topics addressed will be "Will We Still Need the ERA: Can We Lose Title IX?"; "Inspiring Girls to Think Mathematically"; "Impact of the Women's Vote"; "Title IX Concerns for Women's Sports Programs"; and "Implications for the Preservation of Civil Rights." The cost of the conference (luncheon) is \$20.00 (students \$10.00). For reservations, call Allie Hixson (xxx-xxxx) by March 8, 2003.

Contra Dance Special



Interweave is hosting a fund-raising Contra dance at **8pm, including a pot luck beginning at 6:30, on Friday March 14.** Bring a dish to feed 6. The cost is \$5 at the door to cover the event, musicians and caller. All are welcome.

General Announcements and Events

Brownbaggers

A few decades ago, Louisville rediscovered the Ohio River and the realization that Downtown had a wonderful area for redevelopment in Main Street and the Riverfront. Then came planning, financing, and rebuilding. Today Main Street has a new face with new and remodeled buildings, condos, apartments, restaurants, businesses, theaters, and the Riverfront has the Belvedere and a wonderful riverside park, both of which now provide great venues for community activities. Many people and groups participated. Two important groups are **Riverfront Redevelopment and Main Street Association**. During the reconstruction they hired local photographer **Bill Rhodes** to develop a slide show depicting the projects. Today he uses his copy of the slide show to provide programs for community groups. He will show his slides to the Brownbaggers with commentary on **Monday, March 17, at 12:00 in the church library**. Bring your brownbag lunch.*****Our Glass Warehouse tour was postponed twice and has been rescheduled for April.*****

Welcoming and Belonging Coalition

from **George Schuhmann**

At the regular **March 9** meeting, we will discuss the meaning and significance of the proposed **Building Use Policy** being considered by the Board of Trustees. Our meeting begins at 12:30pm. Copies of the proposed policy are available at the volunteers' desk for review. All who have an interest in how we as a congregation can enhance the sense of belonging of our diverse members and friends are welcome to attend and comment.



Choir for Installation

from **Marian Ziebell**, Interim Choir Director

Persons who know the Randall Thompson "Alleluia," or who can learn it easily by March 13, are invited to sing with us for the Installation on March 16 at 5:00 p.m. **Rehearsal** of all participants: **Thursday, March 13, 7:15pm** in the church. Several dozen singers from Central Presbyterian, Clifton Unitarian, First Unitarian, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian, Quinn Chapel A.M.E., and Zion Baptist churches will take part. You may join our regular rehearsal of this work on Thursday, March 6, at 7:15 pm. **Please e-mail me at mbziebell@aol.com or call xxx-xxxx with questions or to let us know you will join.**



Lenten Music at Central Presbyterian

from **Marian Ziebell**, Interim Choir Director

Piano, organ, and string bass music will be offered in Recitals at Central, noon to 12:30 p.m., **March 12 through April 9**. **Marian Ziebell**, Instrumentalist and Interim Choir Director at First Unitarian, has been invited to provide piano music on March 12.

Guy Younce, Music Director at Central, invites people to drop in for a break in routine, arrive and leave as schedule permits, and bring a bag lunch. All kinds of music are encouraged with announcements by the musician; no prayer or scripture. **Central Presbyterian Church is at 4th and Kentucky Streets.**

Calendar: March 09 - 22

March 2003

09 SUNDAY

9:45am OWL parents group, RE library

9:45am SMART in SANCTUARY

10:55am Celebration of Life

12:15pm Brag Day Luncheon

12:30pm WBC, library

1:00pm YoUUth & YRUU groups

10 MONDAY

5:30pm Music Committee Mtg, choir room

6:30pm Congregational Services Mtg, library

11 TUESDAY

5:15pm Adult RE Planning Team

7:00pm Council Mtg, library

12 WEDNESDAY

5:30pm Chalice Night

13 THURSDAY

6:30pm Finance Committee Mtg, library

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal, **SANCTUARY**

14 FRIDAY

6:30pm **Interweave ALL CHURCH dance**

16 SUNDAY

9:45am OWL parents group, RE library

10:55 PLEDGE SUNDAY CoL

4:00pm Choir warm-up, sanctuary

5:00pm Norm's INSTALLATION

17 MONDAY

12:00pm Brownbaggers, library

7:00pm Membership Committee, library

19 WEDNESDAY

5:30pm Chalice Night

20 THURSDAY

7:15pm Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

21 FRIDAY

6:00pm CUUPS - Spring Equinox circle, 1st floor

Just Among Ourselves...

- **Kathie, Ron, and Cassidy Johnson** are so excited to welcome **Adison Elizabeth Schanie (born to Megan and Cameron Schanie)** to their family. Adi arrived on February 24 and clocked in at 9 lbs. 4 1/2 oz. and 22 inches long. This being a grandparent (and aunt) is really cool!!!!

- **Lois Allen** has been outfitted with a cast after breaking her leg. She is at home and says that fellow teachers at her school are keeping her well fed and that she is well cared for. Recuperation might be a little easier with encouraging words from church friends by way of cards or notes.

- Our sympathy to **Allen Prunty** who lost his stepdad on February 18.

- **General Assembly Registration:** Registration and housing reservations are **now open** for General Assembly in **Boston, June 26-30**. Register on-line at **www.uua.org/ga**, or look for registration forms in the volunteer area. If you are interested in serving First Unitarian as a delegate, contact **Jasmine Walston at jasminegld@aol.com or xxx-xxxx**.

- **Genevieve Sibley** is in the nursing section of The Forum on Shelbyville Rd. She is recovering from a bad fall and a stay in the hospital. Genevieve reports that she is doing much better, and we're certain that cards and notes will go a long way toward speeding along her recovery .

First Unitarian Church
809 South Fourth Street
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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 am.

March 9 *Stolen Gifts and Addiction to Approval.* **Rev. Norm Stewart - Tiffany Taylor, Worship Associate.** As parents, teachers, friends and acquaintances, what we say and do to one another often has more dramatic power and influence than we imagine. Combined with the human desire for the approval of others, this influence and power can rob us all of many of the gifts with which we have been blessed. How can we avoid taking these gifts away from one another and how can we recover some of our own lost gifts? We will also look at how our church can be helpful in this process.

March 16 *It Matters.* **Rev. Norm Stewart - Tom Dalglish, Worship Associate.** It matters what we believe, it matters what we say about what we believe, and it matters what words we choose to say or sing in our services. On the other hand... we can't possibly make everyone happy with what we do, say or sing. Why do UUs spend so much time rewriting things and what makes us think we have the right to rewrite the words of others?

March 23 *Prayer.* **Sam Avery, Worship Associate & Friends, Public, private, spoken, sung, whispered, thought:** what is prayer? This may be a controversial topic for Unitarians. Who still does it? Why, and to Whom or What? **This service was previously scheduled and snowed out.**