

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 9, Number 16

31 August 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)585-5110
Jane M. Buckley, Board President • Barbara Kearley, Shared Ministry Coordinator • Bryan Reiff, Office Manager
Marian Ziebell, Interim Music Director • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

Chalice Night Resumes in September

from Jo Ann Dale



Chalice Night, our regular Wednesday evening educational programming, kicks off on **10 September** with a special **Day of Commitment**. We will share a **potluck supper** from **5:30 to 6:45**, during which members of the Adult RE Committee will discuss upcoming programming and answer questions. **Rev. Norm Stewart** will lead a service (6:50 to 7:30) on “Days that Change Lives,” after which we will explore both immediate and ongoing ways to trade a small amount of time for the opportunity to change lives. Bring a dish and join your fellow First Unitarians for this special event.

OWL to be Offered for Adults

from Carol Uebelhoer

Adult OWL (Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Adults) will be offered during Chalice Night this fall. **Carol Uebelhoer** and **Jeff Matthias** will be the facilitators. This will be a little different for Chalice Night offerings, since it will be a closed class.

In order to take the class, you must attend one of the introductory sessions to be offered on September 17 or September 24. The program on Sept. 24 is a repeat of the session on Sept. 17. This will let folks get an overview of the class offering before committing. It is important that participants be able to commit to the class, since it is expected that there will be a certain level of trust and intimacy built among the participants.

The pattern for the classes is 2 weeks of programming and one week off. The session dates are: Oct. 8, 15 and 29, Nov 5, December 3 and 10, Jan 14 and 21, Feb 4, 11 and 25, March 3, 17 and 24, April 7, 14 and 28. **The OWL classes will be limited to 12 participants.** If more than 12 people are interested, names will be drawn to determine the participants.

“Love is the spirit of this church...”

STEEPLETALK



Notes from Norm

Mindful Traveling....

Hopefully, you were able to do at least some of what you wanted to do this summer, especially if it was to relax and take it easy for a little while. It feels like I did a lot more traveling than relaxing. My traveling included General Assembly in Boston, a week on staff at SUUSI (the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute) at Virginia Tech, a trip to Tennessee and North Carolina to see family and friends, and finally a visit with my retired Lutheran minister cousin in Rochester, Minnesota. Add to that the preparation and leadership for two summer services and participation in our recent leadership retreat, and all-in-all it has been a full summer. I'm ready for a vacation.

I've heard from some of you who have had an even fuller summer schedule. I also know that several of you have been dealing with surgeries and other health issues which I am sure have been challenging. To each of you I send healing thoughts and wishes.

During my traveling this summer I have had ample opportunities to practice mindful driving or what I call "driving as spiritual practice." It is a practice that I fine-tuned during our years in the Berkeley area. Making progress in traffic there can be tediously slow. This is particularly true when you are in a hurry to get into the city and are anxiously crawling toward the San Francisco Bay Bridge from the East Bay.

My observation is that traffic bottlenecks are compounded by people trying to go faster than the people in front of them rather than at the optimum speed possible (which may in fact be very slow). Imagine if you will, a huge traffic jam on a highway with three lanes fitfully starting and stopping in each direction. Now imagine

a small microcosm of that morass. In your little microcosm there is a row of three cars ahead of you, "the leaders." You're in the middle lane and along with the cars beside and behind you are the "followers." The leaders in your microcosmic traffic jam are limited in how fast they can move forward by all of the jillion or so obstacles ahead of them.

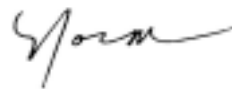
Invariably in these situations, I am one of the followers. Mindful that the leaders can only go so fast because of the obstacles ahead of them, I am content to back off and accept that I will get wherever I am headed a minute or so after the leaders. When I back off and am content to go no faster than I can without having to abruptly start and stop, I notice that some of those traveling beside or behind me get anxious. They think that somehow they are going to go faster than the leaders so they pull into the small space which I have created in my effort to help keep things moving. Once again, the leaders have anxious followers pushing them into the obstacles ahead. I fail to see how that helps the situation so I back off again. Guess what happens next....

What if the leaders were content to back off a little from the obstacles in front of them to gain a better perspective on the bottleneck? What if they were content to move only as fast as they could under the circumstances?

What if all of the followers would relax their anxieties a little, back off and give some space to those who happen to be the leaders at the moment?

What if we all realized we were in this jam together and together we need to find the best way to get us through it?

May we have mindful traveling through the coming church year.



Sunday, August 31
10:55 a.m.

Invite friends to hear a lovely extended choral work during our Celebration of Life.FUU Choir and Orchestra with assistance of singers from Clifton and Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Churches and Instrumentalists from the community will present

Schubert Mass in G

The Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei will be sung in Latin with English translation printed in the service bulletin. Familiar parts of our service will be included as well as brief homilies on the Mass and on Schubert.

Labor Day: Holding Fast to Love and Justice

from **Kathy Kremer**

Labor Day has never been a religious holiday, but religious services held during Labor Day weekend have traditionally provided the opportunity to lift up workers, the values of work, the importance of the labor movement, and the religious imperatives to hold fast to love and justice.

Holding fast to love and justice is as important this Labor Day weekend as ever. Working conditions, wages, and benefits are critical issues both for workers and for their families. Despite record low unemployment rates and continued high profits, many workers and their families are not benefiting as they should.

- Wage disparities increase: The average CEO now makes 326 times the salary of the average worker.

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The Council met on August 12, 2003; six of nine voting members were present. At that meeting we unanimously approved a policy to determine First Unitarian Special Interest Group Status. We are requiring all groups (currently in existence or not) who wish to have this status (category 3 in the Building Use Policy) to apply to Council before October 1, 2003. Forms and the accompanying procedures are now available in the church office.

On August 15 and 16 many members of your Council attended the Church Leadership Retreat at the lovely Catherine Spalding Retreat center near Bardstown. Kudos to **Jane Martin Buckley, Jeff Matthias** and others who worked hard to organize this informative, moving and fun event. Consider attending next year.

Gary Drehmel



Steepletalk

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(covers September 14 - 27)



Editors: Claudia Runge &
Scott Borden
editor@firstulou.org

Contact us:

office@firstulou.org or minister@firstulou.org

REviews

Many thanks to **Blair White** and her dedicated volunteer staff for their great work with our summer children's religious education program. In addition to Sunday morning children's classes, Blair designed and implemented a mid-week Peace Camp, and she'll also be leaving us with plans for next year's summer curriculum. Blair's commitment to our children and to our liberal religious movement are wonderful gifts to our children, and to First Unitarian Church.

With summer sessions nearly behind us, we're gearing up for another great year of programming. Once again, we have an impressive slate of teachers to guide and inspire our children and youth. This semester's R.E. teachers for children and youth are:

- Preschool: **Kathy Kremer** and **Rose Stevens** - back again by popular demand!
- Kindergarten - 2nd Grade: **Rae Cobbs** and **Susie Onwood** - ditto!
- 3rd and 4th Grade: **Suzanne Meeks** and **Bob Parish**
- 5th and 6th Grade: **Robin Grossman** and **Keith Wilhelmi**
- Junior High: **Kent McDaniel** and **Tiffany Taylor**
- Senior High: **Roger Ohlman** and **Sparrow Cuthbert-Walters** and members of the senior high class.

Meanwhile, several members of our youth leadership are planning a day trip to Cincinnati to network with other UU youth and adult leaders and to discuss options for cluster-wide youth programming. The **Coming of Age** program is up and running, and our Adult Religious Education Committee is hard at work to bring you another stimulating season of **Chalice Night**.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you and to meeting new friends in the exciting semester that lies ahead. I hope you'll find many ways to participate in Religious Education at First Unitarian Church.

Peace,
Lisa

R.E. Announcements

➔ **Teacher orientation:** All R.E. teachers, please join us on **August 31, 9:45** in the R.E. Library. A light breakfast will be served.

➔ **Registration for all children and youth participants in R.E. begins on August 31st.** Come to the R.E. table in the Social Hall following the Celebration of Life.

➔ **YOUTH/ADULT POTLUCK! September 7, 6:00 in the Social Hall.** Please bring a dish to share, and join us for this year's Youth Groups kickoff celebration and information session. All youth, 6th - 12th grade, their families, and interested others are encouraged to attend. **Youth Adult Committee (YAC) elections will be held!!!**

➔ **If you have ideas** for one-time or multi-session programs you'd like to lead at **Chalice Night**, please bring them to the attention of **Lisa Willner** or Adult Religious Education Committee chair **Jo Ann Dale**.

Attention Brown Baggers

Our meeting on **September 15** will begin at **11:00 am** (we will eat at 12:00 o'clock). Our speaker, **Mr. Tim Barry**, must leave at 12:00, so the earlier meeting time is necessary. Mr. Barry is the director of the Park-Duvall housing project. This project has won national attention, and is serving as a model. We are lucky to have him speak, so please mark your calendars and show your appreciation by attending.

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

⇒ **Aug. 31 -- Round Table Light.**

⇒ **Sept. 7 -- Welcome to Round Table:** The regular season begins with our Round Table In-gathering and a chance to meet and greet and share stories from our summer. We'll also have an overview of our plans for this fall.

⇒ **Sept. 14 -- General Assembly in Boston:** A panel discussion by First Unitarian members who attended GA last June.

⇒ A **curricula meeting** is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept 3, at 6:30 pm.** Anyone interested in the Sunday morning adult religious education class is welcome to join us in this meeting. For more information or to confirm the meeting date, contact **Jasmine Walston** at jasminegld@aol.com, or xxx-xxxx.

Lisa Willner

Religious Education Director



Telephone
(502) 585-5110 (Office)

E-mail
dre@firsttulou.org
lisa@scruton.win.net (home)

Office Hours
Monday 12 - 3
Tuesday 12 - 6
Wednesday 12 - 3 or by appointment

Friday is Lisa's day off.

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- Working, but still poor: About 10 million U.S. workers are below the poverty level.
- Workers and families without health insurance: Over 40 million Americans live without health care coverage.
- Workers who organize are penalized: Over 10,000 workers each year are illegally fired for trying to organize to address workplace issues such as wages, benefits, and working conditions. Immigrant workers often face the threat of INS raids or deportation when they try to organize.

What Can People of Faith Do This Labor Day?

- 1) Pray for all workers, especially those earning low wages.
- 2) Pray for all employers to treat workers with love and justice.
- 3) Support the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride - a national mobilization to focus public attention on immigrant rights. Inspired by the Freed Riders of the Civil Rights Movement, immigrant workers and allies will set out in late September 2003 from nine U.S. cities and cross the country, converging for major mobilizations in Washington, DC and New York. One set of buses will stop in Louisville on September 29. Contact KY Jobs with Justice to be involved in hosting this historic event: 502-625-3724 or kyjwj@kyjwj.org.
- 4) Join Kentucky Jobs with Justice and speak up for workers' rights throughout the year: contact 502-625-3724 or kyjwj@kyjwj.org for more information.



Business from GA

The General Assembly in Boston passed a Statement of Conscience on Economic Globalization and five Actions of Immediate Witness intended to address recent events on these topics: the invasion of Iraq; AmeriCorps; depleted uranium; global HIV/AIDS; and women's rights and reproductive freedom. Delegates chose Criminal Justice and Prison Reform as the new Study Action Issue for 2 years of study. The Assembly tabled a business resolution to create a registry of marriages, same-sex unions, and domestic partnerships.

First Unitarian member **Jasmine Walston** served as a presenter at a GA workshop on UUism and Polyamory: Many Traditions, Many Loves. Approximately 200 people attended two offerings of the program, including an Associated Press reporter, whose article is available on the Internet. Jasmine carried a banner in the banner parade for the workshop's sponsoring organization, UUs for Polyamory Awareness.

Please visit the UUA website (www.uua.org) for extensive coverage of General Assembly, including the full text of the Statement and Actions that were passed; the business resolution that was tabled; and information about the next Study Action Issue. Many GA programs are available for purchase on audiocassette or videotape; see the UUA website for details. Plan now for the 2004 GA, which will be held in Long Beach, California, June 24-28.

PRP Volunteers Needed

On September 14, First Unitarian will staff the pledge phones to bring in much-needed donations for the Public Radio Partnership's Fall Fund Drive, and, at the same time, fill the day's broadcast with the First Unitarian Church name. Please volunteer for a 2 or 3 hour shift between

Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser for our Bantu refugee family

Saturday, September 6
5:00 - 7:30 pm
at First Unitarian Church



Dinner \$5.00 - adults
\$2.00 - children (12 & under)
Dessert \$1.00

We are getting excited! All the spaghetti you can eat, plus music by the Sudanese Men's Choir at 5:00pm, the Pot Luck Ramblers at 6:00, and other music and raffles on an interesting assortment of prizes throughout the evening.

Dear UU Friends,
I can't begin to adequately thank everyone for all their calls, cards, care, concern, food, and errands after my recent heart surgery. As I understand, several people were even there to support my daughter Robin during the surgery. It's hard to believe that so many hours were devoted by so many of you, a number of whom were there repeatedly and are still checking on me. I am doing very well, can drive now, and am hoping to be able to begin a cardiac rehab program soon. Unfortunately, I don't remember most of my hospital stay or who was there during those times. So, if I haven't thanked you, it's not because I'm not grateful; I just recall very little. With a great deal of love, I thank you all.

Mike Watkins

11am and 8pm. Contact **Jasmine Walston** at jasminegld@aol.com or xxx-xxxx.

Calendar: August 28 - September 13

August 2003

28 Thursday

Choir dress rehearsal in sanctuary

31 Sunday

9:45am RE Teacher Orientation, RE library

10:55am Regular RE

10:55am Celebration of Life w/Schubert Mass

September 2003

1 Monday - Office closed-Labor Day

2 Tuesday

1:00pm Administrative Staff Meeting

6:30pm PDR Comm., library

4 Thursday

6:30pm Social Responsibility Comm., SH

5 Friday

12noon **Steepletalk Deadline**

6 Saturday

5:00pm Spaghetti Dinner Fund-Raiser, SH

7 Sunday

10:55am Celebration of Life & RE

6:00pm Youth/Adult RE Kickoff and Potluck,
SH/kitchen

8 Monday

5:30pm Music Committee mtg, choir room

7:00pm **Congregational Meeting, Sancty.**

9 Tuesday

7pm Council Meeting, library

1:00pm All-Staff Meeting

10 Wednesday

6:00pm Interweave-SH

12 Friday

6:30pm RE Coming-Of-Age, Lisa's House

13 Saturday

9:45am Worship Associates Mtg.

6:00pm CUUPs Pagan Hand-fasting & dinner,
SH and Ctyd

Just Among Ourselves...

You are invited to the handfasting of **Dianne Jenkins** and **Peter Webber** Saturday, September 13, 2003, at First Unitarian Church. The Circle Ceremony will begin at 6:30 in the evening to be followed by a covered dish supper, good cheer, and live music. Please bring a covered dish for at least 8 people to be set up in the Social Hall no later than 6:15. Please dress casually and comfortably. Weather permitting, circle will be held in courtyard. **RSVP to xxx-xxxx daytime and xxx-xxxx evenings by Thursday, September 11** so we know how many to plan for.

If you made it out to the East Wing during the KY State Fair, we hope that you saw **xxxx xxx-xxxxxxx's** prize winning photograph of a cat. **xxxx** won a blue ribbon in the student division for B&W photography. Congratulations Alice!

Sena Jeter Naslund invites everyone to a reading/signing of her new novel, *Four Spirits*; the title refers to the church bombing and civil rights movement of 1963 in Birmingham, Alabama where Sena grew up. National Launch Event place: **Hawley-Cooke Booksellers**, 4600 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville. Reading/signing time: **7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 4, 2003**. Sena is also the author of the critically acclaimed, national best-selling Unitarian novel (reviewed in *The World*), *Ahab's Wife*.

Vi Kritlow suffered a stroke recently; she is temporarily living with her daughter, undergoing physical therapy and recuperating nicely. If you want to send a card, mail it in care of Kimberly Knake, 5631 Lawn Court, Western Springs, IL 60558. You can also reach her by phone at xxx-xxx-xxxx.

First Unitarian Church
809 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-2115

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

August 31

Schubert Mass

September 7

Gathering Revival with Water Communion. An Intergenerational revival to kick-off the new church year with lots of singing, lots of children and our water communion ritual. Bring a small container of water from your summer adventures to add to the community water we collected last year.

September 14

Voluntary Associations. A service exploring the ideas of UU theologian **James Luther Adams** about voluntary associations. **Rev. Norm Stewart.** Choir will be singing