

# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 9, Number 1

12 January 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-x • Jen Lavery, Church Administrator • Michael Megahan, Music Director  
Marian Ziebell, Instrumentalist • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

## All-Church Goal-Setting Summit Set for Jan. 19

by **Barbara Kearley**, Shared Ministry Coordinator

The annual All-Church Goal-Setting Summit is coming up in January. This year, Church Council will print out existing committee goals for 2002-2003 on large sheets of paper and post them on the walls of the Social Hall on Jan. 12. The sheets will remain up through Jan. 19. During this time, all are encouraged to write their suggestions and ideas for committee goals for 2003-2004 on the sheets. After the Celebration of Life on Jan. 19, church members only will be given 10 colored dots to use to identify their priorities on this committee goal sheets. This process will help identify areas important to members, and the results will be incorporated into committee goal-setting for 2003-2004.

A follow-up to the Goal-Setting Summit is Feb. 17. In an extended Council session, committee representatives should be ready to present preliminary goals and budget plans for 2003-2004. If you have questions, please contact a member of Church Council.

## Brownbaggers Anticipate Special Program

When Brownbaggers planned their year's program, they discovered that the January meeting would be on the 20th, **Martin Luther King's birthday**. They decided on a program related to the long struggle of the black people for civil rights to honor King.

Fortunately, **Pamela Peters** of New Albany, a historical researcher and author, agreed to speak on the subject of **Underground Railroads**. Her book, *Underground Railroads of Floyd County, Indiana*, was published in 2000. It has been critically well-received. The book resulted from years of research and personal interviews with the families of participants in the movement.

Mark your calendars for **12 noon in the church library**. Bring your brown bag lunch.



STEEPLETALK

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

## Notes from Norm

One evening at the church after everyone else had gone home I was trying to decide what to write about for my *Steepletalk* column. It gets pretty quiet around the church when you are the only one in the whole building. Despite the quiet, I was not being overwhelmed with ideas.

Then the phone rang. It was a woman calling from a local motel. From her voice it was obvious that she was in some sort of distress. She and her 17 year old son had come to Louisville from Lexington to get some space from the woman's husband - the boy's father. When she called her son was down at the motel spa relaxing.

Shortly into the conversation, the woman explained to me that she and her husband were members of a faith tradition that is, according to the Handbook of Denominations in the United States, "one of the more conservative [American Methodist groups] in both doctrine and standards of Christian practice." She told me that their faith tradition was very firmly rooted in the Bible.

She told me that her son was a leader in his class, an excellent student and had been active in his church which she compared to Southeast Christian Church here. He too, apparently believed that the Bible was the primary source of religious, ethical, and moral authority by which humans were called to live and ultimately be judged.

So why was this woman calling the First Unitarian Church of Louisville? How did she decide to call us?

### Steepletalk

Published every two weeks (with exceptions) by  
**First Unitarian Church of Louisville**  
809 South 4th Street  
Louisville, KY 40203

Editors: Claudia Runge & Scott Borden  
[editor@firstulou.org](mailto:editor@firstulou.org)

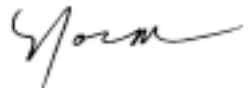
She found us in the Yellow Pages under churches. There are 10 pages of church listings in the Louisville Yellow Pages, most with 4 columns. You have to go through a lot of churches to get to the Unitarian Universalists. We're on the last page. Our listing isn't very impressive or particularly eye-catching. It says, *First Unitarian Church, A Free Faith, Defined By Diversity* and includes our address and phone number.

In her desperation, the woman had called us because of one word in our phone listing. The word was diversity. From that one word she assumed we might be able to help her understand something that her faith tradition could not help her understand in a way that she could live with it. Something which I presume is still difficult to deal with for many (although fortunately not for all) parents.

Her son had come out of the closet and told his parents that he was gay. He did this despite acknowledging that this meant he was now doomed to "go to hell."

The woman and I talked for quite awhile and it seemed like her anxiety decreased a little. I tried to assure her that there were places she and her family could go for help in understanding what was going on in their family. I referred them to their local UU church for resources. I explained to her that we welcomed all people regardless of who they loved. I briefly mentioned our Universalist tradition and its view of hell and reminded her that the greatest lesson of Jesus and Christianity was to love God and to love one another.

I don't know if I was of any help to the woman or her son. Hopefully she now feels that there is a some place they can go for support. It is calls like this that remind me how important it is that we are here and how important it is that we continue to be welcoming of all sorts of diversity.



# Board News

## Congregation Invited to Review Proposed Policy

by danielle rogers-candee

A precise **Building Use Policy** is vital in the day-to-day operations of our church. For the past year the Ad Hoc Committee on Building Use has worked diligently to develop a draft of the Building Use Policy. This draft was presented to the Board at the December meeting.

The recommendations are available for review in the volunteer area and the Board invites those interested in discussing the draft to the Board Forums on January 19 and February 16. The policy will be come to a vote at the March 18 board meeting.

The Board offers a special thanks to those that worked so conscientiously on the development of this policy: **Jay Dolen, Jackey Dorsett, John Durham, John Grossman, Peg Kesler, Jason Klueber, Jen Lavery, Alice McKinley, David Parke, Debbie Silverman, Norm Stewart.**



## Louisville UU Churches Launch Ad Campaign

by John Miller, Board President

In case you missed it, the second ad for the Louisville Unitarian Universalist “cluster” ran on page 9 of the January 1 LEO. We got great placement again, this time on Molly Ivins’ page.

Different ads will run in the next four issues (1/8, 1/15, 1/22 and 1/31). We ran one on December 18, too. We are also running a spot on public radio: Monday and Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoon (drive time), during the same period.

The ads are intended to raise the public profile of the three churches. And we are trying to be just a tiny little bit controversial or provocative. We are sharing the costs with the other churches. Let us (John Miller, PDR Committee, Board & Council members, Norm) know what you think.

---

---

## Pledge Giving Soars in December!

Thanks to all who pre-paid or brought their pledges up-to-date in response to the December 22 *Steepletalk* announcement that the 2002-2003 pledge tally was \$22,000 short as we approached the halfway point in the church year. **First U’s generous givers responded to that reminder by contributing \$30,660 in the last half of December.** This means that we met the halfway point in the church year with 54% of our pledge monies paid, \$81,936 toward the \$152,000 total.

The challenge to us, of course, will be to continue to stay as “fiscally faithful” in the second half of the church year as we have been through the end of December. As a recently redeemed, caught-up pledger myself, my pledge to you is that I will work with the Finance Committee to continue to send out clear reminders of how the church’s pledge situation stands. I say let’s bank on good communication and First U generosity to contribute the full \$152,000 that we have pledged for this fiscal year.

With gratitude for your generosity,  
**Jenny**  
(Jenny Lavery, Church Administrator)

# Reviews

**H**appy New Year! In pulling myself out of a delightful-but-brief post-holiday hibernation period (I hope you got one too!), I've begun to prepare for the upcoming religious education semester. I've put together a calendar to help the Religious Education Committee and myself in our planning for some very busy winter months. Since we look forward to your participation in our programs, it occurs to me that an outline of some of the exciting events that lie ahead might be useful to you in your planning.

Of course, all regular R.E. programming will continue as usual, including children and youth **R.E. classes at 10:55** on Sunday mornings, **Book Club for elementary children** on most Sundays beginning at 9:30, **Sunday Morning Adult Round Table (SMART)** every Sunday at 9:30, **Sunday evening Middle School YoUuth Group and Senior High YRUU**, and a rich variety of Wednesday evening **Chalice Night programs**.

Here is an annotated calendar of other upcoming religious education events. **SAVE THIS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE:**

## **Lisa Willner**

### **Religious Education Director**

#### *Telephone*

(502) 585-5110 (Office)

(502) xxx-xxxx (Home)

#### *E-mail*

[dre@firstulou.org](mailto:dre@firstulou.org)

[lisa@scruton.win.net](mailto: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.**

➔ **January 12, 9:45am: Youth Adult Committee (YAC) meeting.** The newly resurrected YAC is responsible for overseeing all youth programming. All are welcome to this organizational meeting. Current voting members of the YAC are **xxxxx xxx, xxxx xxxxxx, xxxx xxxx, xxxxxx xxxxxx** (youth); **Jay Dolen, Jim Fry, Mary Griffin, Richelle Treves** (adults). Your voice is important, too, so come be a part of the conversation.

➔ **January 19, 9:45am: UU Parent Group.** How does our parenting reflect our Unitarian Universalist values? Last year, we formed a UU Parent group, and offered the UUA curriculum "Being a UU Parent." It occurred to many of us who participated that there is a need in the church for an ongoing UU Parent Group. What form the group takes is up to you. **Tom Dalglish** will facilitate this organizational gathering.

➔ **January 19, 5:00-8:00pm: Mid-year YoUuth Adult Potluck** -- A time for fellowship, food, and fun. Youth groups will give mid-year reports, the YAC will present a preliminary calendar of upcoming youth events, and all will be invited to share ideas about youth programming. All youth (6th-12th grades), their families, friends, and those interested in learning more about and supporting youth programming at First U are welcome. (Bring a dish to share.)

➔ **January 26, 9:45am: New teacher Orientation.** For all of our next semester R.E. teachers - come have breakfast, get your curriculum, meet your teaching partner(s), and get some of the basic how-to's of teaching R.E. at First Unitarian Church.

➔ **January 31, 6:30: Coming of Age quarterly gathering.** Current "Coming of Age" candidates and mentors will meet at Lisa's for food, discussion, progress reports, and maybe even some fun!

# Reviews

**February 2, 9, 16, 23**

## Storytelling Artist-in-Residence Series

New Series!! Fun for All Ages!! *Renowned Appalachian Storyteller*

*Angelyn DeBord--right here at First Unitarian, Louisville!*

**WOW!!!!**

**DON'T MISS THIS!!!!**

Join us each Sunday in February at 9:45 for the first R.E. artist-in-residence program of the new year. "Homemade Tales," featuring Appalachian Storyteller, actress, playwright, and workshop leader

**Angelyn DeBord.** Angelyn is a founding member of Appalshop's Roadside Theater and has been affiliated with Appalshop for 30 years.

Angelyn is currently a recipient of a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship and is working on an oral history research project at the University of Kentucky. She has agreed to make the trip from Lexington to Louisville each Sunday in February to lead our storytelling workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity for First Unitarian Church, and we wholeheartedly encourage your participation.

This is a multi-generational storytelling workshop; all ages are welcome. Angie will guide participants in uncovering delightful personal stories to be shared in small groups. A performance piece will be developed and presented at the service on February 23. **Please join us from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Open Classroom, every Sunday in February. Sign-up on the R.E. bulletin board on the 2nd floor, or by calling or e-mailing Lisa Willner.** For more information about Angelyn DeBord, see <http://www.geocities.com/mtnstories/>.



➔ **February 7, 8: OWL Training Program** UUA-recommended trainers **Rev. T. Michael Rock** from Providence, RI and **DRE Beth Casebolt** from St. Claresville, OH will spend an intensive weekend with us to offer expert training to our future K/1 and 4-6 Grade OWL sexuality education leaders. Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church is co-sponsoring the training weekend.

➔ **February 14: Valentine Pizza Party for Center for Women and Families??** This event has been a First U tradition for many years, and is customarily co-sponsored by the Religious Education and Social Responsibility Committees. The R.E. Committee has a number of other projects going at this time, and will be considering at their January 13 meeting whether to undertake this very worthwhile project again this year. *If the event is important to you, please let us hear from you.* The Committee would also appreciate hearing from you if you'd like to be a volunteer for the Valentine Pizza Party.

➔ **February 19, Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30pm: OWL Parent Information Meeting.** This meeting is required for all parents/guardians whose children will participate in the 5th and 6th grade OWL sexuality education program, and is open to all interested others.

➔ **February 23, 12:30 - 3:00: Parent/Child OWL Orientation** Required for all 5th and 6th grade OWL participants and their parent(s)/guardian(s).

I hope there's something here to spark your interest, and I look forward to learning and growing with you in 2003.

Peace,

Lisa



## News and Notes

### Sunday Morning Adult Round Table Church Library

Fellowship & sharing at 9:30am  
Program - 9:45 until 10:45am

#### Upcoming Topics & Events

- **Jan 12: *Civil Rights During the War on Terrorism*** -- Guest speaker, **Jeff Vessels**, of the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union will lead a discussion about the erosion of Civil Liberties in the name of Homeland Security. This is a UUA Study/Action Issue. Literature is available in the handouts rack in the volunteer area, or at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).
- **Jan 19: *UU Response to Civil Rights Issues*** -- UUs have a long-standing reputation as champions of the civil liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights in the US Constitution. In keeping with this heritage, UU congregations across the country are addressing this problem and will prepare a Statement of Conscience on Civil Rights.
- **Jan 26: *Economic Globalization*** -- "As a community of faith, Unitarian Universalists are challenged to bring an ethic of care to our understanding of globalization...." These words are from the first draft of the UUA Statement of Conscience on Economic Globalization, a UUA Study/Action Issue. The full text of the draft Statement is available in the handouts rack, or at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

#### **WBC Meeting Rescheduled**

The scheduled meeting of the **Welcoming and Belonging Coalition** (usually on the second Sunday of the month) is reset for **January 19, 2003**, to begin 20 minutes after the Celebration of Life ends. This change is made in order to accommodate the luncheon and Congregational Meeting set for January 12. In February we will resume meeting on the second Sunday.

### First U Supports Reproductive Choice

Join local groups in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. You're needed now more than ever.

✓ **Jan. 22** at the Kentucky Theater, 6:30-9:30. An evening of performance, music and poetry. Come and partake or participate at the open mike.  
✓ **Jan. 25 Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice Annual Dinner.** Mary Lou Marzian will receive the Dr. David Gunn Award, clinic doctors will be honored, and youth organizers will speak. tickets \$25.--Central Presbyterian Church. 6:30.

See, email or call **Joan Beal** for further information or to obtain reservations.

### **Safe Sitters Classes to be Offered**

from **Linda Parry**

This is an FYI for the youth, 12 and above, and their families, who are interested in taking the **Kosair Children's Hospital Safe Sitter** class. As soon as the 2003 schedule is published by the Child Advocacy Office at Kosair, we will place a notice up at church. These classes are very educational and applicable for the young childcare giver. The slots are filled quickly as there is a high demand in the community. The classes cost about \$20, and there will be some scholarship money available through the church Council. Watch for the announced class times. The classes are held at Kosair Hospital.

## In Memoriam

**Shirley Major**

**April 5, 1922 - December 13, 2002**

# Calendar: January 9 - 25

## January

### 9 Thursday

6:30pm Finance committee, library  
7:15pm Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

### 12 Sunday

9:45am YAC, RE library  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
12:15pm After church luncheon  
1:30pm Congregational meeting  
6:30pm YoUUth & YRUU groups

### 13 Monday

5:30pm Music Committee, choir room  
6:30pm Congregational services, library  
6:30pm RE committee, open classrm

### 14 Tuesday

1:00pm Staff, library  
5:15pm Adult RE planning team, open classrm  
7:00pm Council, library

### 15 Wednesday

5:30pm Chalice night, supper & programming

### 16 Thursday

7:30pm Choir rehearsal, choir room

### 19 Sunday

9:45am Board Forum re building use, SH  
9:45am UU parent goup, RE library  
10:55am Celebration of Life-Intergenerational  
12:15pm Church goal setting activity, SH  
5:00pm Youth/Adult Potluck, SH

### 20 Monday--MLK Day - Church office closed

12:00pm Brownbaggers, library  
7:00pm Membership committee, library

### 21 Tuesday

6:30pm Board, library

### 22 Wednesday

5:30pm Chalice night, supper & programming

### 23 Thursday

7:30pm Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

### 24 Friday

6:00pm All church potluck & film festival, SH

### 26 Sunday

9:45am Orientation for teachers, RE library  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
6:30pm YoUUth & YRUU groups

## Just among ourselves...

**Peg Kesler** sends a “thank you”: All of us at Harmony Habitat wish to express our gratitude to the **Foxworthys (Drew and Carol)** for the donation of their Ford Aeorstar van to our group home.



Best wishes to **Barbara Hambaugh**, who has joined Team in Training to walk the mini-marathon at Derby time. Barbara is trying to raise \$800 in donations to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and would welcome any donations that church friends would like to make.

**Carol Findling** reports that **the wreath making class made \$600**, which this year will benefit the choir. About 40 people came and a lot of fun was had by all. One of our goals was to reach people in the community, and we were successful as about a quarter of the wreath makers were not from our church. It's always good to have visitors to our church, especially when they enjoy themselves.

**Jen Lavery** reported that **poinsettia sales raised \$270 for the church**, so the total additional funds coming into the church in December was nearly \$900 from fund raising.

A big thank you to all who worked so hard to make these fund raisers a success!

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

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Permit No. 146**

### **Celebrations of Life**

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

**January 12** *War in the 21st Century* - **Rev. Norm Stewart and Sam Avery, Worship Associate.** War: how do we live with it or do we? How does our religious community deal with this seemingly ever-present possibility? How should we respond to the existence and potential use of weapons of mass destruction? [After the service, join us for one of our Second Sunday lunches and then stay for the congregational meeting to consider a resolution in response to the potential or perhaps actual war on Iraq.]

**January 19** *Honoring the Dream* - **First Unitarian Youth with Rev. Norm Stewart.** A multi-generational service honoring the dream and spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**January 26** *Art and Religion* - **Barbara Coles, Worship Associate.** A reflection on how the “high arts” have formed and informed our spirituality and religion and projected them onto our culture.