

# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 9, Number 13

06 July 2003

809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446  
www.firstlou.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



STEEPLETALK

Free Summer School Course In Six Easy Sessions!

## LEARNING A SCHUBERT MASS

Join the choir as they prepare to perform this lovely work that 16-year-old Franz Schubert wrote in six days. Our choir has strong singers who help teach newcomers. A small orchestra (mostly FirstU folks) will accompany us.

### Rehearsal 7:15pm

June 26  
July 17, 24 and 31  
August 14 and 21



### Dress Rehearsal TBD

August 28

### Performance 10:55am

Sunday, August 31



Marian Ziebell  
xxx-xxxx until 6:30pm

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

## Ramblings From Reiff

Greetings to all at First Unitarian! I'm the new Office Manager, and as I write this, I'm completing my second week. There's a lot to learn and I'm glad that I was asked to start in the summer while it's relatively calm. Luckily, **John Miller, Jen Lavery** and others are helping me learn the ropes. Since Norm is away this week, I was asked to use his column to introduce myself.

I was born in Lima, Ohio, but, as my father was in the military, I lived most of my youth in Berlin, Germany. Although we gave up things that most people take for granted, such as shopping malls and being near grandparents, it's an experience that I wouldn't trade. My love for languages and different cultures was born and nourished there, and during that time, I traveled over much of Europe and into Africa.

In 1980, after graduating from high school, my family moved to Savannah, Georgia, where my mother still lives. It was there that I began to feel that the path I'd chosen for myself (restaurant management) wasn't right. I'd always loved music and had sung in choirs for as long as I could remember, so I enrolled in Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville and moved here in 1986. After graduating with a Master's in Church Music in 1992, I decided to stay and work in Louisville.

But plans change, as they often do. The increasingly conservative bent of the Southern Baptist Convention, of which I'd been a member since birth, and my own developing liberalism clashed until the point that I needed to find a new denomination. I had been attending Central Presbyterian off and on, and made it my church home about 3 years ago. I'm a faithful member

of the choir and occasionally fill in for our Director, Guy Younce. I also had a wonderful job working for the Europe Office of the Presbyterian Church headquarters downtown.

Unfortunately, I lost that job in the Great Downsizing of 2002. I wandered for a while, until, on a whim, I contacted the English-As-A-Second-Language section of the Jefferson County Public Schools Department of Adult Education. That led to the best job I've ever had, which is teaching English to immigrants from all over the world. Although I'm only teaching one class during the summer, I expect to have three in the fall, which is partly what made the job at First U so attractive. The flexible hours will allow me to teach day and night classes, which will suit me quite well.

I live in the Highlands neighborhood with Joe Edmiston, my partner of 8 years, our wonderful Lab, Willie, and our weird cat, Leo. I'm pleased to have been chosen to be your new Office Manager and look forward to meeting you in person. Drop by and introduce yourself some time

**Bryan Reiff**

### Steepletalk

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**First Unitarian Church of Louisville**

809 South 4th Street

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(covers July 27 - August 16)



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# Board Biz

by Beverly Daly

The new Board of Trustees met June 17. Your 2003-04 **Board members** are **President Jane Martin-Buckley, danielle rogers-candee, Secretary Bev Daly, Greg Gapsis, Sharon Howerton Leightty, Jeff Matthias, Trish Packowski, T. Lynn Singleton, Pete Webber, and Treasurer Doug Yoder. Norm, Lisa, and Bryan Reiff** (the new office manager) also attended.

At Jane's urging, the Board made a commitment to be more faithful to **Robert's Rules of Order** during meetings and to guard our time carefully. Accordingly, Jane was duly and quickly elected President. The election for Vice-President election was postponed until July.

Mark your calendars! Norm announced that the Leadership Retreat for Board, Council, ministers, committee members, and other interested persons has been scheduled for Aug. 15 and 16.

**Joan Beal, Linda Parry, Kathy Thackeray, and Jasmine Walston** were approved as First Unitarian's official **delegates to the General Assembly.**

In other business, new members were brought up-to-date (but the Board took no new action) on the **Building Use Policy**, which was approved with changes by the Board in April. The only substantive change was deletion of all references to communication and advertising. Those topics will be addressed in the Advertising Policy, under construction by the Public and Denominational Relations committee and subject to approval by Council and Board. Bryan Reef agreed to incorporate the April changes into the Building Use Policy and prepare a clean copy for viewing by interested persons.

In accordance with the Nov. 2001 Board

vote on the Polyamory group and the recent adoption of the Building Use Policy, the Board reiterated its position that outside organizations may not advertise in *Steepletalk*. On a related note, Council is developing a process for groups wishing to apply for First Unitarian recognition as a special interest or affiliated group.

To accommodate travel schedules, the Board will meet on Monday instead of the usual Tuesday, July 14, at 7 pm. As always, members and friends are welcome. Feel free also to contact Jane if you have possible agenda items



## Yard Sale Rescheduled

Because of a scheduling conflict the **ANNUAL ALL CHURCH YARD SALE** was postponed to **Saturday**

**July 12.** Drop off donated items at church Monday July 7 through Friday July 11. We need volunteers to sort, price, set-up, cleanup and assist customers. Please contact **Betty Caudle** at xxx-xxxx.

Some folks didn't get the earlier rescheduling message; therefore, we have started to collect a number of items. Because of space considerations and building use, church staff and yard sale workers would appreciate it if folks would wait until July 7 to drop off donations.

*The shirt etc., I tie-dyed and draped over the drying line were not in the bags returned from Otter Creek. Anyone know where they are?*

*Thanks! Kris Philipp*

Hello all! There is no hiding summer's arrival any longer - the weather is blistering, the pools are open, and the church is quieter with the marked absence of its members taking it easy elsewhere.

It is also the time in other churches for summer vacation bible school, and now, for our church as well with the arrival, in addition to summer RE (July 13-August 31), of our first-ever **Peace Camp at church!** Don't misunderstand; this will be the un-bible, Unitarian Universalist, three-evening-long church school program with cooperative games, stories, and lessons on peace in our relationships as well as lessons on the hope of peace in our world. **All open classroom-age children are welcome to attend (grades 1-6), as well as those who don't fit the age requirements but just want to be a part of the camp.** Because there are some pretty awesome social action-driven youth at our church, I hope to have some of them help lead this event with me. Postcards will arrive at church families' houses soon about how to sign up for this super-cool, inaugural event here at church. **The Peace Camp will run at church from July 30-August 1, with each evening session lasting from 7-9 p.m.** Feel free to call me at church or at home (xxx-xxxx) or email me at [whitebl@earlham.edu](mailto:whitebl@earlham.edu) with any questions or comments you have about this.

I hope you all are enjoying the long days of summer...see you in church.

Peace,  
**Blair**

Blair White, Summer R.E. Coordinator

## Sunday Morning Adult Round Table Church Library Sharing at 9:30am Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

❑ **Round Table Light** continues for the summer through August 31. Bring in coffee and newspapers for informal discussions every Sunday morning. **Children are welcome at Round Table Light**; no separate programming for children will be held during this summer's first-hour. Nursery care will be available.

❑ On **Tuesday, July 29 at 6:30 pm, the SMART Curricula Team will meet** to begin planning Fall programming. Anyone interested in adult religious education is welcome to join us in this meeting. For more information, contact **Jasmine Walston, [jasminegld@aol.com](mailto:jasminegld@aol.com), or xxx-xxxx.**



**Lisa Willner**  
Religious Education Director

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

**Friday is Lisa's day off, and she is on vacation during the month of July.**

- **There is still time to sign up to teach a one-time Sunday morning (10:55 a.m.-12:15 p.m.) RE session this summer running from July 13-August 31!** Willing volunteers are asked to **call Blair** at church or at home (xxx-xxxx) **or to email her at whitebl@earlham.edu.**

- **Snack Request:** If you are interested in donating snacks (without nuts) and juice for summer RE, you can leave your donations by Lisa's door upstairs.

- **The last day of summer RE** will not be August 24, as mentioned in the last *Steepletalk*, but on **August 31**. August 24 is the all-church clean-up day, and there will be no RE (children are encouraged to help clean). The summer session will finish on August 31

- Our Director of Religious Education is attending General Assembly in Boston. She will be off-duty in July, and will resume office hours on Monday, August 4. If you have questions about summer religious education programs, please direct them to **Blair White** at [whitebl@earlham.edu](mailto:whitebl@earlham.edu), or leave a message for Blair on the church voice mail system, 585-5110 mailbox 1. Any other religious education questions or concerns may be directed to R.E. Committee Chair **Carol Uebelhoer** at [cuebel56@yahoo.com](mailto:cuebel56@yahoo.com), or xxx-xxxx.

### Thanks for Slogging!

from **Kathy Kremer**

This is to thank those who participated in the First U House & Grounds Committee's "Get Down and Dirty with House & Grounds" cleanup event on June 18. These folks spent nearly three hours clearing the church basement to make room for some major repair work: **John Durham, Glenn Ellison, Fran Fargen, Mark Irwin, Joe Kremer, Jeff Matthias, Anne Sparks, Dave Tinsley, Pete Webber, and Terry White.** Thanks also to **Carol Findling** who helped organize the event.

Hello all. I hope you are enjoying the summer. I'm **Gary Drehmel** the chair of your Council for this year and I would like to fill you in on what we are doing (I intend to keep you informed on our activities and I invite you to communicate with me or any other member of the Council to share your thoughts, concerns and/or ideas).

This year Council members are **John Grossman, Scott Borden, Geneva Fry, Beth Frey, Mark Irwin, Norm Stewart, Barbara Kearley, Lisa Willner** and **danniell rogers-candee** (Board Rep). Currently we are working with the Board on planning the **Annual Leadership retreat on August 15 and 16 at the beautiful Catherine Spalding Center in Nazareth KY.** Board and Council Members and Committee chairs are strongly urged to attend.

We are also working on putting together a procedure to designate special interest groups in accordance with the Church's Building use Policy. More next month...

**Gary**

*Trust men and they will be true to you; treat them greatly and they will show themselves great. - Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### Place Nametags Here!

The **Membership Committee** has placed a basket on a small table near the door at the Library Lane entrance/exit. The purpose of this basket is to allow you to **place your nametag in it BEFORE you leave our church.**



## Summer Service Schedule

**July 6** -- Sermon topic still simmering... -- **Rev. Norm Stewart**

~ **Emerson Series Begins** ~

A series of six services commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Unitarian minister, poet & philosopher, **Ralph Waldo Emerson** begins July 13. The topics and service leader is listed below. Stay tuned and check summer issues of *Steepletalk* for formal titles.

**July 13** -- Who was Emerson and why are we talking about him? -- **Kathie Johnson**

**July 20** -- Leaving the Church -- **Greg Gapsis**

**July 27** -- What is self-reliance? -- **Linette Lowe**

**August 3** -- The role of nature in Emerson's religion and our own -- **Jo Ann Dale and Linda Berry** (Lammas - CUUPS Breads & Spreads)

**August 10** -- What about community and social action? -- **Pat & Bill Allison**

**August 17** -- Emerson's ideas about God and our own -- **Norm Stewart.**

~ **Emerson Series Ends** ~

**August 24** -- T-shirt Sunday and clean-up for new year -- **JoAnn Dale**

**August 31** -- Special music service -- **Marian Ziebell** with a service leader TBA

## Summer Steepletalk Schedule

<b><u>Steepletalk deadline date</u></b>	<b><u>Issue date</u></b>	<b><u>Covers these dates</u></b>
July 18	July 27	July 27-Aug.16 (3 wks)
Aug. 8	August 17	Aug. 17-30 (2 wks)
Aug. 22	August 31	Aug. 31-Sept.13 (2 wks)
Sept. 5	September 14	Sept. 14-27 (2 wks)

## Calendar: July 06 - 26

### July 2003

- 02 Wednesday**  
12:45pm ROMEOS At Piccadilly's
- 06 Sunday**  
10:55am Celebration Of Life
- 07 Monday**  
3pm Yard Sale Delivery, Sorting, Pricing  
Social Hall
- 08 Tuesday**  
3pm Yard Sale Delivery, Sorting, Pricing  
Social Hall  
7pm Council Meeting, Library

- 09 Thru 11 Wednesday Thru Friday**  
3pm Yard Sale Delivery, Sorting, Pricing  
Social Hall
- 12 Saturday**  
8am Yard Sale (Setup 7am)  
3pm Close-Up and Prep For Day-After Sale
- 13 Sunday**  
10:55am Celebration Of Life  
12:15pm Day-After Sale (Set-Up 10am)  
1:30pm Close-Up, Pack, Etc.
- 16 Wednesday**  
7pm CUUPS Summer Reading, Choir Room
- 20 Sunday**  
10:55am Celebration Of Life

## Just Among Ourselves...

Some folks may have noticed that **Martha Smith's** name was left off the necrology printed in the Annual Report. We apologize for the omission.

Tuesday, June 24, a longtime member of the church, **Charles Lewis**, died at his home. He was among the early members of Thomas Jefferson UU Church and was still an Associate Member of First U. Charlie was 87. His wife, **Ruth**, would be happy to hear from those who knew them when they attended First Unitarian. A memorial service will be arranged for an undetermined time.

If you left a sweater, jacket, hat, umbrella, or some other item at church, please pick it up from the coat pegs near the volunteer area or by the kitchen. You may also want to check the "Lost and Found" box in the storage room. Office volunteers tell us they will give clothing items to a charity soon because they take up room, and several items have been unclaimed since winter.

**Buckey Richmond**, son of **Frank Richmond**, former organist at First U, was killed in a traffic accident last week. Buckey, 17 years old, was a child in this church, along with his sister, xxxxxxx, when Frank worked here. We extend heartfelt sympathy to Frank and other members of Buckey's family.



**Mike Watkins** is at home and is doing so well that her doctor has decided that she does not require a caretaker 24 hours a day. Until her daughter arrives some time around the first of – the middle of July, Mike will need to have "check ins," visits, and some good food. In an effort to make sure someone is checking on her as needed/ food when she needs it/and privacy as desired, **Sharon Leighty** has created a schedule which Mike is keeping at her home. So, if you can spare a few minutes, or can share some good food, please call Mike's house at 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.*

**July 6** Sermon topic still simmering... -- **Rev. Norm Stewart**

**July 13** “**Who was Ralph Waldo Emerson and Why are We Talking About Him?**” - Worship Associate **Kathie Johnson**. This is the first of a six-week series on Emerson.

**July 20** “**Leaving the Church**” - Worship Associate **Greg Gapsis**. Emerson in his famous Divinity School Address challenged the basis of religious experience. Instead of scriptural revelation and dogma he urged people to convert life itself into universal truth. We'll look at the risks of leaving safe assumptions and taking risks required of a living faith. **Special music by Gary Falk, Marian Ziebell and Kyle Ellison.**

**July 27** “**What is Self-Reliance?**” - Worship Associate **Linette Lowe**