

STEEPLETALK

U N I T A R I A N FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 8, Number 18

29 September 2002

First Unitarian Church • 809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville, KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446

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New UU Program to Begin Soon

Sooooo you have been attending Sunday services at First Unitarian, and the more you come the more questions you have. Questions such as: *What exactly do Unitarian Universalist believe? Where did Unitarian Universalism come from? How does a Unitarian Universalist Church work? How do I become involved?*

Well...bring yourself and these questions to the New UU Program. We will meet in the Choir Room upstairs and to the right) at **12:30pm, Sunday October 6, 13, and 20** (after the service) for a light lunch and much discussion. The sessions will last for about one and a half hours. Childcare will be provided (let us know you need it).

Spiritual journeys, the history of Unitarian Universalism, history of First Unitarian, the Principles and Purposes of our faith, how our church works, and opportunities for participation are some of the general topics for discussion as well as trying to answer your questions.

Please see the greeter at the Library Lane entrance on Sunday or call the church office (10:00am to 2:00 p.m.) to sign up to attend (so we will have enough food and a childcare person if you need that). You can call **Kathy Thackeray** at xxx-xxxx or e-mail margituu@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Support Young Adults; Mind the Gap

On **Sunday, October 6**, our congregation will join with hundreds of other UU congregations in sponsoring Youth and Young Adult Ministry Sunday. This effort, which is being organized by **Linette Lowe**, is designed to raise generous funds which will support Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry programs throughout the UUA.

We need your help! Please think about the changes that could happen in our congregation and wider community if we had an even more active and dynamic youth and young adult presence! Think about the difference such a presence has made or would make to your teenaged or young adult children -- or those you know. Think about what a difference UUism has made in your life, and what the possibilities would be if we shared it more widely with those in their teens, twenties, and thirties. **Then COME to church on Sunday, October 6 with checkbook in hand, prepared to make the most generous contribution you can to support this effort!** The youth and young adults thank you in advance! Questions/desire to help? Contact Linette at llowe@bellarmine.edu or xxx-xxxx.



Notes from Norm

As I write this column, the end of my third week here with you is in sight. My personal sense of things at this point is that there has been a shift for me away from the more hypothetical nature of things that I have written about in my past columns. Now, I am feeling a very down-to-earth practical nature to my activities and evolving routine. That shift, from thinking about the work to actually doing it, feels good to me.

Some of that doing is fairly simple “nuts and bolts” type of stuff. Learning the policies, procedures and practices of this congregation, like anything else, involves a learning curve. People have been gentle and supportive in helping me with that, so far.

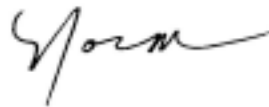
One example of that is something that I would like to share with all of you. It concerns our staff and handicap parking area directly behind the church. Most of you know that our staff people often work odd hours and so that area is generally reserved around the clock for them to come and go. However, I have learned that there is one exception to that practice. On Sunday

mornings all four of those spots are reserved for handicap accessibility. We are looking into signage that will make that practice clearer on Sundays. In the meantime, if you see people parking there who are not handicapped (including your at times forgetful new minister), please gently remind them that it is our intention to be as accessible to all as possible. Thanks.

When I write a column for *Steepletalk*, I often go back and read my last column to see what I talked about last time. I think of being in an ongoing conversation with the congregation where my column is an opportunity to say something to all who read it. Frequently, many of you will respond to a column either in person, by e-mail or phone. In that way we keep the conversation going.

You may recall that last time I proposed a simple little personal mission statement based upon that of another local congregation. In the past two weeks, I have found opportunities “to share the good news of Unitarian Universalism” with new and prospective new members on a one-to-one basis as well as with the larger community. Individually and collectively, most notably through Chalice Night, we have shared mutual “edification.” Communally and privately we have “ministered to those in need.” And, through several events that touched the larger community we have been “a conscience in the community.”

It feels to me like we are off to a good start on the new year... Blessed be.



Steepletalk

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News and Notes

Chalice Night Starts Strong

The first Chalice Night saw 47 people (including a visitor) enjoying a catered meal, a worship service led by **Norm Stewart**, and four different programs. As with all of our ARE offerings, we know that the success of Chalice Night cannot be judged by the number of participants, the number of courses, or how well the program perpetuates itself, but rather by the extent to which Chalice Night serves the mission of First U. (Do we know what that is?) Still, those of us who attended September 18 cannot resist the temptation to judge that night's success by how much fun we all had!



Program Offerings

⇒ **September 25:** Old Testament, How to Plan a Service (conclusion), Quilting 101 (continuing), Articulating (Y)our Faith, and T'ai Chi. There will be no Listening Room this night.

⇒ **October 2:** Evensong, Science Fiction/Fantasy, WorkLife Group, Quilting 101 (continuing), CUUPs program, and Listening Room.

Sign up for dinner, childcare, and programs on the kiosk in the social hall. Join us!

Conflict Management Workshop Offered at Church

On **Saturday, October 12**, highly respected mediator and trainer **Judy Schroeder** will conduct an enlightening workshop on conflict management theory and practice. (She promises to have some fun activities too.) The workshop will be held at the church and will begin at 9:00am and end at about 1:00pm. The cost is \$25 per person. Send checks made out to First Unitarian Church to the office (write "conflict workshop" on the memo line). Breakfast will be provided. If you have questions contact **Gary Drehmel**.

Brownbagger Outing to Include Boat Ride on the Ohio River

For their usual fall outing, Brownbaggers will visit the Heritage Festival at the Riverside Farnsley-Moorman Landing on Saturday, October 12. Highlights of the afternoon will be visits to the historic Farnsley-Moorman House, built in 1837. The admission will be \$2.00, reduced from \$4.00. The main attraction for us will be a 2 o'clock cruise down the Ohio River on the *Spirit of Jefferson*. We will board at 1:30; tickets will cost \$7.00 each.

Also planned are many exhibits of quilting, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, and other occupations of the early 19th century and displays of these crafts. There is a museum/gift shop where articles of historic importance are for sale. Music will play continuously throughout the afternoon. There will be plenty of food to buy for those who don't care to brownbag.

Admission to the area and parking are free.

If you want to join us, call **Katherine Kirwan** at xxx-xxxx for reservations. Transportation will be arranged.

Committee Seeks Interested Travelers

The Partner Church Committee is looking into the possibility of a First U trip to Transylvania and our partner church in Nagyenyed next summer at a time yet to be determined. Such a trip would last about 10 days, and a rough estimate of costs would be about \$950 for round trip airfare, and \$900 for room, board, and local transportation while there. To proceed with our planning, we need to know how many people might be interested in such a trip. No commitment is sought at this time. If you are interested, please contact **John Findling** at findatoz@yahoo.com or at xxx-xxxx.

REviews

Greetings Everyone!! The **First U Parent Group** will reconvene beginning Sunday morning, **September 29 at 9:45am** in the second floor R.E. Library. This will be an organizing and planning session. Please try to come. I am asking past participants to invite one other parent to our first session. New people bring new energy, and all are welcome.

I have volunteered to facilitate this first meeting, although the truth is that **Lisa Willner** encouraged me to do it by what I think was flattery. Anyhow, I do have some ideas about how we might mobilize a discussion about being a UU parent, and I am confident you have some as well. So let's share. In that spirit I ask you to write one word only on a piece of paper –do it right now -- put it in an envelope, seal the envelope, and bring it with you to the meeting. I'll explain then.

What I must tell you at the outset is that I really don't have a clue about how UU principles come to bear on the role of parenting a child these days. Maybe some of you do, and can share your insights.

What we have to give our children is a personal history. Pieces here and there, words, friends, beliefs, foods and smells, songs, places, and some sense of the spiritual. My wife **Ellen Taylor** and I have a daughter named **xxxxx**. She's 8 (almost 9, on November 29). I have two sons (**Pablo**, 25 and **Gabriel**, 21) from a prior marriage. You've maybe seen xxxxxx around. What we hope is that as she grows older she'll develop in ways as rich in detail and as elusive of characterization as history itself.

[A break here for five minutes or so on Monday evening, September 16, a little after 9 p.m.]

So, to return to the invitation. I just tucked xxxxxx in for the night, and she wanted me to tell her a story, which I did, about a bear named Bub, who lives in Alaska, eats blueberry anything (plain, pies, muffins, pancakes) and whose

fur is matted and sticky with blueberry juice, pine needles, moth wings, dust, twigs, and a few pebbles. He comes to Louisville to visit xxxxxx and she takes him to her church, where he gets up and shares his joy about being in a church for the first time, and wonders if this is what churches are really like and what welcoming means.

xxxxxx was starting to fade about this point in the story, as I was too. So I stopped the story and asked xxxxxx what the most important thing was that parents could give kids. Quick, she said "love," just like that. Then she said, "Look Daddy, at the clock, it's a special time." I looked, and the red numbered digital display said 9:11. I said, "Wow, xxxxxx, that's pretty amazing, good for you, sweetheart, about seeing that and thinking about that, but it's okay. You'll be just fine. There's lots of good things in this world. Don't worry. Good night." And I lay there with her for a few minutes. And came down to finish this.

So, goodnight to you all, too, everyone. We hope to see you, and perhaps a friend, on Sunday, September 29 at 9:45.

Best to you all,

Tom Dalglish

Lisa Willner **Religious Education Director**



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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.

RE Announcements

Intergenerational Artist in Residence Program

by Patty Kannapel, R.E. Chairperson

In preparation for our **November 3rd Day of the Dead Intergenerational Celebration of Life**, families are invited to design “*memory boxes*” in honor of a loved one or loved ones who have passed away. The sessions are scheduled for **Oct. 6, 13, 20, and Nov. 3**, and will be led by **Anne Miller** and **xxxxx xxxxxx**. Anne and xxxxx recently participated in a grandparent-grandchild elderhostel in which they designed together a memory box in honor of their family. **Carol Tobe**, an artist in our congregation, will assist. We urge families to participate in this program together—grandparents, parents, youth, and children will collaborate to design and construct these memory boxes.

You will need to bring photos, memorabilia, meaningful objects, diary or letter excerpts, memories, and other ideas of what you would like to put in your memory box. Be sure to make photocopies of such things as pictures and writing excerpts, as you will be cutting them up to put in memory boxes. We will provide materials that you may want to use in your design, such as wallpaper, felt, buttons, clay (for those who have 3-D ideas), etc. We will also provide the wooden boxes, which will be partially constructed in advance. **Please sign up in advance to participate in these sessions so that we will have a box ready for you and your family.**

This is a great opportunity for families to do a project together that will honor people, memories, and family histories. Advance preparations that bring memories to life are an important aspect of authentic Day of the Dead celebrations. Immediately following our final Day of the Dead Artist-in-Residence session on November 3, we will share our finished memory boxes with the congregation during that morning’s Celebration of Life.

To pre-register for the Memory Box

Artist-in-Residence program, sign up on the R.E. Bulletin Board outside the Open Classroom, or e-mail **Lisa Willner** at dre@firstulou.org.

✓ Approximately half of our children and youth are registered for R.E. classes. **Please take a few moments to turn in your child’s registration form** if you have not yet done so. Forms are available from all R.E. teachers.

✓ **Snacks needed!** All parents (and generous others!) are asked to bring boxed snacks and bottles of real juice for snacktime in our R.E. classes. Please leave snacks outside the R.E. office or open classroom, and put juice bottles in the R.E. refrigerator.



Festival of Faiths to Include Dead Sea Scrolls Program

“The Dead Sea Scrolls in the 21st Century” will be the topic during the Festival of Faiths’ Seventh Annual Prayer Breakfast, Thursday morning, Nov. 14, 7:30-9:30am, at the Hyatt Regency. **Dr. Donald Parry**, a known expert on the scrolls and a member of the International Team of Translators of the Dead Sea Scrolls, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$25. If there is enough interest, First Unitarian can purchase its own table for ten. If you are interested in attending the Prayer Breakfast, please contact **Jasmine Walston** at jasminegld@aol.com or xxx-xxxx.

First Unitarian will participate in the week-long **Festival of Faiths, Nov. 10-17**. Our Festival exhibits will increase our visibility in Louisville’s faith community. Docents will be needed; please plan now to spend a few hours during the Festival week sharing information about Unitarian Universalism with our community.

Service Auction

Service Auction: A call to action!

The annual **FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH SERVICE AUCTION** is on **Sunday, November 3**. You won't want to miss this exciting fund-raising-and-fun event!

From now until November 3, auction **donor forms will be available at church**, or contact **Tiffany Taylor** (taylor928@aol.com, xxx-xxxx) or **Anne Miller** (afmccc1701@webtv.net, xxx-xxxx).



6:00 p.m.—Refreshments and SILENT AUCTION

☺ books ☺ toys ☺ jewelry ☺ plants ☺ coins and stamps ☺ collectibles ☺ works of art ☺

You may **bring Silent Auction donations to church any time**, clearly marked *FOR SERVICE AUCTION*, with your name, address, and phone number.



7:00 p.m.—SERVICE AUCTION

☺ ethnic meals ☺ handmade articles and foods ☺ professional or personal services ☺
☺ gift certificates ☺ trips and outings ☺ and much more! ☺

YOU CAN HELP by DONATING and by ASKING BUSINESSES FOR GIFT CERTIFICATES!

Can you... ☺ Mend or alter a garment? ☺ Drive someone to the airport? ☺ Entertain at a party? ☺

☺ Cook a meal? ☺ Repair a lamp? ☺ Paint a portrait? ☺ Babysit? ☺ Teach a skill? ☺

☺ Prepare a will? ☺ Donate theatre tickets? ☺ Let someone use your cottage or timeshare? ☺

☺ Rake leaves? ☺ Get a gift certificate from a restaurant, hotel, or other business? ☺

The possibilities are endless! **Let us know what you'll do to help! All proceeds go to further the programs of First Unitarian Church.**

And, don't miss the **GRAND FINALE**—those who attend the auction and stay until the end have a chance to **win a \$100 bill**. ***SEE YOU NOVEMBER 3!***



Unitarian Universalist
Association
42nd General Assembly
June 26-30, 2003



from
Boston...
to the
World

- ✓ Discounted registration thru Nov. 15
- ✓ Forms available in volunteer area

Church Members

Member Profile - Marti McDaniel

by Rose Stevens

Marti was born in Chicago, raised in Monticello, Illinois, and graduated from University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Her degree was in Home Economics although, "I'm not a good cook and I hate to sew," she says with a laugh. Marti met her husband, **Kent**, at U of I at a Unitarian Youth Group. She called him, she says, and asked him out first. They dated for 2 years; then Kent fulfilled his ROTC commitment from college by going into the Air Force for 3 years (and staying for 20 years). Marti and Kent were married "in the round" at the campus Unitarian Church in Illinois in 1955. She had actually become involved in the Unitarian Church through working in the Civil Rights movement from 1953 to 1955. "One of my proud moments," Marti recalled, "is when I heard I was on the U of I President's list of campus radicals."

Due to Kent's Air Force assignments Marti said they had 14 different addresses in 20 years. Along the way their 3 children were born: son, **Kerry**, in South Dakota, daughter, **Kimlin**, in Louisiana, and son, **Kirk**, in Puerto Rico. They attended Unitarian churches in San Antonio, TX, Shreveport, LA, and Montgomery, AL, and when there was no church they did church by mail, receiving packets of sermons and articles from the Church of the Larger Fellowship in Boston. On Sundays, Marti read the sermons, she remembers, while Kent polished his shoes.

Kent's last Air Force assignment was in Bedford, MA near Boston where **Bill Schulz** and **Jack Mendelsohn** were both ministers during the McDaniels' time there. Kent was Military Chief of Police at Hanscom Field at Bedford. Kimlin graduated from a Charter School in Boston while

Kerry went of to U of I, where Kent and Marti had maintained a legal residence. Kent retired in 1975 and in 1979 Marti commented that they came "home" to the Midwest. "We always felt like we were Midwesterners--we used to have a party every year on Abraham Lincoln's birthday and if you had ever lived in Illinois you were invited."



Marti returned to school and earned her Master's Degree in Counseling at IUS. In 1979 she went to work for the Division of Families and Children, a job she held for 19 years. She retired, then worked another year and a half as a Social Worker at the Brown

Starks Neighborhood Place in New Albany. She has worked as a Foster Parent trainer for 12 years for the state of Indiana and now does supervised visitation for Louisville Family Court part time. She's still trying to retire completely.

Coming to New Albany, Marti said she'd tried to attend a local Methodist church while Kirk was in high school, wanting connections with a local church, but she had been Unitarian too long, she says, and was delighted to return to the UU fold. This is the first Unitarian Church she ever actually joined.

Marti is active here at First Church as a volunteer worker in the office, she has served on the Worship Committee, facilitated Parenting Teens Discussion Groups, and is now on the Membership Committee. She has seen church crises come and go here, and her attitude can be summarized in her comment after a recent, controversial meeting-- "I just love this church. It is never boring." We are glad you find this an interesting and stimulating place to be, and we appreciate your contribution in helping make First Church that way, Marti.

Calendar: September 25 - October 12

SEPTEMBER

25 Wednesday

3:00pm **Olan Mills Directory Pictures - Library**

5:30pm Chalice Night

26 Thursday

7:30pm Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

28 Saturday

10:00am Extended Council Meeting, SH

5:00pm PIG ROAST, Taylor-Miller houses

29 Sunday

10:55am **Celebration Of Life**

6:30pm YoUUTH & YRUU Groups

OCTOBER

1 Tuesday

6:30pm RE committee, open classrm

2 Wednesday

12:45pm ROMEOS, Picadilly

5:30pm Chalice Night

3 Thursday

3:00pm **Olan Mills Directory Pictures- Library**

7:30pm Choir rehearsal, choir room

6 Sunday

10:55am **Celebration of Life**

12:20pm New UU session, choir room

6:30pm YoUUth and YRUU groups

9 Wednesday

5:30pm Chalice Night, supper & programming

7:00pm Interweave, SH

10 Thursday

6:30pm Finance committee mtg, library

7:15pm Adult RE planning team, open classrm

7:30pm Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

12 Saturday

12:00pm Brownbaggers' boat trip

9:00am Conflict Mediation Work shop, SH



Just Among Ourselves

A note from Kathie Johnson: My family and I cannot thank our wonderful 1st U friends enough for all of the support during my recent illness. The meals that were provided were fabulous and made day-to-day life so much easier. I also appreciate all of the cards, calls, and flowers that came my way. They helped me know that you cared and really brightened up the time during recuperation. Love is truly the spirit of this church!

Sharon Howerton Leightty is having an art exhibit and you are invited to the opening reception. There will be food, wine, art, and friends on October 11, 5 – 8 pm, at Zephyr Gallery, 610 East Market. If you've never attended an opening reception for an artist—the dress is as casual or formal as you choose. If you can't make the reception, the show will be up Oct. 9 – Nov. 11.

Kris Philipp and **Jen Lavery** would like to create a fiber art piece (possibly a quilt) in rainbow colors to honor and remember **Jackey Dorsett**. If you would like to work on such a piece, or to contribute rainbow-colored fabrics for it, please speak to Kris or Jen at church.

We extend sympathy and love to **Lisa Willner**, **John Scruton**, their children, **xxx** and **xxxxx**, and to Lisa's mother, **Eugenia Willner**. **Alan Willner**, Lisa's father and Eugenia's husband, died Friday evening, September 20, after a long illness.

Congratulations to **Kris Philipp** who has a glass sculpture on exhibit at St. Philip Neri Chapel Gallery at Floyd and Woodbine. The exhibit is in commemoration of 9/11 and will be up through the end of October.

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

September 29: *Keeping the Faith: Insights from Transylvania Travellers.* What exactly do we share in our partnership with Nagenyed, our sister church in Transylvania? Insights from visits are shared, including those of recent returnees **Elizabeth Drehmel** and **Agatha Walston**. **Rev. Norm Stewart** and **Joan Beal** lead the service.

October 6: *Mind the Gap! Youth and Young Adult Ministry Sunday.* This service focuses on celebrating as well as envisioning improvements on our congregation's efforts to reach out to youth and young adults. There will be a special collection dedicated to grants, curriculum, trainings and other resources to support youth, campus and young adult ministries in congregations, in districts, and on the continental level.

October 13: *Earthy Spirituality.* **Rev. Norm Stewart** will jump into the never ending conversation that goes on in most Unitarian Universalist churches about words like faith, religion and spirituality. Can we find any common understandings of them in our church community? If you have some personal thoughts about those powerful words that you would like to share with Norm as a resource for his preparation, put them into his box by Oct. 10. (We will mostly save the "G-word" for a later date.)
