



STEEPLETALK

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 10 Number 16

19 September 2004

809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446
www.firstulou.org • Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M-F • Celebration of Life 10:55am Sundays
Jane Martin Buckley, Board President • Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Director
of Religious Education • Barbara Kearley, Shared Ministry Coordinator • Bryan Reiff, Office Manager
Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

New Order of Service Calls for Increased Use of “FYI”

In conjunction with our new Sunday order of service covers and slightly different format, we want to encourage more use of the FYI feature, by having as many announcements written down as possible, as opposed to being read from the pulpit. We hope more people will remember the announcement if they can refer to it again later by reading it in the order of service.

Also, of course, the OoS can be hand-carried to those who missed the Celebration of Life on any given Sunday, where the announcements can be read by them, too. If you have an announcement you want printed in FYI, please get it to **Bryan** in the office no later than noonish on Thursdays. Either call him at 585-5110, e-mail him at office@firstulou.org, fax him at 587-8446, or drop it by.

Coffee Pourers Needed

We need volunteers to serve coffee each Sunday after church in the Social Hall for the 2004-2005 church year (2 persons each Sunday). If you are a new member, this is a great way to learn about the members and inner workings of First Unitarian Church. If you can take a regular Sunday or any Sunday, please call **John Payne** at xxx-xxxx or e-mail at paynjh@netscape.net.

Cookies to Extend Conversations.

As you know First Unitarian is hosting a Forum on the Kentucky Marriage Amendment. The Planning Group for this event would like the conversations to continue after the Forum, and we all know a cookie or piece of fruit often helps conversations to continue. We are expecting a crowd so we are asking donations of cookies or fruit from the congregation. The Forum is on Sunday, October 17, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.. Please bring your cookies or fruit on Sunday morning before the Service or just before the Forum. Thank you so much.

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

Notes from Norm

Have you been a conscientious dental flosser since your childhood? Well you can add flossing to a long list of other things that I have not done religiously in this lifetime. This in spite of all of those well-intended people who have told me that I “should floss.” In fairness, I have not been a complete flossing slacker but according to various dentists over the past 15-20 years, I certainly didn’t start doing it soon enough and definitely haven’t done it often enough.

Deep inside of me there is a part of my core being that knows that when I don’t do what I “should do” there will eventually be a price to pay. Well in the case I am about to tell you about my whatever you call that voice from my center was dead on... there was a price to pay albeit not quite what I thought.

Since coming to Louisville two years ago I have been seeing a dentist with some regularity [operative word is some]. I like this dentist. One of our members works for him and she enhances my trust level for these people (i.e. dentists) whom I must admit I have some difficulty trusting. So when my dentist suggested that I might want to see a periodontist I listened to his advice. She gave me the names of two whom he thought were good.

Randomly I picked one of them and made an appointment. My first visit was last week. As soon as I walked into the office I began to feel uneasy. It wasn’t however for the normal reasons that one justifiably might feel apprehensive when they go to any dental professional.

What made me feel uncomfortable was the evangelical zeal with which the small waiting room had been decorated. In your face when you went up to the receptionist were directories of local business people who identified with a particular faith. In another corner of the room next to where I had to sit were still more direc-

tories – these carried the implied endorsement of a very large church in the title on its cover. There were Bibles, religious tracts and contemporary Christian music coming through the speakers everywhere.

I was glad to have a copy of the latest *UU World* with me for what somehow felt like some minimal protection. As I sat in the dental chair being prepped for the doctor, the page was open to some letters about “Same Sex Marriage.” I assumed that if anyone noticed the heading they might think that I went to some “fake devil church” or something like that. Needless to say I was feeling threatened and rather uncomfortable and I hadn’t even opened my mouth for the dentist.

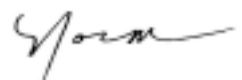
About that time I came across another letter in the *UU World* that seemed to be speaking directly to me. It was from a Greta Sproul, from Maine. Paraphrasing William James she said, “One cannot boast that one has truly evolved into a more spiritually enlightened state until the rituals and beliefs of other religions no longer incite anger or resentment.

“There was a time when I shared that insecurity,” she wrote. ...”and then I joined a Unitarian congregation. ...I [now] believe there is something in almost every religion that benefits the human state. It is simply a matter of finding what works best for you and taking seriously the responsibility of the spiritual work involved.”

As a general rule, I don’t believe that “it’s all about me.” But this time maybe it was.

Welcome back to a new church year. In the coming year, may we each more fully and faithfully engage with one another and the interesting times in which we find ourselves, our congregation, our country and our planet.

Blessed be,



Church Matters

Chalice Night Resumes

from Jo Ann Dale

Our regular Wednesday night programming and activities began its third year on September 15. From 5:30 until 6:15, a tasty meal prepared by **Tiffany Taylor** is available for purchase (\$4.00 or \$2.00 small portion). At 6:30, we gather in the sanctuary for a short centering service. From 7:00 to 8:30, we disburse to a variety of programs and activities for adults and children. All are welcome.

N.B. If you are not attending the service, please volunteer to help clean up and wash dishes so we do not have to use landfill fodder. See **Glenn Ellison** for further details.

September 22

DINNER: Black bean burritos, Spanish rice, Chips & salsa, and Banana pudding

SERVICE: "Mabon" **Ken Shepherd** and **Beth Frey**

PROGRAMS:

- Buddhism (Video Course)
- CUUPs Mabon Ritual
- Let's Cook! (for kids) -- Refrigerator pick-

les, chocolate chip cookies (**T. Taylor**)

- Chess Coach (**J. Klueber**)
- "ARE" Edgar Cayce Group (**J. Harmer**)
- "Modern Religious Thought" -- discussion of essays (**N. Stewart**)

September 29

DINNER: Chicken and dumplings or veggies and dumplings, Corn, Green beans, Cucumber salad, Frosted sugar cookies (**T. Taylor**)

SERVICE: "Putting it All Together" **Marti McDaniel**

PROGRAMS:

- Buddhism (Video Course)
- Fun Films: The Early Years -- Mae West
- "ARE" Cayce Group
- SOLD! Auction Memories and Ideas (**T. Taylor**)
- How to Talk About "The Amendment"-- Guest speaker **Rus Funk**

Brownbaggers

from **Jess** and **Natalie Schreiber**

We are lucky! **Helen Longley**, one of our members and long-time history teacher will speak on "History of Arabs and their Religion." How timely! Bring your lunch to our library at noon on September 20. Those of us who have heard Helen speak know that we are in for a treat.

Please be on time because we want to discuss and gain approval for future programs.

Many Thanks!

A hearty "thank you" goes out to all of the wonderful people who came to church on clean up Sunday, August 29, and stayed to clean. This has been a repeating event and although the attendance was rather low, a lot was accomplished.

STEEPLETALK

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809 South 4th Street

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Editors: Claudia Runge &
M. Scott Borden

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org

REviews

As we begin our new church year, there's a lot happening in our Religious Education programs. Now that we've had our annual multi-generational Ingathering Celebration of Life, regular R.E. classes for children and youth resume on September 19. Ages will be grouped a little differently this year.

- **Preschoolers** (ages 2 ½ and older) will follow the "Celebrating Me and My World" curriculum, with teachers **Kathy Kremer** and **Rose Stevens**.

- **Kindergartners and first graders** will meet together for "Stories About God" led by **Sparrow Cuthbert-Walters** and **Mary Griffin**.

- **Second and third graders** will examine questions that all religions ask and learn more about what it means to be a UU with "A Stepping Stone Year," with teachers **Rosemary Bauman** and **Bob Brown**.

- **Fourth and fifth graders** will study the life and teachings of Jesus from UU perspective following "A Kingdom of Equals: Jesus' Radical Path to Truth and Justice." **Robin Grossman** and **Suzanne Meeks** will teach.

- **Middle Schoolers (6th – 8th grades)** will continue to explore and discover their own versions of Unitarian Universalism with **danielle rogers-candee** and **Phil Candee** leading "Traditions with a Wink."

- **Senior High** students, led by **Johanna Mehring** and **Susanne Turner**, will explore creativity, its many forms, and its relationship to religion in "You the Creator."

In addition, this year we will offer the **Our Whole Lives** sexuality education course for 7th and 8th Graders in partnership with Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church. Course leaders from First Unitarian are **Seana Golder**, **Tom Barron**, and **Kyle Ellison**.

In meeting with our religious education teachers and other volunteers over the past several weeks, I can't help but rejoice in the good fortune of First U's children, youth, and families for having so many talented and dedicated adults serving as mentors and role models to our young UUs. To help our year get off to a smooth start, here are a few things parents can do:

- ✓ Bring snacks! Please bring bottles of real juice and boxed snack items (no nuts!!!!) for use in classrooms.

- ✓ Remember that all parents/guardians are required to complete R.E. registration forms each year. In addition, this year all parents and volunteers are required to read the new Child and Youth Protection Policy and to sign an agreement to the Code of Conduct. Forms will be available on Sunday mornings at the Greeters' Table through September. Your help and cooperation with completing these items are greatly appreciated.

I'm looking forward to another great year together. If you're new to First Unitarian Church, or if you'd like to know more about our religious education programs, I hope you'll come talk with me.

Peace,

Lisa

Support First U Sr. High in AIDS Walk
Let a Sr. High Youth represent you on the AIDS Walk on Sept. 26. Our Sr. High Youth group will be walking to support AIDS programs in Kentuckiana. You can support them by pledging a walker. **Adults and youth will be taking pledges during coffee hour for the next several weeks.** All you need to do is to donate money to a Sr. High youth and their feet will do your walking to support this cause.

R.E. Announcements

S.M.A.R.T.

- ➔ **Bring snacks!** (See REviews article.)
- ➔ **September 19, 6:00 – 8:30**--Plan to attend our annual Youth /Adult Potluck to celebrate and kick off a new year of Youth Group activities. All 6th – 12th graders, their parents, and interested others, please come and bring a dish to share. Elections to the Youth Adult Committee (YAC) will take place at this event.
- ➔ **September 25**--First meeting of the 7th/8th Grade OWL class, 4:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian. Class sessions are followed by an overnight. Pre-registration required.
- ➔ **September 26**--During the Celebration of Life, members of the congregation will have the opportunity to honor our Coming of Age graduates **Linda xxx, Erin xxxxx, and Greg xxxxxx.**
- ➔ **September 28**--R.E. Committee meeting, 6:30 – 8:30 in the Open Classroom. Note that this committee will now meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Visitors are always welcome.

Lisa Willner

Religious Education Director

Telephone
(502) 585-5110 (Office)

E-mail
dre@firstulou.org

Office Hours

Monday 11 - 3

Tuesday 12 - evening

Wednesday 11 - 3

Additional times available by appointment.

Friday is Lisa's day off.



Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library
Sharing at 9:30am
Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

- **September 19** -- “UU Catechism: What Do UUs Believe About God?” **Frank Slesnick** will lead a discussion from this UUA curriculum.
- **September 26** -- “It Takes a Village.” What goes on in children’s religious education classes at First Unitarian Church? What does it have to do with the rest of us? **Lisa Willner** and **Carol Uebelhoer** will facilitate.
- **October 3** -- “UU Catechism.” **Frank Slesnick** will lead a discussion of another religious topic from the UU curriculum.

Curricula meeting September 28, 6:30pm. For questions, comments, topic requests, or to offer a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firstulou.org, or call Lisa Willner at 585-5110.



Youth Group Potluck Dinner!

Bring some food and eat with us Sept. 19 at 6pm for our annual Youth Group Kickoff. Meet the advisors for each group, ask your questions, hear about the CYPP, talk about this year’s goals for YG, and select YAC members (the Youth-Adult Committee meets every month to coordinate youth group activities).

Note -- to be respectful of your time, we’ll not have YG that afternoon, and we should be going home by 8:45. Everyone is welcome.

Shared Ministry

Shared Ministry news you can use...

Do you know what all Shared Ministry Committee does these days? We run the gamut of greeting visitors to assisting people in becoming members, from introducing new folks to people with whom they may share a common interest to connecting them with a volunteer opportunity in the church. If you would like to know more about what we're up to, stay tuned for upcoming newsletter articles that will highlight different projects we are working on.

In the meantime, do you want to be more active in our church community? Have you wondered what it would be like to develop a Celebration of Life service or explore an area of social concern? You can do these things as a member of one of our church committees. Or, perhaps you are interested in fostering the social events in our church or in shaping the religious education program for our youth or adults. So many possibilities available to you! Shared Ministry committee is looking for members or

friends who are looking for ways to enrich their spiritual connection to First U by participating in the organizational life of our church. This level of participation can add immeasurably to your religious experience in a responsible and caring way.

Some of the committee openings available right now are ****Public and Denominational Relations**Activities** Church Council**. Another specific need in our church is for someone to share their organizational skills to coordinate childcare providers for church events.

These are but a few of the ways to get more involved in this church community. It only takes a quick call to talk to me at the church office or an email to sharedministry@firstulou.org to get the ball rolling. You can also contact any member of the Shared Ministry Committee or either of the chairs: **Kathy Thackeray** and **Kathy Drehmel**. All of these folks are good people to talk with about your interests, skills, and readiness for involvement.

Barbara



Did You Know??

Did you know that the Sunday services are recorded each week? The faithful folks in the Sound Booth make a cassette recording of the service every Sunday. The cassettes are stored in large, black binders in the church library. If you'd like to hear that wonderful sermon or choir anthem again or make a copy for a home-bound friend, you can borrow the tape by signing it out in the green spiral notebook. Our tape archive goes back several years. Check it out!

Barbara Kearley

Shared Ministry Coordinator



Office hours:
M, T, W, F 9-2

Other hours by appointment

502-585-5110

sharedministry@firstulou.org
or
shared_ministry@bellsouth.net

News and Notes

Thanks to PRP Volunteers

A big “THANK YOU” to all of the volunteers for the Public Radio Partnership’s Fall Fund Drive. On September 12, 17 First Unitarian volunteers brought in much needed donations for the public radio stations. Mark your calendars now for the 2005 spring fund drive!

On Chalice Night, **Wednesday, September 15**, 7 p.m. the discussion group **Feminism for Men and Women** will conduct a roundtable discussion of the question “Why the Democratic Party Convention Platform omitted the long-standing inclusion of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).” Moderator: **Allie Hixson**, Coordinator: **Kathy Kremer**.

Share Your *UU World*

Remember, if you are finished with your *UU World* magazine - don’t toss it in the recycling bin just yet; bring it to church and put it in the blue box under the table near the steps in the foyer of the Library Lane entrance. The Shared Ministry Committee will share these *UU Worlds* with new folks interested in Unitarian Universalism. Thank you!

Monthly Tour of First Unitarian

If you are new to First U or just wondered about our beautiful building, the Shared Ministry Committee of First U invites you to a Tour of First Unitarian after the Sunday Service this Sunday, September 19, at 12:15 p.m. We will meet at in the Sanctuary. Your guide will sport a sunflower near his/her name tag. The tour will take about a half hour to forty minutes and will be held on each third Sunday of every month except July.

UU Women Invited to Tea

All UU women, friends, members and interested women are invited to attend the **UU Women’s Tea on Saturday, September 25**, 4:00 p.m. at First Unitarian. Enjoy some light refreshments, good company and, of course, tea. Any questions or to RSVP attendance and/or childcare please call **Kathy Thackeray**, xxx-xxxx, or email margituu@yahoo.com.

Heartland Fall Training Institute

The **Heartland District** is offering its Fall Training Institute in Louisville on Oct 15-16. A variety of programs is offered. For more information, see <http://www.heartlanduu.org/>.

UU Informational Gathering

So you are new here at First Unitarian. You are interested in finding out more about Unitarian Universalism, or wish to know more about life at First Unitarian. **Sunday, September 26, 2004**, at 12:15 p.m. the Shared Ministry Committee will lead an Informational Gathering. So bring your questions and gather with us in the Library at First U. Some light refreshments will be available. If you have any questions please contact **Kathy Thackeray**, xxx-xxxx, or e-mail margituu@yahoo.com.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha’s Vineyard Massachusetts is pleased to announce its 4th annual Birding B and B Columbus Day weekend. Friday October 8 to Sunday October 10. An all inclusive weekend is planned. The fee for this vacation weekend is \$250 per person. Come see the Vineyard at this most beautiful time of year. For more information and a reservation see the church website <http://www.uusmv.info>.

Social Responsibility

from Isabel Silverman and Tish Moore

■ Gather your contributors-contributions and be ready to walk across the bridge--young people and adults! **AIDS Walk is 9/26** (registration 1:00 p.m.; walk begins at 3 p.m. from the Belvedere). **Hunger Walk is combining Crop Walk this year on 10/10/04.** Many times walkers have been able to get contributions at coffee hour---go for it!

■ You all remember the tragic, racial incident that occurred in Jasper, Texas a few years ago. A man was dragged behind a pick-up truck for several miles, killing him and igniting racial tension in that small community. A film has been made of this crime, and we are fortunate to offer a showing of it in our church on **Thursday, October 14, at 7:00.** Mark your calendar for that event. More on this later.

■ Did you know that a **dozen members of First U “donated” almost 7,000 extra dollars** to this church the last few years? We did it by going to the grocery and buying food with a **Kroger Gift Card.** If we would've had two dozen of us using these cards, it would've been \$14,000!

As a congregation, we need to cash in on this free money. I (Tish Moore) will be selling Kroger Gift Cards for \$25. Along with the card, I will give you a simple, written explanation on how to “reload” your card so that you can use it repeatedly. For every dollar you spend, the church will receive 5 cents. Folks, it ALLADDS UP! If you don't shop at Kroger's, tell me where you DO shop and I'll investigate how First U can benefit from it.

■ The **NO ON THE AMENDMENT CAMPAIGN** - the campaign to defeat the state constitutional amendment on marriage - needs office equipment and supplies for their new campaign office at 2858 Frankfort Avenue.

They need:

- **Tables** - preferably banquet tables, but anything that would suffice as a conference table or desk would be fine.
- **Chairs** - folding, stackable, swivel, or even living room chairs--to be used for training, at desks, and in a lounge area where campaign volunteers can relax.
- **Supplies** - pens, copier paper, legal pads, phones, you name it -- they could use “care packages” on a regular basis.

All donations are much appreciated, as the less they have to purchase, the more they have to spend on other important areas of the campaign.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, call 502-893-1330 or contact Kathleen@NOamendmentKY.com.



Thank you to the great folks who prepared last month's newsletter for mailing: **Scott Borden, Claudia Runge, Charlie Mitchell, Gert Merklein, Isabel Silverman, Carol Uebelhoer, Tish Moore, and Jasmine Walston.** If you would like to join the team on occasion or every time, we would love to have you! The folding crew meets in the library on alternate Tuesdays from about 9:30-11. Call the church office to confirm upcoming dates.

Calendar: September 19 - October 2

September

19 Sunday

RE Fall semester begins

10:55am Celebration of Life

12:15pm Board Forum

12:15pm Church Building Tour after service

4:00pm Drum Circle rehearsal, choir room

6:00pm Youth-Adult Potluck

20 Monday

12:00pm Brownbaggers meeting, library

6:30pm Social Responsibility Comm, parlor

7:00pm Shared Ministry Comm, library

21 Tuesday

7:00pm Board meeting, library

22 Wednesday

Chalice Night

7:00pm CUUPs-Mabon/Fall Equinox-Courtyard

24 Friday

12:00pm Steepletalk Deadline

Just among ourselves...

Ralph Moss was in the hospital recently with a nasty leg infection. Hope to see you back on your feet soon, Ralph!

Condolences to **Barbara Payton** and her family on the recent deaths of her uncle and grandmother.

Isabel Silverman was in the hospital this week after having suffered a mild heart attack. At press time for *Steepletalk*, she was still in ICU. **Debbie** reports that cards can be sent to Isabel's home address, and the family will deliver them to her. Best wishes to Isabel on a speedy recovery.

Condolences to **Deedra Ankrom** and her family on the Sept. 8 death of her father.

7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

25 Saturday

4:00pm Women's Alliance Tea, library/parlor

4:00pm JR High OWL 1st session-sleepover at TJ

26 Sunday

10:55am Celebration of Life - Bob Sexton, Center for Educational Excellence

12:15pm Informational Mtg: UU101, library

12:15pm Flute Choir rehearsal, choir room

5:00pm (or earlier) Pig Roast-Taylor/Miller compound

28 Tuesday

6:30pm SMART Curriculum Team, library

6:30pm RE Comm, Open CR

29 Wednesday

Chalice Night



A Sincere "Thanks" from H & G

from **Joe Kremer** and **Pete Webber**

Your House and Grounds Committee has repaired the sanctuary chairs to match the 50 spiffy new chairs that we enjoyed at the Sept. 12 service. Thanks to **Ken Shepherd**, **Jerry Smith**, and **David Tinsley** for their help at the "Chair Repair" work party on Aug. 7 and to **Dianne Jenkins**, **Joe Hodge**, **Anne Sparks**, and newcomer **Jeff Gilmore** for helping complete the chair work on Clean Up Sunday.

The H & G Committee also expresses thanks to **Richard Rink**, who as an adjunct member keeps up with pruning our shrubs and to **John Durham** for taking care of so many things that make life easier for the committee members.

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.

September 19 *Discernment.* **Rev. Norm Stewart**, Worship Associate **Emil Roy**. Discernment...what's it all about? As a congregation we have agreed to walk a fairly specific path together for the coming year. The foundation for that journey was laid over the summer. Today's Celebration of Life will be the introduction of that process of engagement in the wider church community.

September 26 *Renewing our Bonds: Parents, Schools and Communities.* **Dr. Robert Sexton**, Worship Associates **Norm Stewart & Carol Edelen**. Our UU commitment to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning implies the need for quality lifelong learning. Dr. Sexton has been the Executive Director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence since its beginning in 1980. The Prichard Committee works together with schools, parents, and communities to improve the educational foundation for all children.

October 3 *Then... and Now... and Now Again.* **Rev. Norm Stewart**, Worship Associate **Linda Berry**. For most of us our previous experience(s) of organized religion significantly impact and will continue to impact both our current and future spiritual life. This is even true for most people who had no direct religious connections or influences in their families of origin. Today we will explore some of the ways these experiences have shaped our current religious life.