

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 10 Number 19

31 October 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

Family Folk Dance and Potluck!

The Religious Education Committee invites you to an evening of music, dancing, and fun for all ages.



***Saturday, November 6, 6:00 in the Social Hall
Potluck Supper followed by Dancing and Music***

Back by popular demand, special guest **Randy Wilson** joins us from Leslie County in Eastern Kentucky to teach and call a variety of dances including square dances, reels, contra dances, play party sets, and waltzes. All ages are welcome, and no experience is required!

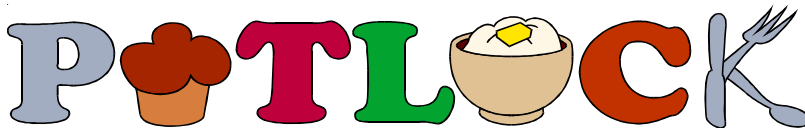
You're also welcome to just come and enjoy the great old-time music provided by **Cari Norris** (banjo), **Jim McGee** (fiddle), and **Terry White** (guitar).

Please bring a dish to share. For more information or to help out, contact **Linda Parry** at llladi@aol.com.

Farewell Potluck Planned for Barbara

Everyone is invited to a potluck dinner on **Friday, October 29**, to say good-bye to **Barbara Kearley** and to wish her well. **Hours: 6:00--8:30**. Social Hall. No childcare provided; all children welcome.

Last name begins with A--G bring dessert; H--M bring salad or vegetable; N--T bring main course; U--Z bring bread/soft drink. Hope to see you there!



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

STEEPLETALK



Notes from Norm

When to Call the Minister

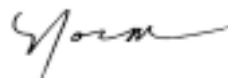
This list has been passed around over the years from minister to minister and is generally modified to suit each minister's particular situation. It seems like a good thing to share with everyone from time to time, especially with so many new people among us lately. It apparently originated with a **Rev. Peter Lee Scott** and came to me from **Rev. Elwood Sturtevant** at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, and like most other ministers I have adapted it slightly once more.

When to Call the Minister:

- When you don't know me but would like to...
- When you have problems you would like to discuss (e.g., problems with your job, children, spouse or partner, parents, or anything else where a sympathetic ear, or perhaps a referral, might help)...
- When you are going to the hospital or know that someone else in the congregation is (Many hospitals only notify the minister if asked to so)...
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill...
- When you are planning a marriage, a union service, a memorial or other rite of passage - including divorce. (Please discuss your wedding date with the minister before setting it if you would like to be certain that the minister can officiate. FYI, there are no fees for the minister to officiate at church member's weddings, memorials, etc....)
- When you would like to have your child dedicated at a service...
- When you are pregnant and are glad you are, or wish you weren't...
- When you are considering joining (or leaving) the congregation...
- When you have suggestions to make about church programs or operations...
- When you would like to help at church and would like to explore opportunities / possibilities...
- When you or someone you are close to is institutionalized...
- When you would like to talk about religion / Unitarian Universalism...
- When you are upset with me...

About the hours of calling - for most matters, between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. are good times. Monday is my usual day off. My private office line with confidential voice mail is 561-8326. It is available 24 hours a day for you to call me or leave a confidential message. In the case of pastoral emergencies call that number, and it will give you my emergency number. When there is an emergency, please feel free to call me at any hour.

Peace,



News and Notes

Reviving the UU Women's Alliance

from **Kathy Thackeray**

On Saturday afternoon, September 25, the UU Women's Alliance enjoyed tea, sandwiches, and desserts as well as good company. There were about forty UU Women present. We heard some remembrances of First Unitarian's Women's Alliance, which has a rich and long history. There are minutes going back to 1896 (which **Betty Caudle** dried out after the fire of 1985). At the tea **Kathy Johnson** read from a program of the UU Women's Alliance from 1916, that **Ann Ulinski** shared with us. It was nice for many of us to meet **Harriet Weller** and her daughter as they came some distance to be with us.

During the tea a proposal to revive the UU Women's Alliance at First U, based on the Lincoln, Nebraska, Model was presented. This model will be discussed at our next gathering. This church year (2004-2005) we will gather three more times. At each gathering a social action project will be offered. At the September tea a project was offered to help the Women In

Transition (WIT) with childcare and food for their retreat on October 9. The changes in the national UU Women's Federation were presented at the tea as well. If you are interested in these organizations for women or would like a copy of the information presented, please contact me at xxx-xxxx or e-mail margituu@yahoo.com or check out the UUA web site and click on UUWF. We hope to see you at our next gathering

Shared Ministry

from **Barbara Kearley**

Shared Ministry Coordinator

A few notes of update from the Shared Ministry Committee. Keep a lookout for a handout in the next couple of weeks that highlights some our new members. We had gotten behind on interviewing new members- but the good news is that we are getting up to date now! These will be available Sunday at the service as well as posted in the Social Hall on the membership info board.

A directory update will be available in the next few weeks that will be an addendum to the directory published Spring 2004. Look for these sheets to add to your directory. For those who have misplaced their directories or haven't yet received one, a limited number of Spring Directories will also be available. A new directory will be published in the spring.

Thanks to the young adults that turned out for Chalice Night activities on Oct. 20. If you haven't had a chance to complete a survey, please pick one up at the volunteer desk and share your thoughts to let the group coordinators know what you would like out of this group in coming months.

STEEPLETALK

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809 South 4th Street

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(covers **November 14 - 27**)



Editors: Claudia Runge &
M. Scott Borden

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org
More information: www.firstulou.org

R.E. Announcements

➔ **October 31** -- There will be no R.E. classes for children and youth today, as all ages are invited to participate in our annual **Day of the Dead** celebration. (Childcare will be provided in the preschool room for very young children.) All children and youth are invited to attend in costume and to participate in **“Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF”** during the morning service.

➔ **November 6 -- Family Folk Dance and Potluck!** 6:00 in the Social Hall. (See page 1 for more details)

➔ **November 7** -- SPECIAL 1-DAY ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FOR ALL AGES! Talented multi-instrumentalist, dance caller, and storyteller **Randy Wilson will lead a sing-along for all ages.** Come get a glimpse of Randy’s encyclopedic store of folk songs, sing-along tunes, and original music. Randy performs locally in Eastern Kentucky, regionally in music festivals around the state, and was featured last year at the Smithsonian’s Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. Don’t miss this great opportunity!

➔ **Junior High OWL schedule:** Classes will meet November 6 at First Unitarian, 4:00 and November 13, 4:00 at Thomas Jefferson. On November 14, back to First U for a potluck celebration for OWL graduates and their families, 5:00.

➔ **Youth Adult Committee** will meet November 7, 9:45 – 10:45 in the R.E. Library.

**S.W.I.M. 2004 -- “Everything Possible”
Southeast Unitarian Universalist Winter
Institute, Inc. (in Miami)
December 26 - January 1**
online: <http://www.swimuu.org>
Pepi Acebo, director
email: info@swimuu.org

Membership

Becoming a Member of First Unitarian

from **Kathy Thackeray** and **Kathy Drehmel**,
co-chairs of Shared Ministry Committee

Our constitution says that if you are at least fourteen years of age and you place your signature in the membership book, you are a member of First Unitarian. The Shared Ministry Committee suggests that you complete a covenant card and talk to a Board of Trustees member or the Minister or one of the Shared Ministry Committee members before you sign the membership book. You can stop by the Greeter table in the entry way at the Library Lane Entrance, and the Greeter there can help you. The membership book can be signed any time. You will need a Board of Trustees member or the Minister present at the signing.

The Membership Book will be in the Sanctuary (near the entrance) for the next few weeks (before during and after the Sunday Service) since our New Member Recognition Sunday Service will be November 14. There will be an all church “Welcome to New Members” luncheon afterward.

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.



from Sharon Leightty

Happy Fall from your Board of Trustees. Our most recent meeting was held on October 20.

A high priority on our agenda was recognition of the need to encourage EVERYONE to be involved in Learning Team activities. This CAN be more than just one more “plan”—it CAN lead us to a new understanding of why our church has not grown over the past decades. More importantly, it CAN help each of us, as individuals, examine whether or not we really want to be part of a bigger church. Please determine what the church will look like five....fifteen....fifty years from now by joining the Learning Team in its search for answers.

Speaking of looking for answers, if you have questions about the current state of our church finances, be sure to check out the monthly financial statement that will be available in *Steepletalk*.

You can also access more information on what is happening at your Board of Trustee meetings by reading the minutes posted on the kiosk in Social Hall. For example, this month you will see discussions on the continuing development of a new Advertising Policy, the prospect of a new Aesthetics Committee, the progress on creating a new sign for our Fourth Street lawn, and the process for hiring a new Shared Ministry Employee.

As always, Board members are happy to talk with anyone interested in ongoing Board Business. See you in church.

Chalice Night Schedule

Wednesdays

5:30-6:15pm -- Dinner

6:30-6:50pm -- Service

7:00-8:30pm -- Programs

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

- **Oct 31: Poetry Reading.** -- Bring a favorite poem to share on the theme of Fall, Samhein, or Halloween.
- **Nov 7: Women Mystics and Saints.** -- This is the subject of ten digital prints, each dealing with an individual from a variety of religious traditions. Speakers **Susan Moffet** and **Marilyn Whitesell**.
- **Nov 14: UU Catechism: What Do UUs Believe about...?** -- A discussion of another religious topic from the UU curriculum. Topic to be announced.

Curricula meeting TBA. 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.

Holiday Craft Fair Reminder

from Geneva Fry

Both Thomas Jefferson and First Unitarian are having craft fairs! Keep your calendar open for shopping on **December 4**. If wish to sell your crafts, contact **Geneva Fry** at xxx-xxxx or grfry@flash.net while tables are still available! Want to sell something, but you don't think you have enough for a table? Call me and I'll find someone to share it with you. Jewelry, flutes, music, cloth items, and paper goods are just a few of the gifts that will be for sale. Proceeds from table rental go back to our church's general fund. Keep reading your *Steepletalk* for more information.

Learning Team/Discernment

An Unacknowledged Closure to the Wider Community?

Last month the Learning Team shared the premise that First U Louisville must make a decision about our structure, size and future. Indeed, at the 2004 Annual Meeting the members charged the Board with creating a Team to investigate how our church should make that decision. The guideline for our learning process will be from the works of Alice Mann, a consultant from the Alban Institute. Her books can be borrowed from the church library or from members of the Learning Team. Additional documents are available in a rack on one of the kiosks in the Social Hall.



What are our first steps? First we must understand where we are, where we have been and eventually discern where we want to be. You are the key to helping the Learning Team understand where we have been and where we are. Then you will make the decision about where we are going. There have been many efforts at addressing growth, resolving conflict, and structural reorganization at First Unitarian. All of these efforts should be acknowledged and understood so we can move forward efficiently and successfully.

The second Sunday of every month after church, the Learning Team will be available to share the status of the process and gather input from members and friends. This past Sunday many of you brought important documents and perspectives about our history. We have gathered Long Range Plans, attendance records and formal church histories to complete the picture. Look for an event in the near future where this collection will be shared – and probably new things discovered.

There will be sessions offered on **Chalice Night** for those who miss the Sunday meetings.

After understanding of our past, we must understand what the barriers are to making a decision. This article will describe one possible barrier. Future articles will address others. If you have thoughts about the process or the barriers, contact any member of the Learning Team.

The barriers to growth are often passive. Our church has voted to “grow” on multiple occasions but no matter how well structured the process, that result has not been achieved or sustained—for at least 40 years now. There will be a First U attendance timeline available with various milestones indicated to explain peaks and valleys in our attendance. What prevents us from moving from our “175-200” plateau?

Alice Mann offers this as the first of six barriers: We are unclear whether we have a vocation to make room for more of our neighbors in order to serve a growing community.

- If asked, most of us would say we are (or we want to be) welcoming. We want to grow. We are open to other views and we learn from them through respectful engagement and dialogue. Do we need to validate this view?
- What is our explicit and implicit mission? Is it focused on the wider community? Is it focused inward? Is it balanced between inward and outward focus? Does it just lack definition and a plan?
- Are we really called to be of service to twice as many people in our community? Or half as many? These are some of the difficult questions we must address.

In addition, there are 5 other passive barriers to be explored in coming issues. The Learning Team welcomes your thoughts.

Marty Huelsmann, Joan Johnson, David Leighty, Penny Nader, danielle rogers-candee,
Emil Roy, Doug Taylor and Rev. Norm Stewart

Service Auction

First Unitarian Church

Service Auction!

Sunday, Nov. 7

Silent Auction & Refreshments 6:00 p.m.

Service Auction 7:00 p.m.

Make donations by
NOON, Nov. 7:

Tiffany Taylor: tiffany.taylor@insightbb.com,
XXX-XXXX

Anne Miller: afmnc1701@webtv.net,
XXX-XXXX



Most important:
Be there to bid!

Stay for the entire auction
to be entered in a chance
to win a \$100 bill!

Brownbaggers

from Jesse & Natalie Schreiber

Norm, our good minister, and **Joan Johnson**, our good, versatile lay leader will speak to the group after our brownbag feast (**12 noon, Monday, 15 November**, in the church library). Their subject is Discernment - who, and what we are, and whither we are bent. They will expand on Norm's article on page 2 of the 3 October *Steepletalk*. Come, come, whoever you are.



Treasurer's Report – September from Brian Daly

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Total Income	\$14,031	\$42,566
Total Expenses	\$17,096	\$60,825
Transfers from Savings/Bonds /Stocks	0	\$30,000
Balance	-\$3,065	\$11,741

Church Matters

Cathedral Heritage Foundation's **FESTIVAL OF FAITHS**



OVER 20 EVENTS CELEBRATING
OUR REGION'S RICH RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

featuring
Diana Eck

Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald
For schedule call **502.583.3100**

or visit

www.cathedral-heritage.org

Festival of Faiths

"Faith & Cooperation" is the theme of this year's Festival of Faiths, Nov. 7-13. First Unitarian is pleased to participate in the Festival again this year. Look for Festival brochures on the Public and Denominational Relations table in the social hall, or visit the website, address shown above.

Of interest: CBS newsman, **Bob Schieffer**, will be speaking Thurs. Nov. 18 at 7pm. This will take place at the Main Library, 301 York. Tickets are free. Call library for more info.

Fun Raising

With the start of the 174th Church year, the Finance Committee is actively addressing several of the Church's key financial issues. We need your help.

This year the Church will be conducting several major fun(d) raising events that engage the wider community. We are seeking a few good folks to help us make things happen. Here is what we need:

1 A Computer Guru/Gurette to help us implement our on-line store. We will be selling crafts, cards, jewelry, t-shirts, artwork, and other unique items to the general public. We need help in planning and implementing this program.

2 Party Activists to help with four fund-raising dinners under the leadership of **Tiffany Taylor**. We need an event planner, dinner ticket sellers, servers, setup and cleanup specialists, raffle sellers, and performance artists. These unique dinners will start in January.

3 175th Anniversary Bash Leaders to activate various activities to celebrate our contribution to religious liberty in the world. **Jason Klueger** is chairing the coordinating committee with Finance. This is a summer 2005 event.

Please contact the Church Office (585-5110) or e-mail **Brian Daly** at b.daly@insightbb.com if you are interested.



Calendar: October 29 - November 13

October

- 29 Friday**
6:00pm Barbara K Goodbye Potluck, SH
30 Saturday
 ~Daylight Savings Time ends~
31 Sunday
 9:00am Learning Team meeting, parlor
 10:55 Day of the Dead Service, sanctuary
 5:00pm CUUPs-Samhain Celebration, CY-sanc-sh

November

- 1 Monday**
 6:00pm Congregational Svcs Comm, library
2 Tuesday -- Election Day
 6:30pm Public & Denominational Relations, library
3 Wednesday
 12:00pm Chalice Night Coord Team, 5/6 rm
 5:30 pm Chalice Night
5 Friday
12:00pm Steepletalk Deadline
6 Saturday
 9:00am Worship Associates, library
 4:00pm 7/8/ Grade OWL (sleepover)
 6:00-pm RE dance, sanctuary
7 Sunday
 9:00am Learning Team, parlor
 9:45am Youth/Adult Committee, RE library
6:00pm Service Auction

Sign Up for Church Email List

Do you want to keep up with the latest activities and last minute notices for events at First U? The FirstULouList is an email announcement list for members and friends of First U to share announcements of church activities, announcements of church-related business, and announcements of church news. To sign up, go to www.firstulou.org, click on List Server, and subscribe at the bottom of the page.

- 8 Monday**
 5:30pm Music Committee, choir room
 6:00pm Finance Committee, parlor
 9:00am Heartland Ministers' Meeting, library
9 Tuesday
 7:00pm Council, library
10 Wednesday
 5:30pm Chalice Night
11 Thursday -- Veteran's Day
12 Friday
 7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library
13 Saturday
 11:00 Festival of Faiths workshop -- "Millionth Circle" -- free event
 1:00pm Interweave Business Meeting, parlor
 4:00pm JR high OWL at TJ



Just among ourselves...

Church friend **Wayne Givens** is in critical care in St. Louis after a surgical procedure that didn't go as planned. The most recent report told us that Wayne is slowly improving. Our thoughts are with Wayne and **Linda** during this time.

Condolences to **John Durham** whose very close friend, **JC**, died suddenly October 17.

Sherry Tarr, who has been very sick and was in the hospital for three weeks in July, is now recuperating at home. It was determined that she has prophyria, an inherited blood disease involving an enzyme deficiency. Sherri is **Cathy Hillegas'** sister and lives with her daughter and her mother, **Evalene Tarr**. If anyone has any experience or knowledge of this fairly rare disease, please email Sherri at spurple@aol.com.

Nursery news: We are glad to welcome back **Cassidy Johnson** to First U's nursery staff!

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.

October 31 *Day of the Dead.* “Dia de los Muertos... mixes celebration and mourning. Like a good UU memorial service, it both affirms life and gives us a chance to share our grief.” Before and during the service we will be decorating altar areas with photographs, mementos, favorite foods, flowers, candles, etc. to remember and celebrate the lives of those we choose to remember. Please bring something to help decorate our altars.

November 14 *Manifest Humanism.* **Rev. Norm Stewart** with **John Gage**, special musical guest. Is Humanism merely a passé manifestation of what Unitarian Universalists once were, “a concert and lecture series approach to religion” or is it something more? Today, we take an introductory look at the many varieties of Humanism that have evolved over the years and examine whether or not any of them are still valid approaches to being religious. We will also hear about our church’s pivotal role in the development of American Religious Humanism.

November 7 *The Individual In the Gathered Community.* **Rev. Norm Stewart.** Throughout recorded history there is a constant tension between the rights of individuals and the needs of the wider community. The community which challenges your individuality may be your church, your village, your country or your world. How might we as Unitarian Universalists respond to this fundamental human dilemma?