



# STEEPLETALK

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# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 11 Number 1

16 January 2005

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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  
Johanna Mehring, Board President (xxx)xxx-xxxx • Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326  
Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education (502)585-5110 • Bryan Reiff, Office Manager  
Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

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**The Music, Religious Education, and Worship Committees  
of First Unitarian Church present  
a SPECIAL EVENT FOR ALL AGES.**

## **Jim Scott IN CONCERT!**

**Friday, January 14 7:00 PM First Unitarian Church**

**FREE ADMISSION!**

**Potato Bar potluck at 5:30. We provide the potatoes; you provide the toppings, salads, and desserts.**

Jim Scott is a UU musician and songwriter, described by Pete Seeger as “Some kind of miracle!” This concert is a great opportunity to introduce your friends to UU-ism -- with a free concert by a world-class UU spokesman and songsman. This is truly an event for all ages. Jim has years of experience as an artist-in-residence for children, and his first set of the evening will be geared particularly to children and the child in all of us. His second set, while open to music-lovers of all ages, will be more adult-oriented.

An exciting acoustic guitarist, singer, and composer of powerful music that furthers the ideals of ecology, justice, and peace, Jim makes an impact on hearts and minds across the world. Jim has recorded or shared the stage with luminaries from the jazz, classical and folk music worlds. From Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival with the Paul Winter Consort, to a concert at the end of the Great Peace March with folk legends Pete Seeger and Peter Yarrow, Jim’s travels have taken him around the world. While a member of the Consort, Jim also wrote several PBS soundtracks and composed and arranged an entire concert for the group with the Indianapolis Symphony. See [www.jimscottmusic.com](http://www.jimscottmusic.com) for more information.

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

## Notes From Norm

Happy New Year!

I can't believe it! It is already 2005! It seems like Y2K was just a couple of years ago.

Kathryn and I had a wonderful dancing vacation between Christmas and New Year. We danced in the New Year in the Possum Capital of the World, Brasstown, NC. It was great fun. However, when I got back from one week off I somehow found myself one month behind. As depressing as that may sound I am not resolving to give up vacations any time soon.

Back in the real world we have a few personnel changes going on at church that you will want to know about. **Carrie Holstrom** our new Shared Ministry Coordinator is working her way into her new position. I believe there is an article elsewhere in this issue of *Steepletalk* introducing you to Carrie and letting you know how to get in touch with her.

For several years now **Marian Ziebell** has served our church's music program with style, grace and flair. I will be forever grateful for her willingness to come out of retirement this fall to help us through our Christmas Eve Vesper Service. She is planning to wrap up her duties here at the end of January. Because we postponed the Vivaldi *Gloria* on Christmas Eve, we will be presenting it for our annual Music Sunday on January 30. Marian will finish her official tenure here with one last glorious Celebration of Life. We are hopeful that Marian will be able to fill in as instrumentalist from time-to-time until she moves to her retirement home in Tennessee.

Marian, thanks for all the great music you brought to the First Unitarian Church of Louisville over the past several years.

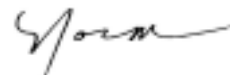
We are very fortunate to have within our church community someone who is going to step in as our Interim Music and Choir Director for the rest of this church year. She is **Rebecca Johnson** whom many of you know. She is the director of the Flute Choir and has played her flute for several of our recent services. She has been filling in this fall as the accompanist for the choir. Rebecca's musical gifts and enthusiasm make me look forward to working with her.

**Worship Associates:** On a quarterly basis, Worship Associates help plan and then create and present upcoming services. Occasionally when I am away from the pulpit, they take the service leader's role in our Celebrations of Life. If you think that you might like to be a Worship Associate please give me a call and let's talk about it. Our next Worship Associates planning meeting will be Saturday, February 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. We will be planning services for April, May and June at that meeting. If you want to explore becoming a Worship Associate, call me before February 1 at 561-8326.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who helped make the holidays so festive around First Church. And, I would like to especially thank all of you who remembered me on your gift list this year. I want to be perfectly clear, holiday gifts are not at all expected. However, those of you who did give me something proved that it really is the thought that counts. Your thoughtfulness and in several cases your creativity and investment of personal time were pleasant reminders of the spirit of generosity that is central to Winter Holidays in many traditions.

May this year be better than last for all of us.

Cheers,



## Chalice Night

### Chalice Night Schedule

#### Wednesdays

5:30 - 6:15 -- Dinner

6:30 - 6:50 -- Service

7:00 - 8:30 -- Programs

## S.M.A.R.T.

### Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

### January 19

Buddhism, 12 Lessons in Spiritual Growth, Discernment Committee presentation of "Where are we going?" and Cooking for Kids with **Tiffany Taylor** making Banana Bread and Fruit Salad

### January 26

Paganism 101, Buddhism, Modern Religious Thought.

Other offerings may be added.

### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 23

After the service, in sanctuary.

Lunch available.

**Jan 16 -- *Why I Am a UU.*** What brought you to First Unitarian? What keeps you coming back?

**Jan 23 -- *What Do UUs Believe About the Bible?*** One source of our living tradition is Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. UUA curriculum.

**Jan 30 -- *Global Warming.*** UUA Study Action Issue.

Next curricula meeting to be arranged. For questions, comments, topic requests, or to offer a program, email the Curricula Team at [smart@firstulou.org](mailto:smart@firstulou.org), or call **Lisa Willner** at 585-5110.

## Board BIZ

*from Trish Packowski*

The Board of Trustees met Tuesday, December 21, 2004. Here are a few highlights of that meeting. Be sure to view the official minutes for details.

- **Bill Allison** will be joining the Board, filling the vacant position. Welcome!
- **Marty Huelsman** reported that the Learning Team has completed the history part of the Discernment process. The Team is now working on a system change index.
- **Carrie Holstrom** has been hired as our new **Shared Ministry Coordinator**.
- **Rebecca Johnson** also was hired as our new **Music Director**, as of Feb. 1.
- **175th Anniversary Celebration** plans were discussed in regard to the best timeline for events. If you would like to participate in the planning, please contact **Norm Stewart** or any of the Board members.
- **Advertising Ad Hoc Committee** provided the Board the newest Draft of the proposed policy to review.
- Be sure to watch for details on the **January Congregational Meeting, January 23, after church**. Board members will be providing important information.

## REviews

I am reminded on a weekly basis of what a privilege it is to work with the children and youth of this congregation, and with the adults who minister to them. A few times a year during R.E.-themed Celebrations of Life, the entire congregation gets a glimpse of the creativity, curiosity, and thoughtfulness of our youngest UUs. Those of us who spend much of our time at church up on the second floor are treated regularly to their insights and talents.

If you attended the R.E. Holiday Celebration of Life on December 19, you saw several different and creative interpretations of the theme, "birth." You heard a variety of holiday music played on many different instruments by several of our young musicians, and sung by our R.E. Choir for All Ages. You watched as our chalice was lit while our preschoolers recited the chalice lighting words they say each week in their classroom. I hope that you found much to enjoy and appreciate, and that you found it worshipful, in the sense that it helped you to feel a connection to that which is both worthy and worthwhile.

**For me, the real joy of the R.E. Holiday Celebration of Life is in the "back story," the behind the scenes events leading up to the service.** Here, in the ordinary reflections and exchanges that take place in our classrooms each Sunday, we can find the true spirit of our Unitarian Universalist religious values.

From the very start of their UU religious education, our children learn that there are many stories, and that each has value and worth. How wonderful that when we ask our children and youth to prepare a holiday presentation about birth, they find that they have many stories from which to choose.

**We teach our children that each and**

**every person has inherent worth and dignity, and that all people should be treated with justice, equity and compassion.** Preparing presentations for the service gave the classes numerous opportunities to put these principles into practice. Before each class could prepare its presentation, a theme had to be agreed upon by the group. This involved brainstorming, discussing, building consensus, and listening respectfully to one another's ideas. Once themes were chosen, plays had to be written and roles assigned. This involved further negotiations, establishing processes for choosing fairly, and managing both triumphs and disappointments with grace and sensitivity to classmates' feelings.

**We teach our children about interdependence and the value of community.** Plans for projects were carried out -- lines learned, costumes created, props built --with an admirable combination of personal responsibility, cooperative effort, intergenerational support, and trust in one another to follow through on commitments.

**We instill in our children a sense of reverence.** While it is delightful to watch our preschoolers lead our congregational chalice lighting, it is much more powerful to see their expressions of intent wonder as their teachers light their class chalice each week and they share that special and quiet time together.

When it comes time for the next R.E. Celebration of Life in May, I expect you'll hear about our children's decision to commit their Upstairs Chapel offering to relief efforts for victims of last month's tsunami. You'll know that there's more to the story - that this was a decision reached through our children's religious values of respect, compassion, fairness, and interconnectedness. All of these themes played

*(continued on page 5)*

# R.E. Announcements

(continued from page 4)

an important role in an intergenerational discussion that took place during last week's Upstairs Chapel. Our children - pre-kindergarten through middle school - demonstrated a solid understanding that what happens anywhere has an affect on all of us, and that the tsunami and its aftermath is a matter for serious religious reflection, discussion, and action.

So, to all of our R.E. teachers and committee members, our wonderful children and youth, and the parents who share them with us, thank you for all that you do, and for allowing me the privilege of working with you.

Peace,

*Lisa*

## R.E. Announcements

- The R.E. Committee hopes to see lots of families and children at the **Jim Scott concert, Friday, January 14 at 7:00**, and at the preceding Potato Bar/Potluck. Jim is a UU musician who has worked extensively as an artist-in-residence in elementary school programs, and he has promised a kid-oriented first set. (See the front page announcement for more details.)

- **R.E. Teacher Orientation - NEW DATE!** Sunday, January 30, in the R.E. Library. New and continuing teachers, please come at 9:30 for continental breakfast, fellowship, and information.

- There will be a **multigenerational Celebration of Life January 16**. There will be no children's or youth R.E. classes that day. Childcare will be provided in the preschool room for kindergartners and younger. All others are invited to participate in the service, a musical and dramatic tribute to the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Most Sundays, there is "first hour" programming for school aged children, 9:45 -10:45 in the Open Classroom. Coming up:

- ✓ Jan. 9 "Let it Snow!" Create snowflake patterns with Geneva Fry

- ✓ Jan. 16 "Thereby Hangs a Tale:" Storytelling with Cassandra Culin

- ✓ Jan. 23 "For the Birds:" Make bird treats with Becky Rinehart

- ✓ Jan. 30 "The Artist Within:" Creative art with Carol Tobe

- ✓ A member of our nursery staff provides first hour childcare in the Preschool Room during the first hour.

- We plan to offer the **Our Whole Lives** sexuality education course for senior high students (10th - 12th grade) this winter. Plans are in development and more information should be available shortly. Contact **Lisa Willner** or **Carol Uebelhoer** (cuebel56@yahoo.com) if you have questions about this upcoming program.

- **SNACKS NEEDED!** It's time to replenish the cupboards of our children's classrooms. Parents and generous others - we'd appreciate your donations of non-perishable nut-free snack items and bottles of juice.

**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.*



## Learning Team

The next step in the **Alice Mann process** is to engage the congregation on many different levels and in multiple opportunities to assess the context of our calling today. Over the next few months the Learning Team will be offering many opportunities for engagement in small and large group settings. At future meetings, we will be reviewing the historical context of our church and barriers to growth.

Alice Mann has found that churches do go through certain predictable stages as they grow. The book that the Learning Team is using as a guide presents each step and barriers that keep them from growing. We are following the process as outlined in the text. The System Change index presents a series of statements for discussion that describe a church's climate. We will use these to determine our readiness for change and to guide our future conversations.



### **A Fish Bowl Conversation of the Systems Change Index Congregational Self-Definition Sunday, January 16**

**Who:** The Learning Team and all members of First Unitarian

**What:** A meeting to engage in the next step in the Alice Mann **Process:** This will start a series of meetings to engage the congregation in an assessment of our current context and calling today. The fishbowl technique is a process that has gives participants an opportunity to engage in and observe the conversation. Picture a fishbowl. **Doug Taylor, Emil Roy, and Norm Stewart** will lead the facilitation.

- ✓ A light lunch will be available.
- ✓ Childcare and nursery care will be provided.

**When:** Sunday, January 16 from 12:30-1:30.

**Where:** First Unitarian Church

### **Chalice Night Opportunity January 19 Another Conversation of the Systems Change Index Congregational Self-Definition**

**Who:** The Learning Team and all members of First Unitarian

**What:** A meeting to review and continue the discussion of our self-definition.

**When:** Wednesday, January 19 from 7:00-8:30

**Where:** First Unitarian Church

*In Memoriam*  
**Ruth Shepherd**  
1919-2004

Hello, I'm **Carrie Holstrom**, your new Shared Ministry Coordinator and I'd like to introduce myself. I've lived in Louisville for 7 years. I'm married to Mick and have a 4-year-old daughter, Madeline. My professional background is in Social Work and for the past 4 years I've been a Certified Family Child Care Provider.

Due to prior professional obligations I will be working a limited schedule until mid-March. If you would like to talk with me, I can be found at Sunday services or in the church office on Chalice Night. You may also leave a message on the office voice mail or email me at [shared\\_ministry@bellsouth.net](mailto:shared_ministry@bellsouth.net). I look forward to getting to know everyone!

■ Also, the **Doctors of Durability Celebration of Life** will be on **February 6**. This is a special service in which we honor the elders of our church. We will recognize people who are 70 years and older. Special recognition will be given to those who are 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, and 95. Following the service there will be a luncheon for all people who are over the age of 70. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact Carrie Holstrom by January 22.

### Carrie Holstrom

Shared Ministry Coordinator



502-585-5110

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

*from Isabel Silverman*

➔ Large community meetings that began focused on the "Two Towns of Jasper" have continued at First U in an effort to bring the black and white communities within Louisville closer together. Call **Dennis Thompson**, xxx-xxxx, for more info on how you can participate.

➔ Do you have a local agency/effort/concern that helps people and needs more money? Get an application for Kroger Bucks at the church office. Or--consider an Outreach Sunday proposal and fill out an application, also available at the church office.

### Tsunami Relief

*from Ralph Mero, UUA Office of Church Staff Finances*

Founded in 1937, **Plan USA** is one of the oldest international children's charities, and it has been assigned responsibility for 100 miles of tsunami-struck coastline in Sri Lanka. The Executive Director is Sam Worthington, a member of our UU congregation in East Greenwich, RI. Obviously the organization needs all the money we can provide.

With 20 years of experience "on the ground" in the devastated area, Plan USA is well positioned to render immediate assistance through a network of native groups and organizations. More information is available at 800/556-7918 or [www.planusa.org](http://www.planusa.org). Charitable contributions should be mailed to Plan USA, 155 Plan Way, Warwick RI, 02886.

We have heard that many of the 150,000 plus victims are children. There are also thousands of children in coastal villages that have been made instant orphans. Those of us who can are urged to send a check each month during 2005. We have to be in this for the long haul.

# News and Notes

## Did You Know?

Did you know that it costs us \$1.11 every time someone changes his or her address and forgets to tell us? When we mail *Steepletalk*, for example, we ask the post office to return any for which the address is no longer valid, so we can change our records. Then we mail them out again with the correct address. By that time, we've spent a buck or so in postage. Help us out--fill out a change of address/contact information form whenever you move--or change phone numbers or e-mail addresses--and let us know. The forms are available in the volunteer area, to the left of the staff mailboxes. Check it out!



## First U Hosts Roe v. Wade Annual Awards Dinner

Join Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, at our church on **Jan. 22, 2005**, from 6:00 on, for the 11th annual Roe v. Wade Awards Dinner, celebrating local activism in pro-choice work. **Dr. Paul Simmons**, previously of Southern Baptist Seminary, will be the guest speaker and will speak on "Stem Cell Morality: Religion, Health and Politics." Cost of dinner is \$30, with some scholarship money available. Any profit above the cost of the dinner will go towards keeping the religious pro-choice voices alive and active. Contact **Joan Beal** at xxx-xxxx or [joansbeal@bellsouth.net](mailto:joansbeal@bellsouth.net) for reservations.



## Letter from Sandor Botand, Minister of our Partner Church in Enyed, Romania

Dear Brothers from Louisville!

I have sent to both congregations a Christmas card in Hungarian in which I've wished Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We also received your cards and delivered them for whom they were posted.

You asked us about our yearly plan. Unfortunately we plan in vain, because they turn out otherwise than we planned to. For example is the 75 years anniversary of our church. We planned the ceremony on October the 28 and it was held on December the 5, because our bishop could only attend at this date. We are not as precise as you are. So I can only send you the yearly plan for the last year, which I prepare in every February and read it to my congregation at a meeting. I will send you a copy of this for You.

During Easter we have three days of cel-

ebration, when we give communion on the first day. As for the tradition, the girls paint Easter eggs, mostly in red because it is symbolic for the blood of Christ. These eggs are made for boys, who on the second day of Easter visit girls whom they know, recite Easter poems and "spray" the girls with perfumes so they grow beautiful as flowers. In reward they get to eat cookies and they are offered drinks, too and a special egg which they choose. This is all in a nutshell.

I wish You and your congregation, your minister a peaceful and Happy Christmas and New Year!

We hope that the next year will bring us something better than the last years and will be peace and good will among people as the Christmas message says it!

# Calendar: January 13 - 29

## January

**13 Thursday**  
 12:00pm 175th Anniversary planning, library  
 7:15pm Choir rehearsal

**14 Friday**  
 5:30pm Potato bar potluck, social hall  
 7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library  
**7:00pm Jim Scott Concert, sanctuary**

**15 Saturday**  
 1:00pm Interweave Business Mtg., library

**16 Sunday**  
 9:00am Learning Team, parlor  
 10:55am Celebration of Life  
 12:15pm Church Building Tour after service  
 12:15pm Board Forum, library  
 12:30pm Learning Team Open Forum, sanct.  
 4:00pm Drum Circle rehearsal, choir room

**17 Monday**  
**ML King holiday-offices closed**  
 12:00pm Brownbaggers meeting, library  
 7:00pm Shared Ministry Comm., library

**18 Tuesday**  
 6:30pm Board of Trustees, library

**19 Wednesday**  
 Chalice Night

**20 Thursday**  
 7:15pm Choir rehearsal

**21 Friday**  
**12noon Steepletalk Deadline**

**23 Sunday**  
 9:00am Learning Team, parlor  
 10:55am Celebration of Life  
 12:15pm Informational Mtg: UU101, library  
**12:15pm Called Congregational Meeting, sanctuary**  
 12:30pm Flute Choir practice, choir rm

**24 Monday**  
 6:30pm Social Responsibility Comm, library

**25 Tuesday**  
 9:30am Steepletalk Folding Party, library  
 5:30pm Worship Comm., choir rm  
 6:30pm RE Committee, open classroom

**26 Wednesday**  
 Chalice Night

**27 Thursday**  
 5:30pm Activities Comm., library  
 7:15pm Choir rehearsal

**28 Friday**  
 7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

## Just among ourselves...

Congratulations to **Phil Candee, danielle rogers-candee**, and to big brother **xxxxx**, on the birth of **xxxxxx xxxxxx Candee** who arrived Dec. 15.

We hope that **Allie Hixon's** cracked rib is healing and that she is up and about by now. Allie fell and injured herself a few days before Christmas.

Our sympathies to **T. Lynne Singleton** whose friend, Carol Lynne, was on her honeymoon in Sri Lanka and was lost in the tsunami along with her new husband.

## STEEPLETALK

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Editors: Claudia Runge &  
 M. Scott Borden

Contact us: [editor@firstulou.org](mailto:editor@firstulou.org)

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.*

**January 16**      *Keeping the Dream Alive.* **Phillip Cherry & John Gage, Norm Stewart, Worship Associate.** Phillip Cherry and John Gage will blend drama and music to recreate and honor the spirit, dreams and feelings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the freedom marchers. Using the words of Dr. King, Phillip will tell the story and John will lead us in singing the simple but incredibly powerful songs of that historic struggle.

**January 23**      *It Makes Me Mad.* **Rev. Norm Stewart, Pat Allison, Worship Associate.** Inappropriate expression of anger can lead to violence. Unexpressed anger can lead to depression. Can we find a middle path of appropriate expression of our anger and righteous indignation?

**January 30**      *Invocations Vivaldi Vocal Event.* Bad weather resulted in the cancellation of the planned special music for the Christmas Eve Vesper Service. So we have decided to make today MUSIC SUNDAY so that we may all hear the magnificent *Gloria* by Vivaldi. The choir under the direction of **Marian Ziebell** and an orchestra convened by **Bonnie Avery** will make this a very special Celebration of Life.