

STEEPLETALK



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 11 Number 6

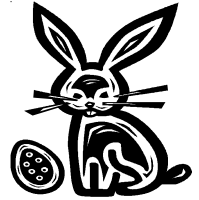
27 March 2005

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 • Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education • Vince Coombs, Office Manager • James Dersch, Instrumentalist • Rebecca Johnson, Music Director
Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

Youth to Provide Traditional Easter Morning Activities

The Senior High Youth Group invites you to the Annual Easter Breakfast, March 27, 9:30 - 10:30. All ages are welcome, and donations are cheerfully accepted.

On Easter morning, the Middle School YoUUtH Group will host Easter Egg Hunts for younger children: toddlers and preschoolers in the courtyard at 10:30; kindergartners and older around the church grounds immediately following. All participants meet in the Social Hall. Bring your baskets!



First U to Feature Guest Speaker and Workshop

Clear your calendar for a very special **Sunday, April 10**, with **Theresa Szcurek, PhD**. Having presented a workshop at the UU Heartland District Meeting in Cincinnati on Saturday, Ms. Szcurek will speak at our Sunday morning service the next day. After the service, from 1pm to 3pm, Ms. Szcurek will conduct a workshop using strategies from her extensive research on how to live a life with passion and purpose.

Ms. Szcurek, a long-time UU from Boulder, CO, helps organizations and individuals succeed by aligning their passions with purpose. Her book, *Pursuit of Passionate Purpose, Success Strategies for a Rewarding Personal and Business Life* (Wiley 2005) features the everyday wisdom of eighty real people from many walks of life, along with success strategies she learned in building her own company.

Special Congregational Meeting Called

A petition signed by 26 members calling for a Congregational Meeting to vote on the status of UUPA was presented to the Board of Trustees April 15. Pursuant to requirements in the church Constitution, the Board set the date of the meeting for **Sunday, April 24, at 12:30pm**. Voting at Congregational Meetings is open to active members of the church.

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

Notes from Norm

Get your taxes done early! Because beginning April 8 things are going to get unusually busy around our church. Our Heartland District Annual Meeting will be in Cincinnati on Friday and Saturday, April 8 and 9. We have a full slate of delegates and alternates signed up for the meeting. One of the workshops on Saturday will be by **Theresa Szczurek** about the ideas in her new book, *Pursuit of Passionate Purpose*. If you go to the District meeting, I would suggest that you skip her workshop and take one of the many other great offerings which have been planned. Theresa will be our guest speaker on Sunday morning for our Celebration of Life. After coffee hour, Theresa will offer her workshop here at First U. That will be from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 10. The cost of the workshop will be a free will offering – you determine the value of the workshop to you.

The following Friday night, April 15, we are partnering with Interfaith Paths to Peace and other local churches and groups to host **Matthew Fox** of *Creation Spirituality* fame. Fox will be in town for several days and many different events. You will have the opportunity to experience Matthew's *Techno Cosmic Mass* right here at our church. We are expecting broad participation from the wider community for this event in addition to many 1st Unitarians.

We will need help to transition from the Matthew Fox event into the next major activity of the weekend, a **Health Fair on Saturday, April 16** beginning at noon. The Health Fair is another joint venture, this time with our Adult Religious Education committee, Interweave, and the AIDS Project. Look for details about the Health Fair elsewhere in this issue of *Steepletalk*.

Our **Celebration of Life on Sunday, April 17** will be an intergenerational service conceived

and presented by our **Jr. High RE class**. They have been working on this for some time now, and I expect it to be an engaging service from a great group of young people. Plan to be there and support these talented members of our church community.

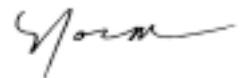
APRIL OUTREACH OFFERING: At our last Annual Meeting, when our congregation unanimously passed a resolution in support of legal recognition of same-sex marriages, we said we would “make this position known through the media, through denominational gatherings, through banners and signs, and through all other appropriate means.” The **Rev. Todd Eklof**, the part-time minister of the Clifton Unitarian Church lost his job and primary source of income for speaking out in support of same-sex marriage. The Board has decided that our April Outreach offering will go to the Clifton Unitarian Church so that they might better support Rev. Eklof in his dispute with his former employer over his unfair termination. This is going to be a difficult and costly dispute, so please give as generously as you can.

There's definitely a lot happening here in April!

Finally, on a slightly different note, I want to say that with the addition of **Vince Coombs** (Office Manager) and **Linda Givens** (Shared Ministry Coordinator) we have what I believe may be the most competent staff of any UU church our size in the country. I hope you will let them and the rest of our staff know how much you appreciate the good work that they do for you – the members, friends and children of this congregation.

May the promise of the Easter story and the coming of Spring bring new hope and joy into your life.

Peace,



by Brian Daly

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, March 15 in the Church library. This meeting focused on the following:

- We welcomed the new office manager **Vince Coombs** and bid a hearty thank you and farewell to **Bryan Reiff**.

- A petition requesting a **special Congregational meeting** to vote on the status of UUs for Polyamory Awareness was received by the Board. The meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 24 at 12:30**.

- We discussed the Visual Aesthetics Committee that would oversee the overall appearance of the Church. This group will be finalized at our April meeting.

- A courtyard beautification/landscaping project was proposed. Some additional research is needed to ensure that the plan meets Church needs.

- Outdoor sign proposals will be reviewed and a winner selected at the next Board meeting.

- The Board approved the Heartland District Delegates for the meeting in Cincinnati on April 8 & 9. Delegates are **Johanna Mehring, Rose Stevens, Carol Uebelhoer, Jo Ann Dale, and Emil Roy**. **Norm Stewart** will attend as a member of the ministerial group.

- The Learning Team is completing its successful “fish bowl” discussions. Three final topics will be discussed in the next few weeks.

- An **historical marker** commemorating Susan B. Anthony’s speech at First Unitarian has been approved by the state and will be placed near the Church.

- A 175th Anniversary quilt is being constructed by various members of the Church.

- The operating budget is still running a deficit. The treasurer will issue a draft budget that

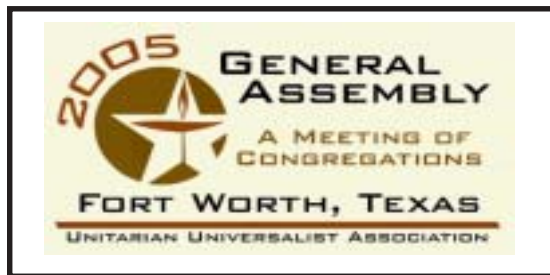
Canvass Extended to April 10

from **Jane Martin Buckley**

(this year’s Stewardship Chair)

The deadline for getting all pledge cards returned has been extended to April 10. This is due to the large number of friends and members we are attempting to reach this year (over 300!) and the small number of hard-working canvassers (who also happen to be many members of your Board, Council and Finance Committees).

Please, when contacted by a Canvasser, be sure and thank THE CANVASSER for contacting YOU and doing THIS MOST IMPORTANT WORK of our church. And please be prompt in working with your canvasser and making the most generous pledge you can before the deadline. We need to have a Stewardship total of pledges to prepare our 2005-2006 budget.



(Board BIZ continued)

reflects the actual income levels of the Church before the next Board meeting.

- A gifting proposal that describes how gifts to the Church can be given and used was discussed and will be acted on at the next meeting.

The **next meeting of the Board** is scheduled for **April 19 at 7 pm in the Church Library**. Members are welcome to attend.

Reviews

Since the beginning of the church year, our Middle School Religious Education class has been examining our Unitarian Universalist history and traditions through the "Traditions with a Wink" curriculum. One unique aspect of our faith that they have discovered is the great diversity of its participants. Class members –
XXXXX XXXX, XXXXX XXXXX, XXXX XXXXX, XXX
XXX, XXXX XXXX, XXXX XXXXX, XXXX XXXXXX,
XXX XXXXX, XXXXX XXXXXX, XXXXX XXXXX–
and teachers --**Marty Huelsmann** and **Beverly Moore** -- wish to thank the congregation for participating in a theological survey last month. The class has submitted the following report:

Our middle school class surveyed the Sunday congregation on February 27 regarding their beliefs. We asked three main questions: 1) What religious community or belief system did they come from before coming to our church. 2) If they considered themselves a Unitarian Universalist, and 3) What sort of beliefs do they currently ascribe to now. We had 83 respondents.

We found the majority of the people were raised Christian with 21 responding as former Catholics and 53 responding other Christian denominations such as Presbyterians, United Brethren, Methodist, Episcopal, and Mormons to name a few. Nine responded as non-Christian which included Judaism, Paganism, and Communism. Of the 83 respondents, only 74 answered Question 2 regarding if they considered that they were now a UU. Of that 61 said Yes and 10 said No and 3 were Unsure.

The final question was what sort of beliefs do they ascribe to now. We gave eight examples: Humanism, God is Nature, Agnosticism, Ethical Christianity, Mysticism, Atheism, Paganism, Christian, and one Other cat-

egory. They could pick multiples from this list. The majority (38) considered Humanism but "God is nature" was only 7 votes behind at 31. The most interesting finding was that out of all the 83 people that responded and had said that they came from a more Christian background was that only 6 still considered themselves Christian and 15 considered Ethical Christianity. Agnosticism (23), Paganism (22), and Mysticism (22) beat the combined total for Christians and Ethical Christianity, which would have score a 21.

In summary, we really have a diverse group of people who have found new ideas and beliefs while on their search for truth and meaning here at First Unitarian Church.

Middle School R.E. Class

I'll just add my thanks to the congregation for its participation, and for supporting our youth as they navigate their own theological and philosophical paths.

Peace,

Lisa

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.



Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

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

✓ **March 27: *Americans United for Separation of Church and State*.** Speaker **Jesse Woodrow**. Since 1947, Americans United (www.au.org) has led the way in defending the separation of church and state, the cornerstone of religious liberty in America

✓ **April 3: *Whose Water?*** Guest speaker **Mary Gilbert**, from Quaker Earthcare Witness (www.fcun.org), a spiritually-centered organization of American Quakers and like-minded people seeking ways to integrate their concern for environment with Friends' long-standing testimonies for simplicity, peace, and equality.

Next curricula meeting Tuesday, April 26, 6:15pm. For questions, comments, topic requests, or to offer a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firsttulou.org, or call Lisa Willner at 585-5110

STEEPLETALK

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First Unitarian Church of Louisville
809 South 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40203

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(covers April 10 - 23)

Editor: Claudia Runge



Contact us: editor@firsttulou.org

➔ **Easter is March 27.** Sr. High presents its **Annual Easter Breakfast 9:30 – 10:30.** **Easter Egg Hunts led by the Middle Schoolers begin at 10:30 in the Social Hall.** The Easter Celebration of Life is a multigenerational service and no R.E. classes will be held. Nursery will be open and Childcare will be provided in the Preschool Room for our youngest children.

➔ The **R. E. Committee** meets on the 5th Tuesday this month: **March 29, 6:30 – 8:30** in the Open Classroom.

➔ The **Youth Adult Committee** meets **April 3, 9:45 – 10:45** in the R.E. Library.

➔ **IMPORTANT!! Youth/Adult Forum:** There will be a discussion in the Choir Room on **April 17, 1:00 – 2:30** for ALL SENIOR HIGH YOUTH AND PARENTS. The focus of the discussion will be “Working Toward Safe, Supportive, and Balanced Youth Programming.” If there are others who wish to participate in this forum, please contact Lisa Willner for more information.

➔ About **Multigenerational Services:** Thanks to our parents for taking responsibility for their children and youth and to the larger congregation for helping the younger members of our community feel welcome during our monthly Celebrations of Life for all ages. These events challenge all of us, young and old, to stretch beyond our comfort levels and to consider the true meaning of community.

➔ **Senior High OWL:** Due to spring break schedules, Senior High OWL is not scheduled to meet again until April 24.



Shared Ministry

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

• **New Shared Ministry Coordinator** : First Unitarian Church welcomes our new Shared Ministry Coordinator, **Linda Givens**. We look forward to working with Linda. She is not only a wonderful person but she has a wealth of experience! Welcome Linda!



• As the long awaited Spring arrives, the Shared Ministry Committee is looking to find the best person to fill each of the open positions on the various Committees of our church. So as you are thinking of serving on another Committee or finding your first Committee position, please attend the **First U Committee Fair**. All the Committees will have information available about their Committee. They will also have some finger food to sustain you as you explore the options that will give you a chance to fulfill our mission and goals. See you then, **April 3**, directly after the service in the Social Hall and the Sanctuary.

• **New Members and Prospective Members**: Our minister, Norm Stewart, and the Shared Ministry Committee will present a program for new members of First U and those thinking about becoming members. The program, "ROOTS," gives a person new to Unitarian Universalism a basic understanding of our faith. The program will be presented on Chalice Night (4 Wednesday evenings in April, 7:00 p.m., at First U). Hope to see you there.



News and Notes

175th Anniversary Crazy Quilt Contributors Wanted!

We are planning to create a quilt with blocks that depict the 175 year history of First Unitarian Church. If you are a sewer or a needleworker, please call or see **Penny Nader** to get the instructions and a "kit" to get you started. Forty-eight squares are planned, so there is room for your talents--yes, men too.

The completion date is the end of the church year (June) so let's get started.



Introducing Vince Coombs, Office Manager at First U

The Personnel Committee is pleased to introduce First U's new office manager -- in his own words:

At this time I am nearing the end of my second week as the Office Manager here at First Unitarian Church. During this time I have been learning as much as possible and settling in. I would like to thank all of those people whom I have met for making me feel welcome.

I was born and raised in Louisville. I grew up in the Hikes Point area where I attended Ascension School and the Trinity High School. After high school I remained in Louisville working and taking college courses. When I was twenty-four years old I left Louisville to pursue an opportunity in Orlando Florida, where I remained for three years. I left Florida and headed for Las Vegas, Nevada where I took a job as Controller of a Resort Hotel. I lived in Las Vegas for the next six years until I decided to return to my home in Louisville in late 2004.

I am happy to be back in Louisville and at First Unitarian Church and I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Coming Events

Health Fair to be Held at First U

Don't forget to invite your friends and family to the Health Fair which will be held at our church on **Saturday, April 16, 12 - 4 pm**. This event, sponsored by Interweave, A.R.E., and the AIDS Project, will include many health and safety groups who will provide free information, screenings, and tests for various health-related issues. See your March 13 *Steepletalk* for more information or contact **Marty Huelsmann**. Don't miss this great opportunity.



Mark Your Calendar Now!

Matthew Fox
Techno Cosmic Mass
First Unitarian Church
Friday night, April 15

Look for more information in the next edition of *Steepletalk*.

Robert's Rules Reviewed

In anticipation of upcoming Congregational Meeting(s): a two-part refresher in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* will be offered at **Chalice Night March 30 and April 13**.

Handouts will be provided.
Questions will be answered.
A parliamentary good time to be had by all.

N.B. Child & nursery care is provided as part of Chalice Night.
Without the Rules, it's not a Meeting.

Chalice Night

Dinner by Tiffany
(\$4 or \$2 small portion)
available from 5:30 to 6:15
Lay-led service -- 6:30 to 6:50
Programs -- 7:00 to 8:30

MARCH 30

Menu: Red beans & rice, Texas toast, Caesar salad, bread pudding, vanilla and bourbon sauce

Programs:

- 12 Lessons in Personal Spirituality--Facilitated by **Jill Harmer** "Meditation for Beginners" with Jack Kornfield (video)
- Robert's Rules Reviewed -- A primer for all, presented by **Ralph Moss**
- Learning Team Fishbowl
- Witches' Brew: Basic Brewing and Mead-Making--Session 1, led by **Malcolm** and **Suzanne Turner**
- Drawing For All Ages and Abilities--Bring paper, pencil, and willingness. Led by **Johanna Mehring** and **Katrina Brown**

APRIL 6

Menu: White chili, sour cream corn bread, coleslaw, pumpkin spice cake with caramel frosting

Programs:

- Modern Religious Thought
- Paganism 102 – When, Why ... If: An Ethics Workbook--Will
- "The Mystic's Journey: Islamic Mysticism - The Sufi Way" and "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet" (videos)
- Possible program on mountain top removal.
- 175th Anniversary Quilters--Led by **Penny Nader** and **Linda Parry**
- UU Roots--For new UUs and those considering UUism. Facilitated by **Norm Stewart**
- Those Liberal Sew and Sews--Gathering to talk and do handwork. Led by **Kathy Thackeray**
- Drawing For All Ages and Abilities -- Taught by **Johanna Mehring** and **Katrina Brown**

Church Matters

A Way to Counteract Depression!

from Jill Harmer

Please look at the Social Concerns table and bulletin boards on Sundays and Wednesdays for things that you can do to put your values into action and help your city and country. You may also choose to write Governor Fletcher now because we could have avoided the oil pipe breakage in January 2005 had the pipes on the Kentucky River been inspected properly. The Ohio River near Louisville was covered with oil a few days later.

Ask Gov. Fletcher to please include proper inspection in the Kentucky budget. Contact Governor Ernie Fletcher at 700 Capital Avenue, Suite 100, Frankfort, KY 40601 Phone: (502) 564-2611, Fax: (502) 564-2517, TDD:(502) 564-9551 (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). It is necessary to use his website to email him: <http://governor.ky.gov/contact.htm>.

Representatives to the Heartland

from Jasmine Walston

First Unitarian has selected our delegates to the Heartland District of the UUA Annual Meeting in Cincinnati, April 8-9: **Johanna Mehring, Board President; Rose Stevens, Trustee; Emil Roy, Learning Team; Carol Uebelhoer, RE Chair; Jo Ann Dale, Chalice Night Team; and Rev. Norm Stewart, Minister.** Alternate delegates prepared to serve in case of an absence are **Kathy Thackeray, Shared Ministry Co-Chair; Beverly Daly, Shared Ministry; and Penny Nader, Learning Team.** A big "thank you" to all who offered to serve.

In addition to the business meeting, Johanna Mehring will be representing First U at the Congregational Presidents' Breakfast. Also, Beverly Daly and Jasmine Walston will be workshop presenters. Additional church members will be at-

Fun, Fellowship & Fundraiser for Todd Eklof's Legal Defense

Saturday, March 26 @ 7:00pm
2231 Payne Street, Clifton
Film, "Oil on Ice"

With Special Sierra Club Guest Speakers:
Mark Atwell & Sarah Lynn Cunningham

Special Partner Church Easter Collection

from the **Partner Church Group**

In 1992 First Unitarian Church and the Unitarian Church in Aiud (Enyed), Romania became partners. At the time the Unitarian Churches in Romania were threatened with extinction by the Communist government. Together, we hoped to save the Unitarian churches and maintain liberal religion in that area. This year we are having our special Partner Church Collection on Easter Sunday. Please contribute generously to this special collection, which will

- Provide financial help for our Partner Church in our annual \$1000 contribution (to help keep the church in good condition and able to expand its services, and to help the minister's family).
 - Support the English language teacher at the Unitarian seminary.
 - Provide scholarships for Unitarian seminary students.
 - Keep the flame of liberal religion alive in Eastern Europe.
-

(Heartland District Reps continued)

tending the conference for workshops, networking, and meeting up with friends from around the four-state district. Pre-registration continues until March 25, and onsite registration will be offered. Visit www.heartlanduu.org or contact **Jasmine Walston** at pdr@firstulou.org or xxx-xxxx.

Building Use Calendar: March 24 - April 9

March

24 Thursday
7:15pm Choir Practice, choir room

25 Friday
7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

26 Saturday
5:00pm Youth Overnight

27 Sunday -- Easter
12am Youth Overnight continued
9:00am Learning Team, parlor
9:45am Pancake Breakfast, social hall
10:30am Easter Egg Hunt
10:55am Celebration of Life
12:15pm Informational Meeting: UU101, library
12:30pm Flute Choir practice, choir room

28 Monday
6:00pm Finance Committee, parlor
6:30pm *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall

29 Tuesday
12:30pm Administrative Staff

30 Wednesday
Chalice Night

31 Thursday
5:30pm Activities Comm., library

April 2005

1 Friday
12pm *Steepletalk* Deadline

2 Saturday
Daylight Savings Time begins

3 Sunday
9:00am Learning Team meeting, parlor
9:45am Youth/Adult Committee, RE library
10:55am Celebration of Life
12:15pm Committee Fair sh/k/sanc

4 Monday
6:00pm Congregational Svcs Comm., choir rm
6:30pm *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall

5 Tuesday
9:30am *Steepletalk* Folding Party
12:30pm Administrative Staff meeting
6:30pm PDR meeting, library

6 Wednesday
Chalice Night Coord Team mtg-5/6 rm
Chalice Night

7 Thursday
7:15pm Choir practice, choir rm

8 Friday
Heartland District Meeting-Cincinnati
7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

9 Saturday
Heartland District Meeting-Cincinnati

** Denotes outside group or activity, not affiliated with First Unitarian Church.*

Just among ourselves...

Betty Herz reports that, at the time of her husband Werner's memorial last spring, someone brought food to the family on a lovely plate that is still in her possession. The plate has Jefferson County decorations and looks sort of official. Betty would love to help the plate find its way home. Please contact Betty if you are the owner.

Fran Weinstock says her mother and member of First Unitarian, **Ruth Weinstock**, is back in the hospital. We will keep Fran and Ruth in our thoughts.

xxxxx xxxxx, daughter of **Susanne** and **Malcolm**, has suffered a broken leg and will be in a "full leg and then some" cast for several weeks. We send wishes for a speedy recovery to Elanor, Mom, Dad, and sister, xxxxx during this difficult time.

The church sends sincere sympathies to **Tom Heath** whose father, Tom Heath, Sr., passed away last week.

Our thoughts are with **Ron** and **Kathie Johnson**'s family as Ron's father faces his difficult battle with cancer.

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.

March 27 *Easter with a Transylvanian Twist.* Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associate Suzanne Meeks. Since Easter falls during our Partner Church month we will be incorporating some Transylvanian traditions into our Celebration of Life today. Our Outreach Offering today will go to support our annual commitment to our partner church in Nagyenyed.

April 3 *Teach Your Children Well - Lessons from Siddhartha.* Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associate Ken Shepherd. Raising children can be a challenge for both the parentor and the parentee. Not the least of these challenges is how much do we protect them and how much do we let them explore and experience the world around them. The story of Siddhartha offers us some insights into the delicate balancing act between parental boundaries and protection and the world of experience.

April 10 *Pursuit of Passionate Purpose.* Guest speaker, Theresa M. Szczyrek, Ph.D., a long-time UU and author of the new book, *Pursuit of Passionate Purpose*, offers a secular and spiritual approach to help you reap real rewards of life; meaning, satisfaction, and extraordinary results. A more in-depth workshop on this topic will follow the service from 1-3 p.m.