



STEEPLETALK

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 11 Number 10

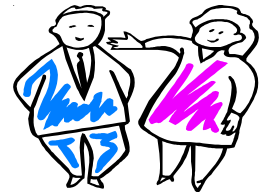
22 May 2005

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 • James Dersch, Instrumentalist • Rebecca Johnson, Music Director
Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, May 15, at the Celebration of Life the Congregation welcomed the following new members to the church life of First Unitarian:

Felicia and Jeff Schultz
Linda and Wayne Givens
Levin Elpers
Linda Fry
Brian Harper
Raymond Peart
Carol and Fred Lehman
Holly and Rick Hogue



You will recognize the new members by the orange ribbon on their name tags, so be sure to welcome them.



Women's Alliance to Meet in June

All women--members, friends, and newcomers to First Unitarian--are invited to a **Potluck Brunch** at **Kathy Thackeray's** home (xxxx xxxxx Dr. xxxxx) at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, June 18**. If you have questions, call xxx-xxxx or e-mail xxxxxx@xxxxx.com. Hope to see you all then, so please mark your calendars.

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

Notes from Norm

In one of my former lifetimes, I had a pretty good friend named Greg. I was young; he was a couple of years younger. Historically, it was in the days of Woodstock and other cultural phenomena which some of you may remember. We were no doubt impressionable, excitable young men. Greg had a somewhat interesting perspective on what he thought was heading up the road toward him. I don't think that it mattered much if we were talking about the next thing or the tenth thing coming up the road he was headed down.

This is what Greg thought. "The expectation almost always exceeds the experience." I am not sure I fully understood all of the philosophical implications of Greg's comment at the time. However, to me, a young man who was probably not known for deep thoughts in those days, there seemed to be a kernel of wisdom in it that one day might be harvested. That thought, "the expectation almost always exceeds the experience," has stayed with me through multiple lifetimes.

It came back to me again quite recently. It was on a Monday, my day off. I was running an assortment of errands; doctor's office, home store to get a fluorescent bulb for the laundry area, office supply store, grocery store, etc.

When I go to these places which generally have large parking areas in front of them I start out hoping that someone will have just left and I can get a parking spot in the row closest to the door and maybe within the first 6-8 cars or so. I like parking in the aisle closest to the door because when I park two or three aisles to right or left of the door I frequently am frustrated trying to remember where I parked. This is compounded by the fact that I drive a fairly non-

descript bronze Toyota Camry. The first time I ever took it in for service they asked me what color it was and I said, "the same as all the other Toyota Camrys, bronze."

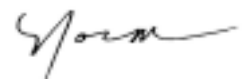
Depending upon the time of day my expectation of finding "primo" parking is more often than not frustrated by the reality of my experience. For most of my driving life, this dissonance between my expectation and my experience has diminished ever so slightly the sum total of my happiness here on planet Earth.

Just recently, I have made a very minor adjustment in my parking expectations and I find that my experience now almost always exceeds my expectation. All I did was to change my expectation from being "in the row closest to the door and maybe within the first 6-8 cars" to simply being "in the row closest to the door." I have tried it about 10 times so far, and am batting 100%.

The first day I tried this I had just parked in the aisle closest to the door at my local grocery and was walking up the aisle to the store feeling pretty good. A young mom came out to the store, with a bag of groceries in one arm and a baby in the other. She was obviously trying to find where she had parked her car. I started to tell her about my new modus operandi in parking lots. She immediately got it and flashed a wide grin and began to look for her car again.

Meanwhile, I continue to enjoy how this little change in my expectations has caused my parking experience to exceed my expectations most of the time.

Cheers,



New Adult Religious Education Program!

YOGA

Deepening Spirituality through Yoga
with Iyengar Yoga Teacher
Beth O'Hara



Tuesdays, 5:45-7:15
through August 2
Choir Room

AMUUSE Yourself at Summer Camp

AMUUSE (Adult Midwest Unitarian Universalist Singles) offers 3 week-long singles camps (ages 25-75) again this summer. You select a small group workshop in the mornings, and like the other UU camps there are many outrageous, stimulating or relaxing things to do in the evenings. Participants also keep in touch with workshops and get-togethers throughout the year. Get information from the website, www.amuuse.org, brochures in the church, or **Jill Harmer**, who has been to 4 of the camps.

Summer Dates for Steepletalk

| <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Dates Covered</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| May 27 | June 5 - 18 |
| June 10 | June 19 - July 16 (4 wks.) |
| July 8 | July 17 - Aug. 13 (4 wks.) |
| August 5 | Aug. 14 - Sept. 3 (3 wks.) |
| August 26 | September 4 - 17 (2 wks.) |
| September 9 | Sept. 18 - Oct. 1 (2 wks.) |

Clip and Save!

✓ **Volunteers Needed:** Call Marsha Bailey, 581-0190, if you are willing to represent one of 356 representative families **to protest loss of housing** assistance. This will be a rally on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Mazzoli Federal building and process to the Cathedral of the Assumption for a press event and an interfaith prayer service.

✓ **Interfaith Memorial Day Service:** Monday, May 30 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, South Second St. This is a solemn and creative remembering of past conflicts and present fields of violence. Chants, music and words of peace will be included. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace (previously been held at our church and contains a sequence first begun by **Jen Lavery** 17 years ago).

✓ One of the main concerns of the national **Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)** is clean water for all. Take a few minutes to take action: [Stupak/Shaw Stop Sewage Dumping Amendment](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a policy that will allow sewage treatment plants to routinely discharge inadequately treated sewage into our lakes, rivers, streams and coastal waters. Every year, millions of Americans get sick from contact with inadequately treated sewage that ends up in water that we swim in or drink. We need less sewage in our waters, not more.

Call or write your representative and ask him or her to vote FOR the Stop Sewage Dumping Amendment sponsored by Congressmen Clay Shaw and Bart Stupak. This amendment to the EPA's budget would prohibit spending any funds to finalize its proposed policy allowing more sewage pollution. Sign a sewage petition at www.sierra.org

REviews

Summer R.E. Update

As I write this, nine school days remain in Jefferson County. For many of us, the summer break means more time spent with family, vacation days, and a more relaxed schedule. While First Unitarian Church now keeps its doors open year-round, we do scale back our programs as we accommodate vacation time for church leaders and the overall drop in attendance that we have come to expect during the summer months. Therefore, first hour children's programs (9:45 – 10:45), Youth Groups, and "regular" children and youth R.E. classes will take a summer recess beginning the first Sunday in June: the final date for these programs this church year will be May 29. Nevertheless, there will be Sunday morning children's programming offered throughout the summer.

Throughout June, R.E. Committee members and I will oversee children's programs during the Celebration of Life, 10:55 – 12:15. For the past three years, we have been fortunate to have a Summer R.E. Coordinator overseeing children's programming throughout July and August. I am delighted to announce that we will continue that trend this year, and that our much-beloved **xxxxx White** will be our Coordinator. xxxxx's task will be to oversee two levels of children's R.E. programming (younger children in the Preschool room; older children in the Open Classroom) each Sunday, July 3 through August 21. One of the most important and challenging aspects of xxxxx's job will be recruiting four volunteer teachers for each Sunday -- two for each classroom. I want to thank the five youth/adult teams who have already signed up to teach for a Sunday this summer: **xxxxx Barron** and **Rhonda Green-Barron**, **Katy** and **xxxxxx Brown**, **Jim** and **xxxx Fry**, **Kathy** and **xxxx Gapsis**, and **John** and **xxx Scruton**. I'd like to

invite other youth/parent teams to participate in this opportunity to work together doing something meaningful while creating authentic inter-generational interaction and providing a much needed service to our congregation.

Additional adult volunteers are needed as well in order to make our summer children's programs as successful as possible.¹ The time commitment for volunteering will be from 10:45 - 12:15 on the July or August Sunday of your choosing. A simple and easy-to-follow lesson plan and all necessary materials will be provided, so your volunteer time will be spent in direct contact with the children. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

As we wind down this church year, I want to thank all of you who have participated in our religious education programs for children, youth, and adults for another great year of learning and growing together.

Peace, *Lisa*

¹ All adult volunteers are expected to follow the "First Unitarian Church Child and Youth Protection Policy," and will be required to sign a Statement of Agreement.

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.

• On **May 22**, we'll celebrate **Religious Education** during the Sunday morning worship service. If you've participated in Religious Education this year, I hope you'll come so that we can recognize you and your contributions.

• **May 22 notes:** Children and youth helpers would be much appreciated in the Open Classroom, 9:45 – 10:45 as we prepare for a Social Action Parade. Preschoolers will be leading the congregation in the morning's chalice lighting; please report to your classrooms as usual that morning for a quick "rehearsal." All 5th Graders will be recognized during the service as they are formally welcomed into the Middle School YoUUth Group, and are invited to meet in the Courtyard following the service for an Ice Cream Social. We'll also be recognizing our high school grads.

• Congratulations to **Bob Brown** and **Joe Edmiston**, First U's newest **OWL trainers**. Joe and Bob traveled to Lexington, where they spent an intensive weekend receiving their certification for OWL at the Jr. and Sr. High levels.

• Earlier this month, we held an orientation for next year's **Coming of Age** sessions, and ten of our Middle School students have signed up to participate in this UU rite of passage program: **xxxxx Barron, xxxxx Brown, xxx Curtis, xxxxx Gapsis, xxxxx Grossman, xxxxx Mattingly, xxxxx Rudolph, xxx Scruton, xxxxx Taylor, and xxxxx Whelan**. Mentor selection is almost complete, and our youth/adult Coming of Age pairs will be announced soon.

• **Summer R.E. helpers needed.** This is a short-term, one-time commitment that is a great way to fulfill parent co-op responsibilities for our religious education program. See the accompanying REviews column, and speak with Lisa Willner for more information.

Sunday Morning

Adult Round Table

Church Library

Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

• **May 22 -- *Stories From Our Past*.** The **Rev. Bob Reed**, First U minister from 1968-1985, will provide a sense of our history, discovered in minute books and scrapbooks found one day early in his ministry.

• **May 29 -- *Mimosa Breakfast*.** Enjoy breakfast with the Round Table class, and provide the Curricula Team with comments on Round Table programs, to assist us with future planning.

Curricula Meeting: May 24, 6:15 pm. For more information or to suggest a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firstulou.org

Summer Conversations

During June, Round Table will finish the **UU Catechism** with the wrap-up session, "What Do UUs Believe?" Check your *Steepletalk* for the date. First hour programming for adults will continue through the summer, with less formal programming than during the regular season, including discussion of articles from the *UU World*. Child care during first hour must be requested in advance, by calling 585-5110. Youth are welcome to attend the Summer Conversations.

Mark Your Calendars for Directory Photos!

Make plans to have your picture taken on September 15, 16 or 17 at Church for the **175th Anniversary Directory**. *Smile!*

Shared Ministry



Recognition and education of new members, filling committee positions, keeping the calendar and making sure people get the information they need - such are the most recent activities in Shared Ministry.

By now new members have been recognized in the May 15 Celebration of Life. Thanks to the Shared Ministry Committee for continuing to help new members become assimilated into the life of First Unitarian. Remember that plans are to offer “UU Roots” again in the fall. “UU Roots” is a class developed to introduce interested persons to Unitarian Universalism. Members who want to know more about our history are welcome as well.

The Shared Ministry Committee continues to work to fill a few remaining committee positions. If you want to become involved in the work at First Unitarian through committee work please contact one of the members of the Shared Ministry Committee or me so that we can talk to you about available opportunities.

The keeping of the calendar is one of my newer responsibilities, and the FYI section of the *Steepletalk* will also note this. I actually enjoy this new responsibility, but remember those wanting to reserve a space for meetings and functions are required to complete a Scheduling Request Form. Forms are in a folder at the volunteer desk. Call or email me about space availability. Also note that my office hours have changed. My home phone is xxx-xxxx. Feel free to call me at home on the two mornings that I work from there.

I will also be providing information for the FYI section of both the *Steepletalk* and the Order of Service/Bulletin. If you have been send-

ing that information to Vince please make a note to get it to me instead.

Hope you are having a great “end-of-school” time and that you have great plans for the summer.

Linda

Linda Givens Shared Ministry Coordinator

Office hours

Monday: 9am-12noon (hm); 12:30pm-2:30pm (ch)
Tuesday: 9am-2:30pm (ch)
Wednesday: 9am-11:30am (h) 12:00am-3:30pm (ch)
Thursday: 9am-3:30pm (ch)
Friday: off

502-585-5110
sharedministry@firstulou.org

FYI

➡ **Calendar scheduling** is now being done through Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator. Call or email Linda about space availability. Those wanting to reserve a space for an event or meeting must complete a Scheduling Request Form.

➡ If you are interested in promoting, organizing, planning, helping with church social activities (those activities planned “just for fun”) please see **Kathy Thackeray, Kathy Drehmel, Linda Givens** or a member of the Shared Ministry Committee.

➡ Can you spare a few hours on a couple of **Monday afternoons**--say 12noon – 3pm.or 1pm-4pm, or any combination of those hours? If so there is a **church office volunteer opportunity** waiting for you. Call Linda Givens at the church office if you are willing.

Building Use Calendar: May 19 - June 4

May

19 Thursday
7:15pm Choir practice, choir room

21 Saturday
Set-up for RE Recognition Service
8:00pm *Sienna, choir room

22 Sunday - RE Recognition Service
9:00am Learning Team meeting-parlor
10:00am **Plant Sale**, courtyard/social hall
10:55am Celebration of Life
12:15pm Informational Mtg: UU101, library
12:15pm Social Responsibility Comm., parlor
12:30pm Flute Choir practice-choir rm
12:50pm Board "4th St. Sign Forum," library
1:00pm SR high OWL class

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

24 Tuesday
12:30pm Administrative Staff meeting
12:30pm *Walden Sch.grad. rehearsal, sanct.
5:30pm Worship Comm.
5:45pm Yoga class, choir room
6:15pm SMART Curriculum planning
6:30pm RE Committee, open classrm
8:00pm *Walden School Graduation

25 Wednesday
Chalice Night

26 Thursday
12:30pm *Spalding U grad.practice, sanct.
5:30pm Activities Comm., library
7:15pm Choir Practice, choir room

27 Friday
12:00pm *Steepletalk* Deadline
7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library
6:00pm *Private event

28 Saturday
5:00pm *Spalding University MFA graduation, sanc/ch rm/lib

29 Sunday
9:00am Learning Team, parlor
10:55am Celebration of Life

30 Monday--Memorial Day Holiday
Church Office CLOSED

31 Tuesday
9:30am *Steepletalk* Folding Party
12:30pm Administrative Staff meeting
5:45pm Yoga class, choir room

June

1 Wednesday
Chalice Night Coord Team, 5/6 rm
Chalice Night

2 Thursday
7:15pm Choir Practice, choir room

3 Friday
*Private event

4 Saturday
*Private event

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

Just among ourselves...

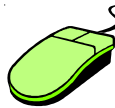
We are happy to welcome **xxxxxx Klueber**, born May 5, 2005, to the First U family. xxxxxx was 9.2 lbs and 20 + inches long at birth. We send love and congratulations to the proud mom and dad, **Angela** and **Jason Klueber**, and to big sister **xxxxxx!**

STEEPLETALK

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

May 22 *It Takes a Village.* Join us for our annual Religious Education Recognition Service as we celebrate the multigenerational aspects of our religious community. Special music by xxxxxx, Terry, and Blair White, xxxxxx Cxxxx-Ellison and Joanne Graf, Tiffany Taylor, and the First U Middle School "Band." We'll also be recognizing and bidding a formal farewell to our high school graduates.

May 29 *Stuff That Works.* Rev. Norm Stewart. Our church year begins in July and ends at the end of June. As we begin to wind down the church year I will be reflecting on the year that is coming to an end and specifically on what I have come to believe is "Stuff That Works." The title comes from a song of the same name by one of my favorite Texas singer/songwriters, Guy Clark.

June 5 *Re-claiming Vacation.* Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associates, Carol Edelen and Kathie Johnson. Are you working more now and enjoying life less? Researchers claim, "U.S. workers now work an average of nine full weeks more than their European workers do." Author, Sue Bender writes, "We all need a certain amount of fallow time. . . . Watching the grass grow, sitting on the hillside, staring out the windows day/dreaming. When we don't have it, there is a deeper intelligence that won't come forth."