



# STEEPLETALK

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 11 Number 11

05 June 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

### Oyez! Oyez!

The First Unitarian Society of Louisville  
(established July 3, 1830)

Announces:

Picnic for celebration, fun, and merriment

Sunday, July 3, 2005

12:30 - 5:00 pm

Thurman Hutchins Park

at River Road & Indian Hills Trail

Luck Fare, Scavenger Hunt, Croquet, Volleyball, Fishing  
Special Treat: Homemade Ice Cream



### Annual Congregational Meeting Set for June 6

The 174th Annual Meeting of First Unitarian Church will be held in the sanctuary on Monday, June 6, 2005, at 7:00pm. Announcement of the meeting was sent to active members via first class mail last week. In accordance with the church Constitution (Article III, Section 8), "Active members shall have the right to vote on all matters which are legally allowable in the Commonwealth of Kentucky if they have signed the membership book or have had their suspended or inactive membership reinstated by the Board at least 60 days prior to the mailing of the official notice of any special or regular congregational meeting." Child care will be available.

**"To Dwell Together in Peace..."**

## Notes from Norm

As we wind down another church year I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone - and especially those of you who have not been specifically acknowledged in the last two services (*RE Recognition* and *Stuff That Works*) - for everything you do throughout the year to make church happen at the corner of 4th and York.

**Special Service on June 12** – The Friends of the Louisville Free Public Library giant Spring Book Sale will be June 10-12 at our church. So, we needed to find an alternative sight for our June 12 Celebration of Life. In the past the Book Sale coincided with our family campouts. However, due to a near “perfect storm” of circumstances the campout was not coming together this year, and it was decided not to try to pull it together at such a late date. We are already trying to make sure that we have a family campout again next year.

As I write this, we are planning an outdoor service for **Sunday, June 12 at Central Park either at or near the Amphitheater**. Please bring your own lawn chair for the service and an extra one if you have it for those that forget to bring a chair. Sunglasses and/or umbrellas may also be in order depending on the whims of the weather gods.

Even though we won't have the campout this year, we definitely want to encourage everyone who is in town on **July 3** to plan to come to the **All-Church 175th Anniversary Picnic**. It will be held at Thurman Hutchins Park on River Road immediately after church. Look for more details elsewhere in this *Steepletalk* or at church.

**Tentative Summer Plans** – Both Lisa and I will be on vacation for the month of July, and I will be on study leave for the month of August. I

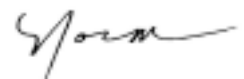
expect to be in and out of town and the office sporadically during July and August. For pastoral emergencies please use my cell phone to reach me (xxx-xxxx).

The office will be on limited hours for the summer, probably 10 am until 2 pm most days. **Linda Givens**, our new Shared Ministry Coordinator, and **John Durham**, our Building Supervisor, with the help of our great office volunteers will be responsible for keeping things running smoothly during the summer months. If you can't reach a real person when you need something, please leave a message on the church phone system. Messages are generally checked twice a day and followed up on in a timely manner.

Our summer service plans are coming together nicely, and I encourage you to come and hear as many of our talented service presenters as you can. Several of them will be guest speakers and several will be our own 1st U members or friends. A complete schedule of all of the summer services will be available before I leave for General Assembly.

**Ingathering Water Communion** – As you head off to points afar and not so far for your summer vacation, remember to collect a small sample of water from those adventures for use in our **September 11 Ingathering Service**. This will mark the fourth year we have collected and blended together those waters representing our community. We use that community water for child dedications and other services of remembrance and commemoration throughout the year.

Take care,



by Rose Stevens

The **Board of Trustees** met **Tuesday, May 17**, in the Church Library. Due to a very long agenda and much New Business, the Board members voted to add a special Board meeting on Tuesday, May 24, in order to deal with all the necessary items.

- Members of the **Learning Team** distributed and discussed their report, which will be included in the report to the Annual Meeting in June. They were asked to return to the special Board meeting on May 24 to continue discussion.

- The **Special Congregational Meeting** minutes were approved as read and the regular **Congregational Annual Meeting** date and time, Monday, June 6, 7:00 P.M., were reviewed and finalized.

- We discussed **Shared Ministry** and **Midwest Leadership School candidates**, with names of prospective nominees to be contacted by Board members. Shared Ministry Committee submitted a list of nominees for various positions to be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

- The **Personnel Policy Manual**, with suggested changes, was approved by unanimous vote. The No Smoking Policy was accepted as written. The Communications Policy will be voted on later following more input from the Congregation.

- Council Liaison reported upcoming **Leadership Retreat** dates: August 12-13. New Committee Chair orientation will be in June. July 3 is the 175th Anniversary Committee picnic.

- Several reports were tabled or postponed until May 24 or the regular June Board meeting. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 24, 7:30 P.M., and the regular meeting for June 21, 7:00 P.M., both in the Church Library. Members are welcome to attend.

➔ Did you know that the **Funeral and Memorial Society of Greater Louisville** was started by some First U members and U of L faculty members after Jessica Mitford's *The American Way of Death* (now revised as *The American Way of Death Revisited*)? Want to make sensible plans for end of life? Contact the organization at xxx-xxx or P. O. Box 5326, Louisville, KY 40255-0326. Check [www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org) for the website of the national movement.

➔ Your social responsibility committee is partnering locally with **Common Cause** to sponsor "Preview Forum" twice a year at the church in the years to come. The League of Women Voters and the American Library Association are among the national sponsors. Is this something you would like to work on? More info at [preview\\_forum@roundtablemedia.com](mailto:preview_forum@roundtablemedia.com).

➔ Have an interest in social responsibility? Contact continuing committee members: **Jill Harmer, Dennis Thompson, or Roger Ohlman.**

## Summer Dates for Steepletalk

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Dates Covered</u>
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!**

## REviews

As our church year winds to a close, here are a few Religious Education updates:

- “Regular” religious education classes for children and youth have come to an end for this church year, as have children’s first hour programs and youth group meetings. Many thanks to our wonderful R.E. teachers, our youth advisors, and our many, many first hour presenters. Children’s religious education programming will be offered throughout the summer, Sunday mornings 10:55 – 12:15, in the Open Classroom. It is our great good fortune that **Laura xxxxx** has agreed to be our Summer R.E. Coordinator during July and August. Several volunteers - mostly middle school youth and their parents - have already signed on to staff a classroom one Sunday morning in July or August, and more volunteers are still needed. If you’d like to help out, please contact me for more information.

- At its May meeting, the R.E. Committee reviewed a proposal for reconstituting our Senior High Youth Group. The proposal represented the diligent efforts of an ad hoc group of youth and adults, and included clear statements of expectations for members of the youth group and for the R.E. Committee. I thought the proposal was excellent, and it was endorsed by all committee members who were present at that meeting. Among the proposal’s recommendations are more training for youth advisors, clearer and more direct communication of concerns by the R.E. Committee and DRE, and youth taking more ownership and responsibility for creating a welcoming space and addressing all six components of a balanced youth group (fellowship, worship, social action, leadership development, learning, and youth/adult relations). I am greatly encouraged that the process of re-building our youth group is moving along in such a positive direction.

- In case you missed the R.E. Recognition

Celebration of Life on May 22, mentor selection for next year’s Coming of Age rite-of-passage program is now complete. Here is the list of our Coming of Age candidate/mentor pairs: **xxxxx xxxxxx/Jess Schreiber, xxxxxx xxxxxx/Cassandra Culin-Ellison, xxxxx xxxxxx/Bob Ballard, xxxxx xxxxxx/Rose Stevens, xxxxx xxxxxxxx/Claudia Runge, xxxxx xxxxxxxx/Norm Stewart, xxxxx xxxxxxxx/Joan Beal, xxx xxxxxx/Bernie Schweickart, xxxxxx xxxxxxxx/Mary Ballard, and xxxxxx xxxxxx/Cathy Bohler.** What an outstanding group of youth, and what an outstanding group of adults to support them! The program will get underway in the late summer/early fall.

- In closing, just another word of thanks for the hard-working and talented members of our Religious Education Committee. Their charge is substantial and their duties are many. Throughout this year, they have consistently applied their ample professional, personal, and creative skills to maintaining a religious education program of depth, breadth, and integrity. Many thanks to **Carol Uebelhoer (Chair), Joan Beal, Jim Fry, Seana Golder, Patty Kannapel, Kathy Kremer, Bob Schaad, and Tiffany Taylor.** I appreciate all you do for our congregation.

Peace,

*Lisa*

### 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!**

## Looking for New Co-editor

by **Claudia Runge**, *Steepletalk* editor

The task of putting this bi-weekly newsletter together is never boring; however, it does require a substantial commitment of time when only one person is on the job. Many of you know that **Scott Borden**, my very able *Steepletalk* co-editor for more than two years, is no longer be able to continue in that position. If you are interested in learning PageMaker software, like to check and arrange copy, would enjoy getting church news first hand, and have extra time on some weekends, please contact me by email at [xxxxx@xxxxxx.org](mailto:xxxxx@xxxxxx.org). I will be happy to teach you “the ropes” until you’re ready to take over every other issue--approximately once a month.

## Lisa Willner

### Religious Education Director

Telephone

(502) 585-5110 (Office)

E-mail

[dre@firstulou.org](mailto: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

- **June 5** -- Budget Hearing
- **June 12** -- No Program -- Library Book Sale
- **June 19** -- *What Do UUs Believe?* This is the wrap-up session for the UU Catechism, a UUA curriculum. **Frank Slesnick**, leader.  
Curricula Meeting June 21, 6:15 pm. For more information or to suggest a program, email the Curricula Team at [xxxxx@xxxxxx.org](mailto:xxxxx@xxxxxx.org)

## Summer Conversations

First hour programming for adults will continue through July and August, 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.

## 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**

[xxxxxx@xxxxxx.org](mailto:xxxxxx@xxxxxx.org)

### Tingley House

by Janet Rink

Our service project at the Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter (Tingley House) ended for this school year on May 24. In both the Study Buddy room, where we provide tutors for school-age children, and in the Play Room, where we provide nurturing play for pre-schoolers, volunteers said good-bye to children we've grown to love. When we return to Tingley House in September, we hope NOT to see these children again.

"NOT to see these children again?" That's correct. We hope the children and their families will have moved from the homeless shelter to stable housing situations. But we know for sure there will be new families at Tingley House in September and new children we will grow to love.

Some first-time volunteers from our church participated in the Study Buddy program in May and expressed interest in returning next fall. Thanks to **Rae Cobbs, Gayle and Keith Wilhelmi, and Jim Fry!** Other regular volunteers in May were **Claudia and David Runge, Tim and Jane Martin Buckley, Fran Fargen, and Mikel Childer.** Play Room volunteers in May were **Jeff Schultz, Pam and xxxxxxx Moe, Kathy Kremer, Tish Moore, Erica Cates, and I.**

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered at Tingley House during this church year. Our presence there reflects our covenant, especially the commitment to service and helping one another.



### Brownbaggers

No brown bag; no bag, and no noon meeting. But there is an important alternative. We have been invited to **Joan and Don Johnson's** home for a potluck on June 20. Please plan to be there between 4 - 4:30 so we can have a short meeting before we eat.

This is a meeting to plan our agenda for the '05 - '06 year, so be thinking up some ideas. See you there! If you need directions, call Joan or Don.

### 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

Did you know you can read ***Steepletalk* online?** You can access it from the church website at [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org). Check it out!

### Women's Alliance to Meet June 18

All women--members, friends, and newcomers to First Unitarian--are invited to a **Potluck Brunch** at **Kathy Thackeray's** home (xxxx xxxxxx Dr. 40205) at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, June 18.** If you have questions, call xxx-xxxx or e-mail [xxxxxxx@yahoo.com](mailto:xxxxxxx@yahoo.com). Hope to see you all then, so please mark your calendars.

# Building Use Calendar: June 2 - 18

## June

**2 Thursday**  
7:15pm Choir Practice, choir room

**3 Friday**  
\*Private event

**4 Saturday**  
\*Private event

**5 Sunday**  
9:45am Youth/Adult Committee, RE library  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
4:00pm Drum Circle, choir rm

**6 Monday**  
7:00pm Annual Meeting

**7 Tuesday**  
12:30pm Administrative Staff Meeting  
6:30pm PDR, library

**8 Wednesday**  
\*Library Book Sale

**9 Thursday**  
\*Library book sale

**10 Friday**  
\*Library Book Sale  
12:00pm *Steepletalk* Deadline  
7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

**11 Saturday**  
\*Library Book Sale

**12 Sunday**  
\*Library Book Sale

**13 Monday**  
\*Library Book Sale  
6:30pm \*Tai Chi-choir rm or social hall

**14 Tuesday**  
9:30am *Steepletalk* folding party, library  
12:30pm Administrative Staff Meeting  
7:00pm Council, library

**17 Friday**  
\* Private event

**18 Saturday**  
\* Private event  
8:00pm \*Sienna, choir rm

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



Consider attending a **Labyrinth Workshop** through Thomas Jefferson Unitarian on **Saturday, June 4** at 1:00. RSVP Mitra at TJ (xxx-xxx-xxxx) \$15. Contact First U member **Jill Harmer** to hear from a past participant.

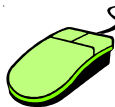
## Just among ourselves...

Please take a moment to personally congratulate **Jesse Woodrow**, who took his G.E.D. test on April 25 & 26 and passed it! Some of you may know that Jesse has been going to school 3 hrs. a day, 4 days a week to prepare for the test. Jesse's own words say it best: "I can't tell you how good it feels after 37 years. This is a major accomplishment for me, and a real morale booster." We're proud of you, Jesse!

## STEEPLETALK

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(4 weeks)



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## **Celebrations of Life**

*Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.*

**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 daydreaming. When we don’t have it, there is a deeper intelligence that won’t come forth.”

**June 12** *Sunday in the Park.* **Rev. Norm Stewart & Friends.** The library is in our building for the big book sale today and we weren’t able to get the camp out organized so we’ll be having our Celebration of Life in Central Park today. We will be at or near the Amphitheater. Bring a lawn chair, sunglasses and/or an umbrella. There’s an Old Faithful like geysers sprinkler near the Amphitheater for those who want to chill out after church. If you have something to contribute to the service or a favorite hymn you want us to sing, suggest it to Norm soon.

**June 19** *Living the Welcoming Congregation.* **Rev. Norm Stewart and Worship Associates from Interweave.** Welcoming Congregation is not something we visit now and then. It is an ongoing commitment that we weave into the fabric of our congregational character. Today’s service will explore recommending ourselves to living the Welcoming Congregation program.