

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 11 Number 12

19 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

Summer Choir: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?

from **Jo Ann Dale**

A few folks are exploring the idea of having a bit of a choir presence during the summer. The idea is that everyone interested in getting a great view of the congregation (by sitting on the risers) will show up at 10:00am to practice singing the hymns. We're talking very relaxed and non-pressured here: We would have no leader and obviously we would do no anthems, but it would keep the risers from looking so vacant, and it would probably help the congregation with the hymns.

This is particularly important in the summer when church-shopping happens and we have non-UU visitors.

If you think you might be interested, please contact me, **Jo Ann Dale**, (xxxxxxx@yahoo.com) so we can determine whether the idea is feasible at all.



News Flash from the "Kitchen Witch"

from **Geneva Fry**

Are you missing your favorite bowl or casserole dish? Is your bread basket not on your sideboard? Perhaps you left it at church the last time you brought cookies to the coffee hour or you left it at a pitch in. Most "found" items are located in the corner between the two pass through windows, although there are some bowls and dishes that have been lost so long the church has put them in its own collection. Next time you are at church please look in the kitchen for your lost dish, or ask me if I've seen your missing item so I can help you locate it. **There is about to be a great cleanup in the kitchen, so if you have items to claim, please do before they disappear.**



STEEPLETALK

"To Dwell Together in Peace..."

Notes from Norm

Let me say thanks again to all of those church leaders, committee members, RE teachers and the Learning Team whose terms of service are over with the end of the current church year June 30th. Simply stated, “we couldn’t do it without your efforts.” And, ditto to those who will be continuing in your current capacities in the next church year. Kudos to our Shared Ministry Committee for their care-filled efforts to find gifted people to replace those whose terms have been completed.

A few days after this edition of *Steepletalk* arrives in people’s mailboxes, I will be off to Ft. Worth, Texas. First for Professional Days - two days of meetings and workshops before General Assembly starts - and then for G.A. itself. Professional Days, formerly called Ministry Days, has been expanded to include not only ordained ministers but other professional staff members such as religious educators, musicians, etc. I enjoy these two days because of the opportunity to connect with colleagues who have become friends of mine over the years from seminary, four different UUA Districts and other less formal meetings. It is also far less hectic than General Assembly itself because only about 20% of the crowd is there at that point. I can only imagine what the crowds at G.A. must be like for people that are less extroverted than I am.

Despite the crowds, I usually enjoy General Assembly more than I expect that I will, i.e., my experience exceeds my expectations and that is a good thing. There are so many great workshops, speakers, fun events, and exhibits to see, hear, visit, etc. In addition, there is great UU specific shopping that it is almost too much to resist - especially all the book deals at the UUA Bookstore. It’s an excellent way to re-charge your UU battery at the end of a church year so

that you are all ready to go when we things back into high gear in the fall.

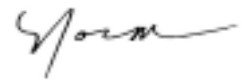
I’m telling you all of this because if you are not already what is known as a “G.A. Junkie,” next year will be your chance to test the waters with minimal travel distance and expense because it will be held just a short drive down I-64 in St. Louis. It is usually the last full weekend in June, so start making your plans to be there now.

* * * * *

Speaking of getting back in the full swing of things in the fall, I find myself cautiously optimistic about the coming church year. We have so many great programs in place already and new Board members who are enthusiastic about keeping things moving forward. We have a lot of serious work to do to continue what the Learning Team has begun. However, I sense a growing willingness to engage in the difficult questions about the future of our congregation. And, I also notice that there are a significant number of you who want to make sure that it is not “all work and no play” in the coming year - and that’s a good thing, too.

I will be on vacation in July and on study leave for some of August. I will be in town a lot in August for planning meetings, etc. for the new church year. In case of emergency, you can reach me on my cell phone. You can get my cell phone number by calling my direct private line at xxx-xxxx where the greeting gives that number for emergencies.

Hope that you have a chance to rest and relax a little this summer!



PICNIC

★Last Call★

Join Us
as we Celebrate

The 175th Anniversary of First Unitarian Church!

On this day 175 years ago, "The First Unitarian Society of Louisville" was established. On this day 25 years ago, we celebrated this remarkable accomplishment with a picnic on the Belle of Louisville. This year, we will carry on with the tradition of celebrating our church anniversary beginning with

★Picnic in the Park★

Sunday, July 3, 2005

After the Celebration of Life service to 5:00 pm
Thurman Hutchins Park, at River Road & Indian Hills Trail, Louisville



Pot Luck Lunch
Homemade Ice Cream
Games, including
Scavenger Hunt
Tie Dye T-shirt-making
Board Games

★ Featuring ★

Card Games
Croquet
Fishing
Walking Trails
Prizes,
And more!



For a Real Good Time, bring along: A pot luck dish (signup sheets in Social Hall after church every Sunday until July 3) AND Meat and charcoal ★ Fishing Poles ★ Walking Shoes
★ Sunscreen ★ Bug Spray ★ Lawn Chairs ★

Park amenities include Ballfield, Fishing lake, Grills, Picnic Shelter, Playground, Restrooms, Soccer fields, Walking path (0.9 mile), Bugs, and Sun!

For more information, stop by the 175th Anniversary Information Table in the Social Hall after church on Sunday, go to www.firstulou.org/SpecialEvents/175thpicnic.html, or call Rose Stevens at xxx-xxxx.

Summer Religious Education News

Throughout June, members of the Religious Education Committee will be offering children's programming in the Open Classroom and Preschool Room, 10:55 - 12:15. First hour programs (9:45 - 10:45) will resume in September.

Beginning in July and continuing through August, **Laura White** steps in as our Summer Religious Education Coordinator. This summer's theme will be "UU Identity," and each Sunday in July and August will feature stories and activities relating to one of the seven Unitarian Universalist Principles. For more information, or to volunteer to help staff a classroom* contact Laura at xxxxxxxxxx@hotmail.com.

*All volunteers working with children or youth at First Unitarian Church are required to comply with the Child and Youth Protection Policy, and to sign a Statement of Agreement.

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.

Lisa is on vacation during the month of July.

With the Annual Meeting behind and summer ahead the Shared Ministry Committee will continue its meeting and greeting of visitors as well as long-time and new members. Committee members will continue to work with me to fill vacancies on a couple of committees. Other Shared Ministry committee members will continue to work on completing exit interviews with people who have resigned from the church - a new project began earlier this year.

BUT---- The Shared Ministry Committee will do its work this summer and next year without two people who have had such key roles in moving First U toward a shared approach to ministry, **Kathy Thackeray** and **Kathy Drehmel**. The committee will miss their knowledge of the concept of Shared Ministries, their dedication to seeing that new members are welcomed and informed about the happenings around this church, their thoughtful efforts to staff church committees, and their willingness to be a ready resource to the Shared Ministry Coordinator. My good fortune is that they both moved over to Church Council, a committee with which I work. (They can run, but they can't hide.) Thank you Kathy and Kathy for all you have done to make Shared Ministry such an important part of this church.

Speaking of Shared Ministry, please let me know if you want to do some office volunteering this summer as most of our regular volunteers will be vacationing at some point.

Since office hours will be shortened this summer I will work both from home and from the church. If I'm not at the church when you call please leave a message. I regularly check the church answering system when I work from home.

Linda

Watch this space:

The Sermon on the Amount

This is where future financial information will be provided.

G. Schuhmann, Treasurer

A Simple CC: Will Do

from **Holly Hogue, Webweaver**

Do you know how many people come to our web site first and then to our Church? From March to May the "Where we are" page was visited 522 times. Keeping the Web Site up to date is important to growing our community. When you have news or digital photographs of events involving the Church, please carbon copy your email(s) to webweaver@firstulou.org. Also, when you know about events and know who to contact, please cc the people involved.

Linda Givens Shared Ministry Coordinator

Office hours for summer
Monday - Thursday
10am - 2 pm* (most weeks)
Friday: off

**Linda will work from home at times,
so feel free to call her there at 459-6297.*

502-585-5110
sharedministry@firstulou.org

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library
Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

- **June 19 - Summer Conversations** -- *UU World* article
- **June 26 -- What Do UUs Believe?** This is the wrap-up session for the UU Catechism, a UUA curriculum. **Frank Slesnick**, leader.
- **July 3 -- Summer Conversations** -- *UU World* article. The Summer Conversations will continue throughout July and August
- **Curricula Meeting** -- June 21, 6:15 pm. For more information or to suggest a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firstulou.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 welcomed to attend the Summer Conversations.

STEEPLETALK

Published every two weeks (with exceptions) by
First Unitarian Church of Louisville
809 South 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40203

Next deadline: **Friday, July 8, 2005**
(covers July 17 - August 13)
(4 weeks)



Editor: Claudia Runge

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org

Social Action

✓ Please visit the **Social Responsibility Committee's table** for just a few minutes after the service in order to write 3 or 4 sentences to Congress regarding the need for **increased funding to fight infectious diseases like AIDS and TB**. KY Senator Mitch McConnell chairs the key committee in regards to foreign aid (and decisions on funding levels will be made very soon) so letters from his constituents are vital!

✓ Planning Ahead: **Nadine Strossen**, National ACLU director will speak at the 50th anniversary of the KY Chapter on September 24, 2005. ACLYKY requests memorabilia and memories. Please call 581-9746 or email beth@aclu-ky.org. Did you know that ACLU of KY rented office space from us in the 809 S. Fourth St. house prior to our big fire in 1985?

✓ **Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance Week** begins with a concert for contemplation and non-violence by **Harry Pickens** on August 3. Call 214-7322 for more info.

✓ **Statewide Fairness Dinner** -- Brown Hotel. August 5. Call 897-1973 for info.

✓ **Children's Theater Tour from Aida Refugee Camp**, Bethlehem: week of July 4-9. Call 456-6586 or 244-7855 for info.

✓ **Media Reform Discussion**: Brick House, 1101 S. Second St. Call 479-9262 for info.

Events to Remember

- **Brownbaggers** meet at **Don and Joan Johnson's** on June 20 for planning and a potluck. Plan to arrive between 4 and 4:30.
- **Women's Alliance** meets at **Kathy Thackeray's** at 10:00am on Saturday, June 18, for a potluck brunch.
- **YOGA** -- Each **Tuesday at 5:35pm** in choir room through Aug. 2.

Church Policy

No Smoking Policy Revised

from **Beverly Moore**, Secretary

At the May 17 meeting, the Board of Trustees passed a revised No Smoking Policy for the Church. **Notice that smoking is no longer allowed in the Courtyard or on the Library Lane porch during Church-sponsored events.**

No Smoking Policy

First Unitarian Church is committed to providing a smoke-free environment to protect the health, welfare, and comfort of all congregant adults and children from the adverse effects of tobacco smoke from cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. Effective May 17, 2005, smoking is prohibited within the church building at all times. This includes all meeting rooms, classrooms, offices, hallways, elevators, reception areas, restrooms, the sanctuary, kitchen, storage rooms, and corridors. In addition, smoking is not allowed in the courtyard or on the Library Lane porch when church-sponsored events are taking place at the church.

Procedure

In view of the fact that each and every person benefits from a smoke-free environment, the enforcement of this policy is most equitably placed as a responsibility on all members of the Church community. Visitors are expected to honor this policy. The success of this policy depends upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of non-smokers and smokers alike. Any questions regarding the above may be directed to the Minister, Office Manager, Shared-ministry Coordinator, Director of Religious Education, or President of the Board of Trustees.



Building Use Calendar: June 17 - July 16

June

17 Friday
 6:00 *Private event

18 Saturday
 8:30am Committee chair training, open cr
 9:30am *Private event, sanctuary, lib, choir rm
 10:00am Women's Alliance, Thackeray's home
 8:00pm *Sienna, choir rm

19 Sunday -- Father's Day
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 12:15pm Social Responsibility Cmte., library
 12:15pm Church Bldg. Tour
 3:00pm *Lou. Comm. for Isr/Pal Sts, choir rm
 5:00pm CUUPs - Litha/Midsummer Celebration, sanc, sh, cy

20 Monday
 4:00pm Brownbaggers, Johnson's house
 6:30pm *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall

21 Tuesday -- Summer Solstice
 12:30 pm Administrative Staff Meeting
 5:45pm Yoga, choir room
 6:15pm SMART Curriculum Team, open cr

23 Thursday
 UU General Assembly -- Ft. Worth

24 Friday
 UU General Assembly -- Ft. Worth
 6:00pm *Private event, sanctuary
 7:00pm UU Christian Fellowship, library

25 Saturday
 UU General Assembly -- Ft. Worth
 9am *Private event, sanctuary

26 Sunday
 General Assembly -- Ft. Worth
 10:55am R.E. programming
 10:55am Celebration of Life

27 Monday
 General Assembly -- Ft. Worth
 6:00pm Finance Committee, parlor
 6:30pm *Tai Chi, choir rm or social hall

28 Tuesday
 12:30pm Administrative Staff
 5:45pm Yoga, choir room
 6:30pm R.E. Committee, open classroom

30 Thursday

5:30pm Activities Committee, library

July

3 Sunday -- 175th Anniversary of First Unitarian Church in Louisville
 10:55am R.E. programming
 10:55am Celebration of Life
after service - 5pm -- All Church Picnic (see p.3) to kick off a year of celebrating our birthday!

4 Monday -- Independence Day
 Church office closed

5 Tuesday
 5:45pm Yoga, choir room

8 Friday
 12:00pm *Steepletalk* deadline

10 Sunday
 10:55pm R.E. programming
 10:55pm Celebration of Life

12 Tuesday
 9:30am *Steepletalk* folding party, library
 12:30pm All staff meeting
 5:45pm Yoga, choir room

14 Thursday
 11:00am 175th Anniversary Cmte., library

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

Summer Dates for Steepletalk

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Dates Covered</u>
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.)

Foraging for Fundraisers

Here's what you can do to help with upcoming church fundraising efforts:

- ✓ Save **coathangers** for the **HELP Ministries' Giant Yard Sale, Aug.20**. Put your neatly bundled hangers in the church storage room as soon as possible, and **Linda Parry** will collect them.
- ✓ **Pick and freeze** an extra quart or two of **berries** to be used at our **Yuletide Fair** this winter.

**First Unitarian Church
809 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-2115**

Return Service Requested

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, Kentucky
Permit No. 146**

Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

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 recommitting ourselves to living the Welcoming Congregation program.

June 26 *Blessing of the Animals.* Today we'll honor the pets and animal friends who are part of our beloved community. You're invited to bring pets on leashes or in appropriate carriers; they must be under adult supervision for the enjoyment and safety of all participating. Please also bring pictures or mementos of pets living or gone, to help decorate the platform. The service will be led by **Tiffany and Doug Taylor** and **Anne Miller**. Questions? Call xxx-xxxx.

July 3 *It's a Terquinsquicentennial!* Or, in English, it's the very day of the Church's 175th birthday. **Jennifer Lavery**, church history buff, will lead a service on the theme of "What's More?" What "more" were those founding members seeking in July, 1830? What "more" do we seek at First U today?

July 10 *When You Come to a Fork in the Road.* **Worship Associate, Emil Roy.** What makes U's distinctive? Turning away from the well-traveled road because everyone else is on it, thinks Richard Allen, author of this "Great Sermon." Today's service will look into reasons why we have more passion for diversity than identity.