



STEEPLETALK

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 11 Number 13

17 July 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
Bill Allison/Sharon Leighty, Board Co-Presidents • 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

Start Gathering Items for Big Yard Sale!

by **Linda Parry**

Our church will be holding a yard sale to coincide with several inner-city churches on August 20. A part of the proceeds will go to the HELP Center as part of our long time commitment of support for this very worthy, very needed facility. The HELP Center exists to help people in time of crisis, homelessness, utilities cut off, or to pay for needed medications. The rest of the proceeds will go to our church's general fund, which also is in need of assistance. All usable items are needed.



If you are unable to keep the items until closer to this date, they can come to the church earlier. Please let me know, **Linda Parry** at xxx-xxxx, so I can see that they are stowed away. Also let me know if you will need items picked up so arrangements will be made. Clean out those closets, basements, and garages and make this the best Yard Sale ever!

**Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church
Refugee Fund Raiser
*Support the Refugee Family***

Sunday, July 24, 2005

Lunch 12:45-2:00

Recital 2:00-3:00

At Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church

Children \$5.00

Adults \$10.00

RSVP to xxx-xxxx (leave message with number)

Celebrating 175 Years in Louisville

Board BIZ

by Sharon Howerton Leightty

Greetings from your Board of Trustees. On June 14, we faced a daunting agenda at our first full-fledged meeting since the congregational approval of new Board members. Listed below are the highlights of that meeting.

- Election of Officers: **Bill Allison** and **Sharon Howerton Leightty** were chosen to serve as Co-presidents, **Penny Nader** was chosen to serve as Vice-president.

- Learning Team Proposal: **Penny Nader** presented the first reading of a proposal that would build on the suggestions of the Learning Team. In that proposal, members of last year's team would continue their work but in a more limited way.

- Constitution Review Committee: **Linette Lowe**, **George Schumann**, **Lois Allen**, and **Beverly Moore** were chosen to serve on a committee to review the current Constitution and make recommendations for change.

- Gift and Bequest Distribution Policy: A policy was passed by the Board in which gifts and bequests to the Church can be directed to the General Fund, the Capital Assets Fund, or the Endowment Trust Fund. Any gifts or bequests that are received without conditions will be divided among the three funds with one-fifth going to the General Fund, one-fifth to the Capital Assets Fund, and three-fifths to the Endowment Trust Fund. The exceptions to this policy are: Memorial Gifts or Gifts with Income for Life.

- Fourth Street Sign: The Board asked that the new Aesthetics Committee review the proposed designs, consult with the DPR committee, and make a final recommendation to the Board at its July meeting.

- First Unitarian Delegates to General As-

sembly: **Penny Nader**, **Beverly Moore**, **Jasmine Walston**, and **Agatha Walston** were approved as First U delegates to GA.

- Leadership School Training: **Linette Lowe** and **Linda Givens** were chosen to attend the Midwest Leadership Training School as representatives of First U.

- Future Regularly Scheduled Board Meetings: It was decided that the regular Board meetings will take place on the third Thursday of each month.

You can get more information on these and other issues presented at the Board meeting by checking the minutes that are posted on the kiosk in Social Hall.

The Board welcomes your input and looks forward to working with you in the coming year.



Board/Council Retreat Planned for August

There will be a retreat on August 12 and 13 for Board, Council and staff members at the Catherine Spalding Retreat and Conference Center. The focus of the retreat will be the 175th Anniversary and how we can honor and celebrate that milestone. This will include looking at the recommendations from the Learning Team and our church's role in supporting UUA initiatives. Look for a report in September with opportunities to make suggestions and to participate in the proposed activities.

Denominational Affairs

Families Celebrated at General Assembly

by Jasmine Walston

The 2005 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregation celebrated families throughout the week of worship services, workshops, and celebrations. This Assembly, in Fort Worth, Texas, was attended by 3,671 attendees, including 1,816 delegates.

First Unitarian was represented by lay delegates **Beverly Moore, Agatha Walston, Jasmine Walston, Penny Nader, and John Nader**, and ministerial delegate **Rev. Norm Stewart**. The Assembly adopted a Statement of Conscience on "Criminal Justice and Prison Reform," and selected "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society" as our 2005-2007 Study Action Issue, chosen from among the choices provided by congregations in the Parish Poll, and supported by the Youth Caucus. The Assembly also adopted UUA Bylaws amendments regarding the Religious Education Credentialing Committee and delegate eligibility for credentialed RE Directors.

In addition, the Assembly adopted six Actions of Immediate Witness: "US-Sponsored Torture Must End"; "Defending and Expanding Freedom of the Airwaves"; "Support of the United Farm Workers' Boycott of Gallo Wines"; "Our Defining Moment: Millennium Development Goal One"; "End Crimes Against Humanity in Darfur, Sudan"; and "A Call for Support and a Fair Trial for Dr. Sami Al-Arian." Two additional proposed Actions of Immediate Witness failed for lack of enough delegate signatures: "Right To Vote" and "Moral Statement on the 'Terri Schiavo Law'".

More information about these GA actions will be available at church throughout the year, at the Public and Denominational Relations table in the Social Hall and in various Adult Religious Education opportunities. Info is also available at the UUA website, at www.uua.org/ga.

General Assembly 2006 will be held in nearby **St. Louis from June 21-25**. Please plan now to attend, and start thinking about roommates, a simple way to reduce housing costs. Note that 2006 meetings dates will be shifted to Wednesday through Sunday; they were previously Thursday through Monday. This change is being made to simplify arrangements for attendees. For information about attending GA, email pdr@firstulou.org, or talk to our delegates.

The 175 Anniversary Church (Picture) Directory

Please make plans to have your picture taken on **September 15, 16, or 17**. Mark your calendars. The Olan Mills Photographer will be at First Unitarian on Thursday and Friday September 15 and 16, 3:00 to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturday, September 17, between 10:00 am and 5:00 p.m.

You will be able to start making appointments on August 14 -- in the social hall after the service, and afterwards by calling the church of-

fice as well as on Sundays in the Social Hall.

So please think about what day and time will be good for your family or yourself. For your information, **Kathy Thackeray** and **Kathy Drehmel** and a member of the Shared Ministry Committee will be the coordinators of this project. **Linda Givens**, Shared Ministry Coordinator, will serve as the Staff connection.

UUA Statement of Conscience

On Saturday, June 25, the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted a sweeping new policy statement on criminal justice and prison reform. The statement issues a broad critique of the criminal justice system and calls for numerous reforms, including elimination of the death penalty, ending mandatory minimum sentencing, and focusing on prevention rather than punishment. The full text is online at www.uua.org/csw.

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(3 weeks)

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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.

✓ We send condolences to **Malcolm, xxxxx,** and **xxxxx xxxx Turner,** and to other family members and friends of **Susanne Turner.** Susanne, an active member of First Unitarian, died June 19 after a courageous three-year battle with breast cancer.

A memorial service will be held at 5 p.m. July 17 at First Unitarian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorial gifts to her daughters' education fund: The Susanne Turner Memorial Fund, PNC Bank, Attn. Andrea B. Howard, 5500 Preston Hwy., Louisville, 40219.

✓ We were sorry to hear that **Gert Merklein's** brother died recently in Florida. Gert and John can be contacted at their new address: Park at xxxxxxx, xxxx xxxxx Rock Apt. #xxx, xxxxxx, TX xxxxx, (xxx)xxx-xxxx.

✓ At the General Assembly of the UUA in Ft. Worth recently, our former member, the Rev. **Amy Russell,** was received into Final Fellowship of the UU Ministers' Association during a special service. In the 1990's Amy was very active in First Unitarian Church, even leading the Pledge Drive at the same time she was in seminary. Congratulations, Amy!

✓ This thank you note from **Kathy Thackeray** appeared on the UU listserve recently -- we thought that folks not online would want to join in the "thank you's": *Thank you to **Jen Lavery** and **John Findling** for a reflective and informative lead-in to begin the 175th anniversary. Thanks to the 175th committee, **Susan Wilburn, Rose Stevens** and **Kathy Kremer,** for creating and organizing a wonderful picnic. We all made it a great time. What fun!*

The Sermon on the Amount

Quarterly pledge statements went out recently and have generated an excellent response. If your statement was in error--we've had no office manager for a while to keep details posted--call the church to talk to me or leave a message.

As of 7/7/05 the (unaudited) figures are:

Pledge amounts for 2004-05 received:	\$138,562.56
Gifts beyond pledged amount:	10,437.00
Gifts from non-pledging units:	10,120.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$159,119.56

Balance due on 2004-05 pledges:	\$15,589.60
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George Schuhmann, Treas.

[Next report will have year-end budget figures as of 6/30/2005.]

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

Summer Conversations July 3 - September 4

Round Table has ended for the 2004-2005 church year and will resume on September 11 for the 2005-2006 church year. During Sunday morning first hour this summer, First Unitarian members and friends are invited to continue gathering in the library at 9:30am for informal conversations about various *UU World* articles (www.uua.org/world).

Youth are encouraged to join the Summer Conversations. Parents are welcome to bring children with them. Child care for children age five and under will be arranged if requested in advance; email **Linda Givens**, Shared Ministry Coordinator, at sharedministry@firstulou.org or call Linda at 585-5110, to request childcare. Please note that childcare will not be provided if no one requests it in advance.

The next **Curricula Meeting** will be **July 26 at 6:15pm**. Please bring your ideas to the meeting, or email smart@firstulou.org.

In Memoriam

Susanne Ragland Turner
January 5, 1965 -- June 19, 2005

Social Action

➔ **Habitat for Humanity** seeks volunteers for committees as well as construction. Special needs now are for single or neighborhood building sites. Perhaps such a search interests you: Call xxx-xxxx to volunteer.

➔ The **Peace Education Program** has worked with our young people, is supported by your Social Responsibility Committee, and has programs for all ages on methods of conflict resolution and diversity. Call xxx-xxxx to learn more about their choir (ages 8 and above) and kickoff concert on July 19. The choir seeks to reflect the diversity of our community and prepare for a concert with **Harry Pickens** on September 11. **Kris Philipp** has sung with this group before.

➔ The **Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA)** is gearing up for an anticipated proposed constitutional amendment banning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) persons from being foster and adoptive parents in Kentucky. KFA needs help with office work, house parties, outreach, education, and many other areas. If you want to help with any of these areas, please call **Jodi Jenkins** at xxx-xxxx or xxx-xxxx.

➔ The big **50th Anniversary celebration of ACLU of KY** is September 24. To reserve your seat to hear National ACLU director, Nadine Strossen, and enjoy a special dinner with friends, send \$40.00 to ACLU of KY, Suite 300, 315 Guthrie Green, Lou., KY 40202-3820. Write "First Unitarian Church" in the memo line, if you would like to be seated with church people. Young people may apply for dinner scholarships to the ACLU of KY office: xxx-xxxx.



*Did you
brush your teeth
this morning?*



**But what if you didn't have toothpaste—
or a toothbrush?**

*If you're homeless, you lack basic
personal hygiene items like a tooth-
brush or toilet paper.*

That's why HELP needs help! Our church is a partner in the downtown community ministries' support of the HELP office. HELP supplies the **most essential needs** for the **minimum comfort of the homeless and the poorest of the poor.** We urgently need:

deodorants toothbrushes tooth-
paste tissues toilet paper soap

**Please leave donations in the special
box in the entrance hall off Library
Lane.**

Thank You!

Building Use Calendar: July 14 - August 13

July

14	Thursday
11:00am	175th Anniversary Cmte., library
17	Sunday
10:55am	Celebration of Life
5:00pm	Memorial Service for Susanne Turner
19	Tuesday
5:45pm	Yoga, choir room
20	Wednesday
5:30pm	CUUPs, library, social hall, kit
6:00pm	ARE Fishbowl, choir rm
21	Thursday
6:30pm	Board Meeting, library
6:30pm	PDR Committee, parlor
22	Friday
7:00pm	Christian Fellowship, lib
23	Saturday
5:00	*First UU Families (FUUFS) picnic, Iroquois Park (east of amphitheater)
24	Sunday
10:55am	Celebration of Life
26	Tuesday
5:45pm	Yoga, choir room
6:15pm	SMART curriculum plan., library
27	Wednesday
6:00pm	ARE Fishbowl, choir rm
28	Thursday
11:00am	175th Comm., library
6:30pm	Board Orientation, open classroom
31	Sunday
10:55am	Celebration of Life
12:15pm	CUUPs-Lammas/Breads and Spreads, sanctuary, social hall

August

1	Monday
7:00pm	Congregational Services Comm., lib
2	Tuesday
5:45pm	Yoga, choir rm
6:30pm	RE Comm, Open clrm

3	Wednesday
5:30pm	CUUPs, library, social hall, kit
6:00pm	ARE Fishbowl, choir rm
5	Friday
3:00pm	*Private event, sanctuary
6	Saturday
2:00pm	*Private event, sanctuary, library, parlor
7	Sunday
10:55am	Celebration of Life
9	Tuesday
12:00pm	*Private event, social hall
12:30pm	All staff meeting
7:00pm	Council, lib
10	Wednesday
6:00pm	ARE Fishbowl, choir rm.
12	Friday
4:00pm	Leadership Retreat, Catherine Spalding Retreat Center
7:00pm	Christian Fellowship, library
13	Saturday
8:00am	Leadership Retreat, Catherine Spalding Retreat Center

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



Stay in Touch via the List Server

Do you subscribe to the church list server? It's an email announcement list for members and friends of First U to share announcements of church activities, church-related business, and church news. It's different from the "chat" list, which is more informal, free flowing, and can cover a variety of topics. If you haven't joined the list server, go to our church web site, www.firstulou.org, and click on "List Server." You'll find easy instructions there.

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.

July 17 *Unitarian Universalism: The Promise And The Challenge.* **Shared Ministry Coordinator, Dr. Linda Givens.** How has the world changed over the last 40 years or so? What are our greatest cultural needs today? How well do we as Unitarian Universalists meet contemporary needs? **Rev. Dr. Marilyn Sewell,** the author of this week's "Great Sermon," claims that the answers to these questions present a great opportunity and challenge to UUs today.

July 24 *The Lure of Community and the Experience of Separation.* **Rev. Gary Bennett.** From his experience as a hospital Chaplain, Rev. Bennett reflects upon our desire for community and the realities of separation. The reality of separation through the death of a loved one or perhaps as the result of drug or alcohol abuse has touched or will touch almost all of us. "Church" is at its best when it provides a sense of community. Sadly, "church" can sometimes be one more experience of separation.

July 31 *Nourishment for the Soul. Worship Associate, Kathie Johnson.* A sermon authored by the **Rev. Betty Pingel** and part of the "Great Sermon Series." Unitarian Universalism is often one of the best-kept secrets in our communities. We often are shy about telling our friends what church we attend and may find ourselves tongue-tied when anyone asks us what we believe. Under those circumstances it seems a fair question to ask if we are finding or can possibly find nourishment for our souls in this religious faith of ours

August 7 "Great Sermon Series," title TBA.