



# STEEPLETALK

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 11 Number 15

04 September 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 Presidents • Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Retha Justice, Office Mgr.  
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

### Chalice Night Begins September 14

The Adult Religious Education Committee is proud to announce that Chalice Night is poised to begin its fourth year of providing diverse programming and activities on Wednesday nights. From 5:30 to 6:15, a delicious meal prepared by **Tiffany Taylor** is available for purchase (\$4, or \$2 small portion). At 6:30, come to the sanctuary for a lay-led centering service. Programming is from 7:00 to 8:30. Nursery and toddler care are provided.

On **September 14**, the program will be “A Chalice Night Sampler.” A number of program facilitators will explain the courses and activities they plan to offer this year. They will pass out materials and answer questions so that you can better plan your Wednesdays.

Questions or suggestions? Contact **Lisa Willner**, Director of Lifespan Religious Education. or **Jo Ann Dale**, Chalice Night Team Leader.

### Service Auction Moving to New Day, Date, and Time!

Mark your calendars and start thinking about your donations! This year, the church’s annual Service Auction will be a month earlier than in years past:



**Saturday, October 8**

**Silent Auction: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Live Auction: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Sandwiches, snacks, and beverages available for a donation! New family-friendly day and time! Childcare provided!

More details to come. Questions? Contact **Tiffany Taylor**: xxx-xxxx, [xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx)

*Celebrating 175 Years in Louisville*

## *Mayoral Proclamation*

Dear Associates of First Unitarian Church:

As Mayor, it pays to keep abreast of milestones in our city, and I have been informed that Sunday, September 18, 2005 will be a very special occasion for your church. Congratulations and best wishes as you celebrate your 175th Year Anniversary.

In honor of this wonderful occasion, I am issuing a mayoral proclamation, officially declaring Sunday, September 18, 2005, "First Unitarian Church 175th Anniversary Celebration Day" in Louisville. An occasion such as this deserves to be recognized, and I am delighted to join you in celebrating this momentous event in the history of your church.

Sincerely,  
Jerry E. Abramson  
Mayor

## *Board Request*

**Dear First U Members and Friends,**

In an effort to keep the business of our church moving along as efficiently as possible, the new Board Co-Presidents (**Bill Allison** and **Sharon Howerton Leighty**) are asking everyone to follow a few standard procedures for Board meetings. Some of these are new; others are not. Below is a list of requests we are making of you.

- 1) If you have an item you would like placed on the Board agenda or if you would like to speak at a Board meeting, please contact Bill or Sharon before the Thursday morning one week prior to the meeting.
- 2) If you are making a request of the Board, in addition to contacting Bill or Sharon, please submit a written explanation of your request at the church office by 11:30 am of the Thursday one week prior to the Board meeting.
- 3) If you have an item on which the Board will need to vote, please submit that proposal in writ-

ten form in the manner stated above. That proposal will be submitted to the Board for a first reading at that month's meeting. A vote will be taken at the following meeting.

All of the written information we receive will be placed in Board packets and distributed to Board members prior to the Board meetings. This will give us time to fully digest all congregants' requests prior to the meeting.

Thanks for your help,  
Bill and Sharon



# Shared Ministry

## Linda Givens Shared Ministry Coordinator

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Thursday  
11am - 4pm  
Friday off

**502-585-5110**  
XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX

### Our Unitarian Universalist Principles

*(as written for children by the UUA, but also a handy statement for adults...)*

#### We believe:

- That each and every person is important.
- That all people should be treated fairly and kindly.
- That we should accept one another and keep on learning together.
- That each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.
- That all persons should have a vote about the things that concern them.
- In working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.
- In caring for our planet earth, the home we share with all living things.

## In Memoriam

**Katherine Kirwan**

September 15, 1911 - August 26, 2005



What better way to start the year than with a birthday - and especially a 175th one. As a newcomer to Unitarian Universalism I think 175 years of liberal religion is pretty impressive, and First Unitarian's celebration has caused me to reflect on the meaning of "liberal" religion.

I've been reading about UUs. (See I really am a Unitarian; I believe in salvation through bibliography!) Anyway, the other day I was reading *Walking Together* by Conrad Wright and I came upon this statement: "...if there are values especially prized by liberals and distinctive of liberal religion, they must be expressed in behavior if they have any real meaning." (*Walking Together*, Conrad Wright. Skinner House Books: Boston, p.2) So what values (i.e. freedom, reason, tolerance) we hold are important but no more so than how we behave as we express those values. I must tell you that I get excited when I am reminded that the religious tradition which I've joined puts an equal emphasis on the two. But I also think about how challenging and perhaps frightening it is not only to express the values of freedom, reason, and tolerance but to live them in balance - that is not allowing one to negate the others. I'll bet there have been more than a few people who have signed First U's membership book within those 175 years that have struggled with that balance, so I stand (and struggle) in good company.

Happy 175th to us. As we celebrate and as we share the ministry of this church may we do what my mother always requested - remember who we are and behave accordingly.

*Linda*

## REviews

By proclamation of Mayor Jerry Abramson, Sunday, September 18, 2005 is "First Unitarian Church 175th Anniversary Celebration Day" in Louisville. How fitting that this day of celebration also marks the beginning of the new Religious Education semester for children and youth!

This fall we will be introducing two new curricula and offering some tried and true programs as well. We are fortunate to have an excellent and experienced staff of volunteer teachers. All program choices reflect the R.E. Committee's and my commitment to providing a curriculum rotation that addresses "Five Pillars" of UU religious education: Unitarian Universalist Identity, Jewish and Christian Heritage, Other World Religions, Life Issues, and Social Justice. Here is the line-up for fall:

- Preschool -- "Celebrating Me and My World." This program celebrates the wondrous qualities of children themselves and expands outward to the people and world around them. It provides preschoolers with experiences and opportunities to grow in trust and caring and to develop a sense of connectedness with all of life. Teachers: **Joyce Schweickart** and **Kathy Thackeray**

- Primary (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade) -- "Around the Church, Around the Year" helps children feel a part of the Unitarian Universalist community and understand the faith and practices of Unitarian Universalism. The program focuses on the children's own experiences with fundamental concerns of life and death, human relationships, and personal identity - not as abstract concepts but in ways appropriate to children of this age. Teachers: **Roger Bradshaw** and **danielle rogers-candee**

- Intermediate (3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades) -- "Bibleodeon" is designed to be a fun and experiential program introducing young Unitarian Uni-

versalists to stories of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. "Bible literacy" is important to Unitarian Universalist children because of our own Judeo-Christian religious roots and because of the profound impact of both Hebrew and Christian Bibles on national and regional culture, and Bibleodeon seeks to deliver a familiarity with the Bible and its stories as well as a basic understanding of the Bible's history and power. Teachers: **Jo Ann Dale**, **Kent McDaniel**, and **Carol Uebelhoer**

- Middle School (6th, 7th, and 8th Grades) -- "Neighboring Faiths" introduces our UU youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in our community. Leaders and participants will work together to plan their program, determine which religious groups they want to learn about, visit, and relate to their own growing UU faith. This curriculum promotes a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

Teachers: **Patty Kannapel** and **Beverly Moore**

- Senior High -- "Words to Live By: Creating a Personal Credo." Class facilitators and participants will use this curriculum as a framework for exploring religious questions that interest them most. The program is designed to help participants take some time to connect with their deeper selves and to reflect on what they believe and what really matters. This program will be a combined R.E. class/youth group and will include once-monthly afternoon activities. Teachers: **Phil Candee**, **Seana Golder**, and **Blair White**

Our teaching slots for this semester are full, but there are many ways to get involved in religious education for children and youth at First Unitarian Church. I invite you to speak with me about your talents and interests and how you can become a part of this important and rewarding ministry.

Peace, *Lisa*

## R.E. Announcements

## S.M.A.R.T.

✓ **September 4 children's activities!** During the Celebration of Life, **Barbara Schweickart** will lead children in creating one-of-a-kind "reverse tie-dyed" chalice t-shirts. Bring a solid dark colored shirt and dress for crafts. (Extra shirts will be provided). Very young children may require parental supervision.

✓ **September 11** will be our "Multigenerational In-gathering Celebration of Life." Childcare will be provided for preschool children. All others are invited to attend the service, seated with their families.

✓ **Snacks needed!** We ask all parents (and generous others) to donate bottles of juice and boxed snacks for our classrooms. Donations may be taken directly to the classrooms or left outside the R.E. office. Juice donations should go to the Preschool Room refrigerator.

✓ **Many thanks** to our Summer R.E. Coordinator, **Laura White**, and to all the volunteers who allowed our summer children's programs to run so smoothly. Good luck at Oberlin, Laura. We'll miss you.

✓ We ask all parents to complete **R.E. registration forms** for children ages 0 - 18. **Forms will be available in the 2nd floor "lobby" beginning September 4.**

✓ **Youth Group News:** Middle School Youth Group will begin September 11 and will meet Sunday afternoons (with some exceptions) from 1:00 - 2:30. All 6th - 8th graders are invited to participate. Advisors are **Suzanne Meeks, Trish Packowski, and John Scruton**. Senior High Youth Group will be integrated with R.E. class, and will meet on Sundays from 10:55 - 12:15. About once a month, the group will also meet from 1:00 - 2:30. The first afternoon session will be on September 18. All 9th - 12th grad-

### Sunday Morning

### Adult Round Table

### Church Library

### Sharing at 9:30am

### Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

Round Table programming resumes September 11.

- September 11: Ingathering Breakfast
- September 18: 175th Anniversary

There will be no Round Table on Sept. 4.

For more information or to suggest a program, email the Curricula Team at [xxxx@xxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxx@xxxxxxxx), or call **Jasmine Walston** at xxx-xxxx.

### Lisa Willner

### Religious Education Director

*Telephone*  
(502) 585-5110 (Office)

*E-mail*  
[xxx@xxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxx)

#### *Office Hours*

Monday 10:00 - 2:00

Tuesday 11:00 - 2:00

Thursday 11:00 - 2:00

*Additional times available by appointment.*

ers are welcome. Youth Advisors/R.E. Teachers are **Phil Candee, Seana Golder, and Blair White**.

✓ The annual **Youth/Adult Potluck and YAC Elections** will be held Sunday, September 25, from 5:00 to 7:30. All 6th - 12th grade youth, their parents and guardians, and interested others are encouraged to attend. This will be a time of fellowship and fun as well as a time to review policies and expectations for the coming year.

## Update on Recommendations

At the Board/Council Retreat in August, the Board accepted the Learning Team's proposal to form sub-groups around each of the four recommendations made to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. A member of the former Learning

Team would facilitate the formation of a process and action plan for each of the recommendations. In addition, one or more Board members will work with each of the four sub-groups.



Watch for the opportunity to join the planning and implementation on the following recommendations:

- ➔ Building trust through increased community-wide events
- ➔ Crafting a "mission" or a sense of "what we are called to be"
- ➔ Defining and implementing a conflict resolution process
- ➔ Providing clear financial information on a regular basis

The Activities Committee along with **Penny Nader**, from the Board of Trustees, has met and set a schedule for monthly luncheons, Sunday suppers (formerly Circle Suppers), and a number of proposed multi-committee projects. The latter includes a service project, intergenerational activities and youth and young adult involvement. Watch for sign-ups.

If you would like to be part of the community building activities or have ideas for other events, call **Kay Woodworth**, **Jill Sampson**, or **Debbie Gilbert**.



## The Sermon on the Amount

### CONTRIBUTION RANGE REPORT

For period 07/01/2005 to 08/25/2005

Contribution Range	# of Contributors	Total Given	Avg/Contributor
0 - 0	180*	0.00	0.00
1 - 100	27	1,354.00	50.15
101 - 200	21	3,272.00	155.81
201 - 300	7	1,920.00	274.29
301 - 400	3	1,130.00	376.67
401 - 500	3	1,495.00	498.33
501 - 750	2	1,300.00	650.00
751 - UP	1	1,000.00	1,000.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>\$11,471.00</b>	<b>\$47.01</b>

\*This group is 73.8% of our pledge units.

*George Schuhmann*  
Treasurer

## Congratulations and "Thank You" to Charlie and Jesse!

The House and Grounds Committee threw an Appreciation Party for **Charlie Mitchell** and **Jesse Schreiber** on August 9. (See photo, page 7.) Charlie is rotating off of the House and Grounds Committee after years of service maintaining the church physical space. Jess served for many years on the committee. Both served as role models for many H&G members. The staircase down to the basement was named "Mitchell Hall" in Charlie's honor, and a plaque was installed on the landing. Thanks, Charlie and Jesse, for all you have done!



from **Rebecca Johnson**, Music Director

As activities restart for the year at FUU, please consider becoming an active part of the music program! The choir will begin rehearsals again as of September 1 and will meet every Thursday at 7:15 in the choir room. This ensemble is always looking for people who love to sing, regardless of level of musical knowledge or experience. Come and try it out! The choir will sing in church for the first time at the Ingathering service on September 11.

Have an old flute at home that you used to play in days past? Dust it off and consider joining the flute choir! This small but mighty group meets after church (12:30) twice a month, generally on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Tell your non-UU friends about this activity also—this group has several members from outside the church as well!

Are you considering joining the choir? Do you want to provide special music for Sunday services? Do you have a new musical group you'd like to get started? Please contact **Rebecca Johnson** at xxx-xxx-xxxx, or e-mail [xxxxx@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxx@xxxxxxxxx).



**Charlie Mitchell and Jesse Schreiber**

## Got Pictures?

If you have pictures of First Unitarian that you would like to share and possibly have published in our 175th Directory, please bring them to the church for the committee to review. Please put them in an envelope complete with your name and telephone number or e-mail. Also, if at all feasible, please put your name and contact information on the back of each photograph.

## The 175 Anniversary Edition Picture Directory

Bring you calendars to church so you can make an appointment to have your picture taken either on Thursday September 15, Friday, September 16, or Saturday, September 17. On Sunday, you may sign up for an appointment. You may also call the church office during weekdays between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, 585-5110.

Have you at one time or other wondered "Who is that?".... so you go to the Church Picture Directory to find out? Now, if you are not there, well.....So please think about what time will be good for your family or yourself and sign up for your appointment. You will receive one free 8x10 photo, and if you order more pictures, they will be available for gift giving at holiday time.

Thank you,  
Kathy Thackeray, Kathy Drehmel and the 175th Anniversary Committee

<p align="center"><b>Office Hours</b> for <b>Retha Justice, Office Manager</b></p> <p align="center">Mon. - Off          Tues.- 8:30 - 2:30          Wed. - 10:00 - 2:30          Thurs.- 10:00 - 2:30          Friday - 11:00 - 4:00</p>
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## Social Action

from **Jill Harmer**

✓ You have an opportunity to get emails with timely specific actions on a variety of political issues that are in tune with the social concerns committee recommendations and/or the national UU Social Responsibilities recommendations. All will have titles so that you can choose whether to open them. Most are web sites with links for current legislation and sample letters and petitions which I have already done and will take little time on your part. We thank you in advance for your active participation in making our country better. To sign up: [1stUSocialAction-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:1stUSocialAction-subscribe@yahoo.com)

✓ We will have **regular letter writing** on issues after the services in the fall. Some because of their urgency cannot be announced in *Steepletalk* ahead of time. We will announce them in the services and they will not take you very long because we will have many sample paragraphs to put into your personalized note to your congress people and we can mail them. Congress people respond better to short notes anyway.

✓ The **hot topic** now is whether to drill or not to drill in the arctic refuge. The social concerns committee does not want oil drilling in the arctic and you may find out more about this on [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) and at our bulletin board area. Check this Sunday's for important issues and give us your feedback on what you are interested in doing.

✓ A Child Needs You! **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)** needs volunteers to advocate for the best interests of an abused and/or neglected child. As a trained CASA volunteer, your goal is to ensure that each child is placed in a permanent, safe home. With your help and the information you collect, the judge can make the best decision regarding the life of the child. Become a CASA volunteer and be the voice

## Just among ourselves...

**Jerry Smith** is interested in doing free community organizational work. This is the kind of work Jerry did prior to his accident, and he would like the opportunity to continue to work in that field. To discuss this with Jerry, please call xxx-xxxx. Please leave a message.

**Linda Parry** sends out a big "thank you" to our members and friends who donated, priced and/or worked at the **Yard Sale** and the aftermath clean up. The sale made nearly \$2,000.

**Black tie optional...**Members and friends are cordially invited to **be our guest for a free luncheon** in the social hall immediately following the Celebration of Life on September 18 and before the **Tom Owen Tour**. Please RSVP to Kathy Kremer as we need a count of how many guests will be attending. Only one response per household/family unit, por favor.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of our dear member and friend, **Katherine Kirwan**, who died late Friday night, August 26. We can all feel grateful for her life and the fact that she shared it with the people of First Unitarian.

### STEEPLETALK

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

Next deadline: **Friday, September 9, 2005**  
(covers **September 18 - October 1**)  
(2 weeks)



**Editor:** Claudia Runge

**Contact us:** xxxxx@xxxxxxx

of a child. Find out more at [www.casajc.org](http://www.casajc.org) or by calling CASA of Jefferson County at 595-4911.

# Building Use Calendar: September 2 - 17

## September

<b>2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	2:30pm	<b>*Peace Education/Harry Pickens Concert</b> – Sanct., Kit. & S.H.
6:00pm	*Private event, sanc	<b>12</b>	<b>Monday</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	11:30am	Brownbaggers – Library
5:00pm	*Private event, sanc, soc hall, parlor, choir rm	6:00pm	Congregational Services - Library
<b>4</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>
10:55am	Celebration of Life	9:30am	<i>Steepletalk</i> folding party
	RE Registration/Children's Activities	12:30	Staff Meeting
<b>6</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00pm	Council -- Library
12:30pm	Staff Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>
6:30pm	RE Committee – Open Classroom	<b>5:30</b>	<b>Chalice Night</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
5:30pm	Personnel Committee – Parlor	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Church Directory Photos</b> – Library, Parlor
5:30pm	Ad Hoc. Constitutional By Laws Cmt. – Open Classroom	6:30pm	Board Meeting – Open Classroom
6:15pm	*N.O.W. – Social Hall	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal -- Choir Room
7:00pm	Finance Committee -- Library	<b>16</b>	<b>Friday</b>
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Church Directory Photos</b> – Library, Parlor
<b>9</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
12:00pm	<i>Steepletalk</i> deadline	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Church Directory Photos</b> – Library, Parlor
7:00pm	Christian Fellowship - Library	8:00pm	*Sienna Club – Choir Room
<b>11</b>	<b>Sunday</b>		
9:30am	Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room		
<b>10:55am</b>	<b>Celebration of Life - Ingathering</b>		
12:15pm	Worship Committee – Choir Room		

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



## First Church to Hold Festive Yuletide Fare, Dec. 10

You're invited to be part of the renewal of a great event at First Unitarian Church! A number of years ago, First Church held an annual December fund-raiser, the Food Fair. Members and friends worked together to prepare and package delicious holiday treats and crafts. On Food Fair day, the sanctuary was filled with tables loaded with holiday goodies: plum pudding, pies, candies, jellies and jams, breads, and much more. In the social hall, guests enjoyed a light lunch. Hundreds of people from throughout the community visited our church as part of their holiday shopping, resulting in both financial gain and publicity for First Unitarian.

This year, we'll renew this festive fund-raiser, now to be known as the **Yuletide Fare**. The event will be held on Saturday, December 10, 2005, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We'll be calling on church members, friends, committees, and groups to help with all facets of planning and preparation. If you'd like to help, please join the mailing list: visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/YuletideFare/> and click "Join This Group." Or, you may contact Tiffany Taylor at [XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX](mailto:XXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXXX) or xxx-xxxx.

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

**Return Service Requested**

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Louisville, Kentucky  
Permit No. 146**

## **Celebrations of Life**

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

**September 4**      *What Kind of People Come Here?* **Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associate, Joe Edmiston.** August and September frequently bring more visitors than usual. Presumably they are looking for a place where they might feel welcome and comfortable on their spiritual journey. On some level, many of these visitors would like to know, what kind of people come here? and if they (the guest) will be able to find a place at our table.

**September 11**      *The Wisdom Tree.* **Rev. Norm Stewart. Multi-generational Service.** Our annual Ingathering Service with Water Ceremony will begin our new church year. Please bring a small sampling of water from your summer journeys, adventures or respite to add to our community water for use during rituals and services in the coming year. The water may actually come from your travels, it may be symbolic of your travels or in rare instances we have been known to accept virtual water.

**September 18**      *175th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off Service.* **Rev. Norm Stewart, Worship Associates, 175th Anniversary Planning Committee.** In 1828, the first Mayor of Louisville was a Unitarian. Our current Mayor, Jerry Abramson recently issued a mayoral proclamation, officially declaring Sunday, September 18, 2005, "First Unitarian Church 175th Anniversary Celebration Day" in Louisville. Today's service will kick-off a full year of celebrating this milestone for liberal religion in our community.