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# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 12 Number 8

August 2006

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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  
Penny Nader, Board President • Norm Stewart, Minister • Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator  
• Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education • Greg Gapsis, Interim Office Manager •  
James Dersch, Instrumentalist • Rebecca Johnson, Music Director • Earl Reynolds, Custodian  
• Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus •

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## Planned Events and Opportunities

by Penny Nader, Board President

- ✓ All members and friends are invited to join in expressing their feelings about the minister's departure and the future of our shared ministry on Sunday, July 30, after the Celebration of Life. Everyone will be given a chance to speak. This is a chance to be heard and listen to each other. Plan on 60 to 90 minutes.
- ✓ On Saturday, August 26, from 7 to 9pm, we will have a party to wish Norm well, express our thanks to him for the last four years, and share our hopes with him. There will be music, childcare, and food. If you can, bring a snack to share. Most important, come and share your good wishes.
- ✓ The Board, with the help of an ad hoc committee, has created the charge to the "Interim Committee" which will oversee the activities of the church while we are without a minister. If and when we have an interim minister, this committee will assist that minister with the work that is before us. If you would like to serve on this committee of five or you have a recommendation for this committee, please let Linda Givens, the Shared Ministry Coordinator know.
- ✓ Thank you to all who helped launch this interim task force and thank you to those who agreed to serve going forward.

## Breads and Spreads

CUUPs will be hosting a Breads and Spreads light luncheon for the congregation after the church service on August 6. Those in our congregation that follow an earth-based path will be celebrating Lammas, which marks the middle of Summer and the beginning of the harvest. It is the first of three harvest festivals and is usually associated with ripening grain, which is why we celebrate with breads.

If you have any questions or would like to bring a food item to share, please call **Debra Gilbert** at xxx-xxxx.

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



STEEPLETALK

# Church Matters

## Council Notes

The Council-sponsored Committee Chair Orientation took place on June 28 and was well attended. All program committees were represented. We had 32 people who enjoyed a meal, a tour of the building, and learning about how committees function at First U. "Thank You" to all volunteer presenters.

Council has been working on Committee Program budgets. The budgets were completed and approved by Council at the July meeting. Council liaisons will be distributing budgets as committees meet in July and August.

Council decided upon the following goals for the 2006--2007 church year:

1. To fulfill our charge as mandated by the Congregation, Constitution, and By-laws.
2. To provide to the church a reliable childcare program with shared responsibilities between Council, committees, and parents.
3. To facilitate training for committee chairs 3 times a year.
4. To distribute to the program committees their yearly budget by the Board/Council Chair retreat in August.
5. To help set up a task force to explore, educate, coordinate, and possibly implement Covenant groups at First U.

Looking forward to the Board/Council/Chair retreat in August!

**Kathy Drehmel**, Co--Chair Council

## Summer Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday - Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm and on Friday from 10:00am-12:00noon.

## In Memoriam

**Ruth LaRue Weinstock**  
August 28, 1906 – June 28, 2006

## Board BIZ

from **Jane Buckley**, Board Secretary

First Unitarian Church Board of Trustees met on July 18. Below are some of the points discussed/action taken:

- Treasurer George Schuhmann gave his report. Still working on transfer of funds from general fund to endowment. Signature cards were passed around.
- Aesthetics Committee rep Mike Watkins gave a report. New standard layout to be used for Social Hall furnishings. Aesthetics group given authorization to formally accept new outside Kaviar sign.
- Conflict Management Team rep Linette Lowe gave report.
- Personnel Committee rep Jane Martin Buckley gave report. Some action taken to hire new office manager. Expect to have more interviews and decision by September 1. Staff Bill of Rights presented; should be formally accepted by Board next month.
- Attendees to represent our church at Alice Mann Workshop in Indiana in October discussed.
- Future Board meetings will include a one-day off site on August 5 and Board/Council retreat at Nazareth, KY, on August 11-12.
- Charge to Interim Committee accepted and plans for Interim discussed.

This is just a summary. For full Board minutes, see Board binder in Volunteer area.

# News and Notes

## Yes, We Are Having a Yard Sale!

Sat., Aug. 12, 2006

8am--3pm

Time is of the essence, so gather your trinkets and treasures and bring them to the church the week before. Volunteers are needed each evening that week to sort and price items. Help is especially needed Saturday morning to setup. Persons who arrive by 7am will get breakfast and be permitted one purchase prior sale. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Social Hall or call Betty Caudle, xxx-xxxx to volunteer, get information or make suggestions

## Leadership Retreat August 11 - 12

from Penny Nader, Board President

The Board, Council, and committee chairs will gather in Nazareth, KY, on Friday, August 11, to plan the goals and initiatives for the coming year. The Conflict Management Team is making a presentation, and there will be discussion of how the Committee on Ministry could be implemented at First Unitarian. This is a chance for leaders to create a shared view of our immediate future.

Letters went to all committee chairs, Board and Council members. Is your committee/group represented? Please be sure that your voice is heard in the planning process. Call **Penny Nader** or **Linda Givens** if you have questions.

## Workforce 2006-2007

by Rick Hogue

Sounds kind of funny doesn't it? The Shared Ministry Committee is sponsoring me, Rick Hogue, in a project that will connect our members to the skill, talents, and services of our members. We want every person who is a member to become part of our new guide of "who is who." By becoming part of our Workforce 2006 you will be able to share your talents with those in our congregation who need your services and desire your help.

Do you enjoy sewing for others, tutoring English or other subjects? Do you like babysitting, woodworking or home improvements, counseling, computer repair? Are you a dentist, attorney, or other professional? Then you need to be on this list. Our goal is to also include those members who attend Clifton and TJ in this guide.

Simply go to the website [www.firstulou.org/workforce2006.htm](http://www.firstulou.org/workforce2006.htm) and fill out the form or bring your business card or a description of our talents to me, Holly Hogue, or Kathy Thackeray. At first we will have a binder in the Volunteer

Area to keep your information and later we will compile the information into a booklet for all to have. The binder will be white and labeled WORKFORCE 2006/2007. Please understand that First Unitarian Church is not endorsing any of the products or services posted in this binder or booklet.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to find out just who can do what in our church and start utilizing the services of our members to grow our UU community.

## Brownbaggers

Our next meeting will be a potluck at **Anne Miller's** house. The date is Monday, Aug. 14, at 4:00pm. At our last meeting we listed fifteen-or-so possible trips, lectures, museums, talks, recitals that we might schedule for our 2006/2007 meetings. We want to boil that list down and begin to establish who, what and where.

Take note and mark your calendars! Second Monday, Aug. 14. Potluck at 4:00!

# Summer R.E. Program

## Unitarian Universalist Identity: The 7 Principles

### July 30

- Open Classroom: A Vote for Everyone
- Preschool: I Can Help

### August 6 -- Multigenerational Service

The Preschool Room will be open and staffed for those in need.

### August 13

- Open Classroom: Defining Peace
- Preschool: I Can Love

### August 20

- Open Classroom: The Interdependent Web of Nature

- Preschool: My World Has Animals

### August 27 -- Multigenerational Service

\*\*There are still spots in need of volunteers. Please contact **Mary Griffin**, xxx-xxxx, if interested. Thanks.

## Continuing Positive Steps on Summer Sunday Mornings

The Positive Action Team will be continuing discussions during the Summer on Sunday mornings from 9:30am to 10:45am.

For the next three Sundays we will again use questions from “Appreciative Team Building” by Diana Whitney, Armanda Trosten-Bloom, Jay Cherney, and Ron Fry. The topics will be

➔ July 30 - Pulling Together When You Want to Pull Apart

➔ August 6 - Getting to Know You

➔ August 13 - Exceptional Follow-Through

With communication being key, perhaps the Positive Action Team can design a logic tree showing who to ask first for what and second if the first person is unavailable, etc. We will devote the last two Sundays, Aug. 20 & 27, to building our logic tree. This may take much longer than two Sundays. We will decide together what’s next on the 27th. Please come join us this month. Discussions are refreshing and positively charged.

## Social Responsibility

### Sign up for KRCRC and State Fair

Slots are open for First U members to sign up to help Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice at the KY State Fair. KRCRC needs volunteers to help staff their booth, handing out literature and talking to visitors. In return for a few hours of work, you get a free ticket to the fair and the satisfaction of doing education and advocacy work for reproductive rights.

The fair runs from August 17 to August 27. Time slots are 9-1pm, 1-4pm, 4-7pm, and 7-10pm. If you are interested, call **Joan Beal** or email [xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx) at xxx-xxxx.

## STEEPLETALK

Published every month by  
**First Unitarian Church of Louisville**  
809 South 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40203

Next deadline: **Friday, August 18, 2006**  
(covers month of August)

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# Shared Ministry



Someone told me during my first few weeks as Shared Ministry Coordinator that if I could “hold on” until summer things would calm down, because UU’s take off during the summer. Well, if I could remember who told me that I would definitely dispute their word. First U members are quite busy this summer, which means I am busy as well. During the rest of the summer and through the next church year I will be adding a couple of responsibilities to my role as Shared Ministry Coordinator, and of course I will continue to support the work of the Shared Ministry Committee.

Most recently I was asked to serve on the Interim Committee as an ex-officio member. The work of this committee will be challenging, but I approach our work together with hope and confidence. Confidence because I believe that members of this church are ready for and committed to the tasks of not only keeping this church running but also working to improve relationships within our congregation and our community. Hope because I am generally a hopeful person, but also because I see many signs of willingness and determination to explore our vision and to take a thorough look at ourselves.

The Personnel Committee continues to clarify the tasks of Office Manager and Shared Ministry Coordinator, and I appreciate their willingness to listen to my suggestions and ideas. When the search for Office Manager begins, it is likely that we will have a clear idea of the skills needed for that position. I will assume the supervision of the Office Manager when he or she is hired.

The Shared Ministry Committee continues to work to fill a few committee vacancies, and their attention to this task is impressive. In my work with this incoming committee I observe

that they take this responsibility quite seriously, and that they are conscientious about taking time to think about members and friends and their best fit with various committees. This is a good group to have leading during this transition time. For the coming year the SMC will continue to write profiles of “newish” members, greet on Sunday, hold information sessions and church tours, keep pamphlets supplied, and host new member luncheons. We are currently putting together a list of potential members to serve on the Interim Committee.

Thanks to all of you who provide encouragement to me and to the office staff and volunteers. Please don’t hesitate to remind me of things that need attention. I’ll see if I can help find the person needed for the task.

*Linda*



## **Coke Machine Memo**

from **Linda Givens**

As some of you know, there has been much on-going conversation about the presence of the Coke machine in the church lobby. Discussion has continued in three committees and the Board. This week, however, a communication with Coca-Cola rendered those discussions moot. Since our last year’s consumption was about 9 sodas a week, Coca-Cola says that we are below the minimum level to warrant a machine. They will be removing the machine shortly. What “shortly” means to Coca Cola is unclear, but I think they are likely to remove it within the next week or two.

## Women's Alliance

### Women's Retreat Planned for October

The Women's Alliance of 1st Unitarian Church is planning a retreat this October. If you have been attending the church for 6 or 7 years (or more) you may remember some of our retreats from past years. This fall, we want to revive that pleasant tradition. Here are the particulars:

- **Where: Hopscotch House.** This site of former retreats is located on 400+ acres of bucolic farmland, in Eastern Jefferson County.
- **When: October 13-15, 2006** (Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning)
- **Who: All women associated with the church.** (Women's Alliance members will be given priority in staying the night, due to limited space. All are welcome during the day.)
- **Why:** For fun and fellowship, enlightenment, education, and relaxation.

More details will follow, but please set aside the date now so you will be able to join us!

### Female Soldiers Project

Thank you to all who donated items for the female soldiers in Iraq. We received an email from Beth Self, the pharmacy tech who told us of the need, that said the boxes had arrived and were greatly appreciated. Many other members organized efforts through their places of employment and through other groups.

If you are interested in the Alliance sponsoring similar projects in the future, please let **Kathy Thackeray** or **Penny Nader** know.

### Red, White and Blue Pies

The First Unitarian Women's Alliance will be making and selling Red, White and Blue Pies just in time for your Labor Day gatherings. The Women's Alliance will be making strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, banana cream, coconut cream, etc. pies and will be selling them whole or by the slice on Sunday, September 3 after the Celebration of Life.

## Just among ourselves

Congratulations to **Keith Wilhelmi**, who has been selected to be a *Courier-Journal* Forum Fellow for the coming year.

If you might be missing a dish, check the kitchen bin between the pass-through windows for dishes and silverware. All dishes and utensils still left in the kitchen as of Aug. 25 will be donated to charity. House & Grounds Committee is cleaning the fridge monthly and sprucing up periodically. Things that are left at the church for extended periods of time without labels will be discarded or donated. If you are missing something, see **Kathy Kremer** or **Geneva Fry** for help locating it.

**Are you replacing your computer?** Wondering what to do with your old one? Having one in the choir room that runs at least Windows 98 would allow us to access all the choir music via computer - oh what a timesaver that would be! Please speak with **Jayme Haslam** on the Music Committee if you would like to donate your old computer.

**Geneva Fry** lost a very tiny item at a House & Grounds meeting about a year ago. It is a small xD photo memory chip about the size of a (square) quarter. If you have found such a thing, please give Geneva a call, as it holds wedding pictures that she would like to recover.

# Building Use Calendar for August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>July 30</b> 10:55a CoL 10:55a RE activities 12:30p Sharing forpast& future	<b>31</b> 6p Congreg. Services Cmt	<b>August 1</b> 6:30p ARE Cmt 6:30p RE Cmt	<b>2</b> 6p <i>Healthy</i> Congregatóns discussbn	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5p *Private evt 7p Drum Circle	<b>5</b> 4p *Private evt
<b>6</b> 10:55a CoL 10:55a RE activities 12:15a Breads/ Spreads lunch	<b>7</b> 6p Congreg. Services Cmt	<b>8</b> 6p Activities Cmt	<b>9</b> 6p <i>Healthy</i> Congregatóns discussbn 7p CUUPS Study Gp	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7p UUCF	<b>12</b> 10a House & Grounds work party
<b>13</b> 10:55a CoL 10:55a RE activities	<b>14</b> 11:30a Brown- baggers 7p Inteweave	<b>15</b> 6p Board	<b>16</b> 6p <i>Healthy</i> Congregatóns discussbn	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 4p *Private evt	<b>19</b> 1p *Private evt 8p *Private evt
<b>20</b> 10:55a CoL 10:55a RE activities	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 6p <i>Healthy</i> Congregatóns discussbn 7p CUUPS Study Gp	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7p UUCF	<b>26</b> 7p Farewell party for Norm
<b>27</b> 10:55a CoL 10:55a RE activities	<b>28</b> 6:30p Shared Ministry Cmt	<b>29</b> 7p Finance Cmt	<b>30</b> 6p <i>Healthy</i> Congregatóns discussbn	<b>31</b>	<b>September 1</b> 7p Drum Circle	<b>2</b> *Denotes outside group or activity not officially affiliated w/ the FirstUnitarian

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809 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-2115**

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### **Celebrations of Life**

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

**August 6**     *Lammas.* This service is led by CUUPs. Lammas is an earth-based celebration that marks the middle of summer and the beginning of the harvest. It is the first of three harvest festivals and is usually associated with ripening grain, which is why we celebrate with breads. Find out how this ancient holiday can have significance in today's world.

**August 13**     *No Deposit, No Return.* **JoAnn Dale, Holly Hogue,** and **Patricia Triplett** lead an exploration of how sharing the ministry can yield spiritual and emotional harvest.

**August 20**     *What's So Good About "Aging"?* **The Brownbaggers** raise our awareness about the surprises and joys of aging. This light-hearted, tender service led by **Anne Miller** will be a treat.

**August 27**     *Not Me--AKA T-Shirt, Clean-Up Day.* Join **Geneva Fry** for an Intergenerational Service about the blessings of work. Then stay to help clean the church at our annual fall clean-up event.