

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 12 Number 6

June 2006

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
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

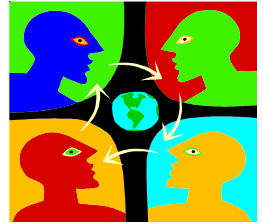
Sharing the Ministry of Adult Religious Education: A Congregational Celebration and Conversation

Come celebrate our adult religious education programs and program leaders. We'll discuss directions in adult religious education for the upcoming church year and beyond.

Wednesday, June 7 -- Potluck at 6:00 -- Conversation at 7:00

Adult Religious Education has a long and distinguished history at First Unitarian Church. What will be its future? How will you be part of it? Where do we go from here? Are you being served? Who are the adult R.E. leaders of the future? How do we broaden our offerings?

Join the DRE and others as we explore the future of adult religious education at First Unitarian Church. Linda Givens and Carol Uebelhoer will facilitate.



Committee Chair Orientation

Where: First Unitarian Church

When: June 28, 5:30---- 8:30

Who: All new incoming committee chairs and anyone interested in the workings of the church.

Why: To become informed, learn, listen, discuss, and enjoy a meal together.

Consequence of Non-Attendance: Meeting with the Kathys one-on-one without food or drink.

Hope to see you there!

Kathy Drehmel & Kathy Thackeray, Co-Chairs

STEEPLETALK

Celebrating 175 Years in Louisville

Notes from Norm

There's a billboard I pass by most days as I drive in to church. It calls me to mindfulness about the work I have been called to do. It reads, "expect more from a leader." Nearly every time I see it, I ask myself what that might mean with regard to my role here at First Unitarian. It seems like a good thing to ponder in more depth over the summer and maybe even do a sermon about it sometime.

It also seems like it would be a good summer reflection not just for me but for all of us who are "leaders" in this multi-faceted, multi-dimensional, ever evolving community of faith. When I think about who qualifies as leaders in this congregation the potential list is long.

There are of course the obvious folks who come to mind starting with our Board of Trustees and Council members. Certainly, the chairs of all of our committees would qualify. And, while we need not only leaders but plenty of workers on all of those committees it is also true that many of the committee members also take on leadership roles at times. Think about ad hoc sub-committees and task forces which need leaders.

Think of all of the special events and activities that go on throughout the year that require both workers and leaders. There are song leaders, service leaders for Chalice Nights, and leaders and co-leaders for our Celebrations of Life. There are class leaders for our youth and adults Religious Education programs. There are youth group leaders, Women's Alliance leaders, CUUPS leaders & Interweave leaders.

The list goes on....

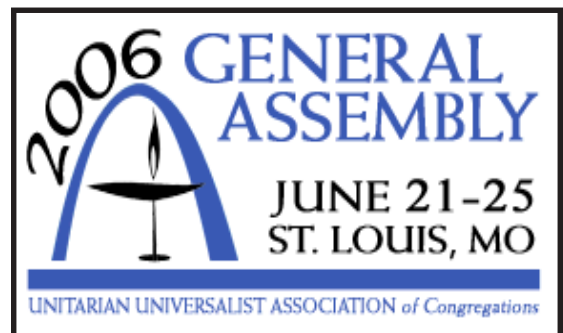
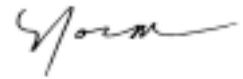
And within the wider Metro Louisville community there are those who see our church and/or its members as leaders on many fronts, social, political, educational and cultural.

Inside or outside of the church, I believe that people do "expect more from a leader." In general I think that is healthy and appropriate. My plan is to keep expecting more from myself and from each of you who are leaders in so many ways.

However justified those expectations of "more from a leader" may or may not be, each one of us must also find our own proper perspective and personal equilibrium with regards to expecting more from leaders, including ourselves, our families, our friends, our church, our community and our world. We must take great care not to expect more than we or they can realistically do with the available resources. Taken to its extreme – expecting "more from a leader" is unhealthy. Whether it is for ourselves or others whom we care about, we each must find a happy middle ground for our expectations between expecting too little and too much.

That middle ground is not fixed, it can and usually does shift as our individual and collective growth moves throughout our lives. It is all a part of the inherent nature of the spiritual terrain we call life.

As we go our separate ways for the summer, may we all have safe passage through this land.



by **Trish Packowski**

The Board of Trustees met for its regular meeting on May 17, 2006. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- **Joe Kremer** was nominated as an Endowment Trustee.
- GA Delegates (**Kathy Drehmel, Jill Harmer, Penny Nader, Claudia Runge, Kathy Thackeray, and Norm Stewart**, ministerial delegate) and Alternates (**Jane Martin Buckley, Carol Lehman, Fred Lehman, Beverly Moore, and Jasmine Walston**) were approved. \$660 will be split evenly among the delegates to defray registration costs.
- Format, handouts, procedures, and agenda were discussed for the upcoming Budget Hearing, May 21.
- Agenda, the Call, procedures, and facilitators were discussed for the upcoming Annual Meeting, June 5.
- Clarification was needed to convey that while the Board has reviewed all the proposed Constitutional changes, we choose to only put two forth to the Congregation for consideration at this time.
- The Board encourages the use of the results of both the Congregational/MAC Survey and the Canvass Survey Report in planning for the August Leadership Retreat.
- **Jill Sampson** and **Rick Hogue** were approved for Leadership School.
- All Board members are encouraged to attend the new Committee Chair Orientation on June 28, 5:30 – 8:30 pm.
- **John Findling** was approved to serve in the volunteer position of Church Archivist.

A special meeting of the Board will be held on May 24.

“Terquasquicentennial” Minutes

As part of the 175th anniversary of First Unitarian Church and as a service to its members and friends, Steepletalk will publish a series of important dates in the history of the church. (Note: “Terquasquicentennial” is the Latin-derived numerical name for the number 175.)

- On May 28, 1916, the Reverend Mr. Maxwell Savage, minister since 1910, gives his final sermon in Louisville.
- On June 4, 1960, the Reverend Mr. Robert Weston, minister for 14 years, resigns to become pastor at a church in Omaha, Nebraska.
- On June 18, 1974, streakers enliven Sunday service on “The Fun of Being a Unitarian.”
- On June 18, 1918, the Order of Service lists 40 members on Roll of Honor for service in World War I.
- On June 23, 1918, First Unitarian forms an alliance with the Anti-Saloon League to work for passage of Prohibition Amendment.



REviews

This month, we celebrate the accomplishments of 10 Coming of Age graduates. In a year-long process, the program participants have completed numerous requirements in the areas of Community Building, Religious Beliefs, UU History and Traditions, Worship, Social Responsibility and Service, and Church Membership. Among many other steps to completion, each participant completed a minimum of 8 hours of social service, researched Unitarian Universalism and other world religions, conducted interviews, and found ways to actively participate in worship and other aspects of church life. Participants also had the opportunity to work closely with an adult mentor, and to begin to articulate a personal statement of belief.

Congratulations to our Coming of Age program graduates: **Calvin xxxxxx, Katrina xxxxx, Colin xxxxx, Helen xxxxxx, Nora xxxxxx, Nick xxxxxx, Abby xxxxxx, Ben xxxxxx, Chloe xxxxx, and Celia xxxxxx.** Many thanks to their mentors (respectively): **Jess Schreiber, Cassandra Culin, Bob Ballard, Rose Stevens, Claudia Runge, Norm Stewart, Joan Beal, Bernie Schweickart, Mary Ballard, and Cathy Bohler.** Thanks also to **Joan Beal** and **Linda Givens** who joined me this year as Coming of Age Program Advisors.

I hope you'll join us on Sunday morning, June 4, for our Celebration of Life when our Coming of Agers will share their Statements of Belief with the congregation. Please join us in honoring these young men and women, the depth of their study, and the mentors and congregation who have supported them on their journey.

Peace,

Lisa

R.E. Announcements

✓ **Children's Religious Education programs will continue throughout the summer** under the leadership of **Mary Griffin**, our Summer Religious Education Coordinator. Preschool and Elementary School class levels meet each week, 10:55 - noon. Contact Mary (xxx-xxxx) for more information, or to get involved. Several volunteers are needed for one-time commitments.

✓ **Thanks to all who led our "First Hour" children's activities and Youth Groups** throughout this church year. These before- and after- church programs will return after Labor Day. For more information, contact Lisa Willner (dre@firstulou.org).

✓ **Congratulations to our Middle School Youth Group and their Youth Advisors** for hosting a successful District Youth Conference. The First Unitarian Church Board of Trustees has issued a proclamation in recognition of their excellent leadership. Many thanks to all the First U volunteers who offered their support to this District event.

✓ **R.E. Class Schedule Changes:** June 4 will be a multigenerational Celebration of Life as we recognize and honor our Coming of Age program graduates. There will be no religious education classes on this date. Childcare will be provided in the Preschool Room for young children. There will be no classes on June 11. Bring your children to the church campout!

✓ This year's **Upstairs Chapel offering** is dedicated to the American Library Association's Hurricane Katrina Library Relief fund and to Alley Cat Rescue. Using the democratic process, our children decided to devote half their offering to a human cause and half to an animal cause. The organizations were selected from an initial list of 12 organizations generated by our

(continued on the next page)

R.E. Announcements

S.M.A.R.T.

Upstairs Chapel participants. Thanks to the children who have contributed throughout this church year.

✓ Come to the Adult Religious Education Celebration and Conversation, June 7th. Potluck at 6:00, Conversation at 7:00.

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.



Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library
Gather at 9:30am
Program until 10:45am

- **May 28--Here's Our Budget.** In case you missed last week's Budget Hearing, the Finance Committee is pleased to offer you another chance to review the 2006-2007 proposed budget, ask questions, and offer comments.
- **June 4--Mimosa Breakfast.** Enjoy breakfast with the Round Table class, and provide the Curricula Team with comments on Round Table programs, to assist us with future planning. This is the last SMART until Ingathering in September. Sunday Morning Adult Round Table will not meet during the summer. Have a wonderful, restful summertime, and plan to join the Round Table again in September. Please send program suggestions to smart@firstulou.org.

Lisa Willner Religious Education Director

Telephone
(502) 585-5110 (Office)

E-mail
dre@firstulou.org

Office Hours
Monday 10:00 - 2:00
Tuesday 11:00 - 2:00
Thursday 11:00 - 2:00

Additional times available by appointment.

Shared Ministry

In my Annual Report I noted that at the time of that meeting I had been the Shared Ministry Coordinator at First Unitarian for one year, four months, and six days. OK so that didn't just flow off my pen; I did some calculating. However, the point is that the time has been memorable for me. Despite (or maybe because of) the vicissitudes of the church's life during the past year I find working at First Unitarian to be quite rewarding. The amount of time and energy that so many of you put into the work of this church weekly has amazed me from the beginning of my time here.

It was during one of the most moving events of this past church year - the potluck dinner when we watched news footage of the fire - that I came to understand a little more fully this devotion to First Unitarian Church. You demonstrated sharing the ministry in such a powerful, constructive way as you rebuilt and recreated this church. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity for us to work together as we continue to learn how to be more inclusive and effective in a Shared Ministry.

Enjoy the summer. Relax, play, and return with wonderful ideas.

Linda

Linda Givens

Shared Ministry Coordinator

502-585-5110

sharedministry@firsttulou.org

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

11am - 4pm

Friday off



All-Church Campout

2006 UU Campout
O'Bannon Woods Park
June 9, 10, 11

Families and singles are invited to join us in new barrack style cabins with single beds and tent camping areas. Come for the whole weekend or just spend a day. **John Nader** and **Roger Ohlman** are planning meals, activities and fellowship. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact one of them.



Reserve your space before June 4. We will be taking reservations in the social hall every Sunday after church.

Happenings include storytelling, campfire singing, talent show, meals, cards & games, volleyball, frisbee, canoe trip, scavenger hunt, nature hike, swimming, Sunday service, shoebox parade, drama workshop, napping, arts & crafts and MORE.

All meals are provided except Friday night dinner, which is potluck.



Interweave

Open Mike

Please join an "open mike" discussion about bisexuality, polyamory, the marriage equality banner, or other BGLT concerns on June 12, 7pm. Co-sponsored by Interweave. All are welcome.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Annual Meeting Scheduled for Monday, June 5

On Monday June 5, 2006 at 7pm, the First Unitarian Church of Louisville will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting at the church. The agenda will include:

- * Honoring those who have passed away in the past year,
- * Electing members to serve on the Board, Council, Shared Ministry and Endowment Trust Committees,
- * Voting on the budget for 2006-07,
- * Voting on the proposed changes to the Church Constitution,
- * A report from the Board on the status of work requested by the congregation.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. However, to be eligible to vote you must be an active member having signed the book 60 days prior to the date of the meeting – on or before April 06, 2006.

There will be a limited number of constitutional changes proposed at this meeting. A meeting to address broader changes to the constitution will be scheduled in the fall. A letter was mailed to those eligible to vote with the details of the constitutional changes and the agenda for the meeting. Join us as we plan for our next 175 years.

Bible Study & Celebration for the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship

Discussion meetings are set for June 16 & 30, 7pm, in the library at church. Contact **Geneva Fry**, xxxxx@xxxxx.net or xxx-xxxx for more information. UUCF is open to all church members, friends, and visitors, whether Christian, non-Christian, or questioning Christian.

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please clip the address label from this newsletter and mail it to the church office to the attention of **Linda Givens**.

Many Hands Make Light Work

Mark your calendars! All church members should come to meet folks and spiff up the church on **August 27** for our **annual T-shirt Sunday**. It's great fun and it prepares the rooms for our Annual Ingathering.

Also note that the First Unitarian House and Grounds committee will have **three scheduled work parties this summer**. These are for repairing, cleaning and painting various places in the church. These meetings are scheduled for **June 17, July 15, and August 12**. If you are a member of this committee please plan to attend if possible. If you are a member who is handy and likes to help the church in a concrete way call **Geneva Fry** at xxx-xxxx or contact her by e-mail: xxxx@xxxx.net to find out how you can help.

(From our Partner Church Networker upon her return from Transylvania.)

Yesterday I returned from 'Enyed where I spent two good sessions with **Sandor Boti** and his wife **Eva**. He picked me up at the bus stop and drove us to the parsonage – or close to it. We walked across the foot bridge to get a good look at the Little Ohio – a name he loves to use. He and Eva keep everything in such good shape. The garden is really beautiful this spring.

Over coffee, with plenty of sweet breads and cookies to sustain us, we had a good talk with a translator. **Elod**, the second son, came in briefly and promised to give a detailed translation of Norm's fine letter. He's studying history in Kolozsvar and may become a librarian. His English was excellent. Boti, by the way, is very eager to have Norm visit.

Seeing what your financial contributions and their imagination have created was marvelous. The community room above the garage is a beauty. Everything is well arranged and taken care of. Now they have some cement bags ready to do the repairs on the plaster around the bottom of the house, due last summer's flood.

Boti said he thinks he keeps you up to date on problems and needs and that you respond wonderfully. What they would both really like, of course, is to have more pilgrims visit from Louisville. There is a lot to explore in the area, as you know. Just let Boti know who is coming and when, and they will make the necessary arrangements for a wonderful stay! Though there are only a few children in the congregation, many of them want American pen pals. He'll send you their names.

All in all, he seems satisfied with having both financial contributions and visits from people in your congregation. Boti and Eva send you all their greetings and hope you are all in good health.

from **Jasmine Walston**, Chair,
Public and Denominational Relations Committee

UUA Updates

➔ General Assembly -- There is still time to register for GA in St. Louis, MO and join thousands of UUs gathered to worship, conduct business, enjoy performances, and share information and ideas. Registration closes between June 9 and the start of GA, at which time onsite registration will be available. This is the last GA for several years that will be within easy driving distance. Please consider attending, whether full-time, June 21-25, or just for a day or two. Registration and information is available online at www.uua.org/ga, or contact Jasmine Walston, pdr@firstulou.com or xxx-xxxx.

➔ "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society" and "Threat of Global Warming" are the current Study Action Issues in process by the Unitarian Universalist Association. First Unitarian's contributions to this process are displayed on the Public and Denominational Relations (PDR) table in the Social Hall.

➔ Annual reports from the Heartland District meeting will be displayed through June at the PDR table in the Social Hall.

Consider Joining a First U Trip to our Partner Church

If you would like information about visiting Transylvania with other members of First U in August, contact Beverly Moore, xxx-xxxx or Carol Findling, xxx-xxxx.

Canvass Kudos

Thank you: First Unitarian Church Stewardship 2006 Campaign

from **Kathy Kremer**, Finance and Canvass Chair

The campaign to raise funds for the 2006-2007 church year is nearing its end. It was launched with a "Unitarian Home Companion" dinner and program, and "Stewardship Sunday" on March 5. It will end with a formal "thank you" to the congregation during the Celebration of Life Service on May 28.

This year's canvassing goal was \$200,000, or 83 percent of an estimated budget for the 2006-2007 year. As of May 21, our church members and friends, representing 165 pledging "units," have pledged a total of \$167,389.

For lovers of statistics, we offer the following: percentage of goal reached: 84%; percentage of estimated budget for next year reached: 70%; percentage of pledge units who actually pledged: 71%; mean (average) pledge: \$1,014; median pledge: \$600 (half of pledges above and below). number of members/friends who completed the canvass survey: 69 (see summary elsewhere in this newsletter).

In between the kickoff dinner, the official end of the campaign, an incredible amount of work was performed by so many (including appearances by the Simpsons, David Letterman's "Top Ten," and heartfelt remarks from a doting father, a longtime member, and a nearly brand new member).

Special thanks to the 7 captains; 46 canvassers; the Activities Committee, dinner volunteers, and performers who gave us a wonderful evening at the kickoff dinner; and the Stewardship Campaign Committee, especially **Beverly Moore, Claudia Runge, Brian Daly, Rick Hogue, Kathie Johnson, Grace Levitan, Ralph Moss, and John Scruton.**

Thank you!

Canvass Survey Report

Many of you filled out the survey during canvass. **Brian Daley** has analyzed the results of the survey and has written a report containing important ideas that we should consider.

You may pick up a copy of the report in the Volunteer Area at church.

Did you know you can read *Steepletalk* online? You can access it from the church website at www.firstulou.org. Check it out!



STEEPLETALK

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Next deadline: **Friday, June 23, 2005**
(covers month of July)

Editor: Claudia Runge

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org



Social Responsibility

Join us for a Citizens' Congressional Hearing on the Health Care Crisis.

Saturday, June 10, 2006
10:30am to 12:30pm
Calvary Episcopal Church
821 S. Fourth St. (between York and
Breckinridge)

This hearing is a part of 6/7/6 (June 7, 2006)--a week of national action inspired by Healthcare-NOW.org. Millions of seniors can't afford their medications. Working families are bankrupted by catastrophic illnesses even though they have insurance. Over 18,000 die each year because of lack of insurance. All of us face a health care crisis. On June 10, we will hear about the human impact directly from those who have felt it*.

The 6/7/6 corresponds with the identifying numbers on the United States National Health Insurance Act, H.R. 676, a single payer plan, sponsored by Congressman John Conyers, that would cover everyone for all needed care. The Louisville hearing is one of 70 Citizen/Congressional Hearings across the nation designed to press elected leaders and candidates to take action!

*If you have a story about how the health system has failed you, let us know. We would also welcome your help in other ways. Further info: Find out more at their meetings 5:30pm. third Thursdays at Main Library, mezzanine level or contact (xxx) xxx-xxxx, **Jill Harmer**.

Kroger Bucks Report

from **Bob Reed**, Social Responsibility Committee
\$202.28 is the amount that we received about ten days ago for our purchases (April 16 -May 13) at Kroger. Twenty-four of our members and friends who have purchased their Kroger Bucks

cards at First Unitarian Church "reloaded" those cards during that time for a total of \$5,057, which, at 4%, yields the amount above. Earlier in the year our earnings were greater because our purchases were about \$1,000 more than they were this month and last. We don't know why, but because of this, as you may have noticed, our FYI in the Sunday Orders of Service have been featuring not only buying cards but also using them.

The income, \$3,000 - \$4,000 per year, underwrites a lot of what our SRC does, such as the support of the HELP Office, numerous other community organizations embodying our values, Katrina flood and family assistance, and flood relief for our partner congregation in Romania this year. So, please, BUY and USE your Kroger Bucks. Buy, at the SRC table on Sundays (\$20 for a card already "loaded" with \$20) and use ("reload" and purchase groceries, etc.) at any Kroger store.

Just among ourselves

Many of you already know that **Jo Ann Dale's** mother died on May 1. Since the previous *Steepletalk* had already gone to press when this happened, we wanted to let Jo Ann, **Carol, Josey**, and other family members know how sorrow we are for their loss.

Please take a moment to thank **Jim Fry** for serving as temporary building supervisor while we have sought a replacement (as if that was possible) for **John Durham**. Jim has been a "life-saver" for us, and we deeply appreciate his efforts! Also, please make welcome our new building supervisor, **Earl Reynolds**. We think that you'll find Earl professional and conscientious about his work and a really nice guy as well.

Building Use Calendar for June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 28 9:30a SMART 9:45a Childrn's Activities 10:55a CoL & RE for Child, Yth 1p MS Youth	May 29 Memorial Day--Office Closed	May 30 11a Village Playgroup 12p Staff mtg	May 31 5:30p Chalice Night	June 1 7:15p Choir	June 2 7p Drum Circle	June 3 12p Private event*
4 9:30a SMART 10:55a Summer RE for Children 10:55a CoL - Coming of Age 6p Co/A Celebration	5 6:30p Annual Meeting + Bd Mtg. afterward	6 11a Village Playgroup 12p Staff mtg. 6p Soc Resp	7 3:30p Partner Church 6p Adult RE potluck & forum	8 7a Library Book Sale set up*	9 7a Library Book Sale* 6p Church Camp Out - O'Bannon Woods	10 8a Library Book Sale* All Day - Church Camp Out
11 Until 12p Church Camp Out 10:55a CoL- Choir rm (No RE) 12p Book Sale*	12 8am Book Sale take down* 11:30a Brownbaggers 7p Interweave	13 11a Village Playgroup 12p Staff mtg.	14	15	16	17 8:00p Private event*
18 10:55a Summer RE for Children 10:55a CoL 12:30p Kenton Atwood's birthday celeb.	19	20 11a Village Playgroup	21 General Assembly - St. Louis	22 General Assembly - St. Louis	23 General Assembly - St. Louis 7p Christian Fellowship	24 General Assembly - St. Louis
25 General Assembly - St. Louis 10:55a Summer RE for Children 10:55a CoL	26 6:30p Shared Ministry	27 7p Finance	28 5:30p Cmte. Chair Training	29	30	*Denotes outside group or activity not officially affiliated with First Unitarian

First Unitarian Church
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Louisville, KY 40203-2115

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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

June 4 *Coming of Age.* Today we honor our Coming of Age program participants, recognize their accomplishments, and celebrate with them as they share their “Statements of Belief.” Special music will be provided by members of the Coming of Age group. (No children’s R.E. today - we invite children to join in the Coming of Age celebration. Childcare will be provided for our young UUs.)

June 11 *All Church Camp Out at O’Bannon Woods.* A weekend long Celebration of Life. At church in the music room: *Left Behind*, a Celebration of Life with the **Rev. Norm Stewart** for those who didn’t make it to the camp out.

June 18 *At the Edge of Summer.* **Rev. Norm Stewart.** At the Edge of Summer, the coming Summer Solstice, we will have a Flower Communion and also bid Safe Passage to more than 16 members of our church community who will be heading off to General Assembly in St. Louis.

June 25 *Blessing the Animals.* Today we will honor the pets and animal friends who are a part of our blessed community. You are invited to bring pets on leashes or in appropriate carriers to the Celebration of Life. They must have adult supervision at all times for the safety and enjoyment of everyone. We encourage you to bring pictures or mementos of pets living or gone to decorate the platform. The service will be led by **Tiffany** and **Doug Taylor**. If you have questions call xxx-xxxx.