



# STEEPLETALK

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 13 Number 1

January 2007

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### **~Congregational Meeting Planned for January 14~ Save the Date!**

from **Penny Nader**, President of the Board of Trustees  
The Board of Trustees has called a special Congregational meeting for Sunday, January 14, at 12:30 pm. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

At the request of the congregation this will be the mid-year review of finances. Also, our plans and goals for the remainder of this church year and goal setting for next year will be discussed. The meeting should take approximately 2 hours. A formal letter with the call will be sent next week. Join us! We will begin the new year together!



### **Partner Church Committee to Present New Program from Carol Findling**

Your Partner Church committee is happy to present a Chalice Night program informing you about a relatively new program in Transylvania. Called the Community Capacity Building Program, it was developed over many years mainly by Richard Ford. **Beverly Moore** and **Carol Findling** attended a workshop in Chicago in October 2004 and were very impressed with the program.

We have a demonstration video about a community in the Philippines and a report on the use of this program in Arkos, Transylvania. It has proven to be very successful, and it was both inspiring and exciting to see how it works. We'll demonstrate its use to all who come to our class at Chalice Night on January 17, 2007.

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

## From Your Interim Minister

Over and over again, we begin. We celebrate the start of the new church year with a water communion. We meditate on the Jewish High Holy Days. We mark Halloween, or Samhain, which most pagans regard as the beginning of the year. Advent, which begins the Christian church year, is inescapable. On January 1st, the secular calendar's New Year begins. And still to come are the holidays in springtime—the vernal equinox, Passover, and Easter—all of which relate to the beginning of new life. Occasionally we may refer to beginnings on other religious calendars—Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh; even Zoroastrian or Jainist.

Over and over again, we begin. I used to wonder if this was a problem in Unitarian Universalism. Unlike other religions, Unitarian Universalism does not have a calendar of its own. We pick and choose among a plethora of religious and secular calendars, rather than living out the year of a single tradition. (True to Unitarian Universalist form, the one unique UU holiday—Flower Communion—has no fixed place on the calendar.)

Now though, I think these multiple beginnings are true to life. Over and over, we begin again. We begin in spring, when new life is burgeoning; we begin in July, in the fullness of summer; we begin at Labor Day, as fall approaches; we begin in January when the days are short, the earth hard, and the water cold or even frozen.

The question isn't whether we begin again, the question is: how. What is in our minds and our hearts and our souls, as we begin again? If we begin with bitterness, anger, or despair, we poison the ground. If we begin with faith, with hope, with love, anything is possible.

On the 14th of January, there will be a congregational meeting which has to do with the

church's past, present, and future. There will be a review of finances; plans and goals for the remainder of this church year; and goal-setting for the 2006/2007 church year. This is an exciting time in the life of this church. We are clearing out stones, preparing the ground for the planting of seeds, and beginning to imagine the garden of your dreams. Come, and help.

Blessings,

*Betsy*



### Finance Committee Asks for Timely Requests

from Rick Hogue

To all committee chairs and those who are looking to have approval of various events to raise money for First Unitarian Church: Over the past couple of months the Finance Committee has had a deluge of last minute requests that came in when a meeting was not scheduled until after the event was to begin.

Because of this the Finance Committee is requesting that committee chairs be aware of when the Finance Committee meets and to send in your requests 2 weeks prior to the Finance Committee meeting to insure that the item gets on the agenda and has time to be approved by us and forwarded to the Board of Trustees.

The Finance Committee meets on the last Tuesday of each month, except when that date conflicts with a holiday. We appreciate your help in making sure we have time to consider all possible programs to better our church community.

# Council Notes

from **Kathy Drehmel & Kathy Thackeray**

The last two months have been busy for Council! On November 14 Council hosted a Program Committee Gathering. It was well attended (25) with each Program Committee sending their Chair or a representative. After enjoying a meal together, participants shared with the group answering --- "What does your committee do well? What is a challenge for your committee? How can Council help?" It was interesting and informative to hear what other committees were doing, and that we share some common goals/challenges.

**Penny Nader**, Board President, gave the gathering a "heads-up" on challenges the Board of Trustees is working through. Interim minister, **Betsy Scheuerman**, spoke to the group about her goals for the time she is with us. Our guest speaker for the evening was our church historian, **John Findling**, who gave a presentation on "Writing Minutes with (church) history in mind."

December's Council meeting included reminding committee liaisons about important Stewardship dates coming up: January 14, Congregational Goal setting and Luncheon; Feb. 1, committee budgets due; Feb. 24, Fellowship dinner; Feb. 25, Pledge Drive Sunday. Other topics included Childcare for Vespers, District Cluster Training at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, and a proposed booklet introducing our staff to the Congregation.

Last, but certainly not least, we heard committee reports from our liaisons. Which included reviewing a Social Responsibility brochure put together by **Wayne Givens** (will be available to guests and members in the brochure rack). And, **Mike Avery**, liaison to CUUPS, informed Council that attendance at CUUPS activities has

been excellent. At the sabbat of Samhain that was held in the Courtyard, almost 50 people were in attendance!

Thank You to all Committees and the hard work you are doing for First Church. Council wishes everyone a very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

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## Fun for Everyone

from **Beverly Moore**

This year we will be having another spectacular, fun-filled, **Fellowship Dinner** to launch our Pledge Drive on **Saturday evening, February 24, 2007**. Don't miss it this year. Mark your calendar now!

You should be receiving an invitation to the dinner around the first week of February. If one does not arrive by the Feb. 10, please call the office and leave a message for the Pledge Drive Team.

## STEEPLETALK

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## Reviews

Many thanks to all of our R.E. teachers, class participants, members of the R.E. Committee, singers in the R.E. Choir for All Ages, for the careful planning and creativity they devoted to our Religious Education Holiday Celebration of Life. The true spirit of collaboration that infuses our preparations for the R.E. holiday service— within classes, between classes, across generations, with the larger church family – represents, to me at least, an important and especially joyful piece of our winter holiday traditions.

Thinking back over this R.E. semester, I believe our church community has much to be proud of. High levels of parent participation, excellent volunteer teachers (with an unprecedented number staying on for a second semester), rising class attendance numbers, a very strong Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program, active youth groups, high church involvement in child- or youth-led social action projects, all are clear indicators of First U's commitment to its children and youth, and to nurturing the next generation of Unitarian Universalists.

Speaking of our OWL program, I want to congratulate our most recent Junior High (and older) OWL graduates: **Calvin xxxxxx**, **Katrina xxxxxx**, **Ben xxxxxxx**, **Nick xxxxxx**, **Elena xxxxxx**, **Allie xxxxx**, **Brian xxxxxx**, **Celia xxxxxx**, and **Hannah xxxxxx** all completed the demanding curriculum this fall, along with several of their peers from Thomas Jefferson and Clifton Unitarian Churches. Participating in and completing the OWL program often required our youth to make difficult choices, and meant giving up free time, social time, and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Upon completing the program, many

participants expressed an increased sense of confidence and stronger UU identity. And at our end-of-OWL family celebration, it was easy to see leaps in maturity, self-understanding, and acceptance of one another. Thanks to our OWL teachers -- **Carol Uebelhoer**, **Doug Taylor**, **Seana Golder**, and **Kyle Ellison** – and to our congregation for supporting this important program.

And looking ahead to the New Year - we have more wonderful programs ahead. After a brief winter break, classes for children and youth, youth groups, and first hour children's programs resume on January 7. Happy New Year!

Peace,

*Lisa*



### R.E. Announcements

- ➔ The Youth Adult Committee (YAC) will meet January 7, 9:45 – 10:45 in the R.E. Library.
- ➔ Following a 2-week R.E. Winter Break, classes and other programs for children and youth will resume on January 7.
- ➔ Our monthly Multigenerational Celebration of Life will be January 14. There will be no regular R.E. classes for children and youth, and all are invited to attend the service, seated with their families. Childcare will be provided for very young children.
- ➔ R.E. Teacher Orientation will be held January 21, 9:30 – 10:45 in the R.E. Library. New R.E. teachers, please arrive at 9:30. Continuing teachers, please join us at 10:15. The new R.E. semester begins February 4.

## Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library  
Gather at 9:30am

Program until 10:45am

- **Jan. 7: Ethics - Values: Is the Golden Rule Enough?** Which of our values have priority over our other values? How do we resolve conflicting values?
- **Jan. 14: Ethics – Character: The Moral Virtuoso.** The class will pull together the ideas from previous sessions.
- **Jan. 21: Ethics – Character, cont. The Moral Virtuoso** is gifted with wisdom, courage, and inner integrity.
- **Jan. 28 & Feb. 4: Moral Values Statement of Conscience.** The class will discuss the UUA's draft Statement of Conscience and collect recommended revisions to be sent to Boston. Draft available at church and at [www.uua.org/csw](http://www.uua.org/csw). UUA Study Action Issue.

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

## Lisa Willner Religious Education Director

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

*E-mail*  
[dre@firstulou.org](mailto: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.*

## Brownbaggers

One hundred years ago there was no Standiford Field, no UPS. There WAS a great river, and it carried passengers, freight, and hundreds of stories. Some of these stories will be revealed to us by **Janice Molnar**, who will show us through the Howard Steamboat Museum, 1101 E. Market, Jeffersonville, IN. The Howards were three generations of steamboat owners. The museum features furniture from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Anyone with a bag lunch (brown or otherwise) is a brownbagger; so join us.



### Schedule:

11:45 - Meet at church and eat.

12:20 - Drive or car-pool to 1101 E. Market, Jeffersonville.

12:30 - Tour begins.

Cost of tour - \$4.00 per person

## Time for Soup and Games

It is that time of year again. **Holly and Rick Hogue** will be hosting a soup and games event on the **first day of the year** for those who wish to attend. Bring your games, what you would like to drink and a side dish, dessert or breads. Holly and Rick will provide bean soup, potato soup, chili (both meat and veggie), plus tea, coffee, and lemonade. The festivities will begin at 1:30pm on Monday, the 1st, and go until 7pm. Hope to see you there.





➔ **Time Management:** How do people in polyamorous relationships find time to take care of everyone and everything, and still find time for church? All are welcome. **Monday, January 8 at 7pm.**

➔ Interweave will have a **business meeting** on **Friday, January 19 at 6:30pm.** If you have suggestions, ideas, or questions about Interweave events, please attend. Also, if you have questions about bisexual, gay, lesbian or transgender issues or how this church responds to them, come join the conversation. Everyone is welcome.

➔ For more information, contact Debbie Silverman at [xxxxxx@xxxxx.com](mailto:xxxxxx@xxxxx.com) or xxx-xxxx.

## Place Nametags Here!



The **Shared Ministry Committee** has placed a basket on a small table near the door at the Library Lane entrance/exit. The purpose of this basket is to allow you to **place your nametag in it BEFORE you leave our church.**

## HELP Needs Our 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 the following: deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, toilet paper and soap.

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

The **wreathmaking workshop** was a wonderful success! Over 25 people enjoyed making wreaths, and we had especially wonderful fresh greens this year. The final amount isn't calculated, but we made at least as much money for the Church as we did last year! Thanks to all who helped--we always have fun doing it.

**Reception Thank-You** -- Once again, Congregational Services sends its appreciation to everybody who helped in any way with the reception after Christmas Eve Vespers. We couldn't have done it without you!

**Textile Table Report:** The sewn items brought in \$552 for the Yuletide Fare. A big "thank you" to all who donated ideas, fabric, time and labor to this effort.

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## *The Heart of Christianity*

The UU Christian Fellowship will continue its discussion of the Marcus Borg book, *The Heart of Christianity*, on Fridays, Jan. 12 and Jan. 26 at 7pm in the library. We will be discussing the chapters on "The Bible: The Heart of the Tradition" and "God: The Heart of Reality." Contact **Geneva Fry** for more information.

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## Buy Light Bulbs from SRC

Social Responsibility Committee will be selling compact fluorescent light bulbs at a wholesale price (approximately \$3.50 each) in January after church. Save electricity and enjoy these long lasting bulbs and help decrease global warming at the same time. We would like you also to donate bulbs to the HELP ministries which will distribute them to people whom they help with electric bills.

# Shared Ministry

## Chalice Night Changes

One of the most interesting aspects of my job here at First Unitarian is change, change, and change. Let me tell you about the most recent change. Following a number of conversations with staff and a meeting with representatives from the Chalice Night Planning Team, I was asked to assume responsibility for Chalice Night programming beginning January 17. I responded to that request with excitement, and I am pleased to have the opportunity not only to continue but to build on an already successful program. So Chalice Night will no longer fall under the supervision and direction of Adult Religious Education. The Religious Education Committee is likely to offer a curriculum series for Chalice Night two or three times during the year, but Chalice Night programming now falls under the administration of the Shared Ministry Coordinator.

Since its inception the Chalice Night Planning Team has done an impressive job with programming. I am certainly grateful to them for their work as I am grateful to **Jo Ann Dale** for her efforts to make Chalice Night a reality. As with many successful programs, however, details and on-going demands began to consume the time and energy of the very creative people who wanted to bring quality learning experiences to this church through Chalice Night. Hopefully, my involvement will enable some of those people to put their energy into assisting with program development rather than into tending to never ending details.

My plan is to have an overall theme for each semester. This coming semester the theme will be “Our Selves, Our Community and Our World.” Please call, see or email me if you would

like to develop a single session or a series of sessions on topics that relate to the needs of individuals, our church, the Louisville community, and the larger world. When the holiday season is over, I plan to have some guidelines that might be helpful as you propose and plan sessions.

Also, I would like to pull together a group of church members and friends who are interested in membership development, so that we can do some long-range planning that takes into consideration other church events and “happenings.” If you are interested, please contact me. This is an exciting addition to my Shared Ministry Coordinator responsibilities. I look forward to working with the church to continue Chalice Night – which plays an already successful role in First U’s membership development efforts.

*Linda*



**Linda Givens**

**Shared Ministry Coordinator**

**502-585-5110**

[sharedministry@firstulou.org](mailto:sharedministry@firstulou.org)

**9:00am-2:00pm on Mon., Tues, Thurs.**

**9:00am-noon on Weds.**

**Other times by appointment.**

# Denominational Relations

from Jasmine Walston

## Heartland Happenings

- The **District Annual Meeting** will be here before you know it, March 30-31 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. UUA Moderator Gini Courter will be the keynote speaker. Please start planning now to attend, and possibly to serve as a delegate. If you plan to attend this meeting, please contact Jasmine Walston, Troy Jackson, or Beverly Moore.

- **Regional “Cluster” Training Seminars:** You said you wanted more information and help on stewardship, membership & lay leadership, and religious education. We heard you and are bringing a seminar covering all three topics to a congregation near you. **Kentucky** - January 13, 2007 - Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, Louisville. **Indiana** - March 17, 2007 - All Souls Unitarian Church, Indianapolis.

Each seminar will include training tracks on Stewardship, Membership/Lay Leader Development, and Religious Education Each day runs from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm (Eastern). Lunch and breaks are included in the registration fee. Childcare will be provided. See registration brochure for details, available for printing at [www.heartlanduu.org](http://www.heartlanduu.org), or contact **Jasmine Walston**.

- For more **news and information from the Heartland District**, view the District’s monthly mailings at <http://www.heartlanduu.org/announcements/>.

## Across the UUA

- **Call for Adult Curriculum Authors.** The UUA is seeking authors this winter for three faith development programs for adults: Different Beliefs, One Faith; Unitarian Universalist Moral Values; and The Theological Ties that Bind. Writing takes place in spring and summer 2007.

Apply by 1/15/2007. Visit <http://uua.org/re/other/tapestry.html> or contact Adult Programs Director Rev. Sarah Gibb Millspaugh for information: xxx-xxx-xxxx or [millspaugh@uua.org](mailto:millspaugh@uua.org).

- **Seeking Our Whole Lives Trainers.** The UUA seeks knowledgeable and experienced educators who can commit to co-leading several weekend trainings over the next three years to prepare participants to lead the new *Our Whole Lives for Young Adults* and the existing *Our Whole Lives for Adults* sexuality education programs in their congregations.

Trainers participate in a five day intensive Training of Trainers workshop during July 2007 in Boston. Backgrounds in sexuality or health education, human development, counseling, and/or health care are particularly welcome. To request more information, precise dates, and an application, contact curriculum assistant Rachael Brown: xxx-xxx-xxxx or [rbrown@uua.org](mailto:rbrown@uua.org). Application deadline February 9, 2007.

- Applications are being accepted for a paid UU internship program in the Boston area, for June 1-July 14, 2007, open to young adults ages 18-25. Application deadline: February 1, 2007. Visit [www.uua.org/ya-cm/summer](http://www.uua.org/ya-cm/summer) for more information.

- **UUA Conference on Multiracial, Multicultural Future.** Ten years ago the UUA General Assembly made a commitment to move toward becoming an antiracist, anti-oppressive, multicultural UUA. Join congregational and district leaders from throughout the United States as we explore together what we can do to lead congregations into a multiracial and multicultural future. **Now is the Time -- UUA National Conference in Arlington, VA, February 16-18, 2007.** Online registration now open: <http://www.uua.org/cde/>

# Building Use Calendar for January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 6:30p RE Cmte 6:30p SMART Curric. Team 6:30p SocResp Cmte.	3 2p Village Play Group 4p Partner Church Cmt	4	5 3:30p *Private evt 7p Drum Circle	6 9a House & Grounds Cmte	
7 9:30a SMART 9:45a Chldm's Act 9:45 YAC 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12pLuncheon 12:30pCong Mtg 1p MS Yth	8 5:30p Worship Cmte 6p Cong. Services Cmte 7p Interweave	9 6p Activities Cmte 6:45p Council	10	11 5:30p Personnel Cmte 6:30p PDR Sub- Cmte 7:15p Choir	12 7p UUCF	13 9a Women's Alliance Brunch
14 9:30a SMART 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col- Intergenerational 12p Luncheon 12:30p Church Goal Setting Mtg. 1p MS Yth	15 11:30a Brownbaggers 1p Bldg Use Cmte 5:30p Worship Cmte 6:30p PDR Cmte	16 6p Board	17 2p Village Play Group 5:30p Chalice Night	18 7:15p Choir	19 6p Interweave	20 3p Set up for KYRCRC* 4p KYRCRC Dinner* 8p PrivateEvt*
21 9:30a SMART 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12:30p Chch Tour 1p MS Yth	22 6:15p Shared Ministry Cmte	23	24 2p Village Play Group 5:30p Chalice Night	25 7:15p Choir	26 7p UUCF	27
28 9:30a SMART 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12:30p Shared Min Info Session 1p MS Yth 6p KAGWAGG	29	30 7p Finance Cmte	31 2p Village Play Group 5:30p chalice Night			* Denotes outside group or activity not officially affiliated with First Unitarian

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## Celebrations of Life

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

**January 7**      *Journeying.* **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman.** In this New Year where are we going? Have we been prompted by an epiphany--either ours, or someone else's? Do we have a star to guide us? A roadmap? If so, can we see the star, or read the map? I promise I won't tell the old joke about what the magi's journey would have been like, had they been three wise women, rather than three wise (?) men.

**January 14**      *"The Foundation is Love."* **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman.** These are words spoken by Martin Luther King, as he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize. Tomorrow is set aside to honor this great man, who is an American saint. Rooted and sustained by his faith, he had the courage to confront injustice, the force of character to demand that people act from love rather than from hate, and the vision to inspire others to dream of and work towards a just and free society. The Celebration of Life today will be intergenerational.

**January 21**      *A Work in Progress.* **Katy Brown, Fred Lehman.** From the moment of birth, we are complete, and yet we are always becoming something new. Likewise, our universe is ever-changing. Each of us has a role as co-creator of what is to be.

**January 28**      *The Growing Light.* **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman.** What do candles, groundhogs, and stories about the goddess/saint Brigit have in common? All have links to the pagan holiday of Imbolc, celebrated from late January to early February. It is my favorite pagan holiday, so today I want to honor the sixth source of our living tradition.