



STEEPLETALK

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Volume 13 Number 5

May 2007

www.firstulou.org

809 S 4TH STREET
LOUISVILLE, KY 40203
Phone: 502.585.5110
Phone: 502.589.6028
Fax: 502.587.8446
Office Hours: 9-3, M-F

Rev. Betsy Scheuerman, Interim Minister - minister@firstulou.org
Linda Givens, Shared Ministry Coordinator - sharedministry@firstulou.org
Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education - dre@firstulou.org
Cathy Kaiser, Office Manager - office@firstulou.org
Penny Nader, President - Board of Trustees - president@firstulou.org
William Plummer, Music Director - music@firstulou.org
James Dersch, Instrumentalist ~ Earl Reynolds, Building Supervisor
Rev. Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus ~ Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus

**The Religious Education Committee announces a new
Artist-in-Residence Program!!!!**



**International Folk Dancing
with Rose and David Stevens**

May 6, 13, 20, 9:45 – 10:45 in the Social Hall

!!! * ALL AGES * NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED * !!!

Participants may dance in the May 20th Celebration of Life

First U Delegates Attend Heartland Annual Meeting

Lay delegates **Beverly Moore, Agatha Walston, and Jasmine Walston** and minister delegate the **Rev. Betsy Scheuerman** represented First Unitarian at the 2007 Heartland District Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The theme of the meeting focused on connecting our congregations with each other to learn from our neighbors' experiences and share the workload. Attendees enjoyed a keynote from UUA Moderator **Gini Courter**, inspiring worship services, and a variety of interesting workshops, including an update on Partner Churches from Beverly Moore.

Heartland's 53 congregations were represented by delegates from 29 congregations, including the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Delegates adopted a balanced budget for 2007-2008, approved several bylaws amendments, and received reports from District leaders and committees describing the past year's work and looking forward to next year. For more information about the Heartland, visit www.heartlanduu.org/.

To seek the truth in love...

From Your Interim Minister

I write this in the wake of a massacre at Virginia Tech. A few papers have labeled the gunman a monster. Labels such as that are easy, and wrong. He was mentally ill. Unfortunately, he was able to buy guns. Because of that, thirty-three people are dead.

Meanwhile, the civilian deaths in Baghdad in one day were more than five times greater, than those at the university. The death rate for American troops over the past six months was at its all-time high. The war in Iraq goes on and on and on. In the face of all this violence, I feel grief and anger and despair.

Words of Wendell Berry come to mind:

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives
may be, I go and lie down where the wood
drake rests in his beauty on the water, and
the great heron feeds.*

*I come into the peace of wild things who
do not tax their lives with forethought of
grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars wait-
ing with their light. For a time I rest in the
grace of the world, and am free.*

In spite of all the violence, there is astonishing beauty and grace in this world. When we despair, we need to rest in it. And once rested, we need to recall the words of another poet, Adrienne Rich: *My heart is moved by all I cannot save:/ So much has been destroyed/ I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age,/ perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.*

This is what religious community is for: a place to rest, a space in which to find grace and freedom, and then the companionship of others, working to reconstitute the world.

As Dorothy Day put it, *No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do.*

Blessings,

Betsy

Board BIZ

by Jane Buckley

The Church Board of Trustees met on Apr.17 and 18.

Discussion topics included:

- Preparation for Apr.22 Congregational Meeting
- Preparation for Apr.29 Budget Hearing Meeting (including preparation and discussion of items to be included in the 2007-2008 Board-proposed budget)
- New nursery workers to be hired (Cassidy Johnson will be moving on in May)
- Search Process Definition Group (moving forward with naming Ministerial Search Committee)
- Plans for expanding handicapped parking at church

For a fuller report of Board actions, see approved and draft minutes of Board Meetings in "Board Book" in Church Volunteer Area.

Late breaking news: At the Apr 22 Congregational Meeting, retired Rev. Grayson Tucker was accepted to status of "member minister" and all proposed constitutional changes (that put in place changes that will allow Church Reorganization Committee to move forward) were passed by the Congregation.

Steepletalk Needs You!

Every month a group of dedicated members get together to fold the *Steepletalk* in preparation for mailing. They are in need of additional help and of someone who possibly will oversee the operation. If you would like to help this group and think you would enjoy the stimulating conversation that accompanies the work, please call or email Linda at 585-5110 or shared_ministry@bellsouth.net.



The Heart of Christianity

The UU Christian Fellowship will continue its discussion of the Marcus Borg book, *The Heart of Christianity*, on **Fridays, May 11 and May 25 at 7pm** in the library. Contact **Geneva Fry** for more information.

Women for Peace



Be sure to stop by the Women's Alliance Table in the Social Hall, before and after the service on Mother's Day, to purchase a peace pin and/or order a peace tee shirt.

STEEPLETALK

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

Next deadline: **Friday, May 18, 2007**
(covers month of June)

Editor: Claudia Runge
Contact us: editor@firstulou.org



At the Committee Chair Gathering on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, not only did we enjoy each other's company but we were also guided through the processes of writing a committee Annual Report by **Linda Givens**. We heard the kinds of changes that the Committee formed by the Board of Trustees to look into positive changes in our church structure is thinking about and discussed the importance of the proposed changes in the First U Constitution.

At the end of our meeting the committee chairs asked the Council to facilitate a **Committee Chair Gathering on Tuesday, May 8, 2007**, for the purpose of establishing a church calendar for the next church year 2007 - 2008. The council chairs e-mailed the committee chairs and associate (affiliate) groups to please discuss within their committees and groups their plans for the next church year especially if it involves a date. Committee chairs, please check your mail box for the details of this Committee Chair Gathering on May 8.

Thank you from **Kathy Thakeray** and **Kathy Drehmel**, CoChairs of Council.

More MUUSA Info

If you are interested in attending Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA) and have questions, please contact **Kendra Calvert**. **Kendra, Jim** and **Jan Calvert** have attended MUUSA (formerly Lake Geneva Summer Assembly-LGSA) for over 20 years. Kendra's experience includes attending youth programs, running youth programs, teaching an adult workshop (with Jan) and participating in the camp's Planning Council. She recommends MUUSA for all ages and can be reached at xxx.xxx.xxxx.

REviews

Violence. Alienation. Fear. In listening to the radio the past several days, these themes have been impossible to avoid. The unthinkable acts at Virginia Tech, anniversary remembrances of the Columbine High School shootings, daily reports from Iraq....As parents, R.E. teachers, members of an intergenerational faith community, questions that surely arise are how do we protect our children? How do we help them to feel safe? This can be particularly challenging when world events, violence in the community, and turmoil in our lives are reminders of our own vulnerability.

And yet the experts remind us that it is critically important to reassure our children and youth, to let them know that the adults in their lives care about them and will do all they can to keep them safe. As I consider that advice, I am reminded how fortunate I am – how fortunate we all are – to be part of a church community where our young people are surrounded by caring adults who share with our children their time, talents, and wisdom, as well as tangible gifts of financial support for our programs.

Over the years, I have from time to time asked my own children to identify some “safe adults” beyond the members of our family. Consistently, they have shared names of First Unitarian Church members and friends. And many other First U families have shared similar stories with me – when asked about adults they can trust, it is really not surprising that our children name the adults who are their R.E. teachers, youth advisors, OWL leaders, Coming of Age mentors, the adults who serve them lunches in the Social Hall and Open Classroom, who donate Easter eggs, sponsor them on Hunger

Walks, fill their UNICEF boxes with coins, sing and dance with them, and send them cards of congratulations or sympathy.

As adults, we know that life comes with no guarantees. But it is no small thing to engage with one another in this intergenerational faith community, to participate and help our children to participate in the ministries of First Unitarian Church, and to live our UU values as we strive to value each individual and the interconnectedness of our lives. A guarantee? No. But a powerful antidote to violence, alienation, and fear nonetheless.

Lisa



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.

- The annual **Religious Education Celebration of Life** will be on **May 20**. All children and youth will participate in this service. Be sure to check with your child's R.E. teacher about arrival times and plans for that morning.

- **May 20** -- Following the R.E. Celebration of Life, the Religious Education Committee invites you to a **Family Picnic in the Courtyard and Social Hall**. All are welcome.

- **International Folk Dancing for all ages!** May 6, 13, and 20 in the Social Hall, 9:45 – 10:45. All levels of experience are welcome.



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.

Volunteer to Usher!

Are you interested and/or willing to invest in the smooth operations of the Church one Sunday morning every other month? If you currently are an usher or want to be an usher, please plan on joining us. Worship Committee will host a series of training sessions over the next two months. You can sign up ahead of time, or meet us at 10:15am on May 13 or 27 in the sanctuary. We will set up a new schedule for ushers once training is complete. Please contact **Debbie Silverman**, xxxxxx@xxxxx.com or xxx-xxx-xxxx for more information

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

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

All of Creation Is Sacred *Exploring the Spiritual Connections Between People and Planet*

- **May 6** -- The Power of Story
- **May 13** -- Loss of Story
- **May 20** -- Telling A New Story
- **May 27** -- Stories of Peace and Justice

This four-week series explores eco-spirituality with a focus on Creation Spirituality. Explore how the stories we tell and hear impact our sense of connection with the nature world as well as how by choosing a better story we can create a better tomorrow.



Guest speaker **Mark Steiner** has been an independent student of spirituality since the 1980's. Mark is cofounder and director of Cultivating Connections, a Louisville-based grassroots not-for-profit. Cultivating Connections offers practical support, education, and tools to develop a mutually enhancing relationship between people and planet. He presently serves as the Director of Programing for The Center for Interfaith Relations.

➔ Curricula Team meeting May 1, 5:30pm. For more information or to suggest a program, email the Curricula Team at smart@firstulou.org, or call Jasmine Walston at xxx-xxxx.

It's Budget Time

from **Ron Zorn**, Acting Treasurer

We are working hard to review this past year's spending trends and outline our expectations for the upcoming year. Our committees and program groups have given us some great thoughts on what can be accomplished this next year with proper funding.

We also are required to fund our Settled Minister Search Team, and this involves several thousand dollars. If you have any thoughts or questions on the church finances, please send me an email at treasurer@firstulou.org, and I will do my best to find an answer.

I want to thank all of you for your past support of our church and community outreach programs. We are so fortunate to have a rich history here in Louisville. Louisville needs our continued voice for liberal religion. Please keep this in mind at this time of our current pledge drive.

Follow Up On Public Schools

from **Bob Reed**

At Chalice Night, several members of the group completing their study of the UUA curriculum "In Our Hands" chose to continue responding to their hopes for working to help combat racism. As a beginning, they want us to know that we have an opportunity to join other local groups with similar concerns, and invite us, urge us, to attend one, or both, of two public discussions.

These discussions will focus on possible changes in the Jefferson County student assignment plan in light of the soon expected decision of the U. S. Supreme Court. The Louisville Branch NAACP will sponsor these discussions which will involve members of the school administration and board, and public response, as follows:

- May 15, Western Middle School
- June 7, Newburg Middle School
- 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Fire Destroys Part of UU Church in Tennessee

Fire destroyed a classroom building early Friday morning, February 16, at the Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, in Gray, Tenn. The cause of the fire was believed to be a defective heat pump located just outside the building, said the Rev. Christine Riley, interim minister.

The church is in a rural area between Kingsport and Johnson City in far eastern Tennessee and is adjacent to I-26. Fire personnel kept the fire from spreading to the main building. No one was at the church when the fire broke out. The congregation, which has 136 adult members and more than 50 children and youth, was founded in 1958.

The destroyed building was insured, but insurance will cover only part of the loss, Riley said. On top of all this, the congregation has been in the process of candidating ministers and expects to call a minister within weeks.

Remembering what we at First Unitarian experienced after a fire destroyed our building, we encourage anyone who would like to support The Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church make a donation. Checks can be made out to The Holston Valley UU Church Fire Fund and dropped into the donation basket, and we will forward donations to Tennessee. Or you may send contributions to Holston Valley UU Church, P.O. Box 8383, Gray TN 37615.

Church Matters

Tell Us What You Think

Your opinions are vital to us! The **Social Responsibility Committee** will distribute a questionnaire on **Sunday, May 13**, asking what projects and organizations are of interest to you. Which ones should we support with money? Where should we put our energies to provide social justice in our community? Please return your completed survey to us on the 13th. The replies will help us plan our program for 2007-2008. Many thanks for helping us become more attuned to your interests!

Interweave



➡ The members of Interweave are grateful for the energy First U continues to show toward BGLT matters. In response, we commit to remain active and engaged during the summer months. Specific programs will be announced soon, but, as always, we will address the diverse needs of sexual minorities both within and without the walls of First U.

➡ As we continue to explore the most effective ways of offering support to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons in the Louisville/Southern Indiana areas, we are focusing particular attention on young people. We urge you to bring resource information, ideas or concerns to our attention, either by contacting **JoAnn Dale**, xxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.com, or by dropping by on May 18.

➡ Polyamory topic to be announced. All are welcome. Monday, May 14, 7pm

➡ Interweave will have a meeting on Friday, May 18 @ 6:30pm. 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.

Visiting the Church?

Been a few times and want to know more? Been here for a long time and want to share your stories and our food? The Shared Ministry Committee invites you to bring your questions, your appetite and your story to the next

First Unitarian Church Information Session on May 20, 2007

in the Church Library at 12:30 pm.

Can't make this one? The next information session will be held June 24.

Chalice Night Schedule

Wednesdays

5:30 - 6:15 -- Dinner

6:30 - 6:50 -- Service

7:00 - 8:30 -- Programs



Linda Givens

Shared Ministry Coordinator

502-585-5110

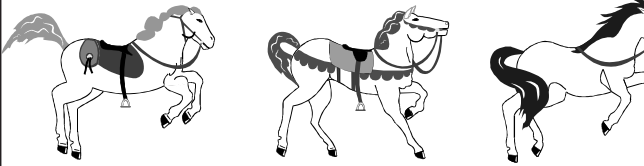
sharedministry@firstulou.org

12 noon - 3pm on Mon.&Tues.

2pm - 9pm on Weds. (Chalice Night)

Working from home on Thurs.

Other hours by appointment.



All-Church Derby Party

Saturday, May 5, 2007

12:00 noon until after the last race

(come for a little while or stay all day!)

Hosted by Tiffany & Doug Taylor & Anne Miller

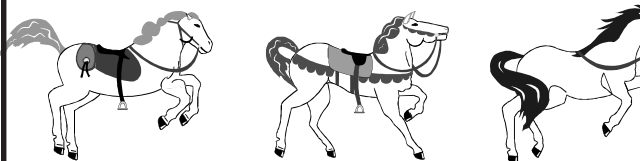
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You need to bring:

- Pot-luck dish to serve at least 12
- Your own alcoholic beverages if you want them
(coffee and soft drinks provided)
- Plenty of \$1 bills
(betting on all races straight \$1 per bet;
all money split among holders of winning tickets)

Don't miss this great annual event!

Directions: Not available on web version of Steepletalk.





Come to the church on **May 21 at 11:30**; eat brownbag lunch; leave church no later than 12:10; car (or carpool) to **Kaviar Forge and Gallery** 1718 Frankfort Ave.

There we will see fine examples of art in iron; will be led through **Craig Kaviar**'s widely famous displays. You will learn the difference between a Smithy and a Smith. Craig is the man who fashioned the ornamental iron pieces in the windows and gates on the borders of our church courtyard!

Sunday AM Nursery Workers Needed

The First U Personnel Committee is looking for two people who are interested in part-time employment in childcare. If you are interested in Sunday morning employment (approx. 9:30 - 12:30), with the possibility of additional childcare employment opportunities at church, please contact **Cassandra Culin**, chair of the church personnel committee. The two positions will start at \$9.00 per hour. Also, if you wish to recommend someone for the position, please submit the name to Cassandra.

Just among ourselves

Celebrate Mother's Day with some great acoustic music. **Nora xxxxxxx** and **Ben xxxxxx** (along with their friend xxx) will be playing at Lynn's Paradise Cafe on May 13 beginning at 1:00.

Abby xxxxxx placed third in the state on the National French test. **Ben xxxxxx** placed first in KY and 10th in the nation. Felicitations to our First U French scholars!

Thanks to PRP Volunteers

A big THANK YOU from the Denominational and Public Relations committee (DPR) to all of the volunteers for the Public Radio Partnership Spring 2007 Fund Drive. On Sunday, April 1, eleven First Unitarian volunteers recorded phone pledges, bringing in much needed donations for the 3 Louisville public radio stations. Those who spent part of the day as volunteers included Tom Barron, Roger Bradshaw, Jane Buckley, Tim Buckley, Glen Ellison, Jack Jackson, Kathy Kremer, Joe Kremer, danielle rogers-candee, Elaine Rogers and Kay Woodworth.

Our love and sympathy go to **Lois Allen** and her family. Lois's mother, Lillie May Witten, passed away on Saturday, April 7.



1st U Young Thespians

Four present or former RE youth, **Calvin xxxxxx**, **Anna xxxxxx**, **Rachel xxxxxx**, and **Greg xxxxxx**, will have roles in Walden Theatre's upcoming Shakespeare Festival. Walden productions are excellent. All three Festival plays will be presented at the University of Louisville Thrust Theater at Floyd and Warnock Streets. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from Walden Theatre 502 589 0084.

- **King Lear**: May 11,13,16,19 at 7:30, and matinee May 20 at 2:00
- **As You Like It**: May 15,18,20 at 7:30 and matinee May 12,13 at 2:00
- **Troilus and Cressida**: May 10,12,14,17 at 7:30 and matinee May 19 at 2:00

Denominational Relations

from Jasmine Walston

Heartland Happenings

✓ Heartline On-Line

The Heartland District is beginning an electronic newsletter—a quick, easy read of what’s happening in the District and the larger UU world. This newsletter will replace all but one of our hard print issues of *Heartline*. If you’d like to have Heartline On-Line delivered to your in-box, please print legibly your name, congregation name and city, email address, and “Subscribe to Heartline On-Line” and send to office@heartlanduu.org or to: Heartland District, 445 N PENNSYLVANIA ST STE 510, INDIANAPOLIS IN 46204

✓ Chalice Lighters—Making a Difference

Three Heartland congregations are growing membership and carrying the UU message to a younger and more diverse population thanks to 989 Chalice Lighters in 51 congregations. Chalice Lighters are individuals who volunteer to contribute at least ten dollars up to three times a year to fund growth-promoting projects recommended by the Extension Committee. This year’s recipients include the UU Congregation of Fort Wayne, IN, and two congregations in the Greater Cincinnati area, the Northern Hills UU Fellowship and St. John’s Unitarian Church. These grants will be used to expand Religious Education and to support a new contemporary service targeted at young adults.

The committee is seeking “Chalice Lighters Champions” to encourage Chalice Lighter participation in their own congregations. According to Committee Chair Dr. Maury Bandurraga. “Only about 10% of our members are Chalice

Lighters. With greater participation, we could do so much more.”

To become a Chalice Lighter, a Champion, or for information about applying for Chalice Lighters grants, contact any member of the Extension Committee. Contact info is available at <http://www.heartlanduu.org> from the District office, office@heartlanduu.org or 888-948-4883.

Across the UUA

✓ Join the UUA General Assembly in Portland

General Assembly is the time when UUs from across the Unitarian Universalist Association gather for, worship, an exciting array of workshops, and the Annual Meeting of the UUA. Everyone can find activities that are to their interest or passions. All UUs should try to go at least once to find out what the denomination is all about.

Registration continues for this year’s gathering in Portland, Oregon, June 20-24 and for UU University, a leadership training opportunity, on June 19 - 20. First Unitarian is entitled to 5 voting delegates to the Annual Meeting. If you are interested in attending or serving as a delegate, contact **Jasmine Walston** at xxxxxxxx@xxx.com or xxx-xxxx. For information or registration, visit <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>



Building Use Calendar for May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 9:30a SMART 9:45a YAC 9:45a Folk Dncg 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12:30p MusicCmt 1p MS Yth	7 6p Cong. Services Cmte	8 5p Church Council 6p Activities Cmte	9 2p Village Play Group 5:30Chalice Night	10 4p Private Evt* 5:30p Personnel Cmte 6:30p PDR Subcmte 7:15p Choir	11 3p Private Evt* 7p UUCF	12 9a Women's Alliance Night Out Lunch
13 9:30a SMART 9:45a Folk Dncg 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12:30p MS Yth 5p Private Evt*	14 5:30p Worship Cmte 7p Interweave	15 6p Board	16 2p Village Play Group 5:30p Chalice Night	17 7:15p Choir	18 6p Interweave 6p Private Evt*	19 9a Recognition Service Setup 8p Private Evt*
20 9:30a SMART 9:45a Folk Dncg 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 12:30p Family Picnic 12:30pShared Min Info. Session 12:30p MS Yth 12:30p Chrch Tour	21 11:30p Brown- baggers 6:30p Public Relations Cmte	22 12:30 Private Evt* 7p Private Evt*	23 2p Village Play Group 5:30p Chalice Night	24 7:15p Choir	25 7p UUCF	26 4p Courtyard Cafe
27 9:30a SMART 9:45a Chldm's Act 10:55a Col 10:55a RE 12:30p MS Yth 4p Private Evt*	28 10:30a Private Evt* 6:15p Shared Ministry Cmte	29 7p Finance Comte	30 2p Village Play Group 5:30p chalice Night	31 7:15p Choir		* Denotes outside group or activity not officially affiliated with First Unitarian

First Unitarian Church
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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

May 6 *The Merry Month of May.* May is bursting out all over! From Derby and the Maypole to Memorial Day, May is a month filled to overflowing! Presented by **Ann Hardman, Debra Gilbert, Ron Zorn, Michael Wilding,** and friends.

May 13 *The Perils of Pedestals.* Is Mother's Day a blessing, or a curse? What happens when women are honored primarily for their role as mothers? What assumptions are implicit? What truths have been obscured by sentimentality? **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

May 20 *Celebrating our UU Principles,* a multigenerational Religious Education Celebration of Life. The service will include participation by all of our children and youth R.E. classes

May 27 *What the Living Do.* I have given this Celebration of Life a title which comes from a poem by Marie Howe. This Celebration of Life will have something to do with Memorial Day. Whether that will be war, remembrance, death by violence, idolatry, patriotism, heroism, or reconciliation, I am not yet sure. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**