

# STEEPLETALK

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 14 Number 5

May 2008

**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  
Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education - dre@firstulou.org  
Greg Gapsis, Interim Office Manager - office@firstulou.org  
Rebecca Dimon, Membership Development Director  
Brian Daly, President - Board of Trustees - president@firstulou.org  
William Plummer, Music Director - music@firstulou.org  
Phillip Morgan, Instrumentalist - Earl Reynolds, Building Supervisor  
Rev. Robert Reed & Rev. Richard Beal, Ministers Emeriti  
Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus

### 2008 Congregational Meeting

by **Brian Daly**, President, Board of Trustees

Our annual meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 2 at 7 pm** in the Sanctuary. All members are encouraged to attend. Our tentative agenda is as follows:

- ◆ Report on Reorganization
- ◆ Constitutional Changes
- ◆ Church Goals for 2008-2009
- ◆ Budget for 2008-2009

Additional announcements will be provided as we solidify the agenda.

### UU Campout – June 6, 7 and 8

It is that time of year when we need to get out the sports equipment, camping gear, musical instruments, campfire stories, summer reading, and lawn chairs and come to our annual Church campout at O'Bannon Woods in Indiana. This annual event is a great way to develop lifelong memories. There are clean and attractive group cabins (room for 200) and space for tents and campers. Day visitors are encouraged.

Our program includes music, crafts, sporting events, hiking, water sports (there is a great water park), acting workshops, storytelling, and relaxation. The weekend is open to all UUs and friends in the Louisville area. The cost for a family is \$55 for the entire weekend and only \$10 per adult for the Saturday programs and meals.

A brochure is posted on the [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org) web site and will be available at our Church. Registration must be completed by June 3 so we know how much food to purchase. This is an event you will not want to miss.

**Wanted: Volunteer storytellers and musicians – apply @ [president@firstulou.org](mailto:president@firstulou.org).**

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

## From Your Interim Minister

In spring I am intensely aware of the turning of the season. So many of the sights and smells of this flowering world have particular associations for me. The sight of cherry trees blossoming evokes Washington, D.C., where I met and fell in love with my husband. The purple of rhododendrons, which I look for in mid-April-- reminds me that my son Tom's birthday is imminent. In early May I crave lilacs, which I associate with both the birth of my son Matt, and a blissful moment in a college classroom, when the powerful scent from the white lilac bushes outside made me swoon with pleasure.

The fragrance of honeysuckle in mid-May takes me back to memories of childhood, when I would pull apart the trumpet flowers, and suck the sweet nectar. Then, I start watching for peonies to emerge: green leaves sprouting from the ground; next, the stalks with their small tightly wound fists; and at last the glorious bursting forth of flamboyant flowers preposterously beautiful, intoxicatingly aromatic.

Spring is a time when the present links me with memories of the past, and visions of what is to come. And May, especially, is a month when the year seems to be hurtling toward an end. Graduations and comings of age; recognitions of teachers and farewell parties; tasks that are completed and tasks left unfinished; Derby Day, Mother's Day and Memorial Day; planning for the year to come...*the whirl of this fearful joy*, Rabindranath Tagore calls it.

May I, may you, may we all find ways of *keeping step with that restless, rapid music...* May I, may you, may we all find time to savor as *colors, tunes, and perfumes pour in endless cascades in the abounding joy that scatters and gives up and dies every moment.*

Blessings,

*Betsy*



# Board BIZ

by **Kathy Rogers**

The Board has been dealing with the following issues:

- Ministry Teams to submit their proposals for '08-'09 Budget.
- The Church Administrator position has been advertised this month.
- Minor Constitutional changes were discussed:

1. raise the quorum and meeting call requirements to 20% of the Congregation versus the current 10 and 5 percent.

2. change an "or" in the membership section to "and" so that members are expected to both participate in church activities and attend services during the year.

- Midwest Leadership School budget and candidates were discussed.
- Discussions were held about the Nominating Committee's charge and choosing ministry team leaders.
- **Carol Uebelhoer** and **Kathy Drehmel** will be the Interim Minister Task Team.
- Board members are considering Interim DRE Task Team members.
- General Assembly will be held June 25-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; delegates will need to be found.
- Church security was discussed. The main doors have recently been left in "open" position. Please be cautious about this oversight.
- A permanent Book Sale Table was discussed as a continuing fundraiser.

The next Board meeting is **May 13 at 6 pm.**

## Budget Discussions Scheduled

Budget discussions with the Board, Finance, and Treasurer are scheduled for the following dates. Please bring your ideas and concerns as we shape our direction for 2008-2009. We will be voting on the budget at the June 2 Congregational Meeting.

- Sunday, May 18, 9:30-10:30 am
- Wednesday, May 21, 6:30-7:30 pm

All members are invited to attend either or both of these events.



## Constitutional Changes Meeting

Minor but important changes to the Constitution are being considered for the annual meeting. Discussions with the Board and Reorganization team is scheduled for Sunday, May 18 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. All members are invited to attend.

## STEEPLETALK

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



**Editor:** Claudia Runge

Next deadline: **Friday, May 23, 2008**  
(covers month of June)

**Contact us:** [editor@firsttulou.org](mailto:editor@firsttulou.org)

## Reviews

In my nearly eight years as your professional religious educator, I have had many wonderful and deeply meaningful experiences. I have enjoyed the support and shared wisdom of professional colleagues around the District and around the country; I have worked closely with several ministers and other church staff in ways that have been both demanding and fulfilling; I have developed deep and abiding regard for so many First U members and friends and your commitment to our liberal religious principles; I have watched our children grow as individuals and as Unitarian Universalists; I have participated in Child Dedication and Coming of Age and Memorial services; I have shared deeply personal moments with individuals and families experiencing challenges of one kind and another; I've spent hours and hours in meetings with many of you where together we've experienced frustrations and insights, and eaten some great meals together, and sometimes irritated one another and at other times laughed until we cried.

Since announcing that I will be stepping down as your Director of Religious Education at the end of this church year, I have had occasion to experience the generosity of spirit, loving support, and good will of many in our congregation. Your cards, e-mails, and conversations have meant a great deal to me, and I have experienced firsthand your commitment to our third UU Principle, our "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth...."

I've also been encouraged by considerable evidence that there are many who are invested in and committed to keeping our program headed in a positive direction, building on present strengths and continuing to develop. As R.E.

Ministry Chair **Ward Wilson** wrote in an e-mail to the R.E. Ministry group, "Many people are ready to jump in and keep R.E. moving. We'll make it work as long as we dwell together in peace, seek the truth in love, and help one another." Ward also noted that the opening of the DRE position provides an opportunity "for someone else to have a great experience."

As I wrote in a letter to the Board of Trustees, I have invested a great deal of heart and soul into our program, and I have been richly rewarded in return. I feel truly blessed by the high level of teamwork and volunteer involvement that makes our program so strong, as well as the ongoing support of our congregation. As I discover where my path will next lead, I look forward to re-connecting with First Unitarian Church as a non-staff member of the congregation.

Peace,

*Lisa*



### **Lisa Willner** **Religious Education Director**

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

*E-mail*  
dre@firstulou.org

*Office Hours*  
Monday 11:00 - 2:00  
Other times as arranged.

## R.E. Announcements

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

✓ The **R.E. Ministry** meets on Monday, May 5, 7:15 – 9:15.

✓ In lieu of its regular May meeting, the **Youth Adult Committee (YAC)** will lead a discussion of the Sunday Morning Adult Round Table, May 4, 9:30 – 10:45.

✓ The annual **R.E. Recognition Celebration of Life** will be on Sunday, May 11. **ALL CHILDREN AND YOUTH R.E. PARTICIPANTS - PLEASE ARRIVE AT CHURCH BY 10:30 ON MAY 11.**

✓ The **Coming of Age Celebration of Life** will be on May 25, marking the end of our 07-08 CoA program. On May 31, 18 “UU Pilgrims” will depart for a UU Heritage Trip to Boston, MA.

✓ The **final “regular” children and youth R.E. classes and youth groups** for this church year will be on May 18. Alternate and Summer R.E. programming for children will begin in June – more details later.

### Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

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

Please join the Sunday Morning Adult Round Table at 9:30am each Sunday for programs on a variety of topics. Youth are invited to participate. **Round Table’s regular season will wrap up June 1 with the Mimosa Breakfast.** Summer Conversations will begin June 15.

- **May 4 -- *First U Youth in Action.*** What are the components of a balanced youth group? Learn about the youth group’s activities in the church and in the community. Facilitated by members of the **Youth Adult Committee.**

- **May 11 -- *Secular Humanism.*** Guest speaker **Pfilil Stirgwolt** will discuss his position as a secular humanist, and the evolution of his theological views.

- **May 18 -- *Spiritual Rites and Rituals in Iran.*** Religious ceremonies, temple-caves, and sacred dance in Iran. Video.

- **May 25 -- *Memorial Stories.*** Sharing memories of our honored dead. **Janice Molnar,** facilitator.

- **June 1 -- *Mimosa Breakfast.*** Enjoy breakfast with the Round Table class, and provide the Curricula Team with comments on Round Table programs to assist with future planning.

Curricula meeting **Monday, May 5, 6:00pm.** For more information or to suggest a program, contact **Lisa Willner** at 585-5110 or **Jasmine Walston** at xxx-xxxx. For information about child care, contact Lisa.

### Coming of Age Dinner

Our Coming of Age families are hosting a dinner and dance to honor our nine Coming of Age graduates. All members and friends of First Unitarian Church are invited to join the celebration on **the evening of May 25.** Dinner will be \$7.50 per person (paid in advance) and reservations are required. Reservations may be made by calling the church at 585-5110. Payments and reservations must be received by May 18.



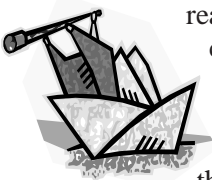
## Search Committee

### Ministerial Search Continues

by Doug Taylor

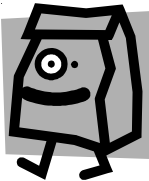
The Search Committee will continue the search process into a second year. We read the records of 13 interested candidates, narrowed that list to five through phone interviews, reviews of sermons, reference checks, etc. Of those five, three pre-candidates were selected. Two of those candidates were outstanding, but like all outstanding people, they had many opportunities. Both chose other congregations they thought better suited their professional and family needs at this point in their careers. The board has voted to call another interim minister for the coming year, and that selection process has begun.

The Search committee is meeting with church leadership to share some insights gained during this year of search. We hope to engage them in conversation around some feedback from multiple ministerial candidates.



### Brownbaggers

Brownbaggers will meet on Monday, May 19 at 12 noon. Be sure to bring your brown bag lunch and meet and hear our new Member Development Director, **Rebecca Dimon**. Rebecca plans to talk with the group about current and future programming in the life of First U.



## UU Principles

### The Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### *In Memoriam*

**Harry John Ulinski**

April 4, 1925 ~ April 20, 2008

# All-Church Derby Party!



\*\*\* Saturday, May 3, 2008 \*\*\*  
\*\*\* 2:00 p.m. until after the last race \*\*\*

Come for a little while or stay all day! Plenty of seating space indoors and out, great food, lots of room for kids to roam (and a trampoline), and multiple TVs to watch the races. Bring your family and friends and enjoy the Derby in relaxation and comfort!

*Hosted by Tiffany & Doug Taylor & Anne Miller  
xxxx xxxx xxxx, xxx xxxx, Indiana*

Please bring:

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



Directions at <http://xxxx.xxxxxx.xxx/~xxxx.xxxx/>, or call xxx-xxxx.

## Interweave



**May 16 -- POTLUCK at 6:00pm**, followed by discussion of “**What Is It REALLY Like In School These Days?**” All are welcome. We especially encourage youth attendance, and youth need not bring a dish (unless they want to). Please join us.

**May 18, 12:15pm** -- Short planning meeting for Pride Week, summer activities, leadership selection.

## Joan Beal is Moving to Maine!

She has sold her house. Richard is waiting. The snow has finally melted. Joan Beal, our former minister's wife, our tireless worker, our intrepid canoer, the teacher extraordinaire, and our trusted friend is moving on.

*Goodbye*



If you would like to visit with Joan before she leaves, please come on **Sunday, June 1, from 5 - 7 pm**. We will have light refreshments in the church social hall and in the courtyard, if the sun shines. See you there!



**Rebecca Dimon**  
**Member Development Director**  
**memberdevdir@firstulou.org**  
**585-5110**

## Childcare Policy

“First Unitarian provides programs that are of interest to members and friends of all ages. To encourage participation by families with young children we strive to provide safe, capable, enriching and dependable child care for all meetings and events.”

You can find this statement, along with the current draft of our *Childcare Policy and Procedures* at the “Members Only” tab at our website. If you have any questions or concerns about childcare, please refer to this document. If the document does not answer your questions, please speak with a member of the Board.

## Chalice Night Experiment

During May, we will be taking a break from formal programming on Chalice Night. Instead, we will offer open space for folks to come in and fellowship on Wednesday nights. Bring your musical instruments, bring your newspapers, bring your conversations, bring your craft/handiwork. We will open the doors at 6pm and close them at 8:30. As far as food, please bring a potluck item or bring your own. I will arrange for drinks.

This summer, Chalice Night will continue in experimental fashion. **Tiffany Taylor** has agreed to continue to provide us with delicious meals. I am putting together programming options and ideas for our summer Wednesday nights. Watch for announcements and updates.

## Re-Org News

by **Brian Daly**

*We need your involvement.* We have drastically reduced the number of committees and meetings at First U. In 2006-2007, we had over 110 committee members involved in an average of 25 meetings per month. This resulted in our spending about 4,200 hours in committee work. This year we have half as many groups and have reduced our annual meeting load to less than 1,000 hours.

This has resulted in a “good news - bad news” scenario:

- The Good News: fewer people are needed for committee work.
- The Bad News: fewer people are actively engaged in making things happen.

Each of our ministries needs help. We have a Ministry Sign-up chart at Church. Please find the ministry on which you would be willing to help and sign-up. Soon we will setup an on-line ministry registration on our website.

Thank-you for all that you have done in the past, but now it is time to build our future.

## Just among ourselves...

We send love and sympathy to **Sharon Howerton Leightty** and her family. Sharon’s father, **Jerry Lee Howerton**, passed away recently.



We hold **Ann Ulinski** and her family in our hearts as they deal with their grief over the death of **Harry**, Ann’s husband of almost 60 years.

## News and Notes

### Plant Sale Rescheduled

We are happy to announce that the plant sale will be held after church on **Sunday, May 18!** If you have plants to share, please bring them in to church during the week of May 12. It's helpful if you mark what the plant is and whether it's sun or shade. If you have questions, contact **Carol Findling**. Happy Spring!



### Saying "Farewell" to Betsy

from Penny Nader

Our interim minister, **Betsy Scheuerman**, will be leaving us in June. June 15 will be her last Sunday in the pulpit. On **Saturday, June 14**, there will be a party and farewell to Betsy in the social hall beginning at **7pm**. We will have music, food and drink. The food is potluck finger food and dessert - so please bring your favorite dish to share. The Board will provide the drinks. Childcare is available, so please let Penny Nader know if you are bringing young children by June 10.

See you at the party!

### Visiting the Church?

If you've visited us a few times and want to know more about First Unitarian Church, please join us at the next *Information Session*. Bring your questions and your story. We'll cover the history of First Unitarian Church, discuss the activities and groups here and how to get involved, and you'll get to know other visitors, friends and members in the process. To let us know you're planning to attend, please email [memberministry@firstulou.org](mailto:memberministry@firstulou.org).

**First Unitarian Church  
Information Session  
On May 25  
12:15 pm in the Church Parlor**

We look forward to getting to know you!

### Interested in Summer Circle Suppers?

It could be a picnic, or an outing, a brunch, or a traditional supper in June, July and August. If you are interested, sign up in the social hall (on the kiosk) or call **Penny Nader**. We will need at least 9 hosts to schedule this.

### First U Has a Garden!

by Penny Nader

The **Limerick Community Garden** in the 900 block of S. Sixth street is the site of the Locavore's community garden. It is 8' by 24' and will have 4 main vegetables accompanied by companion herbs. The produce will be used at church meals over the summer and fall. Stay tuned for more details.

If you would like to help with the garden or just hang out with other gardeners in what is an amazing space (grill, table and chairs, fully equipped shed with tools, bags, gloves and water), call **Penny Nader** to find out the work schedule. The more the merrier.

# House & Grounds Committee

from **Kathy Kremer**, Chair



## Churchyard “Spruce Up” Party May 10

The Churchyard Friends of First Unitarian kindly invite you to help the spring “spruce up” of our beautiful churchyard. Here’s how you can help:

- Join the Friends on Saturday, May 10 between 9am and noon and help plant flowers. Bring your favorite gardening tools. Lunch will be provided.
- Donate flowers for the churchyard! Here’s what we need:
  - ✓ Annuals: geraniums, begonias, coleus, impatiens.
  - ✓ Perennials: columbine, sedum, daylilies, astilbe, Solomon’s seal, hostas.

Please drop off your flowers between Wednesday, May 7 on Chalice Night and Friday, May 9 at noon.

- Visit **Margaret Shea’s Dropseed Native Plant Nursery**. Margaret stopped by First Church on April 5 and gave an informative presentation on native plants. She suggested planting tips for our yard. Dropseed is located at 1205 S. Buckeye Lane in Goshen, Kentucky. Check out <http://www.dropseednursery.com> for more information.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact **Carol Findling** at xxx-xxxx or **Kathy Kremer** at xxx-xxxx.

## First Church Joins Local Environmental Group

The Louisville Climate Action Network (LCAN) was formed in 2007 for the purpose of reducing climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Its founder, **Sarah Lynn Cunningham**, invited First Church to join as an organizational member when she spoke at church last July. LCAN’s activities include offering presentations and educational information; informing individuals and groups how they can reduce fossil fuel consumption; soliciting other organizations to join the network; and lobbying governments to actively lead by positive example.

Currently, LCAN is promoting the second annual Kentuckiana Green & Local Business Conference 2008. Its web page links to testimony by Louisville Air Pollution Control District director Art Williams at the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) in Bali, and to a video of Al Gore’s speech at the conference. On its “Frequently Asked Questions” page, it addresses such topics as recycling compact fluorescent bulbs. Check out LCAN’s web site: <http://www.louisvillecan.org>.

### *In Memoriam*

**Elizabeth Russell Block Stone**

died March 28, 2008, on her 93rd  
birthday.

# Building Use Calendar for May

## Thurs. May 1

5:45pm Worship Cmte  
7:15pm Choir

## Fri. May 2

3pm Prvt Event\*  
7pm Drum Circle

## Sat. May 3

**All Church Derby Party**  
(off site-see p.7)

## Sun. May 4

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am SMART  
9:45am YAC  
10:55am RE  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
1pm Youth

## Mon. May 5

6pm. Board of Trustees  
7:15pm RE Ministry

## Tues. May 6

6:00pm SMART curriculum

## Wed. May 7

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. May 8

5:30pm Personnel Cmte  
7pm Outreach Ministry  
7:15pm Choir

## Fri. May 9

6pm UUCF

## Sat. May 10

9am House & Grounds Cmte  
9am RE set up

## Sun. May 11

### NO RE Classes

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
1pm Youth

## Mon. May 12

6pm Book Club  
6:30pm Interweave

## Tues. May 13

6pm Board of Trustees

## Wed. May 14

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. May 15

6pm Member Ministry  
7:15pm Choir

## Fri. May 16

6:30pm Interweave

## Sat. May 17

1pm Prvt Event\*

## Sun. May 18

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am SMART  
10:55am RE  
10:55am Celebration of Life

## 12pm Plant Sale

1pm Youth

## Mon. May 19

12noon Brownbaggers

## Tues. May 20

5:30 pm Partner Church  
6:15pm Ministry Council

## Wed. May 21

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. May 22

7:15pm Choir

## Sat. May 24

11am Allie Hixson Memorial Service

## Sun. May 25

### NO RE Classes

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am SMART  
10:55am RE  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
12:15pm Visitor Information  
1pm Youth

## Evening - CoA Dinner

## Tues. May 27

7pm Finance

## Wed. May 28

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. May 29

7pm Choir

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



## Endowment Reminder

You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference in the world. Bequests are for everyone and anyone. They are both sensible and simple gifts. A charitable bequest allows you to be a Unitarian Universalist philanthropist.

**Joe Kremer, Chair Endowment Committee**

XXX-XXX-XXXX

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

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Permit No. 146**

### **Celebrations of Life**

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

**May 4**      *Some Kiss We Want.* In this lush season of sensuality and sexuality, I will consider the intersection of desire, passion, and religion. After the worship service, dance the maypole in the courtyard (weather permitting). The sermon title, by the way, is taken from Rumi. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

**May 11**      *Sowing Stars of Gladness: A Celebration of Religious Education.* Join us as we recognize and celebrate those who sow knowledge and gladness. Multigenerational.

**May 18**      *Design -- Our Church Home.* Some thoughts about the personal and community search for a religious architecture. **John Grossman**, principal architect of First Unitarian Church.

**May 25**      *Coming of Age as a Unitarian Universalist.* A celebration of the journeys of our nine Coming of Age graduates. Multigenerational.