



# STEEPLETALK

## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

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**www.firstulou.org**

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### Interim Minister Chosen for 2008-09

by **Carol Ubelhoer**, Board of Trustees member

The Board is happy to announce that we have signed a contract with the **Reverend Alma F. Crawford** to be our Interim Minister. She will begin her contract in July, and her first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 13. The Reverend Crawford and Karen Hutt started the Church of the Open Door in Chicago, where they made a name for themselves in pursuing justice issues and organizing an active congregation. She is currently finishing a three year contract as Associate Professor of Worship and Preaching at Starr King.

Her daughter, who just turned 8, loves church, and we are looking forward to her being part of our RE program. Alma's grandfather preached at a Louisville AME church, and she is very excited about working here, especially in an urban congregation.



### 2008 Congregational Meeting

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

Our annual meeting is scheduled for **Monday, June 2, at 6:30 pm** in the Sanctuary. All members should have received the "Call to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation" via U.S. mail last week. Proposed changes to the Constitution were included in the letter.

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

## *From Your Interim Minister*

I can dimly recall my terror at leaving my infant daughter with sitters for the first time—even though the sitters were my husband’s brother and his girlfriend...both medical students! Later, came weaning, and going to work part-time, and sending her to nursery school, and putting her on a school bus for kindergarten. Those were just the beginnings of the leavetakings I have experienced with my daughter, and my two sons. There have been many other partings in my life—schools and houses and cities and friends and workplaces. I have a lot of practice in saying goodbye. Still, it is always hard. Always, I grieve, though I know the separation is necessary and good and right.

In *The Little Prince*, the title character arrives from an asteroid, to this planet Earth. While here, he encounters a fox, and asks him to play. The fox replies, “I can’t...I’m not tamed.” Taming, the fox explains, means creating ties: “if you tame me, my life will be filled with sunshine. I’ll know the sound of footsteps that will be different from all the rest...The wheat, which is golden, will remind me of you...” A little later, the fox complains about how the little prince is taming him.

“There must be rites,” the fox insists.

The little prince does tame the fox; but then, the time comes for the prince to leave.

“I shall weep,” says the fox, sadly.

“It’s your own fault,” the little prince replies. “... You insisted that I tame you.”

The fox declares that the taming is worth the tears: “I get something...because of the color of the wheat.” As the little prince and the fox say goodbye, the fox tells the prince one last secret: “One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes.”

I’m not quite sure whether I tamed you, or you tamed me. What I do know is this: in our almost two years together, there have been ties woven: ties of sunshine and rain, joys and sorrows, rites of passage and committee (or ministry) meetings; sharings of selves and stories. And every Kentucky Derby henceforward will cause me to remember y’all.

Now it is time for the goodbyes. Our paths diverge. May your next year of interim ministry be exciting and wonderful and fruitful. May you, may I, may we all see our way to the essential, through the clear vision of the heart.

Blessings,

*Betsy*



# Board BIZ

by **Brian Daly**

The Board of Trustees met on April 27, May 5, and May 19 to work on the interim minister, new budget, and constitutional changes. We acted on the following:

- 1) An Interim ministry team conducted a national search and found an excellent candidate for the ministry and voted to offer the position.
- 2) Because of a continuing shortfall in budget and the short time we have had to implement new programs and restructuring, the Board decided to conduct an education and resource development process before recommending a final budget on June 30. A new Church Stewardship team and assistant treasurer position were approved.
- 3) Constitutional changes were approved for a Congregational vote. They are as follows:
  - a. Shorten Article III, section 2. Any person 18 years of age or over, who deems himself or herself to be in sympathy with the purposes and methods of the Church...(may become a member...)
  - b. Expand Article VI, section 6. The Nominating Committee is responsible directly to the congregation. It recommends to the congregation nominees for the Board of Trustees, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the Endowment Committee. It recommends to the Board members to fill mid-term vacancies for positions it nominates and for other positions requested by the Board.
  - c. Change Article VIII – section 3 - the percentage of the congregation required to call a special meeting would rise from five percent to twenty percent.
  - d. Correct a reference error in Article VIII – Section 3 from section 8 to section 9.
  - e. Change Article VIII – section 5 – the percentage of members necessary for a quorum would rise from ten percent to twenty percent.
- 4) An Acting DRE task force was formed to temporarily fill our opening on July 1 until we select a permanent replacement in 2009.

Two Board members are rotation off, **Penny Nader** and **Kathy Drehmel**. The secretary (**Joan Beal**) and treasurer (**Ron Zorn**) will be completing their terms. The Board recognizes their outstanding contributions.

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## UU Christian Fellowship

The UU Christian Fellowship will not meet during the summer. Please plan to join the UUCF discussions this Fall about the Jesus Seminar study of the Gospel of Mark. The group will be reading from *The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*. Contact **Geneva Fry** or **Jasmine Walston** for more information.

## STEEPLETALK

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## REviews

**W***ere a circle, within a circle...* So begins the Upstairs Chapel gathering song that many of us have sung most every Sunday morning for the past eight years. Those words have often seemed to me an apt metaphor for the Religious Education program at First Unitarian Church.

At the center of the circle, of course, are the children and youth and families and adults who participate in our classes, discussions, and workshops. Surrounding them is a circle of loving and caring adults and youth leaders who implement programs and minister directly to the inner core; beyond them are the visionaries and planners who support the teachers and other program leaders. Beyond that, we find the circles of supportive Church leadership, a caring congregation, the strength of our richly textured Unitarian Universalist heritage, the community beyond. To extend the metaphor, perhaps my role as Director of Religious Education has been to run frequent laps around one circle or another, helping people to find their place within the circles and facilitating movement and transitions between and within circles. (A sheepdog, perhaps? Maybe this explains my deep affinity for Eddie, Betsy's beautiful border collie!)

As I take my leave as your Religious Educator and find a new place in one of the circles of our congregational life, I encourage you to stay involved – or to become involved - in Religious Education at First Unitarian Church. Within those circles, you will find loving arms and guiding hands to greet you.

Let's see, how does the rest of that chant go? *We are a circle within a circle, with no beginning and never ending....*

Peace, *Lisa*



### Summer R.E. is in the Works!!

We will have a “one-room schoolhouse” type program with all children Preschool through 5th Grade meeting together in the Preschool Room. Summer RE begins July and runs through August. If you are willing to commit a Sunday or two helping out, contact **Mary Griffin** at [XXXXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX](mailto:XXXXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX)

### Lisa Willner Religious Education Director

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

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Monday 11:00 - 2:00  
Other times as arranged.

## R.E. Announcements

➡ Congratulations to our brand new Coming of Age graduates: **Claire xxxxx, Lydia xxxxxxx, Elena xxxxx, Brian xxxxxx, Alli xxxxx, Zoe xxxxxx, Cliff xxxxxxxx, Eliza xxxxxx,** and **Hannah xxxxxx.** First U is proud of you!

➡ No children's programming on June 1 (multigenerational service), June 8 (church campout), or June 15 (multigenerational service - Betsy's farewell). **Members of the R.E. Ministry team will provide "alternate" R.E. programming for children of all ages on June 22 and June 29.**

➡ May the circle be unbroken.... There are several volunteer teaching/advising slots for children and youth left to fill for the start-up of fall programming. (In addition, note that many slots are already filled with experienced and talented teachers.) If it has been a while since you have taught, or if you have never taught Religious Education at First Unitarian Church before and have been involved with our congregation for at least six months, please consider getting involved. New teachers are always paired with experienced partners and easy-to-follow curriculum materials are provided. For more information, contact Lisa Willner through the end of June.

➡ **From our Director of Education, Lisa Willner:** My last date as Director of Religious Education is June 30. I will be away for part of June – chaperoning youth on a UU Heritage trip to Boston May 31 – June 4 and on vacation June 8 – June 15. I would like to make myself as available as possible to meet with anyone who has loose ends to tie up, or to discuss any aspect of our programs. Please feel free to contact me at home (xxx-xxxx) to set up an appointment.

## Church Matters

### Summer Conversations

Lively chats and light-bulb moments will highlight this self-directed, first-hour Sunday gathering for adults. Swap ideas about current events from the newspaper, articles from the UU World, or whatever topic bubbles to the surface that morning.

Summer Conversations will meet from 9:30-10:45am beginning June 15 and ending the Sunday before Ingathering. Youth are encouraged to attend.

Attendees are welcome to bring children in their care. Child care for preschoolers must be requested in advance, by calling 585-5110. Contact **Jasmine Walston** for more information.

### Celebration for our Outgoing DRE

Please join the Religious Education (RE) Ministry and the Board of trustees on Saturday, June 28, at 6pm for a "Cookout in the Courtyard" to celebrate **Lisa Willner's** tenure as First Unitarian's Director of Religious Education. The RE Ministry and Board will provide meat, veggie burgers, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Families are welcome.

There will be music and a short presentation--but mostly, come and mingle, celebrate Lisa's time with us, and thank Lisa for building a strong RE program for our church.

### Got PRIDE? Got Spirit?

On Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 pm, First Unitarian Church will host an Interfaith Service to launch PRIDE month. The event is being sponsored by the Kentuckiana PRIDE Festival Committee as a way to involve the faith-based community that supports the mission of KPF and the principles of respect, inclusiveness and equality for the LBGQT populace in the area.

# Summer Chalice Night Schedule 2008

## June 4

Book Discussion: *Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. Led by **Fred Lehman** (this will continue throughout the summer except for the last Wednesday of each month)

Activity:

Discussion/Presentation: **Amy Robinson, M. Div.** will be speaking about Immigration

## June 11

Book Discussion

Activity

Discussion/Presentation

## June 18

Book Discussion

Activity

Discussion/Presentation: **Jasmine Walston** “Eldorado, Short Creek, and Unintended Consequences”

## June 25

All Ages Game Night

## July 2

Book Discussion

Activity

Discussion/Presentation

## July 9

Book Discussion

Activity: Dance Lessons with **Rose and David Stevens**

Discussion/Presentation

## July 16

Book Discussion

Activity

Discussion/Presentation: **Ben Luoma**

## July 23

Book Discussion

Activity: Dance Lessons with **Rose and David Stevens**

Discussion/Presentation

## July 30

All Ages Trivia Night

Discussion/Presentation: **Dr. Tom Owen** “How Soon We Forget: Changes in Life in the Old City Neighborhood since World War II”

## August 6

Book Discussion

Activity

Discussion/Presentation: **Frank Nuessel** “Names/Onomastics”

## August 13

Book Discussion

Activity

Presentation/Discussion

## August 20

Book Discussion

Activity

Presentation/Discussion

## August 27

All Ages Game Night

Remember to check out the church website for updates throughout the summer as I continue to fill in some of the holes in the schedule. Or, feel free to call me at the office if you don't have internet access.



**Rebecca Dimon**

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

# News and Notes

## 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.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Our interim minister, **Betsy Scheuerman**, is leaving in June. Her last Sunday in the pulpit is June 15. On **Saturday, June 14 at 7 pm**, we will have a farewell party in the social hall. There will be live music and time to visit with Betsy. The Board is providing the beverages. We ask you to bring finger food to share - a dessert or appetizer on your plate which you will take home with you. Most important, join us in wishing Betsy well as she returns to New Jersey.

## Circle Suppers, Last Call!

Summer circle supper will begin later this month and run for 3 months. There is still time to sign up. Talk with **Penny Nader** before June 3 to participate. See you at the park, or the museum, or the zoo, or for brunch--the possibilities are endless.

## 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 June 22

12:15 pm in the Church Parlor

We look forward to getting to know you!



## Slate for Elections at Annual Meeting

The following slate will be presented for consideration at the elections during the Annual Congregational Meeting, June 2:

- Board of Trustees: Kathy Drehmel and Bernie Schweickart
- Secretary: Holly Hogue
- Treasurer: Maureen Taylor
- Nominating Committee: Debra Gilbert
- Endowment Committee: Eugenia Willner

by **Brian Daly**

We have completed the first phase of reorganization. The ministries are in place, new ministry leaders are being selected for the new year, new by-laws are drafted, and the Member Development Director and new Church Administrator have started work. Now all we need is time and smart work to get this process going better.

The start-up ministry leaders are to be commended for their outstanding contributions to the Church: Julie Hippakka and Bev Daly in Member Ministry, Debra Gilbert in Mission & Outreach, Katy Brown in Worship, Ward Wilson in Religious Education, and Beverly Moore in Resources. Our Interim Minister, Betsy Scheureman has made a significant impact by establishing and chairing the Ministry Council.

The Board particularly thanks the Re-Org Task Team composed of Beverly Moore, Rick Hogue, Lisa Willner, Linda Givens, Betsy Scheureman, and Brian Daly for their seemingly untiring work.

Steps to be done this new Church year are:

1. Reaffirm what it means to be a member of First Unitarian Church of Louisville.
2. Establish our ministry plans in line with our adopted vision and goals for 2008-2009 –
  - a. Vision: We are a liberal religious church seeking to transform ourselves, our community, and our world.
  - b. Goals: (1) Reinvigorate our spiritual home and our commitment to the wider community and (2) Become a physical resource for strengthening and maintaining liberal religious thought and action.
3. Complete the conversion to the ministry structure in all operations.
4. Evaluate the process and outcomes.

**Ann Ulinkski** wishes to express her thanks for the many kindnesses shown to her and her family after Harry's death. She is especially grateful for the planning and work that went into the lovely memorial service.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Jan Calvert**. While canvassing for Barack Obama, Jan fell down steps, breaking both legs and an arm. She was cheered up by a personal phone call from Senator Obama, and you can add to her cheer by sending cards to her home address: xxx xxxxx Dr., xxxxx.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to **Trish Packowski** whose brother, Bob Packowski, died May 17 at his home in Mesa, AZ after a long, valiant battle with cancer. He was 63 years old. A memorial service was held May 31 at St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery Chapel in Phoenix.

Hearty congratulations to **Kathy Drehmel** and **Joan Beal**, both of whom are retiring from teaching from the same school, Breckinridge-Franklin Elementary. Kathy will be ending a 34-year-long teaching career! Both of these dedicated teachers have made a difference in the lives of many children. We honor their commitment and service.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Steve Wirth** and **Stacy Deck**. Steve's father, Otto Wirth, died on May 9.

**Mike Watkins** is back home after a stint in the hospital because of another hematoma in her leg. She's trying to take it easy and seems to be in good spirits.

# Building Use Calendar for June

## Sun. June 1

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am Summer Conversations  
9:45am YAC

### No RE Classes

10:55am Intergenerational  
Celebration of Life

## Mon. June 2

### 6:30pm Congregational Mtg

## Tues. June 3

6:00pm SMART curriculum

## Wed. June 4

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. June 5

5:45pm Worship Ministry  
7pm PRIDE Interfaith Service  
7:15pm Choir

## Fri. June 6

1pm Private Evt\*  
7pm Drum Circle

### UU Campout-O'Bannon Woods

## Sat. June 7

### UU Campout-O'Bannon Woods

9am House & Grounds Cmte  
9am RE set up

## Sun. June 8

### UU Campout-O'Bannon Woods

### NO RE Classes

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am Summer Conversations  
10:55am Celebration of Life??

## Mon. June 9

6pm Book Club  
6:30pm Interweave

## Tues. June 10

6pm Board of Trustees

## Wed. June 11

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. June 12

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

## Fri. June 13

6:30pm Interweave

## Sat. June 14

9am House & Grounds Cmte.  
7pm Farewell Reception  
for Betsy Scheuerman

## Sun. June 15

### NO RE Classes

9am Search Cmte  
9:30am Summer Conversations  
10:55am Intergenerational  
Celebration of Life

## Mon. June 16

12noon Brownbaggers

## Tues. June 17

6:15pm Ministry Council

## Wed. June 18

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. June 19

6pm Member Ministry  
7:15pm Choir

## Fri. June 20

6:30pm Interweave

## Sun. June 22

9:30am Summer Conversations  
10:55am RE  
10:55am Celebration of Life  
12:15pm Visitor Information

## Tues. June 24

7pm Finance

## Wed. June 25

5:30pm Chalice Night

## Thurs. June 26

7pm Choir

## Sun. June 29

9:30am Summer Conversations  
10:55am RE  
10:55am Celebration of Life

## Mon. June 30

Evening (TBA) - Congregational  
Budget Mtg.

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



The farewell party planned for **Joan Beal** on June 1 has been postponed until further notice. Selling her house did not go as planned, so she'll be with us for a while longer (our gain!) until she can finalize the house sale.

## Escape to Vermont September 26 – 28, 2008

Fourteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 1, \$250 (single) and \$450 (double). After August 1, \$300 (single) and \$500 (double). For more information contact [uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com) or (802) 353-7969. Church website: [www.rutlanduu.org](http://www.rutlanduu.org)

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### Celebrations of Life

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

**June 1**      *The Meaning of Flowers.* In the Victorian era, a highly nuanced language of flowers was developed. Both individual flowers and bouquets conveyed meaning and messages. Today we celebrate Flower Communion--the only holy day unique to our faith-- in an intergenerational worship service. Flower Communion is much more than a celebration of flowers, or spring; it is a ritual which communicates the meaning and message of our faith. Please bring a flower; as you choose the flower contemplate what it signifies. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

**June 8**      *Sacred Places.* What makes a place sacred? This will be an informal worship service, since many will be at the campground. Come prepared to share your stories about sites you have found holy. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

**June 15**      *Benediction.* This is my Last Celebration of Life here at this wonderful, historic church. But ministers come and go; members come and go; even buildings come and go. We will acknowledge what ends, and celebrate what endures as we say, farewell. This worship service is intergenerational. **The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman**

**June 22**      *Coming Out.* In celebration of PRIDE month, **Rebecca Dimon, Member Development Director** for First U, will speak. First U's **Interweave** group will also participate.

**June 29**      Service by **John Wiggins**; topic to be announced.