

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 14 Number 8

August 2008

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Annual Church Yard Sale—Sat., August 9

Saturday, August 9, 2008,
9 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

(All sales final Saturday -- No sales
Sunday!)

Our church will be holding the yard sale to coincide with several inner-city churches. A part of the proceeds will go to the HELP Center as part of our long time commitment of support for this very worthy, very needed facility. The HELP Center exists to help people in time of crisis, homelessness, hunger, utilities cut off, or pay for needed medications. The rest of the proceeds will go to our church's general fund, which also is in need of assistance.

All useable items are needed. So, clean out your closets, basements, and garages ; AND maybe ask family and/or friends for donations to this good cause.

- Bring all donations to the church Monday, August 4th through Friday, August 8th.
- There is a volunteer Sign-Up form in the Social Hall or call Betty Caudle (502) to volunteer, get information or make suggestions.
- We will sort, price and organize Monday through Friday.

Help is especially needed Saturday morning August 9th, for final set up. Those arriving (to help set up) by 7:00 a.m. on August 9th will receive a free breakfast and an opportunity to purchase one item before the sale begins!

Also we'll need Gobs of people after the sale to clear the area by 4:00 p.m.

Thanks! -Betty Caudle

Trivia Night—For all ages—Saturday, August 23

Another fun **Trivia Night** is being planned Saturday, August 23, beginning at 6pm in the Social Hall. Bringing friends, neighbors and family to form a team adds to the fun, but singles or smaller groups can join into teams upon arrival. Admission is

\$10, and the night's grand prize is \$100. Dinner is available for purchase. Proceeds go to the Youth Travel Fund.



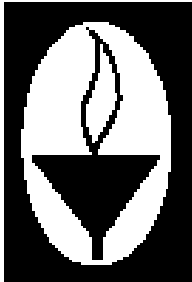
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Love is the spirit of this church...

Thoughts from our Interim Minister

Summer has proved to be a wonderful time to enter a new ministry in a new town. The pace is a little slower than the fall, but at First Unitarian Church, the underlying pulse of activity and momentum remains vital and insistent.



Thanks to your hospitality, I have been introduced to many aspects of Louisville and its surrounding community: the cultural riches, the natural beauty, the history and the hoped for future. And through it all, each introduction has a thread back to this congregation -- from initiatives led by earlier generations of church members to environmental leadership by today's youth.

Seventy years ago, when my grandfather was the minister of an African Methodist Episcopal Church here in town, and my father was a

student at what was then known as Central Colored High School, who would have imagined that my family's next generation would bring a woman whose leadership would be welcomed at a prestigious downtown congregation?

I suspect that those visionaries who have led movements for justice from congregation, then and now, would find my presence here as simultaneously unremarkable and rich with possibility as I find it myself.

I feel grateful -- blessed -- if I may use the word, to be among you in this interim year, lending my passion, intellect and creativity in collaboration with all of yours, to build together a great future with wonderful surprises for all of us.

Rev. Alma Faith Crawford

Board Biz—Stewardship Committee formed

The new Stewardship Committee has been charged with overseeing the annual pledge drive including recruiting the pledge drive director. In addition, all fund raising requests now are submitted to this committee for review. A defined process for prioritizing and evaluating these requests is still being developed. Among the known criteria are:

- Is the activity consistent with the First U mission?
- Does the event have a positive return (considering both person hours and start up cost)?
- Does the event conflict with other activities that take precedence or were scheduled prior to request?

- Is there sufficient support from the church to expect success?
- Additionally, the committee will be looking at the possibility of securing grant money to further a project already defined such as solar panels or neighborhood outreach.

The Stewardship Committee is Rick Hogue, Rose Stevens and Penny Nader. We welcome your help and suggestions. We will try to update you monthly in Steepletalk and will be contacting you for assistance as our specific activities unfold. *-Penny Nader*

STEEPLETALK

Published every month by

First Unitarian Church of Louisville
809 South 4th Street, Louisville, KY
40203

Editor: Doug Taylor

Next deadline: **Friday, August 15, 2008**

(covers month of September)

Contact us: editor@firsttulou.org

Search Committee News

Please plan on joining the Search Committee on September 21st as we dig a little deeper in an effort to understand some of the survey responses from last year. In small groups we will facilitate discussions around topics such as how the church is meeting your religious needs and how you contribute time, talent and

money to the church. What we learn in these sessions will help the search committee in the coming months as we showcase the church, its members and its mission to prospective ministers. Mark September 21st on your calendar and plan on attending one of the sessions before or after the COL. *-Jill Sampson*

Love is the spirit of this church...

RE News

Take UUs out to the ball game-August 24

Member Ministry would like to invite all interested friends, members, family, etc. to join us at Slugger Field on August 24. We have an entire section reserved just for us! Tickets are \$6 per person. The game starts at 6:15. Please contact me if you are interested. Contact Rebecca Dimon at the church office by **August 10.**



Well, I've been Interim DRE since July 1 of this year. It seems like not very long, but it has been a busy time.

Lisa Willner and I spent several days together working on assuring a smooth transition. She has offered to continue in supporting RE during this time of transition. Thanks, Lisa!

Rev. Crawford, Lisa Willner, Suzanne Meeks and I had a lunch meeting to discuss the RE transition. Rev. Crawford is enthusiastic and offers ideas for outreach and growth. We have invited Lori Martin and David Smith, III to join the RE Ministry. They each bring great strengths to the team and I think you will soon see their mark on the Ministry.

One of the things that was discussed at the luncheon was Adult Religious Education. We all thought that the RE

Ministry should have significant input into ARE and we will be putting together a team to develop curricula for adults.

There were a few teacher and youth group advisor slots remaining to be filled. I left July 17 to serve on staff at Midwest Leadership School and my personal goal was to have all the teacher and advisor slots filled. That was accomplished through the affirmative and enthusiastic responses of many of our talented congregants. Another thank-you goes out to all of you who see our children and youth as Unitarian Universalists worthy of our attention. I cannot believe how many talented folks there are out there. Our children and youth are very lucky indeed.

Carol Uebelhoer

Interim Director of Religious Education

Environmental Phyllis Fitzgerald to speak on Cleanup Sunday, August 24.



In the spirit of tradition and service, First Unitarian Church will offer a special event centered on the theme of the Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle, which is to affirm and promote "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

At the Celebration of Life, we will take time to explore current efforts taking place to promote a healthy and sustainable environment. We will hear how church members are working in different ways to "reduce, reuse, and recycle." Phyllis Fitzgerald, who has been an environmental educator and activist for more than 30 years, serving in government, corporate, non-profit and school settings, will be our special guest.

Phyllis has said, her "goal is to model the joy of sustainable lifestyle for the community, and for her five children and their

families, including ten grandchildren." Her remarks will include information about her current role as associate director of The Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, an interfaith spirituality institute dedicated to cultivating and promoting "an ethics of life which acknowledges the Earth to be a single sacred community." Instrumentalist Phillip Morgan will play music at the service.

Afterwards, please join us for the annual church "cleanup" day, complete with lunch and beverages. This is a day when all of us can help, some by sitting down, some by climbing, other lifting. Everyone will find a way to lend a hand. See the bulletin board at coffee hour to sign up. If you cannot attend on August 24 but would like to help, please check out the bulletin board or contact Kathy Kremer at _____ or _____

Summer RE Program

Our Summer RE Program continues this month. **Children ages 3-12** will meet in the Preschool Room for Chapel, a lesson, snack and outside play. For any questions contact Mary Griffin at _____

8/3 Grandmother's Gift *What would life be like without death?*

8/10 The Children's Crusade *Do children have the power to make a difference?*

8/17 A Little Jar Labeled "Freedom" *Why does life bring pain as well as joy?*

8/24 Spite Fences *When is it reasonable to "agree to disagree"?*

8/31 The Evil Wizard *What is our responsibility to deal with the bad in our world?*

Among Ourselves...

Martha Latta sincerely expresses thanks for all the cards and good wishes sent her way after her recent mishap. Thanks to all!

Joan Beal's Good Bye Party is schedule for **Friday, August 9 from 6-8pm** in the sanctuary. Please come to wish Joan well and to acknowledge her gifts and contributions to our church over the years.

Kris Philipp fell and broke both her wrists. She has had surgery and will need lots of support, including food and transportation. Please contact the church office to find out how you can help. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Book Club update

The tenacious members of the book club, undaunted by summer relaxation or vacations, are meeting throughout the summer. Anyone is welcome to read along and join in our meetings and lively discussions.

We meet the second Monday of the month at 6 pm in the church parlor, and alternate between fiction and nonfiction selections.

The next book we're reading is "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" by Anne Fadiman. Join us August 11th at 6 pm as we discuss our impressions and reactions!

Brownbaggers

There was no June meeting because of vacations.

Our planning session for the 08-09 year is now scheduled for **September 15th - 11:30 AM** in the church library. **(NO August meeting.)**

Be thinking about interesting speakers, places to go, travelogues, tricks that help old folks cope, assistant living experiences. Natalie and Jesse need your input.

Bring a brownbag lunch and come join us!!

Money Talks—First U Treasurer

Greetings from your new treasurer!

If you attended any of the budget sessions last month, you know that 2008-2009 will be a real challenge for all of us. We have to hold a strict line on spending and at the same time raise lots and lots of money to avoid ending the year in the red.

How can I help with any of this? I was told--jokingly, I hope--that my job was to make up for any budget shortfall. That I can't do, but as a firm believer that communication makes any problem easier to solve, I pledge to keep you informed. Knowing how we are doing financially can help us to avoid the extremes of being overly complacent or unduly pessimistic.

Since I've been on the job only 18 days as of the deadline for this issue, there is not much to report. Next month, I should be able to tell you how we closed out the Church Year. For now, I'll just report on my two immediate goals, the tasks I hope to accomplish in my "first 100 days," or even sooner.

Goal No. 1 is to establish a matrix of financial responsibilities so that everyone involved with First U's money has a clear understanding of who has the responsibility for what tasks and who can be counted on to assist. With a lot of help from folks who should know, we have put together a chart that is almost in final form. Watch for its unveiling soon.

Goal No. 2 is to conquer the kinks, glitches, or bugs that seem to exist in the software system used to keep First U's books. We need to have confidence that when we enter a payment into the system, we know where it goes, and we can call it up in report form when we need it. With Betty Vernon's capable help, we are already making progress. At least we know what questions to ask, and I am pretty sure we will have the answers we need soon.

Next month, in addition to telling you how we closed out 2007-2008, I hope to be able to say we have made some real progress on both of these goals. If I don't tell you this, please feel free to nag me! -Maureen Taylor

The Work that Reconnects

Inspired by the teachings of Joanna Macy author of *World as Lover, World as Self* and *Coming Back to Life*. Responding to our environmental and social crises by exploring the shift to a more life sustaining civilization.

You are invited to join us in this workshop as we:

- Experience meaning and connection to each other and the world we live in
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be an active participant in the Great Turning
- Move from fear and apathy to compassion and creativity

Facilitated by Marilyn Stoner and Mark Steiner

Saturday, August 23, 2008, 9 am - 4 pm, First Unitarian Church. Bring your own lunch, beverages provided. Donations of \$30 requested (no one will be turned away due to an inability to pay) Seating is limited. Make reservations with Marilyn Stoner or

Marilynstoner@fastmail.fm

Calendar

Sunday, July 27

9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education
 12pm CUUPS BREADS AND SPREADS

Wednesday, July 30

5:45pm Chalice Night

Thursday, July 31

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 1

7pm Drum Circle

Sunday, August 3

9:30am SMART
 9:45am YAC
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education

Monday, August 4

PREPARATIONS FOR YARD SALE ON 8/9
 7:15pm RE Committee

Tuesday, August 5

PREPARATIONS FOR YARD SALE ON 8/9
 5:30pm SMART curriculum

Wednesday, August 6

PREPARATIONS FOR YARD SALE ON 8/9
 5:45pm Chalice Night
 PREPARATIONS FOR YARD SALE ON 8/9

Thursday, August 7

5:45pm Worship Committee
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 8

PREPARATIONS FOR YARD SALE ON 8/9
 6pm UUCF

Saturday, August 9

ALL DAY YARD SALE
 9am HOUSE/GROUNDS WORK DAYS
 6-8:00 pm Joan Beal Good Bye party

Sunday, August 10

9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education

Monday, August 11

6pm Book Club
 6:30pm Interweave

Tuesday, August 12

6pm Board of Trustees

Wednesday, August 13

5:45pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 14

5:30pm Personnel Committee
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, August 15

12 pm Steepletalk Deadline
 6:30pm Interweave

Sunday, August 17

9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education

Monday, August 18

5:30pm Interweave

Tuesday, August 19

6:15pm Ministry Council

Wednesday, August 20

5:45pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 21

6pm Member Ministry
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, August 23

9am PROGRAM-WORK THAT RECONNECTS
 6pm Trivia night

Sunday, August 24

9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education
 6:15pm First U field trip to baseball game

Tuesday, August 26

7pm Finance

Wednesday, August 27

5:45pm Chalice Night

Thursday, August 28

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, August 31

9:30am SMART
 10:55am Children’s Religious Education
 10:55am Celebration of Life
 12:00pm Red, White and Blue Pie Sale

Please help us find missing photos!

The Aesthetics Committee requests that congregants be on the lookout for missing from the library memorabilia wall—two photos of early ministers, Clarke and Heywood. The photos are in oak frames about 5” x 7.” Will whoever borrowed these photographs, please return them to the library? They have been missing for a number of months. - *Carol Tobe*

First Unitarian Endowment

How many procrastinators does it take to screw in a light bulb? One, but she insists on waiting until the light is better.

Don't procrastinate about remembering First Unitarian in your will. If you need help, talk to someone on the Endowment Committee. Eugenia Willner, Greg Gapsis or Joe Kremer

PASTORAL CARE TEAM TRAINING

The Heartland District of the UUA announces the 2nd offering of Pastoral Care Team Training on **October 4, 2008 at the Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church located in Louisville, Kentucky.**

The training will be facilitated by Barbara Weber, LISW, Heartland District Religious Education & Transitions Coordinator, and Esther Hurlburt, BSN MS MDiv, Ministerial Candidate. For more details and registration information, go to the District website at ww.heartlanduua.org, or call the District office toll free at 888-948-4883.

Ramp to be built for sanctuary dais

After months of discussion with the Board of Trustees, Resources Ministries, and former interim minister The Rev. Betsy Scheuerman, Harry Tobe will begin building a ramp in the Sanctuary on **Thursday, July 24.** Harry will be assisted by Pete Webber and Joe Kremer. It will be moveable and ADA-compliant. Thanks for your patience. -*Kathy Kremer*

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

Red, White and Blue Pie Sale

Sunday, August 31st in the social hall after the Service.
(Just in time for your Labor Day Gatherings)
Homemade Pies made by members of the Women's Alliance



Blanket Exhibit

Sunday, August 31st in the social hall after the Service.
On display will be the Blankets made for the Linus Project during Chalice Nights this summer.
The Women's Alliance thanks all that have helped or made these Blankets for traumatized Children and Youth.

Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

August 3 **Service Topic To Be Announced**

August 10 **Beautifully Human**

In Ancient Greece, we can find religious expressions in which humanist and pagan outlooks merge. How might insights from the religious heritage of ancient Greece help us to appreciate the synergies available to us among the spiritual paths alive in today's Unitarian Universalism?

August 17 **Consensus: Bridging Conscience and Compromise**

An exploration of how consensus decision-making – at home, work, church or society – can protect both individual conscience and group solidarity. Reverend Crawford will bring insights from feminist, non-violent and Unitarian pragmatist movements.

August 24 **Clean up Sunday**

Environmentalist Phyllis Fitzgerald. Service centered on the theme of the Unitarian Universalist Seventh Principle, which is to affirm and promote “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

August 31 **In Over Our Heads**

Is emotion the enemy of reason or is it an essential gift of our human identity? Rev. Crawford will engage 20th century humanism's distrust of emotion, bringing it up to today's embrace of the beauty, passion, AND rationality that characterize our finite human community.