

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the Unitarian
Universalist Association*

Volume 14 Number 9

September 2008

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Member Development Director Notes

In case you weren't aware, **we record the Sunday service every week.** If you would like a copy of the service because you were unable to attend or you really liked something that was said, please contact Jill Sampson. Each week she takes the recording home with her and makes a copy. She would be happy to make extra copies for anyone who would like one (a small cost may be involved).

With the departure of both of our regular Sunday morning nursery workers, I have contracted out nursery care with Family Tree. During the summer, we have had the services of Kathi Daunhauer and she will continue with us into the school year. We will add one more person from Family Tree for Sunday morning childcare and we will have Family Tree provide childcare during Chalice Night, as well. In addition to my Member Development duties, I am also the coordinator of childcare. **I am committed to assuring quality care for our children so parents can fully participate in the activities and services of First Unitarian.** Family Tree workers provide quality, qualified care for the children we place in their care.

Continued on page 4.

Visiting the Church?

If you've visited us a few times and want to know more about First Unitarian Church, please join us on September 28 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.

First Unitarian Church—Information Session
September 28—12:15 pm in the Church Parlor
We look forward to getting to know you!

Inside this issue:

Member Development	1
Interim Minister's Column	2
Search News	2
RE News	3
ARE	3
Board Biz	4
Money Talks	5
Among Ourselves	6
Calendar & other notes	7
Heartland District FYI	7
Celebrations of Life	8

Love is the spirit of this church...

Loving Connections: A Message from Your Interim Minister

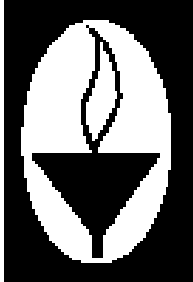
Welcome back!

Your church is an energetic, joyful, healing place.

With you here, with your friends and your family, we are moving boldly into a bright future.

If you haven't been around lately, we want you to know that First Unitarian Church has restructured for maximum service and effectiveness, freed up from bureaucracy with members empowered for service and spiritual growth.

We are growing in community-building through our Sunday Celebrations of Life, our Religious Education programming, and in our many lay-led ministries. Whatever your gifts or interests, there is room for you – to join a book club, pick up folks and drive them to church, volunteer in the congregation or a neighborhood ministry, or get to know the amazing children and youth among us.



Generosity of spirit, treasure, and heart is alive among us, as people encounter and rediscover each other at our Wednesday Chalice Night meals and programming. For busy families, child care is available at many events!

This September, I begin my eighteenth year as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Gratefully, I am among you for the Ingathering Service that is traditional among us, launching our Church Year.

I have never felt more certain that a congregation has been gifted with everything it needs to have a year of relationships deepened, understanding grown, justice advocated, and life celebrated. All we need is your committed presence and the willingness to be fully who we are.

With great anticipation,

Rev. Alma Faith Crawford

New ways to learn at Meadville Lombard, a Unitarian Universalist Seminary

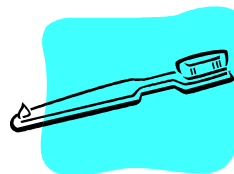
Weekend and week-long formats allow flexibility for Ministers and Lay Leaders

Meadville Lombard is now offering courses in formats that make it easier for working religious professionals and lay leaders to broaden or deepen their theological and congregational understanding. Visit our website for a full listing and course syllabi: http://www.meadville.edu/Ac_CourseOfferings.htm or contact Erika Chavez, Director of Admissions, at 773.256.3000 x 250 for more information.

HELP Needs Our Help!

Our church is a partner in the downtown community ministries' support of the HELP office. HELP supplies the most essential needs for the minimum comfort of the **homeless and the poorest of the poor**. We urgently need the following: deodorants, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, toilet paper and soap.

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



Search Committee News

Please plan on joining the Search Committee on Wednesday, September 17 or Sunday, September 21 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 either Chalice Night, Wednesday, September 17 or Sunday, September 21st on your calendar and plan on attending one of the sessions before or after the COL.

The Search Committee held a retreat on 8/23 to recommit to the search process, to review and plan out the year, and to renew our commitment to the confidentiality this process requires. - Doug Taylor

STEEPLETALK

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Editor: Doug Taylor

Next deadline: **September 19, 12:00 pm** (Covers the month of October)

Contact us: editor@firstulou.org

Love is the spirit of this church...

Religious Education News

I can't believe that summer is over -- school has started and another church year is beginning. We have a wonderful group of committed and skilled religious educators waiting to work with our First Unitarian children and youth.

The church-school year begins on September 7, In-Gathering, a multi-generational worship service. After the service, Middle School and Senior High youth groups will meet while parents register their children for Religious Education (RE) classes in the Social Hall.

Classes begin on September 14. At 6:00 that evening, the Youth Adult Potluck will be held in the Social Hall. We will eat the yummy food that everyone brings first and then the program will begin at 7:00. The event will end by 8:30 p.m.

Middle School youth will also begin O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) classes in September. The first meeting for parents only is September 10 from 7:00pm - 9:00 pm at First Unitarian Church in the Choir Room. The second meeting for parents and students is on September 18 at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church. The first class for the Middle School Youth is an overnight at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church on September 27.

On another note, the Youth Groups have had a couple of successful car washes during the Celebration of Life. I have to say that when I walked out into the sunshine last Sunday, I was nearly blinded by the sparkle of all the clean cars in the parking lot.

There have been several questions about why the youth are doing these fundraisers. Being a brand-new Director of Religious Education, I have to say I had the same question. I went to the source, Youth Group Advisor, Kathy Gapsis, and this is what she told me:

In 2006, a group of interested parents developed a goal of annual trips for First U youth, alternating each year between a service trip for Senior High youth, and a Boston Heritage trip for coming-of-age youth. In June 2007, the Senior High traveled to Pine Mountain Settlement School in Kentucky, to provide environmental service to the school and learn about mountain-top removal. In June of this year, the Coming of Age group flew to Boston and stayed at the UU bed-and-breakfast for a whirlwind 5 days of UU history and sightseeing. The travel fund is in place to offset and equalize the financial burden of these trips. Planning meetings will be beginning again soon to develop plans for this year's Senior High service trip, and continue to develop fundraising concepts. Anyone who is interested is urged to join in if you are available to do so. All youth travel is paid for by the youth and their families.

Now that school has started, things can be more regular and I will have office hours on Monday from 11:00 am until 2:30 pm and Tuesday from noon until 2:30 pm. I will be available by appointment at other times. Call me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at

Carol Uebelhoer, Interim Director of Religious Education



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.

For more information or to suggest a program, contact Carol Uebelhoer at 585-5110 or Jasmine Walston at jasminegld@aol.com. For information about child care, contact Carol.

- Sept 7 Ingathering Breakfast. Gather for the new season with stories of your summer and look forward to the year ahead.
- Sept 14 The Libertarian Party. Dr. Eric Schansberg will discuss the Libertarian Party. He is a professor of economics at Indiana University Southeast and the Libertarian candidate for US Congress in Indiana's 9th District.*
- Sept 21 Ministerial Search Committee: Exploring In Depth. Meeting religious needs and thoughts on giving.
- Sept 28 Welcoming Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender People. First U became a Welcoming Congregation in 1996 after completing an extensive course of study. How is this essential information shared with new members?

*Note: Republican Mike Sodrel and Democrat Baron Hill, also candidates for Indiana's 9th District, were also invited to speak to Round Table.

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, September 19 @ 12:00 pm** (Covers the month of October)

Member Development Director Notes (continued)

I have taken it upon myself as Member Development Director to re-do the kiosks/bulletin boards in the Social Hall because **I want members, friends and guests to have access to updated info about First U**. Each of the 5 ministries has one space, as do the "affiliates" - Women's Alliance, CUUPs, and Interweave. So, if you want to post any information about your ministry or activities, you have a space for it. I ask that you date anything doesn't already have important dates on it so that it can be taken down in a timely manner. I hope to get names and photos of all the leaders up on the boards so folks can learn names and faces of the Ministry Leadership of the church. There are also a few "general" kinds of spaces for the posting of things about/by members, interesting articles or information, and First U information.

Please remember that we care about you and like to keep up with you. If you move, get a new phone number, have a child, change e-mail addresses, or any number of other life occurrences, please call the office and let us know your new information so we can update our data. We want to make sure we can let you know about church activities and important news in the life of our church community. Please call the office and ask to speak with me, or leave a message and I will take care of the information as soon as I can.

Wednesday night's Chalice Night for the Fall will continue with the same schedule as it has been for the summer. A new addition to Chalice Night this Fall is that David Smith is offering Yoga starting at 5pm so as to be finished before dinner. A time for inner silence, or meditation, is offered starting at 5:45pm. The meal, prepared by Tiffany Taylor, will be served starting at 6pm. Programming will begin at 7pm. Childcare by Family Tree will be offered starting at 5pm. Programming is still in the works so please check the list serve, call the office or come by and check the Member Ministry kiosk to see what educational and fun programs will be offered during the Fall.—*Rebecca Dimon*

Board Biz

Despite the summer heat and locust attacks, the Board has been busy this summer preparing for a new Church year. At its August meeting, the Board accomplished the following:

1. Discussed the Leadership Retreat at Webster University on August 23 for Board and Ministry leaders.
 2. Began work on a Safety & Security policy. We are starting with a security audit.
 3. Determined actions to recover 2006-7 overpayments to a former minister.
 4. Continued work on reviewing and revising all Church policies to get them in line with the new Church structure.
 5. Discussed the Constitutional changes to be discussed at an October Congregational meeting.
 6. Revisited progress on the whole Church Behavioral Covenant which will be the subject of additional discussion and an upcoming sermon.
 7. Discussed the role of GA and Midwest Leadership School in the development of our Church.
 8. Established a long-term planning task force and started the revision of our annual strategic plan for next year.
 9. Concurred to send a team to the Pastoral Care workshop at Thomas Jefferson on October 4. Interested congregants should contact Alma.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 pm.

Interweave

"Interweave Continental is a membership organization actively working toward ending oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past."

* Monday, September 8, 6:30-8:30pm-- Polyamory and Religion. What is polyamory, and what does it have to do with religion? Diverse viewpoints are welcome. Contact Jasmine Walston, jasminegld@aol.com, to arrange childcare or request a topic. Co-sponsored meeting.

* Sunday, September 28, 12:30pm -- Interweave planning meeting. All are welcome. Please visit the jewelry sale before this meeting; we can start a little late if we need to.

* For more information or questions about Interweave, please contact Michael Ben-Avraham at _____ or _____.



Love is the spirit of this church...

Money Talk\$

Last month, I promised to report in September on three items: (1) our new matrix of Financial Tasks and Responsibilities, (2) our progress in getting a handle on our records in PowerChurch, and (3) the closeout of 2007-2008.

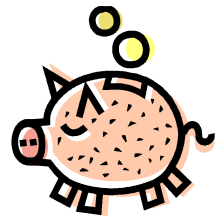
The first goal is finished, and if *Steepletalk's* editor can figure out a way to reproduce the chart here, you can see who is responsible for doing what when it comes to Church finances. With tasks divided among six entities—the Church Administrator, the Board Chair, the Treasurer, the Finance Committee, the Minister, and sometimes an Accountant—we really need to be sure that some tasks don't get everyone's attention (you know what they say about too many cooks!) while others suffer from not-so-benign neglect. I think this chart will help; thanks to everyone who reviewed it and suggested modifications!

Betty Vernon reports that PowerChurch has been behaving itself lately, so perhaps it is getting used to us. Still, I want to understand its capabilities better, so I am starting

to read *PowerChurch Plus: Church Management Made Easy*. (Anyone need a sure cure for insomnia?)

Finally, we have come close to closing out the year, although Mike Agamemnonos tells me the final report still needs a bit of tweaking. As expected, we spent more than we took in—which clearly cannot go on forever. We did not do well on calculating or predicting our pledges, as PowerChurch tells us we collected only 84% of what we budgeted to collect. Surprisingly, we predicted the amount of the non-pledge Sunday collection with much more accuracy—97%. Anyway, if your 2007-2008 pledge is not yet paid in full, you are not alone. And it is still not too late to pay; just mark your payment clearly so we will know it is for 2007-2008.

--Maureen Taylor, Treasurer



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Financial Tasks and Responsibilities

Tasks \ Responsibility of	Church Administrator	Board Chair	Treasurer	Finance Committee	Minister	Accountant	Notes
Authorize checks		X	X		X		DRE, Member Development director, & Ministry leaders can authorize
Write checks	X	X	X		X		\$500 & up requires 2 signatures
Transfer funds between accounts	X	X	X				Requires approval of 2 out of 3
Enter payments into PowerChurch	X						
Close out the year			Assists			X	
Send quarterly reports on all pledges			X				
Write follow-up letters on late pledges		X		X			
Prepare payroll	X						
Prepare & submit payroll taxes (federal, state & local)	X		Approves			Reviews	
Prepare monthly reports for Board & <i>Steepletalk</i>			X				
Prepare quarterly reports for Board	X		X	X			
Prepare annual budget	Provides past year numbers	X	X	Assists			Board & congregation approve budget

Love is the spirit of this church...

Just Among Ourselves...

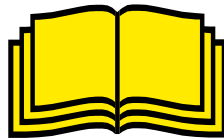
In Memoriam

Harriet Weller, a life-long member of First Unitarian Church, died July 19 at 92 years. Our sympathies to Susan Wilburn and other members of Harriet Weller's family. Susan reported to the editor that her sister had been a very bright teacher who taught math and science.

April 1, 1916—July 19, 2008

Book Club update

At our August meeting, we decided to plan ahead and pick our next two selections.



The book club selection for September is *The Coal Tattoo*, the story of two sisters growing up without parents. Silas House hails from and writes of Eastern Kentucky, and at point in his career also edited the alt-country magazine *No Depression*. Kathy Rogers picked up a discussion kit from the library and may still have copies of the book available at the time this newsletter is distributed, so email her or speak with her at church. We'll meet to discuss this book on **September 8 at 6:00 pm** in the parlor.

Since we alternate between fiction and nonfiction, the October selection is *Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. The discussion of this highly popular book will take place **October 13**.

New book clubbers are always welcome – please join us!

Member news

Kathy Kremer fell in our church kitchen last month. She is recovering with a neck brace and still very active in the church.

Blair White had a bad fall while riding her bike on July 30 which resulted in a 3rd degree separation of ligaments from the collar bone in her left shoulder. Cards should be mailed to

Church Members involved...

Church members David Smith III, Stefan Gearhart, Kyle Ellison, Rick Hogue, and Holly Hogue are connected to this event, and the Women's Alliance might be lending a hand.

The Nannie Tharp Experience proudly presents "An Evening for Gilda." Join NTX and local improvisational and sketch comedy groups as we put on great comedy for an even greater cause.

All proceeds from ticket sales and donations benefit the local chapter of **Gilda's Club**. Cash or Check only.

Where: "The Old Male High School," 911 South Brook Street, Louisville KY, 40203

When: **September 20, 6-10pm**

Cost: Only \$10.00

For more information contact: David Smith, 502-409-4360
ntexperience@yahoo.com

Brownbaggers

Our planning session for the 08-09 year is now scheduled for **September 15 - 11:30 AM** in the church library.

Bring a brownbag lunch, and be prepared to discuss and select programs for the remaining church-year. Natalie and Jess need your input!

Make the 08-09 year one of our best!



Service Auction, Sunday, November 16

Mark your calendar! - New day: Sunday

New times: Silent Auction 5:00 p.m., Live Auction 6:00 p.m.

Our family- and work-friendly auction guarantee: **You'll be checked out and headed home no later than 9:00!**

Extra amenities: Light supper and child care provided

Be part of this fun fund-raiser:

Ask your employer and/or favorite businesses to donate gift certificates or items.

Start thinking of what you'll donate -- just about any talent, skill, or object you have will be valued by someone at church.

Be here on Nov. 16! Enjoy good food, good company, and a good time bidding on dinners, services, art, home items, gift certificates, and much more.

We'll provide lots more details as the date approaches. In the meantime, if you'd like to help with the auction, or you have questions or ideas, contact Tiffany or Doug Taylor (

Calendar

<p>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</p> <p>Monday, September 1 7:15pm RE Committee</p> <p>Tuesday, September 2 5:30pm SMART curriculum</p> <p>Wednesday, September 3 5:45pm Chalice Night</p> <p>Thursday, September 4 5:30pm Stewardship Com. 5:30pm Personnel Com. 5:45 pm Worship Committee 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, September 5 7:00pm Drum Circle</p> <p>Sunday, September 7 9:30am SMART 9:45am YAC 10:55am Ingathering Celebration of Life—Multi-Generational</p>	<p>Monday, September 8 6:00pm Book Club 6:30pm Interweave</p> <p>Tuesday, September 9 6:00pm Board of Trustees</p> <p>Wednesday, September 10 5:45pm Chalice Night 7:00pm OWL Parent Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, September 11 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, September 12 6:00pm UUCF</p> <p>Sunday, September 14 9:30am SMART 10:55am Celebration of Life 10:55am Children's Religious Education</p> <p>Monday, September 15 11:00 am Brownbaggers</p> <p>Tuesday, September 16 6:15pm Ministry Council</p> <p>Wednesday, September 17 5:45pm Chalice Night 6:00 CUUPS Chalice Night Class</p>	<p>Thursday, September 18 6:00pm Member Ministry 7:00pm OWL Parent Meeting @ Thomas Jefferson 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, September 19 12:00pm Steepletalk Deadline 5:00pm RE Potluck 6:30pm Interweave</p> <p>Sunday, September 21 9:30am SMART 10:55am Celebration of Life 10:55am Children's Religious Education</p> <p>Tuesday, September 23 7:00pm Finance</p> <p>Wednesday, September 24 5:45pm Chalice Night</p> <p>Thursday, September 25 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Saturday, September 27 3:00 pm OWL 5:30 pm CUUPS Sabbat Madon</p>	<p>Sunday, September 28 9:30am SMART 10:55am Celebration of Life 10:55am Children's Religious Education 12:30pm Interweave 1:00pm 2008 AIDS Walk 1:00pm Peace Ed. Concert</p> <p>Wednesday, October 1 5:45pm Chalice Night 7:00 CUUPS Chalice Night Class</p> <p>Thursday, October 2 5:30pm Stewardship Com. 5:45pm Worship Committee 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Friday, October 3 7:00pm Drum Circle</p> <p>Saturday, October 4 3:00pm OWL Overnight@ TJ</p>
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Heartland District Events

September 27, 2008
"The Smart Church"

October 3-5, 2008
CONtagious! 2nd Annual YRUU
Fall Kick-Off

October 4, 2008
Pastoral Care Team Training

October 25, 2008

"Beyond Time and Talent: A New Approach to Shared Ministry"

April 3-5, 2009

District 9th Annual Meeting & Spring Conference

For more information visit www.heartlanduu.org, or call toll free at 888-948-4883.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM TRAINING

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

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, visit the District website at www.heartlanduu.org, or call the District office toll free at 888-948-4883.

Jewelry Sale—Get ready for our annual jewelry sale!!!

Bring in your old, seldom-used jewelry
Even if it needs small repairs

Sale will be held on Sunday September 28, 2008

After Church until 2pm

Proceeds go to our Partner Church

Contact Carol Findling,



KROGER BUCKS - GREAT FOR GIFTS AND GAS!

Give that college student who is "almost but not quite" on his/her own a practical gift - a **First U Kroger gift card** - he/she will thank you for it! **Also:** get in the habit of using your **First U Kroger gift card** at the gas pump. Each time you use it First U gets 4% of your purchase from Kroger at no additional cost to you. See Gary Drehmel at church or call him at _____ for more details.

First Unitarian Church

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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!

Problems with Minister's Voice Mail:

Please don't use the minister's private line to leave a message for our Interim Minister Rev. Crawford.

Please call 585-5110 and press 3 to leave a message for Rev. Crawford.



Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

- September 7 **Ingathering: Choosing Togetherness in a Culture of Individualism**
With music and words, we begin our Church Year with a celebration of the struggles and joys of *joining together as a religious community* and why it is so worthwhile. Rev. Crawford will invite us into still *deeper engagement* with each other, ourselves and the world, in the spirit of love.
- September 14 **Words that Hurt, Words that Heal**
A consideration of *the power of language* and how we can transform ourselves and our relationships through intentional listening and speaking with love and compassion. Rev. Crawford will share insights from the philosophy of language, especially Wittgenstein and Derrida.
- September 21 **Fasting and Feasting: Spiritual Dimensions of Food**
As Muslims celebrate the holy month of Ramadan, we will explore the role of eating in religious communities, including our own! Rev. Crawford will discuss ways that our choices about eating and not eating may enhance our spiritual and moral development.
- September 28 **Our Jewish Heritage: Lessons from the High Holy Days**
Rev. Crawford will present ways that Judaism provides a vital resource for Unitarian Universalism, especially in the areas of social ethics, our commitments to living in community, and the necessity of living examined and accountable lives. Given our debt to Judaism, how can we grow our solidarity with Jewish communities?