

# First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the  
Unitarian Universalist Association*

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## Meeting about revisions to the Principles and Purposes on October 5th at Sunday Morning Adult Roundtable

Among the strengths of our movement are our capacity for introspection and our ability to change to match a changing world. To that end, the UUA's Commission on Appraisal will be recommending revisions to Article II of the UUA's by-laws, often referred to as Principles and Purposes. This includes the Seven Principles and Six Sources. The commission is soliciting comments from the member congregations and individual UUs.

The meeting will be **9:30 to 10:45 am on October 5<sup>th</sup>** to discuss this process, why it's being done, and the comments that you have.

If you would like to see a letter from the Commission on Appraisal concerning the proposed revisions, please visit <http://www25.uua.org/coa/>. The website will also provide a draft of the revision and an opportunity to provide your own feedback

## Annual Muffin and Yogurt Brunch

Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 9:30 am

Social Hall at First Unitarian Church

Each year the Women's Alliance invites all First Unitarian Women to attend a gathering of women four times during the church year, the Annual Muffin and Yogurt Brunch is one of those gatherings. Looking forward to seeing you then. If you have any questions or if you will need Child Care, please contact Kathy Thackeray at [WomensAlliance@firstulou.org](mailto:WomensAlliance@firstulou.org) by Monday, October 20th.

## Thanks to all who helped on Cleanup Sunday

Nearly sixty First Church members and friends stayed after the August 24 Celebration of Life and helped clean the church! There were so many volunteers that we ran out of food; we ran out of rags; we ran out of chores! At the risk of missing someone, a list of these fabulous volunteers is posted on the Resources Ministry kiosk in the Social Hall. Thanks to everyone who helped!

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## Loving Connections: A Message from Your Interim Minister

*"...there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." "Acts 2:2"*

The New Testament Acts of the Apostles describes the Pentecost, when the coming of the Holy Spirit arrived like a violent wind, sweeping away barriers of race and language and gender, gathering a crowd into a community and then into a church.

On Sunday September 13, *metropolitan Louisville experienced a windstorm that was far from metaphorical.* It destroyed and damaged many of our homes and those of our neighbors. Losses of electrical power endangered many families' access to food, wages were lost, and much-needed medical devices were unable to operate, placing many at risk.

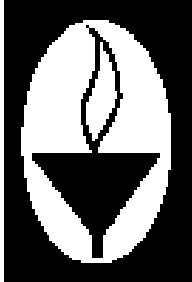
First Church experienced some roof damage, *but overall, this destructive storm was constructive in the life of our congregation.* We were reminded of *how fortunate we are* to have had daily,

unthinking access to the goodness of warm showers and refrigerated food. We found out that however spotty our trust levels may be in our day-to-day church functioning, *when we were forced to depend on each other, we always came through.*

*We can do it, friends,* and nature's intervention reminded us that however fractious we may become from time to time, we love each other, something about this place has gotten to us, and night after night, that troubled week, we kept gathering here, charging computers and phones – and *re-charging spirits and relationships.*

I found myself *grateful to that wild, uncontrollable wind* that disrupted our lives and revealed *our inextricable ties of mutuality and love* that have sustained us for more than a century and can be relied upon to lead us into a long, effective and caring future.

With admiration and love,  
Alma



### Board BIZ

It has been another busy month for your Board. We conducted our annual Leadership Retreat with Board and Ministry leaders at Webster University on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Based on the participants in this program, First U has a great year approaching.

During our September meeting, the Board accomplished the following:

- We began work on arranging a complete audit to provide the necessary groundwork for grant applications. We will research auditing firms and decide on a schedule in October.
- We are moving ahead with our 501(c)(3) application for grants and contracts.
- The Child Care and Child Protection policies need revising now that the Member Development Director is in place. Changes may be needed on the MDD contract.
- A special meeting of the congregation will take place on October 19, 2008 a few minutes after the service and should last approximately 15 minutes. The

meeting will cover the postponed constitutional changes about the number of active members needed to call a special meeting (raise from 5 to 15 percent) and changing the required meeting quorum to 15 percent.

- Approved a statement of support for the Ministerial Search Committee.
- We will begin a UUA project concerning our local history on fighting racism.
- All current groups that meet at the Church will be asked to complete a self-determination of their status within the Church. The forms will be collected and filed by the Church Administrator and will indicate how each group should be handled in the budget and for services such as childcare.
- The Board is developing a planning task team to assist in completing a strategic and long-term plan.
- We affirmed that the search for the DRE will begin in October and decided to form a 5-person search team which includes one youth.
- The next Board of Trustees meeting is Tuesday, October 14 at 6:15 pm.

### STEEPLETALK

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(Covers the month of November)

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

### First Unitarian Universalist Endowment

Are you sick and tired of poor returns on your stock market investments? Consider donating those stocks to the Endowment Fund for a tax deduction.

Contact Greg Gapsis, Eugenia Wilner or Joe Kremer of the Endowment Committee.

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

## Religious Education News

The 2008 - 2009 Fall semester of Religious Education at First Unitarian Church has begun. It was wonderful to see all the children and youth in the sanctuary for the children's time. We had to bring in folding chairs to accommodate everyone. What a wonderful problem to have!

The children's time in the service was great, wasn't it? I loved hearing what the children and youth said about the times they felt jealousy. Their experiences and feelings are not so very different from times when I feel jealousy. My family spent some time talking about and trying to live the "Golden Rule."

I met with some of the Heartland Unitarian Universalist District (HUUD) Directors of Religious Education (DRE) this week. It was a smaller group than usual due to the windstorm that affected many of us in Southern Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. It ended up being me and the DREs from Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church (TJ) in Louisville and the UU Church of Lexington, KY. We had a great meeting and talked about ways to get the Kentucky, Southern Indiana and Ohio youth groups together for some cooperative social action projects.

The second Our Whole Lives (OWL) parent meeting was held at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church. We were able to meet in the farmhouse, which had been damaged a bit during the storm. The meeting went well

and the parents and youth are eager to get into the curriculum. OWL begins with an overnight at TJ.

I hope that everyone has recovered from the windstorm that took out power for most of us. I had to come to church to write this Steepletalk article because at noon today, there was still no power at my house. I have to say that it has been kind of nice to be without all the electronic stimulation that normally exists in our lives -- television, internet, electronic games. There has been a lot more conversation. My daughter and I sat on a couch this morning that had a window behind it and each read our own books by the light of the sun. There have been candles and a kerosene lamp at night.

Sometimes it takes a freak act of nature to remind us of what's really important in our lives. Once we know everyone we love is safe, then we can come together and remember and sometimes revel in the community that is so important to us. So, for me, from this freak time of nature-imposed darkness has come the light of connection and community. I hope everyone out there can take some time to try to get some light from this darkness.

*Carol Uebelhoer*, Interim Director of Religious Education  
Contact me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at [cuebel56@yahoo.com](mailto:cuebel56@yahoo.com).



### Sunday Morning Adult Round Table— Please Join Us!

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

- **Oct 5 Changing the Principles and Purposes?**  
Discuss the proposed revision of the UUA Principles and Purposes, the Sources of Our Living Tradition, and Statements of Non-discrimination and Freedom of Belief. The draft is available at [www.uua.org/coa](http://www.uua.org/coa), along with a comment form. Comments are invited thru Oct 16.
- **Oct 12 The Republican Perspective on the 2008 Election.**  
Guest speaker Brad Cummings, chairman of the Jefferson County Republican Party, will discuss the Republican Party and campaign issues.
- **Oct 19 The Democratic Perspective on the 2008 Election.**  
Guest speaker Tim Longmeyer, chairman of the Jefferson County Democratic Party, will discuss the Democratic Party and campaign issues. Tim attended the National Democratic Convention.
- **Oct 26 Topic to be arranged.**  
Please check [www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org) periodically for topic updates. Youth are invited to participate. For more information or to suggest a program, contact Carol Uebelhoer at 585-5110 or Jasmine Walston at [redacted]. For information about child care, contact Carol.

### Thanks to the following for a successful Summer RE Program:

- Monica Turner,
- Kathy Kremer,
- Barbara Schweickart,
- Rhonda Green Barron,
- Claudia Runge,
- Jayme Haslam,
- Fran Fargen, and
- Phil Candee.
- Summer Cooridinator: Mary Griffin.

## Just Among Ourselves...

### In Memoriam

A memorial service and interment of cremations for Idell Shepherd Bizer Rosen, 89, of Jeffersonville, was held Saturday, Sept. 13. She was a long-time member and active supporter of our church.

Church Friend Raymond Peart sends greetings and hello to all. His address is

for those who wish to write.

### Book Club update

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 at 6:00 pm** in the parlor.

New book clubbers are always welcome –

Please join us!



The **Liberal Sew & Sews** have several projects planned for the fall: a 'care quilt' to circulate among our members, and made of UU t-shirts; an embroidered squares quilt for sale or raffle as a fund raiser; fleece scarves to sell at the Yuletide Fare; a service project for nursing home residents. Please join us on Chalice Night on the first and last Wednesday of each month. All skill levels are welcome - men, too! And if you have an old UU t-shirt to donate, please send it along.

### UU Christian Fellowship

Each person's world view influences their interpretation of the Bible and the wisdom they find in it. Rev. Crawford will examine this issue on **October 20 at 6:30pm** in the library. Topics for future study will be also be explored at this meeting.

UU Christian Fellowship meetings are open to anyone who is interested: seekers, doubters, skeptics, critical thinkers, former Christians, current Christians, questioning Christians, Christian-curious, believers, agnostics, atheists, and followers of other faith traditions.

### 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

### Money Talk\$

This month, I want to report to you on an accounting change we are making and alert you to what may be coming up.

**Late Pledge Payments.** Any pledge payments made after June 30<sup>th</sup> but designated as for the prior year's pledge will be accounted for as "Prior Year Pledges." The income will be shown in the month we receive the payment. If you want to catch up on an old pledge, just make a note of that when you make the payment.

**Coming up.** Brian Daly and I will be taking part in a web seminar on PowerChurch Fund Accounting. A question and answer period is included, and we plan to take full advantage of that! (By the time you read this, I hope to have more answers than questions.)

October is the time for the first quarterly reports to go out to anyone who has pledged for this year. I am starting to work on those letters now, and Betty Vernon should have the figures ready in early October. So watch your mailbox!

Also coming up will be an audit of the Church books. An audit is a necessary expense that we have not budgeted for one this year. We need this to verify what our business software, PowerChurch, tells us. Also, if we want to apply for many grants, an audit is very often a prerequisite. So we are looking into the costs and hoping to contract for an audit soon. We could certainly use suggestions about auditing firms you think might do a good job at a reasonable price. This is a major effort, but we are sure it will be worthwhile.--Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

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

## Calendar

### Sunday, October 5

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

### Monday, October 6

7:15pm RE Committee

### Wednesday, October 8

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, October 9

5:30pm Personnel Com.  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 11

3:00pm OWL @ 1st U

### Sunday, October 12

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

### Monday, October 13

6:00pm Book Club  
6:30pm Interweave

### Tuesday, October 14

6:00pm Board of Trustees

### Wednesday, October 15

5:45pm Chalice Night  
6:00pm CUUPS Chalice Night Class

### Thursday, October 16

6:00pm Member Ministry  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, October 18

9:00am House & Grounds  
3:00pm OWL @ TJ

### Sunday, October 19

9:30am SMART  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education  
12:00pm Congregational Meeting

### Monday, October 20

11:00am Brownbaggers  
6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship

### Tuesday, October 21

6:15pm Ministry Council

### Wednesday, October 22

5:45pm Chalice Night

### Thursday, October 23

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

### Friday, October 24

12:00pm Steepletalk Deadline  
5:00pm RE Potluck  
6:30pm Interweave

### Saturday, October 25

9:00am Women's Alliance  
3:00pm OWL @ 1st U

### Sunday, October 26

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

### Tuesday, October 28

7:00pm Finance Committee

### Wednesday, October 29

5:45pm Chalice Night  
6:00pm CUUPS Chalice Night Class

### Thursday, October 30

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

### Saturday, November 1

3:00pm OWL @ TJ

### Sunday, November 2

9:30am SMART  
9:45am YAC  
10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education  
12:15pm Worship Ministry Team  
5:30 pm CUUPS Sabbat Circle Service



### Brownbaggers

We are meeting at noon on **October 20th** in the Church Library. Phillip Morgan will provide us (BB's) with a program concerning his background, musical training, practice sessions etc.

How about those fingers? How about that voice!? And listening to a couple of piano selections is not out of the question. He has generously consented to play for us.

**Bring a brown bag and a smile.**

### Abortion rights book written by First Unitarian member

[Standing Up for Reproductive Rights: The Struggle for Legal Abortion in Kentucky](#) written by Fran Ellers and published by ACLU tells the stories of women and men in Kentucky who have advocated for abortion rights over the last 50 years. This book includes the story of First Unitarian minister Bob Reed's counseling of young women with unwanted pregnancies in 1970 when abortion became legal in New York. Included is part of a sermon Bob gave on his efforts. First U has also been a key supporter of the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (Joan Beal's photo is in a collage on the book's front cover!), and some of the coalition's leaders are also profiled.

Carmichael's Books will host a reading/panel discussion at its Frankfort Avenue location on **Saturday, Oct. 18, at 4 p.m.** All sales proceeds go to the ACLU of Kentucky's Reproductive Freedom Project.

### 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.

### Chalice Night—Every Wednesday

Come each Wednesday to Chalice Night to

- Connect with other First U members and friends
- Enjoy a good meal for a reasonable suggested donation (\$4)
- Participate in Awesome Adult Religious Education Programs

When: 5:30—6:30pm dinner, 6:30 service, 7pm classes begin.

### SEEKING VOLUNTEER TYPIST

The Resources Ministry is seeking a volunteer who would be willing to type up various documents on a computer. These documents are various materials used by the church that need to be updated. You could use the church or your home computer. If you're interested or have any questions, please send me an email at \_\_\_\_\_

Next Steepletalk Deadline: **Friday, October 24 @ 12:00 pm** (Covers the month of November)

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809 South Fourth Street  
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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](http://www.firstulou.org). Check it out!

## Celebrations of Life

### Do you know about the Listserv?

The listserv is an email announcement list for members and friends of First Unitarian Church to share announcements of church activities, church-related business, and church news.

It is easy to join the listserv, go to the web site ([www.firstulou.org](http://www.firstulou.org)) and select contacts, then listserv. Scroll down the page and enter your email address. Click on Submit Your Request. New subscriptions will get an email notice that must be returned within 24 hours to complete the subscription process. Contact the list manager at [webweaver@firstulou.org](mailto:webweaver@firstulou.org).

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

- October 5 **The God You *Don't* Believe In:** The God of our childhood imaginations – the bearded old man in the sky – is no longer real for most of us.. However, Rev. Crawford will suggest, feminist, liberationist, queer and process theologians have fresh ideas about divinity that may enhance the spiritual insight of the most committed humanist.
- October 12 **Interweave led Celebration of Life**
- October 19 **Universalist Hearts: Restoring Gratitude and Humility to Our Spiritual Journeys.** Sometimes our UU certainty of our individual value can deprive us of the sense of wonder that we have been gifted with so much. Rev. Crawford dips into our warm-hearted Universalist heritage, that remains permanently amazed at the love and grace that surrounds us in spite of our limitations.
- October 26 **The Day of the Dead: An Intergenerational Celebration Transcending Mortal Barriers.** Join youth and adults in a celebration of those who have passed on, yet live in blessed memory. With song, art, readings and meditation, we will incorporate elements of Sawain, Halloween, the Mexican Day of the Dead, and All Souls Day.