

First Unitarian Church

*A Member Congregation of the
Unitarian Universalist Association*

Volume 15 Number 6

June 2009

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. Alma Crawford, Interim Minister - minister@firstulou.org
Carol Uebelhoer, Interim Director of Religious Education - dre@firstulou.org, cuebel56@yahoo.com
Brian Daly, President - Board of Trustees - president@firstulou.org
Betty Vernon, Office Manager - office@firstulou.org; betty@firstulou.org
Rebecca Dimon, Membership Development Director - Memberdevdir@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 Emerita

Big Plans for June with Transylvanian Unitarian Guests

Louisville is honored to be hosting a Unitarian minister from Romania June 11-18. The Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. is the 2008-2009 Balázs Scholar at Starr King School for the Ministry. Endre is minister at the Gyergyószentmiklós fellowship and the Csíkszereda church in the Székelyudvarhely District of Transylvania. His passion is church music, and he hopes to return at the end of his scholarship year with new ways of implementing music in worship and church life. He is accompanied by his wife Éva Patkó, who is a theater director and Ph.D. student in drama.

We plan to worship, learn, and socialize with Endre and Eva while they are here and hope everyone is able to celebrate with us. The plans are as follows:

At Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church 4936 Brownsboro Road, HWY 22.	
June 12, Friday 6:00 - 9:00 pm	All UUs are invited: Welcoming Kentucky Barbeque Picnic to meet Endre and Eva, featuring Hungarian Dancing, Contra Dancing, Choir Selection, and Children's Bell Choir,
At First Unitarian Church Corner of York and 4th Streets	
June 14, Sunday 9:30 -10:45 am	First Unitarian Sunday Morning Adult Round Table, Endre Nagy and Eva Patko presentation and discussion
10:55 am-12:00 pm	Rev. Nagy leads Celebration of Life service "Rooted in Shared History" followed by Coffee Hour
June 17, Wednesday 6:30-6:50 pm	Rev. Nagy leads Chalice Night service
7:00- 8:30 pm	Endre and Eva lead presentation and discussion. Topic to be Announced.

All UUs at Clifton Unitarian Church, First Unitarian Church and Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church are invited to gather together for these events.

Inside this issue:

Partner Church News	1
Board Biz/Women's Alliance	2
RE News	3
Smart/Money Talks	4
Just Among Ourselves	4
Calendar/Book Sale/ CUUPS & other notes	5
Celebrations of Life	6

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

STEEPLETALK

Love is the spirit of this church...



Women's Alliance

The social action "Shower" for the members of Women In Transition on May 9th at Linda Parry's home was great fun. Two members of the Women In Transition attended the "Shower" and gave a short presentation of the group and its history and how it has evolved. There was a question answer session afterward. We all enjoyed the good food and the time for "sisterhood". The members of the Women In Transition were most grateful for all the items collected. Thank you all.

We thank Kathy Drehmel for creating a Directory for the Women's Alliance. It is not only practical but quite attractive. If you would like your copy please contact Kathy Drehmel.

The Liberal Sew and Sews will be making blankets for the Linus Project again this Summer. Become a Blanketeer, the Liberal Sew and Sews will help you get started at Chalice Night on Wednesday, June 3rd. We will have some patterns and materials. We will also be starting on a quilt and table runners for Yuletide Fare and the Service Auction. We will have squares to embroider to give out if you would like to participate. We encourage all women and men to participate no matter your skill level. Any questions please contact Kathy Thackeray at womensalliance@firstulou.org

BOARD BIZ

The board met Tuesday evening, May 12. Joe Kremer, Chair of Endowment, spoke about the Solar Array Project. He submitted a proposal to the city of Louisville in regards to President Obama's stimulus package, and thinks we have a chance to get funding for this project. Part of the money would go to our revolving loan fund for energy efficient projects. Joe proposed that we turn over our saving (\$2000.00 per year) to the revolving loan fund for 5 years. He suggests we place a monitoring device outside to show how much power is being generated which would promote the use of stimulus funds as well as First Unitarian Church. He also would like us to consider getting an energy efficient freezer and refrigerator. The board agreed to support the proposal.

It was agreed that we increase the shared parking lot fees to \$3.00 to take effect by July 1st.

Rebecca Dimon submitted her report regarding the Courtyard Café. She felt it was a success...not financially, but rather that it actually occurred and people showed up on a rainy, windy afternoon and evening. The next Courtyard Café will be June 12 and more volunteers are needed.

Kathy Dremel, Kathy Kremer, Greg Gapsis, John Grossman and Holly Hogue planned to meet regarding the leadership retreat.

Bernie Schweickart, Board Member

Kentuckiana Center for Transformative Action

The Church has started a new non-profit center. Although we are still waiting for our 501-c-3 status, this center will permit us to pursue outside grants. The **Kentuckiana Center for Transformative Action** is geared to champion activities that raise our level of participation in social and economic justice, environmental action, and community development. Its non-profit Board is composed of members of the Church with representation from the Mission & Outreach, Finance, and the Church Board plus the general membership. If you would like to work on this project, please submit a note of interest to Brian Daly (president@firstulou.org).

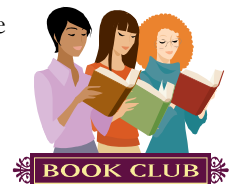
Calling all readers! Join fellow UU's in reading and discussing books. All meetings will be held in the parlor and begin at 6:00 pm. Following is a list of the meeting dates and books to be discussed through July 2009.

- June 8 Middleman and Other Stories by Bharati Mukherjee
- July 13 Velvet Elvis by Rob Bell

The following are meeting dates for the rest of 2009...

Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14.

We would love for you to join us!



STEEPLETALK

Published every month by
First Unitarian Church of Louisville
 809 South 4th Street,
 Louisville, KY 40203
Editor: Doug Taylor
 Next deadline: **June 26**
 (Covers the month of July)
Contact us: editor@firstulou.org

Hearland District News: <http://www.heartlanduu.org/>

Check out the link for the district website.

Future Events include:

July 19-25 -**MidWest Leadership School**

July 19-26, 2009 - **Beloit Youth Leadership School**

Love is the spirit of this church...

Religious Education News

Today was the last day of regular Religious Education (RE) classes for this church year. It was a day of classroom cleaning and partying for all the young folks and teachers involved in the program. I was given a donut and a piece of homemade cake by one of the Primary students. Yum!! Thanks for the generous gift.

I had lunch with the youth groups today. I was given a beautiful memory box by the High School Youth Group. When I left the Senior High classroom, the young people were taking Rev. Crawford to the roof to hang prayer flags. I had ice cream cones and watched all the youth play a baffling game called, I think, "Wahl!" I don't know the point to it, but a good time was had by all.

We have some amazing youth here. I seldom cry, and I was literally choked up saying "Goodbye" to Chloe Taylor and Nick Mattingly. I can't believe that the children I met years ago are now young adults who are well equipped to take on the challenges the world has to offer.

It was a great ending to a great year. I had a lot of fun and learned a lot about myself and about the excellent RE program that we have at First Unitarian. I know that we have Anne Miller, Cathy Leary and most recently, Lisa Willner to thank for the amazing foundation we have to build on at this church. So, a big thank you to those who have made it easier for me!!

There will be no RE programming until August. Beginning May 31, there will be childcare in the Preschool room on the second floor. Rebecca Dimon has arranged for a teacher to be the adult present every Sunday. One of the youth from the church will be there as well. There will be two qualified childcare providers there every Sunday during the "Summer Conversations" and the "Celebration of Life." Childcare will be available only for infants, preschoolers and children up to second grade. Other young people will be welcomed into the celebration of life.

Beginning August 2, Mary Griffin will once again coordinate the summer RE classes. These classes will be multi-generational and will happen in the Open Classroom on the second floor during the celebration of life. Volunteers are needed to present the curriculum. Each volunteer would present only on one Sunday during the month of August. If you have been thinking about trying out teaching RE and working with our young people, this would be a great opportunity. If you are interested, be sure to contact Mary and let her know.

Speaking of RE teachers, we are still in need of several for the fall semester. The classes that still have vacancies are the Preschool class, the Primary class (grades kindergarten through second) and the Intermediate class (grades three through five). If you have children who will be in any of these classes, think about teaching in their class. I know that it was a great experience for me to teach in my daughter's class. I not only got to know her better, but was able to develop relationships with her friends as well.

Teaching, for me, is a spiritual practice. As Sophia Lyons Fahs, the great UU Religious Educator said, "Put the children in our very midst! Let us give children opportunities to observe common things and happenings and stories that relate to their own experiences. Give them opportunities to sense for themselves the mystery in being alive and growing and learning. We would be companionable and sympathetic, joining children in their own wonderings and learnings and actions."

Join the team of this fall's RE teachers!

Carol Uebelboer, Interim Director of Religious Education Contact me at **585-5110, press 2** and leave a message or e-mail me at cuebel56@yahoo.com.

August—Summer Religious Education

This summer our Religious Education Ministry will present a UU Identity curriculum during the month of **August**. The program will be *for three year olds through fifth graders* in an Open Classroom setting. If you are an adult or youth member of the church please consider taking a Sunday or two to volunteer. Contact Mary Griffin for more details or to sign up as a volunteer at 375-1837 or maryandsophia@juno.com.



Just Among Ourselves...

Our church custodian Earl Reynolds' wife, Linda is hospitalized. Please keep Earl and his wife in your thoughts and prayers. Jayme Haslam had knee replacement surgery on May 18 and is now recovering at home. We hope you'll be back with us soon, Jayme!

Members John and Carol Findling invite members and friends of the church to a pot luck open house on **Saturday, June 27** from 4 to 8pm to meet our new grandson, Emerson, and his entourage of 8 from Kansas and Texas.

We'll provide sandwich makings, iced tea and soft drinks, so please bring the usual UU side dish, salad or dessert, along with stronger beverages if you want them.

You'll find them at 511 Emery Road, Louisville, 40206, near the intersection of Brownsboro Road and Zorn Avenue. Contact us at findatoz@yahoo.com or by phone, 502-895-1973.

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."

- Planning Meeting, **Monday, June 8**, 6:30-8:00pm. Agenda items will cover Interweave's goals: Direct support of BGLT persons and heterosexual allies; Service to the congregation; and Outreach to the larger community.

Diverse viewpoints are encouraged. For more information or questions about Interweave, please contact Jasmine Walston, Chair, at jasminegld@aol.com or 944-7517.

Summer Conversations - Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Gather at 9:30am

Program until 10:45am

Summer Conversations will meet from 9:30-10:45am beginning **June 7** and ending the Sunday before Ingathering. Youth are encouraged to attend.

- 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.
- Join a special conversation on **June 14** with the Balazs Scholar, Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. and his wife Eva Patko. Rev. Nagy is a minister at the Gyergyozentmiklos fellowship and the Csikszereda Church in the Szelyudvarhely District of Transylvania.

Attendees are welcome to bring children in their care. Child care for preschoolers must be requested in advance, by contacting Rebecca Dimon at 585-5110. For more information about Summer Conversations, contact Jasmine Walston at jasminegld@aol.com or 944-7517.

Money Talk\$

As we enter the final month of the Church's fiscal year, three financial activities are keeping us busy:

First, we are concentrating on getting our Books in Order for the start of 2009-2010. That's Books in Order, as in the new firm we are using to do our accounting—a firm with something we sorely need: expertise in PowerChurch. Through the wonders of technology, we are able to work with Eric Herzog, who is half of Books in Order, even though we are in Louisville and he is in Indianapolis. We are looking forward to three big changes right away: (1) having our accounts set up to coincide with our "new" structure, with ministries replacing committees; (2) activating the links in PowerChurch so that an entry in one section automatically makes the necessary entry in a related section, avoiding a lot of duplicated efforts; and (3) making use of the full capabilities of PowerChurch for the first time. Hurray!

We will also be setting up the budget for the new fiscal year. Of course, I'm writing this before the congregational meeting on May 31st, so I haven't seen a final,

approved, budget. But I know we will need to have something approved and ready to be set in operation on July 1, 2009; I'm trusting we will get it all worked out and approved in time.

Finally, we will be preparing to send out the fourth quarter statements in July. The third quarter statements were in pretty good shape, judging from the limited number of errors pointed out to me. Most of those were payments credited to pledges when they were really for something else—an annoyance, but not a disaster. If you haven't compared your third quarter statement to your own records, it is not too late to do so, and to tell me of any discrepancies. It would be good to get these cleaned up before June 30th!

(It is also not too late to catch up on your pledge, pay a little bit extra to help the Church survive in a very tight year, or make a new pledge for 2009-2010. You can even increase a pledge you have already made; I promise you, we won't mind a bit!)

Maureen Taylor, Treasurer

Calendar

Monday, June 1
 2:00pm Blood Drive
 7:15pm RE Committee
Tuesday, June 2

Wednesday, June 3
 5:00pm Chalice Night
Thursday, June 4
 5:30pm Stewardship
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, June 5

Saturday, June 6

Sunday, June 7
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
 12:15pm Young Adult Group
Monday, June 8
 6:00pm Book Club
 6:30pm Interweave
Tuesday, June 9
 6:00pm Board of Trustees
Wednesday, June 10
 5:00pm Chalice Night
Thursday, June 11
 5:30pm Personnel Committee
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, June 12
 6:00pm Courtyard Cafe
Saturday, June 13
 9:00am House & Grounds


Sunday, June 14
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
 12:15pm Young Adult Group
Monday, June 15
 6:00pm UU Christian Fellowship
Tuesday, June 16
 6:15pm Ministry Council
Wednesday, June 17
 5:00pm Chalice Night
Thursday, June 18
 6:00pm Member Ministry
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, June 19

Saturday, June 20

Sunday, June 21
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
 12:15pm Young Adult Group
Monday, June 22
 11:00am Brownbaggers
Tuesday, June 23
 7:00pm Finance
Wednesday, June 24
 5:00pm Chalice Night
Thursday, June 25
 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
Friday, June 26
Steepletalk Deadline
Saturday, June 27
 10-4:00pm Bonanza Book Sale
Sunday, June 28
 9:30am SMART
 10:55am Celebration of Life & Children's Religious Education
 12:15 Reception for Rev.Crawford
 5:30 CUUPS Potluck
 7:00 CUUPS Ritual

Use your Kroger bucks for Dads and Grads!

Kroger's has perfect gifts for Father's day (I like *Good and Plenty* myself) and for new graduates. Remember that the church gets a donation from Kroger's every time you use your Kroger's Gift card (at no cost to you). If you have questions or need a new card see Gary Drehmel after church.



Bonanza Book Sale
 Saturday, June 27 from 10-4:00pm has been set aside for the Bonanza Book Sale at First Unitarian Church. Look over your collection of books, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, tapes and art—we will even accept games and jigsaw puzzles—and see what you can give to the sale. Please do not bring us anything that is damaged, moldy or so old as to be completely irrelevant. Reader's Digests and old encyclopedias are also unwanted. If you have questions or would like to volunteer with set-up, clean-up or working as a cashier/helper on the day of the sale, please contact Kathy Eickmann, 944-9784 or katuwe@aol.com.

Brownbaggers— Please Note change in place & date

When: Meeting **June 22, 2009**
 Lunch at 11:30 Noon
 Program at 12:20pm
Where: We will meet at the home of Don and Joan Johnson, 4109 Pecunnie Way, Louisville 40218
Who & What: Joan will provide dessert and drinks. Purpose of this meeting is to plan things to do, places to go, for the next year. We need your input, so please come. **Bring a brown bag and a smile.**



CUUPS Programs The First U Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans invites all interested friends to celebrate Midsummer with us this June. Midsummer is one of the most ancient, widespread, and joyful Pagan festivals. The sun rises to the height of its power on the summer solstice and Midsummer Eve is filled with fairy mischief. CUUPS will host a class on **Wednesday June 17th** at 7:00PM to discuss the history of this celebration. Our Midsummer Ritual Celebration and potluck dinner will be held **Sunday, June 28th**. As always, our potluck and rituals are open and all are welcome. Potluck at 5:30PM - Ritual at 7:00PM Should you require childcare, please contact our childcare coordinator, Monica Turner.

First Unitarian Church

809 South Fourth Street
Louisville, KY 40203-2115

Return Service Requested

Phone: 502.585.5110
Phone: 502.589.6028
Fax: 502.587.8446

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

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



Wanted:

Are you searching for a way to use your talents to help people? We need volunteers with good office skills to help Betty Vernon with day-to-day activities at First Unitarian.

Please call (585-5110) or email office@firstulou.org.

Celebrations of Life

Sunday Services begin at 10:55 a.m.

- June 7 High Hopes-** At times we all have them, and this is certainly not a bad thing. First U certainly has high hopes of its own right now, with the coming of our new minister. However, sometimes high hopes can lead to unrealistic expectations and, occasionally, disaster. John Thurman Wiggins will explore the subject of high hopes within the context of First U's bright and exciting future. .
- June 14 Rooted in Shared History-**On this Sunday we will explore the historical background of both Transylvanian and U.S. American Unitarianism and Universalism, and try to find shared thoughts not merely in theology and ethical teachings, but also in what provides the indescribable grounding of our day to day lives: Unitarian (and Universalist) Spirituality. The goal is to understand that once history is shared, our present is also a shared one.
- June 21 Fatherhood in Changing Families-**Rev. Crawford follows up her Mothers' Day sermon with an appreciative look at male parenting, liberated from stereotypical expectations...
- June 28 Fragility and Endurance: Flower Communion**
With Rev. Crawford's final sermon at First U, we will reflect on the fragility of moments and the enduring resonance that persists. Flower Communion will ritualize our leave-taking.