

STEEPLETALK

U N I T A R I A N



Volume 8, Number 16

September 1, 2002

First Unitarian Church • 809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville, KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446

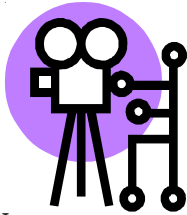
Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Religious Education Director (502)xxx-xxxx • John Miller, Board President (502)xxx-xxxx

Michael Megahan, Music Director • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus • Anne Miller, D.R.E. Emeritus • Marian Ziebell, Instrumentalist

Jen Lavery, Office Manager • John Durham, Custodian • Office Hours: 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. • Celebration of Life 10:55am • www.firstlou.org

First U “On the Air”

On Monday, September 9, at 10 a.m., First U’s sanctuary becomes a television studio as WAVE-3 TV broadcasts its 10am morning show live from the church. A second special broadcast from the church will follow at 4pm.



Both shows will commemorate the tragedy of 9/11/01. **Norm Stewart** will appear on the 10am broadcast to offer a minister’s perspective on the events of 9/11.

Local television stations will be telecasting 9/11 observations on 9/9 and 9/10 because networking programming is scheduled throughout the day on 9/11/02.

Conflict Management Workshop Offered by Council

The church Council is happy to announce that we will be offering a “Conflict Management Workshop” at the church on Saturday, October 12, 2002 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The workshop will be conducted by **Judy Schroeder** of NCBI. We are asking that each participant provide a \$25 tuition fee. For more information contact **Gary Drehmel** at xxx-xxxx (h) or xxx-xxxx ex 323 (w) or e-mail at gdrehmel@louky.org.

Plan to Attend Congregational Meeting

A short congregational meeting will be held after the in-gathering service on **Sept. 8**. Last June the congregation voted to hold this meeting to vote on proposed changes to the church constitution. Members should have received a mailing about the meeting during the past few days.



Council Asks for Childcare Cooperation

As we start the new church year it’s a good time to remind parents that the church provides childcare for many church functions. It is also the time to remind parents of some important points. Infants and toddlers to be cared for in the nursery need to have all personal care items brought with them, including diapers. Bottles and snacks need to be brought by the parents, also. Please do not bring anything with peanuts since there is a high incidence of nut allergies.

As for the older children, parents, please remind your children that they are expected to follow the good behavior rules. Our youth are providing a valuable service by doing childcare for us, and they need our support in creating a safe, nurturing environment for all our children.

“To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.”

Notes from Norm

You may recall that when you last heard from **Kathryn** and **Norm** in the pages of *Steepletalk*, we were packing things up in Vancouver and trying to find a place to live in Louisville. Since that time we have successfully found a place to live (albeit a temporary rental) while we continue our search for a permanent home. Near the end of July we managed to pack nearly everything we own into what is alleged to be the largest U-Haul truck on the planet. With a tow dolly attached behind them and Kathryn's car fully packed with what didn't fit in the truck, we drove 2600 miles across the continent to Louisville.

Along the way we went through the valley of the Little Big Horn where General George Custer became so famous. We went through Sturgis, SD, just a few days ahead of the 1,000,000 or so Harley-Davidson motorcyclists who gather there every year for a giant rally. We made a brief stop in the small town of Wall, SD, to visit the most famous drugstore in the world, Wall Drug, and to take advantage of their offer of free ice water. Then it was on to Louisville by way of Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis.

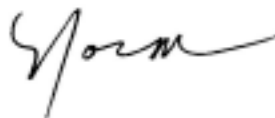
Within hours of our arrival in Louisville we had an experience that made us believe that the long, tiring trip had all been worth it and that we were going to like Louisville. Maybe even like it a lot.... But to hear that story you'll have to come to the September 15 Celebration of Life at the First Unitarian Church of Louisville for my first "norm-al" service.

The first service I will actually be co-leading will be September 8. It will be an intergenerational ingathering service called, *You Never Know What Might Happen, Do Ya?* We will also be planning a **September 11 Candlelight Service, Circle 'Round for Freedom**, to mark the anniversary of the events of September 11, 2001.

Even though I don't officially begin until September, in an effort to get to know the current staff and leaders of the congregation a little better and to lay the ground work for the coming year, I have been dropping in on various meetings for the past several weeks. During one stretch of nine days in mid-August I went to meetings on six of them. I came away from those meetings with the Board, the Council, the worship coordinating group, the Music committees and the Leadership Retreat with a feeling of cautious optimism about the coming year.

Transition can be a difficult and stressful time. I am grateful that our summer of moving is now over and that the new church year is beginning. As we begin our time together, I am looking forward to a year of getting to know one another, hearing each other's stories and sharing our dreams.

May we have safe passage on our way,



Steepletalk

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Leadership Retreat Tackles Real First U Issues

by **Joan Beal**, Secretary - Board of Trustees

If our Board, Council, committee and other leadership (at its most inclusive definition) folks look friendlier and more purposeful as the church year starts, we might give credit to the Board/Council/Leadership retreat of August 16-17. Besides welcoming **Norm** and reacquainting and restoring ourselves with each other's company, the group also began the process of dealing with several of the issues which we will confront this year.

Gary Drehmel, Kathy Kremer, John Miller, Lisa Willner, and Jane Martin Buckley planned a sequence of activities which included problem solving, group process, and community building. **Rita Stern** facilitated and kept us moving (sometimes kicking and screaming) through a hefty agenda, of which any one issue might have taken the entire week end.

Gary Drehmel started us off with a historical/demographic foundation, by organizing some of the material from the congregational survey conducted by the Search Committee. Jane Martin Buckley provided a religious/mythical/spiritual/psychological approach with a summary of *The Hero Within: Six Archetypes We Live By* by Carole S. Pearson. John Miller reminded us of the move from pastoral to program church, with which we have been wrestling for the past several years.

The small group work focussed on two issues: the question of "borrowing from capital assets to fund programs," and the issue of a safe church policy. The intent was not to come to any definitive resolution of these issues, but to provide ideas and background and to increase the leadership's understanding of the issues. There were lots of opinions, lots of ideas on lots of chart paper. The appropriate church groups will receive this information.

The second round of group work involved each small group in a goal of a particular church program (e.g., membership, public relations, program evaluation, social responsibility). Again, there was a freewheeling rush of new and old ideas, some "aha" experiences, and some ideas that are already in place. The appropriate committee will receive this material.

Surrounding our tasks were common meals, a meditative and welcoming environment, and a temporary distance from the tumult of our daily lives. We began and ended the overnight with song, reflection and a restatement of common purposes. And now we're back, hopefully a little smarter, wiser and more renewed.



42nd General
Assembly
June 26-30,
2003

- √ Discounted registration thru Nov. 15
- √ Forms available in volunteer area

Spirituality Course Offered on Chalice Night

Chalice Night will host the course "**Spirituality in Everyday Life,**" beginning **September 18**. In this seven session course created by Susan Breiddal, participants share ideas about their own spiritualities and discover a broad range of ways to practice spiritual discipline. The course will meet on first and third Wednesdays (September 18, October 2 and 16, November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18). To purchase (\$14.25) or borrow a book, contact **Jo Ann Dale** or **Lisa Willner**.

REviews

Although our official church In-Gathering is not until September 8, I'm already enjoying reconnecting with many friends from First U who've returned from their summer adventures.

An impressive number of our First U youth used summer break as an opportunity to connect with the larger world of Unitarian Universalism. xxxxxx xxxxxx, xxxxxx xxxxxxxx, xxxxxx xxxxxxxx, and xxxxxx xxxxxx spent a week at Marwood, an Illinois UU camp for 7th - 10th graders. (In descriptions of their camp experiences, I heard the words "inspiring," "life transforming," and "best week of my life.") Many of you have already heard xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx speak about their experiences on the UUA Partner Church trip to Transylvania this summer. Elizabeth was glad to meet her Partner Church pen pal, and Agatha is already trying to figure out when she can make a return trip. xxxxx also went to the UUA's General Assembly in Quebec this summer, along with fellow First U youth, xxxxxxx xxxxxxxx. xxxxxx is drumming up enthusiasm among her First U peers for a trip to Boston for General Assembly, 2003. Finally, xxxxxxxx xxxxxx has just returned from Seattle where she served as a staff member at the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) Continental Conference ("Con Con"). Con Con participants were fortunate to have her capable leadership, and we're fortunate that she's back home with new skills and new confidence to share with all of us.

I have loved hearing the stories of our UU travelers (and look forward to hearing more). I'm inspired by their commitment to our UU faith and culture, and moved by the personal growth that I see unfolding before my very eyes. To xxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxx, xxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxx, xxxxxx, xxxxxxxx, and all of you: Welcome home! Welcome back to First U! May our travels, experiences, and stories come together in a way that will enrich us all. Yours with love,

Lisa

R.E. Announcements

√ **First hour programs for children** (preschool - 6th grade) resume on September 8 at 9:45, followed by our Intergenerational Ingathering Celebration of life at 10:55. (During the Celebration of Life, childcare will be provided for the youngest children in the preschool playroom.)

√ **Youth and Parents and Interested Others:** Please join us for the Youth/Adult Potluck, Youth Groups kickoff, and Parent Orientation on September 8, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Bring a dish to share. Youth Groups for Middle School and Senior High will begin regular meetings the following Sunday, September 15 from 6:30 - 8:00. (If you have questions about the youth group schedule change, please contact **Lisa Willner**.)

(continued on p.5)

Lisa Willner Religious Education Director

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dre@firstulou.org
lisa@scruton.win.net (home)

Office Hours
Monday 12 - 3
Tuesday 12 - 6
Wednesday 12 - 3
or by appointment

Friday is Lisa's day off.



√ **Chalice Night is coming, September 18!** (See the enclosed flyer for more information.) Please sign up in the Social Hall after church to reserve meals or childcare.

√ **R.E. Class Registrations** will begin September 8, in the Social Hall after church, or request a form from your child's R.E. teacher. Our all-star line-up of R.E. teachers for this fall:

- Preschool - Pre-K: **Kathy Kremer, Claudia Runge, and Rose Stevens**
- Grades 1 and 2: **Rae Cobbs and Susie Onwood**
- Grades 3 and 4: **Suzanne Meeks and Barbara Thomas**
- Grades 5 and 6: **Joanne Graf and Keith Wilhelmi**
- Junior High: **Lisa Summers and David Tinsley**
- Senior High: **Jo Ann Dale and John Scruton**

Heartland Opportunities

Welcoming Congregation II, or What do we do now? Training is available for this important issue at the **Heartland District Fall Training Institute, Sept. 27- 28 in Lansing MI.** A Welcoming Congregation commits to ongoing education and action about BGLT issues, both in the congregation and in the surrounding community — much more than a one-time program. This Heartland training comes at a most opportune time, as First Unitarian prepares for a week-end intensive in late October revisiting Welcoming Congregation and the commitments we agreed to several years ago.

Youth advisor, High School OWL, New and Advanced DRE — Training is also offered for these important leadership positions. If you have an interest in any of these training opportunities, please pick up a registration form in the volunteer area, or contact **Jasmine Walston** at jasminegld@aol.com, or xxx-xxxx. **Registration Deadline is September 13, 2002.**

Sunday Morning Adult Round Table
Church library
Sharing at 9:30am
Program -- 9:40 until 10:45am

Upcoming Topics & Events

⇒ **September 1:** A presentation and moderated discussion about *proposed Constitutional Amendments* that members will be asked to vote on.

⇒ **September 8: Adult RE Ingathering**--a chance to meet and greet and share stories from our summer. Also, an introduction to the Adult Round Table's program for the new year

⇒ **September 15: Chalice Night--Jo Ann Dale** will tell us about this exciting new program for our church on Wednesday nights and tell us how we and our families can get involved.

⇒ Future programs will be based on the expressed interests of the congregation, and the individual members who volunteer to share. Contact **Robert Parish** after service in the Social Hall, or at home: email rdparish@aye.net or phone xxx-xxxx and leave a message.



Public Radio Partnership Volunteers Needed

On September 29, First Unitarian will staff the pledge phones to bring in much needed donations for the Public Radio Partnership's Fall Fund Drive, and, at the same time, fill the day's broadcast with the First Unitarian Church name. Please volunteer for a 2 or 3 hour shift between 10am and midnight. Contact **Jasmine Walston** at jasminegld@aol.com or xxx-xxxx, or sign up at the Social Hall kiosk.

Money Matters

by **Phil Candee**, Finance Committee Chair

The Finance Committee has passed a motion that one of the responsibilities of the committee should be to encourage fund raisers. Seeking to encourage by example:

Cleanup Churchill Downs after Oaks and Derby

By 12-16-02 I plan to send a proposal to Churchill Downs as to how many volunteers we can provide on the evening/night after the Oaks (Friday 5-2-03) and the Sunday after Derby (5-4-03). If we can commit to a critical mass, and they accept our proposal, we would get a section to clean commensurate to our size. We would be done each day upon satisfactory inspection.

We would get paid \$65 “per person” for both days and \$194 for one supervisor for both days. The total would be paid via check to the church.

The catch seems to be that by “per person” they mean 10-12 hrs. of work per person each day, so if a hypothetical hourly wage were computed it would be rather meager. However, all fund raisers chew up great gobs of time, so at least by doing this we know 2 days and done. Also, since we would be in all actuality paid to clean a section, no matter how long it takes us, we can bring as many volunteers as we want.

By volunteering (assuming our proposal is accepted) you would get camaraderie, esprit de corps, and great exercise. Help erase some of our deficit!

I have a sign up sheet. We need volunteers to commit from 3 to 12 hours per day for either—or preferably—both days.

As a minimum, as a group, it appears we need to be able to pledge at least 132 volunteer hours of work for each day, for our proposal to be considered. The more people who commit,

and work, the more \$ we could bring in. Depending on your response, this fund raiser could make the Church anywhere from \$844 to \$5,069.

I will start it off and volunteer 24 hours, e.g., 12 hours each day. Assuming the response is strong enough to merit a proposal, we should know by mid-to-late February 03 whether it has been accepted.

Social Action

First U at State Fair

As they have for many years, First Unitarian members again showed their commitment to a pro-choice message. Twenty members from First Unitarian, including our new minister, volunteered to staff the Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice/Planned Parenthood booth at the State Fair. Kentucky RCRC thanks you.



Harmony Habitat Camp Out/Work Party September 13, 14 and 15

Volunteers will camp on the farm and work on the group home. Meals provided. If you'd like to help, call **Peg Kesler** at (502) xxx-xxxx or e-mail HABITAT321@aol.com.

No More Victims Anywhere 24 Hour Peace and Mourning Vigil starting at 12:01am, September 11 5th and Jefferson

Call **Pam McMichael**, xxx-xxxx, for more information.

First Unitarian Church
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Louisville, KY 40203-2115
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Celebrations of Life

Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.

September 1 *From the People who Brought you the Weekend.* Celebrating Labor Day

September 8 *You Just Never Know What Might Happen, Do Ya? Ingathering Service with Water Communion.* We'll start the new church year with an intergenerational service based on the work of singer and storyteller **Bill Harley**. If you brought water back from your summer vacation, bring a small amount to use in our Water Communion.

September 11 *Circle 'Round for Freedom.* Candlelight Service of Remembrance.
Wednesday Evening, 8 pm.

September 15 *In the Beginning . . .* This will be our first regular (normal?) service with our newly called minister, the **Rev. Norm Stewart**. As we begin a new era at First Unitarian Church, Norm will explore wisdom from the *Bible's* creation story and other sources for insight about the new version of First U Louisville that we are about to create.