

# STEEPLETALK



## FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

Volume 9, Number 04

23 February 2003

809 S. Fourth Street • Louisville KY 40203 • (502)585-5110 or 589-6028 • Fax (502)587-8446  
www.firstulou.org • Office Hours: 9:00a.m. - 3:00p.m. M-F • Celebration of Life 10:55am Sundays  
Norm Stewart, Minister (502)561-8326 • Lisa Willner, Director of Religious Education (502)xxx-xxxx  
John Miller, Board President (502)xx-xx • Jen Lavery, Church Administrator • Michael Megahan, Music Director  
Marian Ziebell, Instrumentalist • Anne Miller, DRE Emeritus • Robert Reed, Minister Emeritus

### Help Plan Programs with *Chalice Night* Survey

The February 23 order of service will contain a short survey form. Please take a few moments to help the Adult RE Planning Team better meet your needs and interests. If you are unable to attend on February 23, you may obtain a form at the volunteer area or just mention your concerns and interests to **Bev Moore, Jeff Matthias, Bob Parish, Rita Stern** or **Lisa Willner**. Thanks for your help.

### Peace Forum Rescheduled

The **Peace Forum** scheduled for last Sunday and cancelled due to the ice storm will be held at **First Unitarian** this **Sunday, February 23, at 1:00pm.**

### Have You Perfected Your Elevator Speech?

**William Sinkford** (president of UUA) encourages us each to work on our elevator speech! What you would say when people ask you what/who are Unitarian Universalists when you are going from the sixth floor to the lobby or from one class to another or between the lunch area and your work area...(45 seconds). The following is his latest: "The Unitarian side tells us that there is only one God, one spirit of life, one power of love. The Universalist side tells us that God is a loving God, condemning none of us, valuing the spark of divinity that is in every human being."

So his version of what Unitarian Universalism stands for is, "One God, no one left behind." (from the "Our Calling" column in the March/April 2003 *World*.) So what is **your** elevator speech? Check out the UUA bulletin board in the social hall and add your speech!

### Place Nametags Here!



The **Membership Committee** has placed a basket on a small table near the door at the Library Lane entrance/exit. The purpose of this basket is to allow you to **place your nametag** in it **BEFORE** you leave our church.

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

## Notes From Norm

It's mid-afternoon and I'm sitting in the basement office of our new condo looking out at a cold gray, rainy, day. Some people might even call this a miserable day. A former minister of mine frequently reminded us on days like this that it is just cold, gray and rainy. The miserable is mostly in our heads.

Someone else responding to the claim that "a thing of beauty is a constant joy," disagreed saying that, "joy has to be inconstant like spring [or winter in Louisville] weather, a constant joy is a plastic daisy, it's trash." After six years of moderate seasonal changes on the west coast, I am finding the inconstancy of Louisville weather joyful indeed. I am looking forward to the changes that I know surely lie ahead.

Things around the church have been changing too. The staff has been working hard to deal with changes that inevitably come with a new minister. For the most part they seem to be doing a great job of adjusting to a different style of minister than they have worked with previously. I am very grateful for our talented staff and all of the volunteers that keep things going mostly smoothly here on a regular basis.

Working together with the Music Committee and the Personnel Committee, we have decided to make a change in the direction of our music program. By mutual agreement, **Michael Megahan**, who has served as our Music and Choir Director for the past year and half, will be finishing his work with us this month. Michael has brought a high level of talent and professionalism to his work with our church.

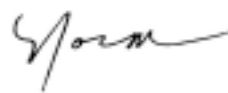
We are currently exploring a number of options concerning the future of the music program. One of our eventual hopes is for more

musical opportunities for children, youth and young adults. During this interim time in our music program, **Marian Ziebell**, our staff instrumentalist has enthusiastically stepped up her involvement with our choir. In addition, she is arranging for many of the special musicians such as **Harry Pickens**, **Gary Falk**, and others who have been involved in recent services. She is also coordinating a community choir for the March 16 Installation Service with singers from Clifton Unitarian, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian, Central Presbyterian, Zion Baptist and, of course, First Church.

Our church is blessed with an abundance of incredible music resources. If you have ideas for special music that we might use between now and the end of the year, share your ideas with Marian. Even if we can't use all of the ideas this spring, there will be other opportunities in the not too distant future. Also, if you would like to help us formulate the new vision for our music program, drop a note in the Music Committee mailbox with your ideas.

In closing I would like all of members and friends to begin giving serious thought to the level of support you will be able to contribute to the mission and ministry of this church during our next church year. This year we will be trying to complete the canvass by March 16, which we are calling Commitment Sunday. We will celebrate our new commitment at the 5 p.m. Installation Service and the buffet reception afterwards.

Hope that you can enjoy the weather!



# Stewardship Campaign



For the Children of Our Children.  
Keep the Circle Whole.

By the time you read this, First Unitarian Church's first-in-a-long-time public forum will already have taken place. The importance of this event, whose topic is the impending war in Iraq, can hardly be overstated, for whenever there is conflict, there is usually fear and misunderstanding at its roots; and the only hope for solution is to try to comprehend and deal with those fears and misunderstandings. This forum offers insights from scholars, musicians and activists and seeks to nourish dialogue not just among ourselves but in the wider community as well. We hope to serve as a source of reliable information to any and all who question the wisdom of the apparent majority, not necessarily trying to change any minds, but simply to shed light on what is known.

What a metaphor for First Unitarian Church! We have all stayed connected to this church because we seek to understand complexities in our personal and collective lives that need to be given voice and scrutiny. We gather information from very varied traditions and resources, in-

cluding speakers, reference materials, works of art and music, all of whose power is available to help us comprehend the mystery and miracle of our life experiences. Where else is there such an opportunity to foster the recognition of what binds us together, of what makes us more akin to each other, rather than what separates us? Where else do we have an opportunity to raise our collective voice and proclaim the values of tolerance and understanding, of peace and justice?

**It's Stewardship season**, and we have yet another opportunity: to support the mission and vision of First Unitarian Church so that our place in the community as a stronghold for liberal religious thinking will be preserved **for the children of our children; to keep the circle whole** so that, in times like these, there is a place to go to listen and to be heard.

As you consider your pledge history and your commitment for the coming year, give serious thought to the values we espouse and the ways we teach and learn them. Realize their importance, and your part in their nurture and care. Feel empowered in the knowledge that your pledge is significant in strengthening and keeping this precious circle whole.

Joanne Graf

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**Community Peace Vigils---Sunday, February 23, 2003--7--8 pm:** At Douglass Loop & Bardstown Road; another at Bardstown Road & Longest; another on Lexington Road in front of the Ursuline Motherhouse; another on Southside Drive near St. John Vianney Church (4839 Southside Drive); one at St. Margaret-Mary (across from Oxmoor Mall). **From 8-9pm:** The Old Louisville area vigil at Central Park (along 4th Street).

## REviews

In our Upstairs Chapel services, we take seriously Mahatma Gandhi's statement, "If we are to have a lasting peace in the world, we must begin with the children." The majority of this year's worship services for children and others have focused on "Peace." Last Sunday as we discussed Gandhi's quote, 5th grader **Katrina Brown** shared the wise observation that, really, we are all children of the earth and that, therefore, peace must begin with each of us.

Aside from discussions, we've learned peace songs, including Jean Ritchie's "Peace Round," "Circle Round for Freedom; Circle Round for Peace," and "Peace to You, Peace to Me." Hearing our group give voice to these beautiful songs gives me, and perhaps others, a sense of hope that peace is possible. We've also put that hope into action by engaging in a peaceful protest against the proposed war against Iraq. Two Sundays ago, we all bagged rice, attached the biblical message "Feed thine enemies," stuffed the rice and messages into envelopes, and mailed them to the White House. We passed along our leftover rice and mailing labels to the UU Church of Lexington for their children to participate in the protest as well.

We've discussed Lao Tse's wisdom that

peace in the world must begin with peace in the heart. Several of the children have made the point that it is not always easy to find peace in our own hearts. As an example of how an uneasy heart can lead to violence, we examined the following poem from Martin Auer's *A Strange War* (translation by Kim Martin Metzger):

### Fear

Why is that guy looking at me like that?  
Is he afraid of me?  
Why is that guy afraid of me?  
Does he think that I want to hurt him?  
Why does he think that I want to hurt him?  
I never hurt anyone!  
I never hurt anyone, unless he wants to hurt me!  
So if that guy thinks that I want to hurt him, then  
only because he knows:  
I hurt everybody who hurts me.  
So: he must want to hurt me!  
So I guess I'll go right over there and bash him  
in the mouth,  
so that he can't hurt me. Ouch!  
His fist was quicker than mine!  
Now here I am on the ground.  
But didn't I tell you right away that he wanted  
to hurt me?

Our children got this story at a deep level. They understood clearly how an uneasy mind created the violent confrontation. From there, we're learning that peace within leads to peace in the world. We find peace within when we feel affirmed, respected, valued -- when others listen to our stories, and work to understand them. As we continue to explore "Peace" in our R.E. worship services, we'll keep on talking, keep on thinking, keep on singing, and we'll keep on finding ways to hear one another, attend to one another, and affirm one another's inherent worth and dignity. Peace -- Lisa

### Lisa Willner

Religious Education Director

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Office Hours

Monday 12 - 3

Tuesday 12 - 6

Wednesday 12 - 3 or by appointment

Friday is Lisa's day off.

## Shared Ministry

So much is happening around our church- what happened to the lull after the holidays?? Please mark in bright color on your calendar a couple of events of note:

√ After the Celebration of Life Service on **March 9**, plan on staying for lunch--Shared Ministry Committee and Activities Committee are co-hosting **Brag Day**. This lunch will give us time to brag on the good work done by each other for the church as well as to enjoy a good meal together.

√ Coming up on **April 6** will be the **annual committee fair** that will give members and friends alike an opportunity to learn more about the church's governing structure and function of our committees.

**Are you interested in getting more involved in the church?** Stop by the pamphlet rack by the Library Lane entrance for a copy of "Ways to Get Involved." It's a list I have been working on that offers a wide variety of ways to get involved with church life; it contains info that ranges from worship to learning experiences to

community outreach. Also stop by the **Shared Ministry kiosk** in the Social Hall to catch up on the most up-to-date opportunities for committee and community involvement.

Also coming this spring, the Shared Ministry committee will be undertaking, with your help, the annual update of members' and friends' interests and skills for our resource database. Be on the lookout for more info on this in next *Steepletalk*. And till then, take care.

Barbara



**Barbara Kearley**  
Shared Ministry Coordinator

Office hours:  
*Tues. 12 - 3*  
*Wed. 1-5*  
*Other hours by appointment*

502-585-5110 (W)  
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sharedministry@firstulou.org

### R.E. Announcements

- **OWL classes for 5th and 6th graders** will begin on **Sunday, March 2, 9:45 - 10:45**. For children to participate in the program, their parents must have attended the Parent Meeting. Call Lisa Willner if you have questions.
- The youth, their parents, and advisors have voted to hold **youth group meetings on Sunday afternoons, 1:00 -2:30**. Check with youth advisors (**Jim Fry, xxx-xxxx, Jo Ann Shumate xxx-xxxx, Jay Dolen or Linette Lowe xxx-xxxx**) if you have questions about when the new schedule begins.
- The next **Youth Adult Committee (YAC)** meet-

ing will be held on **Sunday, March 2, 9:45 - 10:45** in the R.E. Library. All are welcome to attend.

- **Current Coming of Agers: Kathy Thackeray** will lead a UU History session after church on Sunday, March 2. Participation in this session will fulfill some of the program requirements.
- **Current 8th and 9th graders, and their parents:** We will hold a **Coming of Age orientation session on March 12, 7:00 -8:30**. In addition to getting a program overview, participants and their parents will begin the process of selecting mentors.

by **Janet Rink**

The playroom at Tingley House experienced a transformation on Friday, January 31, **Mary Jane Boyd**, a specialist in pre-school education, and I spent 1 1/2 hours on the facelift. We moved every piece of furniture to form three separate play areas, and we sifted and sorted through all the toys. (Three large garbage bags full of broken toys went to the dumpster.)

If you are a regular volunteer at Tingley House, get ready for a pleasant surprise when you go there on Tuesday evening. If you've been thinking about volunteering, now is the time.

Tingley house is a family emergency shelter operated by the Volunteers of America. A former school, the shelter can house up to 21 families in one and two-room units.

A group of volunteers from our church goes every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm to provide supervised and nurturing play for children ages three to five. Also, there is a "Study Buddy" room adjacent to the cafeteria where a teacher from Jefferson County Public Schools helps older children with homework. Volunteers are needed here as well.

In January, volunteers were **Erica Cates** (twice), **Linda Smith**, **Fran Fargen**, **Rose Stevens**, **Tish Moore**, **Jay Dolen**, **Mary** and **Bob Ballard**, **Roger Ohlman**, **Kathy Kremer**, **Erin** and **Linda Parry**, **Tim** and **Jane Martin Buckley**. For more information or to volunteer, contact **Janet Rink (xxx-xxxx)**.

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**FYI** - Folk legend, **Tret Fure**, will be performing at the **Metropolitan Community Church** of Louisville on **Friday, February 21, 2003**. The Church is located at 1432 Highland Ave. Tickets are available at Carmichael's Bookstore on Bardstown Road (502)xxx-xxxx or online at [www.tomboygirl.com](http://www.tomboygirl.com). Show time is 8:00 pm.

## Sunday Morning Adult Round Table

Church Library

Sharing at 9:30am

Program - 9:40 until 10:45am

Upcoming Topics & Events include:

✓ **February 23:** A moderated discussion about current events

✓ **March 2:** Guest speaker **Brigette Cooper** will talk about the benefits of a fresh variety of locally grown vegetables and the advantages of chemical free gardening.

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### An Invitation from UII

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis would like to invite you to its Fourth Annual **Heartland Choral Festival** on **May 17 and 18**. This is an opportunity for UU singers from throughout the Heartland District to join in a weekend of fellowship and collaborative music making, culminating in a performance at UII's service on Sunday, May 18 of Libby Larsen's "Missa Gaia: Mass for the Earth."

You can find details about the Festival and registration information at 317-xxx-x (weekdays, 9am to 1pm) or at this website: [www.heartlandchoralfest.org](http://www.heartlandchoralfest.org).

## Steepletalk

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## Calendar: February 20 - March 8

### February

#### **20 Thursday**

6:00pm Midwinter Party Decorating

7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

#### **21 Friday**

**6:00pm Midwinter Pizza Party**

#### **23 Sunday**

9:45am Story-telling artist-in-residence, open classrm

10:55am Celebration of Life

12:30pm OWL Parent/Child Orientation

6:30pm YoUUth & YRUU groups

#### **25 Tuesday**

5:15pm SMART task force, parlor

6:30pm Worship Committee, library

#### **26 Wednesday**

5:30pm Chalice night, supper & programming

#### **27 Thursday**

7:15pm Choir rehearsal, choir room

### March 2003

#### **2 Sunday**

9:45am YAC, RE library

10:55am Celebration of Life

6:30-8:00pm YoUUth & YRUU groups

#### **4 Tuesday**

6:30pm PDR meeting, library

6:30pm RE committee meeting, open classrm

#### **5 Wednesday**

12:45pm ROMEOs, Piccadilly

5:30pm Chalice night, supper & programming

5:30pm Committee on ministry, minister's office

#### **6 Thursday**

6:30pm Shared Ministry meeting, library

7:15pm Choir rehearsal, sanctuary



## Just Among Ourselves...

**xxx** is a big sister! **Levine** and **Robert Elpers** gave birth to **xxxxx** on January 22, 2003. Congratulations to all and best wishes for sleep-filled nights!

**Voces Novae**, the Louisville choir of which **Tiffany Taylor** is a member, will present the concert "Resounding Together in a New Age" on Sunday, March 9, at 3:00 p.m., Church of the Ascension, Lynnbrook Drive. The concert features a wide variety of works, all written since 1999; composers include Moses Hogan, John Rutter, and Eric Whitacre. Advance tickets: \$12/\$10 senior/\$5 student. For tickets/info, contact Tiffany at [taylor928@aol.com](mailto:taylor928@aol.com) or **xxx-xxxx**.

**Lost & Found tables** will be set up in the Social Hall on **Sunday, 23 February**, to display the numerous items that have accumulated at the church over the past several months. **Please check the tables and claim your misplaced items.** Unclaimed items will be donated to an appropriate agency.

**Bonnie Avery** is giving a cello recital with pianist, **Kristen Kinman**, at church on Sunday, March 2, 7pm. Works by Beethoven, Boccherini, Martinu, and Franck will be featured. All are welcome for an evening of music and refreshments following!

**First Unitarian Church  
809 South Fourth Street  
Louisville, KY 40203-2115**

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### **Celebrations of Life**

*Sunday services begin at 10:55 a.m.*

**February 23** *Gathering Our Stories: For the Children of Our Children --* **Angelyn DeBord and Rev. Norm Stewart.** A multigenerational service exploring the ways we create and preserve our congregation's cultural legacy through storytelling. The service includes an original storytelling presentation by our latest artist-in-residence class.

**March 2** *How Much Is Enough?* **Rev. Norm Stewart -- Tiffany Taylor, Worship Associate.** Canvass kick-off Sunday. Rev. Stewart will be sharing a theology of money for members and friends to consider.

**March 9** *Stolen Gifts and Addiction to Approval* **Rev. Norm Stewart -- Tiffany Taylor, Worship Associate.** As parents, teachers, friends and acquaintances, what we say and do to one another often has more dramatic power and influence than we imagine. Combined with the human desire for the approval of others, this influence and power can rob us all of many of the gifts with which we have been blessed. How can we avoid taking these gifts away from one another and how can we recover some of our own lost gifts? We will also look at how our church can be helpful in this process.