

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
June 4, 2006

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First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Organizational Chart 2006-2007

## Officers

Moderator  
*Linda Darga*  
Vice Moderator  
*Alicia Biggers*  
Immediate Past Moderator  
*James Harvey*

Board Secretary

Treasurer

## Staff

Interim Minister  
*Rev. Diana Heath*  
Minister Emeritus  
*Rev. Larry Hutchison*  
Director of Religious Education

Music Director  
*Todd Ballou*  
Choir Director  
*Gwen Foss*  
Choir Accompanist  
*Janice Berry*  
Church Secretary  
*Wendi Winston*  
Building and Grounds  
*Joe Brimmer*

## Trustees

*Lencha Acker*  
*Sally Borden*  
*Jim Brown*  
*Earl Harvey*  
*Mary Lou Malone*  
*Jackie McNaughton*  
*Irene Schultz*  
*Donna Walker*  
*Dan Wiest*

## Newsletter Editor

*Irene Schultz*

## Upcoming Services

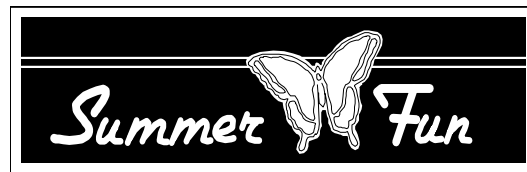
Services begin promptly at 11:00 A.M.

**Sunday, June 11, 2006**

**Guest Speaker - Topic to be announced**

**Sunday, June 18, 2006**

**Juneteenth Service**  
**Dr. James Robinson, Speaker**  
**Picnic to follow service**



**Sunday, June 25, 2006**

**Summer Services Begin**  
**Schedule to be announced**

## Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, June 18, 2006** no later than **12:30 P.M.** or the following **Monday no later than 5:30 P.M.** for electronic material. Articles may be emailed, by the deadline dates and times, to [ieschultz1945@yahoo.com](mailto:ieschultz1945@yahoo.com) If you email items they **must** specify they are for the Newsletter.

## Future Facilities Task Force News (FFTF)

It has been known for some years that our congregation is building poor, similar to being house poor, that we spend too much of our energy maintaining 42,000 square feet of real estate. To help solve this problem, the Board sought volunteers to come up with recommendations for Future Facilities at the January 22 Holy Conversations. The FFTF was appointed in February and asked that we give our recommendations by April 30 or ASAP. When we started we did not realize how extensive our job would become.

Our first meeting was March 3, convened by Colleen Dolan-Greene who has continued to chair our sessions. As my mother would say, "There has been a lot of water under the dam" since then. Rev. Ed Lynn's (our UU minister architect adviser) gave us a basis to begin. In a process similar to what the FFTF asked the congregation to do in Holy Conversations, FFTF members took turns stating their preferred scenario from the Lynn report. Like the congregation at large, the majority of us chose to keep the sanctuary as our first priority. It turns out this option is feasible if we get enough money from the sale of the other properties.

Early on we sought advice from a variety of professionals. There have been a number of architects, developers and realtors who walked through the building. There were many conversations with them about adaptive reuse of our facilities. Our remodeled space must be handicap accessible.

We have made quite a few contacts with the local preservation community and found out that our building is viewed as an important community asset. Our grand old church building is, in fact, quite emotionally valuable to many people outside our congregation! Odd, it is hard for us to see that sometimes.

Representatives from Wayne State also toured the building but quickly became uninterested when they found out about the facilities' historic designation. The local historic designation extends to our entire "campus" and is an impediment to turning our real estate into a parking lot – yet another reason to be thankful for the practical good sense of our predecessors.

The "grapevine" is alive and well in our small world and the ACLU found out about our excess space. They are looking for a building – having grown out of their offices. While the

ACLU is interested, their representatives have asked us questions about our space needs that we couldn't immediately answer. It became clear to us that we didn't know what would be the best location and size of space to retain, what our needs were or what we could afford. We are still working on that and will be finding ways to discuss it with the congregation. Conversations continue with the ACLU.

We've used subcommittees – numbers crunchers, space assessment, negotiators, members to meet with professionals; all these activities have continued simultaneously. Technology skills have played an important part in our deliberations. Glenn Maxwell maintains a spreadsheet with all of our contact information, including contact information of the many professionals that met with us. Emails fly once in a while. Then we have to print hard copies for Andee Seeger who keeps the process honest. She likes snail mail.

Earl Harvey and Dan Kosmowski's building and grounds history and skills have been invaluable. The information they have provided would not be available from any other source. Mary Catherine O'Neill has done a great job analyzing the costs of maintaining our facilities – as you saw during our last Holy Conversation presentation by the FFTF. Todd Ballou's architectural skills have been a great asset.

It has been a busy and compelling three months. We are still in discovery and have not yet made our recommendation to the Board. And of course, we will need the congregation's approval if we develop a plan to sell any of our facilities. For every member of the FFTF, getting past our deep love of the old place has been a great stretch. We do have answers to some questions. We are working for more. Stay tuned for more news from Future Facilities in upcoming Newsletters.

Members of the FFTF are: Todd Ballou, Colleen Dolan-Greene, Charlene Evans, Sharlene Gage, Earl Harvey, Alma King, Dan Losmowski, Glenn Maxwell, Bill McKnight, Jackie McNaughton, Mary Catherine O'Neill, Andee Seeger and Margaret Wilkie. We are happy to entertain your questions.

Margaret Wilkie, with help from friends

## Women's Alliance Rummage Sale - 2006

The Rummage Sale is the principal fundraiser for Women's Alliance. The funds that we raise through this support church activities and assist with building care projects. Some of the uses of funds in the past few years include: scholarships for church members to attend Heartland conferences; Christmas gifts to church staff; many improvements to Memorial hall such as carpet cleaning, window repair and curtains; cash donations for food items for ministers' retirement parties; equipment for kitchen use; coffee urns used at coffee hour and special events.

The sale to the public this year will be on Thursday, September 14, Friday, September 15, and Saturday, September 16. The sale hours will vary from day to day.

### Here's what you can do to help!

1 - Save clean, useful items over the summer and **bring them in on Sunday, September 10.** Please donate clean items and items that don't need repair. We do not have the time, energy or people power to get items cleaned and repaired. While we act as recyclers in a sense, we cannot handle moldy, mildewed, broken or damaged items. Please consider this when you are cleaning out your basement or garage. If it looks or smells nasty, put it in your own garbage can!

2 - You can bring items to the rummage sale the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the sale between the hours of 10am and 3pm. If you have large items, you can contact Ann/Earl Harvey because they have a pickup truck. If you have smaller items that need to be picked up, you can talk to Alliance members who may be able to help.

3 - **Volunteer your time.** Consider donating some hours that week. We can use your help any set-up day and on sales days. If you can only come for as little as a few hours on one day, that is still helpful. If you can come for several days to help, that would be even better. When the sale ends at 4:00 Saturday afternoon, there is the huge task of bagging and boxing up the remaining items. The more help we have at that time, the more quickly it gets finished. What we have taken all week to

sort and display, now gets packed up to be donated to a charity the following Monday. We need to take care of that so Pullman Hall can be returned to order. Clean-up last year was the best ever because we had so much help that we got Pullman back in order in record time

4 - Last but not least - come as a shopper ready to search for treasures and bargains.

### **Spring Bebop Jazz Concert**

The musicians in this concert were exceptionally good, James A. Robinson - drums, Claude Black - piano, Peter Dominguez - bass, Steve Wood - saxophone, and Darrick Gardner - trumpet. Each musician fit so perfectly well together. They were like a beautifully completed puzzle picture. Everyone who attended was overwhelmed with their extraordinary performance. It isn't often the public gets an opportunity to hear pure unadulterated bebop jazz. I'm sure when others hear about how wonderful this group was, they will bring more people to hear them. Hopefully, we can hire them again in the spring of 2007. We are more than grateful for the important people who made this concert possible. Our LE GRANDE benefactors were Ruth and Jim Harvey, Eiko Takamoto and Lencha and Al Acker. My most sincere thanks go to Yvonne Fowler, Pearl Samples, and Nora Holt. It is their complete dedication and commitment that always make our Afterglow successful and beautifully presented. I was very happy to learn that some of you are using the concert's Afterglow for entertainment parties. Our Afterglow is a perfect scene to mingle, talk, and meet new jazz enthusiasts and the musicians. Sharlene Gage and Yvonne fowler entertained parties of eight to ten people. Janet Thompson entertained a party of five. My daughter-in-law, Dr. Wanda Cook Robinson, entertained a party of twelve. Although we had stiff attendance competition from the Detroit Pistons and so many other events, we still had a presentable audience. Perhaps next time we should schedule our concert in April to avoid the tough competition for attendance. Thanks to everyone for your help. Mildred Robinson

### **Garage Sales**

With the help of Mildred Robinson and Sandra Thottakath, on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, our garage sale netted \$160 for our church. I would like to continue the sales on June 16 & 17 as well as the 30<sup>th</sup> but help is needed if only to carry things out of the garage. Set up is about 8:30 am and the sale ends about 4:00 pm. We have a lot of fun meeting interesting people and we have lots of shade under my non-fruit bearing pear tree. During breaks my dog Ozzie, a terrier mix, entertains us. You might also find some good bargains to buy. I bought two beautiful sweaters, a raincoat, children's books and school supplies for my class. Two of my friends also bought clothes and books. There are several cookbooks, natural healing books as well as mystery books. For more information call Margaret Beck at 313-882-7775.

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### **Items From the Internet**

Ever Wonder...About people who spend \$2.00 on Evian water? Evian spelled backwards is NAÏVE

- If a pig loses its voice is it disgruntled?
- Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
- Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety-one?
- If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked then doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?
- If it's true we're here to help others then what exactly are the others here for?
- Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag?
- Did you ever notice when you put the two words THE and IRS together it spells THEIRS?

## Father's Day



The third Sunday of June is generally observed as Father's Day throughout the United States. Although an isolated church service in Fairmont, West Virginia, honored fathers in July 1908 at the suggestion of Jessica ("Baba") Clinton Clayton, it is Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington who is most frequently credited with originating - in 1909 - the idea for a Father's Day observance that spread far beyond the confines of her own church. Her inspiration was her own father, William Smart, a Civil War veteran who had been widowed when his daughter and five sons were very young. Realization of the difficulties he had, and appreciation for his constant devotion to his family sparked Mrs. Dodd's desire to honor all fathers. At her urging the Spokane Ministerial Association sponsored the first Father's Day Celebration. This first celebration was held in Spokane on the third Sunday of June - the month of her father's birth - in 1910, with local ministers calling the attention of their congregations to the appreciation fathers deserved. William Jennings Bryan complimented Mrs. Dodd on the inspiration for Father's Day and remarked, "too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the relation between parent and child." The observance of Father's Day did not spread rapidly - not, for instance, as rapidly as Mother's Day, whose celebration in this country predated it only slightly.

Several people in various other parts of the United States also hit upon the idea of a Father's Day independently - though to this day Mrs. Dodd is credited with beginning the celebration. President Woodrow Wilson officially approved the idea of Father's Day in 1916. Harry C. Meek, president of the Uptown Lions Club of Chicago called upon both President Warren Harding and President Calvin Coolidge in unsuccessful attempts to have the day marked with issuance of a presidential proclamation. But both were apprehensive about possible commercialization of the day. However most state governors each year proclaim that Father's Day will be observed on the third Sunday in June in their states.

Then in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson issued a Proclamation that Father's Day be observed on the third Sunday in June. On Father's Day in 1970 Mrs. Dodd, still living in Spokane, stressed the fact the one very important, timely, practical value attached to Father's Day was to provide an occasion for children to express appreciation of their fathers and for fathers to acknowledge their responsibilities to their children. Bless all Fathers past, and present.