

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48201

August 20, 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

Donna Walker

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

Director of Religious Education

Athena Kolbe (Interim)

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Choir Director

Gwen Foss

Church Secretary

Wendi Winston

Building and Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Trustees

Lencha Acker

Sally Borden

Jim Brown

Earl Harvey

Mary Lou Malone

Irene Schultz

Donna Walker

Dan Wiest

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Summer Services

Services begin promptly at 10:30 A.M.

Please note time change

August 27, 2006

“Holy Conversations”

Lencha Acker, Coordinator



September 3, 2006

Labor Day Song Fest

**Featuring David Robinson and
Jonathan Schultz**

Memorial Hall

Fall Services Begin

11:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary

September 10, 2006

Homecoming – Water Ceremony

Newsletter Deadline:

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, September 3, 2006** no later than **NOON** 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 If you email items they **must** specify they are for the Newsletter.

Moderator's Musings

As we turn the corner and look to the beginnings of a new era at First Church, we had a historic vote on August 20, 2006 at the special congregational meeting. Overwhelmingly, we voted to approve selling the church house and social hall to help put us in a financially secure position for the future. The harmony we experienced is due, in large part, to the diligence and excellent work of the members of the Future Facilities Task Force. They did their homework (many, many, many hours), presented the options clearly and artfully and considered the desires and needs of the congregation at every step. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

I think we can look forward to a brighter and more secure future at the corner of Cass and Forest, where we support one another, learn from our mistakes, and treat each other ever so kindly. I would also like us to think about how we might proceed to that brighter future, the steps that we might take to help us overcome our disagreements, conflicts and past mistakes. Share your thoughts with me and other members of the Board of Trustees and always remember, in the words of our newest Board member, Charlene Evans: "We are family!"

Linda Darga



Committees and Affiliates



First UU Choir Reconvenes After Labor Day

The choir will start regular Sunday morning practices on Sunday, September 10 from 9:30 – 10:30 under the direction of Gwen Foss. The choir sings a variety of music to support our Sunday morning worship and is open to all interested musicians. The choir typically rehearses three Sundays per month, with performances once or twice per month. For information, please contact Gwen at 248-473-4566 or Todd at 734-276-2110.



Book Discussion

We will be meeting in Memorial Hall at 1:00 P.M. The September selection is *Don't Play in the Sun* by Mirita Golden. The first Sunday in September is Labor Day weekend so we will be meeting the following Sunday. Please bring a snack to share.

Building and Grounds

Your help is needed! Please join the volunteers of Building and Grounds on Saturday, September 9th from 10 am – 1 pm. We need volunteers to clean the church house basement, clean the sanctuary vestibule windows, paint the ramp doors, and weed the flowerbeds along the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please call Earl Harvey at 313-563-2629 or Dan Kosmowski at 313-461-4968.

Fundraising

I now have entertainment books for sale at the cost of \$20.00 with \$4.00 going to the church budget. After the sale of three books, the entire \$20.00 goes to the church. There are excellent values; last year my friends and I saw almost all the Bonstelle and Hillberry plays for half price and went to many restaurants at a big discount. See me during coffee hour.

Also...\$730.00 has been raised from the garage sales at my house this summer. Thanks to Janet Thompson, Mildred Robinson, Sharlene Gage, Ruth Seifert and John O'Connor. Margaret Beck

Future Facilities Task Force

The FFTF inventory subcommittee is tagging furniture items in the church for inventory purposes and inventory purposes only. Please direct all inquiries to the inventory subcommittee. Thank you Mary Catherine for the tags. Andee Seeger, Charlene Evans, Margaret Wilkie

Please see other news from the Future Facilities Task Force elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Membership

We are looking for members and friends of First UU who are interested in helping with the Membership Committee. You don't have to attend a lot of meetings, but we need people who are interested in helping with coffee hour, calling and greeting visitors, or helping in any other way that will allow us to care for each other in healthy ways. Pat Kniel has agreed to head a "Caring Committee", which is one of the ways we keep in touch with each other and especially those who are sick or unable to attend church regularly.

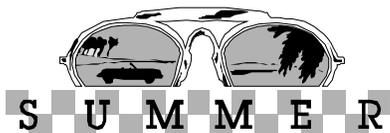
There are several stalwart members who have been doing much of this work for many years – Dan Weist, Margaret Beck, Faye Colling, Caroline Taylor, The Bendures, Irene and Jonathan Schultz, Maria Majer, Nora Holt, and Helen True to name a few. If I left your name off, let me know and I'll mention it next time. A few unsung heroes have kept the membership part of the church going with little help or fanfare.

If each of us does a little bit, then no one has to do a lot, so contact me at church or by phone as to what part you are willing to do for the coming year. I'm interested in hearing your ideas about Membership issues and programs and welcome your input.

Sally Borden, Membership Chair 313-533-1494

The Settled Minister Search Committee

Four of the five members of the Settled Minister Search Committee were able to attend our General Assembly in June in St. Louis. We came away with a realization that we need to understand the "theological" following of the congregation and how that might impact our selection for a settled minister. So, on Sunday, September 17, after the service, the Committee, in conjunction with the Holy Conversation Task Force, will sponsor a Holy Conversation to discuss "theology." Details will follow. We look forward to seeing you there.



Children's R.E. Program Kicks Off a Semester of Learning

Forget the New Year or spring season. For me, September has always been the month of new beginnings. It's the time for new clothes, a brand new book bag packed with fresh crayons and empty notebooks, and a new classroom filled with potential friends. This year, the Children's R.E. program will be kicking off the school year with a semester of learning about the principles of our faith.

During the past year we explored a number of other faith traditions that have contributed to our understanding of the world and the divine. Now that we know more about the many traditions, which make up the roots of Unitarian Universalism, we are going to be focusing on the basics: the central tenets of our faith that define the uniqueness of UUism. Learning the UU principles will help us understand and develop our own beliefs *and* it will help us communicate the beliefs of Unitarian-Universalism to our friends.

All children are invited to attend the R.E. program on Sunday mornings beginning the weekend after Labor Day (September 10). Please wear clothing that is appropriate for playing and getting dirty (e.g. clothing which can be worn during art projects or outdoor games). Adults who wish to join us are welcome. We are also looking for several adult volunteers to co-teach on an occasional basis; if you are interested please see Margaret Wilkie or Athena Kolbe.

During the fall semester children will be attending the R.E. program three Sundays a month and participating in the service or attending an alternative program for one Sunday a month. R.E. Committee members are working with the Worship Committee to create intergenerational services; congregants with ideas or enthusiasm to help create child-friendly services are welcome to step up to the plate!

The R.E. Committee is also seeking a permanent Director of Religious Education. I have agreed to serve for four months as the part-time interim Children's

Program Coordinator while a permanent DRE is sought. Margaret Wilkie, the current R.E. Chairperson, will be keeping the membership apprised of developments throughout the DRE search process. Margaret can be contacted for all matters relating to Committee business by leaving a note in the R.E. mailbox. To reach me, please feel free to leave a note in my box or email me at REat1stUU@aol.com

Yours in Peace, Rev. Athena Kolbe

Social Justice

There is a "Peak Oil" conference in Yellow Springs, Ohio (near Dayton) the weekend of September 22-24. If anyone would like to go we could carpool. Any women wishing to go can share my motel room. Community Solution presents the conference. For more information call me, Donna Walker, at 313-333-3764 or email donnajoywalker@yahoo.com

Women's Alliance

Women's Alliance Rummage Sale Schedule
September 10 – 16, 2006

Sunday, September 10: Begin bringing donations to ramp door after the service and store in north end of McCollester Hall.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday September 11 – 13: Set-up days in Pullman Hall from 10am – 3pm. Bring items directly to Pullman Hall.

Sale Days – September 14 – 16

Thursday: Noon – 7 pm

Friday: Noon – 7 pm

Saturday: Noon – 4 pm then clean up of Pullman Hall

Thank you, in advance, for any help you can offer.

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- September Birthday's**
- 3. Lance Halsted, Steve Walker
 - 4. Sally Moir
 - 13. Dan Kosmowski
 - 16. Art Gabhart, Carter Stevenson
 - 22. Edna Koss
 - 25. David Parke
 - 26. Arlene Teed
 - 29. Irene Schultz
 - 30. Maya Thottakath

Social Justice

Save the Dates

September 12 & 14, 2006 for the Interfaith Leaders United for Equality and Opportunity Conference

These conferences are to empower clergy and lay leaders to educate congregations about the upcoming ballot issue, which would amend the state constitution to ban affirmative action. For more information or to make reservations call Steve Spreitzer at 313-567-6225 ext. 109

Congregation Votes 'Yes!' on its Future

We are proud to announce the beginning of the future for First UU Church of Detroit. This past Sunday, August 20, at a special congregational meeting, the congregation voted overwhelmingly to approve the motion to sell our church house and social hall while keeping our wonderful sanctuary with its original Skinner Organ and beautiful stained glass window.

We have hired Derek Brown of Quorum Commercial of Detroit to market our property. Check out our listing at www.quorumDetroit.com then click 'Property List'.

Successfully selling these two buildings will make us a financially stable UU congregation because the required selling price will include an amount to:

- A) infuse the Church Trust with enough principal to generate the yearly interest income for the operating budget that, at a minimum, appropriately maintains the remaining facilities and current level of programming;
- B) provide barrier free access; and
- C) provide necessary improvements to the sanctuary and facilities to meet the requirements of the day-to-day activities of our congregation.

Our next steps include cleaning up our space, finding a buyer, designing our new space, hiring a minister, and expanding our congregation.

Yes! On Its Future, continued

We are on the move!

We invite you to join us to share your ideas as we make out plans. Please feel free to email your ideas about our space to Colleen Dolan-Greene at dolangreenegroup@hotmail.com or Glenn Maxwell at glenn@mbwgroup.com

Thanks for your vote of confidence in the future of our congregation and in us when you approved this motion.

Future Facilities Task Force

Todd Ballou, Colleen Dolan-Greene, Charlene Evans, Sharlene Gage, Earl Harvey, Alma King, Dan Kosmowski, Glenn Maxwell, Bill McKnight, Mary Catherine O'Neill, Andee Seeger and Margaret Wilkie

Announcements**Conference Announcements**

Great Lakes Bioneers Conference Detroit

October 20 – 22, 2006

Wayne State University

Registration brochures are available in the church house lobby or online at www.sustainabledetroit.org.bioneers

Bricks and Mortar: Dollars and Sense
“What our buildings today will say (and do) to our children tomorrow”

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Temple Emanr-El

14450 West 10 Mile Rd., Oak Park

Program is free, but reservations are strongly recommended. Sponsored by MI Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, Voices for Earth Justice, MI UU Social Justice Network, and others. Brochures are available in the church house lobby.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Bioneers Conference lunch on October 21 and 22 will be prepared and served in McCollester Hall again this year. We need church volunteers to support this event, especially people who are savvy about the church's equipment (how it works, where it is stored, etc.) These specific tasks need to be done:

- Set-up, operate and take down a microphone and speakers each day.
- Kitchen helper who is familiar with our kitchen
- Dishwasher operator
- Office volunteer to answer phones and take messages
- Drivers to shuttle people from the conference site to the church and back
- Dining room set-up and clean-up each day
- Food runners during the lunch each day

See Mary Lou Malone or Charlene Evans to volunteer.

Left Behind

There are many items; eyeglasses, hats, mittens, etc. in the church office and on the coat rack in the pantry. If you are missing such items, please reclaim them before the rummage sale. Whatever is unclaimed will be offered for sale.

Service of Ordination

My Service of Ordination will be October 8th at 4:00 PM at First UU Church Detroit. I am asking the Detroit and the Northwest Congregations to do a joint ordination. I ‘grew up’ at First, having been a member for 30 years. I ‘came of age’ at Northwest, having been an intern there for two years. Rev. Kimi Riegel of NW and Rev. Dr. Celia Thurston, community minister at BUC, will bring the charges to the minister and the congregations. I’ve been working for six years for this day and it’s now right around the corner! Please contact Mary Lou Malone, Janet Thompson, Joyce Simowski or Kathe Stevens if you would like to volunteer to help with food, set-up or cleanup.

The day before my Ordination, Saturday, October 7th, I am bringing Alex Darr, Community Outreach Minister of the *Faithful Fools of San Francisco, CA* to Detroit. He will lead a Street Retreat in the neighborhoods around First UU. I went to San Francisco and did a Street Retreat there

and found it enlightening. When I learned Alex was doing an individual retreat in St. Louis, MO during this past General Assembly and would come to any city to do one, I invited him to Detroit for my Ordination weekend.

A Street Retreat is simply spending a few hours on the streets with no money and looking for people to talk with. An orientation and reflections will open and close the retreat at First UU Church.

The Rev. Dr. Kay Jorgensen, co-founder of the *Faithful Fools of San Francisco*, will be my mentor while I complete my preliminary fellowship as a UU minister. I am amazed at the wonderful work this ministry does to accompany people in poverty as they improve the quality of their life. Lynda Smith

Newsletter News

At the August Board meeting it was decided effective with the September 3rd Newsletter we would no longer be mailing Newsletters bulk mail. The Newsletter will be emailed to those with an email address and it will be on the church web page. For those without access to the internet, the Newsletter will be mailed first class in order to be received in a timely manner. **ONLY** those without email please call the church office and leave your name so we can get the Newsletter to you. Thank you. Irene Schultz, Editor

From your Governing Board

Agenda items and motions to be presented at any Board meeting must be sent or given to the Moderator one week in advance of the Board meeting. Board meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M.

Words of Wisdom

What is Religion? It is the search for beauty, love and joy while dealing with the inevitable realities of suffering and death.



Newsletter Editorial

Several of us on the Board have been attempting to plan what needs to be done for the coming church year if we do not have a full-time interim minister. As part of that planning, it became clear that each of us who love this church and want it to survive with a healthy and cohesive congregation, will need to wear from three to five hats this year (in the words of Lencha Acker).

This may be a good thing as we will all have the chance to learn more about the operation of our beloved church and to improve on what we find, within the parameters of our church constitution and by-laws.

So think about what hat(s) you can wear this year. Can you serve on a committee or task force? Can you be an usher once a month? How about helping with coffee hour or sing in the choir? Do you have some good ideas about how to keep the membership we already have?

I recently looked at our membership book and learned that 173 people have signed the 'book' since 1990. Of that number, only 40 are people who either attend occasionally or are more active in the life of the church. What do we need to do to keep the members we already have? Why have many of those people left us?

In the fall I'll be giving you a survey to tell us what you need from the church and what ways we can meet some of those needs.

We will not always agree with each other and often won't, but how can we agree to disagree and still like each other and respect each other?

This is the crucial question of any democracy. I look forward to hearing some of your ideas. Sally Borden

More Words of Wisdom

Covenant – UU Church of Flint

Recognizing the richness of diversity, the beauty and wonder of shared worship, and the transforming power of love and service, we gather as a sacred intentional community to freely seek knowledge and truth, to celebrate the fullness of life, and by our actions to increase goodness and justice.

Chalice Lighting Words

Summer Service, August 20, 2006

“Light One Candle”

By Peter Yarrow of

Peter, Paul and Mary

Light one candle for the Maccabee children
with thanks their light didn't die.

Light one candle for the pain they endured
when their right to exist was denied.

Light one candle for the terrible sacrifice
justice and freedom demand.

But light one candle for the wisdom to know
when the peacemaker's time is at hand.

Light one candle for the strength that we
need to never become our own foe.

And light one candle for those who are
suffering pain we learned so long ago.

Light one candle for all we believe in that
anger not tear us apart.

And light one candle to find us together with
peace as the song in our hearts.

What is the memory that's valued so highly
that we keep it alive in that flame?

What's the commitment to those who have
died that we cry out they've not died in
vain?

We have come this far always believing that
justice would somehow prevail.

This is the burden, this is the promise, this is
why we will not fail!

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k

Chorus (insert between each verse)

Don't let the light go out!

It's lasted for so many years

Don't let the light go out!

Let it shine through our love and our tears.

Ed. Note...The words I was given for the
Newsletter were only one verse of this song,
but since it is one of my favorite songs and I
felt the entire thing was appropriate, I
included it in its entirety.

