

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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March 18, 2007

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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
Rev. Drew Johnston (Interim)
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
Charlene Evany
Irene Schultz

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Services

Services begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

March 25, 2007

The Once & Future Church
Rev. Drew Johnston

April 1, 2007

Souper Sunday

April 8, 2007

Easter Sunday
Breakfast 9 – 10:30am
*See related article elsewhere in
Newsletter*

April 15, 2007

Potluck Sunday



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, April 1, 2007** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday no later than 5:30 p.m.** for electronically submitted material. Articles may be emailed, by the deadline date and time, to ieschultz1945@yahoo.com. If you email items they must specify they are for the Newsletter

Highlights from the Board

The March `07 Board meeting consisted of the new downsized Board, of the officers and five trustees, Mary Lou Malone, James Brown and Earl Harvey stepped down early to accommodate the new size. Reverend Drew summarized the results of the congregational interviews and also offered some very fine recommendations to the Board to improve their leadership role in the church. As recommended by Drew, the Board voted to create a taskforce to optimize congregational communication.

Donna Walker, Board Secretary

Committee News

Building and Grounds

What does the Building and Grounds Committee do?

1. Do a budget for the coming year and checking the line items in the budget versus actual expenses.
2. Discuss the capital repairs that need to be done.
3. Discuss needed handyman repairs such as painting rooms and doors (exterior and interior), gluing the tile in McColleston Hall and other minor repairs as needed
4. Handle requests for work to be done from members of the congregation.
5. Verifying the custodial staff duties
6. A subcommittee of Building and Grounds is the Esthetics Committee. They make decisions on décor and colors.

The Building and Grounds Committee needs to be reactivated. If you are so inclined, please call or see Earl Harvey. Earl's phone number is 313-563-2628 or email at Harvey_17336@sbcglobal.net

Canvass Committee

It was Sunday morning and I was worried. The Newsletter deadline was looming and I was committed to creating a message to get all of us fired up to welcome a canvasser and make a generous pledge to further the important work of our beloved church. I had no idea what I was going to say. Then, inspiration struck! As I

crossed the chancel to join the choir, I glimpsed a booklet on the table by Worship Assistant (and president) Linda Darga's chair. It said "Generosity Sunday". Hmmmmm. Maybe I can use that somehow. It's got a nice ring to it. My dream is that every Sunday could be generosity Sunday around here. Then guest speaker Michael Whitty (who is also rather witty) spoke about his dream for First U-U to build on our glorious history, and "diamond of a location" to continue speaking truth, with tolerance and civility, beginning with our own inner peace. Not a bad start as we begin **daring to dream**. What is your dream? What will you do to bring it to reality? How will you support it financially? Think about these things as you prepare to be canvassed in the next few weeks. As Mike Whitty says, "Detroit needs First UU, the world needs us, too."

Religious Education

Religious Education goes to the Human Body Exhibit! On March 8th, about eighteen RE students and interested adults went to the Human Body Exhibit at the Detroit Science Center. Here is what one of the students had to say about it:

"During the visit to the Detroit Science Museum, the first thing I noticed was that we were looking at actual human bodies. I liked the way we were able to look up close at the body as a whole and then at the individual body systems. To see how actual muscles, bones, and veins look was interesting. It was very different from looking in books, movies or TV. To be close enough to touch the body parts made everything seem more real. I knew that the brain has to be sort of small to fit inside your head, but the brain was smaller than I had imagined it to be. But what I found most fascinating was how the bodies have been preserved over time. Polymers were used to keep the bodies and organs from rotting."

Submitted by Andrew Evans

Skating Trip to Campus Martius Park – After several postponements, the RE students finally made it to Campus Martius Rink on the very last day of the skating season. Below is a student's opinion:

On my skating trip, I had lots of fun. I wasn't going to skate at first, but I was very good at skating and I didn't fall at all. It was nice to go out on a warm day."

Submitted by Douglas Evans

Next Sunday, March 25, be on the lookout for a dramatic presentation by the Religious Education students! The youths will be in the Sanctuary during the service to present a short play about God.



Special Music March 25 – Invite your Friends

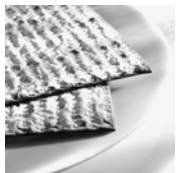
Mark your calendars! I have been eager to share some special music with you, and March 25th is the date. I've been working awhile on a program of Russian music, and I would be honored if you would spread the word and invite your friends to visit the church with you. The program includes diverse music by Katchaturian, Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky, and Rachmaninoff. It will be a day for me to spread my wings a bit and take a few risks. I would love for you and your friends to join me in this adventure. Todd Ballou, Music Director

First UU Happenings



An Inconvenient Truth

If you have not yet seen it, this is your chance to see the Oscar winning documentary with Al Gore. If you have seen it, please come and see it again with us. The date and time are Friday March 30 at 7pm at the church. Donations will be accepted



Third Annual First UU Seder

First UU Church of Detroit presents its Third Annual Passover Seder. Please come join us for an interactive peace and justice Passover meal. The Seder will take place Friday, April 6th, promptly at 6:00 P.M. Feel free to invite neighbors, friends and relatives. The suggested donation is \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children or whatever you can afford. Come and reinforce

the bonds of brotherhood. Take this time to remember all people who are oppressed around the world and journey with them toward freedom.



Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast will start at 9 A.M. and continue until 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, April 8th. The price for the breakfast is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children age 4 and under. The menu will consist of scrambled eggs, Harvey potatoes, ham, turkey ham, juice, coffee and tea. Reservations need to be made by Wednesday, April 4 by either calling the church office or the Harveys at 313-563-2629. The Easter Bunny

Out and About

A Larger Voice for Justice

The Michigan UU Social Justice Network invites you to participate in A Larger Voice for Justice, a conference for Unitarian-Universalists and other justice-seeking people Saturday, April 21 from 8:30 – 4:00 at St. John's United Church of Christ 807 S. Mechanic St. Jackson, MI 517-784-7580. Workshop topics include Challenging Racism, Green Sanctuary, Universal Health Care, Addressing Poverty, Strategies for Peace, Fair Trade Coffee, and more. In addition, you can hear Dr. William Schulz speak at Jackson Community College on Saturday evening and/or at Universalist Unitarian Church of East Liberty on Sunday morning.

2007 Windsor Biennial

Come see the art work of our own Mark Schwing at the Windsor Biennial. The opening reception is Friday, March 23 at 7:00 P.M. This is a bi-national exhibition. The location is the Art Gallery of Windsor located at 401 Riverside Drive West. For more information see Mark during coffee hour or call the Gallery at 519-977-0013.

UUA General Assembly Portland, OR
June 20 – 24, 2007

Registration is open for the annual convention of Unitarian Universalists. Last year's inspiring and invigorating conference, in St. Louis, included dozens of workshops, meditative services, sermons, entertainment, business meetings, young people's conference, shopping, and choir events every day from 7 A.M. – 12 A.M. This year, in Portland, Colleen Dolan-Greene and Glenn Maxwell are presenting a workshop on Thursday, June 21, "Property Crisis: Too Much Property, Too Little Money." The workshop will feature the work of the Future Facilities Task Force. Several First Churchers are already registered for GA. Let's meet in coffee hour the next few Sundays to coordinate our activities at GA! Look for Mary Neale, Glenn Maxwell, Kathe Stevens, Mary Lou Malone (among others) to discuss GA – whether you're going or thinking of going or just plain interested.

Talk to Me

By Lee Thume

If you've known hard-of-hearing folk, you may
 have grown fatigued
 By being asked so many times to please repeat
 yourself.
 But picture viewing silent films by which you might
 have been intrigued
 But finding subtitles in a foreign tongue – you're on
 the shelf.
 You know that words are being spoken, gestures being
 made,
 But there is no way to decipher what it's all about.
 And just to take this one step further: Say the
 action's in the shade
 So you cannot use non-verbal clues to dope it out!

So, talk to me: my heart is listening, hanging on
 each word.
 The things you're telling me, I want to hear so
 badly.
 What beauty you have seen today, what happy
 news you heard,
 Those things you would be sharing with me
 gladly.

And, please don't think me unresponsive if I fail
 to smile
 When something funny has eluded me completely,
 Because I often miss a bottom line though
 listening all the while,
 And it's sometimes best to let it rest discretely.

You need not speak more loudly but more clearly
 – yes, and slow
 To give my costly ear replacements time to
 process as we go;
 If there's much space between us or there's
 background noise as well,
 Then the going can get rougher, and I may ask you
 to spell.

But, please do talk to me and don't give up: I long
 to know you well;
 It's only when we truly talk that friendships
 flourish.
 Of all the sounds that we may hear, the one that's
 music to my ears
 Is the human voice articulating such that I can
 hear!
 That's the sound I'd savor and forever nourish!
 That IS the sound I'd savor and forever nourish!



April Birthdays

3. Virginia Mudie
4. Ivan Cotman
5. Robert Teed
7. Jennifer Teed
8. George Tottakath
10. Thelma Murrell
16. Sally Borden
17. Mary Neale
20. Lily Secrest
24. Bill McKnight

