

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

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Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

April 1, 2007

info@1stuu.org

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.

April 8, 2007

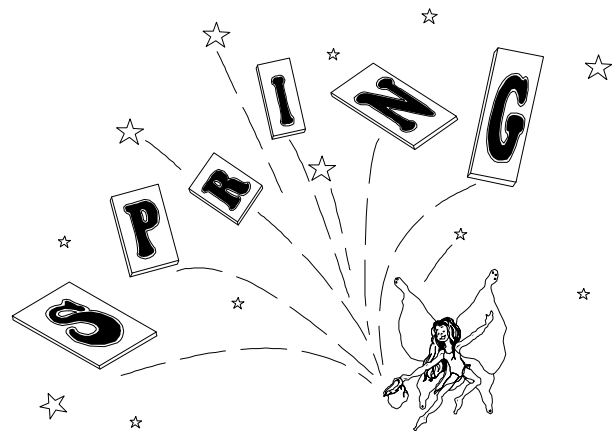
Rev. Drew Johnston
Easter Sunday
Breakfast 9 – 10:30am
See related article elsewhere in
Newsletter

April 15, 2007

Rev. Drew Johnston
Potluck Sunday

April 22, 2007

“Embracing Life – Fully, Deeply, Richly”
Dr. Lidums, Guest Speaker



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, April 15, 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

Drew's Views

Perhaps you have heard by now that I will be staying around longer. I am delighted and honored to continue serving First Unitarian Universalist of Detroit and expect great things from our time together. At one of the first meetings I attended upon my arrival in January I shared some guidelines for how we could treat each other in every encounter at church. I didn't invent these, they were good enough for me to memorize though, and I offer them again as an explanation of how I hope for us to behave.

1. Show up. Those who show up and participate in things are demonstrating their commitment.
2. Pay attention. When we pay attention we notice that things are always changing and we can respond appropriately rather than habitually.
3. Tell the truth. Truth can change over time, too, and sometimes we can be the first to notice and name the evolving truth.
4. Be unattached to the outcome. The more specific the expectations the more stress. When we are clear about the direction we desire and note movement in that direction we are successful. When we insist on too many specifics we set ourselves up for disappointment.

I like to add a fifth – Bring chocolate. But then I note that I have specific expectations for dark, bittersweet chocolate and realize that this item is the most optional.

I continue to carry high hopes for this congregation and my time here, and I will continue to show up, pay attention, tell the truth, and be flexible. It's worth noting that I am relentless in this, and in expecting us to each do the same to the best of our abilities.

Even though my time here is extended, it is going to take a lot of focused effort from all of us to accomplish the things we need to address. I am counting on us working together as we clarify the direction we want the church to go and give some

shape to that future. While this is serious and important work (if we do it right) it is also fun and satisfying (if we do it right). If you have been thinking about ways you might want to participate in the life of the church, give me a call and we'll talk.

Just a reminder, I am in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and make appointments for other times. See you in church!

Committee News

Canvass Committee

Wow, this communications job is getting better than I expected. I was all set to write a message about how wonderful the canvass dinner was...how Irene Schultz organized a brilliant taste fest of six delicious cuisines and Maria Majer provided a wonderful assortment of beverages, and how Alicia Biggers gave a stirring plea for financial support and how Rev. Drew eloquently praised honorees Ruth and Jim Harvey. I was even prepared to sing the praises of the choir's performance (*blush*). But then I went to church on Sunday morning and heard an even better inspiration for every church member to respond generously when the canvasser calls. After Dr. Robinson gave the Search Committee report and after Linda Darga announced that Reverend Johnston has agreed to stick with us for another year, Drew stepped up to the microphone to make a moving and meaningful commitment. He will make a pledge, and we, the pledging members and friends, will decide how much it will be, because he agreed to commit to 10% above the average of all the other pledges! What more can I say? If, after reading this, you cannot even wait long enough for a canvasser's call, just contact Alicia...or any other member of the Canvass committee. Al Acker

Finance Committee

There will be a presentation of a proposed 2007 – 2008 budget on Sunday, April 22 after coffee hour. This will be the initial draft reviewed by the Board. The meeting is an opportunity for congregational input before the Annual Meeting in May.

Membership

The next U-U orientation will be held on April 12, 19 and 26 from 7 – 9 P.M. in the church house. Come and see what this UU religion is all about. If you have any questions, call Rev. Drew Johnston at the church at 313-833-9107 or Sally Borden at 313-533-1494.

The theater party raised \$100.00 for our church budget. I am planning another event the first Sunday in June. I would also appreciate some help cleaning out my garage in preparation of the annual garage sales. I have already given away things that didn't sell last year to other charities but there is so much more to do. Please call me at 313-882-7775 or email me at margretbeck@comcast.net
Margaret Beck

Search Committee

(Settled Minister)

At the service on Sunday, April 1, Dr. James A. Robinson, Chair of the Settled Minister Search Committee, updated the congregation on the Search Committee's work and results

Dr. Robinson reiterated what the Rev. Dr. John Weston, UUA Transitions Director, told the congregation during his visit on January 7th: An unusually large number of churches were searching for ministers this year; conversely, there was a shortage of ministers seeking churches; and, of those seeking churches, most were not interested in an urban church.

Despite this, First UU did have success in attracting applicants. Of five, three were not a good fit for our church. The remaining two were interviewed via telephone conferences. Shortly after the telephone conference, one applicant withdrew.

The remaining applicant accepted an invitation for a pre-candidating weekend, consisting of shared meals on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday afternoon, a tour of the church buildings and the city, a lengthy formal interview, and two sermons preached at a neutral pulpit. As a result, this

highly qualified applicant was invited to be our candidate.

Although the applicant enthusiastically considered our offer, he has accepted an offer at another church, located close to his family. So, at this time, the Search Committee is not able to offer a candidate for minister to First Church.

Dr. Robinson thanked the congregation, on behalf of the Settled Minister Search Committee, for its understanding and support.

Governing Board President, Linda Darga, then informed the congregation that the Board has asked the Rev. Drew Johnston to continue as Interim Minister.

The Search Committee will continue as directed by the Board. It will present a formal report to the Board at the Board meeting on Monday, April 9th. Please feel free to talk to any Search Committee member for more information.

Dr. James A Robinson, Chair

Dr. Ivan Cotman

Sharlene Gage

Marilyn Mitchell

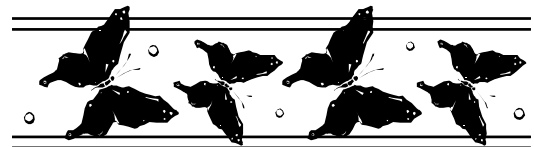
Kathe Stevens

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be meeting on April 18th at noon. Our speaker will be Christy MacGillavary who will be discussing conservation and preservation of water. The cost for the luncheon is \$6.00 and reservations must be made by noon April 16 by calling the church office at 313-833-9107 or Eiko Takemoto at 313-869-6389.

In Memoriam

Ben Creech, who attended First UU a number of years ago, will be remembered by some of our members. I was saddened to receive news of his death Monday. A memorial service will be held for him on April 14 at 2 P.M. at the Ann Arbor church. Lee



First U-U Happenings

Step It Up Rally... Mary Lou invites you to join Rosedale Recycles and Voices for Earth Justice on Saturday, April 14th at noon as we join over a thousand other communities across America and host a Step It Up Rally for the environment. Help us send a strong message to Congress, "Cut carbon emissions and protect our environment now." Meet by the large fountain on Fountain Drive for a walk at Belle Isle, Detroit, noon to 2 P.M. Bring banners, signs, friends, kids, dogs, and neighbors. We'll hand out energy efficient light bulbs to the first 50 people to show up. Register for this walk (Belle Isle Walk) at www.stepitup2007.org More information about Step It Up can be obtained from the same website.

Viola Liuzzo Traveling Exhibit... Viola Liuzzo, An Exemplary Woman in Extraordinary Times Traveling Exhibit presented by Davenport University will be at First Church from May 4 – 15th. This special exhibit features the story of Viola Liuzzo, a thirty-nine year old Detroit and mother of five, who was killed by segregationists during the Civil Rights movement. Throughout her life, Liuzzo demonstrated personal commitment to civil rights causes and she also was motivated to act by her affiliation with the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit. Her story has been a source of inspiration for many, both regionally and nationally. Following a nomination letter written by Davenport University faculty and students, Liuzzo was inducted in the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in October 2006. The exhibit is a collaborative work of many Davenport University students with support and guidance from faculty. The exhibit is partially funded by a "Strengthening Michigan Communities Through the Humanities" grant from the Michigan Humanities Council. More details will follow.

We Get Mail... "Greetings from Arizona – When I begin to notice the fragrance of orange blossoms as I walk the mile "Walking Ring" I know that the first day of spring is near and I better start packing to come home to Michigan. Since my hospital stay in February, I sometimes only walk part of a mile but I do get out every day except Sunday. This year I have been caregiver for my sister Elberta but I need to be home for income tax time and other business. This means leaving Elberta alone with arrangements for others to substitute for me. I have scheduled Meals on Wheels and some Saturday help. Berta doesn't want anyone in her home except me. She thinks she can handle everything herself, but I hope she will accept what I have planned. It will be nice to see all of you in Michigan from April to August when I will return to Arizona to bring Sister Berta back to Michigan for a visit during the lovely autumn season which she enjoys so much. So I'll just say "SEE YOU SOON" Loyally, Faye Colling

Finding Your Spiritual Home A Summer Retreat

In the spectacular Grand Teton Mountains of Wyoming
August 18-23

Join with other UU's from Michigan and around the country at the beautiful Ring Lake Ranch near Dubois, Wyoming for a week of rest, recreation and spiritual renewal. In addition to a great program, great companions and spectacular scenery, there will be opportunities for walking, hiking, yoga, river rafting, petroglyph hunting, canoeing and trail-riding. Cost per person is \$650, which includes lodging, meals and programs – some outings may be extra and the price does not include travel to or from Wyoming. For more information contact Jill McAllister at minister@peopleschurch.net