

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

May 20, 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
Leonard Swint (Sunday)

Trustees

Lencha Acker
Sally Borden
Charlene Evans
Irene Schultz

Newsletter Editor

Irene Schultz

Upcoming Services

Services begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

May 27, 2007

Rev. Drew Johnston

June 3, 2007

Souper Sunday

June 10, 2007

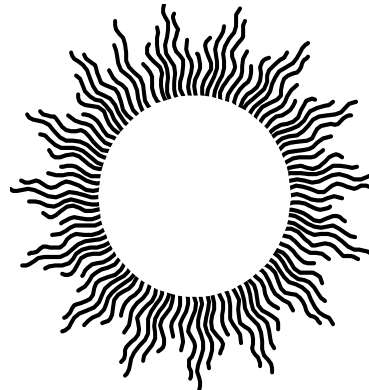
**Annual Meeting
(Details elsewhere in Newsletter)**

June 17, 2007

**Juneteenth Emancipation Celebration
Dr. James Robinson, Guest Speaker
Annual Juneteenth Picnic follows
Last service of regular church year**

June 24, 2007

Summer Services begin



Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, June 3, 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 News

As May comes to an end I realize just how quickly time can pass. Perhaps this happens to you, too. As the days lengthen and the light is brighter there is a type of busy energy that spreads through our days and makes them seem shorter and faster. Or maybe my focus is just drifting as I consider the future. Here's what I know at this moment about the near future. General Assembly is about to occur in Portland, Oregon. Every year I attend this gathering of Unitarian Universalists from across the country as a part of my professional activity. The days immediately preceding the large gathering are spent in continuing education with ministerial colleagues, and then thousands of lay people arrive to participate in workshops, presentations, policymaking, and worship services. Several members of our congregation will be in attendance. Following General Assembly I will take some time off, as is customary. But this summer will include some work as well!

The Board of Trustees and I will have a retreat together to clarify plans and roles for the next year and to enhance our working styles and relationships. And I will spend a lot of time throughout the summer considering the flow of our next year together. I expect we will have a newly minted Mission Statement to guide us in our planning and prioritizing. You have been following the creation of this Mission Statement for many weeks now, and we should be voting to approve the final proposed statement at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on June 10.

Many thanks to those who have participated in the long process of compiling, considering and crafting the thoughts you shared during the Appreciative Inquiry interviews! It is a large job, and a distinct honor to be charged with the task of articulating the mission of a congregation. As a reminder, the Mission Statement is the answer to the question, "What do you do?" Other statements answer other questions. A vision statement answers, "How do you see yourselves?" and a behavioral covenant answers, "How do you treat each other?" Various policies

and bylaws explain how we get things done. Each of these is important in its own way, and I hope you will continue to pay attention to the Mission Statement process as a key piece of our congregational work together. After we agree on what we do together, we will explore the best way to answer the other questions that help us be clear about our way of being in community.

The next year promises to be full of good work and hard work and I am glad to be among you to do my part! As for the wild and busy energy of spring? I have a couple of suggestions – first, give yourself and others a little slack. If we each took a few minutes out of every day to focus on the beauty around us we would remain more centered and grounded. Second, come to church to experience the community you wish to build. It doesn't happen without your presence and an hour on Sunday can also contribute to a grounded and centered week!

See you in church. –Reverend Drew

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit will be on June 10, 2007 at 12:30 P.M. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the 2007-2008 budget, approve the Mission Statement and to vote for officers. The slate is:

President – Alicia Biggers

Vice President – Glenn Maxwell

Secretary – Donna Walker

Treasurer – Dan Wiest

Trustee (3 year term) Daniel Lingholm

Trustee (2 year term) Trey Greene

Nominating Committee

Ivan Cotman

Jim Harvey

Mildred Robinson

Ruth Seifert

Helen True

Board of Review – Al Acker

2007 General Assembly Delegate – Kathe Stevens

2007 General Assembly Alternate – Mary Malone

2008 Heartland Delegate – Lee Gaddies and Mary Catherine O'Nealle

2008 Heartland Alternate – (to be determined)

Committee News

Building and Grounds

Kudos to Lencha and Al Acker, Alicia Biggers, Maysel Brooks, Jim Brown, Lee Gaddis, Faye Colling, Alma King, Earl and Ann Harvey, Mary Lou Malone, Mark Schwing, Dan Wiest and our hands on minister, Drew Johnston, for their combined efforts in making our May fix-up/clean-up such a great success. The windows are shining, as is Memorial Hall. The flowerbeds and bushes are rejuvenated; McCollester Hall is no longer missing floor tiles; the refrigerator is now back in the kitchen beautifully cleaned and leveled; the linen closet is organized; and extensive work was done in the minister's office. A lot was accomplished but more needs to be done. See you all on June 9th. Earl Harvey

Membership Committee

Tickets are still available for *LAPSES*, a play at the Detroit Repertory Theater, June 2nd at 3:00 P.M. Ticket price is \$15.00 with \$5.00 going to our church budget. We will be going to the Traffic Jam afterwards. I will have the tickets during coffee hour on the 27th of May. I hope you can come and help me celebrate a milestone birthday. Also I will be having garage sales this summer. It is fun and you get first pick of some of the lovely items for sale. For more information and to offer assistance call Margaret Beck at 313-882-7775.

Religious Education

Wanted- Your Refundable Bottles and Cans!

The Religious Education students of First UU are holding a Bottle-Can Drive to raise money for the "Pilgrimage to Boston". If you have any refundable bottles or cans laying about taking up space in your house, garage or storage shed, please consider donating them to the RE youths. RE students will be happy to return them to the store for the deposit money and will use the proceeds to help fund their trip to Boston in June. RE will be collecting refundable bottles and cans every Sunday through June 17th.

Women's Alliance

The Women's Alliance will be meeting **June 13 – the second Wednesday** of the month. The featured speaker will be Michael Hauser, Marketing Manager of the Detroit Opera House. The cost for the luncheon is \$6.00 and reservations must be made by Monday, June 11th before noon by calling the church office at 313-833-9107 or Eiko Takemoto at 313-869-6389.

First UU Happenings

Juneteenth Emancipation Celebration

Sunday, June 17th – 11:00 A.M.

The special guest speaker will be Dr. James Robinson who will be speaking about Ella Baker, Civil Rights Warrior. Our annual Juneteenth Emancipation Celebration picnic will be held after the service in the churchyard at 1:00 P.M. Sport your ethnic dress and bring a picnic lunch and a dish to share. Watermelon and lemonade will be provided.

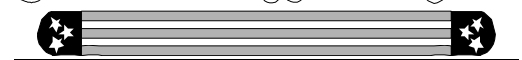


June Birthdays

4. Margaret Beck, John Angry
7. Matthew Malone
10. Jim Milford
12. Sandra Thottakath
16. Ann Harvey
20. David Robinson
23. Ardith Dickason, James Robinson
25. Virginia Thornthwaite
26. Ruth Crawford, Carolyn Ludwig
29. Dan Secrest

Ed. Note...If you haven't seen your birthday on the list it's because the Editor doesn't have it. Please jot the month and day on a piece of paper and put it in the Newsletter box outside the church office.

MEMORIAL DAY



May 28, 2007

All in the Family

Eiko Takemoto was honored as a Golden Oldie at the Detroit Rotary Club and the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit at their 19th Annual Golden Oldies Award Luncheon on May 9, 2007. The criteria for determining eligibility for the award requires that one be over the age of 82, a volunteer for community organizations, and has had a significant impact on the lives of others. Eiko was nominated by Gwendolyn Dommond at Detroit Receiving Hospital where Eiko has devoted time, energy, love and attention as an active member of the hospital auxiliary. She has held the offices of treasurer, secretary, and fundraising chair. Also, for the past 30 years, Eiko has coordinated the Patient Clothing Closet, sorting clothes, shoes and coats each Friday for later distribution to less fortunate patients and their families. In addition, she coordinates the hospital's decorations, acts as a patient concierge, and in years gone by provided patients warmth, caring and candy with her late husband Ken who was selected in 1998 as a Golden Oldie honoree. Further, the Award Committee identified Eiko's volunteer efforts on behalf of First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit. Specifically, her efforts to coordinate church flower arrangements each week was noted as well as holding the position of treasurer to the Women's Alliance.

Celebrating the honor bestowed upon Eiko were a number of First UU members and friends who attended the luncheon and presentation. Eiko's son Robert, Ivan Cotman, Ann and Earl Harvey, Jim and Ruth Harvey, Mary Lou Malone, Mary Neale, Gene Perrin, Donna Walker and Trey and Colleen Greene. And of further interest, our past Moderator Colleen Dolan-Greene served on the Golden Oldies Committee, which selected the candidates for awards.

Congratulations Eiko! We are pleased that you received this recognition. And thank you for your continued volunteer efforts for First UU.

Contributed by Jim Harvey

Andrew Malone and the DIA

I am so proud to let you know that Andy Malone will have two miniature golf holes on display and ready to play on the lawn of the Detroit Institute of Arts beginning May 27th. Andy and many of our friends and family have been working hard to make these golf holes. The show opens this Sunday and there is a fee to play. The DIA is closing for the summer for renovations but the exhibit will be open. For more details, see Mary Lou Malone.

A Love Story

My husband, Jim, was a graduate of Wayne State University and when he died he willed his body to the WSU Medical School.

Recently I received an engraved invitation to a Memorial Service for those who had donated their bodies to the school. Seven of the Berrys attended, as did some 300 other people. We were honoring 163 donations to the school; 105 were babies or children, I think.

Our hosts were the Dean and all the first-year medical students at WSU – some 30 or 40 of them. They had taken, as they all must, an anatomy class, personally met our loved ones and learned from the body's lessons basic to every med student. They wanted us to know how much they appreciated the choice that gave them this essential learning opportunity.

They read Bible passages, sang for us (the Ultrasounds), described how interested they became in their patients, and then read all 163 names. Many, many were so young they were only designated as 'Baby Boy___', 'Baby Girl___'. Oh, so many of them! We each left with a deep red rose in hand.

I've attended many memorial services; this was unique and I wanted to share it with you. It was beautiful; Jim made the right choice. I recommend it to others. Janice Berry

Women in Black

Join others for a silent protest vigil on Saturday, June 9th promptly at noon. We will meet at the Detroit Cultural Center at Cass and Forest in front of WSU Old Main Building.

“We are women of varied ethnic and racial heritage who gather to appose the use of violence and terror as a means to political ends. Please wear black and be silent.”

Toronto Beaches International Jazz Festival

Bed and Breakfast in Toronto with Unitarians for the 19th Annual Toronto Beaches International Jazz Festival July 26 – 29, 2007. FREE street festival of jazz, rhythm and blues, samba, Latin – 50 live bands. Outdoor music, entertainment, fun for the whole family. The members of neighborhood UU congregations that live close to, or in, the Beaches are opening their doors as a fundraiser for the congregation. For more information contact Jon Whitehead at 416-691-1397 or joncwhitehead@hotmail.com

Items from the Internet

STRANGE DEFINITIONS

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and now grows in the middle.

CHICKENS: The only creatures you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours. (Ed. Note – except our committees!)

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

GOSSIP: A person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have. You have character lines.