

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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October 7, 2007

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First Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
Organizational Chart 2007 –  
2008

## Officers

President

*Alicia Biggers*

Vice President

*Glenn Maxwell*

Immediate Past President

*Linda Darga*

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*

*Trey Greene*

*David Lingholm*

## Newsletter Editor

*Irene Schultz*

## Drew's News

Seasons change and so do we. Since I arrived in Detroit last January this autumn is my third season here. From the perspective of weather, I expect this to be the best so far. And from the perspective of church I expect the same!

I think expectations make a difference in how we experience things, so I think it's worth considering what we can do with our own expectations. Around church, do you expect to see some friends? And do you notice how sometimes you meet new people at church and they, too, can be friends? Why not expect to meet new friends at church? Do you have some old expectations that you have not updated to reflect current reality? I have noticed a few people mention that things at church aren't what they used to be. That is true in many ways! Did you know that the Board of Trustees and various committees work differently than they used to? We like to think things are improving, that we can get more accomplished with less wasted effort, and that we will have fun in the process.

When we make those thoughts into expectations it improves the odds. So, next time you enter a meeting at church, or about church, expect to have some fun, to be with friends, and to get a lot accomplished. You'll see – it will be the best yet!

A few specific examples – come to Wednesday Church Nights! October 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are our first two opportunities to come together for food, followed by a vespers worship service (short) and meetings for those who are taking part in the business of church. So show up between 6 and 6:30, then we can eat together. We plan to continue these events twice a month for a while.

We begin "Building the World We Dream About" on October 28 after church. This is a big chance to take part in making this congregation, and our world, a better place. If you have any interest in how we all interact with matters of race (and I expect you do) then please consider taking part in this program. Watch for details and a sign-up sheet; ask if you want to know more, and continue to have great expectations!

If you are interested in small ways to feel good about helping out, consider our Bridges program. Our youth are going through this exciting program of learning and experiencing and we often need an extra driver or there are other small ways of helping. Check with Reverend Athena Kolbe for special opportunities to do something helpful.

See you in church! Reverend Drew

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, October 21, 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](mailto:ieschultz1945@yahoo.com). If you email items they must specify they are for the Newsletter.

## **President's Ponderings**

For me, this is a great time to be at First UU Detroit! I am amazed at the change and growth we experience year after year and day by day. I am grateful that Mr. Earl Harvey had his successful brain surgery and it reminds me that we each change every day whether it's a change of clothes or a drastic change of health. Change is constant and with consistency. First UU Detroit is changing.

This fall brings two changes for us announced by Rev. Drew Johnston on Sunday, September 30, 2007:

- 1) Building the World We Dream Of...Our congregation was selected as a pilot for this program with the first session scheduled for Sunday, October 28. I hope to see many of you as we pilot the program and discover and uncover what we think we know about prejudices.
- 2) Wednesday is Church Night. There will be 2 Wednesdays per month set aside for Church Night which will allow us to enjoy a meal together, share Vespers, and then go off to our meetings, committees and other work of the Church, feeling fed and centered.

We also see change in our Youth program led by Rev. Athena Kolbe with more students engaged and a *life stages program* in place, which will guide our youth through various stages towards adulthood. Looking at the curriculum, there is something for everyone, even us "adults". If you are unfamiliar with this new program or would like to learn how you can help, contact Rev. Kolbe through the church office or directly on any given Sunday. There is no special skill required, just the ability to help implement the program and activities with your "adult" organization and management know-how.

We also see change as our congregation progresses with its work with Sacred Places, which is a program our Future Facilities Task Force recognized and engaged our congregation for processes to use and fund our "Sacred Place." Then there are the numerous committees and groups working from Women's Alliance to Strategy Planning to First UU MOSES Core Team "Listening Campaign". So much to keep up with

that your Board has invited each and every activity, committee or group to share its progress monthly so we can share with you, our members. Your Vice-President, Glenn Maxwell, will accept your submissions. There is no formal format, just you sharing what has or will be happening with your group, committee or activity.

Finally, to keep our members informed, there will be a congregational Meeting in November, which will address several topics from Rev. Lynda Smith's association with our church to our efforts around planning and programs. We are tentatively looking at the last two Sundays in November, so stay tuned for more specifics.

Again, it is a great time at First UU and I look forward to working with you all on the work of the church as well as enjoying our time together with our programs and our Wednesday dinners. Let's continue to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously", together. Alicia Biggers

## **Committee News**

### **Women's Alliance**

Thank you to all who helped with the Rummage Sale! Many, many people were extremely generous with their time by carrying boxes, sorting items, helping with sales, or cleaning up on Saturday. Also, thank you to church members who supported the sale by donating items and those who made purchases. Unsold books were donated to the Friends of the Detroit Public Library. The Salvation Army picked up other leftover items. We made \$1100.00

Consider joining us for our monthly lunch and program. All are welcome. Lunch is only \$6.00 and reservations should be made by noon of the previous Monday by calling the church office. Dates and program topics for the rest of 2007 are:

- ❖ October 17 – Dr. Jaelyn Sommerville – Hearing Loss Issues
- ❖ November 14 – Rev. Drew Johnston – Our Church Mission
- ❖ December 12 – Christmas Music and Sing-A-Long

Finally, get your cookie recipes out because the Women's Alliance will hold a Bake Sale on Noel Night (December 1) and would appreciate donations of delicious goodies

## **Religious Education-Upcoming Youth Events**

**Thursday, October 11** – Mural Painting (**FREE**)  
– 6pm – Meet at church to finish up our jungle-themed mural. Pizza and pop provided.

**Saturday, October 13** – Wayne County Harvest Fest (**FREE**) 10:30am – Carpool from church to Hines Park for a spooky community festival. Activities include face painting, straw playground, apple pie eating contests, pumpkin painting, prizes and free refreshments.

**Monday, October 15** – “Complete a Leaning Experience in a Night” (**FREE**) 6pm – Make progress towards Bridging. We’ll pick a learning experience and finish it that night. Dinner and lots of sugary snacks will be provided.

**Saturday, October 20 to Sunday, October 21** – Spooky Church Overnight (**FREE**) 5pm – 10am – Meet at church and we’ll have a night of spooky fun in our jammies. Activities include movies, food, games (Hide & Go Seek anyone?), and art projects. Bring a sleeping bag, pillow, a flashlight, and your favorite snack to share. Youth who come to this event will get a jump on creating their memorial boxes for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). We’ll finish up by 10am Sunday morning in case you need to go home for a shower before church.

**Monday, October 22** –First Aid & CPR (FREE) 6pm – Refresh your first aid and CPR skills in this class which is STRONGLY encouraged for all adults working with children, infants, and youth at the church. Youth who participate in this class fulfill most of the requirements for the “First Aid” and “CPR” learning experiences. Class will be taught by a Michigan State licensed EMT.

**Wednesday, October 24** – Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Exhibit Creation (FREE) Beginning at 5pm help create an exhibit for Dia de los Muertos, a holiday with Aztec, Catholic, and Mesoamerican roots which honors the lives of the dead and celebrates the continuation of life. Celebrated throughout Latin American (as well as in other countries around the world), Dia de los Muertos will be commemorated at First Church in part with an art exhibit that we will create. Bring photos and other memorabilia of a loved one.

**Saturday, October 27** – Peace Train (**\$38 for youth under 15, \$78 for adults**) 7am to midnight – Join other peace and justice minded folks for a regional anti-war rally in Chicago. Leaving from Royal Oak at 7am, participants will travel by train to Chicago to join thousands of others in a rally for peace. After the demonstration you will have a short time to eat and walk around before your return trip leaving at 8pm. You will arrive back in Royal Oak between midnight and 1am.

**Monday, October 28** – “Complete a Learning Experience in a Night” (**FREE**) 6pm – Make progress towards Bridging. We’ll pick a learning experience and finish it that night. Dinner and lots of sugary snacks will be provided.

**Wednesday, October 31** – Treat or Treatin’ in the D (**FREE**) 5pm – You’re never too old to trick or treat! Join us on a reverse trick or treating adventure through the neighborhood surrounding our church. We’ll be handing out candy and flyers inviting our neighbors to join us on Sundays, then we’ll head to the historic Woodbridge neighborhood for some “real” trick or treating. Come in costume and bring a flashlight. A multitude of adults will be heavily supervising this activity so no smashing jack-o-lanterns!

## **Church Members Showcased**

During our coffee hour, as you are sipping coffee and lost in thought, you will notice the walls of McCollester Hall have changed. You will notice charcoal, watercolors and oils abound as two of our own members have showcased their artwork for our enjoyment. Mark Schwing and Lee Gaddies have over 15 pieces of art along the walls and invite you to share with them your questions and thoughts regarding their art. Be sure to review the artwork, as the closing night will be Wednesday, October 17, 2007 during the Church Night dinner.

## **Noel Night**

I realize it’s only the middle of October but that means Noel Night is only 6 weeks away. I am looking for vendors for that evening so if you would like to participate or know someone who would – call me, leave a message at the church, e-mail me or see me during coffee hour to sign up. Irene

## **Entertainment Books**

Margaret Beck will be selling Entertainment Books during coffee hour or you can call her at 313-882-7775 or email her at margretbeck@comcast.net. They are \$20.00 each and have great values. So far this fundraiser has raised \$160.

I sold the first 16 tickets to *Doubt* at the Detroit Rep Theatre so ordered another 10 for our afternoon matinee on Saturday, November 17 at 3pm. These tickets will also be available during coffee hour or call or email me at the numbers listed above. I will be leaving on a cruise to Panama on November 3 – 13 so would like to sell them before I leave. If you buy tickets and cannot attend on the 17 you can change the date by calling the theatre box office.

Thank you to all who supported these two fundraisers. Fundraising is written into our budget and it is so enjoyable to go to the Detroit Rep. They sell wine splits for \$3.00 and soft drinks for \$1.00. Homemade cookies and soup are also available for a fee and it's a wonderful place to relax between 2 and 3pm. Margaret Beck

## **Items from the Internet**

For everyone who has ever had an evaluation - just remember, it could have been worse. These are actual quotes taken from National government employee performance evaluations:

1. "Since my last report, this employee has reached rock-bottom and has started to dig."
4. "Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap."
5. "When he opens his mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet."
6. "This young lady has delusions of adequacy."
7. "He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."
8. "This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."
9. "This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better."
10. "Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together."