

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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November 4, 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*

*(Consulting 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*

*Leonard Swint (Sunday)*

## Trustees

*Lencha Acker*

*Sally Borden*

*Trey Greene*

*David Lingholm*

## Newsletter Editor

*Irene Schultz*

## Drew's News

Autumn is a pleasant season around here and I hope you have been enjoying the beauty of change. Which gets right to the point – change! I know that a lot has happened around church, and much more needs to happen, yet change is hard and sometimes scary. Our whole lives are made up of change, though, so maybe our task is to find ways to increase our comfort with the inevitable.

In some places, when people want to resist change they hunker down and avoid looking at what is going on around them – perhaps living on memories of imagined good old days. Around here, we do something quite different! In part it is because we are a church, and our task is to address life in it's completeness – from birth to death, including everything in between – change through out! And partly because of who we are specifically – at this particular place and time, those of us who are here now. We know, sometimes grudgingly, yet still we know – that we must not only embrace change but also cause the change we need to thrive.

At some times it is tempting to hunker down, to avoid change as much as we can. Yet we cannot indulge in that temptation! There are a few things you can know that may increase your comfort with the change that is inevitable- for example, we have a Planning Team that is collecting information from all areas of church life as the basis from which we will create an actual plan to guide ourselves.

We also must know that when change is confusing we are simply experiencing a learning opportunity. Every time confusion arrives we know that we can learn a little bit more, and we are people who like to learn!

Which brings us to a third thing worth knowing – we are all in this together! This life, this time, this congregation – we are here together and that brings us great strength.

And remember the inevitable change of seasons and the beauty that accompanies those changes? Beauty is all around us in so many ways – as we navigate the changes in life and attempt to cause the best changes possible, and as we do so together – may we always note the beauty in each other and our time and place in life.

See you in church!



## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, November 18, 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 items are emailed they **must** specify they are for the Newsletter.

## **President's Ponderings**

First and foremost, our sincere thanks go to Donna Walker for her service as our Trustee and Secretary and we wish her well with her future work and opportunities both here at Church and her other volunteer commitments. In accordance to our By-Laws we, the Governing Board, can fulfill these positions in between Annual Meetings. Rather than rush to add a new Trustee or Secretary, our own Glenn Maxwell has accepted an invitation to be our "Acting Secretary". This will provide your governing Board an opportunity to review our strengths to determine our next steps. If you have not noticed lately, your Board's motto is "inform, discuss, and decide" which allows us to look at policy and procedures with due diligence prior to any decisions. We understand our decisions have a long term, and sometimes ripple, effect in our Church community.

I hope you take the opportunity to join in the Wednesday Night Dinners & Vespers as well as participate in the various efforts to help define "why we matter on this corner." I hope you are aware of efforts such as the new youth program called Bridges; Building a Better World program (we are beta group for anti-racism for welcoming congregations); Worship Committee, Planning Team, New Dollars for Scared Places (building on all the work of the Future Facilities Task Force); 1<sup>st</sup> UU MOSES Core Team; and much more....

Are you aware of the social activities from ethnic dinners to movie nights to Noel Night? With so much going on, I invite you to join us and "connect" and if you are not sure where or how to connect, just ask one of your Board Trustees. Finally, I invite each member to join us on December 2, 2007 at 1 pm for our Congregational Meeting. Your Governing Board will share progress to date as well as ask you to vote on key Congregational business. If you are not sure you

are a "voting" member, again, just ask one of your Board Trustees: Linda Darga, Dave Lingholm, Trey Greene, Glenn Maxwell, Dan Wiest, Sally Borden or Lencha Acker

Let's continue to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously", together.

Alicia Biggers

## **Committee News**

### **Women's Alliance**

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

- ❖ 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.

**Please note: The November and December meetings will be on the second Wednesday.**

## **Thanksgiving**

Why go to all the trouble to clean the house, cook a big meal AND clean up afterwards when you can enjoy wonderful food, great company and no clean-up – well, hardly no clean-up – at our traditional (over 30 years) Thanksgiving Potluck dinner on November 22 at 1:30 in Memorial Hall.

You need only do three things to attend – 1) make a reservation by calling Linda Darga, Irene Schultz or the church office by November 19 to let us know how many people you will be bringing 2) bring a dish to pass – turkey will be provided, and 3) let us know what you're bringing so we don't end up with 14 pumpkin pies and 18 pounds of cranberry sauce. The 14 pumpkin pies are OK as long as you bring plenty of whipped cream to go with them!

## Noel Nite Happenings

### **Overview**

It is now the beginning of November so that means Noel Night is only 3 weeks away. We have 12 wonderful vendors lined up but there is always room for elves to help out with cookie plate replenishing – and bringing; cider stirrers and greeters. This year the RE folks will be offering soup and ask that some be donated. Please let Dan Wiest, Athena Kolbe, or Irene Schultz know what you can do to make our church really stand out on Noel Night.

### **Last Friday, November 30**

That's right: a twist on the usual First Friday. This is the big decorating night for the church house and Sanctuary. Come for the meal (pizza) to get the energy you'll need for the trees plus all the other items to hang, place, string and fuss over. Make your reservations by Wednesday, November 28.

### **Saturday, December 1**

The exact schedule for the Sanctuary is yet to be decided. The performers will include our annual visit by the Edison Academy choir and the Ellington Conservatory of Music and Art (Choir, Band, Harps, Bells & Dance) Also performing will be Detroit Southwestern Choir and the Marygrove College Dance troupe.

McCollester Hall will be home to the Holiday Bazaar. See Irene Schultz for details. Memorial Hall will host the best of First UU talent: musicians, storytellers and a singalong with the choir.

In addition to the usual free cider and cookies, First UU would like to offer complimentary soup to our visitors. (Not that we will turn away any donations for our trouble from our guests.)

We would appreciate volunteers for the following areas: performer chaperones, sound system techs, stage set up and tear down, greeters, guides, food servers and craft helpers at the children's table. Multi-taskers are welcome.

As with much of our circumstance, our budget is tight. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of greens (trees, roping and wreaths) or other items, the following would be gratefully accepted:

- ❖ Candles for the luminaries
- ❖ Cookies cookies cookies
- ❖ Soups
- ❖ Cider

See Dan Wiest or Athena Kolbe for more info.

## Walk Against Homelessness

Saturday, November 17th, First UU will participate with the HAND (Homeless Action Network of Detroit) Walk Against Homelessness. We will meet at church at 10:00 am for an orientation, then we will walk and talk about homeless services in the neighborhood around the church.

We will join up with the HAND walk at Campus Martius and will be back at church by 3:00 pm.

If interested, please look for the sign-up sheet on the hallway bulletin board outside the sanctuary or call Rev. Lynda Smith at 313.617.4615.

Cost for the walk is \$10.00 and this money goes to HAND for their services for the homeless.

Thank you, Lynda



**A big thanks** to all who helped make the Oktoberfest dinner a big success --Anne and Earl Harvey, Marilyn and Jerry Mitchell, Alma King, Margaret Beck and Lencha and Al Acker . Faye Colling gave Marlana Dietrich a run for her money. The next Ethnic dinner will be in January. Look forward to an Arab-American dinner with music and entertainment.

**New UU Orientation** A special one-hour UU Orientation session is scheduled for Sunday, November 11, 2007 at 1 pm. after Coffee Hour in Memorial Hall. Please let Wendi Winston in the church office or Sally Borden (313.533.1494) know if you plan to attend so we can have enough material. It's a great opportunity to learn more about UU ism and yourself

### **Items from the Internet**

More weird things everyone should know (or not).

- \* A shrimp's heart is in its head.
- \* Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
- \* Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
- \* Most lipstick contains fish scales.
- \* The Main Library at Indiana University sinks over an inch every year because when it was built, engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.
- \* More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.
- \* Butterflies taste with their feet.
- \* A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out.
- \* The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.