

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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January 6, 2008

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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

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

Minister of Faith and
Development

Rev. Athena Kolbe

Community Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

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

President's Ponderings

Happy New Year to all and what a great year we had in 2007! I have listed a few of our highlights so you can reflect and know we are moving forward together to continue the legacy of our beloved Church. Remember this is not an inclusive list but rather a sampling to inspire you as we look to 2008.

How we listen to each other...

- Appreciative Inquires to listen and understand our congregation
- M.O.S.E.S. Listening Campaign
- Planning Team Survey

Results...

- Mission Statement (completed)
- Planning Team – “why we matter at this corner”
- Sacred Places – building maintenance, use and income; new dollars for sacred places
- Finance Committee
- Religious Education Program for Youth – Bridges (best in class)
- Membership – New member orientation and sustain current members
- Advertising Campaign
- Worship Committee/Vespers
- Building a Better World program (selected to test the program)

Community building...

- Ethnic Dinners
- Kwanzaa Concert
- Noel Night
- Hosted community groups, weddings, memorial services
- Movie Nights
- Singing Circles
- Students for Democratic Society
- Women's Alliance Rummage Sale
- Dally in the Alley
- Bridges program implemented

I invite you to become more engaged with our efforts as your voice was heard; your hearts and hands are always welcomed.

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. With that guidance, we had a challenge before us in the form of a broken furnace in the church house (remember we have 3 total for our buildings).

As we wanted to build for the future, we committed to take care of our beloved church house by replacing or repairing the furnace with a system that is environmentally responsible and energy effective. Through the special collection, “Heart Warming, Smart Warming”, our members (that is you) raised the amount for a new furnace or half of what is required to support the decision of the Board to replace the system rather than repair (i.e. new furnace).

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President's Ponderings (continued)

The Board reviewed numerous quotes from the furnace companies. There were quotes from simple repair of our furnace to complete replacement, one including the outside air conditioning condenser. Most quotes included energy saving improvements. There was also a strategic quote combining the two systems for the church house into one. This would simplify operation, including energy saving improvements, and enable further energy saving opportunities in the future.

The Board approved a motion to implement the combined system, obtain alternative bids, and approve funding. Remember, you have funded half of this amount already. This will both improve the long-term viability of the church house if we stay and make it more marketable if we sell.

Speaking of selling, given the Detroit real estate market, the church buildings have been taken off the market. We have not had any viable offers on the property over the past year. The Board agreed to take the buildings off the market, however, the option to sell is still available to us should the market conditions change. Meanwhile, we are seeking various ways to increase building use and revenue as well as ensuring security and accessibility.

As you see, our members and leaders have been busy working to sustain and grow our congregation in 2007. I expect to see more activity and more smiling, loving faces in 2008.

Remember your Board meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in Room 212 and you are welcome to join us as we deliberate policies to ensure our future and our legacy. I hope to see you at one of these meetings.

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



Committee News

Interfaith Dialog

Interfaith dialogs will take place after church on January 20, at 1:00 PM. Those interested in both The World We Dream About and Interfaith Dialogs should plan on attending The World We Dream About at vespers on Wednesday. We look forward to a fruitful year dialoging with our neighbors. Questions? Contact Margaret Wilkie.

Membership

I just learned from John Angry that James Bowen, who was in the Red Door production *Picnic* that Suran Pilafian, directed, is in the Detroit Rep. show *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*. I still have a couple of tickets left.

The Entertainment book sales is now closed. We made \$209.00. Thanks to all who participated.

I still have a couple of tickets to the play *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* for Saturday, January 12 at 3 p.m. Margaret Beck 313 882 7775 or margretbeck@comcast.net.

I received a Christmas card and note from Helga Herz and put it on our church bulletin board. I think you will enjoy reading it. Margaret Beck

Women's Alliance

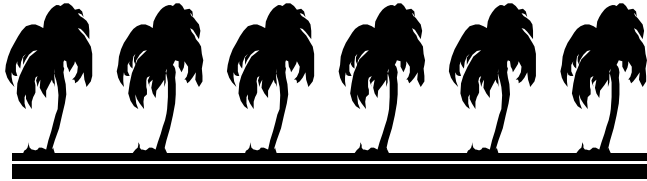
Upcoming luncheons and programs:

These are the first luncheons and programs for 2008. Cost is \$6 for the meal that begins at Noon. To make reservations, please call the church office or Eiko Takemoto by noon the Monday preceding the luncheon. All are welcome.

January 16, 2008 (3rd Wednesday); Travel to Peru

February 20th, 2008 (3rd Wednesday): Poetry Reading—Bring a favorite to share

Women's Alliance President Helen True had surgery on her right shoulder on Thursday, Jan. 3 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit to repair a fracture from a fall on the ice earlier in December. The surgery was a success and she came through the ordeal very well. She will be at Henry Ford Belmont in Harper Woods for care and rehab. Cards and notes would be very welcomed!



Sunday, January 13, 2008

Let's celebrate Ann and Earl Harvey and wish them well as they leave to make their home in Florida. Please bring something delicious for a potluck lunch, to be followed by cake and ice cream. If you have photos, memories or anecdotes to share, please bring those too, as Arlene Teed will compile a book.

Ann has been active in First UU since she was 4 years old. Her parents brought her to her first service, during which she stood up on the pew and loudly announced, "I want to see God. I want to see God now!"

Ann and Earl were married in this church in 1959. They have been pillars of First UU for many years, involved in just about every aspect of church life. Most recently Earl has spent countless hours on our Building and Grounds Committee, which became a one-man committee. Ann sings in the choir and has been active in Women's Alliance.

Thankfully, Ann and Earl plan to return to this area for the summer months.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone in the church for helping to make our 20th. Annual Kwanzaa Jazz Concert the success that it was. Everyone that bought tickets and also came to be a part of the working staff is especially appreciated. To see so many church members working and awaiting a turn to work gave me tremendous moral support. This was the perfect example of our Sunday message "Unity in the Community". This is what Kwanzaa is all about. Our combined effort has resulted in a gift to the church of \$3000.

Thanks,
Mildred Robinson, Chair
Black Concerns Working Group

Travel and Meet UU's

Stay inexpensively with fellow UU's and make new friends! We list more than 200 UU hosts all over North America who invite you to be a guest in their home. For a copy of the 2008 UU're Home and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card on our secure site or mail us a check for \$25 and your email address.

Web – www.uurehome.com
info@uurehome.com

or UU're Home 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806. Phone – 828-281-3253

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, January 20, 2008** 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.

Middle Eastern Dinner

Saturday, January 19, 2008,
6:00 p.m. Save this date for a
Middle Eastern dinner.

Enjoy the wonderful
aroma of Arabic spices and, of
course, plenty of tasty food, ending with an
assortment of those lovely Arabic sweets with
coffee/tea. Sorry! No belly dancer this time! But
with such an exotic treat, you won't miss her! Call
the office for reservations by January 16th. The
cost is \$15.00.

(Ed. Note – picture does not necessarily depict actual menu)

