

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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March 2, 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 & Grounds**

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

**Trustees**

*Lencha Acker*

**Sally Borden**

*Trey Greene*

*David Lingholm*

**Newsletter Editor**

Wendi Winston

I saw tulips the other day. They happened to be in a pot in a store, but they were tulips! That same day the snow at church melted and underneath were daffodils making their way into the world. Soon there will be flowers in bloom outdoors and the winter's heavy blankets of snow and slush will be replaced by greening leaves and relentless growth.

As it turns out, relentless growth is going on all the time, just often not obvious. Part of the growth at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit is actually almost invisible.

Alicia's "President's Ponderings" describes much of what is most important at this moment. As I think about the change of seasons and the hope that brings, I offer this poem by David Whyte to remind us that we are all in this together:

**EVERYTHING IS WAITING FOR YOU**

(After Derek Mahon)

*Your great mistake is to act the drama  
as if you were alone. As if life  
were a progressive and cunning crime  
with no witness to the tiny hidden  
transgressions. To feel abandoned is to deny  
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,  
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;  
the swelling presence, and the chorus, crowding  
out your solo voice. You must note  
the way the soap dish enables you,  
or the window latch grants you freedom.  
Alertness is the hidden discipline of familiarity.  
The stairs are your mentor of things  
to come, the doors have always been there  
to frighten you and invite you,  
and the tiny speaker in the phone  
is your dream-ladder to divinity.  
Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into  
the conversation. The kettle is singing  
even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots  
have left their arrogant aloofness and  
seen the good in you at last. All the birds  
and creatures of the world are unutterably  
themselves. Everything is waiting for you.*

It's been great to see the energy going on around church lately! The coming weeks will be busy, and important, too.

See you there!

Reverend Drew

## **Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, March 16, 2008** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m.** for electronically submitted material. Contact Wendi Winston (info@1stuu.org) for information.

## **President's Ponderings**

For this edition of the newsletter, I would like to focus on the 2008 Canvass and its importance to the future and legacy of our Church, on this corner, in this city. As many of you know, 1<sup>st</sup> UU Detroit has a rich history and deep connection to this state, city and community. As we, your leadership, listened to your voices, we noted the desire to continue this legacy at 1<sup>st</sup> UU of change and commitment by our membership. Your voice is seen in our mission statement to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously" and with this voice, we will together work to plan our future to build our legacy further. I ask you to personally consider what this Church and its future mean to you and make your commitment, make your membership count by increasing your pledge this year or pledge this year.

Fiscally speaking, we need to be honest with each other and realize to keep the level of programming, staff and quality of ministers; we are responsible to balance our budget. Our annual pledges are our core source of income to balance our Church's operating budget. Your Board of Trustees and numerous other members are hard at work planning the Church's future including alternative ways to generate income from building use to programs to grants to financial campaigns to Friends of 1<sup>st</sup> UU Detroit. These alternatives will be core to our future; however, we need to fund today and your pledge directly supports today.

We are working together to pass the torch to the next generation by inviting members to participate in the Church life from coffee hour to Worship Committee to ushering to Board of Trustees. It has been an inspiring few months to watch new members join and "seasoned" members become mentors and share their knowledge and passion for this Church. You will see members honor our past by working hard to ensure its future, today.

Speaking of honoring the past and securing our future, your leaders of the "Trust" have step up

and will lead our Canvass this year. As they manage our "Trust" and work with your Board of Trustees", they know first hand how important our canvass is this year. You will be hearing from each of these leaders and you will be invited to dine with small groups to learn more about the canvass, the Church and the value of your membership with 1<sup>st</sup> UU Detroit. When asked, I hope you accept the invitation.

Rev. Drew Johnston and I (along with other Trustees) will host a series of conversations called "How We Lead" to share in small groups information on the change with the Board and governance as well as to offer a Q&A on the "business" of the Church. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the governance of the Church as well as hold your Trustees accountable.

You will also notice the "Committee or Team of the Month" in McCollester Hall. This is an effort to highlight each month a team or committee of the Church. This is your opportunity to ask questions, learn about the group and sign up to participate! Every member is welcome and encouraged to "plug in" to a committee or team they have an interest. Listed is a brief sampling of the areas where you are welcomed to join:

Youth/RE Committee (you do not need to be parent to help); Worship Committee, Women's Alliance, Men's Group, Marketing/Promotion, Coffee Hour (Hospitality), Membership Committee, Finance Committee, Social Justice Team, and much more. Perhaps you have an idea for a group effort, if so, let any of your Board of Trustees know: Lencha Acker, Sally Borden, Dave Lingholm, Trey Greene, Glenn Maxwell, Dan Wiest, and Linda Darga.

I invite you to participate in this year's Coffee Hour by volunteering to host a Sunday or several Sundays. In February, Al's Pals (that is Al Acker) have hosted the Coffee Hour. In March, you will have members of the Social Justice Team along with Maysel Brooks and Gladys Santiago hosting. Who can host? Anyone including members, church groups, and groups of friends can host and there are mentors around who can guide you through and answer your questions to ensure your success!

Remember, it is your Church and as we pass from generation to generation, there are opportunities

for everyone to participate, all ages, and all skill levels!

Calendar items to note and participate:

Wednesday is Church Night with Vespers helping us to reflect and meditate mid-week.

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – Building a Better World series @7pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – Board of Trustees Meeting @7pm – Open to members

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday – Worship Committee @ 7pm – Open to members

Finally, don't forget we have our own Ms. Lee Thume and company's music CD available for purchase and the proceeds support the Church. See Lee Thume or Gwen Foss to purchase your copy.

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

Alicia Biggers

**FIRST UU EVENTS**

Let's carpool to UU District Conference in Louisville, April 4-6! Call Sherry Wells, (248) 543-5297.

**CD RECORDINGS OF THE SUNDAY SERVICE**

Every Sunday Service is recorded on CD by the sound crew. Copies are made after service in coffee hour at the sound table. Please fill out the order request form as soon as possible so we can graciously make your copy for only \$5. Copies of past sermons are also available.

The sound crew schedule is as follows:

First Sunday: Linda Darga

Second Sunday: Len Zettel

Third Sunday: Glenn Maxwell

Fourth Sunday: Dan Secrest

Fifth Sunday: Dave Lingholm

Contact them on their respective Sunday for questions. If you are interested in being on the sound crew, contact Glenn Maxwell or Dan Secrest.

**SOUPER SUNDAY (NOT)**

There will be no Souper Sunday in March. Contact Carolyn Ludwig for more info.

**WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 19. All are welcome! Lunch is \$6 and begins at Noon. The program following will be on the topic, "Women Who Run for Office and Their Experiences". The speaker will be Toni Tront, 1stUU member and active in the League of Women Voters. Please consider joining us for the luncheon or the program or better yet—BOTH! Reservations for the meal can be made with Eiko Takemoto or through the Church Office by Noon of the Monday before the meeting day.

# Health Care for All!



*Come to a Rally  
sponsored by MOSES and  
the Birmingham Unitarian Church*

**Keynote Speaker and  
Panel of Experts will discuss  
Michigan's Ballot Initiative  
for Health Care Security**

**Saturday, April 5, 2008**

**1:00 to 3:00 PM**

**Birmingham Unitarian Church's Social Hall  
38651 Woodward Avenue - at Lone Pine Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304**

(Map at <http://www.bucmi.org/frameset.htm>)

For rally information, contact [buc@BUCMI.org](mailto:buc@BUCMI.org) or call 248 647-2380  
For information on MI's Health Care Security Campaign, go to [www.MichUHCAN.org](http://www.MichUHCAN.org)