

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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April 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 & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Lencha Acker

Sally Borden

Trey Greene

David Lingholm

Newsletter Editor

Wendi Winston

DREW'S VIEWS

Spring is time to think about planting annuals again, and this is similar to annual support of the church. In both cases, "annual" is the key. Certain plants have to start fresh every year, lest they fail to grow, or mutate into something less than what they were originally. "Withering away" is probably the most accurate description of what happens when an annual plant is left to try again without being refreshed. So it is in the garden, and something similar happens at church, you can't just plant it and forget it. We are nourished by continuous replanting, and there are a few different ways we do that.

One is to show up often! I do that, and many of you do, too.

(I'm happy that I live near church now and can drop in several times a day without spending all my time commuting. If one is to tend a garden, it's nice to be close to the garden!)

And why use this garden metaphor? I'll attribute this to Goethe. Part of church is closeness, not in living near, but in spirit, thinking and feeling. I'm not interested in finding people who think like I do, and I'll never say we are "like-minded." If we were I wouldn't be here. The interaction of a variety of ways of thinking and feeling is a great source of joy and inspiration! But being close while having that variety is where one real value of church comes together.

Goethe wrote: "To know someone here and there who thinks and feels with us, and though distant is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden." And that is why I use a garden metaphor – people who think and feel with us; not like us, but with us. I think there is little to be found of greater value than the inhabited garden Goethe mentions. And I think our church is a good example.

So we have arrived at the time of year for replanting, reseeding, pitching in and pledging support. This is the basis for what is possible for us. Are we taking ourselves seriously enough to make this garden grow? Are we ready to contribute the tangible support needed to keep us going?

This is a very direct way of determining the future of the church. What can we grow here, together?

I hope you are eager to attend one of the canvass parties this month. Think of it as your chance to plant some seeds for the coming season. I'll try to get to a couple of the events, but if I don't see you there, you know I'll see you in church.

Let's fully inhabit this garden!

Reverend Drew

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, April 20, 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**President's Ponderings**

Its spring, so it must be time to plant and grow and I don't just mean the flowers, I am speaking about planting and growing our Church community! If you resonate with our 7 principles and our mission statement to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously," I invite you to ask a friend, neighbor, colleague, family member or a casual acquaintance to join us on any given Sunday to experience what makes 1st UU Detroit matter to this community, to the city, to you! We should bloom and grow in our pride and our desire to share with the world why progressive, liberal religion is vital to all of us.

We have some great opportunities for you to invite someone and the following is just a brief listing (not inclusive):

- 1) Youth Bridges Program – civic, cultural, religious and social growth for our young people – open to anyone between 11 and 18
- 2) Social Justice Team –
 - a. May is our Porch Patrol through the neighborhood to listen to the concerns of our community then work with our community to make some change
 - b. Literacy Program is underdevelopment to serve our area residents
- 3) Building the Better World program has produced a good dialogue on privilege (from race to class) as well as documentary viewings on Friday of "Race: Illusion of Privilege"
- 4) Sunday Morning Services – services which stimulate the mind, body and soul without dogma!

Calendar items to note and participate:

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

1st Wednesday – Building a Better World series @7pm

2nd Wednesday – Board of Trustees Meeting

@7pm – Open to members

3rd Wednesday – Worship Committee @ 7pm – Open to members

Please "hold" Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 1pm for our Annual Congregational Meeting!

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

Alicia Biggers

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.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Please consider joining us for one or all of our luncheons and/or programs to complete the Church year. The meal is at NOON for \$6. The program begins about 1 PM. Reservations can be made with Eiko Takemoto or through the Church office. They should be made by noon of the Monday preceding the meeting day.

Programs to come:

May 21 (3rd Wednesday) Topic: Trip to Africa; Speaker Dave Robinson

June 11 (Note change to 2nd Wednesday) Musical Performance by Shades of Gold

Alma King

SHOW YOU CARE!

If you would like to help us build a team of caring folks who tend to the pastoral needs of our congregation, please consider attending a District sponsored training on April 26th, here at our church. Congregations from throughout the District will send teams of three or more people to this training, and we have at least two experienced presenters to lead us through the day long event. If you are interested, please contact the Reverend Drew Johnston as soon as possible.

The church will pay for our team, lunch will be provided. Exact details to be announced soon. It will be a fine thing to host this for other caring teams of Unitarian Universalists!

BUILDING THE WORLD WE DREAM**ABOUT**

A reminder for those enrolled! Sessions for BWWDA will continue in April. The Sunday session will be on the third Sunday from 1 to 3 PM, April 20. The Wednesday session will be the third Wednesday from 7 to 9 PM, April 16. We need members to contribute their thoughts and energy. We are field-testing this program for the UUA. The congregation voted to be part of this last spring. We need people to show up! This winter seems to have been hard on schedules with crazy weather on some meeting days and many of us really ill from the super germs that invaded us. Let's try to get rejuvenated with the coming warmth and sunshine. Happy Spring!!!

Alma King

THE 2008-09 PLEDGE CANVASS IS**BEGINNING!!**

For the last three weeks, if you have been in church, you have heard messages from three of the Church Trust Trustees (Al Acker, Marilyn Mitchell and Bill McKnight...COMING SOON Pearl Samples and James Robinson). They all talked about what First Church means to them, and how important they see the canvass being...and how this year your pledging opportunity will happen at a pleasant social event. That's right! No need to clean up your house for a visit from a canvasser! Instead, you will be invited to someone else's clean house to make your pledge, while you enjoy a glass of wine, a cup of tea, some delicious munchies and warm friendly conversation with other church members and friends. In the next

week you will receive a phone call from a church member asking which of 10 pledging parties you would like to attend on the weekends of April 12-13 or 19-20 between 4 and 6 p.m. at convenient locations in the metropolitan area. So prepare to greet the caller warmly and make your choice. Or if your schedule is just too busy, call one of the trustees and make your pledge now. If you love our church...it's time to put your money where your heart is. Let's make this the most successful pledge drive ever.

CHURCH COMMUNITY PASSOVER**SEDER**

Date: Saturday April 26, 2008

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Phone: For more info or to RSVP, email re@1stuu.org or leave a message for Athena Kolbe with the church office. Our fourth annual Passover seder includes a delicious dinner while we engage in an interactive program celebrating freedom and honoring the struggles of those who fight oppression during this important Jewish holiday. Adults \$11/Youth \$7 or bring a dish to share according to a recipe that we will supply. An optional donation of \$9 to support church youth programs is suggested.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Many of you know that the day before I was ordained a UU minister, a community minister from the Faithful Fools Street Ministry of San Francisco led a one day Street Retreat here in the Cass Corridor/Midtown. In October, 2007 I did a 4 day/3 night Street Retreat also here. There were 10 participants and 3 leaders. In order to be on the retreat, we each had to ask for donations from our friends to raise \$350. The total raised was \$3400. Some of you from First UU made contributions to myself and my husband, Stuart.

Here's how the money was distributed: \$1700 divided among the churches, mosque, and soup kitchens that fed and sheltered us: Manna Meals, Pilgrim Church, St. Leo's Church, Episcopal Cathedral, Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and The Islamic Center of Detroit. \$1700 to the Zen Peacemaker Society of New York who sent the 3 leaders.

In May I will be doing another Street Retreat (5/1-5/4). This time, I will be co-leading the retreat with my partner, Jean Murphy. I met Jean at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary and sometimes go with her to a prayer circle at the Catholic Worker Day House on Trumbull Ave. The Catholic Workers also run Manna Meals Soup Kitchen. There is an awesome interfaith community feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless. As we bear witness to homelessness and poverty in Detroit, who knows what project the Street Retreats will spark?

On April 27, I will be leading the Sunday worship to describe explain more about my Community Ministry.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4	Ivan Cotman
16	Sally Borden
17	Mary Neale
20	Lily Secrest
24	Bill McKnight

GENERAL ASSEMBLY June 25-29th Fort Lauderdale, FL. GA Information and Tentative Agenda for Congregations, Delegates, and Attendees is available. Please let the office know if you need copies.

Spring Greetings:

Signs of spring here in Arizona, begin with the sweet fragrance of orange blossoms in all outdoors. Another sign is the appearance of grandchildren on their school spring breaks. The younger ones come with grandparents to play in the parks and swim at certain hours in the pools. The teens jog on the padded walking ring and join grandparents on tennis courts, golf courses and the recreation centers. It all happens every year and it's good!

Not good was the Sunday returning from U.U. church, when sister Elberta became ill and was rushed to Emergency Hospital with known cause of internal bleeding. As a result, Elberta needs 24 hour care. Our brother Victor came from California and he and I visited 9 places right near in Sun City West, which, provide care for *Memory Residents*. We chose one with 5 to 1 ratio care-givers who have been given training in *Dementia Comfort Care*.

I try and visit daily, but am overwhelmed with responsibility of my two houses and Elberta's large home, four fruit trees and garden. Besides regular maintenance expenses, the medical bills, I'm writing checks everyday.

I try to keep my healthy schedule of a daily mile walk around the park on our one-fourth mile padded walking ring. One other pleasure thing I do for my brain is to play Bridge with my Alpha Delta Pi Sorority sisters twice a month.

Always a very special joy for me is the cards, notes, and news at Christmas and holidays from friends.

Loyally yours, Faye Colling