

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

April 20, 2008

info@1stuu.org

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

As we go to press with this newsletter I await news of how this year's canvass has gone (so far.) As soon as we get details we can start thinking about where to put energy next.

Thanks to the Canvass Team and all who they recruited, we have had fun in small group meetings to talk about the future of the church and to choose how we each want to support the church over the next year. If you have not been contacted, please help out by letting us know that you want to be part of things.

This year the canvass also serves as a time to renew your membership, if you are already a member; or to indicate you are ready to join; or to show your support as a friend of the church. When we have completed this process we will have a new church directory!

As important and useful as those outcomes are, I find myself returning to a garden metaphor. I don't really miss gardening much, but I do savor the memory of looking through catalogs in the deep winter of Montana, imagining what to plant when the ground would thaw. In practice it is often only after planting that you can know what will thrive in your particular soil, so my approach was always to think big thoughts about what might grow and plan on trying as many new things as I could.

In that spirit, I'm beginning a list of church ideas to plant and see what grows! Maybe you can imagine helping in some way, and I'd like to know if you can. The "seeds" I'm thinking of are mostly tasks that await people with matching skills and interests. You can picture these as different areas in one big prolific garden!

People who like to do some painting (and maybe a little plaster repair.)

People who could update some old light fixtures (and maybe other minor electrical issues).

People who can drive others around (bring them to church with you).

People who like to help with office work, copying and such.

People who like to organize things so we can find them in the future.

People who can help with the new window coverings that will cut our energy bills (probably not sewing them, but finding the best deal).

People who like taking care of the flowers, trees, and shrubs.

People who want to join in singing.

People who bring their friends to join us.

People who can help with a slightly technical project that will make a mark on the whole neighbourhood.

People who like to look at the future of the church and will help us define that future.

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People who will spend time with our children.

People who want to lead some programs for adults.

People who have hidden musical talents and are ready to bring them out of hiding (especially rhythm)

People to do some graphic design.

People who show up and greet everyone else!

People who now have the idea, that this church is a big garden and no one can tend it alone.

This Spring, as we see things greening and growing, let's recommit to the care and feeding of this congregation. Know that your help matters, every bit of help matters!

See you in church!

Reverend Drew

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, May 4, 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.

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 Secret

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 Secret.

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

FINANCE NEWS

Budget workshops with congregational input are scheduled for Wednesday May 7 after Vespers and Sunday, May 11 after Coffee Hour. This is a chance to contribute your ideas in budgeting for our future. Draft copies of the budget will be available during Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 4.

BUILDING SMALL WATER CRAFTS

Phyllis Inloes (who now lives in Pittsburgh, PA) writes that she and her daughter are trying to launch a project in Detroit for 11th & 12th graders involving building small water craft. She would like to talk to anyone familiar with the lakes and rivers of this area, and can be reached at 4300 Butler St. Fl 2 Pittsburgh, PA 15201 email: phai@pghmail.com

Land ph: 412 621 1218, Cell ph: 412 512 9747
Call cell phone during the week day from 7pm to 7am the next day. During week ends 7pm Friday to 7am Monday all weekend

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.

Eleven of us saw the very funny play at the Detroit Rep. Theatre, *Southern Comforts*. The play was about a widower and widow having a late in life romance. There was an excellent review in Thursday's *Detroit Free Press* section, Play. The theatre was almost totally filled so word must have gotten around how delightful it was. Later we had dinner at the Traffic Jam. \$55 was turned in to our church treasurer or will be spent on plants for the church yard. Thanks to all who contributed to this fundraiser and helped our local Detroit Rep. Theatre. Margaret Beck

2ND ANNUAL MICHIGAN POLICY SUMMIT

Do you care about Health care? Education? Clean Energy? Do you want to see common-sense solutions for Michigan that benefit all Michiganders and not just a few?

If any of these apply to you, please join hundreds of progressives from all over Michigan, as well as members of your own congregation, at the upcoming 2nd Annual Michigan Policy Summit on May 10th, 2008. This summit is the collaborative work of representatives from the environmental, civil rights, faith based, GLBT, education, labor, reproductive rights, student, disability, health care reform, and human services communities. And to top it all off, 1st UU Detroit's Social Justice Committee is having a table with other progressive non-profits. This a great opportunity to meet others doing great work in our community and to meet lots of people with shared values who may want to join us on Sundays (i.e. outreach)!

The summit will provide forums on key issues, as well as opportunities for leaders and activists to network, plan and share best practices. I am also excited to announce that we have two amazing keynote speakers at this year's summit: popular political activist and author Jim Hightower - dubbed the nation's No. 1 populist - and top journalist and radio commentator Amy Goodman.

The event, which this year has the theme "Rebuilding Michigan," will be held in Lansing on May 10th at the Lansing Center from 9 am to 4:30 pm. The Summit is providing bus rides from Detroit to the event. If you're interested in taking the bus, or if you know of other progressive

organizations that would also like to table at this great event, please email me.

To find out more and to register to attend, please visit www.mipolicysummit.org
The registration fee is \$30, however, there is a low income and student registration for only \$10. If either of these apply to you, please let me know and I will ensure that you get the discount (you have to tell me before you register though).

As a steering committee member for the 2008 Michigan Policy Summit and an excited member of 1st UU, I'm thrilled at the combined potential of this event. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Dessa Cosma

dessacosma@gmail.com

AFFIRMATIONS 6TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

April 26th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 290 W. 9 Mile Rd. Ferndale. (248) 398-7105.

www.GoAffirmations.org

Free and low cost services and screening.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 MaryLou Malone
- 7 Alma King
- 8 Jerry Mitchell
- 10 Nihal Mouhidden
- 11 Joe Brimmer
- 16 Rick Robinson
- 17 Andee Seeger
- 18 Paul Bachmann
- 29 Valerie Lauer, Allen Ross