

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2008 – 2009

Officers

President

Alicia Biggers

Vice President

Dan Wiest

Immediate Past

President

Linda Darga

Board Secretary

Alma King

Treasurer

Sharlene Gage

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

Minister of Faith and

Development

Rev. Athena Kolbe

Assistant Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

tbd

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Trey Greene

David Lingholm

Bill McKnight

Dessa Cosma

Newsletter Editor

Ryan King

DREW'S VIEWS

It is a great time to be an optimist! Change is the breeding ground of optimism, as well as the fuel that keeps it going. So a new year, a new administration, a changing season, new faces at church - these are all fodder for the hopeful amongst us.

A couple of years ago certain folks teased me about this time of year when I said I could feel spring heading our way. With a sort of Michigan machismo I was told that it was WAY too early to consider warming weather. Last year I pointed out that I had been right, Spring did arrive, it got warm - all in due course. I am happy to admit that the current cold is unpleasant, but I'm not interested in complaining about it, nor in feeling tough because I can take it. I am interested in the signs of change, slightly longer days, a bit more sunshine. Even the subtle wind shifts suggest things will warm up soon. If you doubt this, feel free to deny it. As a matter of fact, spring will arrive - I'd bet on it!

Another change that I've noticed is the attendance trends. In the winter we typically reduce attendance, and I wondered how we would sustain ourselves when people don't show up. Then I look at all the new faces that do show up. Our attendance has not declined at the rate it has in the past. Maybe there is more change here than you have noticed!

New faces (and the people they are attached to) are intriguing and promising. Like any shift in wind or weather, like the results of an election, like the inevitable changes that accompany time, new people arrive and our reality changes. New history is written by new connections.

There are two questions I would like you to consider relating to new people at church. First, who else should be here? No matter what part of church life you are present for, ask who you know who would be interested in being there, too. Then bring them along!

Second, how are you interacting with the people you don't yet know well? There is a natural difference between those who have been together for a long time and those who are newcomers. If you are a newcomer and are bold enough to get to know those who have been here a while, great. Show us how it's done! And if you have been here for years and notice these new folks, remember how someone here first welcomed you? Maybe you were a bit reluctant, or maybe you were determined to find a way to fit in here. Either way, you are one of the few who succeeded. If someone reached out to get to know you, it probably helped you feel comfortable. Is there a way you could do that for some of the lovely new faces here?

We have a new face in the office now, too. Linda Kernohan will be staffing the office for the next six months. Currently we are retaining the same hours we

recently implemented - Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 to 1. We will keep you informed of changes.

And our newsletter editor is now Ryan King, who has just learned that the toughest part of editing our newsletter might be reminding the minister of deadlines!

I am delighted to be getting to know new people at our church, see you there!

Reverend Drew

Lynda's Lyrics

On the Day of Service President Barack Obama called for to honor the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., six church members, including me, went to an elementary school in Detroit to beautify the halls and walls with murals. We painted a picture and quotation of Malcolm X following an outline of his face and his words done by members of the City Year Detroit corps. We remarked how much fun it was to get to know each other better while doing something together. We were all sprawled on the floor finishing the mural of a great leader who inspired me and left a lasting legacy. It was a blessing to know Malcolm could inspire the next generation.

Volunteering to help with church responsibilities is a great way to get to know other church members and hopefully be inspired. The heart of the church is in us working together to shape a whole community that can do more than the sum of its parts. To encourage you, you will have a clear volunteer responsibility description to go along with what you are asked to do. You will know how much time the work will take and have specific guidelines. Some tasks will be mundane; some will have room for creativity. Some tasks will be short term, even one time; some will span six months to a year. Whatever you are able to do will be appreciated. The smallest task will not go unnoticed.

In the book, *Martin & Malcolm & America*, by James Cone, we learn; “King is too often remembered for his ‘I Have A Dream’ speech of 1963. Less remembered is his decision in 1967 to speak out against the war in Vietnam challenging

American racism and imperialism. Malcolm X is often remembered for the strident separatism of his early years, and for his calls for liberation ‘by any means necessary.’ Less remembered is his last year—the period of his break with the Black Muslims and his pilgrimage to Mecca—when he began to move toward a more universal perspective on humanity, centered on the black liberation struggle in America.”

It takes some work to keep First UU functioning and to be able to make our influence known in the wider community. May First UU grow in truth, kindness and courage for ourselves and the community. In Faith and Friendship,

Rev. Lynda Smith, Assistant Minister

President's Ponderings

First, I would like to welcome Linda Kernohan as our new interim Office Administrator. Linda will handle the daily operations of the office under the support and supervision of our Senior Minister, Rev. Drew Johnston. Please welcome Linda to our staff!

Reminder that all space “used” by members or rented by non-members must be registered with the Church Office. Please make sure that your standing meetings are on the Church calendar and your room properly reserved. Our building use policy clearly states that all building use is reserved and noted on our calendar. If your meeting or activity is not reserved properly, we cannot guarantee your use of the Church facilities. If you have questions, please see myself, any Board member or any of our ministers.

Lastly, given the holiday, I want to re-submit the article from our last issue as it is important that every member, potential member, and friend of 1st UU Detroit understand the critical work your Board of Trustees is undertaking regarding our Church's future.

As you know, your Board of Trustees has been meeting 2 to 3 Saturdays a month since September to draft a plan for 1st UU Detroit's future. This action comes directly from your feedback from the appreciative inquiry and asset mapping where you stated 1st UU Detroit has value and matters to

ourselves and the larger communities we are all a part of. Following your lead and our desire to be of use, we are close to a final draft which we will present to you in early April 2009.

The following is an outline or flow of how we are working together as Trustees to draft the plan. Our basic plan process include the following elements

1. Identify your purpose (mission statement)
2. Select current goals (from the Logic Model)
3. Identify specific approaches or strategies
4. Identify specific action plans to implement each strategy
5. Monitor and update the plan

Our inputs, data and voices include using

- Logic Models
- Asset Mapping
- Valuations

The logic model helps us to identify inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes which lead to goals and evaluation of the plan.

Each has its own purpose as listed here including the questions we ask ourselves and the answers are what you will read in the final draft plan in April 2009:

Inputs

- What resources do you need for the program/initiative?
- Your Church
- Other organizations
- invisible resources, including in-kind

Activities

- What happens during your program/initiative?

Outputs

- What can you count? What is measurable to see success.
- What does your program/initiative produce?

Outcomes

- How will your clients or constituents be different as a result of your program/initiative?
- What will they know or be able to do?

Goals

- Outcomes are goals
- Missing inputs might be goals

Evaluation

- Statements that explain the problem, the need or the opportunity that the plan is addressing and outline the activity proposed.
- These are PREDICTED OUTCOMES
- Who and what will change as a result of this? How?

The final plan is a living document that will change over time and will be “reviewed” each year by the Trustees at the beginning of the Church year. This will also include input by you, our members, as together the plan works. Our future is ours to create and we are only limited by ourselves. I, along with your Board of Trustees, look forward to presently this draft plan to you in April.

If you have any questions, please contact myself, any of our Ministers or any Trustee as well.

Alicia Biggers

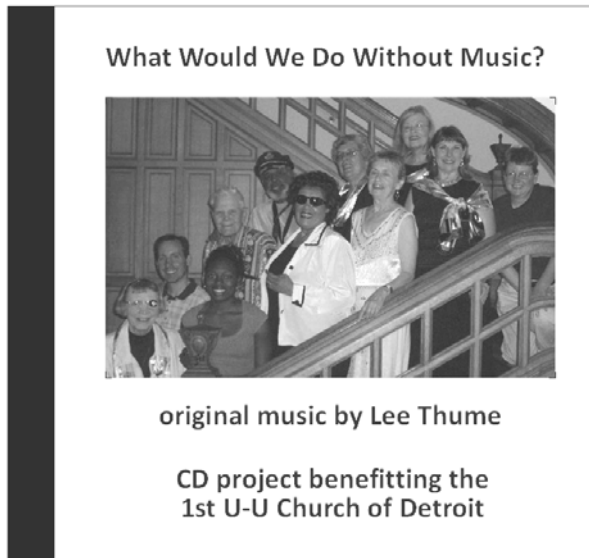
Membership Notes

Please help welcome the five new members who have joined our church since October, 2008. We hope to have pictures soon, so that you can better identify them and give your own congratulations!
Steve and Shannon Payne, Stephen Dahnke, Dan Rebb and Cynthia ZurSchmiede.

And remember that on two upcoming Sundays, February 1st and March 1st, we will have new member orientations after coffee hour for those interested in learning more about UU ism and this church.

The Membership Committee meets the first Wed. after Vespers at 7 pm. See any member for further details. Nora Holt, Sally Borden, Maysel Brooks, Alma King and Mary Neale--and we are pleased to welcome our newest member, Ryan King, who is now our Newsletter Editor. (*This fact has been verified- ed.*)

Sally Borden



Much more than a fundraiser

In the summer of 2007, Lee Thume embarked on the beautiful task of compiling many of her songs into a CD, *What Would We Do Without Music?*, which she later donated in full to our church as a fundraiser. As a fellow musician, and music director, I was proud to help Lee accomplish her goal. Now that a full year has passed, I am writing now to report on the success of the fundraising project, but more importantly, to revisit the wonderful stories behind the CD, and Lee's loyalty to 1st UU.

The songs on the CD document the nourishment and guidance Lee has experienced during her journey at First Church. The songs explore a wide variety of topics, and are performed by a variety of vocalist and instrumentalists. Here are some specific stories that Lee shared with me about the songs:

Love Is... was written especially for the Church School, and Friendship Across The Miles for

former members, Jan and Cindy on their departure.

Love Is Everything was one of the earliest songs I ever wrote, during my first year of marriage to Lyle Thume. I'll Think Of You and The Fullness of Love expressed my missing of that relationship. When You Can Laugh At Yourself was my reaction to a disappointment, a failure if you will.

The CDs were released just before the Holidays in 2007, so the project has completed a full year selling 54 CDs and earning \$1,133.00 for the church. Thank you to all who supported Lee and this fundraising project. The CDs are still available by speaking with Lee Thume, Todd Ballou, or Gwen Foss.

Todd Ballou, 1st UU Music Director

Garage Sale Fundraiser

I have been getting some nice garage sale stuff from friends so would like to have a **garage sale** in May for 1st UU Church and could use some help. Please call (313) 882-7775, or email margretbeck@comcast.net if you would be willing to set up, sell, or help clean up. If you have some nice items that you would like to give, it will mean more money for 1st UU Church.

"Radio Gulf" Theatre Ticket Fundraiser



The Detroit Repertory Theatre (www.detroitreptheatre.com, (313) 868-1347) is producing the play *Radio Gulf*. It is the last play written by August Wilson. The last Sunday afternoon show of this play is March 22nd. I am going to order 10 tickets but if more people are interested I can order another 10. It is a fun way to help our church. \$5 is made for our treasury for every ticket sold.

Margaret Beck

Update on the New 2009 Canvass

It's another great day in America and as was mentioned a few newsletters ago we are shifting to a rolling canvass. Thirteen Church members have already volunteered to canvass so far. After training, the rolling canvassing will start. What is a rolling canvass? Simple, each month approximately ten or so members will be canvassed. Stay tuned as your canvassers will reach out to you when it's your month to give your support to our Church. Remember your pledge is your voice in our Church's future.

If you would like to help canvass no more than 10 people over 2009 or if you have any questions contact us at:

Glenn@mbwgroup.com (248-219-5873) or
Kathe@mbwgroup.com (313-675-1553).

Glenn Maxwell and Kathe Stevens



David Lingholm and Gladys Santiago, 1st UU members, paint a mural of Martin Luther King at Vetal Elementary School in Detroit during City Year's MLK Day of Service 2009.

"About Us"

This is part of an ongoing series of profiles of members of 1st UU Church of Detroit.

David Lingholm, our Board Trustee, spent his childhood on his family farm in Vermontville, MI, home of the annual Maple Syrup Festival. He was raised as a Methodist. When he was 15, his mother moved to Traverse City and he graduated

from Traverse City Central High School. Dave is devoted to his grandparents, and drives them back and forth from Vermontville to Florida, where they spend winters. Dave's mother now lives in Farmington, and his sister, Rebecca, in Livonia.

Dave graduated from Oakland University where he majored in Political Science, and he worked on the reelection campaign of Sander Levin (D-Royal Oak) for the U.S. 12th Congressional District.

Presently his goal is to read 52 books a year, and he focuses on autobiographies and self-development books. He has recently read Madeline Albright's autobiography, and is fascinated by reading books about the civil rights movement, such as The Autobiography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X's Autobiography As Told To Alex Haley. He is currently reading Richard Florida's The Rise Of The Creative Class. You may want to check out Dave's blog: <http://goal52.blogspot.com/>, where he discusses books that he enjoys.

Dave is employed by Basso Design Group and does custom website design; his company just finished a brand new website for the Detroit Historical Society. Basso is launching a new site: "Tour Connections" for people in the entertainment industry.

Dave and his fiancée, Gladys Santiago, are planning to wed this year. They live in Midtown Detroit, near the church. Dave said, "I love living in Detroit, the people are authentic".

Mary Neale

Our Sunday Sermons are on the Web.


Yes we have a web site, but, wait there's more. Now you and the whole world can enjoy Reverends Johnston's and Smith's sermons from the comfort of your own home.

All their sermons since January 2008 are now available by going to our web site:

www.1stuu.org and clicking on **Sermon Audio** under **Worship and Faith Development**.

This will direct you to a new page with a tool called the **Sermon Player**. On that player you

will see a list of the sermons from the latest to the earliest. Scroll down the list to see them all.

Click on any sermon, click  (play) then sit back and enjoy. It's like having Drew or Lynda right at home. It's especially nice if you miss a Sunday or if you want to introduce a friend to our ministers and their inspiring words on life, peace, and spiritual living. There are also options for podcasting and .mobi right on the player.

Listen to what people are saying about sermons on the web:

"I enjoy the service but there is something more personal and intimate when listening to Drew at home on my headphones."

*"I find Drew's voice very soothing and it helps me relax for his spiritual journey."
"After a wild Saturday I nodded off during Drew's sermon. I was so happy to be able*

to get what I missed using the Sermon Player."

Please enjoy this and let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions. This is very exciting. Only the sermons are available on the web site. Contact Dan Secrest at danielsecrest@gmail.com or Glenn Maxwell at glenn@mbwgroup.com for any comments. You can also leave comments by selecting the **Details** tab and then the **comment icon** under the word **Bible**.

The entire service is still available on audio CD. CDs are made after service in coffee hour at the sound table. Please fill out an order request form as soon as possible so we can graciously make your audio CD copy for only \$5. Copies of past sermons are also available.

If you are interested in being on the sound crew, contact Glenn Maxwell or Dan Secrest.

Upcoming Events

Note: This is a selection of upcoming events. For a full listing, please visit the 1st UU Church of Detroit's website and check out the events calendar at <http://www.1stuu.org/calendar.php>

Young Adult Book Club – Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit

Jan. 27th 7pm – First UU Detroit, Memorial Hall

The Young Adult book club is a group of Detroiters (35 years old and younger) who meet to explore books focusing on Detroit's history, current situations, and progress. It's an opportunity to get together with friends and have stimulating conversations around the City we all love and the issues we all care about. Our first book is "The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit" by Thomas J. Sugrue. To join the group, email Jenny Poma at ay6945@wayne.edu or join the facebook group by searching for "Detroit book club" in Organizations - Clubs & Societies.

Game Night

Jan 28th 7pm – First UU Detroit, McCollester Hall

Monopoly, Trivial Pursuit, Outburst... Everyone needs a night of board games once in a while. Bring yourself and your favorite board game (if you have one). Invite your friends! Come early for Vespers and Dinner.... This event is sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Crafting Retreat

Feb 7th 11am – 9pm, First UU Detroit, McCollester Hall

Chase away the winter blues by creating your own sunshine! Create your own unique Valentine's Day cards! Join us for a full day of crafts. Each participant will have their own workspace and access to a variety of craft supplies sufficient for beading, paper crafting, painting, mosaics, or scrapbooking. New to crafting? Don't know what to make? Several project kits will be on hand, complete with supplies and directions. Or just bring your own sewing, quilting, knitting, etc and work amongst friends. Food is included. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person for this event. Please RSVP to re@1stuu.org so that we have enough food and supplies on hand.

Young Adult Book Club – Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit
Feb. 10th 7pm – First UU Detroit, Memorial Hall. See Jan. 27th above.

UU's Around the World

Feb 11th 7pm – First UU Detroit

We'll be learning about a different Unitarian Universalist community each month. This interactive class focuses on the history, traditions and religious development of UUism in countries around the world. It's a drop in class, so there is no need to RSVP and you can show up for one class, or every month if you like!

Meditation Workshop

Feb 11th 7pm – First UU Detroit, Memorial Hall

Meditation is a universal spiritual practice. The physical, psychological and spiritual benefits are now even documented scientifically. In this workshop we will explore several ways to meditate--silent, guided, walking, chanting. There will be time for practice and time for well-balanced discussion. This free workshop will be held 7pm - 8:30pm the 2nd Wednesday of January & February. The workshop will be facilitated by Rev. Lynda Smith, who is the Assistant Minister at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit and a Buddhist Teacher.

Movie Night! – 2008 Academy Award Nominated Short Films

Feb. 15th 4pm – Detroit Institute of Arts (meet in the lobby)

Here's your ticket to a full, satisfying meal of this year's Oscar® nominated short films in both the animated and live-action categories – as well as your chance to predict the winners before the Oscars are handed out on February 22nd! The short-film nominees are traditionally among the year's most creative and surprising films of any kind, yet they're also the most difficult to find. This program will present them in one eye-popping program, with a brief intermission between the animated and live-action categories. Expect approximately three hours of exceptional entertainment. Those who wish to do so will meet in a café afterwards for a guided discussion. (Movie tickets can be purchased in advance here <http://tickets.dia.org/default.asp?SearchText=oscar>).

Theology Roundtable

Feb 18st 7pm – First UU Detroit

Spend an evening discussing topical theological issues. Explore and clarify your own beliefs. This is a drop in group and is open to everyone who wants to take a deeper look at their own faith in an open and accepting atmosphere.

Young Adult Book Club – Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit

Feb. 24th 7pm – First UU Detroit, Memorial Hall. See Jan. 27th above.

Game Night

Feb 25th 7pm – First UU Detroit, McCollester Hall. See Jan. 28 above.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, February 22, 2008** no later than NOON or the following Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m. for electronically submitted material. Please send articles to the Newsletter Editor at newslettereditor@1stuu.org. Your feedback is welcomed and appreciated in the spirit of liberating truth, radiating kindness and loving courageously