

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

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February 24, 2010

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2009 – 2010

Officers

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Vice President

Bill McKnight

Immediate Past

President

Alicia Biggers

Board Secretary

Alma King

Treasurer

Linda Darga

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Sally Borden

Dessa Cosma

Dan Rebb

Elayne Sikelianos

Newsletter Editor

Ryan King

Worship Services

held every

Sunday at

11:00am.

DREW'S VIEWS

My recent venture in the hospital brought up some questions, offered a few answers, and many new experiences that I really hadn't scheduled. I learned a couple of things about how one nerve connects to another so what you feel in your shoulder, for example, is really caused by what is happening to your diaphragm. This reminded me in so many ways of church. So often the things going on actually are referred from some other part of the whole system. So I got to wondering . . . (and I'm only offering these questions this month as I don't have much endurance right now) - how much do you want to know about how things work? It was important for me to understand the pain that seemed to be in the wrong place, as well as the connections between the various parts of me that were malfunctioning, but I didn't really want to know every detail. At this stage in my life I don't expect to change to a career in medicine, so I want to understand what is happening enough to take care of myself, but there is no need for me to establish a comprehensive understanding of my pancreas, liver, and gall bladder. (I have refreshed my understanding of how they work together, and that's just right for now).

In this other system, the one we share at church, there are many ways things inter-relate that you may or may not want to understand. A few weeks ago I was talking with some long time members who have cared about this church for many years. At this point, they have no interest in establishing a comprehensive understanding of how the church works as a system. That makes sense to me, there are times when it is okay to let someone else take care of the vital signs and keep things going. So the question arises again, how much do YOU want to understand?

One of the things this church can be is a place to develop leadership skills and techniques, and this may be the best time ever to take advantage of such opportunities here! Unlike medicine, which is quite specific, church systems are a lot like other systems we move through in our work and school and various other institutions and enterprises. The skills and techniques we can develop here are useful all over the place. Are you at a point in your life when you might like to learn more? Can you imagine that it might be useful to your future to develop some leadership skills now?

Some people have devoted many years to keeping this church here at our corner. They did that because of a belief in the future. Are you interested in moving into that future as a leader? Would you like to pick up the torch, so to speak, and lead us further?

These are my real questions to you, and I hope for real answers. If we do this right, we will still be at this corner far into the future. In the same way I want to know enough that I can take care of my personal health, I want you to know enough to take care of our institutional health. Interested? Let me know as soon as possible!

I do need time to recover from some complications, and I'll be pacing myself carefully for a while. But there isn't a day I don't think of things that might improve our future. You may be at the center of that future.

With love and appreciation for your caring- See you in church!

Drew

President's Column

It is gratifying to see our members "step up" when needed. Mary Lou chose a moving sermon to present when Drew was felled by extremely painful and potentially dangerous illness. Thankfully, he was well cared for and cured by our Detroit health care providers to be able to return to us soon.

Linda Darga answered the call to become our Treasurer and will do a splendid job. Danny Rebb has also been restored to health and has returned to the Board of Trustees. So, with the additions of Elayne Sikelianos and Sally Borden, we now have a full Board again to continue our work for the present benefit and exciting future of the church. Jan Thompson has jumped into the position as Canvass chair with great enthusiasm. We continue to see many visitors on Sundays, and a number of them are returning week after week.

Our wonderful old church needs the love and work of everyone. The nominating committee is looking for candidates for the election in May. Board and committee positions are available. We need to groom new leadership if we are to have a future. So, please think what gifts you possess and can contribute to our church, and volunteer to become more involved. You will enjoy it, and the church will profit from it.

See you in church!

Marilyn Mitchell

St. Patrick's Day with the Alliance

In the spirit of the Irish blessing, "May you be a half hour in Heaven before the Devil knows you're dead", everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day! With that in mind, join the Alliance for lunch and a fun St. Patrick's Day theme program with a slide show presentation of some interesting sites in Ireland. And who knows what else! The fun will be on Wednesday, March 17. Lunch is at Noon for \$10. Make reservations with the Church Office or Eiko Takemoto by March 15.

Alma King



OUR MUSICAL ADVENTURES CONTINUE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 7-9pm

Todd Ballou, 1st UU Music Director

Church Night is the place to be! MUSICAL ADVENTURES is a series of discussions, lessons, and demonstrations facilitated by Todd Ballou for musicians in our community to build musical skills, network, become involved, and share musical ideas for the benefit of our Sunday morning experience at 1st UU church. Topics will be driven by participants so bring your favorite musical inspiration on CD, or even perform it for us; bring a musical question you'd like discussed, or bring your most musical friend. Topics will include reading music, learning about rhythms, exploring our hymnal, finding your singing voice, sharing your musical inspirations, planning musical experiments, discovering the organ, choir repertoire, providing feedback, and instrumental music.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming topics:

Mar 3- 2nd chance: Reading Music 101: Pitches & Rhythms

Apr 7- Reading Music 201- The "Key" to listening

May 5- The Musical Psychic- the magic & mystery of selecting music for next Sunday

June 2- If we don't have anything better to talk about, we'll have an Organ Tour!

Todd Ballou

Upcoming Moses Banquet

The annual MOSES banquet will be on Saturday, March, 6, 2010 at 6 pm at Burton Manor in Livonia, MI. It's a chance to get to know other churches and groups that support the work of Moses and to provide much needed financial support too. Tickets remain at \$35.00 and you can buy them from Sally Borden and others at the church. You can place an ad in their commemorative booklet or be a patron (\$10 for your name to be listed).

Last year, First UU won their community service award for all our efforts to work for change in the community. So let's support MOSES and ourselves!

Sally Borden

“About Us”

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

Sally Mikel Borden grew up in Hilton, a small farming community in western New York. Her father was well-respected and served as Vice Mayor for 20 years then as Mayor. Her mother was very hard-working and active in the Liberal Baptist Church in Hilton. The minister of that church, Reverend Lloyd, a Georgian, preached against segregation and reached out to nearby migrant workers. He was an example of tolerance, kindness, and love.

Sally's father pushed both his daughters to go to college. Beverly, Sally's older sister, trained as an elementary school teacher. Sally was Salutatorian of her high school class and won a N.Y. Regent Scholarship, which paid her college tuition. She attended Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., and graduated Cum Laude with a B.A in Sociology. She then worked for a year in foster care in Utica, N.Y., won a fellowship to the University of Toledo, and was employed at the Toledo State Hospital.

Sally lived for 3 years in Buffalo, N.Y in the 1960s and met her former husband Tyrone. They were active in the civil rights movement, where she had been a charter member of C.O.R.E. in Utica, N.Y.

In 1966, Sally was accepted into the W.S.U. School of Social Work and completed the 18 month program with a Masters in Social Work. A little known fact about Sally is that after moving to the West Coast in the late 1960s, she lived in a redwood tree for several months to protect it from the logging industry. Because of this, she is regarded as an influence on activist Julia Butterfly Hill who herself lived in a redwood tree for two years in the late 1990s.

After living in other states, Sally returned to Detroit and began attending First U.U in 1972. Her son Michael was born in 1977, and attended our church school. He won a scholarship to Dartmouth, and now lives in Chicago.

Sally has a hereditary disease that results in muscle weakness as one ages. She is still able to be active despite the condition.

Since joining our church, Sally has been involved in many of our groups. She and Nora Holt co-chair the Membership Committee. Sally has rejoined the Board to finish out the term. She has sung in our choir for almost 20 years and also has chaired the R.E and Personnel Committees. She has been Vice Moderator of the Heartland District Board for 5 years. In her neighborhood, she is active in the Castle Rouge Civic Association, and does a weekly radio patrol.

Most of her life, Sally has had pets, and she loves animals. Her 19 year old cat, Sam, died in December. She recently adopted another cat, an all-black one year old named Abbey, and they have fun getting to know one another.

Mary Neale

Theatre Party

On Saturday, February 6th some members of 1st UU enjoyed the play, Song for Coretta, at the Detroit Rep. and later had dinner at the Shangri-La restaurant in the former Twingos building. The Shangri-La has only been opened a few months and is not opened Sunday but has delicious food, friendly staff, and a wonderful

manager, Ray. The Alliance at 1st UU Church is now \$90 richer. Thanks to all who bought tickets to the play. Hope to plan another theatre party in June.

Margaret Beck



Tuesday Musicale Free Concerts

I would like to invite First UU members to two upcoming concerts by my music group, Tuesday Musicale's.

The first concert is Tuesday, March 16 at 10:30 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe Presbyterian Church, 19150 Mack Ave., Grosse Pointe Woods. The parking lot is on Mack Ave. next to the church. The second concert, on Tuesday, April 20th, at 7:30 p.m., is Opera Night. This concert is at the Grosse Pointe United Methodist Church, 211 Moross Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms. A big parking lot is in back of the church.

Both concerts are free. You are my guests although there is a basket at the sign in table for donations. Any questions? Call Margaret Beck 313 882 7775 or margretbeck@comcast.net

Margaret Beck

Announcements

We have recently learned that Helga Herz, a long time church member who is 97, is quite ill, but is mentally alert. She would love to hear from her church friends by mail. A documentary is being made about the Viet Nam war and will give information about Helga's mother, Alice Herz, regarding her mother's efforts to protest the war. It should air in December, 2010 on Channel 7. Alice and her family are cooperating with providing information for this film. See Sally Borden in Social Hour for Helga's address in Maryland or call Sally at home for more information.

Sally Borden

Donald Ray Wilkie-Jones, grand son of Margaret Wilkie, son of Chanol Wilkie-Jones and Deborah Johnson joined us on January 29th, 2010.

Margaret Wilkie

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for all newsletter submissions, both printed and electronically submitted material, is Wednesday, March 24, 2010. 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.