

# First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
August 29, 2010

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First Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
Organizational Chart  
2010 – 2011

## Officers

### President

*Marilyn Mitchell*

### Vice President

*Bill McKnight*

### Immediate Past

### President

*Dan Wiest*

### Board Secretary

*Kathleen Jacobs*

*Johnson*

### Treasurer

*David Lingholm*

## Staff

### Minister

*Rev. Bill Neely*

### Music Director

*Todd Ballou*

### Cantor

*Gwen Foss*

### Office Admin

*Jenn Hurtt*

### Building & Grounds

*Joe Brimmer*

*Leonard Swint*

(Sunday)

## Trustees

*Dessa Cosma*

*Robert Johnson*

*Julie Brock*

*Sally Borden*

## Newsletter Editor

*Robert Johnson*

Worship Services  
held every Sunday at  
11:00am.

## Opening Thoughts, Rev. Bill Neely

It's been a real pleasure to be received so warmly into the life of First Church. I arrived on a late-Wednesday night in early August, towing a car and with everything we own in a rental truck. On Thursday night, I had dinner with members of your Board and Interim Minister Search Committee, on Friday you made sure I had a tour of the church, and on Sunday my family lit your chalice before worshipping with you for the first of many times.

From there, like most Augusts in most churches, our programming has gradually picked up steam. September will surely be busy; one of the busiest months of our year, and we will be off and running toward what I believe will be a wonderful church year for us all. I'm excited about serving as your minister and living in Detroit. I've already encountered a spirit of resilience, community, and civic pride that seems rooted in both the struggles that this city is facing and the determination that its residents have to build on its many strengths. The spirit is quite beautiful, really, and I'm looking forward to our year here.

Our District Executive will be visiting the congregation in early November for a workshop with the Board. I won't set specific goals until that weekend, but I do want to let you know of a few areas in which I hope to contribute to your ministry here.

You have a highly-regarded worship life to which I will contribute. My tone and approach will be a little different than what you're accustomed to, but I believe that we'll manage that transition well. And I know that I'll enjoy working with your very well-developed lay worship team.

I hope to help you in your governance. I'm learning your history of working to adopt some of the concepts of policy governance into your congregational leadership. I am familiar with several forms of governance, including policy, and I hope that my leadership can help you successfully further develop your governance capabilities. Strong churches start with strong governance, and I'll seek to help you build on your past work.

Church finances are often thought of only in terms of pledging and paying bills, but church finances are more broadly an important piece of the church's mission in this world. Institutionally, money isn't really about money; it's about commitment, priorities, mission, and vision. I hope to offer some ideas and approaches to our finances that help us consider the church's larger presence and ministry in the world whenever we speak of money.

You have a history of justice-making and advocacy. I do, as well. You have a history of doing that in an urban setting. I do not. I intend to learn from, be inspired by, and help lead your efforts at making justice in this great city.

We'll work together on plenty more than this, as well. Opportunities and challenges that we can't even imagine are awaiting us, and we'll navigate them together. The path of our shared ministry will be familiar and unusual; of the past and the future. We will discuss things that you've discussed a million times, and new areas of growth and discernment will surprise us all. We will work for justice without knowing the results. We will worship and build upon the central strength of our community. We will agree, and disagree, sometimes over little things; sometimes over big ones. We will agree and disagree in love. And I look forward to all of this; of walking with you in the spirit of our ministry over the coming year. I'm expecting great things in 2010-2011. I hope you are, too.

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### **President's Musings**

I am so hopeful about the future of our church. Signs of life are everywhere. In no particular order, we have a dynamic Board of Trustees where people are full of ideas and not afraid to express them. It is as of the Board has been liberated.

We have a group of younger people, both members and friends, who have jumped into church life with enthusiasm. These folks brought us the recent very successful rummage sale.

We have renters bringing in much needed income, and we receive rental inquiries on a regular basis. We are advertising the availability of affordable parking and expect to have the entire lot taken in short order. Thanks to our efficient, able and really smart Office Manager, Jenn Hurtt, prospective tenants are being shown through our facilities on a regular basis, and Jenn has been invaluable in drawing in the film-makers to rent our facilities.

People who left the church for awhile have returned. We hope everyone who left will return. We have a consistent stream of visitors and some good looking prospects for new members.

Our music program continues to be dynamic and is an attraction for visitors. The all-music program produced by and starring Todd and Gwen made the service on August 22nd a delight.

Church committees have been revived by new volunteers. In fact, the finance committee itself has been revived. We are moving forward with new systems for accountability and accurate record-keeping. Julie Brock volunteered to chair the canvass, and we believe it is back on track. People have even called to complain about NOT having been canvassed!

Finally, we have a wonderful new minister who REALLY REALLY wanted to come to Detroit and is happy to be here. I am eagerly anticipating his first sermon on August 29th, followed by an all-church picnic in the parking lot. Bill has been attending church the entire month of August, and he says he likes what he sees here.

**CHURCH IS FUN AGAIN! JOIN US AT THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER.**

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### **COME JOIN THE CHOIR ON SEPT 12!**

Do you like to sing? The choir is ready to begin a new season, and we'd love to have you join us! The choir rehearses 3 Sundays per month, 9:00 -10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Our first rehearsal will be after Labor Day on Sept 12. Lot's of support and help to go around both musically and otherwise.

Todd Ballou, 1st UU choir director



## **Dally in the Alley**

Hi Everyone!

It's that time again- time to enjoy a day outside with the good folks in our neighborhood at Dally in the Alley. There's a lot of exciting stuff happening at the church on the day of Dally (Sept. 11th) and you'll be hearing more about that soon, but I'm emailing particularly about our tabling efforts.

We'll be having a 1st UU table again this year and you're invited to join us to talk to passersby who may be interested in our church. These are the slots I'm looking to fill- please let me know if and when you're available. Kathleen is also looking for volunteers to be at the church that day helping out with the rummage sale, etc. So, you've got choices! Pick what you think makes the most sense for you and get in touch with me or Kathleen depending on what you choose.

Tabling slots: 11am -2 pm, 1:30-4:30pm, 4-7 pm

FYI- Here's the link to the Dally site: <http://www.dallyinthealley.com/>

Dessa

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### **Rummage Sale**

The rummage sale in Pullman was a huge success August 13-14th. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, baked goods, ideas, and items that help us earn just shy of \$1,000.00. Special thanks go out to Rae McFadden and Rae Sargent for organizing and coordinating this splendid fundraiser.

Memories that I will walk away with from this fund-raiser: inviting the movie crew from Vamps (starring Sigorney Weaver) and their catering crew who was set up 3 houses away from the church, Joan and I on the sidewalk corners shaking signs to drum-up business, defining what "rummage" was to everyone who asked - and there were a lot of them, hearing from the community how much they look forward to our rummage sale and say that it has a good reputation of being a good sale, the smiling church volunteers (some who were scheduled while others got bitten by the excitement and pitched in) and the buzz generated from the sale has caught hold of the congregation.

With Dally in the Alley around the corner on Saturday September 11th, it will be wonderful to harness this buzz into another fund-raising event. We are planning a multi-faceted approach to Dally. Dessa Cosma will be organizing a booth for First Unitarian-Universalist to be in the Dally (11am-7pm). I will be organizing the Rummage Sale in Pullman (10am-6pm), with collaboration I will be organizing an Artisans' Alley in McCollister (similar to that held on Noel Night) (10am-6pm), and David Lingholm will be organizing Charging for Parking in the Prentis Church lot from (11am-7pm). To volunteer staffing the table at Dally, please contact Dessa Cosma ([dessacosma@gmail.com](mailto:dessacosma@gmail.com), (231)631-4469), and for everything else, please contact Kathleen Jacobs Johnson ([lilbunniest@gmail.com](mailto:lilbunniest@gmail.com), (313)343-8871).

Kathleen Jacobs Johnson

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### **Wednesday Night Dinners:**

Catered Wednesday Night Dinners will start up again September 8th (Wednesday after Labor Day), but with a few changes. The Dinner time will now start at 5:30pm and go to 6:30pm to give us those extra minutes of sitting down together, enjoying our food, and enjoying good conversation without the rush. This way we will be more ready and prepared when Vespers starts at 6:30pm. Another change is that the price of dinner will be lowered to \$5.00! So remember to come and bring a friend! Remember, the more who come, the more likely that we can lock in this fantastic price!

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### **Personal Ad:**

Wanted: Someone to help co-coordinate special events throughout the year - a partner-in-crime who solemnly swears that they are up to no good! Looking to have a prosperous and fun-filled year. I am hard-working, flexible, dedicated, and swamped with ideas that would be wonderful to put on for our church, community, and inter UU church congregations. If you'd like to collude with me, please contact Kathleen Jacobs Johnson ([lilbunniest@gmail.com](mailto:lilbunniest@gmail.com), (313)343-8871).

Hello to all my church family From Faye Colling.

This last time in Arizona was very different than previous years. My brother and I are co-executors of our sister Elberta's estate so there was so much to do. It's amazing how many things we can collect as walk through life. I worked each day with the goal of getting her large beautiful home ready for the estate sale which was held after Easter. Our work paid off we listed her home and in just two weeks received an offer and we will be closing on the home in July.

I extended my visit because two in our family were graduating from Universities. My elder granddaughter graduated from Arizona State University. My brother Vic's grandson graduated from Northern Arizona State University so I wanted to join the family in all the celebrations.

Since I've been home it's been great to get back to Sunday's at church and have time to visit with friends at coffee hour. During the winter I read my newsletter and know that I am missing all the activities at First UU. Thanks for all your notes, I'm always so happy to hear from my church friends. It's good to be home and I'll see you in church!

Loyally,  
Faye Colling

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### **Changes in Coffee Hour**

Maysel Brooks will be coordinating the coffee hour for a period of time starting in Sept. Nora Holt and her crew of volunteers will be working the coffee hour under Maysel's guidance. Anyone that wants to lend a hand is encouraged to contact Maysel.

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### **Church Members needed for Membership**

Membership is looking for new members. They must be committed and willing to work. Membership is responsible for keeping in touch with members of the congregation, welcoming visitors, and planning social events. Contact Nora Holt if you wish to help out.

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### **Canvass is changing too**

Julie Brock is taking over the Canvass process. We would like to thank Jan Thompson for having served as Canvass head. She is stepping down to focus on matters closer to home for now. The new Canvass will be returning to a once a year process. Julie will be informing us of further details as they arise.

