

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
June 25, 2011

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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.

The Top Ten Things I'll Miss about Detroit By Rev. Bill Neely

Well, here we are - my final newsletter column to a congregation I've grown to love. We've done so much great work this year. I've often used these columns as a way to reflect on that work and/or the big questions that First Church is considering, but for my last one, I thought I'd let you know what I'll miss most about your city. I'll say good-bye to you during my final sermon here on June 26, but here is what I'll miss about Detroit:

10.) Midtown, or Cass Corridor, or whatever it's called. We've lived on the corner of 2nd and Willis and have loved our funky little neighborhood. Our block seems to throw parties often and for no apparent reason, and it's been great to be a part of such a vibrant neighborhood. In addition, the museums, the university, and the little shops and cafes make this a great walking neighborhood.

9.) Avalon. Great coffee, delicious goodies, and a friendly staff. I'll miss the 2-minute walk to such a yummy local coffee shop.

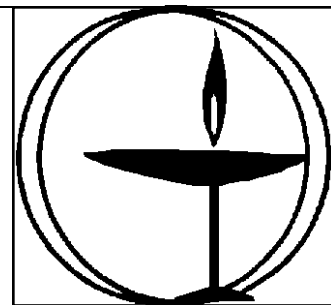
8.) Detroit in the spring. I don't like cold weather and winter was long, but wow - the spring sure was lovely. That sensation only happens after a cold, dark winter.

7.) Detroit Rotary. Thanks to Colleen and Trey, I am now a Rotarian. The Detroit Rotary will forever be the club that inducted me, and I love knowing that I'll always have that tie to that wonderful chapter of people dedicated to serving others.

6.) Sports. In my year here, I saw 12 innings of baseball (2 innings of a game that would eventually be called on account of rain, and then a full game with an extra inning), 6 quarters of professional football (a full game and the second half of the Vikings game that got moved here because their roof caved in during a blizzard), and a full game of professional basketball. I know - I missed hockey, but next time. Detroit is a great sports town, and I've loved that.



5.) UU colleagues. Rev. Lisa Presley, our Heartland District Executive, and the many UU ministers in the area and state have provided a warm and consistent web of collegial strength. I'm particularly grateful to Lisa for her



personal guidance and support of the congregation, but all of the Michigan UU ministers are inspiring, dedicated, and amazing people.

4.) Noel Night. I loved that First Church hosted concerts and events as part of Noel Night, and I loved that the evening ended with me, Shannon, and Rachel standing in the middle of the street outside of the DIA while singing Christmas Carols with hundreds of Detroiters. Detroit was so beautiful that night.

3.) Detroit Pride. Shannon and I have attended annual BGLT Pride celebrations in Norfolk, Va., Washington D.C., Chicago, St. Paul/Minneapolis, and Memphis, but Detroit's Pride was the most racially and gender diverse one we've been to. It was also so much fun: outrageous, spirited, and family-friendly. I have a feeling that in our lives, Detroit Pride has set a mark that no other city will reach.

2.) Resilience and Commitment. I've been moved many times by how much Detroiters love Detroit, and how committed so many residents are to their city. I've never lived somewhere with this much tough, gritty, inspiring, and insistent civic pride, and it's been wonderful to experience. Witnessing that has been a powerful blessing.

1.) And of course, I'll miss First Church the most. You are the greatest thing about this great city. You brought me here, anchored me here, and were the lens through which I could see the city's many gifts. You speak of a world of stronger communities, selfless service, boundless compassion, and insistent justice. You house and proclaim both the best aspects of Detroit, as well as the forgotten truths that must be remembered. Detroit is a better place because you're here, and I'm a better minister because I spent a year with you. Even though my ministry with you ends, my gratitude never will. For now and always, Thank You, First Church.



The Times They Are A'Changin'

This Sunday, June 26th, will be my last Sunday as trustee of the day as president. It is also the last Sunday that we can enjoy Rev. Bill in the pulpit. He and I conspired to share the stage together on his last Sunday with us as we did on his first Sunday with us back in August. It is traditional that the president and the minister preside together on these occasions. President-elect Sally Borden will preside with Rev. Roger Mohr when he joins us on August 28th. It has been my privilege to serve First Church as president for nearly two years. During this time, the Board of Trustees and the congregation did the most important work of the church in decades. We confronted our greatest challenges and found solutions which we hope and believe will work for everyone,

including our neighbors in the surrounding community. We are very excited about the plans EMEAC has for expanding their programs and outreach, using the prized location of First Church as EMEAC's headquarters. We believe people who come to the church buildings to participate in EMEAC's programs will be encouraged to return on Sundays to hear our message of intellectual freedom and inclusiveness.

All our financial problems are not solved, however, by the transition of the buildings to EMEAC. The congregation will still have to learn to do more with less. We will all have to maintain and even increase our monetary contributions. We will have to volunteer to do some of those things we have paid others to do in the past.

I invite each of us to think creatively about First Church and come up with ideas that will improve the quality of our church life while conserving our resources.

Happy Summer, and thank you.

Marilyn Mitchell, president.

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1st UU of Detroit Welcomes Rev. Roger Mohr

Our new minister Roger Mohr will be attending his first service here in Detroit on July 10th. This will just be a visit to get to know the church and congregation a bit. So be sure to be there to introduce yourselves to him and his wife. His first sermon will be on August 29th so come on down and see what he has to say.

Rev Mohr comes to us from Clinton, Iowa UU Fellowship. And in fact we will be sharing him with them as we will have him 3/4 time and they will continue to enjoy his sermons 1/4 time.

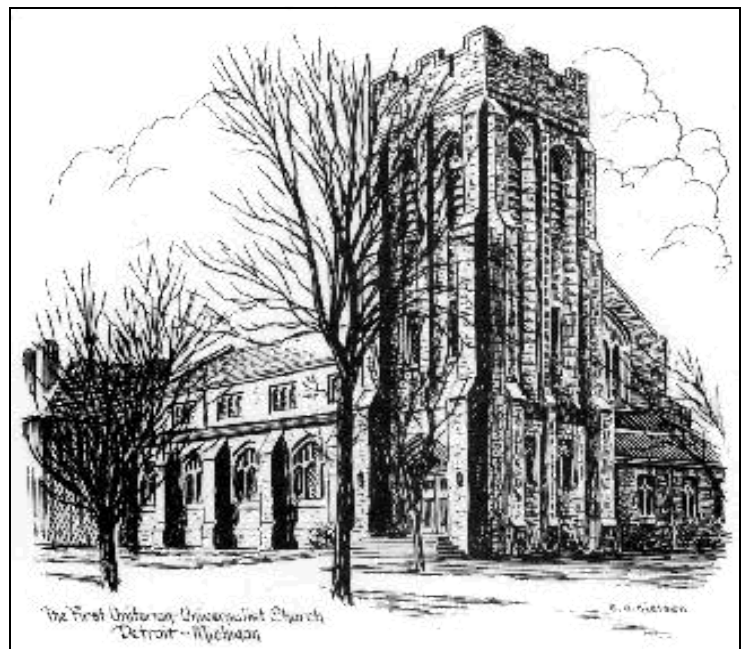
Rumor has it that he is a bit of a musician (hint: the photo here is cropped by he is actually holding a guitar just below the edge).



Summer Services

We will continue to have summer services so please continue to join us. We have many interesting lay lead services planned.

Vespers services will also be continuing Wednesday although they will not be catered during the summer. So bring a bag-o-food and come on down and relax with us on Wednesday evenings.



First Unitarian-Universalist Church is an urban center for spiritual renewal and social justice in Detroit.