

First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
December 11, 2011

Office phone: 313-833-9107
Website: www.1stuu.org
Email: office@1stuu.org

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2010 – 2011

Officers

President

Sally Borden

Vice President

Robert Johnson

Immediate Past

President

Marilyn Mitchell

Board Secretary

Kathe Stevens

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Roger Mohr

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Cantor

Gwen Foss

Office Admin

Jenn Hurtt

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Newsletter Editor

Robert Johnson

Worship Services
held every Sunday at
11:00am.

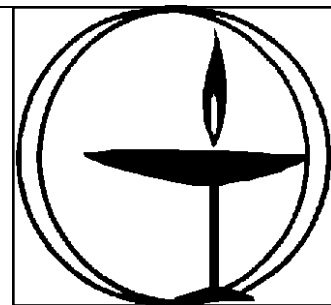
The Rev's Room

I LOVE DETROIT! I have only been here for a few months, but I have enjoyed living and working in our community very much. I was talking with a friend recently about what it is that makes Detroit special, and we were grappling with a term to express the experience. We settled on "texture." Detroit has a fascinating texture; combinations of different people, personalities, organizations, and neighborhoods that stand close to one another as a meaningful whole despite their differences.

And that is true for our church, as well. There are many different sorts of persons, and many different personalities among us. This is not a homogeneous suburban church, where sometimes the differences go as deep as hair color. We gather together to celebrate the possibility of a beloved community, and to celebrate our love for one another despite our differences.

And I do love this church. My time here has been wonderful, and we have accomplished a great deal together in a very short time. And I do feel your appreciation for my ministry to you, which is gratefully received. Soon, calls of inquiry will come in to me from ministers interested in serving you on a more permanent basis. I will tell them that you are a wonderful, loving congregation, with amazing potential for growth and service. I believe that about you. And I hope that you believe it about yourselves. You are a wonderful church.

Keep the Faith!
Rev. Mohr



Presidents Corner

As many of you probably know, Jenn Hurtt, our office administrator for the past 2 ½ years took a full-time job and is in the process of training our new part-time office administrator, Tamara Halliburton, who comes with much education, great experience and great references. Because of our changing situation, we will only have an office administrator for about 10 hours a week. Tamara will work mostly Saturdays and Sundays and we are still in the process of sorting out what her duties will be. Some of us are taking on some parts of the office administrator job, but opening and closing the

building on Sundays, preparing the order of service, handling our financial data entry and maintaining church records in the computer will continue to be done by the office administrator.

I hope in the near future that we will be able to present you with a church budget for the rest of the church year, something that the congregation hasn't seen in some time. Dan Wiest, our treasurer, and the rest of the church board are working hard to have our expenses in line with our income. Other board members are working hard on membership issues, publicity, social justice and improved communication.

You will continue to see and hear about changes as we move to a different focus for our church -- one based on people and programs. I hope you've enjoyed some of the events we have sponsored this fall. We continue to want your input for ideas for other programs and events. It would be easy to rest on our laurels and congratulate ourselves on our progress. But we need to continue our forward momentum on being welcoming to new people and becoming better known in the community.

Reverend Mohr is being helpful in giving us guidance and feedback on our new path. Let us continue to use his skills for the remainder of his time with us and let us enjoy this coming holiday season with gratitude for our past and hope for our future.

December Sermon Schedule

December 18: "The UU Spiritual Path." UUs have the option of choosing from a wide variety of spiritual traditions, so there is really no singular UU path. But there are some signs that one is growing in our faith that allow us to pursue our growth more intentionally.

December 24 (Saturday): Christmas Eve Service. This our traditional Christmas eve service, focused primarily on the celebration of the season through song. Service starts at 6:30pm with light reception afterwards thanks to The Alliance.

December 25: No Service today. Sunday service to resume the following week, January 1st.

Canvass Calendar Year-End Report

As you know, our church's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. The current 2012 fiscal year Canvass is nearly complete. Thanks goes to all of you who coped with two Canvass cycles in 2011 due to the Board's return to the annual Canvass instead of the "rolling" Canvass. I am pleased to report the following numbers as of December 4, 2011:

Total amount pledged: \$67,555.00

13 pledging units decreased their 2012 pledge from the 2011 pledge.

18 pledging units increased their 2012 pledge.

Six pledgers have yet to turn in their pledges for 2012. If those six pledge at 2011 levels, the church will have an addition \$3,050 in pledges. However, I suspect that only \$1,750 of that number is good.

Within a month, the Church will have to report our membership number to the UUA. It costs the Church in dues to the UUA and the District \$100 for each member. Therefore, if you receive this Newsletter and have been a member in the past but do not wish to continue your membership, please let us know. If you have not made a pledge, please return your pledge form as soon as possible.

Once again, thank you all so much for stepping up and pledging.

Marilyn Mitchell, Canvass Chair.

Events and Announcements

Trip to the DIA – December 11th

Today following service at 12:45pm the New Alliance will be attending the DIA exhibit on the Face of Jesus. We encourage all church attendees to go also. It is free if you have a DIA membership. We plan to eat lunch there and go to the 2pm showing.

Christmas Potluck and Sing-a-long December 18th

Next Sunday, December 18, 2011 1st UU will have its Annual Wassail potluck and sing-a-long in McColleston Hall after services. Please bring a dish (Entrée, Salad, Dessert, etc.) to share. We ask that all members:

1. Bring their contribution in its own container, prepared and ready to serve. Food should be able to be served at room temperature unless it is in a crockpot which can be plugged in.
2. Place their contribution directly on the food tables before services and be responsible for retrieving their own dishes and/or serveware after the potluck. (Note: Serving spoons will be provided if needed.)

All questions may be directed to Sandra Thottakath.

The Alliance Meeting

On Sunday 12/18 after the pot luck we will have a planning meeting. We have agreed to assist with the Christmas Eve afterglow and encourage people to contribute goodies on Christmas Eve. See any Alliance member if you have questions.

Winter Solstice Celebration and Potluck

There will be a special Vespers Service on Wednesday, December 21st in which there will be a Winter Solstice celebration in Memorial Hall put on by Voices for Earth Justice. The service starts at 6pm followed by a potluck dinner and sing-a-long. See Mary Lou Malone for more details.

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24th at 6:30pm. There will be light refreshments afterwards sponsored by The Alliance.

No service - Christmas Day

There will not be a service on Christmas Day. Happy holidays to everyone and we will be back with regular services in the New Year starting January 1st.

Book Discussion, January 24th

Like reading? So do we! Join Linda Darga and Kathleen Jacobs Johnson January 24th at 7pm for a discussion on the book, *Don't Think of an Elephant!: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate – The Essential Guide to Progressives* by George Lakoff (Chelsea Green Publishing). If needed, Linda has a few copies that she can lend out. If there is enough interest, then perhaps this could become a regular book club.

Alternatives for Girls

Thank you everyone once again for all of your wonderful contributions for the two girls, Monique and Casandra, that First Church sponsored for their Holiday Giving Tree. The gifts were dropped off on December 9th, and will be distributed closer to Christmas.

Social Hour Sign-Up

There will be a sign-up sheet for people interested in helping out with Social Hour (aka Coffee Hour). And yes... we really do need people to sign up. So please sign-up if you want to pitch in.



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