

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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May 18, 2008

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First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2007 – 2008

Officers

President

Alicia Biggers

Vice President

Glenn Maxwell

Immediate Past

President

Linda Darga

Board Secretary

Treasurer

Dan Wiest

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

**Minister of Faith and
Development**

Rev. Athena Kolbe

Community Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Choir Director

Gwen Foss

Church Secretary

Wendi Winston

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Lencha Acker

Sally Borden

Trey Greene

David Lingholm

Newsletter Editor

DREW'S VIEWS

My initial reaction to President Alicia Bigger's recent column, wherein she listed many, many changes at church in the recent past, was to say to myself, "No wonder I'm tired." There were about forty things that she articulated, some new, some continuing activities, all signs of progress. So I noted my initial reaction and moved on to the realization that many of the changes did not involve me - and that's a good thing!

We really can't turn the church around unless we all join together in the efforts - many small activities, some larger. When the folks who participate are ever-changing, then we have some sign of success.

That long list of recent accomplishments is evidence of many people pitching in!

The early pledge results are evidence of people deepening their commitment to the church.

When people come to church a couple of times a week, to enjoy vespers as well as Sunday Worship, for example; or to help with the business of running the church - these serve as evidence of things going well!

Can you tell I am looking for evidence all the time? Statistics are one thing, and they have some importance, but I wonder how we measure how you are feeling about church?

As far as I know, there isn't a measuring tool for contentment and commitment, but I'm interested in how you are feeling. How would you like to let me know? Feel free to drop me a note, or watch for chances at various events at church to say a word or two.

Time passes quickly, though, and here's a reminder for most and news for some - things change in summer, and that's right around the corner!

I will travel to Florida for the annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association in late June, then you won't see me for a while as I take some vacation time in the summer.

Time away is time to get recharged for more change, because that is really what we are here to do - change, transform, learn, grow - and from time to time it feels like a lot to deal with. For me, and maybe for you, it helps to step back a little and look at the big picture. Things are looking pretty good!

See you in church!

Reverend Drew

PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS

Moving forward.....

As we close one Church to start another, I want to thank each of you who have contributed from showing up, to participating to pledging your financial commitment to the Church. Together we are creating the draft plans for our future here at this corner. Together, we will have a strategy where our Church and its principles and mission statement will systemically thrive well beyond our existence here on this Earth.

I look forward to working with each of you to set the plan, approve the strategy and make it happen. This will require us to look beyond ourselves and connect with many, many others in ways we might not have thought of.....we will all need to love courageously!

I would like to thank those who have served the 2007-2008 Board of Trustees and are now leaving us as their insights and leadership will be missed on the Board but I am sure we will see their leadership elsewhere in our Church! Please thank with me the following: Lencha Acker, Sally Borden and Glenn Maxwell (who served both Vice President and Acting Secretary)!

Please welcome to the 2008-2009 Board of Trustees, Sharlene Gage, Alma King, Bill McKnight, and Jan Thompson.

Your Board of Trustees for 2008-2009 are as follows:

President – Alicia Biggers
 Vice President - Dan Wiest
 Treasurer – Sharlene Gage
 Secretary – Alma King
 Trustee – Dave Lingholm
 Trustee – Trey Greene
 Trustee – Jan Thompson
 Trustee – Bill McKnight

Please feel free to contact any Board member or any of our three ministers: Rev. Drew Johnston, Rev. Lynda Smith or Rev. Athena Kolbe and let us know what you feel about the Church, the ongoing changes, as we are listening but really need to hear from you, continuously!

Again, thank you for a great year and looking forward.....

Alicia Biggers

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, June 1, 2008** no later than **NOON** or the following **Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m.** for electronically submitted material. Contact Wendi Winston (info@1stuu.org) for information.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4. John Angry, Margaret Beck
5. Glenn Maxwell
16. Ann Harvey
18. Joe Thomas
20. David Robinson
23. James Robinson
26. Carolyn Ludwig
29. Dan Secrest

CD RECORDINGS OF THE SUNDAY SERVICE

Every Sunday Service is recorded on CD by the sound crew. Copies are made after service in coffee hour at the sound table. Please fill out the order request form as soon as possible so we can graciously make your copy for only \$5. Copies of past sermons are also available.

The sound crew schedule is as follows:

First Sunday:	Linda Darga
Second Sunday:	Len Zettel
Third Sunday:	Glenn Maxwell
Fourth Sunday:	Dan Secrest
Fifth Sunday:	Dave Lingholm

Contact them on their respective Sunday for questions. If you are interested in being on the sound crew, contact Glenn Maxwell or Dan Secrest.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 25-29th Fort Lauderdale, FL. GA Information and Tentative Agenda for Congregations, Delegates, and Attendees is available. Please let the office know if you need copies.

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Please consider joining us for one or all of our luncheons and/or programs to complete the Church year. The meal is at NOON for \$6. The program begins about 1 PM. Reservations can be

made with Eiko Takemoto or through the Church office. They should be made by noon of the Monday preceding the meeting day.

Programs to come:

June 11 (Note change to 2nd Wednesday) Musical Performance by Shades of Gold
Alma King

THEATER TICKETS

I have 13 tickets to the new play at the Detroit Repertory, *Moonshine Alley*. They are for June 14, Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. and are \$15 each with our church earning \$5 each ticket. The tickets at the door are \$20. The play is a comedy about 2 homeless people giving up their alley rights. We will be going to dinner after the theatre at the Traffic Jam. Tickets will be sold at coffee hour or you can call or email Margaret Beck 313 882 7775 margretbeck@comcast.net. Thanks ahead of time for participating in this fundraisers.
Margaret Beck

JOYS AND CHALLENGES

The congregation welcomes back long-time members: Lance Halsted, Benita Mullins, and Mildred Robinson. They have been unable to attend church due to illness and/or recovery from surgery. We miss Helen True, who is recovering from several injuries. She would enjoy cards, please send them to:

Helen True
Belmont Continuing Care Center
19840 Harper
Room 66
Harper Woods, MI 48225

We remember those who had recent losses; and send caring thoughts to Eiko Takemoto on the passing of her son, Robert. He was very helpful to the Women's Alliance in assisting with rummage sales and is missed by all.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Lauren Anderson loves to sing. She is a member of The Project Daydream Girl's Ensemble. She along with six other members were invited to sing at the director's wedding on May 10, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario. It was a beautiful experience for all. Lauren is the granddaughter of Nora Holt and the daughter of Lori Anderson.

UNLOCKING THE SONG

Dedicated to Todd Ballou, Music Director, First UU Church

*My church gave me a gift today, a gift that touched me deeply,
A gift that will not slip away, one I'll be using weekly;
The choice of which speaks empathy, acceptance, affirmation,
Awareness of a need in me for full participation.*

*What is this gift of which I speak, that's causing me to smile
And keep on smiling, week by week, and feeling so worthwhile?
Would you believe, a file-box filled with songs we sing, in Braille,
Responsive readings too—complete in every last detail?
Imagine my surprise when, after choir, I heard Todd say,
While handing me a folder, "Here's the songs we'll sing today."
And, there they were at my fingertips, in a format I can use!
And from now on, they'll be there; I have but to pick and choose.*

*No more must I just stand there, wondering what the song's about,
Feeling useless, voiceless, out-of-sync, and totally left out.
You've given me a voice again, a chance to be a part
Of music we create together, singing from our hearts.
So, is this just one more hymnbook? By no means.
It's much, much more:
The grand unlocking of the song, of one more freedom door.
Please know your gift has made me feel all warm inside, and how!
To quote a favorite hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" NOW?*

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DISTRICT INFORMATION

The Ordination of *Terrance Andrew Robinson MD* into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry at the First Universalist Church in Lyons Ohio (20 miles west of Toledo Ohio). 5 pm on Friday, August 8, 2008.

Thanks to all church members and friends who have supported the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) during our recent Spring Membership Drive. You will receive "Right Now" the UUSC newsletter, and continue to be informed about activities (such as the Right to Water, the Stop Campaign, Drumbeat For Darfur, Values in Action, and Labor Rights. Brochures and UUSC Membership applications are at the table in McCollester Hall. I look forward to talking with you, and thank you all UUSC members. Mary Neal

THANK YOU 1ST UU

Dear First UU Church,

We would like to thank you for opening your church to the Historic Houses of Worship Tours on April 7th. You have a very interesting church history and building. Ms. André Seeker did a wonderful job of presenting the church's history and architectural details while telling the group about the church today. She spoke clearly and held everyone's interest.

Your church is a valuable part of Detroit's history. It was nice to show it off to our group.

Many thanks for your willingness to be on our tour.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley G. Bradley for the Colonial Dames of American and The Detroit Historical Society.

