

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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June 1, 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

I've taken a few days to travel as we wrap up this fiscal year. I look forward to my last two Sundays of the year on the 15th and 22nd. While on this trip much of my thoughts are focused on how things are going, and where they might go next. I think the questions that have occurred to me are ones we might all want to ask ourselves, at least the ones related to our lives at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit!

It seems to me that change happens whether we are paying attention or not, and some of my questions are aimed at paying attention:

What feels different than it did a year ago?

Have I been helpful in supporting the changes we desire?

How do I know if a change is good?

In the area of change, my answers mingle the personal and the professional. I do enjoy the change of living near the church, for example! Most of my days are easier since I walk to the office, and I feel more rooted in the part of the city where we exist. I am eager to work with the planned changes in staffing for the next year, but that is anticipating change rather than reflecting on the past. One year ago I was eager about this year, too! (I suggest eagerness as a strategy when contemplating the unknown future – simply asking, “Based on what is happening now, what can I eagerly anticipate next?”)

It seems to me that I have been involved in many of the things that are changing around church, which leaves me with a large sense of responsibility and accountability. This is as it should be for me; my specialty is balancing the tension between being fully in the moment and focused on change at the same time.

Is it good? Well, we have a couple of guidelines, some statistics, attempts to quantify changes; all intended to measure “good.” And those aren't really the way to answer. It seems to me that “good change” is related to the needs of the good people who are here! Sometimes that is less about an individual than it is about the congregation as a system. We know that our mission is key to our decisions, and we can put that in the form of a question as well: Have I been strong enough to help liberate truth?

Have I been bold enough to radiate kindness?

Have I been strong enough to love courageously?

For me, the next question is always, “And how can I do better?”

There are still 1500 miles between here and there, and now you know what I'll be thinking of as I travel.

See you in church!

Reverend Drew Johnston

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, June 15, 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

All Women's Alliance members are invited to a program planning meeting for the next church year. We will meet on June 18 at 11:00 am at the home of Faye Colling. Contact Faye or Alma King for more information.

Our officers for next year will be:

President--Alma King

Vice President--Ruth Seifert

Secretary--Yvanne Ham

Treasurers--Eiko Takemoto and Yvonne Fowler

Corresponding Secretary--Mildred Robinson

THEATER TICKETS

I have 13 tickets to the new play at the Detroit Repertory, *Moonshine Alley*. They are for June 14, Saturday matinee at 3 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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS**WELCOME**

We are happy to welcome four new church members who recently signed the Membership Book to join 1st UU Church. We'll be taking more pictures to put up so you can better recognize our newer members, but in the meantime, say hello to these folks at Coffee Hour and invite them to be part of our activities--Damaris Casado, Ed Collins, Ross Fowler and Fred (Felice') Rizzo.

We will be having a new member breakfast on 6/22/08 before the church service. New members will be invited to this individually, along with Church Board Members.

Look for more activities from the Membership Committee throughout the summer and fall. And don't forget the church picnic after the church service on 6/22/08 in the side yard. This will be our church Potluck for June. If you have any

questions, call Sally Borden at 313.533.1494 or Nora Holt at 248.356.5849.

A SINCERE INVITATION

What a truly heartwarming poem by Lee Thume, as well as event depicted, published in the last newsletter. I could feel Lee Thume's joy and inspiration upon discovering her gift from Todd. This is especially poignant to me after just viewing "The Miracle Worker" this past weekend about Helen Keller's joy and awakening at learning her first, real word. For all of you who have been reading about our "new" church, and relatively new minister in the Newsletter, but have not felt the overwhelming urge to return to the fold, this sort of joy and gladness occurs here with increasing frequency these days. As some in the religious community might say, "Halleluja, we've been born again!" The difference is, we congratulate ourselves, not someone "out there." If you have been thinking about revisiting us, could I extend a sincere invitation? Come see what we are becoming as we Liberate the Truth, Radiate Kindness and Love Courageously, I, for one, would love to see you again!

Linda Darga