

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

July 20, 2008

info@1stuu.org

First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Organizational Chart
2008 – 2009

Officers

President

Alicia Biggers

Vice President

Dan Wiest

Immediate Past

President

Linda Darga

Board Secretary

Alma King

Treasurer

Sharlene Gage

Staff

Minister

Rev. Drew Johnston

Minister Emeritus

Rev. Larry Hutchison

**Minister of Faith and
Development**

Rev. Athena Kolbe

Assistant Minister

Rev. Lynda Smith

Music Director

Todd Ballou

Choir Director

Gwen Foss

Church Secretary

Wendi Winston

Building & Grounds

Joe Brimmer

Leonard Swint

(Sunday)

Trustees

Ivan Cotman

Trey Greene

David Lingholm

Bill McKnight

Newsletter Editor

DREW'S VIEWS

A brief midsummer report:

I've spent the first half of the summer with workshops and explorations and preparations for the near future. I've gathered enough notes and stories to influence several future sermons, including chance events like the following sign in a restaurant. It was hand written with brightly colored pens and attempted, in a few lines, to answer a question I hadn't thought to ask, "How do you people behave around here?"

In this place:

We do second chances

We do grace

We do real

We do mistakes

We do I'm sorrys

We do loud really well

We do hugs

We do family

We do love

They also did a decent salad, and mediocre coffee. I have been thinking about descriptions of acceptable behavior that try to capture something important about a place. I know that in churches we often call these covenants or policies and there are places for those, but what would it be like if we started like the folks at that restaurant, with some brightly colored pens and the desire to say what we value about our congregation? At least starting with an interest in listing moments that have mattered. Maybe we'll do that. . . .

Summer is like this for me, a time of collecting and ordering and planning. More will follow. I'll join with two key groups from church for their extended meetings in August. The Board of Trustees will gather for a day and a half; and on a later weekend the Worship Committee will gather to consider where they will focus this year. Sometime between those two meetings, I plan to actually vacate, make a trip that has nothing to do with work - engage in something that is so separate from work that I will stop thinking of meetings and systems and planning for a few moments. And I encourage you each to seek a similar balance and contrast in your days - some time collecting ideas that may inspire your future actions, and some time truly resting.

We have a big year ahead of us! Let's prepare for it by balancing our own days. There is a lot of summer left - enjoy!

See you in church –

Drew

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, August 17, 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.

PRESIDENT'S PONDERING

Hello Detroit!

It's been awhile since I last wrote a column for the newsletter but that is not to say your staff, officers and Board members are not busy these summer days! We are planning for a Board Off-Site August 1st and 2nd which will help your Board unite and move forward with the business of the Church. Our next Board meeting is scheduled for August 13th where you will see implemented the results of this off-site.

You will notice too that many of your committees and work groups are also hard at work building our future from the worship committee (planning for the summer then its own retreat to plan for the forthcoming year) to the Bridges program and their summer Adventure Camp to Chicagoland. We know many of you are enjoying the summer as well as recharging yourselves with vacation time. We look forward to seeing you during summer services and if not, when our regular schedule begins.

Meanwhile, remember our mission statement to "liberate the truth, radiate kindness and love courageously" by inviting a friend, family member, neighbor, associate, acquaintance to visit with us to see another view. We stand on a solid foundation of liberal, progressive and social justice minded citizens and we should be proud to invite them to our home, our Church.

Again, enjoy the summer and see each of you soon!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2. Lynda Smith
- 15. Rhonda Rodgers, Maysel Brooks
- 26. Pat Pilafian
- 27. Carolyn Reed

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.

RECYCLING

Please note that we have recycling bins at 1st UU Detroit to recycle the paper, plastic and glass items which the Church generates. For the past few months, the effort has been successful as we have placed over 12 containers of recycle materials to the Detroit Recycle Center (Midtown). Unfortunately, we do not have volunteers to help with taking the materials to the Recycle Center and the person handling this can no longer do it alone. Can you help us keep this effort going and represent our 7th principle?

If so, please provide your name and contact information and which day you can help take the materials to the center? It only requires 30 minutes or less, twice a month. The center is open Wednesdays from 9am to 1pm and Saturdays from 9am to 3pm.

If no volunteers step forward, we will sadly have to let this project drop and remove recycling from 1st UU Detroit.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment books will be for sale at coffee hour after church August 10th for \$20. You can use the new edition immediately. The old 2008 edition is good until November 1, 2008. There are a few coupons in the glossy section that are good until 12-31-08. Margaret Beck

SUNDAE SUNDAY

On July 27th we'll have a Sundae Sunday--you can buy ice cream and toppings for \$2 after the church service.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

We have continued to have a steady stream of new members (19) signing our Membership Book since April, 2007. To celebrate this forward movement of our church, we had a new member breakfast on Sunday morning, 6/22/08 at 9:30 am. Ten of our new members accepted our invitation and they were Nathan Andren, Demaris Casado, Dessa Cosma, Ed Collins, Ruth Decker, Ross Fowler, Lee Gaddies, Yvanne Ham, Ryan King and David Lingholm. The breakfast was put on by the Membership Committee, which consists of Sally Borden, Maysel Brooks, Nora Holt, Alma King, and Mary Neale. Our Senior Minister, Rev. Drew Johnston, shared in the event and each new member was welcomed with a book about Unitarian Universalism.

We plan to continue to have similar events as more people join us in membership.

ABOUT US

Have you met our newest member, Laurel Hoa? Introduce yourself and greet her and other new members and friends when you see them at church. In the past two years, we have welcomed 19 new members. Have you gotten to know them?

Ask Nathan Andren about his passion for the Morton's List game, Random Reality. Nathan is often seen in church with his grandmother, Ruth Decker. He was raised in Highland Park and in Ferndale and lives in Detroit's The Lofts at Rivertown. A graduate of the University of Michigan, Nathan majored in Environmental Policy and Behavior, School of Natural Resources. He works in merchandising with a music recording company, and travels frequently for his job.

Commander Ross Fowler, United States Coast Guard, retired, and a former teacher of commercial art in the Detroit Public Schools, is recovering at home from a brain concussion. He is a graduate of Michigan State University and has recently joined our church.

In June, 19 members and friends of First U.U. attended training workshops and were certified to tutor adult students at the Siena Literacy Center. According to Sharon Mills, their Volunteer Support Arm, "I was blown away by the number of volunteer from our church". In November, 8 more people from First U.U. will qualify in the Pro Literacy America Volunteer Tutoring Training.

Longtime member, Helen True, moved to American House last week. She is at 11525 Farmington Road, Livonia 48150.

Last month, Adventure Camp at Indiana Dunes State Park was led by Athena Kolbe, and attended by 10 teen-agers and 5 adults. The first UU kids included Maya, Andrew, Dougie, CaSandra, Desire, Lauren, Mariana, and Damon. Two youth who are active in district leadership, Dayna and Shanon, also accompanied us, as did the parents of one of those youth. Emphasis was on creative team building, and despite rain, they seemed to enjoy nature walks, swimming, attending the theater, climbing dunes, and participating in cooking meals. Ask Athena, Nora Holt, and Carolyn Ludwig about the spiritual content of this experience.

Lee Gaddies, our 1st UU board member is running for Michigan State Representative in the 7th District. Lee has been endorsed by the Sierra Club. Congrats Lee for getting this environmental endorsement. We need people like you to look after our planet.

If you have items that you would like to see in this column, please contact me (phone - 313-562-0776 or email - helenmary3@gmail.com).

DIAMOND JACK BOAT TRIP

Sunday, August 17th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. We need to be in line to board at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$11.00 per person (a \$2.00 discount for seniors and a \$2.00 discount for AARP). A flyer will be available soon with directions to the dock and parking, and all the information needed for the trip.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is currently comprised of the following members, in addition to our professional staff.

- * Lencha Acker
- * Mary Lou Malone
- * Dan Secrest
- * Sherry Wells
- * Len Zettel

If you are interested in joining the Worship Committee, or have any questions regarding the committee's activity, please let one of us know.

Summer Services, 2008 -- 10:00 A.M.

Coffee and conversation following

- July 27** *Say Nice!* --Sherry A. Wells
 "Love thy neighbor as thyself," a check-up and tips on how to do both better.
- Aug. 3** *Justice in the Middle East*--Sarah Smith-Redmond. She reports on her trip last fall, with 9 other U.U.s, to Israel/Palestine to observe first-hand.
- Aug. 10** *Environmental Justice in Southeast Michigan* --Reverend Lynda Smith
 Global warming, sustainability, urban agriculture, buy local--the issues are compelling and contentious. Environmental justice calls for public policy that promotes environmentally safe livelihoods and neighborhoods for all people. It demands an economic and cultural liberation that will change us all.
- Aug. 17** *TBA*, Reverend Drew Johnston
 Refreshed from his vacation.
- Aug. 24** *Age is Not A Disease*--Averil Spence-Clarke, visiting from the UU congregation in Windsor, Ontario
- Aug. 31** *Water Ceremony*--Reverend Drew Johnston
 We pool water from the lakes, oceans, etc. that we visited over the summer.

All are welcome; visit and bring visitors