

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

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August 17, 2008

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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 new church year is like a bonus on the calendar – a chance to define and adjust goals and recommit to making things happen. I've been thinking a lot about what I need out of this year, and about what we need together. Turns out they are much the same!

We need to continue to make improvements and adjustments in how we lead our congregation into the future. It may not sound like much, but this is a matter at the core of our identity and until our form of leadership is clear and widely understood we build on shaky ground. At our summer retreat your Board of Trustees increased their understanding and commitment to lead us, from simple things like agreeing to show up to more complex like learning and implementing a new planning technique called the "Logic Model."

We all need to be flexible. I know that I frequently have to let go of things that don't work, or ideas that came at a bad time. And of course new things happen and can't be ignored.

Making this congregation as healthy and attractive as we need it to be will continue to take the great efforts of a solid core of committed individuals, and more – more effort, more commitment, more individuals. We have some new resources to help make that happen.

But first, something specific about our needs: I need/We need this to be a remarkable year! Something may come to mind for you when I say that, and you can be assured that I have a couple of things in mind. Of course there will be a national election that we hope will mark a significant turning point for our nation, and while that is happening let's make our own turning point!

I need/We need courage. Change is hard even when it is desired and needed. We have done a lot since I got here, and all we need is to do many times as much now. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What a new face courage puts on everything." Indeed, let such courage become our first priority. We have declared our mission to liberate truth, radiate kindness, and love courageously. As we proceed with that mission we will notice how remarkable our year is becoming!

Of course nothing we do is sustainable unless we show our commitment in multiple ways. I need/We need a remarkable funding plan this year. Your Trustees will be addressing aspects of planning, and I need/We need to know who I will be working with to champion the funding needs of the congregation. Traditionally, funding is centered on an Annual Canvass of all members and friends to gather pledges of support, just like public radio, except with fewer interruptions of programming. This role needs to be filled now, within the next few weeks! "Someone else" is not going to take care of this, I need/We need YOU to step up and consider this crucial task.

Continued from page 1

There are a thousand other tasks that need attention, jobs to finish, chores to do of all sizes. There are three people for you to talk to about YOUR willingness and interest in doing what I need/We need – of course you can talk to me anytime. I won't tell you what you have to do, but I will help you consider a great match of interest and need, so that whatever you do is something we actually need done. Our Assistant Minister, Lynda Smith is ready to hear from you, too. Part of the focus of her job is to help find a good fit for volunteer activities. And you can talk to your church President, Alicia Biggers. Any of the three of us will know of things that need attention, and if you want to do something that isn't on our list we can help make that happen, too. One of the remarkable things this year will be how much we respect the efforts of individuals and strive to avoid wasting the good work of good people. What part do YOU want to play in this most remarkable year?

Let us know –
Drew

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, September 7, 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.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2. Gwen Foss
3. Steve Walker, Lance Halsted
13. Dan Kosmowski
16. Art Gabhart
20. Gladys Santiago
27. Dessa Cosma

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.

CHILI SUPPER

Quote from Hoagy Carmichael – tune and words by Johnny Mercer for movie “Here Comes the Groom”

“In the cool, cool, cool of the evening
Tell them I'll be there
In the cool, cool, cool of the evening
Better save a chair
When the party's getting a glow on
And singing fills the air
You can tell them, I'll be there”

You are invited to party also! Where?

The First UU Church
Chili Supper Dance
Saturday, October 18
6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Line dancing for all ages.

Save the date. Put it on your calendar – You and your friends will be there in the cool of a very special October evening.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

I will be selling Entertainment Books every Sunday I attend church at coffee hour. The books are \$20 with the church getting \$4 from each sale. I will soon have \$100 for our church treasure from the sales to a few members, friends, and my family. The new books have Meier grocery and dept. store coupons, Avalon Bakery, Hillberry Theatre, Edsel Ford Estate tours and tearoom, the Polish Yacht Club, The Ivanhoe near church and many more great values. There are big savings on hotels and car rentals and stores. You will not only save money and help the church, you will also have a lot of fun. Margaret Beck

WITH SYMPATHY

Margaret Bank passed away on July 25th. Some of you may remember that Margaret Bank and her husband attended our church in the late '70's and '80's. They lived in Grosse Pointe Woods.
Margaret Beck

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The young adults of 1st UU have formed a social group that plans outings once a month. For more information, or to be added to the listserv, please email Laurel Hoa at alwagner@umd.edu.

GAIA WOMEN OF THE GREAT LAKES BASIN

Will perform "Water: A Sacred Trust" in concert Saturday, October 25, 2008 at 7:00 pm at First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor. Please join us for singing, drumming, reflection, and music for all ages in celebration of and reverence for our precious waters. First UU of Ann Arbor is located at 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Presented by Celebrating the Planet, an environmental task force at First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor. Contact: Colleen Crawley ccrawley59@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!

MEADVILLE LOMBARD

Meadville Lombard is now offering courses in formats that make it easier for working religious professionals and lay leaders to broaden or deepen their theological and congregational understanding.

These on-campus courses were designed in a format best suited to developing religious leadership skills--a format that is face-to-face and heart-to-heart. Visit our website for a full listing and course syllabi and to register online. Please note that the tuition does not include lodging, and registrants will need to apply for Student at Large status (\$45.00) and pay a registration fee of \$50.00.

Contact Erika Chavez, Director of Admissions, at 773.256.3000 x 250 for more information.

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

Coffee and conversation following

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