

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

September 21, 2008

[info@1stuu.org](mailto: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**

*Volunteer Needed*

**DREW'S VIEWS**

Reverend Drew is fully immersed in a conference called "Dialogues the Deliver: Generative Practices in Collaboration, Conflict, and Community" and suggests we publish this issue of the newsletter now, rather than wait for him to find time to write a column. He signs off with -

See you in church!

## **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

From the last newsletter you learned that your Board has transition to a "policy centered" board which means our focus will be to create and publish policies to support and guide the business of the Church. This is a "model of governance designed to empower boards to fulfill their obligation of accountability for the organizations (i.e. Church) they govern. The model enables the board to focus on the larger issues, to delegate with clarity, to control management's (for us staff) job without meddling, to rigorously evaluate the accomplishment of the organization; to truly lead its organization." As we update or create and publish policies you will be notified. You will also be asked to help craft these policies as you participate with the Church through committees, small groups or task forces. This is an ideal opportunity for you to help write our future too!

The "Policy Manual" will begin to take shape this year and be available in print and electronic format via the Church Office. Do you want to learn more about this governance model? Find out more at <http://www.carvergovernance.com/model.htm> or read Boards That Make a Difference by John Carver.

To support our policy creation and maintenance, we approved (per our By-Laws) which committees will be "official" or approved for this Church year of 2008-2009. You will find your Board Trustees engaging members to assist with policy and procedures and we welcome your participation as well.

### **Here are the committees for the 2008-2009**

#### **Church year:**

- Finance
- Funding/Canvass
- Worship
- Social Justice / MOSES
- Membership
- Communications (internal/external)

Additional committees will be included as the year progresses and for now, these are the official committees. Also the Board has a "committee of the board" call Portfolio Management which will help ensure the Board manages its portfolio work based on our three goals of 1) Fiduciary, 2) Planning and 3) Policy

As you see, there is much to do and as your Board steps up to do its role, I hope as a pledged member, you step up for your role too! Unsure where or how to step up? Just ask any of us.....

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 – Ivan Cotman  
 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, how you want to be of use or service, as we are listening but really need to hear from you, continuously!

Looking to hear from you soon!

Alicia Biggers

## **REV. LYNDA'S LIST**

This church year marks a turning point in my life. Being Assistant Minister in my home church will be transforming. I do have insights to share but I also have some baggage that needs dropping. I don't let go of baggage willingly, usually it happens when someone calls me on my "stuff". But I love the ministry and I have energy and enthusiasm to help make this year a remarkable turning point for First UU. I feel that we are "good and getting better" at *Church Life*.

One of my roles is to help you find a good fit for your talents and needs in *Church Life*. I just had a good conversation with a congregant who was reflecting that she spent her professional life planning. In her *Church Life* she did not want to plan, but rather be with people doing activity together. Please call me or see me about making your *Church Life* satisfying. Find the space that supports your spiritual journey and your contribution to our unique church.

When I come to church on Sundays, I feel light because I see old friends and I get to know new members. I feel light because I see church members and visitors getting to know each other. I see folks helping out when they see a task needing

attention. Rev. Athena and I are seeking adults who want share their talent and interests with the young people and children during church. The commitment could be for only one or several times depending on your energy and interest. Thanks to Ross Fowler and Lencha Acker for volunteering already.

Next, we are restarting recycling at church. Linda Kernohan and Suzanne McGill have volunteered already. It would be great to have a couple more people to make this a lighter task.

Finally, Drew and I will be co-facilitating an Evensong series of discussions about individual life journeys. We will share experiences, doubts and beliefs. This begins October 1<sup>st</sup> after Vespers (which also begin 10/1).

Thanks to Dan Wiest for bringing fruit for coffee hour. There will be a sign-up sheet for others to take a turn. Many hands make light work. Then they'll be time for Homiletics, Vespers, Conversation, Community Outreach, Evensong...or what you decide you are seeking. And we will experience the blessings inherent in *Church Life*.

In faith and friendship, Lynda

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, October 5, 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.

### **OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 2. Earl Harvey
- 4. Donna Walker
- 6. Robert Lauer
- 7. Nora Holt
- 26. Yvanne Ham

### **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.

### **IS IT PREACHING?**

How is a sermon different than a lecture? What is it that separates a Worship event from the rest of our activities? If you wonder these things, or if you feel you have a message inside of you to deliver, please join us for a four session class called "Homiletics: To Teach and to Move." In our liberal movement we define homiletics broadly, and that is where we will begin. We will consider sources, techniques, and content, and there will be "homework." By the end you will have written a message and we will have listened. Think of this as similar to a creative writing class, with distinctive differences! The series is scheduled for September 30th, October 21st and 28th. You may note a preference for 6 pm or 7 pm starting time when you register. We need at least 6 people to sign up for this offering, so please leave a message in the office or with Reverends Lynda or Drew, who will be leading this together.

### **ABOUT Us**

Your membership committee believes that church members and friends like to know more about each other, so when you see Maysel Brooks, talk to her about her past intended trip around the world, and her sojourn in the Berkeley, California area. Maysel grew up in our church neighborhood, and graduated from Commerce High School. She taught for two years after graduating from Wayne State University with degrees in English Literature and in Secondary Education. She and a friend planned a trip around the world; after hitch-hiking through Europe, her companion returned to the States, and Maysel remained in Beirut for 9 months, while teaching English as a second language. She traveled around Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel. Then, she joined her parents in Florida for a year and a half and worked as a legal secretary.

California beckoned, and Maysel moved to the San Francisco Bay area where she lived for 25 years. She joined Zen Buddhist Shasta Abbey,

attended a priory in Berkeley, and participated in retreats at Shasta Monastery. While in California, she became affiliated with the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Kensington and found our church after she returned to the Detroit area.

Carl Jung's dream theories fascinate Maysel, and she has studied them for 25 years, and has led some "dream workshops". She now meets monthly with 4 people in Ann Arbor, to focus on dream work.

Although retired from Detroit Public Schools, Maysel is now employed as an ESL teacher in adult education with the Dearborn Public Schools.

Our membership Committee member Maysel has recently moved and her new address is: 41 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Dearborn Heights 48127.

Phone: 313-274-0230

Please contact me at [helenmary3@gmail.com](mailto:helenmary3@gmail.com) or phone me at 313-562-0776. Mary Neale

### **JIM SCOTT CONCERT**

UU Singer/Poet/Songwriter Jim Scott will hold a concert at First UU Church on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door.

### **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.

### **WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

Everyone is invited to join the Women's Alliance! We have weathered many changes and seem to be an inherent part of the landscape here

at 1<sup>st</sup> UU. Even so, we need your support. How can you do this? (1) Attend our monthly luncheons and programs. We work hard to plan programs on topics that we think will be of interest. There is no charge for attending the program portion, but lunch will cost \$8. (2) Join the Unitarian-Universalist Women's Federation (UUWF). Membership is open to all. Dues are \$25 a year that are sent to the UUWF to support their projects. UUWF is an organization that supports projects through grants that benefit women. Funded projects around the world advance equity and justice for women through education and advocacy. Other grants are available to support UU women in scholarly, prophetic and innovative explorations of religious feminisms. Descriptions of the projects supported are available on the UUWF web site, UUWF.org. You do not need to join UUWF to be part of our monthly group, although it is strongly encouraged. Those who pay dues have voting rights with regard to Women's Alliance business. UUWF is an independent non-profit and one of three associate member organizations of the Unitarian-Universalist Association. (The other two are the UU Service Committee and the UU United Nations Office.)

The Women's Alliance will be collecting non-perishable food for Gleaners – a non profit agency that distributes food to those in need. The collection barrel will be placed in McColleston Hall beginning the first week in September. The collection will continue until October 15<sup>th</sup> (monthly luncheon) at which time the group will entertain a speaker from Gleaners Community. The collected food will be turned over to the representative at that time.

Our next luncheon/meeting will be Wednesday October 15. Our speaker will be, Bill Winkler, from Gleaners Community Food Bank. He will share information about what Gleaners does to collect and distribute food. Lunch is at Noon and the program begins at 1 PM. Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Reservations for the luncheon need to be made by Noon of the previous Monday by contacting Eiko Takemoto or the Church Office. Please consider joining us!! Remember that membership is open to everyone! Other questions? Contact Alma King.

**MOSES OPEN HOUSES TO SHOW  
REGIONAL MASS TRANSIT PLANS**

From 4 to 7 p.m. at these locations:

Wed. 9/24--U of M Dearborn

Thur. 9/25--Ferndale Community Center

Wed. 10/1--Freedom Hill, Sterling Hts.

Thur. 10/2--440 Burroughs, Detroit

For more info., [www.mosesmi.org](http://www.mosesmi.org) or (313) 962-5290

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTLET**

I thought Universalists didn't believe in hell until the UUA sent us to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida in June for the GA!

In addition to coordinating the U.U. Esperanto Network booth, (of course!), I attended sessions about two areas: Campus Ministry and Marketing/Publicity.

One point which struck me is that we raise our children as UUs, then send them off to college without that support system. No other religious counseling office could do for them quite like one of ours. So we are, in effect, stranding them.

Another, which related to both areas, came in a question from a Florida congregation. "We understand you need children and families to grow but we are predominantly a retirement community."

The answer: reach out to who is there. And actually, there are always newly retired people coming to Florida AND new students to a university (new faculty, too).

During our Worship Committee retreat, Len Zettel stated that he would like us to step back and look at how our community has changed since the congregation was first established and operate with that "new" reality in mind.

I hope this opens up some discussion. I'll gather my notes on both for anyone interested.  
Sherry A. Wells [esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net)  
248-543-5297

**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 money and help the church, you will also have hotels and car rentals and stores. You will not only save a lot of fun. Margaret Beck

**FROM the MOUTHS of EVERYONE**

"I can't even get rid of the stuff I'm trying to get rid of" Helen True

"We probably ain't alone (in the universe)." Len Zettel

"My food needs to be dehydrated." "Did you know there's not dinosaurs in our city anymore?"

"Did you know there's not dinosaurs in our city anymore?" Alex age 4 (Church visitor)

"I eat all kinds of candy." Maddy age 6 (Church visitor)

"E.I.E.I.O." Dr. Gene Perrin

"I can't think of anything more important than trying to bless someone's life." Katy Herzia, painter

"He's dead, I'm crippled, your lost. I guess that's how war is. I wonder who won." *The Longest Day*

"The sewer is the conscience of the city" *CSI: Miami*

"What the hell do I care what I'll look like? I'll be dead" Ruth Siefert (re: funerals)

"Bears come around for food – they don't come to watch TV." *Nature TV* program

from Elayne Sikelianos