

# First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit

4605 Cass Avenue

313-833-9107 - Office

Detroit, MI 48201

313-833-0127 – Fax

October 19, 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

*Trey Greene*

*David Lingholm*

*Bill McKnight*

## Newsletter Editor

*Volunteer Needed*

## DREW'S VIEWS

I've been thinking about the imminent arrival of winter. I know it's a little bit early for that – there is plenty of autumn left to enjoy. Yet winter will soon be upon us and our activities change, our energy seems to come from a different place than it does the rest of the year, and we use our energy in different ways.

There is a great strength in winter energy and the ways people get together during the cold, short days and long nights of winter. My favorite thing about winter holidays is the feeling I get when people come in from the cold and enjoy the company of others for a while. At the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit we mark the usual holidays – Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's – which each have their routines. In December we also have Noël Night and Kwanzaa, two activities that are newer to me yet fit into our local winter routine. Already this year we have had an evening of Chili Dinner and dancing, as well as a concert with Jim Scott. The Woman's Alliance has a full schedule for their monthly luncheons. Each of these events is the kind where folks come in from the cold and enjoy the company of others for a while, sharing some activity.

Like most churches we also gather together on Sunday mornings. Sunday is our most regular time of togetherness and it is always most enjoyable when you show up, bring a friend and maybe a neighbor, and together we experience the flow of worship and social time. At our church, we also gather on Wednesday evenings for church night. Maybe we can think of Sunday as "Church Morning" and Wednesday as "Church Night." The functions are similar in many ways.

Church Night is still a fairly new event for us, and it's worth explaining again what happens. At 6 p.m. there is a meal. We bring food in from local restaurants and enjoy a quick and easy meal. (We try to keep the cost as low as possible, and it is usually \$8). At 6:30 we move to the sanctuary and have a short service, our version of vespers. For us, this service is usually a mix of poetry, music, and silence. Sometimes there will other styles of vespers – storytelling or a homily, for example. The service is brief so that we can move on to the rest of the evening. This year we are trying to have multiple choices every Wednesday. Some folks sit down to take care of the business of the church on Wednesdays – the Board of Trustees, the Membership Committee, and the Worship Committee have scheduled their meetings to coincide with Church Nights. Our first Evensong group meets on some Wednesdays, and there is a Singing Circle that also uses Wednesdays.

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### **DREW'S VIEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

Last week, games followed vespers, and there are individual classes and learning opportunities that we are offering on other Wednesdays as well. When it works well, every Wednesday evening begins with the meal, vespers, then a choice of activities that ranges from pure business to pure socializing.

As the seasons change and the days become shorter and colder, consider how you can use our church as a place to come in from the cold and enjoy the company of others for a while. This is one way we can be of use to each other. Oh, and another way? Be sure to vote in the upcoming election!

See you in church –  
Reverend Drew

### **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

As most of you know, communication is a collaborative effort and your Board of Trustees takes this effort seriously! You will find posted on the "Governance Bulletin Board" outside the Sanctuary the Board minutes for the past year. These minutes are also posted to our web site (<http://www.1stuu.org>) under the governance section. You will also find the Trustees available on any given Sunday as well as our monthly Board meetings to answer your questions.

As we are dedicating select Saturday afternoons to work on the Church's comprehensive plan, you will also see your Trustees update the membership using Order of Service inserts as well as announcements on Sunday morning. We have assigned ourselves with a deadline of March 2009 to present a draft to the Congregation, however, before that time; you will be informed of the plan as you will have helped craft the plan.

You may be aware that Dr. Ivan Cotman has elected to step down from the Board to focus on his committee work (Nominating and Memorial Fund) including helping the Board with a leadership succession plan. As last year, the Board of Trustees will utilize the Nominating Committee for recommendations regarding open Board positions as well as other Committee positions.

You will continue to see your Board work through the easy and not so easy aspects of governance to ensure your voice and your future are planned for which means we may not be "nice" but we will be "kind" in every decision made or policy created. All policies since 2007-2008 Church year will be available in the Church office with a formal manual to be published, hopefully, this Church year.

On another note, you can see the fall season has begun which means the holiday season will be shortly upon us. Make sure you mark your calendar for the following events:

- 1) **1<sup>st</sup> UU Detroit Orientation, Sunday October 26, 2008 @ 1:00pm**  
*If you are new or just want to explore what Unitarian Universalism is all about, this brief intro is for you!*
- 2) **Election Day – Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Make it count! Bring a neighbor or a friend to the polls**
- 3) **Holiday Decorating Day – Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**  
*Join us for an evening of fun decorating all our buildings from the sanctuary, McColleston Hall, Memorial Hall (Church House) to the outside. We'll begin decorating in earnest at 5pm with food and drink available! Come get in the season!!*
- 4) **Noel Night – Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (4pm -9pm)**  
*Our annual "Open House" to the community where we offer music (via the Cultural Center Association) in the sanctuary, shopping and kids activities in McColleston Hall and of course cider and cookies for all. We WELCOME volunteers from helping with the kids crafts to stage hands for the music to docents for tours.....interested, great just let us know which hour you can donate your time!!*

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 is as follows:

President – Alicia Biggers  
 Vice President - Dan Wiest  
 Treasurer – Sharlene Gage  
 Secretary – Alma King  
 Trustee – Dave Lingholm  
 Trustee – Trey Greene  
 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*

### **FROM THE ASSISTANT MINISTER**

After my sermon of 10/19, I had a request to publish the five principles of liberalism. The great Unitarian Universalist theologian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, James Luther Adams, said our religious tradition was based on the principles that: 1) nothing is exempt from criticism; 2) relations between persons ought to be based on mutual consent, not force; 3) humans have a moral obligation to help create a just and loving community; 4) justice in community must express itself in...“forms of education, in economic and societal organization, in political organization”; 5) we recognize the tragic nature of the human condition and we live with dynamic hope.

Here’s a paraphrasing of these based upon how I see our church’s situation now. 1) For the common good of the congregation, the leadership needs to sift through ideas and come up with the best plan. Everyone is encouraged to offer their opinions, including how the leaders are doing. 2) We respect the dignity and rights of each of us. The church has behavioral expectations for courtesy and fair process in decision making. Honest and open communication is essential in relations. 3) We participate in Community Based Organizing through MOSES for a better quality of life for Metro Detroit. 4) We tutor, mentor, get out the vote, recycle and do so many other activities to promote justice locally and globally. 5) We accept life in its fullness of joys and sorrows. We help each other learn to be resilient and realistic. We

invest in each other to promote our common good and the larger community common good.

*Rev. Lynda Smith*

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for printed material is **Sunday, November 2, 2008** no later than NOON or the following Monday, no later than 9:00 a.m. for electronically submitted material. Please send your material to Wendi Winston at [info@1stuu.org](mailto:info@1stuu.org).

### **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

2. Caroline Taylor, Mary Lee Ventzke  
 9. Rev. Drew Johnston  
 15. Jim Harvey  
 19. Pearl Samples  
 23. Jerry Williams  
 24. Margaret Wilkie

### **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.

### **ABOUT Us**

Carole Harvey was born and raised near Boston. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at Framingham State College, and a Master’s in School Counseling at Suffolk University. Her parents were in a religiously- mixed marriage, her father Catholic and her mother Protestant. Her sister went to a Unitarian-Universalist church and introduced Carole to our denomination. Her mother now attends a UU Church as well.

When Carole’s sister died two months after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer, Carole was deeply involved with her sister’s three young children,

and spent three years helping raise them. She misses them and anticipates seeing them in Boston during the holiday season.

Carole specializes in massage for those who have had cancerous lymph nodes removed, and does massage in the Detroit area.

She volunteers on the Obama campaign, and is on the Women's Committee planning for Noel Night at the African-American Museum in Detroit.

Carole met her husband, Richard, on e-Harmony, then joined him in Maryland. She attended Washington's All Soul's Church while there, and trained as a massage therapist also. Richard was raised in Detroit, and is extremely interested in helping rebuild the city, and they decided to relocate here. He works for Bank of America which is investing in the rehabilitation of the historic Kales Building and converting it into apartments. Carole and Richard live in Detroit's Riverfront Apartments.

Welcome to this compassionate and committed couple. Our church and Detroit are fortunate to benefit from their presence here.

If you have suggestions about this column, please contact Mary Neale at 313-562-0776 or [helenmary3@gmail.com](mailto:helenmary3@gmail.com)

### **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](http://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.)

### **THANKS FROM WOMEN'S ALLIANCE**

The Women's Alliance would like to thank everyone for their donations of food items and money for our food drive for Gleaners Community Food Bank. We did fill up the two large barrels and over \$100 in checks was donated! Look for information in the future about some other activities with Gleaners.

### **FROM THE JIM SCOTT CONCERT COMMITTEE**

Thanks to all who supported the Jim Scott concert on October 11. It was a delightful evening of wonderful guitar music and signing. And we earned \$95 for the Church treasury.

### **AFTER THE INCINERATOR, WHAT?**

I've been bragging about 1st Church's part in ridding the region of the incinerator.

But now what? Let's take a tour.

On Saturday morning, Nov. 15, South Oakland Resource Recovery (SOCRRA), located at 3910 W. Webster Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073 ([www.socrra.org](http://www.socrra.org)) is giving tours of its processing center. Open time is 10:30, but I'd need to tell them about how many and when so they could assure us a guide. Its website has links to those companies, which buy the recyclables as well as ALL the stuff we here in SE Oakland can now recycle. (Ferndale gets paid \$55 ton for recyclables and pays \$37 ton for trash. Do the math!!) I'll coordinate and pick up anyone between Ferndale, where I live, and SOCRRA. Who else should we invite? R.S.V.P. A.S.A.P. Sherry A. Wells  
[esperantosherry@tm.net](mailto:esperantosherry@tm.net)  
248-543-5297

**CHILI SUPPER DANCE**

The Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> Chili Supper Dance is now just a memory of a warm convivial evening at First UU Church at the cordial corner of Cass and Forest.

Again, thank you, all 45 of you, who helped make the fun hours possible. I want to give special recognition to Trey and Colleen Dolan Greene and Stuart and Lynda Smith who used their Costco cards to shop for all of the food ingredients and beverages. A special kudo to Elayne Sikelianos who was a “main-stay” for the 2 days we cooked in the kitchen.

I’ve been part of sponsoring social events going back as far as high school days, and I must tell you that I have learned that if a UU agrees to take on a responsibility, you can count on “A-Follow-Through”. Love to all.

Loyally,  
Faye Colling, a member of the Membership Committee

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS**

Entertainment books have raised \$160 this fall. I have a few more to sell for \$20 each and can order more. Thanks to all who bought books. A few buyers also purchased them for gifts. Every year I give some as presents. My beautician used her so much and really appreciated the savings. I used to take my mother out to dinner using the coupon

and she enjoyed it better than going out without one. Single women, fellows will appreciate you bringing a coupon on a date. The books make great Christmas presents. I will have them for sale at coffee hour. Margaret Beck

**PLAY DEFIANCE**

I have 10 tickets to the play, *Defiance*, at the Detroit Rep. they are \$15 with the church getting \$5. They are for Saturday Matinee at 3 p.m. November 8<sup>th</sup>. The theatre is at 13103 Woodrow Wilson in Detroit. To get there you go out the John Lodge get off at Glendale, turn left and go a block or two to Woodrow Wilson turn right, on the left there will be the theatre and a guarded, fenced in parking lot. I will have the tickets at coffee hour or you can call or email. Margaret Beck 313-882- 7775 [margretbeck@comcast.net](mailto:margretbeck@comcast.net).

*Defiance* by Pulitzer Prize winning author John Patrick Shanley takes place at a Marine Corp base. It is run by Colonel Littlefield who only sees black, white, blue, or stupid. He sees Marines and sees the racial unrest as a Marine unity problem. He hopes that Captain King, who is an African American, will help him fix this problem and this will give Littlefield a chance for his one last promotion. When Colonel Littlefield invites the black officer to his home to discuss the building tensions unexpected and profound events turn the discourse from race to an even deeper exchange that touches the heart and soul of all involved.  
Margaret Beck