

APRIL 2004

Allegheny ADVOCATE

monthly newsletter of allegheny unitarian universalist church

APRIL 4

Significance Of Place

John Meikle

John will share some ideas developed from life experience growing up in a traditional farming community in Scotland, more recent thoughts developed through travel back to those roots, and attempts to find connections to the land in the North Side. In particular, these ideas will relate to issues where we (Allegheny) 'are' in the literal sense.

APRIL 11

Easter Service (Intergenerational)

Rev. Dave Lutz

Everyone is invited for breakfast at 9:30 and then for our morning Service at 11:00 in which we celebrate new life in story and song. Kids won't want to miss the Easter egg hunt at the end of the Service!

APRIL 18

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action. This morning, we acknowledge Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Another Kind of Justice 11:00 AM

Pat Zerega

Pat Zerega is Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. With this role and her own faith journey comes the commitment that our faith informs all aspects of our lives – including our investment choices. She will touch on the tools of faith-based investing as well as current work being done through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

APRIL 25

Love at the Welcome Table

Ministerial Candidate

Love is at the center of the current civil rights struggle like never before. We're struggling to breathe life into the principle of respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Come celebrate the Welcome Table!

MAY 2

Radical Faith

Ministerial Candidate

Unitarians and Universalists have tried to get right to the root of faith. We have professed to be the religion OF Jesus rather than the religion ABOUT Jesus. As we gather to take that radical step of voting on the future ministry of Allegheny UU Church, our candidate for minister will share the vision of his faith, the faith of a radical, the radical faith.

Sunday Services
at Allegheny
Unitarian
Universalist
Church begin
at 11 o'clock.
All are welcome!

SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

Pat Downey, Committee Chair

Candidate Week Upon Us

As you read this, the Search Committee is close to finalizing the details of inviting a minister to be our candidate. The week of April 25 – May 2 has been reserved as *Candidating Week*.

This busy week will include the ministerial candidate leading the Services on April 25 and May 2. During the week between, our goal is for everyone in the congregation to have an opportunity to meet with the candidate either for a meal, social gathering, or with your committee. We will keep everyone informed as the schedule for candidating week comes together.

The second Sunday Service comes at the end of the week, after which, the congregation will vote on whether to call the candidate to be our minister. The Search Committee hopes that everyone will be able to attend both Services and schedule the time to be present for the congregational discussion and vote that will take place immediately following the May 2 Service.

We look forward to the possibility that we will be calling our next minister in the near future.

The week of April 25 – May 2 has been reserved as candidating week

ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

Rev. Dave Lutz

Making A Difference

As most of us – but not all of us – know, Allegheny believes that part of our reason for being is to make a difference in the community.

And since larger and more diverse groups can have a bigger impact than smaller, less diverse groups, we have thrown in with PIIN, Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network. This is a group of faith groups – UU, Christian, Moslem, Jewish, African-American and white – that are committed to helping to bring justice in the City in very concrete ways.

This is not easy, because diverse groups don't tend to think alike. But PIIN, even though only a couple of years in existence, is working, because the people in it are people who believe that what we do matters.

A number of Allegheny people were at the large community meeting last fall where City officials made commitments to projects and money PIIN had been pushing for. Now PIIN is in a money-raising stage: Linda Lefever was instrumental in signing up neighborhood businesses to take out ads in the upcoming PIIN booklet, thus adding \$1275.00 to this PIIN fund raising effort.

I am writing this before the PIIN banquet on March 20, but at this point at least 16 of us have bought tickets and will have heard Carol Moseley Braun speak.

One way you can participate in this exciting program is to go to the “Core Team Training” on April 22. The training you get that evening will be a way not only to be a part of PIIN but to help bring new energy and vision to our own congregation.

As part of our Core Team you help our Church build our own activist community, and you will help lead us in our efforts in the larger community – in particular working on GOTV (get out the vote). You can learn more about it from Greg Dietz and me.

Peace, Dave

FROM THE COMMUNITY

Poetry Without Walls

Poetry Without Walls is just that ... an annual open and free reading ... no featured readers ... no sign-up lists ... a place for poets to bring their books & zines if they want ... a place where the words rule and each voice takes a turn ...

Allegheny will provide the venue. The program will take place on Saturday, April 24 at 7:30 pm in Founders Hall.

Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show

The Spaghetti Dinner/Talent Show/Silent Auction is Saturday, April 3. This fun event starts with dinner at 5:30 and the talent show at 7:00 pm.

The silent auction is ongoing throughout the evening.

Ticket prices are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children over 5 years of age and families can opt for a \$28 ticket to feed everyone.

See Linda Deafenbaugh for silent auction service items and Jane Dirks or Pat Downey for Talent Show sign up. Hope to see everyone there!

Directory Updates

Pat Snowden Dittig: 613 Means Avenue, Bellevue, PA 15202-3019, 412/766-6675, psdittig@earthlink.net. Pat is the first new member to sign the book this year. She is also a sister to Charlie Snowden and Kathy Graham. Welcome Pat!

New address for **Jesse Virago:** P.O. Box 16042, Pittsburgh PA 15243, 412/875-6170, jessevirago@yahoo.com.

New address for **Julia Hix:** 500 E. Marylyn Ave, State College PA 16801.

New address for **Lynn Yocum:** 301 S. California Dr., Coal Center PA 15423, 724/239-2567, travelynn93@yahoo.com.

E-mail for **Sheryl Rodriguez:** Sherylrodriguez@msn.com

Easter Pancake Breakfast

On Easter morning, April 11, we will have our Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast. Charlie Snowden has once again offered to be the pancake chef.

Other breakfast items, such as juices, ready-to-serve fruit, syrups and other pancake toppings, butter, and milk are always welcome.

The kitchen gets very hectic with all of the pancake-cooking going on, so please make certain any items you bring are ready to serve.

This fun and tasty event always truly makes Easter Sunday festive.

DownUnder Coffee House

This month the DownUnder Coffee House will feature Eve Goodman with Janet Ingram on April 17.

Eve, who was recently featured live on the Saturday Light Brigade, is a wonderful singer-songwriter, whose haunting melodies and insightful lyrics will leave you captivated. Come see what Nashville has been missing!

Janet will provide the opening act to the night's festivities, which has been filling Founders Hall with wonderful music and fellowship this year.

The coffeehouse is open from 7:30 to 9:30 on the third Saturday of the month.

Baked goods, desserts and beverages will be for sale during the concert and the coffee is always free. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

New Massage Practice

Long-time member Jesse Virago has returned from sunny Florida to rejoin the congregation and establish a therapeutic massage and bodywork practice in her new office near Shadyside Hospital.

After training at the highly regarded Florida School of Massage, Jesse attained her national certification in therapeutic massage and bodywork and a license to practice as a massage therapist from the state of Florida. (She notes that national certification is not required to practice in Pennsylvania, and this state does not yet license massage therapists.)

Jesse calls her work "integrated therapeutic massage" and describes it as a customized blend of several massage modalities, including neuromuscular, connective tissue and Swedish styles. Although she is establishing a general massage practice, Jesse says she has a special interest in making her bodywork available to clients who are dealing with acute illnesses, chronic health conditions or histories of trauma, abuse or neglect. She can be reached at 412/875-6170.

Our Annual Easter Pancake Breakfast will be April 11 starting at half past nine.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

Financial Benchmarks

For the first eight months (through February) of fiscal year 2004, we had a cumulative operating deficit of about \$1,500. That is, our year-to-date expenses exceeded our income by about \$1,500. Our budget anticipated an increasing deficit in the second half of the fiscal year. In February, things happened as anticipated: our heating bill was nearly \$1,100 (church and Unitarian House combined), and we began to incur some significant minister search expenses. Year-to-date offerings were about \$1,400 lower than budget.

Canvass Task Force Report

The annual pledge drive has begun! It will be done by April 18: in time to get the budget proposal ready to be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

This year's canvass theme is *AUUC Belongs to Me*. The goal of the drive is to manifest that ideal through our pledges, and by getting your Church-related joys and concerns fed back into the Board and various committees. We hope to do that with a personal touch.

The Board started the drive off by pledging at its March 1 meeting. The pledge team members will contact the remaining friends and members to arrange for a meeting in your home or elsewhere, if preferred. In addition to providing information about the Annual Canvass, the visits are a chance for people in the congregation to get to know each other better.

We are hoping the results will make for a stronger Church.

The Pledge team will be contacting friends & members as they conduct the Annual Canvass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

Easter Grass

Hey kids, have you been watering the grass in your baskets? You should have some pretty tall grass in no time!

Please remember to bring your baskets with you to the Easter Intergenerational Service, so you can carry your eggs home in them!

Spring Conference

The spring all-ages conference (ages 12–18) will be held May 14–16 in Columbus, Ohio. Anyone interested in attending should let Kris know ASAP because we may need to arrange for more than one sponsor and driver.

Registration forms are not yet available.

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

April 4

Lawrence and Alexis Southard-Wray

April 11

Nancy Karpinski and Tammy Taucher

April 18

Jesse Cavileer and Rebecca Davis

April 25

Alex West and Devon DeAngelo

Refreshments

April 4

Cheryl Napsha and Ann Sitrin

April 11

Pancake Breakfast

April 18

Jaime McLeod and Ann Sitrin

April 25

Kim Winbush and Betty Schwarz

OUR CONGREGATION AND FRIENDS

Calvin Hadidian

We have all been concerned over Calvin's recent illness and his long stay in intensive care. Visitors have related that there has been noticeable improvement in his condition and ability to recognize folks. Recent news suggests that Calvin would be leaving IC for a regular room very soon. That would be great news!

So, if you go to visit, check first at the desk to see where he is. Until he gets a room number, you can send cards to:

Calvin Hadidian
UPMC-Presbyterian Hospital
200 Lothrop St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Congratulations, Melissa & Jaime

Members Melissa Farrington and Jaime McLeod were joined in Holy Union in a beautiful service on Saturday, March 27. Rev. Mau-

rine Waun (from East Suburban UU Church) officiated. It was an occasion of great joy, and we send them our love and good wishes.

New Kissel

Jen & Rick Kissel reported that, finally, Eliza Danielle Kissel decided to make her appearance (with a little nudge) Sunday March 14. She was 7 lbs 10 oz.

Danielle is well, and was a big hit with her three siblings. We hope to see her soon.

Gimme Shelter

Dr. Avis Ellis, a Unitarian Universalist currently living in Vermont, is planning to move to the North Side (will be working at Allegheny Community College), and would like to hear of any one- or two-bedroom apartments anyone knows might be coming available. Her number: 802/257-0382.

OMD Annual Meeting is being held at Pittsburgh's First Church the weekend of April 23 & 24.

DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

OMD Annual Meeting

The Ohio Meadville District Annual Meeting is being held at Pittsburgh's First Unitarian Church on April 23 and 24. The theme is *Building Our Congregations*. There will be a Service on Friday evening, and the business meeting, keynote address and workshops on Saturday.

The keynote speaker is Kay Montgomery, Executive Vice-President of the UUA. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussion at the business meeting, even if you are not a delegate. Workshop topics include the elections, archives, accessibility, RE programs, grassroots organizing, and the Partners for Sacred Places initiative.

To pre-register and find out more, look for the brochures on the tables at church.

Registration on-site begins at 6:00 pm on Friday evening.

UUSC Thanks Allegheny

We recently received a letter thanking the congregation for its gift of \$295.17 in support of the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

This is the amount that was collected from the Guest at Your Table boxes that were distributed last fall.

UUSC works to advance its mission of world justice by combining human rights education and advocacy in the United States with direct support for grassroots initiatives.

The efforts supported by the UUSC and our contributions include: work for peace and equality in Central Africa; work for democracy and human rights in Burma; and work for the rights of women, children, and indigenous people in Central America, India, and the United States.

Work At Hand

The Social Justice Committee had an active month. The March 7 meeting opened up with guests Vince and Harriet speaking about the Centre City Towers janitor dismissal that came shortly after a new contract was negotiated.

Harriet is one of nine janitors dismissed when the contract with the service that employed them was terminated.

The janitors were escorted out of the building while trying to apply for a job with the new service. Their treatment was quite a blow following their negotiations in November to get adequate health care.

Ten members from Allegheny were on hand for a demonstration on Friday, March 12 on the janitors' behalf. The issue has not been resolved and the committee will stay informed on progress and actions.

Pittsburgh's Weekend of Actions Opposing the War and Occupation in Iraq was held on March 19–20, with a march scheduled from Schenley Park to the William Pitt Student Union. Allegheny signed up in support.

On the local front, the SJC continues to look for ways to assist Janice Parks with her work with the Young Men and Women African Heritage Association, by offering use of the building, and volunteers.

In addition, Marie Engberg volunteered to be our liaison to the Youth Committee of the Central Northside Neighborhood Council. One of the primary aims of this committee is to connect North Side children and teens with the many existing programs for them in the area.

Though the committee will not have programming of its own, we do plan to organize some service projects for kids in the neighborhood.

For example, last year kids helped on the build day of the Alpine Tot-lot. Our next big event is a "Summer Fun Fair" on April 3 at our neighbor Trinity Lutheran Church on North Avenue. This is an event to introduce kids to local summer camps and day programs, volunteer programs, and employment assistance.

Marie will keep the congregation notified of any opportunities for volunteers or donations that arise.

The committee also hopes to start an urban vegetable garden. If anyone knows of vacant land in the area that has good enough soil and access to water, please let someone on the SJC know. Committee members had identified a suitable lot, but the land was recently sold.

We are also looking to get a work party together for late May to cleanup the playground area and put a coat of weatherproofing on the equipment in the West Park. Look for an announcement in the May *Allegheny Advocate* for more details.

GREEN PERSPECTIVE

From The UUA ...

All of the religions of the world have something in their teachings and traditions that encourage people to take care of the environment. Religious and spiritual groups are perfectly placed to encourage people to take actions for and to have faith in the Earth. Religious buildings and religious groups, by persuasive inspiration and examples to members and visitors alike, can serve as centers from which grow green homes, workplaces, schools, social institutions and entire green communities. Unitarian Universalists ought to be in the forefront of this movement, rather than playing catch-up to it!

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.

The Social Justice Committee is seeking a good North Side site at which to start a new urban garden.

April 2004

				1	2	3 Pasta Dinner/ Silent Auction 5:30 pm Talent Show 7:30 pm
4 Palm Sunday Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm	5 Passover begins at sunset Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	6	7 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	8	9 Good Friday	10
11 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery	12 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	13	14	15 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	16 Newsletter Deadline!!	17 DownUnder Coffee House 7:30 pm
18 Holocaust Remembrance Day Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am	19 NA 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23 OMD Annual Meeting at Pgh First Church	24 OMD Annual Meeting at Pgh First Church
25 Choir 9:30 am Finance 12:30 pm	26 NA 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	

May 2004

						1 May Day
2 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm	3 Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	4	5 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	6	7	8
9 Mothers Day G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 am YM&WAHA Cooking Series 2:00 pm	10 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14 Newsletter Deadline!!	15
16 Choir 9:30 am Annual Meeting 12:30 pm	17 NA 7:00 pm	18	19	20 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	21	22 DownUnder Coffee House 7:30 pm
23 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am Finance 12:30 pm	24 NA 7:00 pm	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day Observed					

CONTACTS

The *Allegheny Advocate* is published monthly (except August) by Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. Submissions must be received by the third Friday of the month preceding publication. Contributions or inquiries may be directed to Jaime McLeod or Donald Zeilman

© 2004
Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Interim Minister

Rev. David Lutz

Board of Trustees

Kathy Kozachenko, President

Director of Religious Education

Kris Thomas

Director of Music

Kiki Barley

Caring

Nikki Perfetti

Finance

Bob Follette

Fund Raising Task Force

Linda Deafenbaugh

House

Donald Zeilman

Membership

Ann Sitrin

Ministerial Search Committee

Pat Downey

Program

Jeanne Zang

Religious Education

Kim Winbush

Social Justice

John Meikle

Allegheny Web Site

trfn.clpgh.org/auuc



Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
1110 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh PA 15212