

APRIL 2005

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Transformation Isn't Easy

- » Provide a supportive, non-judgmental environment to shelter the homeless during "freeze" alerts;
- » Provide childcare for all church events;
- » Finish the necessary work on Unitarian House;
- » Join local UU churches in lay pastoral care training;
- » Offer temporary assistance to North Side families in need of a little help;
- » Send a delegation of youth and adults to lobby in Harrisburg;
- » Send three delegates to the Ohio-Meadville District's Annual Meeting;
- » Offer adult religious education programs;
- » Increase our Director of Religious Education's time so she can focus on the RE community and curriculum development;
- » Mentor a seminarian by being an internship church for a social-justice oriented future minister;
- » Join other Pittsburgh churches in anti-racism initiatives;
- » Fix the ceiling in the sanctuary;
- » Create a picture directory to put names with faces of our growing community;
- » Sponsor a table at the annual PIIN banquet for low-income Members and Friends and for our Central North Side neighbors;
- » Hire a part-time secretary to free up our part-time minister to do ministry;
- » Have flowers in the sanctuary and bring them to our shut-ins, ill or folks who're having just too much sorrow that day;
- » Help out no- and low-income Allegheny Friends and Members during tough financial times;
- » Wean ourselves off unsustainable deficit spending.

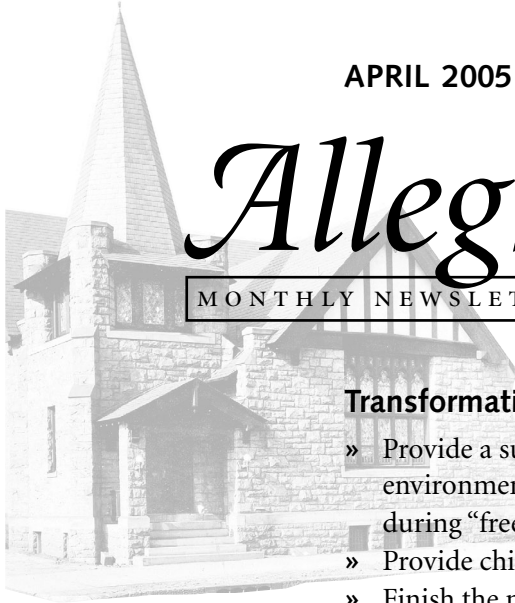
These are all the kinds of things we could do as a congregation if every member contributed a 'Fair Share' offering to the Church. And I guess there's another one: Free up time and energy by never having to do another financial canvass.

Now, I didn't answer my call to ministry because I had a burning desire to ask for money. But when finances are in the shape Allegheny's are in, there's a need for healing. As I told the Board, we don't have financial problems at Allegheny: we have commitment problems; we have communication problems; we have community problems about how we care for this spiritual home and take responsibility for its future.

That being said, I'd rather talk about how we can best be a free religious community of service and celebration. That's why I decided this time to talk about what Allegheny could do. Of course, our super Pledge Team will offer their suggestions for a Fair Share pledge, but I reckon we could do the above when each member pledges at least three to five percent. And, hey, if each member tithed we might be able to do all this and more! And give away 10 percent of our budget to social justice organizations to boot!

So, when those of you who are members and friends are reflecting on what income percentage you're going to give to help the Church thrive this coming pledge year, don't just think about what you can't do because you're giving money to the Church: Think about what you could do, what we could all do together. And if you're not a member or friend, dream with us anyway. We're all in this together.

With blessings,
Rev. Dave



I would rather
talk about how
we can best be
a free religious
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service and
celebration

IN THE CHURCH

Rainbow Lanyards

Want the latest fashion statement – and to save your sweaters from damage from your name badge? Be the first in your pew to sport the new Allegheny nametag lanyard with a donation of \$5 to the Church. See Steve Hirtle or Linda Deafenbaugh to support this chic fund raising effort.

Eve Goodman At The DownUnder

You are invited to attend the DownUnder Coffeehouse on Saturday, April 16 from 7:30–9:30 PM to hear Eve Goodman and friends. Eve is a wonderful singer-songwriter, whose intricate guitar-playing and insightful lyrics will leave you captivated.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the one Saturday of every month in the lower level of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side.

Suggested donation is \$5.00. Call 412/322-4261 or see www.alleghenyuu.org for details.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kim Winbush, RE Committee

This Month In RE

What is happening this month in Religious Education? We just finished studying Clara Barton, a famous UU, who started the Red Cross. We watched a movie about her, that also included other famous women (many of whom were UUs), had a first aid lesson, and completed an art project in which the children made a time-line of Clara Barton's life. Take a moment this week to talk with your child about Clara Barton and her contributions to the world and to UUism. Here are some ideas: check a book out about her life, practice or discuss first aid techniques, or send a contribution to the Red Cross. We are now beginning a unit about Beatrix Potter, who hopefully will find us ushering in spring! Remember that our children are continuing to bring canned goods each Sunday for donation to the food pantry.

fUUD For Thought

This month's *fUUD for Thought*, is an opportunity to share our relationship to the principles of Unitarian Universalism. If you're interested in participating, plan to join Rev. Dave on April 24. Dave will host the session at 12:30 PM to explore a topic of our UU faith. *fUUD for Thought* will feature a casual lunch.

Workers Unite!

With an eye toward Rev. Dave's Installation and our Centennial Celebration, the House Committee would like to sponsor a number of volunteer work days over the next six months. Watch for notices in the *Allegheny Advocate*, and for sign-up sheets.

MUSIC NOTES

Kiki Barley, Music Director

Choir Festival

The Allegheny choir will participate in the 2nd Annual Pittsburgh-area UU Choir Festival at First Church on Saturday, April 16. Joint rehearsals will begin at 3:30 PM, and the performance, which we are hoping will draw an audience, will be around 5:00 PM. A potluck dinner will follow.

Victoria Cole, the choir director at First Church, is the organizer. We hope to have more Allegheny members in the audience than on the stage, so please put it on your calendars. It should be fun!

COMMUNITY VIEW

UU Guitar Virtuoso

Maria Wilson from the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg will be performing as part of Brad Yoder's free music series *Buck the Stars*, on Monday, April 25 at the Starbucks on Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill. A wonderful instrumental guitar player, Maria also runs the Cloverlane Coffeehouse at her church. Catch her on a rare visit to Pittsburgh.

Support the Church and buy one of the new rainbow lanyards for your Allegheny nametag

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

APRIL 3

A Personal Journey Devon DeAngelo

Some of the most enriching and inspiring Sunday Services have been the ones in which members and long-time friends have shared their spiritual journeys. This morning, member Devon DeAngelo will speak with us about the difficulties she has faced and the role of the Church community in her life and struggles.

APRIL 10

Your God Is Too Small Rev. David McFarland

In his ongoing effort to cover the basics of his understanding of faith, Rev. McFarland reflects on the meaning of God and its relevance to our relationship to life on Earth. Drawing on UU and non-UU sources, as well as his own life experience, Rev. Dave will share his personal thoughts on humanity’s biggest subject.

Song & Soul 5:00 PM Rev. David McFarland

Please join us for this opportunity to share thoughts, songs, and silences in a more intimate setting than is available during Sunday Morning Celebration. Come with your joys & sorrows, or come to support your fellow congregants. We meet at 5 o’clock and part at 6. All are welcome.

APRIL 17

Communion Service 10:00 AM Reader: Hazel Leroy

Doing Justice Social Justice Committee

Through music, song and personal witness, the Social Justice Committee will describe their work through this religious community, their motivation and continued enthusiasm for the struggle.

APRIL 24

Where’s The Justice Rev. David McFarland

As a spiritually-diverse religious community dedicated to social justice, it’s good once in awhile to think out loud about what that means and what that calls us to be and do. Rev. Dave will offer this morning’s reflections on the prophetic mission of our living tradition.

**Sunday Service
at Allegheny
Unitarian
Universalist
Church begins
at 11 o’clock.
All are welcome!**

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

April 3
Barbara Stolarz and Jeanne Zang

April 10
Bob Stefancic and Leo Nagorski

April 17
Anne Thompson and Charlie Snowden

April 24
Nicki Perfetti and Gregg Dietz

Refreshments

April 3
Bob Follette and Pat Dittig

April 10
Devon DeAngelo and Rebecca Davis

April 17
Jane Schwarz and Ann Sitrin

April 24
Ann Sitrin and Kathy Kozachenko

April 2005

					1 OMD Annual Meeting begins Games Night	2 OMD Annual Mtg in Akron
3 Daylight Savings Time begins Choir 9:30 am Giant Eagle certificate sign-up District NA 1:30 pm	4 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	5 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	6	7 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm	8	9
10 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Song & Soul 5:00 pm	11 NA 7:00 pm	12	13	14 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline!!	16 UU Choir Festival: 5:30 pm Coffee House 7:30 pm
17 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am	18 NA 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23 Passover begins at sundown
24 Choir 9:30 am fUUD For Thought 12:30	25 NA 7:00 pm	26	27	28	29 Arbor Day	30

May 2005

1 May Day Choir 9:30 am Giant Eagle certificate sign-up RE's Cinco de Mayo District NA 1:30 pm	2 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	3 Program Committee 7:30 pm	4	5	6	7
8 Mothers Day Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Song & Soul 5:00 pm	9 NA 7:00 pm	10	11	12 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm	13	14 Youth Group-sponsored Karaoke Night fund raiser
15 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 pm	16 NA 7:00 pm	17	18	19 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	20 Newsletter Deadline!!	21 Coffee House 7:30 pm
22 Choir 9:30 am RE End-of-Year Program Party Social Justice Comm. 12:30	23 NA 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day NA 7:00 pm	31				

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

Committee Goals Summary

Seven member households generously responded to the Fall letter by increasing their pledge for the current fiscal year and/or by making a year-end contribution. In all, \$3,490 of additional offerings were committed. Thank you!

Thanks, also, to the various friends of the Church who made year-end contributions. Your collective generosity moves us closer to 'breaking even' for the fiscal year 2005.

Although the winter hasn't been too wicked in terms of snow, the cold weather is taking its toll on our pocketbook. Our heating bills for the church and the house combined were \$858, \$1,029, and \$1,074 for December, January and February, respectively. Hurry up, Spring!

Using the information prepared by all of the committees, the Finance Committee is compiling the operating budget for FY2006. In the process, we are trying to reflect all of the costs of operating our programs.

From time to time, members incur a financial outlay when carrying out their committee responsibilities. Often, members pay for items that are included in the budget of their committee (e.g., printing, postage, miscellaneous supplies, etc.) and then generously consider the outlay to be a contribution to the Church. In order that we may more accurately reflect all of the costs incurred and all of the monetary contributions made, please complete a reimbursement request and submit it with receipts to the Treasurer. A reimbursement check will then be prepared.

If you choose to consider the expenditure a contribution, you can then endorse the reimbursement check back to the Church. This process ensures that costs and contributions are recognized in the financial statements. Reimbursement forms are available in the small church office or by contacting the Treasurer.

Add a yellow ribbon to your new rainbow lanyard – support the Youth Group's efforts to raise money to help soldiers in Iraq

YOUTH GROUP

Caity Thomas

Yellow Ribbon Project

Thank-you to everyone who bought ribbons from the Youth Group in support of our troops.

A couple of weeks ago I found out about this website (anysolider.com) that has soldier contact information so you can send letters, or care packages to members of the military who are stationed overseas. The website gives lists of different items that units need, such as microwavable food (since some units only get one meal a day), candy and toys to hand out to local children, magazines and newspapers to keep them up to date about what is going on at home, personal hygiene products, and many more things including body armor.

When I began to read the e-mails that soldiers had sent in about some of the really difficult conditions that they are living under, I felt like I wanted to do something to help. I brought it up to the Youth Group and we

decided to sell ribbons in order to raise money to put together care packages to send to the soldiers.

We are asking for a \$1.00 donation for each ribbon, and as of Easter Sunday we had already raised \$100. To make a financial contribution (donations are greatly appreciated) to our effort, come talk to Caitlin at church, or e-mail me. Our deadline is April 24, 2005. Thank you so much and we hope to see all of you at church!

Karaoke Night Fund Raiser

The Youth Group is hosting a Karaoke Night fund raiser on Saturday, May 14. Everyone is invited and the proceeds from the evening will be donated to Northside Common Ministries. Check the bulletin board and May's *Allegheny Advocate* for more details.

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

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Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Jaime McLeod

Allegheny Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org



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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION