

DECEMBER 2003

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

# Allegheny ADVOCATE

monthly newsletter of allegheny unitarian universalist church

## DECEMBER 7

### Choosing Activism

Anthony Kuhar

Anthony Kuhar, graphic designer and activist, will share with us how he came about wanting to help others – both through his artwork and through being involved in a variety of organizations, events, and activities. Some of the groups he's involved in are: Pittsburgh Anti-Racist Action, Youth Empowerment Project, Youth Collaborative, Youth Coalition, and the Gay/Str8 Alliance at AIP. He will also bring his portfolio for us to see.

## DECEMBER 14

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Lawrence Wray

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action.

Chanukah – A Miracle of Light 11:00 AM

Lawrence Wray

The lights of Christmas demand our attention: they alternately dazzle, overwhelm or oppress us. The Chanukah menorah is a small and true light that helps us see clearly the holiness that is everywhere. This Service is to support our efforts to see the light through the dazzle.

## DECEMBER 21

Mandala Meditation 10:00 AM

Leader: Linda Deafenbaugh

Linda will lead her traditional meditation using the sand mandala.

Yuletide Celebration 11:00 AM

Kris Thomas & Dave Lutz

Yule is the ancient name for the Winter Solstice, the longest night and the shortest day of the year. Join us in this intergenerational celebration of the sun's rebirth. Please bring an ornament to place on our Yule tree.

DECEMBER 24 7:30 PM

Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Dave Lutz

You are invited to attend our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of lessons and carols. Come join us as we sing and read our way through the drama of the story of Christmas.

## DECEMBER 28

Winter Meditation

Program Committee

In the midst of what, for many of us, is a busy and sometimes stressful holiday season, this Service is an opportunity for quiet reflection. We will take time to join as a community to share readings, songs and silent reflection.

*continued next page*

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

## DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve Celebration & Service 8:00 PM

Our Annual New Years Eve festivities begin at 8 o'clock with our Open House. Bring some food or drink to share, and join us for poetry, singing and fellowship. The Meditation Service begins at 11:00, and then stay to welcome the New Year as we gather on the church steps at midnight.

### BOARD BUSINESS

*Linda Deafenbaugh, Clerk*

#### Updates & Initiatives

This truly is a year of reflection, planning and laying the groundwork for our Church's future. With the input of the congregation and committees, the Board is trying to make sure we have every major dish on the stove and that we keep all the pots stirred. Our goal is for the stews and sauces to be done at the same time so we all can sit down to enjoy the meal we are working so hard to prepare. Let us anticipate the feast, but now is the time for everyone to be cooking in the kitchen.

As we move the long-range planning process along, committees are reminded to turn in their objectives based on the goals set at the Board & committee chair retreat as soon as possible so a draft of the plan can be presented at the mid-year meeting in January.

As the Search Committee's work on preparing for a new minister moves along, the Finance Committee is preparing a pledge canvas so we will be in a better financial position for the new minister's arrival.

With the newly awarded planning grant from Pittsburgh History and Landmarks, we will assess and prioritize our capital improvement needs and plan how best to address them, architecturally speaking. The Fundraising Committee has also submitted a request for our Church to be selected for a one-year training program in planning innovative ways to do capital fundraising, which is being pre-

sented by Philadelphia-based Partners for Sacred Spaces. Won't it be a great day when the church ceiling is painted, because the roof has been redone so it won't leak for another 100 years? Or when people with mobility challenges have access to every part of our buildings? Or when Unitarian House is renovated?

The U House has been a topic of much discussion at Board meetings. We initiated a request to obtain the U House from the UUA, its current owners, so that we could do more than just upkeep and maintenance on the building. The negotiations have come to a point where a major decision must be made, and as with so many decisions, the issues are not as straightforward as we would like them to be. The UUA is now willing to transfer the building to us without charging us for it, but with a provision in the deed that will not allow us total flexibility in our choices of what to do with the building. Congregational input will be very important in making this decision.

Thanks to everyone for their participation in planning and carrying out fundraising to address this year's fiscal challenges. We want to and need to do so much important work. Everything will be possible as long as everyone keeps contributing his or her energy, ideas, time and money. Come on in. It's a big kitchen. Too many cooks can't spoil this stew.

Let us anticipate the feast, but now is the time to be cooking in the kitchen

## IN THE CHURCH

### Holiday Greetings

The Card Tree will once again be placed in the Emerson Room this holiday season. Members and Friends are invited to hang cards, pictures, or other expressions of their holiday thoughts on the tree.

### Down Under Coffeehouse

This month the Down Under Coffee House will feature Jeanne Zang's son, Shannon Mier, who returns from Tucson for a wonderful evening of original songs and guitar.

The coffeehouse is open from 7:30 to 9:30 in the evening on the third Saturday of every month. Baked goods, desserts and beverages will be for sale during the concert, and the coffee is always free.

Suggested donation is \$5.00. See <http://www.trfn.org/auuc/dh> for more details. Questions can be sent via e-mail to Steve Hirtle at [hirtle@pitt.edu](mailto:hirtle@pitt.edu).

### Christmas Eve Party

John Engberg has generously offered to have the Christmas Eve party at his house again this year. The address is 1235 Resaca Place.

The party is potluck and takes place immediately after the Christmas Eve Service. Everyone is invited.

### Changes To The Directory

- » Peter McQuillin's home phone is 412/833-1767. His cell phone number is 724/516-9018.
- » Jean McQuillin's e-mail address is [jmcq@gonowmail.com](mailto:jmcq@gonowmail.com).
- » Dave Koloskee and Ron Felgar have moved from members to friends.
- » Cindy Madamma's address is 2996 Beechwood Blvd. Her cell phone number is 412/613-6459 and her home phone number is 412/421-4162. Her e-mail address is [cindyliz17@hotmail.com](mailto:cindyliz17@hotmail.com).
- » Cheryl Napsha's zip code is 15217.

## ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

*Rev. Dave Lutz*

### The Christmas Monster

Ministers, especially the Christian type (from which bin/barrel you got me) should not be dreading Christmas as I am, I don't think. To get this article in for the newsletter on time I have to write before Thanksgiving, and I'm already avoiding shopping malls, where I know Big Brother Christmas lurks behind every door ("He knows if you've been sleeping, he knows if you're awake...").

In the Christian tradition, you get into Advent right after Thanksgiving; people in Christian churches are going to get preached at about themes of longing and hope. Which made sense in the original context: people in a backwater country whose prospects were grim to awful. But here, in our era, Advent hope is kind of crazy, being celebrated by citizens of the nation some are calling the new Roman Empire, which is now sitting with its large "democratic" rear end smack dab on top of the world. Once again Christian church people will have to play head games in order to hope for "deliverance" (who are we kidding?).

Some Buddhists preach "hopelessness" as the better way. Pema Chodron says hope and fear are two sides of the same coin – you don't get one without the other. Hope and fear are related to grasping after what one doesn't have, which inevitably means living in anxiety. Confidence comes when one lets go of both fear and hope.

I still think there is a gold nugget buried under this Christmas Monster, if one cares to look hard enough. Advent can make sense if it can be an occasion for shifting our focus of attention to some of the anguished, who are hoping and fearing because there isn't much else left they can do.

Pay attention. At least then those who are caught in the struggles the early Christmas message was aimed at won't be left to hope and fear alone.

*Peace to all, Dave*

...there is a gold nugget buried under this Christmas Monster. . .

## SEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS

*Pat Downey, Committee Chair*

### Making Contacts

The Search Committee is in the process of reviewing online records of ministers who have expressed an interest in Allegheny due either to the UUA's web site or our UUWorld ad. Ministers who initially appear to be a good match with Allegheny will be asked to exchange packets with us and then be scheduled for a phone interview with the whole Committee. Thanks to Dave Lutz for his assistance in helping us to hone our interviewing skills.

As we move closer to the initial phone interviews in December, which will then be followed by onsite interviews later this winter, the Search Committee requests your help. What would you like to know about the candidates? For reasons of confidentiality, we can't tell you who they are, but we can use your questions during our interview sessions. So please tell us the following: What would you like to know about their philosophy or leadership style, social justice interests, or Sunday programming? What are your concerns and hopes that could be addressed during this process?

We appreciate your input and request that you submit questions to any member of the Search Committee.

On a final note, a special "thank you" to my fellow Search Committee members. While I was slowed down by some recent surgery, the Committee never missed a beat in keeping our process moving. Shared leadership is alive and well, and it works!

### DISTRICT DOINGS

#### Winter Institute

The 4th Annual Winter Institute will be held on February 13-16, 2004 at the Salt Fork State Park Conference Center in Cambridge, Ohio. This relaxing and "schedule free" weekend is a gathering for UUs of all ages. There are plenty of frosty outdoor activities like sledding, hiking and cross country skiing.

For those that choose to stay in their slippers all weekend, there is the beautiful lodge with its many fireplaces, pool and hot tub. There are fellow UUs always ready to play a board game, put a puzzles together or play music. We have wonderful worship services and great conversations.

Information about schedule, accommodations, and registration may be found on the church bulletin board. It is an opportunity for great fellowship. Please consider attending.

What would you like to know about the candidates?

## SERVING THE CONGREGATION

### Greeters

#### December 7

Martha and Walter Brethauer

#### December 14

Alex West and Kathy Kozachenko

#### December 21

Nicki Perfetti and Gregg Dietz

#### December 28

Andy Schwarz and Barb Stolarz

### Refreshments

#### December 7

Ann Sitrin, Melissa Farrington and Jaime McLeod

#### December 14

Betty and Jane Schwarz

#### December 21

Chris Capato and Ed Kinley

#### December 28

Cheryl Napsha and Charlie Snowden

Jill Brethauer

### Where We Are – Where We're Going

The Church's budget for the current fiscal year (July 1, 2003–June 30, 2004) projects that, after breaking even during the early part of the year, we will incur operating deficits that will necessitate spending perhaps as much as \$15–20,000 from our savings. Reasons for the projected deficits include:

- Sunday offerings cover only about half of our operating expenses.
- Responses to last spring's pledge drive were less robust than hoped; pledges for FY2004 Sunday offerings did not increase as much as everyday expenditures are budgeted to increase.
- We anticipated significant additional costs related to the transition to a new minister, including about \$8,300 budgeted for the minister search process.

At the end of October, the Church's fiscal year was one-third complete. For the first 4 months of FY2004, our cumulative *bottom line* from operations was approximately *break even*. Our situation was helped by the grant for social justice work that we received from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock and also by the fact that we had relatively low utility bills and no major unexpected operating expenditures. Of some concern is the fact that our 4-month offerings of nearly \$13,800 were about \$2,100 less than the amount budgeted.

For facility improvements, we received nearly \$1,000 toward the church basement renovations capital account. Special thanks to Great Replacement Race runners Tamon and Scott and all who supported them!

The Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, and others are pursuing opportunities to minimize the FY2004 operating deficit and to work toward a healthier financial picture for FY2005 and beyond. The Trustees recognize that although the minister search costs will not be repeated, they will be replaced next year by

a more costly minister compensation package and also by minister relocation costs. The Trustees are committed to having our income cover our costs for routine operations. To this end, the following efforts are underway:

- The Fundraising Committee, led by Linda Deafenbaugh, is planning several initiatives to generate income for the current year.
- The Board of Trustees has endorsed a year-end appeal. Letters will be sent to all members and friends.
- A group is being formed to work with Dave Lutz and the Finance Committee to conduct a more formal pledge canvass for FY2005. Linda Lefever has agreed to lead this effort.

I hope that you continue to enjoy the many wonderful aspects of Allegheny and to support this community as best you can by fulfilling your offerings pledge, by contributing to the year-end appeal, by meeting your commitments to the capital campaign, and/or by supporting the various fundraising events. And, I hope you will relay your thoughts and suggestions concerning the Church's finances to any member of the Committee. Thank you!

The Trustees are committed to having our income cover our costs ...

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

### Winter Faire

On Sunday, December 14 from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm, the RE Program will host its annual children's Winter Faire at Unitarian House. This will include holiday craft-making, yummy treats, and lots of holiday cheer!

### Class Schedule Reminders

There will be no RE classes on Sunday, December 21, during the intergenerational Winter Solstice Service. There will also be no classes on Sunday, December 28.

## COMMITTEE CORNER

### Getting Ready For The Holidays

On Saturday, 13 December the House Committee is sponsoring a holiday clean-up and decorating day. We will use this time to do some thorough cleaning in the church building and some decorating for our holiday services. The fun begins at 9:00 and should last until about 3:00. Please come for all of, or part of, the time as your schedule permits.

### Fundraising!

Wasn't the pie sale a great success again this year? Thanks to Kate and Mark Tomlinson for making it happen. Thanks also to Linda LeFever for her leadership in submitting the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks proposal that has resulted in our recent planning grant award. Thanks too to Linda D. and Jill B. for their help in pulling the grant together.

Our next fundraiser is underway. From November 15 through January 15, we have a sale of Market America products going on with profits being donated to the Church. If you will be shopping on-line for the winter holidays, pick up an e-business card at church to help you shop through Linda D's web portal [www.lindad.unfranchise.com](http://www.lindad.unfranchise.com). Why fight the crowds of shopping malls when you can get over a million products through this web site, shop in the comfort of your own home, and contribute to the church at the same time?

This is a great fundraiser to get your friends and neighbors, many of whom shop on-line anyway, to participate in. Or, if you want a more social "party" experience with some of the innovative products, come to one of the following:

**Beauty Basics, Makeovers, and Custom Clothing** Tuesday, December 9 from 7:00–9:00 pm. Introduces the latest developments in skin care for older, younger and problem skin, showcases the Motive cosmetics with their micro-pulverized pigments, and shows how to take accurate measurements to order custom fitted jeans, pants and shirts. A lucky few will be selected to have their own

custom-blended foundation mixed that evening and receive a makeover by a Market America make-up consultant!

**Green Products** Sunday, January 4 from 1:00–3:00 pm. Showcases environmentally-friendly products for use with cars, home, garages and workshops. Learn about keeping pipes, drain and septic systems healthy, getting better gas mileage, dealing with stains and other cleaning challenges, taking the environmental hazard out of oil spills, and much, much more.

Bring your family and friends to the parties or schedule a party in your own home. It's great stuff and a great way to raise money for the Church.

## DOING JUSTICE

### PIIN Successes

A number of Allegheny members attended the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network public meeting recently. Here are recent PIIN successes:

**Civil Rights:** PIIN secured a public reporting process from the City of Pittsburgh's Office of Municipal Investigations on citizen complaints against police officers.

**Public Education:** Pittsburgh Public Schools administration pledged to:

- Remove cultural bias from the student Code of Conduct.
- Revise the Social Studies and History curricula to include African-American and Muslim contributions to the United States.
- Explore extending the African-Centered Academy through grade twelve.

**Economic Equity:** PIIN secured \$150,000 initial investment from Allegheny County to board up or demolish abandoned houses in the City of Wilkinsburg.

**Youth Recreation:** PIIN engineered a partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools to provide children with Internet access in recreation centers located in low-income neighbor-

Cleaning and decorating work day scheduled for Saturday, December 13.

hoods. Following that, however, recreation centers were shut down by the mayor's office due to lack of funds, postponing computer installation.

**PIIN Regional Allies Table:** Brings together stakeholders to listen to each other, identify shared goals and winnable issues, and create concrete plans. Includes elected officials at all levels, city and borough managers, religious organizations, businesses, universities, unions, and citizens' groups.

We at Allegheny have been a part of making these things happen! Currently PIIN is in its money-raising stage: the goal is \$30,000, and the means is through businesses buying ad space in a booklet that will go out to thousands of people. Ads range from \$175- \$500. See Gregg Dietz, Jeanne Zang or Dave Lutz if you have a contact with a business that might participate.

## MILESTONES

### Rayman Winfield Bortner III



The sanctuary was filled with song, tears, and laughter as we celebrated the life of long-time member, Rayman Bortner, at a Memorial Service on November 8. In the Service (that Rayman planned before his death) friends shared their music & memories, and the Renaissance City Men's Choir performed.

Rayman died on Saturday, October 18 after a long battle with cancer. He was 42.

Rayman was born in Newport News, Virginia on November 21, 1960 to the late Rayman Bortner, Jr. and Durrett McKennie Bortner. He attended State College Senior High School (1978), and graduated from Penn State University in March 1983. After moving to Pittsburgh, he worked for Development Dimensions International, a human relations firm, as an assessor. For the past few years, he had been employed by the Journal of Economic Literature as an Editorial Assistant, a position he dearly loved. Rayman sang with the Penn State Choir and with Pittsburgh's Gay and Lesbian chorus, the Renaissance City Choirs for over twelve years and was an activist during the AIDS crisis.

We will miss Ray's activism and sense of humor.

### Emily Norman Davidson



The life of beloved member, Emily Davidson, was celebrated at a Memorial Service on December 19 at the Church Brew Works. Several hundred folks attended, including many from the congregation. Rev. Art McDonald, our former minister, officiated. The testimonials given by family and friends were truly moving, and attested to the great loss that we have experienced with Emily's passing.

She was born on Oct. 10, 1967. She started playing the violin at seven and was a member of the Three Rivers Training Orchestra and Pittsburgh Youth Symphony.

When she was 14, she decided to continue her education at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

It was in 1990, that she "saw the light" and switched to baroque violin. With Patty Halverson and Jeffrey Stock, she founded the Pittsburgh Early Music Ensemble, a precursor to Chatham Baroque.

She was diagnosed with cancer on April 2nd of this year. Her final Chatham Baroque concerts were given on October 4 and 5, where she overcame her illness to perform. She died on November 2.

Emily is survived by her 9-year old daughter, Katie Rose Davidson.

She will be missed.

## 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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Rev. David Lutz

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### Program

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### Religious Education

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### Allegheny Web Site

[trfn.clpgh.org/auuc](http://trfn.clpgh.org/auuc)



**Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**1110 Resaca Place**  
**Pittsburgh PA 15212**

## December 2003

	1 Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	2	3	4	5	6 St. Nicholas Day
7 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am New member orientation 12:30 pm District NA 1:30 pm	8 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	9	10 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	11 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm Wesley Center AME Zion	12 <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>	13 Holiday Cleaning and Decorating Day 9:00 am
14 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am RE Winter Faire Cooking Program 2:00 pm	15 NA 7:00 pm	16	17	18 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	19 Hanukkah begins at sundown	20 Coffee House 7:30 pm
21 Choir 9:00 am Mandala Meditation 10:00 am Finance 12:30 pm	22 Winter begins! Caroling NA 7:00 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm Party following at Engbergs'	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 Kwanzaa begins	27
28 No RE classes	29 NA 7:00 pm	30	31 New Years Eve Open House 8:00 pm Service 11:00 pm			

## January 2004

				1 <b>New Years Day</b>	2	3
4 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am  District NA 1:30 pm	5 Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	6	7	8 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm Wesley Center AME Zion	9	10
11 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 am Cooking Program 2:00 pm	12 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	13	14 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	15 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	16 <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>	17 Coffee House 7:30 pm
18 MLK Sunday Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am Finance 12:30 pm	19 NA 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23 Games Night	24
25 Choir 9:30 am <b>Mid-Year Congregational Meeting 12:30 pm</b>	26 NA 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	31