

DECEMBER 2005

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Bits & Pieces

During the holiday season, I'm more than usually aware how important memories are. Part of what makes ritual and anniversary dates so important in our lives is our attention to them and the energy and emotion we invest in them. Creating memories for one another, our families, and ourselves is a most human and humanizing task.

I've been asked whether I've "recovered" from the installation weekend, the visitors, the parties, the worship services, the to-do lists. My response has been a heart-felt "No." Nor do I want to recover. It remains an amazing, sublime, inspiring moment, a beautiful memory that we created together. We were challenged, and charged, and charged up for the work ahead.

And though we're working to getting pictures and sermons onto our website, and though you can purchase a CD of *A Vision for Our World* sessions from First Church, the spirit of the gatherings was beyond recording.

For those of you who weren't there to experience it, not to worry. The power of the experience and its memory is now part of the bones and sinew of this Church. The Spirit lives on. And that you can experience.

As you create memories this holiday season, may they be as rich, as wonder-working, as inspiring, and as life-giving as November 6, 2005, has been for me and for this Church.

With blessings,
Reverend Dave

IN CHURCH

Commemorating World AIDS Day

In honor of World AIDS Day, Allegheny will sponsor two events. AIDS Memorial Quilt panels from the Names Project Foundation will be on display in the church sanctuary from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM on Saturday, December 3. This will be an opportunity for meditation and reflection.

On Sunday, December 4, join the congregation for the morning Worship Service of remembrance and hope. Reverend David McFarland will be preaching. Quilt panels will be on display for meditation and reflection on Sunday morning as well.

Please consider joining the congregation in this important weekend of witness.

First Gathering Centennial Celebration

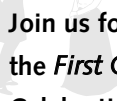
Please join us for a *First Gathering* centennial celebration on December 4. There will be food & drink and fantastic conversation about our history, beliefs and vision for the future.

The Open House starts at 6:00 pm. During the Open House, there will be some areas of conversation, including the history of the First Gathering, Allegheny's history in the area, what Allegheny is about at present, and what the future holds for the congregation.

The Service begins at 7:00, with Rev. Dave speaking. Folks are invited to hang out a bit afterwards for further conversation.

The evening is being sponsored by the young adult members of the congregation, but includes all ages.

continued



Join us for
the *First Gathering*
Celebration on
December 4
starting at 6:00 PM

As we celebrate the vision of the founding members – that we have a needed and life-affirming message for our community. We encourage you to attend and bring someone new to Allegheny.

Bringing Home The Vision

First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh recorded the November 5, 2005, UUpalooza events at their church. If you weren't there, or if you were there and would like to relive it or think further about the ideas shared throughout the day, you can purchase CD recordings of the day's public sessions and revival for \$6 or \$5 if you pick them up at First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. Call 412/621-8008 x112, or e-mail uuchurchpgh@yahoo.com.

Directory Update

New addresses for the Directory:

Melissa Farrington and Jaime McLeod,
57 Main St, Greene, Maine 04236

Tom Wharton, 9 Darlington Ct,
Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412/521-5489

Born To Cook

You are invited to attend the DownUnder Coffeehouse on Saturday, December 17 from 7:30–9:30 PM when we team up with *Born to Cook*, the new singer-songwriters performance circle that has recently been appearing around Pittsburgh. The evening will feature the return of Joey Murphy and her country blues, Allegheny friend Frank Bienkowski, along with two other performers to complete the circle. Join us for yummy desserts, warm drinks, great music, and lots of holiday cheer.

Centennial Holiday Ornaments

The Allegheny centennial holiday ornaments have arrived! They are beautiful, featuring a detailed picture of the church engraved in alder wood. They are selling for \$25 a piece, with a good portion of that going to the Church. If you have already placed an order, please remember to make your payment and pick up your ornament(s). If you've been waiting to order, now's the time! See Alex West for further details.

The RE Christmas Play

An Allegheny Nativity will have its premiere (and only) performance on the December 18 as a part of our Intergenerational Holiday Service.

In order to prepare for the theatrical event of the year, we will hold two (2) regular rehearsals after fellowship hour on December 4 and December 11 in the sanctuary. The rehearsals are scheduled from 12:30 to 2:00 on those days, though we will try our best to be done by 1:15 or 1:30 (but you can't hurry Art!).

Food Pantry Update

When we got there, the cupboard was bare. But not any longer! You all will be pleased to know that because of your efforts, the Northside Common Ministry's Food Pantry received 802.6 pounds of food. Since a family of four receives about 25 pounds of food, this means that about 32 families were fed during the Thanksgiving week. If we can do this every month, what a difference we can make. Let's try it again for the Christmas week.

Blessing Gathering

There will be a ten-minute Blessing Gathering for healing through meditation on Sunday, December 11 at 10:30 AM, between the Sand Mandala Meditation and the Winter Solstice Service. It will take place at the front of the sanctuary. All are welcome. The intention is to support Pat Dittig as she copes with metastatic breast cancer in her lungs, but other healing intentions are always welcome.

Safe Space For LGBT Youth

GLSEN Pittsburgh is sponsoring a *Safe & Respectful Space* at Carnegie Library, Oakland, in the Teen Room, every Wednesday from 4:00–6:00 pm starting November 30, 2005. All LGBT youth – especially 13- to 18-year-olds – and their supporting friends, families and allies are invited for meeting, activities and events.

More information to follow at www.glsenpgh.org or GLSEN Pittsburgh's Blog: www.myspace.com/glsenpittsburgh, or GLSEN Pittsburgh's Youth Forum: s6.invision-free.com/glsenpgh/index.php.

Order your
Centennial
Ornaments
now for the
upcoming
holiday season

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER 4

Communion Service 10:00 AM Reader: Donald Zeilman

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action—please join us.

Remembering Into Life 11:00 am Rev. David McFarland

Rev. McFarland will share personal reflections of his work with the Provincetown AIDS Ministry.

DECEMBER 11

Sand Mandala Meditation 10:00 AM Leader: Linda Deafenbaugh

Winter Solstice Service 11:00 AM Linda Deafenbaugh

The Solstice Service is an all-ages participatory service that celebrates the dark and the longest night of the year with stories from earth-based traditions.

DECEMBER 18

Making Christmas Memories Kris Thomas & Rev. David McFarland

Our Director of Religious Education, Kris Thomas and Rev. McFarland will lead this intergenerational celebration of the holidays.

DECEMBER 24

Carols & Lessons 7:30 PM Worship Team

Come together to re-live the message that Christmas brings this year.

DECEMBER 25

Bah, Humbug! and Hallelujah! Hazel Carr Leroy

Join us on Christmas morning as we sing carols and reflect upon moving from the cold and darkness of the winter to the warmth and light of the season.

Sunday Service at
Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
starts at 11 o'clock.
All are welcome!

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

December 4
Bonita Campbell and Bob Follette

December 11
Isabella Cederquist and Andrew Weber

December 18
Barbara Stolarz and Greg Blackman

December 25
To be announced

Refreshments

December 4
Anne Thompson and Barbara Barnes

December 11
Linda LeFever and Steve Wertheim

December 18
Pat Downey and Leo Nagorski

December 25
To be announced

December 2005

				1 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	2	3
4 GE certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am AIDS Day Service 11:00 am First Gathering Celebration 6:00 pm	5 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	6	7	8 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	9	10
11 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Sand Mandala Meditation 10:00 am Solstice Service 11:00 am	12 NA 7:00 pm	13	14 Newsletter Deadline!!	15 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	16	17 DownUnder Coffeehouse 7:00 pm
18 Choir 9:30 am Holiday Intergenerational Service 11:00 am	19 NA 7:00 pm	20	21 Winter Solstice	22 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm
25 Christmas Day First night of Hannukkah	26 NA 7:00 pm	27 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	28	29 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	30	31 New Year's Eve

January 2006

1 New Years Day Giant Eagle certificate sign-up No RE classes District NA 1:30 pm	2 NA 7:00 pm Board of Trustees 7:30 pm	3	4	5 RE Committee 7:30 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	6	7
8 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery	9 NA 7:00 pm	10	11	12 PIIN monthly meeting Tai Chi 8:00 pm	13 Newsletter Deadline!!	14
15 Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am	16 MLK Day NA 7:00 pm	17	18 UUs United 7:30 pm	19 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	20	21 DownUnder Coffeehouse 7:00 pm
22 Choir 9:30 am	23 NA 7:00 pm	24 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	25	26 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	27	28
29 Chinese New Year Choir 9:30 am	30	31				

FUUNDRISING

This has been a great year for FUNdraisers. The monthly UU theme basket is proving to be a real hit – and lots of fun. Our November basket's focus was on meditation assembled creatively by Barbara Barnes. In December look for an active meditation basket focused on knitting being put together by Hazel C. Leroy. Everyone is encouraged to get your tickets at only \$2 per chance or three for \$5. Drawings take after Service on the last Sunday of the month.

The Yummy Pie sale was better than ever with 170 pies purchased by Allegheny and three other area UU churches. And 44 pies

donated to the food pantry for our less fortunate neighbors. Special thanks to Bob Follette, Linda Deafenbaugh, Steve Hirtle, Kathy Kozachenko and Cindy Maddamma. Thanks to all who encouraged neighbors, friends and coworkers to order this year. It is with everyone doing their part that we can continue to grow our fundraising efforts.

If you have felt 'underdressed' at Allegheny, its only because you haven't gotten a fashionable rainbow lanyard yet to wear with your name tag. They are only \$5 and complement every outfit. Consider getting an extra one for use at work or home.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

A Season For Thanks

At this time of Thanksgiving, we especially recognize the following:

The many members and friends who gave their time, talents, and financial resources to make the installation weekend a wonderfully memorable experience. Thanks to generous financial contributions from Giant Eagle, Inc., and from several members, the dream of a Friday night gathering with old and new friends of the North Side community became a reality.

All who contributed to the special collection during the installation on November 6. The collection for the *Living Tradition Fund* yielded \$748. The Living Tradition Fund provides support for ministry, including need-

based scholarships for theological students, new minister assistance to reduce the burden of high educational debt and repayment, and grants to ministers for emergency assistance.

All who have generously placed money in the basket for the shelter and food pantry. Funds contributed over the past few months were used to purchase groceries for the food pantry operated by Northside Common Ministries.

All who have been diligent in honoring your pledge commitments. Offerings during the first four months of the fiscal year were about \$21,494. This is on target with our operating budget.

The monthly theme basket raffle is a real hit – get your tickets at only \$2 per chance or three for \$5.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kim Winbush, RE Committee Chair

On December 4, we will finish the third rotation in the RE program, about the lessons of Jesus, to be followed by our Winter Fair on the 11. Please let us know if you'd like to help with the fair, or bring any snacks to the event. On the 18th, the children will present their play at the Intergenerational Service. There will be no RE on the 25th or on January 1.

MUSIC NOTES

There will be no choir practice on Christmas morning! The instrumental ensemble has been getting together after Service on Sunday mornings and encourage those of you who play instruments to join them. See Jane Schwarz for details, and for practice times.

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 Donald Zeilman

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Allegheny Unitarian
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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Allegheny Web Site

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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION