



Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Bits & Pieces

As anybody who has asked me knows, I consider membership in a church to mean a lot: that you'll show up at worship when you're in town, serve as a regular volunteer in some capacity, tithe or work toward arranging your life so you will be able to tithe, and think more about what others can get out of your church than what you get out of it yourself—in other words, to put the needs of the church above personal needs.

Tim & I take church membership extremely seriously. After talking it over, and taking prayerful consideration of the consequences, we have come to the happy conclusion that it is time to join as members of Allegheny. On a fiscal level, it seems a little weird. A minister joining the congregation he serves is a little like sending a monthly kick-back to one's boss in order to pay your salary. But we feel good about supporting Allegheny. We enjoy worshipping here—yes, even when I'm not preaching. And Tim's already somehow found himself involved in various church committees and projects. In a way, becoming members sort of

feels like a continuation of the installation celebration. Not only did the installation a couple months ago show the amazing ministry we can do as a church when we focus and work together, it inspired us to seriously consider our relationship to this special place.

If you think you are ready for membership, please contact me, a Membership Committee volunteer, or one of the Board members. We'd be happy to talk to you further about joining this community through membership. By the way, one of the responsibilities of membership is voting. The current Bylaw stipulates that members may vote 90 days after they've joined. So if you'd like to share in the responsibility of voting at this year's Annual Meeting (21 May 2006), please keep in mind that you'll want to join by mid February.

We look forward to working together with you in this new relationship, to growing in spirit, to discovering truth, and to transforming ourselves and our society. It's a joy to be with you.

Reverend Dave

We look forward to working together with you in this new relationship...

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

February 5

Anne Thompson and Chris Stygar

February 12

Pat Snowden and Martha Brethauer

February 19

Andy Schwarz and Barbara Stolarz

February 26

Kathleen Kenny and Tom Morton

Refreshments

February 5

Lisa Carvajal and Lynn Glorieux

February 12

Pat Downey and Jane Dirks

February 19

Betty Schwarz and Diane McMahon

February 26

Ellen Kerr and Kathleen Kenny

IN CHURCH

An Appeal from Rev. Dave

Were I to have been pressed to vote for the two least likely people to spend time in a church office when I came to Allegheny, Andy Schwarz and Hazel LeRoy could easily have been in my top five. Yet these two troopers have for the past year been sorting mail, making files, filing files, sifting e-mail, answering phones, scheduling rooms, inputting data, deciphering notes, and all around keeping the office lively and running. Of course with help along the way—particularly from Lisa Carvajal—they've taken the lion's share of a huge undertaking. And now they're pooped. Their work has been great. And their work is done. Andy and Hazel have a vision of our church that includes living up to our commitments to working together in ministry, no matter how seemingly minor the task. So join me in offering deep gratitude to these two, Hazel and Andy, who have done such an incredible service to this community.

As our community continues along its self-determined path toward full-time ministry in the next three years, professionalizing the administration of the office is an obvious and necessary next step. As I've told the Board already, it just doesn't make sense to bring me to full-time ministry if a third or quarter of that time is spent being my own secretary. Right now, about two of my nine weekly units of time are spent in administration. With an administrator, that could probably be cut at least in half. But now with Andy and Hazel leaving, that may increase back to three or four of my nine units of time per week that it was before they started volunteering.

Until such time as our community chooses to support ourselves financially so that we can hire a part-time administrator, we will continue to make up for this deficiency through appeals to your volunteer energies. As your minister, I would like to minister rather than administer. Please consider volunteering in the Church office. Contact Board President John Engberg for details.

Annual PIIN Banquet

Save the date: This year's annual Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network Banquet at the William Penn Hotel will be held March 11, 2006. We hope to have another great turn-out from Allegheny this year.

Dinner, Talent Show, Auction

Mark your calendars for the annual Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show, and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 18. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM and the talent show starts at 7 PM. Start thinking about your talent show skit or song and your silent auction donation. The auction has been very successful based on service items individuals have donated such as tutoring, baby and/or dog sitting, food preparation (soups to scones) and many more. Hope to see you there (and on stage).

DISTRICT DOINGS

OMD Winter Institute 2006

Winter Institute, a schedule-free weekend gathering of UUs from the District, will take place February 17–20, 2006. There are outdoor activities, indoor activities, and plenty of opportunities to relax. Detailed information may be found on the Winter Institute flyer located on the bulletin board.

Addiction Ministries Workshop

First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh is sponsoring an addiction ministries workshop on Saturday, February 4. The workshop will be led by Rev. Denis Meacham, a certified addictions counselor and UU minister.

The workshop will explore components of a lay-led addictions ministry and will provide inspiration, guidance and tools for launching and sustaining a congregation-based program.

The workshop starts at noon and will finish by 4:00 PM. There is a \$10 fee that includes lunch. A flyer explaining the program, and how to register, is posted on the Lower Hall bulletin board.

OMD Winter Institute will take place on February 17–20. Look for the flyer with information.

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5

Miracles, Monsters & Mature Christianity

Rev. David McFarland

Taking Ralph Waldo Emerson's infamous *Divinity School Address* as a point of departure, Rev. Dave relates his experiences of Christianity.

FEBRUARY 12

All You Need Is...

Worship Team

Join the Program Committee as we share poems, stories, essays, and songs for this special Valentine Service paying homage to Love.

FEBRUARY 19

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action.

Feast Fast

Rev. David McFarland

In honor of Mardi Gras, Rev. Dave explores the roles of feasting and fasting in spiritual paths.

FEBRUARY 26

Creating Community: Building Houses and Friendships

Andrew Weber

Andrew will speak about what Habitat for Humanity, International means to him and to our world.

CENTENNIAL NOTES

Almost 100—And Still Goin' Strong

Allegheny is, indeed, a busy place. Over the last few months we have celebrated, commemorated, installed, planned, and labored. From Rev. Dave's Installation, through the First Gathering anniversary, to the joyous seasonal celebrations of December & January, volunteers from the congregation have provided the creativity and energy to make each event a success.

And the volunteering continues around the good work of obtaining Welcoming Congregation status, of planning for our financial future, of educating our children, and of seeing to the day-to-day requirements of keeping the congregation going and growing.

It is hard to imagine that folks could find time to volunteer for one more thing. But... there is an important 'time' issue before us, and that is the congregation's centennial anniversary.

For 100 years, we've been chugging along doing the good work—helping those in need and advocating for justice. The Centennial is a time to both celebrate this history, and look to our future.

Please consider volunteering some of your time for Centennial planning. We are seeking volunteers to serve on an organizing committee to plan and coordinate the various Centennial activities and events. In addition to completing tasks, committee members will act as liaisons to Church committees, groups and members that will be involved in this commemoration.

If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Donald Zeilman (DZ), who is compiling a list of volunteers.

So let's continue the energy and creativity, and remember that this celebration of our past is also a prologue to our future.

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

February 2006

			1	2	3	4
5 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm	6 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	7	8 Ashura	9 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	10	11
12 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Valentine's Day Party & Exchange	13 NA 7:00 pm	14 St Valentine's Day	15 Newsletter Deadline!!	16 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	17	18 DownUnder Coffeeshouse 7:00 pm
19 Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am	20 Presidents' Day NA 7:00 pm	21	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	24 Flag Day	25
26 Choir 9:30 am	27 NA 7:00 pm	28 Program Comm. 7:30 pm				

March 2006

			1 Ash Wednesday	2 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	3	4
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19 Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am	20 Spring begins NA 7:00 pm	21	22	23 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	24	25
26 Choir 9:30 am	27 NA 7:00 pm	28 Program Comm. 7:30 pm				

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

The Mid-Year

The flurry of activity and the festive spirit throughout the Church during December had positive implications for our financial statements. Special thanks to all who did one or more of the following during December:

- Made year-end or other special contributions to the church in addition to making your pledge payments. A total of \$3150 in additional funds was received.
- Made a new offerings pledge or increased your pledge for the remainder of FY2006;
- Paid off the balance of your offerings pledge in advance of the fiscal year end;
- Contributed to the special collection to bring NAMES Project quilt panels to the church again next fall;
- Participated in our various fundraising efforts, including holiday ornaments, grocery gift certificates, fair trade coffee, the basket raffle, and the DownUnder Coffee House.

At the mid-point of our fiscal year, we have contributed about one-half of our annual program fund dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Ohio-Meadville District. UUA dues and O-MD dues for FY2006 are \$51 per member and \$21 per member, respectively. Our dues help to underwrite programs, services, and resources that directly strengthen our congregation and UUism as a whole. Religious education curriculum development, social justice programs, ministry support, and growth, extension, and outreach initiatives all benefit from the payment of dues.

Six-month year-to-date financial information is being summarized and will be distributed to committee chairs shortly. The information will provide background for the budget work session scheduled for February 16.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kim Winbush, RE Committee Chair

Looking At Social Justice

In January, the RE program diverged from its rotation model to spend the month on social justice issues. The major project of the month was a read-a-thon in which the children obtained pledges for books read, the money to be contributed to Habitat for Humanity for their efforts to rebuild the Hurricane Katrina-ravaged south. Thanks to all those who helped with this endeavor! In addition, the children made a basket to be raffled off in the church around the theme of peace: with origami cranes, in commemoration of the devastation wrought by our atomic bombing of Japan, and with peace sayings. The kids also collected canned goods for the shelter and continued sharing their social justice/acts of kindness

performed over the week. Thanks, too, to Andrew Weber for his sharing his experiences with Habitat for Humanity with the kids as they discussed ways to address the issues of homelessness and housing for the undeserved.

Volunteers Still Needed

We continue to seek adults interested in participating in the RE program, with spots available for teachers, who only need to commit to a two-week rotation, for snack bringers, for help with our upcoming Valentines' Party, and for help on our committee. Contact Kris Thomas or Kim Winbush or Lynn Yocum if you interested in helping with our children and youth!

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Allegheny Unitarian
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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY-DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION