

JANUARY 2004

# Allegheny ADVOCATE

monthly newsletter of allegheny unitarian universalist church

JANUARY 4

New Years Resolutions of the Spiritual Kind

Linda Deafenbaugh

Join us for a participatory Service to reflect on our individual spiritual paths. We will symbolically acknowledge each person's successes and challenges in the past year and focus attention on charting the spiritual journey each will be taking in this new year.

JANUARY 11

Acceptance? It's Problematic

Rev. Dave Lutz

Throughout this year I have been speaking on our seven UU Principles. This program returns to number three, about the problems that come with "promoting acceptance." Sometimes distance and cutoff pass for acceptance ("I accept Aunt Florence – I just don't talk to her, is all"). Should there be some limit to this principle? As it is, it raises problems...

JANUARY 18

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Jeanne Zang

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action.

Dr. King And The Beloved Community 11:00 AM

Celeste Taylor

For Dr. King, The Beloved Community was not a lofty utopian goal to be confused with the rapturous image of the Peaceable Kingdom, in which lions and lambs coexist in idyllic harmony. Rather, The Beloved Community was for him a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. Celeste Taylor will be connecting this vision to contemporary civil rights, peace and justice issues as we observe this holiday commemorating Dr. King's life and work.

JANUARY 25

The Sweetest Fat

Rev. Dave Lutz

One man who pursued "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning," which is our fourth UU Principle, was Walt Whitman. In *Leaves of Grass* he describes his search, concluding "I find no sweeter fat than sticks to my own bones." This program focuses on each of our own efforts to find "the sweetest fat."

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

*Happy New Year to Members and Friends*

## BOARD BUSINESS

*Kathy Kozachenko, President*

### Come One, Come All

Just like the Super Bowl, our Mid-Year Congregational Meeting rolls around at the end of each January. Unlike the Super Bowl, however, it's not a spectator sport, but an event designed for the participation of the entire group. It is an opportunity for the congregation to weigh in on significant issues, to have input on the Church's goals and direction, and to raise any concerns or topics that members feel are important.

This year, we are looking forward to:

- An exciting update from the Search Committee on their progress in seeking a new permanent minister.
- A vote on ownership of the Unitarian House. Currently, the UUA owns the build-

ing, but the Board has approached the UUA about Allegheny taking over ownership. We will be reporting on this and seeking the congregation's approval to move forward.

- Our Long Range Goals. How are we doing with envisioning and planning for our future?
- Green Sanctuary. Can we move forward with attempts to become a formally designated "green" church?

Please plan to come and join us, after Service on January 25, as we discuss not only these topics, but also the ones that invariably and spontaneously come up as we meet.

Join us for our  
Mid-Year  
Congregational  
Meeting, after  
Service on  
January 25

## ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

*Rev. Dave Lutz*

### Who Will You Be This Year?

I can't remember the last time I made any New Year's resolutions. It's been years and years, I know. In fact I can now non-resolute with conviction, having at my disposal some heavy-duty systems theory about how such resolutions don't promote real change. I'm sadder but wiser, so to speak.

For example It has been my observation that every January 2 there are more people exercising at the Jewish Community Center in Squirrel Hill than at any other time of the year. It is always just a matter of days until the regulars are the only ones left.

On the other hand, my friend Eugene made a New Year's resolution last January to practice the piano regularly all year. This was a little unsettling to me because he also is a therapist and I thought he should know better. What has been even more unsettling to me is that as I write this in the middle of December I know that Eugene is still practicing his piano. I know this because every so often I drop by his house

and I hear him in there, whacking away at his Beethoven as I ring his doorbell.

By the time you get this, in January, I expect that 2004 will be galloping at full tilt, dragging us all behind willy-nilly. Did you get any time yet to stop and reflect about who you want to be this time around – this New Year; about what it is you want to be about?

Some of you practice some form of meditation and know what it's like to sit down and try to meditate, but your mind's eye is on the clock because the world is sitting there, tapping its collective foot. Maybe at times you stay long enough to move from being roiled to quietly watching the roil: to recover the peace and joy of simply being a part of the Mystery. Maybe you'll find a place where even small miracles are sometimes born – like my friend Eugene and his piano.

If you like, you can tell your boss that your Pastor said you need a day off for spiritual R&R. Just have him or her call me.

### Ministry as and "Art" Form

Allegheny UU Church is offering a special audio collection: *Ministry as an "Art" Form*.

This collection of eight sermons from Rev. Art McDonald covers seven years of his ministry in Pittsburgh. The collection is approximately four hours long and is available on either compact disc or cassette.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the capital fund of the Church. Contact Steve Hirtle at 412/242-5166, hirtle+@pitt.edu or 1137 Lancaster St., Pittsburgh, PA 15218, to place an order.

### Recipe Submissions Wanted

In her ten months at Allegheny, Hazel Leroy has been delighted by the abundance and variety of the delicious dishes that grace our potluck tables. So delighted is she that she and Martha Brethauer plan to put together a cookbook of the Church's crowd-pleasing favorites as a fund-raising item for the congregation.

You can e-mail your recipes to Hazel at L.HC@verizon.net. Bon appetit!

### DownUnder Coffeehouse

This month the DownUnder Coffeehouse will be held on January 24 from 7:30–9:30 pm in Founders Hall. We are very pleased to welcome back the First Unitarian Folk Orchestra, with Allegheny's own Jane Schwarz on keyboards, to the DownUnder stage. Warm your musical soul with wonderful sounds, coffee, treats and good fellowship!

### Yummy Pie Sale a Success!

Thanks to all who supported our 5th annual Thanksgiving Yummy Pie Sale. This year we sold 171 pies and 5 cookie trays and raised approximately \$825 for the Church budget. Forty-eight pies were donated to individuals and families in need through the Northside Common Ministries Food Pantry and the Light of Life Ministries Soup Kitchen.

Special thanks go out to these pie power buyers, Lynn Glorieux, Kate & Mark Tomlinson, John Engberg, and Betty & Andy Schwarz.

And also to our friends at South Hills UU and North Hills UU, who very much look forward to our pies every year.

By moving delivery from Saturday to Sunday morning, we got about 24 hours of extra freshness this year. Several folks commented that the sweet potato pies tasted better than ever. Hoorah! For the great tasting pies we give credit to Haas Farm Bakery in Slippery Rock, stop by and visit them on Main Street if you are ever in that neighborhood.

Finally, we're proud that in 5 years of this fundraiser we have sold 1146 pies, 15 cookie trays, donated 273 pies, raised about \$5600, and probably gained more than a few inches of waistline in the process. Thank you for your support!

### From The Heart . . .

On Saturday, February 7, at 7:30 pm, the Second Annual From the Heart Award for outstanding contributions to our congregation will be presented to Walter and Martha Brethauer.

The event, sponsored by the Board of Trustees, will feature the award presentations, surprise entertainment, and an array of tasty hors d'oeuvres and desserts. In addition to non-alcoholic beverages, some beer and wine will be available, but please feel free to bring your own.

There is no charge for the evening's food and entertainment but we will be highlighting a modest buildings project and asking for your support! Don't miss the fun and the chance to thank Walt and Martha for all they have done and continue to do!

### Another Directory Correction

Please note that the following is the correct contact information for Cindy Maddamma: 2936 Beechwood Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412/421-4162 (home) and 412/613-6459 (cell) cindyliz17@aol.com or cindyliz17@hotmail.com

First Unitarian's Folk Orchestra performs at the coffee house on January 24

### The Caring Committee's Ministry

The Caring Committee was established in March 2003 for the purpose of identifying the needs of the congregation, being a source of information and providing emotional and physical support to the members of the congregation, their families, friends and neighbors.

In the past several months, the Committee has sent numerous cards and gift baskets, and has assisted members of the congregation with a variety of services.

You can contact the Committee in one of four ways: 1) verbal contact with a Committee member, 2) e-mail Committee member Kim Winbush at [kwinbush@aol.com](mailto:kwinbush@aol.com), 3) call a Committee member, or 4) place a request in the Caring Committee basket in the Emerson Room.

The Caring Committee truly Cares, and is here to comfort, acknowledge, respond, encourage and support. The members are: Barbara Barnes, Bev Darwin, Rebecca Davis, Jane Dirks, Kathy Kozachenko, Nicki Perfetti and Kim Winbush.

### Social Justice Committee Active Again

The Social Justice Committee was reconvened at the request of the Board of Trustees and is chaired by John Meikle. The Committee, open to anyone, is composed of Andy Schwarz, Bev Darwin, Bob Follette, Dave Lutz, Devon DeAngelo, Gregg Dietz, Jane Schwarz, Jeanne Zang, Lynn Glorieux, and Rick Smith.

The group's first undertaking is to learn the congregation's concerns and identify resources. Specifically, we are soliciting input from members, determining their ability to participate in social justice efforts, and creating a list of organizations in which our members are already active. One possible byproduct will be a directory of those organizations with a contact person for each at the Church.

The effort, which is already underway, is slated to be done by the January meeting. A review of the first wave of interviews reveals a

desire for improvement to the Church (improved handicap access, becoming a UU Welcoming Congregation), contribution to the North Side as well as concerns at the city, region, national, and global levels.

Most often mentioned is support for Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) and opposition to the death penalty.

If you have not been polled, you will be. Please think about the following questions:

- Where would you like to see our "social justice energy" directed?
- What social justice efforts do you already support?
- What are you willing to do?

### Helping Unitarian House

Give our kids a New Year's present, help fix the U House! Unitarian House, which is home to our children's religious education programming and other Church uses, is in need of serious top-to-bottom attention.

Some renovations have been undertaken, but many remain incomplete. In addition, there are still some projects that need to be initiated. The House Committee is looking for individuals to work on, or take charge of, some of these projects.

Projects include, but are not limited to, completing the second floor hall renovations, plaster and paint work in the second floor bathroom and classrooms, completing the third floor office renovations, drywall installation and finishing in the second stair, repair to the basement windows, and patching the main hall. Following the completion of these items, we can continue painting the remaining rooms.

When the weather permits, we have some outside work to do with the box gutters that will help keep our inside repair work repaired.

Please talk to House Committee members Andy Schwarz or Kathy Kozachenko for more details! We may also be circulating some sign-up sheets. Thanks!

We are seeking  
volunteers to  
help with the  
Unitarian House  
renovations

# January 2004

				1 New Years Day	2	3
4 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am Recital after Service 1:00 pm 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 Newsletter Deadline!!	17
18 MLK Sunday Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am Finance 12:30 pm	19 Martin Luther King Holiday NA 7:00 pm	20	21	22	23 Games Night	24 Coffee House 7:30 pm
25 Choir 9:30 am Mid-Year Congregational Meeting 12:30 pm	26 NA 7:00 pm	27	28	29	30	31

# February 2004

1 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am What We're About orientation 12:30 pm District NA 1:30 pm	2 Board of Trustees 7:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	3	4	5	6	7 2nd Annual <i>From The Heart</i> member recognition night
8 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 am Cooking Program 2:00 pm	9 Program Comm. 7:30 pm  NA 7:00 pm	10	11 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	12 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm Wesley Center AME Zion	13	14 St. Valentine's Day
15 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am Valentine exchange	16 Presidents Day  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 Finance 12:30 pm	23 NA 7:00 pm	24	25 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 pm	26	27	28
29 Choir 9:30 am						

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

*Jill Brethauer*

### Pledging Financial Support

Happy New Year! It's not too late to make a resolution to be up-to-date on your offerings to the Church. If you are behind in meeting your monthly pledge and are able to catch up, now is the time! Did you forget to make a pledge during last spring's pledge drive? Are you a new member who somehow didn't receive a pledge form? Do you want to increase the pledge that you already made? Pledge forms are available in the Emerson Room.

Toward the end of January, each member will receive a letter summarizing your financial

contributions for calendar year 2003, and reminding you of your pledge status for the current Church fiscal year, which ends on 30 June 2004. If you need that information sooner, you may contact Kathy Graham, Ed Kinley, or Jill Brethauer.

The wonderful programs and works of this Church are possible only because our members and friends commit their time and financial support. You and your offerings are vital to our community! Thanks for your support.

I wish you a happy and healthy 2004.

Are you up to date on your offerings for the year?

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Kris Thomas, DRE*

### January RE Schedule

During the month of January, the 5- through 11-year-olds will take a break from our Seven Principles workshop rotation.

On January 4 and 25, the children will learn about the Heifer Project, a program that works to end poverty and hunger, and care for the earth by providing appropriate livestock, training, and related services to small-scale farmers and communities worldwide.

On January 11, the children will learn about Harriet Tubman and perform a skit about Sojourner Truth. Kiki will also join us on this day to teach the children a special song, which they will then share with the congregation during a Service in February.

On January 18, we will watch the video, *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*, which is produced by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

## SERVING THE CONGREGATION

### Greeters

#### January 4

Alex West and Kiki Barley

#### January 11

Jill Brethauer and Bev Darwin

#### January 18

Martha and Walt Brethauer

#### January 25

Eric Schotoff and Andrew Schwarz

### Refreshments

#### January 4

Ann Sitrin

#### January 11

Kate Tomlinson and Betty Schwarz

#### January 18

Lynn Glorieux and Alex West

#### January 25

Kathy Graham and Hazel Leroy

## GREEN PERSPECTIVE

Lynn Glorieux

### What Is A Green Sanctuary?

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the earth by creating a sustainable style of life for its members as individuals and as a faith community. As UUs, we are called to ecological awareness and action by our Seventh Principle, in which we “affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

The Green Sanctuary Program provides a framework for congregations to study and reflect, and take individual and collective action to respond to the call of the Seventh Principle. Development of the Green Sanctuary Program is the primary mission of the Seventh Principle Project, which is an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The five underlying goals of the Green Sanctuary Program are:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs
- To generate commitment for personal life style changes
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues

- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness
- To build awareness of and rectify social injustices

The Social Justice Committee would like to get moving again on Allegheny’s application to become a designated Green Sanctuary. We are already carrying out several of the required practices: recycling paper, cans and bottles; incorporating ecological themes in our Sunday Services and Religious Education classes; and using washable dishes and tablecloths for pot-luck dinners and coffee hours. Some of the other requirements may involve planning a church-wide field trip to some environmental-related facility, supporting another organization’s efforts to work for a particular environmental justice issue, and/or working to make our church building even more energy-efficient.

If you would like to help Allegheny become a designated Green Sanctuary, please call Lynn Glorieux at 412/322-8056. We plan to meet in January, probably after Service.

We would like to invigorate our Green Sanctuary initiative

## DISTRICT & DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

### Chalice Lighting At Ginger Hill

The Ginger Hill Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Slippery Rock (a sister congregation) is now in formation. Since January 2003 they have attracted an attendance of 20 to 60 folks, have purchased a 1920s-era building (with its contents) at an amazingly low price, and are already a “presence” in the community.

The O-MD Board has approved Ginger Hill for a Chalice Lighters grant. Chalice Lighters are District members who agree to send in a minimum of \$10 per grant when the call comes in. These calls are made no more than four times a year.

Congregations with “first homes,” like Ginger Hill, are eligible for these grants that fund improvements. Ginger Hill would like to use

the money to replace wiring and plumbing, fix leaky windows, painting, and some accessibility upgrades. In addition, they will acquire some hymnals and some materials for their RE program.

You can help support this effort by sending a check for \$10 or more to OMD Chalice Lighters, and by joining the Chalice Lighters program. See Donald Zeilman for details.

### 2004 Wall Calendar On Sale

The UU Women’s Heritage Society wall calendar is out and for sale. The calendar features images of remarkable UU women. Check out the notice on the bulletin board 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

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



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