



Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Bits & Pieces

During the holiday season, I'm more than *It's a new year*. Thoughts turn to how we're doing, what we're doing, and how we're doing what we're doing. For most of us, this means personal, family, work, and church or other volunteer service.

Since the topic of my PhD thesis is the application of the ethic of human dignity within the global economic context, I sometimes come across interesting topics that might be of interest in my work as a pastor, too. A book title came across my desk through the online BizEthicsBuzz for November 2005. It's a new book about making work meaningful. I've not read it, but it's a good sign that it uses one of Marge Piercy's readings in our hymn book, #567, for its title, *To Be of Use: The Seven Seeds of Meaningful Work*, by Dave Smith (New World Library, 2005). Perhaps if you're

un-, under-, or unhappily-employed, you might start a book discussion group either in your neighborhood or here at church. Telephone the office at 412/322-4261 or e-mail auuchurch@yahoo.com for available building use times.

For those who are interested in how we're doing as a church, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) offers a Congregational Self-Assessment Packet. It offers three models of self-assessment and is also available through the church office or through the UUA (617/742-2100).

And of course for personal and family development, we'll see you at church.

Whatever you resolve to do or to be or to change or to renew this new year, may it be a year full of joy and fullness of life, and may peace prevail on Earth and in our hearts.

Reverend Dave

May it be a year
full of joy and
fullness of life ...

Aids Quilt Display

As I walked into Allegheny Church Saturday morning with my 14-year-old daughter Sarah to see the Aids Quilt panels, I knew this would be a different church experience. Sarah immediately was engaged and had many questions about the names and the quilts conception. As we drove home she was silent for some time, I knew the quilt display had left an impression on her.

This was just one experience that took place all over the county for World Aids Day, and I am sure there were many similar reactions as, the Quilt is a unique creation, an uncommon and uplifting response to the tragic loss of human life.

The Aids Quilt panels were brought to Allegheny Church and is an important part of our mission. For those of you who contributed to the special collection on World AIDS Day Sunday, thank you! This money will help defray the rising costs of bringing the Quilt to our Church in 2006.

The Quilt was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 and is the largest community art project in the world. Since 1987, over 14 million people have visited the Quilt at thousands of displays worldwide. Through such displays, the NAMES Project Foundation has raised over \$3 million for AIDS service organizations throughout North America.

Susan Hillman

IN CHURCH

Directory Update

New address for the Directory:
Peter Adams and Ann Sitrin have a new address in Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania.

Contact the Membership Committee if you are interested in getting their updated information.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Guest at Your Table boxes should be returned to the church by Sunday, January 8. All of the boxes will be collected and a joint contribution from Allegheny will be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Shelter Contributions

After many years of residing in the Emerson Room, the cash contributions basket for the shelter & food pantry has moved downstairs to Founders Hall. We hope that the new location will be more visible and inviting for all! Over the past 15 months, approximately \$424 was placed in the basket. Those funds were used to purchase toiletries and other items for clients of the shelter operated by Northside Common Ministries, groceries for the NCM pantry, and food items to supplement the monthly meals that members of our congregation prepare for the shelter clients.

CENTENNIAL NEWS

Organizing Committee

The Allegheny Church Centennial anniversary date is May 6, but we will be celebrating and honoring this congregational milestone throughout 2006.

We are seeking volunteers to serve on an organizing committee to plan and coordinate the various activities and events. In addition to tasks, committee members will act as liaisons to the Church committees, groups and members that will be involved in this celebration.

If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Donald Zeilman.

DISTRICT DOINGS

Mind Body Connection

The sixteenth annual Ohio-Meadville District Men's Retreat will be held March 10-12, 2006 at Sandscrest Retreat Center near Wheeling, West Virginia.

Rev. David McFarland will be the workshop leader this year. The weekend will be an exploration of the connection between mind and body.

See the flyer that is posted on the Lower Hall bulletin board for details on what to expect, how to prepare, and registration.

Bring your mind. Your body will follow.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Marie Engberg

Progress

The Welcoming Congregation Committee continues to meet to plan and chart our progress toward becoming a Welcoming Congregation to the GLBT community. We are planning a 'launch day' on a Sunday coming soon (exact date yet to be determined) where you will hear more about what the Welcoming Congregation designation is and what we need to do to earn it from the UUA. On that day, we will also be asking everyone to fill out questionnaires to gauge attitudes among our congregation and determine how to focus our programming efforts. Please show that you are supportive of Allegheny's efforts and complete your questionnaire! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Marie Engberg, or any of your other helpful Welcoming Committee members.

MUSIC NOTES

Kiki Barley

Choir Reminder

The Choir continues to rehearse at 9:30 AM each Sunday. We welcome all who enjoy singing and would particularly like to encourage sopranos and altos to join us.

Volunteers are being sought for a Centennial Organizing Committee

DOING JUSTICE

Hazel Leroy

Shelter Meals

I have often asked myself why the faithful five or six of us keep coming back to volunteer to make and serve a meal for the Pleasant Valley Shelter once a month. A number of answers have occurred to me; none of the answers hit the mark. Yet there is an element of truth in each answer.

First of all, there is the chance for camaraderie. I have gotten to know a group of people from Allegheny whom I might not have had the opportunity to know had it not been for our monthly cooking gig. And let me tell you, these are great people: funny, reliable, kind, and caring. There's not a one of us who has that odor of holier-than-thou noblesse oblige wafting around us.

Sometimes I think that I keep coming back because of the staff and clients. These men are under a kind of stress that I can only imagine. Yet they conduct themselves with such graciousness. They are well mannered and helpful and they never neglect to express their gratitude. The rest of the world could take a few lessons from the guys at Pleasant Valley.

And speaking of gratitude, there are times I think that I like cooking for Pleasant Valley

because I feel appreciated there. Here, there are few picky eaters and complainers. No one ever says, "But I hate this! Why can't we have pizza?!" or "Sorry, honey, I had a late lunch with the folks at work. I'm just not hungry at all." No, indeed, these people have good appetites as well as nice manners.

Finally, though, I think it all comes back to my fellow congregants. I enjoy seeing them outside of church every month. Not only do I like them enormously, but these people can cook. One can always use another good cook in one's circle of friends. Nancy's crisp, colorful salads...Susan's rich, earthy stews...Ed and Willy's decadent desserts....

Oh, damn. Now I've got the munchies.

A group of volunteers from Allegheny provides a meal for 30 of the staff and clients of the Pleasant Valley Shelter on the third Thursday of every month. If you don't cook, you can bring bread & butter or help serve. If you would like to be a part of this intrepid crew, please contact Susan Hillman whose chili is to die for.

**Allegheny
provides a meal
at Pleasant Valley
Shelter each month**

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

January 1

Ellen Kerr and Kenny

January 8

Pete McQuillin and Nancy Chubb

January 15

Leo Nagorski and Andy Schwarz

January 22

Alex West and Greg Blackman

January 29

Dave Whaley and Jill Brethauer

Refreshments

January 1

Kathy Graham and Charlie Snowden

January 8

Anne Thompson and Kim Breneman

January 15

Hazel Leroy and Betty Schwarz

January 22

Pat Downey and Amelia Haviland

January 29

Lynn Gloieux

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 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	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 Coffeeshouse 7:00 pm
22 Choir 9:30 am	23 NA 7:00 pm	24	25	26 Tai Chi 8:00 pm	27	28
29 Chinese New Year Choir 9:30 am	30	31 Program Comm. 7:30 pm				

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	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 Valentines Day Party & Exchange	13 NA 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	17 Newsletter Deadline!!	18 DownUnder Coffeeshouse 7:00 pm
19 Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am	20 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				

GREEN PERSPECTIVE

Jeanne Zang

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

At the close of this holiday season, don't send your tree to the landfill, where it will take up valuable space. Instead, bring it to Construction Junction for a second use. The Pennsylvania Resources Council, the Union Project, the City of Pittsburgh, and Construction Junction, in cooperation with Emery Tree Service, are hosting a Christmas tree drop-off on Saturday, January 14 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. During that time, individuals are welcome to drop off their real Christmas trees for a \$1 fee per tree. Emery Tree Service will recycle all of the trees into mulch. PRC will also accept old phone books for recycling at no charge that day.

The Christmas trees must be free of ornaments and loose or tied with a string when dropped off – no trees in plastic bags accepted.

Additionally, PRC needs help unloading trees from vehicles and directing traffic. All volunteers will receive a coupon for one free

hour of kayaking this spring, courtesy of Kayak Pittsburgh. For more information, call Ginette at PRC at 412/488-7490 or visit www.prc.org.

Convenient Paper Recycling

It's now easier than ever to recycle almost all paper products. As you may know, Agents of Change Recycling Center is no longer accepting recyclables. The good news, though, is that a new company, Abitibi, has recently started recycling in the Pittsburgh area. There are lots of drop-off locations and you do not need to sort your paper. They take junk mail, office paper, cereal and other paperboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, shredded paper, etc. I believe the only thing they do not take is corrugated cardboard. To find the bin nearest you, go to www.paperretriever.com and click on "United States" and then "Container Locator."

Recycle your Christmas tree at Construction Junction

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

The Good News

Year-to-date offerings for the first five months (through November 30) are about 2% higher than budget. Look at the progress that we are making!

Current year actual	\$26,887.70
Current year budget	\$26,310.00
Last year actual	\$23,454.65

Letters summarizing each member's financial contributions to the Church during calendar year 2005 are being prepared and will be mailed in January. The letters also will contain a report on where you stand on your FY 2006 pledge at the halfway and a friendly reminder of the balance to be paid by June 30, 2006.

The Finance Committee is investigating use of a service that would give members and friends the option of having your pledge payments automatically deducted from your bank account and deposited into the Church's bank account on some regular basis. A pilot project (using members of the Finance Committee as

'test cases') will begin in January, with the intention of making the option more widely available once all the details have been iron out.

It's time to begin working on the operating budget for FY2007 (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007). The Trustees have endorsed the idea of making the budget process more interactive and of more closely aligning the revenue side of the budget (mostly pledges) with the expense side. The expense budget will evolve from information gathered during the meetings to be held prior to the start of the pledge period. In the meantime, expense summaries for the first six months of the current fiscal year are being prepared for each committee.

A Healthy and Happy New Year to each of you! Thank you in advance for your efforts to make 2006 a financially healthy and happy year for the Church.

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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Allegheny Web Site

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1906—2006

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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY-DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION