

JUNE 2003

GLBT PRIDE MONTH

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

JUNE 1

Coming of Age Sunday

Youth & Staff

For the past year, our AUUC youth have been involved in a program of preparation to embrace UU faith in a deeper way. It is a program conducted for 8th & 9th graders. This is our first group to pass through this rite of passage in a long time. We are very happy to hear what this means to our youth.

JUNE 8

Community, Celebration & Public Ritual

Rev. Art McDonald

As we prepare to head off to North Park to celebrate our Annual Picnic, immediately after Service, Marie Ellavich, John Engberg and Art will reflect on the meaning of John & Marie's recent marital ritual in our church and the meaning of ritual celebrations in a religious community.

Annual Congregational Picnic 12:30 PM AT NORTH PARK

JUNE 15

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

Monthly Service that reconnects us to our community of faith and action.

Ministry in Religious Community: It's Been a Great Run (Race!) 11:00 AM

Rev. Art McDonald

As we celebrate Father's Day, Art will offer some reflections on some of the high points of his ministry at Allegheny over the past 12 years and some thoughts on unfinished business, as well as his hopes for Unitarian Universalism in the future here in Pittsburgh, in Essex Massachusetts, and beyond. Also, we'll do a flower communion this Sunday. *Please bring a flower to share.*

JUNE 22

Summer Solstice Celebration 10:00 AM

Linda Deafenbaugh

Today we will celebrate our earth-based spiritual tradition as we celebrate the Summer Solstice.

JUNE 29

Pride Sunday: Celebrating Families 10:00 AM

Over the past year, several couples in our congregation have taken advantage of a recent State Supreme Court ruling permitting the legalization of same-sex partner's second parent adoption. We will be hearing from some of these parents on the meaning of such events.

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

BOARD BUSINESS

Linda Deafenbaugh, Clerk

Our Future

It was gratifying to see over half of the Church's members at the Annual Meeting on May 18. Our collective efforts are powerful. Important decisions were made at this meeting to authorize the Board to hire an interim minister when the Interim Minister Search Committee recommends one (several candidates are under consideration); to approve the Permanent Minister Search Committee that was recommended by the Board (who will now begin the lengthy search process); and to elect John Engberg, Greg Dietz, Jennifer Woods, and Barbara Barnes to the Board. Phew!!

We also took the next step in the long range planning process – visioning.

In an exercise to look into the future, we brainstormed that the following aspects of the church will not change. We will be: continuing to do social justice and outreach, still spiritually diverse, a force in the larger UU world, a warm welcoming community, striving to make the world a better place, retaining members, staying involved with PIIN, working hard – older and newer members together, committed to growth with quality, having great socials and potlucks, and having great Sunday services.

We brainstormed that we will have changed and grown in the following ways: The choir is huge, musical and profitable; the church has grown fast by targeting core groups; the church has movement and tension; there are too many RE teachers; there are several full-time staff including people of color; the church is fiscally solvent; we have a new roof; the sanctuary ceiling is painted; there are over 100 children in the RE program; the congregation includes more young people, people of color, GLBT and other diverse groups; people are coming to an adult RE program; there is more grass-roots democracy; we have more involvement in greater UU world; the church has better accessibility; there is a second Sunday Service; we are in the streets; the church is deeply involved in a central social advocacy project; we are engaged in partnership with other UU

churches in our cluster; we have alternative worship Services outside of Sunday morning that are more earth-centered; and we encourage everyone to develop their own theology and provide referral and resource lists to help guide them in their search.

Like any brainstormed list, there are things that should be on it that aren't and vice-versa. Some of the ideas are in conflict with each other. Some can be accomplished quickly, some not.

Next steps are to prioritize the items and to develop the necessary steps to achieve them. In conjunction with the information gathered at the "living room meetings," this document becomes our long-range plan, guides us and our new minister in the direction that we agree we are going, and helps us accomplish everything we want to do.

In order to write the plan, everyone's input is needed in making sure that the lists are complete. Please give the Executive Committee (Kathy K, John E. and Linda D) your additions. Then all will be asked to rank the lists. Planning is a lengthy process but all will agree that it is the most democratic way to achieve our dreams. Thanks for putting your shoulder to the wheel.

IN THE CHURCH

Special Celebration

The congregation will host a celebration in honor of Art and Melanie McDonald on Saturday, June 21 at the church, beginning at 7:00 PM. This will be a very special occasion for two very special people – folks that will be remembered for a lifetime.

Please join us for this celebration which will be so much more than a good-bye. We are also asking folks to bring along reminiscences of life experiences spent with Art or Melanie.

The dinner will be pot-luck. For more information, contact Cheryl Napsha at 412/766-6277 or napshac@einetwork.net. There is also a notice enclosed with this newsletter that has more detail.

In order to write the long-term plan, everyone's input is needed...

FROM THE COMMUNITY

First Unitarian Fund-raising Auction

First Unitarian is having an international theme auction on Saturday, June 7, at the church in Shadyside, from 4–7 PM. Childcare and child activities available (please reserve). Tickets at door or call 412/421-3883.

UUs For Jewish Awareness

UUs for Jewish Awareness have a website (www.uuja.org). UUJA works to help people deepen their understanding of Judaism and the ways it has affected, and continues to develop, our UU faith.

Pride Exhibit

Interweave, of First Unitarian Church, is sponsoring a juried art exhibit in the Undercroft Gallery, with the theme *Celebrating our Queer Spirit*, to be held from June 8–30, 2003, in celebration of Pride Month.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

RE Informational Meeting

On Sunday, June 29, the RE Committee invites you to meet with us right after the Service to learn more about our plans for next year's RE program. As you may have read in the April newsletter, we are planning to have a new model for the kindergarten through sixth grade classes.

Thanks To Teachers

As of June 1, the children's RE classes have ended and we will offer childcare during the Sunday Service for children up to grade 6. Many thanks to all of you who taught RE classes this year and assisted with RE events. We couldn't have made it happen without you!

KEEPING HOUSE

Summer Projects

This summer, the House Committee would like to sponsor two projects to prepare us for the start of the new church year in September.

The first is actually a continuation of an on-going effort – completing the renovation of the church/minister's office on the third floor of Unitarian House. The change of minister this summer seems like a great time to complete this work. We will need some plaster repair, painting, cleaning, and (finally) moving.

The second project is a one-day effort. We will be scheduling a Saturday for hauling away large trash items. We will need a pickup truck(s) and some helping hands. We may also do some cleaning at Unitarian House as well.

Look for sign up sheets at church, or see Kathy Kozachenko, Andy Schwarz, Charlie Snowden or Donald Zeilman for an update on the schedule.

Cap Cam Wrap Up

Our Community Spaces Capital Campaign wraps up this coming December. We have continued raising funds so that we can repay the loan from the congregation's savings. If you are new, or haven't yet, please consider making a short-term pledge to the campaign. Individual gifts will also be welcome! Forms are available in the Minister's Study.

MUSIC NOTES

Kiki Barley, Music Director

Choir Schedule

The last scheduled choir rehearsal will be on June 15. The choir will also sing on that day, which will be Art's farewell Service. Choir practice will resume in September. Watch the newsletter for details.

Got some time this summer? Join in one or both of the House-sponsored projects as we prepare for next September.

GREEN PERSPECTIVE

Jill Brethauer

Resources

Several months ago, the Green Sanctuary Committee invited all members and friends to make a pledge of environmental responsibility. This was done to encourage thoughtful and careful use of the Earth's resources and also to help launch the Church's efforts to become certified as a Green Sanctuary. In response, a number of folks formally pledged to take action in at least three areas that would significantly reduce their impact on the environment. They then placed their signed pledge forms on the *Green Tree* (a.k.a. the holiday card tree). Plenty of space remains for additional pledge forms. Forms are available in the Emerson Room.

Whether you signed a pledge form or not, you might find two publications helpful in your efforts to be a responsible steward of the Earth. The first is *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists*. Based on analyses of how everyday household decisions affect the environment and loaded with statistics, this paperback is intended to help you set priorities for personal action and stop worrying about insignificant things. Chapters on *Priorities for Personal Action, Avoiding High Impact Activities, and*

Seven Rules for Responsible Consumption are easy to read. If you struggle with whether to use cloth or disposable diapers; whether to request paper or plastic bags at the grocery store; and/or whether to use paper plates, plastic utensils, and paper napkins instead of china and linen, you will find this book helpful.

The second publication is the Recycling Resource Directory. Published by the Allegheny County Health Department – Public Drinking Water & Waste Management Recycling Program and updated in the fall of 2002, the directory lists recyclers by type of material and provides addresses and telephone numbers. (The “household battery” section of the directory is not particularly helpful; folks may be pleased to know that all Radio Shack stores accept small batteries for recycling.) To request your own copy of the directory, call 412/578-8390. There is no charge.

Finally, all members and friends are reminded that a Green Sanctuary notebook has been compiled and is available for your use at the church. The notebook is full of helpful information, including a reference copy of the Recycling Resource Directory. All are encouraged to use this resource and to add to it.

Members and friends are reminded that we have a Green Sanctuary notebook available for your use.

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

June 1

Hazel Leroy and Martha Brethauer

June 8

Steve Hirtle and Linda Deafenbaugh

June 15

Martha Cullens and Hazel Leroy

June 22

Jeanne Zang and Jacqueline Ellis

June 29

Mac McMahon and Barbara Storlarz

Refreshments

June 1

Jane Dirks and Betty Schwarz

June 8

Annual Picnic!

June 15

Lynn Glorieux

June 22

Janice Anderson and Pat Downey

June 29

Ann Sitrin and Heather Neill

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

We are building up to the May 31st all-day gathering on Equity and “Smart Growth” in partnership with Sustainable Pittsburgh. As of this writing, it looks as if 10 Allegheny folks will be attending; that’s a great turnout. We’ll have a report soon afterward.

Peace, Justice & Anti-War Efforts

The Saturday vigil group on the North Side has decided to end the weekly presence and continue as a North Side coalition sponsoring a monthly event. On a Saturday in May, we tabled an event with Central Northside Neighborhood Council. This month we plan on having a participation in the annual Gay Pride festivities.

Northside Common Ministries

Thanks to Mac McMahan and Moon Johnson, the ACLU was asked to threaten the City with a lawsuit for conducting sweeps of homeless encampments with little notice and for throwing personal belongings of homeless folks away. According to the settlement, when the City has decided to move an encampment in preparation for some major City event, they must give notice a good deal in advance and must provide space to store personal belongings for the people affected by the sweep. The settlement was one of the best in the country, and NCM’s MacMahon, and Johnson are to be commended for their tireless advocacy.

The Richness of Ministry

As my time at Allegheny draws to a close (Melanie and I have a pending contract on our house, with a closing date sometime in the first two weeks of July), I have had the privilege to be with two of our members in a special way over the last month or more. Visiting Devon DeAngelo at the county jail on a weekly basis and spending time with Emily Davidson as she undergoes chemotherapy treatment for cancer, have given me opportunities to be supportive of the life’s journey of two very special women.

Though both situations are filled with pain, anxiety and fear, they have also opened up possibilities for the deepening of relationships and discernment of the meaning of some of life’s deepest challenges. They both have great attitudes.

This past month I also had the privilege of accompanying Lynn Yocum, her partner Denise, wee Emmie and other family members to the Courthouse in Washington County to testify in favor of the adoption of Emmy by Denise. All went well and Emmie now has two parents. We have now witnessed four couples in our congregation go through this process since the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania resolved to change the law. This is a great human rights’ struggle and, humanly speaking, a very special experience.

I often wonder how did I get chosen for such a privileged calling? I can only be grateful for the gift of being invited into the lives of these loving women and their families.

It was also special to participate in our last Annual Meeting. It was such a spirited and well-organized and orchestrated event. The growth of leadership in this congregation has been remarkable. I was more an observer than participant this time and it gave me great vantage point to see just how impressive a development has been Allegheny. Thanks to Beth Halliday and Jane Schwarz for their time served on the Board of Trustees, and congratulations to Barbara Barnes and Jennifer Wood for their election as new members of the Board, as well as to Peter Adams and John Engberg for their continuing.

As I mentioned in my sermon just prior to the Annual Meeting, along with Janet Holtz, Executive Director at Northside Common Ministries, I had the opportunity to meet with Rockwell Dillaman, minister at the Allegheny Christian Missionary Alliance Church on the North Side to ensure that he continues to support NCM. Although our respective theologies

continued

differ, as do some of our politics, the congregation is committed to this urban world and we can learn from them. A UU commentator, Michael Durall, suggests that we can especially learn from conservative churches how to develop, attract and keep members, and deepen our resources to help make positive change. Among other things, evangelical churches are great at supporting their churches, morally, physically and financially. Well-to-do and poor members of evangelical churches often give 5–10% of their income to church support. Though I can be faulted for not addressing financial issues over the 12 years at Allegheny, I did decide to share with those in attendance on Sunday, May 18th, that Melanie and I gave approximately 4% of our gross income in the past 12 months to the church – for operations and building. We also recently made out a will and put Allegheny UU Church in it. We are currently discussing making a pledge to Allegheny for next year. I share this not to boast, after all its only money, but to give an indication as to how much we value this community. I am often asked what is an appropriate pledge. It is what you are able to give and

that is individual. But we need to encourage one another to go to the next level, always respecting that the final decision is personal. Talking about money is never easy, but the UUA encourages ministers to be up front. One member of the congregation recently told me that the last time I mentioned a donation that Melanie and I gave to the church, it inspired others to give. I hope so. We surely need the resources to continue our strong witness.

Part of the process of moving on from such a long-term ministry such as the one I've enjoyed at Allegheny for the past 12 years is to have the opportunity to meet with many of you and have the time to express to one another the meaning of this time together. If anyone has interest in that, please let me know how we can accomplish this. Though I understand it is not everyone's comfort zone to engage in such direct encounters, and that some cannot do this or will choose to let the departure happen more quietly, I'm very open to such gatherings, one on one or larger, for those who wish to participate. As mentioned above, Melanie and I will like depart sometime between July 8 & 15.

Peace and Blessings to all, Art

We're seeking help with the newsletter. See Editor's Area for details

EDITOR'S AREA

With the publication of next month's summer edition of the *Allegheny Advocate*, another year of the Church's newsletter will come to a close. Since its re-formation in the early '90s, the structure for producing the newsletter has remained the same. An editor compiles the information, lays it out, and brokers printing. The minister (read: Art) has taken primary responsibility for much of the content, and for distribution and mailing.

In this last year, though, we have been trying to realign and reassign the tasks, primarily to make the process more efficient and respectful of participants' time commitments. Through the use of e-mail and a greater reliance on committees and involved individuals, we have been able to gather information from a wider range of contributors.

Starting next year (September issue), we would like to take it a step further and divide responsibility for production among three folks. We are seeking volunteers for two aspects of the work: **editor/compiler** and **distribution manager**.

The editor would be responsible for contacting contributors, gathering information and compiling it. I will continue to format and broker printing. The distribution manager would arrange for delivery or mailing.

If you have an interest in either of these roles, please see me and we can discuss the details. The July/August newsletter will be in production later this month – we could even begin with it.

Thanks, Donald Zeilman

June 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Choir 9:30 a.m. Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Coming of Age Service	2 Fund Raising 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	3 Search Committee 6:00 p.m.	4	5 Program Committee 7:30 p.m.	6	7
8 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 a.m. Finance 9:30 a.m. Church Picnic	9 House Committee 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	10 Search Committee 6:00 p.m. RE Committee 7:30 p.m.	11	12 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. Wesley Center AME Zion	13	14 Flag Day
15 Choir 9:00 a.m. Communion Service 10:00 a.m. Fathers Day	16 NA 7:00 p.m.	17	18	19 Shelter Meal 9:00 p.m.	20 Newsletter Deadline!!	21 Pride Parade 10:00 a.m. Celebration for the McDonalds 7:00 p.m.
22 <i>What We're About</i> after Service	23 NA 7:00 p.m.	24	25	26	27	28
29 RE/Planning & Info Meeting	30					

July 2003

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Finance 9:30 a.m.	7 Fund Raising 6:00 p.m. Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. NA 7:00 p.m.	8 RE Committee 7:30 p.m.	9	10 PIIN Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. Wesley Center AME Zion	11	12
13 G.E. cert. delivery	14 Bastille Day NA 7:00 p.m.	15	16	17 Shelter Meal 9:00 p.m.	18 Newsletter Deadline!!	19 Coffee House 7:00 p.m.
20	21 NA 7:00 p.m.	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 NA 7:00 p.m.	29	30	31		

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 Donald Zeilman

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