

# AlleghenyADVOCATE

Monthly Newsletter of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

## Notes from Rev. Dave's Desk

Life in beloved community is about what Nikos Kazantzakis had Zorba the Greek call "the full catastrophe." One week in April, this was made abundantly clear. On Monday, Tim & I joined family, friends and many of the congregation mourning the loss of our beloved Pat Dittig. By Thursday, we were at Allegheny General Hospital welcoming a newborn foster baby whose mother is taking some time to get her life together. On Saturday, I wrote this after preparing for a Sunday's sermon at our East Suburban church. And by the time you read this, who knows what more will have happened.

Life is like that. Conscious life is living the full catastrophe. Of course, not much in our culture encourages conscious living. Commercialism—in family life, in work life, or sadly in religion—distracts from life. But our church seeks to be a place to encourage one another to spiritual growth. To live the full catastrophe. Too often in our surrounding culture, full catastrophe happens in isolation. But at this church, you are encouraged to seek the strength, the wisdom, the solace, and—when necessary—the butt-kicking that only the blessed community can offer. This helps us grow into being powers for the good, into being the solutions we seek.

Whatever life is bringing you, in bringing your life, your full, complex, simple, crazy, mundane, ordinary extraordinary life, you are making Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church into the blessed community we covenant to be.

Blessings,

*Reverend Dave*

## Summer Intensives offer Continuing Education or Personal Enrichment

Meadville-Lombard Theological School's summer intensive courses are designed for ministers who are already enrolled in our Doctor of Ministry program or who are seeking continuing education credit. But, they are also a great way for lay UUs to gain a deeper understanding of their faith and of liberal religion.

Courses offered this summer are (check our website at : <http://www.meadville.edu> for further details):

### Creation-Evolution, the Sacred, and Creative Living

July 10 - 14, 2006 taught by Karl E. Peters, Co-Editor of *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Religion, Rollins College.

### Twentieth Century Liberal Theology

July 17 - 21, 2006 taught by Jerome A. Stone. This course is designed to help students understand some of the major theological trends of the twentieth century which could be considered as "liberal theologies" in a broad sense, and to deepen their individual theologies by understanding these trends.

### Liberal Religion and the Arts: Art as Spiritual Practice

August 5 - 12, 2006 at Ferry Beach, taught by John Tolley, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services and Associate Professor of Ministry, Meadville Lombard.

**B**ut at this church, you are encouraged to seek the strength, the wisdom, the solace, and - when necessary - the butt-kicking that only the blessed community can offer.

## In the Church

### Save the Date for the Annual Meeting!

Mark your calendars! The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in Founders Hall following Sunday Service on 21 May 2006.

There are a number of important items on the agenda, including congregational votes on a proposed change in the time of our Sunday service and election of Trustees. Please be sure to be there.

### Guest at Your Table Update

Thanks to the members of our congregation whom have supported the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In February 2006, AUUC sent \$918.00 to UUSC in support of their work for human rights.

## Music Notes

### Songwriter's Night at the DownUnder

You are invited to attend the DownUnder Coffeehouse on Saturday, May 20 from 7:30-9:30 to hear three of Pittsburgh's newest and most intriguing singer-songwriters: Bill Eberle, Autumn Ayers and Sue Gartland.

Bill, Autumn and Sue have each crafted a unique style that is sure to please. Come support local home-grown music in a relaxed coffeehouse setting.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is the third Saturday each month in Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side.

Suggested donation is \$5.00. Desserts and coffee will be available. Call 412-322-4261 or see [www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org) for more details.

### Annual Church Picnic

The Annual Church Picnic is scheduled for June 11 at North Park. This year we will meet at the Donnevale Shelter. Maps and directions will be available at church.

Sign-up sheets will also be at church. This picnic is one of our fellowship highlights of the church year. If you have a grill that you can bring to the picnic, grilled food lovers would be very appreciative.

But grill or no grill we want everyone to come and enjoy food, fresh air and good times. The picnic begins around 12:30, or as soon as we can get to North Park after Sunday morning Service!

## Religious Education

### The RE Program

The RE program is ending the year with rotations about Buddha and Mohammed. On May 21st, we will finish the year with a Middle Eastern party, in the spirit of "What would Jesus and Mohammed eat?" We are looking for folks to bring food for our festivities . . . stuffed grape leaves, hummus, grape juice, and other nut-free foods from the region.

On May 14th we are giving the teachers Mothers' Day off, so there will be no RE classes that day, although child care will be provided.

In the past, we have sponsored a one-week summer day camp in August at the church for our children, but have not done so in the last few years because of a dearth of parent volunteers. If you would be interested in (a) helping with a day camp or (b) sending a child to a day camp, please contact Kim Winbush.

**T**  
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## Financial Matters

### Financial Update

The pledge drive for fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007) is underway! Pledge materials are being sent to every member household and to friends who have pledged in the past. Please read the materials carefully and think about what the church means to you. Then complete and return your pledge form. The various committees of the church have worked hard to anticipate their activities for FY2007. The process has generated many wonderful ideas and a lot of excitement. Your generous pledge will help to make the ideas a reality. Thanks to Cheryl Napsha, Jennifer Russell, and the Finance Committee for your pledge drive efforts.

The Finance Committee recently met with the church's financial advisor to review and fine-tune the church's investment plan. About 2 years ago, the Board of Trustees approved a plan to invest a portion of the church's savings to achieve growth in principal while not assuming undue risk. The church then selected a mix of mutual funds that meet certain screens for social responsibility. Examples of the screens include: human rights protection; respect and support of racial minorities and gay rights and women; environmental responsibility; and exclusion of companies involved in weapons industries. During the first 15 months that the money was fully invested, the market value grew by nearly 12%.

The Finance Committee is continuing to develop an endowment fund. The purpose of the fund will be to help secure, strengthen, and extend the long-term survival and mission of the church. The proposed endowment fund documents are currently receiving legal review. Thanks to Bob Follette, Finance Committee Chair, for coordinating the project and arranging

for the church to receive *pro bono* legal assistance.

The pilot study to have pledge payments automatically deducted and deposited to the church's bank account is going well. Members of the Finance Committee are the "guinea pigs". The Finance Committee looks forward to offering the service to the entire congregation in the near future. More information will be available for the July 1 start of the new fiscal year. Thanks to Kathy Graham for coordinating the pilot study.

*Jill Brethauer, Treasurer*

### DownUnder Coffeehouse Update

Although all sessions of the DownUnder Coffeehouse are special, the one in February was particularly special. "Molly in the Crowd", featuring Rob Metil, John Meikle and Roger Day, performed to a packed house filling Founders Hall with close to 80 people.

The band members graciously donated their share of the proceeds to the church, resulting in a donation of \$335. Thus far this fiscal year, the Coffeehouse has raised \$510 for the church. More importantly, it has brought new people and great music once a month to our church.

The Coffeehouse is featured in the April issue of *The Northside Chronicle* and has been mentioned in numerous blogs and websites as a growing venue for local musicians in Pittsburgh. Plan to attend the next session of the DownUnder Coffeehouse!

*Steve Hirtle*

**Pledge materials are being sent to every member household and to friends who have pledged in the past. Please read the materials carefully and think about what the church means to you.**

## Sundays in May

### May 7

#### Hearing God for 100 Years

Rev. David McFarland

On our church's centenary, Rev. Dave will share his reflections on how this congregation has discerned the movement of the Spirit in the North Side.

### May 14

#### Membership Sunday

Reader: TBA

### May 21

#### Communion Service 10:00 am

Reader: TBA

Monthly gathering that celebrates community.

#### Think Again 11:00 am

Rev. David McFarland

Preparing for the church's Annual Meeting, Rev. Dave explores the role of reason in religion.

### May 28

TBA

Reader: TBA

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

## Serving the Congregation in May

### Greeters

#### May 7

Andrew Schwarz and Khrys Myrddin

#### May 14

Ellen Kerr and Kathleen Kenney

#### May 21

Bob Stefancic and TBA - *could this be you?! See Lisa Carvajal if you want to get in touch with your inner 'Mr. Roarke' of Fantasy Island.*

#### May 28

Barbara Stolarz and TBA (*You? See Lisa Carvajal....*)

### Refreshments

#### May 7

Board of Trustees, Jane Dirks and Barbara Stolarz

#### May 14

Greg Blackman and Lisa Carvajal

#### May 21

Kathy Graham and Pat Downey

#### May 28

Tammy and Nancy Taucher

## May 2006

	<b>1</b> ▪ Board of Trustees 7:30pm ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> ▪ Tai Chi 8:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> ▪ Giant Eagle certificate sign-up ▪ Choir 9:30 am ▪ Service – Centennial Sunday ▪ District NA 1:30 pm	<b>8</b> ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> ▪ PIIN meeting ▪ RE Comm 7:30pm ▪ Tai Chi 8:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Mothers Day</b> ▪ Giant Eagle certificate pick-up ▪ Choir 9:30am ▪ Service 11:00 ( <i>No RE classes</i> ) ▪ Membership Sunday	<b>15</b> ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>16 Lag Baumer</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> ▪ Tai Chi 8:00pm ▪ Shelter Meal 9:00pm	<b>19</b> ▪ Newsletter Deadline	<b>20</b> ▪ Down Under Coffeehouse 7:00 pm
<b>21</b> ▪ Choir 9:30am ▪ Communion Service 10:00am	<b>22</b> ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> ▪ Tai Chi 8:00pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> ▪ Choir 9:30 am	<b>29 Memorial Day</b> ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>30</b> ▪ Program Committee 7:30pm	<b>31</b>			

## June 2006

				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> ▪ Giant Eagle certificates - order ▪ Choir 9:30am	<b>5</b> ▪ Board of Trustees 7:30pm ▪ NA 7:00pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> ▪ RE Com 7:30pm ▪ Tai Chi 8:00pm ▪ PIIN meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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## District Doings

### UUUFA

Here are dates for some upcoming UU United for Faith in Action (UUUAF) events to participate in:

Thursday 18 May: UUUFA meeting. Regional Equity presentation by Sharon Pillar. Location: TBA.

Sunday 21 May: Citizen's Hearing for Health Care Reform, 1:30 - 5:00 pm, Temple Sinai, 5505 Forbes Avenue, Squirrel Hill.

The hearing will include discussion with legislators on HR676, National Health Insurance Act, introduced by John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) who is the prime Sponsor - HR 676 "United States National Health Insurance Act", also known as the "Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act".

Also up for will be discussion, PA's SB1085, "Balanced and Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act", introduced by State Senator Jim Ferlo.

Did you know that? :

- Nearly 46 million Americans and 1.5 million Pennsylvanians are uninsured.
- 50 million have inadequate health insurance in the USA.
- 18,000 Americans die each year because of no Health Care Coverage.

For more information, please contact Sandy Fox, Hearing Coordinator, at <sm2fox@yahoo.com> or write to the Western PA Coalition for Single-Payer Health Care, P.O. Box 81915, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

**The 2006  
General  
Assembly  
is in St. Louis,  
Missouri  
Wednesday, June  
21st through  
Sunday, June  
25th.**

## News from WWW.UUA.ORG

### General Assembly

General Assembly is the annual gathering of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. The many programs, business events, worship services and exhibits provide a rich experience for the thousands of UUs who attend each year and those who access GA on the UUA website at <<http://www.uua.org/ga/>>.

The 2006 General Assembly is in St. Louis, Missouri Wednesday, June 21st through Sunday, June 25th.

Future UUA General Assemblies:

June 21 -25, 2007 Portland, OR  
June 26 -30, 2008 Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
June 25 -29, 2009 Salt Lake City, UT

### UUA Bookstore's Bestsellers List:

1. Singing the Living Tradition Hymnal
2. The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide
3. A Chosen Faith
4. Singing the Journey
5. Building Your Own Theology, Volume 1



### Springtime Brings UU Youth to Boston

With the arrival of spring, flocks of young people from congregations around the country are coming through the doors of the UUA's Boston headquarters offices. Frequently known as the "Heritage Trip," this annual pilgrimage is the culmination of the Coming of Age religious education curriculum. Each year the UUA staff enjoys this special opportunity to meet members of the rising generation.

Public Information Assistant Erika Nonken leads tours of the UUA's offices at historic 25 Beacon Street. She explained her delight in sharing our UU legacy: "One youth commented after a tour last week, 'I knew that Unitarian Universalism was cool, but I had no idea that it has been so cool for so long'." In fact, it has been cool in the United States for well over two hundred years, with both parent denominations getting their starts in Massachusetts. Visitors often take advantage of Boston's proximity to tour other important historical sites in Concord, Gloucester, and Plymouth. Some groups even manage to sneak in a visit to Fenway Park. Erika added that, in addition to religious history, the visiting youth also learn that "there is an entire staff here at the UUA working to serve their congregation and to support Unitarian Universalism in the wider world."

Last year Erika and staff members from the UUA's Youth Office and Stewardship and Development staff group welcomed 774 visitors from 50 congregations in 23 states. Many youth groups, especially those traveling long distances, spend months raising the funds needed for their Heritage Trip. Their time in Boston is an affirmation of their religious legacy as well as a celebration of the previous year's hard work and fellowship.

If you or teens from your congregation are coming to Boston soon, please visit our Heritage Tour page at <http://www.uua.org/aboutuua/boston/heritagetours.html> where you will find planning tips, sightseeing suggestions, and other useful information.

If you can't make it this year, the Virtual Tour of the UUA's Boston Headquarters, <http://www.uua.org/aboutuua/tour/>, offers a peek inside 25 Beacon Street. The pictures and stories on this site help bring to life some of the highlights of UU history and may inspire a few more pilgrims to make the trek to Boston.

"One youth commented after a tour last week, 'I knew that Unitarian Universalism was cool, but I had no idea that it has been so cool for so long'."



**Youth from the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh on the Boston Common. Pictured are: (top row) Luke, Sarah, Bennett, Ben, Nick and Greg; and (bottom row) Beka, Jenny, Eva, Eliza, Joe, Kaitlin, Claire, Zoe, and Molly. Photo by Eliza Hens-Greco.**

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### Minister

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### Board of Trustees

John Engberg, President

### Director of Religious Education

Kris Thomas

### Director of Music

Kiki Barley

### Finance

Bob Follette

### Fund Raising

Linda Deafenbaugh

### House

Donald Zeilman

### Inreach Ministry

Sandra Kogut

### Membership

Pat Downey

### Program

Hazel Leroy

### Religious Education

Kim Winbush

### Social Justice

Jeanne Zang

### Welcoming Congregation

Marie Engberg

### Allegheny Web Site

[www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org)

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 Lisa Carvajal or Chris Stygar.

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Universalist Church  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania