

NOVEMBER 2004

# Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 7

### Back To America

Rev. David McFarland

“This is an interesting time to be returning to America,” says the Reverend McFarland. He’ll be reflecting on the meaning of America and the perspective that being away for two years has given.

## NOVEMBER 14

### War Is A Racket

Sandy Kelson, Esq.

As we commemorate both Armistice and Veterans Day, long-time friend of the congregation, Sandy Kelson, will speak to us of his efforts to promote peace. Through his involvement with the Veterans For Peace, Sandy has been sending this message to the community. As he has said, “If we the living don’t work non-violently to bring that better world about, my buddies and millions of other veterans from all over the world who likewise thought they were fighting for the good and the right, will have died in vain.”

### Sharing & Music Service 5:00 PM

Rev. David McFarland

Please join us for this, our monthly Services of song, reflection and sharing.

## NOVEMBER 21

### Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Mac McMahon

Monthly gathering that celebrates our community of faith in action—please join us.

### Giving Thanks, Living Thanks

Rev. David McFarland

Thanksgiving is another opportunity to worship and celebrate with all the generations together. Kris Thomas and the Religious Education ministry will join Rev. Dave in this communion of thanks. We will also be recognizing those new members who have joined us since the Spring.

### Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner After Service

Please join us for this annual event—one of the highlights of the church year—immediately after Service. Additional information is available in this newsletter, or speak to someone on the Membership Committee.

## NOVEMBER 28

### Meaningful Coincidence

Jane Dirks

Are you sometimes surprised when things in your life “just seem to work out?” Jane will share her investigation of this phenomenon, called meaningful coincidence or “flow” with us this morning.

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

**Three Goals**

I trust that everyone is voting this election. Please vote, and choose your conscience. Our commitment to democracy both in our congregations and in society at large has never been so important.

Recently, David McFarland knocked on neighborhood doors to “Get Out the Vote” by making sure people were registered and were voting in November. If each of us touches even a few people to ensure they are participating in this process, then we are living that principle.

I have three major goals to accomplish this year for our congregation:

- 1) For our voice of change to be heard loudly and effectively in our city.
- 2) To make strides in our financial solvency.
- 3) For more Allegheny members to become involved in different aspects of our ministry.

Our involvement in Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network is more important than ever. Gregg Dietz, Andy Schwartz and John Mickle have been instrumental in continuing our work with PIIN. I urge everyone to talk to the Social Justice Committee, Board members and one another if there are issues of importance that Allegheny could take a stand on.

As for financial solvency, Cheryl Napsha and Peter Adams are taking charge of this year’s canvass task force. The goal of canvass is twofold: to talk with each member and friend to find out what needs Allegheny currently meets and/or could meet for them, and to ask for financial commitment to continue the work of our church. We had the most successful campaign ever last spring, and I trust that we will only improve! I believe that operating expenses should not be met through fundraising—that is the proverbial icing on the cake. We are going to lose the Veatch grant in a few years and we have to come up with creative and proven ways to make up for this money.

Working with a deficit every year puts our Church in financial jeopardy, especially when/ if (for example) we need a loan for major repairs of our physical space. Linda Deafen-

baugh and Alex West have spent a lot of time and energy on the Sacred Places project to learn how to find grants and other opportunities to raise money for our beautiful building.

In any organization, there tends to be a pattern of involvement. I think the concept is 20% of the people involved do 80% of the work. While I don’t believe that is an accurate percentage for our congregation, I would like to invite more people to get involved in what we do. This is a personal invitation for anyone who has thought about bringing their talents to the table to come forward now: there are so many facets to our congregation, that there is a place for everyone to make a difference.

Have a wonderful November. See you in church!

... there is a place for everyone to make a difference.

**IN THE CHURCH**

**New Pastoral Emergency Number**

Rev. David McFarland has a new telephone number for pastoral emergencies. This is a private line so folks can feel comfortable leaving confidential messages. It is: 412/867-1250.

**Ministerial Liaison Committee**

It has been several years since Allegheny has had a formal Ministerial Liaison Committee. One of the recommendations from the Search Committee to the Board of Trustees was to reinvigorate this committee as we called a new minister.

The purpose of this committee is to help strengthen the quality of ministry in the congregation. Such a committee serves as a support group for the minister and as a communication channel between the minister and the congregation. One of our main goals is to facilitate good communication in an open and honest manner.

In order to do this, we as a committee respect and uphold confidentially but do not

*continued*

believe it is in the best interest of our congregation to communicate anonymously. We encourage individuals to communicate directly with David McFarland or discuss questions or concerns with a committee member.

Initially, this committee will be made up of individuals who served on the Search Committee. In the future, the Board of Trustees and the minister will decide on the make up of this committee. The current committee is: Pat Downey, Andy Schwarz, and Kim Winbush.

### **DownUnder Coffee House**

This month the DownUnder Coffee House will feature Joey Murphy, on November 20 for an evening of alt-country from one of Pittsburgh's rising singer-songwriters. A night not to be missed. The coffeehouse is open from 7:30 to 9:30 PM on the third Saturday of every month. Baked goods, desserts and beverages will be for sale during the concert and the coffee is always free. Suggested donation is \$5.

### **Folk Group Forming**

John Meikle, Jane Schwarz and Sarah Lickey have started a folk music group. The group will meet at the church on Mondays at 7:30 PM. Anybody is welcome to come and play some music!

### **Photo Opportunity**

Thanks to Jane Schwarz for organizing the more recent photos of our activities into albums! Thanks, too, to all who contributed the photos.

We are trying to track down several albums that are missing-in-action. They are 3-ring binders with dark covers and contain photos from the 1990s and before. Various folks remember seeing them about 12 to 18 months ago, but the trail since then is unknown. If anybody knows the whereabouts of our older albums, please let Jill Brethauer know. They are an important part of our history!

### **Calling All Yogis and Yoginis**

Hatha Yoga has resumed at Allegheny. Yoga is a wonderful way to ease into the winter months with some gentle exercise. The class is for beginners, but all are welcome.

The first four classes will be done as a fundraiser for the Church. Subsequent classes will be \$8.

Classes are Thursdays in Founders Hall at 7:00 PM. They conclude at approximately 8:30. Bring a yoga mat or blanket.

It is recommended that one not eat for at least three hours prior to doing yoga, but drinking water is fine. It is important to arrive on time—and to leave competitive spirits, and worries at the door. Come in peace.

If you are interested in yoga but not quite ready to “go public” private lessons are available for \$15. Contact Nancy Martin-Silber.

### **Sharing in Thanksgiving**

On Sunday, November 21, the congregation will hold its annual Thanksgiving Potluck. This is a great meal after church to which you can bring whatever food you want—traditional Thanksgiving foods or something completely different.

We will start circulating sign-up sheets in church in early November. Please bring your food to church completely cooked and ready to serve. The Membership Committee will have ovens available for warming only—not cooking.

Don't miss this tasty and fun event!

### **Fall Fun Fest Thanks**

A very special “Thank You” goes out to Jill Brethauer and Dave Samuels for once again hosting our Fall Fun Fest. The weather cooperated, the food was great and the bonfire kept us warm.

### **The Great Race Tradition**

Two of our youth, Tamon Oshimo and Scott Anderson, have once again continued the tradition of using Pittsburgh's Great Race to help raise money for our ongoing capital fund.

Tom and Scott, along with new youth group member, Molly Tonsor, completed the 6.2 miles course barely breaking a sweat. At last count, \$765 was pledged and \$685 has been collected towards the effort. If you would still like to contribute, it is never too late. Great Job Tamon and Scott!



**The Annual  
Thanksgiving  
Potluck Dinner  
will be held after  
the Service on  
November 21**

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

*Jill Brethauer, Treasurer*

### First Quarter Report

Financially speaking, the first three months of our fiscal year have been busy, with some large amounts of money both coming and going! Major receipts for operations have included a \$20,000 grant received in July from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock for social justice work, and a portion of a bequest from the Rev. Jesse Cavileer.

Expenditures have included:

An unanticipated \$976 bill in July to replace the gas line into the church and repair the line into the Unitarian House following the replacement of the main gas supply line along Resaca Place.

Expenses in August to relocate our new minister and his household—cause for much celebration!

\$1,225 in September to prune the trees along Resaca Place that were damaging our buildings.

\$9,908 also in September to repair the Unitarian House porch roof and gutters and the

church roof. The porch roof turned out to be in worse shape than anticipated, and so the bill was considerably more than the \$5,000 that had been budgeted.

Through the end of September, routine receipts for operations (i.e., excluding the bequest) have exceeded our operating expenses by a little over \$10,000. Our 12-month budget for FY2005 anticipated an excess of receipts over expenses during the early part of the fiscal year (when the grant was received) and then a growing deficit as the year continues—and that was without the unanticipated bill for the gas line and larger roof repair costs! The Trustees and Finance Committee are continuing to explore ways to address deficit for both the short and long term.

In addition, the Endowment Fund Task Force is continuing to on a proposal to establish an endowment fund to which bequests and other contributions might be directed.

**We are continuing to explore ways to address the deficit**

## SERVING THE CONGREGATION

### Greeters

#### November 7

Susan Hillman and Bob Follette

#### November 14

Calvin Hadidian and Sharon Tomasic

#### November 21

Martha and Walter Brethauer

#### November 18

Alex West and Andy Schwarz

### Refreshments

#### November 7

Anne Thompson and Kathy Graham

#### November 14

Sheryl Rodriguez and Lynn Glorieux

#### November 21

Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

#### November 28

Betty Schwarz,  
Barbara Barnes and Devon DeAngelo

## The Mission of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church is...

To create a caring and nurturing liberal religious community centered on the celebration of life;

To deepen awareness of the history of our Unitarian Universalist movement, its principles and sources of wisdom;

And to engage in ethical discourse and action in order to maintain social justice as a central concern.

## ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

Rev. David McFarland

### Were You There?

One Sunday morning a while back, we took a spontaneous, completely non-scientific poll of the congregation during worship. The topic was the circumstances of a spiritual experience (however each would define such). Along with the predictable results—for example, that most people's experiences were found in nature—a piece of data I had not anticipated (though it too is hardly surprising) was that among those whose spiritual experience occurred during a church worship service, almost every single one was sitting in the front three rows.

Those who chose to be up front were those who got the highest benefit and deepest experience. Coincidence? I don't think so.

Now whether sitting up front is the cause or effect of the spiritual experience, or some

synergistic, self-reinforcing serendipity, our little poll couldn't say. It does remind me of one of the Buddhist concepts I try to live by:

*Show up. Act with integrity. Let go of the result.*

As we strive to grow in spirit and in effectiveness as a social justice seeking, interfaith community, please know that you matter! It matters not only *that* you show up, it matters *how* you show up, too. In anything we do, but especially in what we freely choose to do, showing up—and showing up fully—is a gift we give not only to the community, but a gift we give to ourselves.

See you in church.

Dave

Showing up and  
showing up fully  
is a gift we give . . .

## DOING JUSTICE

### PIIN Annual Public Action

[Reported by Jeanne Zang] Approximately 600 people from PIIN's member churches, synagogues, faith and labor groups, and groups including the Thomas Merton Center, came together at the Wesley Center A.M.E. Zion Church in the Hill District on October 17 to "pin" their public officials to commitments in the areas of civil rights for immigrants, education, housing, and public transportation. As Gregg Dietz noted, Allegheny UU Church provided 8% of the participants at the annual Public Action of the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network.

The meeting was one in a series of large public action meetings by more than fifty affiliates of the Gamaliel Foundation all across the country—dubbed *Rolling Thunder*. The meeting opened on an inspirational note when a Zulu stick that had been sent from South Africa, where it had been a symbol against apartheid, was passed to PIIN from a sister group in Erie. The stick had made its way to Pennsylvania from California.

On the national level, PIIN won a commitment through representatives of Rep. Doyle and Senate candidate Joe Hoeffel to support legislation to reform immigration laws and to work to put a recently announced National Housing Agenda on the Congressional agenda. Regional housing concerns revolved around developing an action plan for fair housing choice and increasing the supply of affordable housing for the neediest. Through a representative, County Executive Onorato agreed to meet with PIIN by February 1 to address housing choice issues.

With regard to education, PIIN received commitments from School Superintendent Dr. John Thompson and three School Board members to discuss incorporating culturally relevant materials into the curriculum at the African Center Academy, and to work for better communication between parents and schools.

The Regional Equity Task Force of PIIN focused on public transportation. In the face of

*continued*

There are several inexpensive things we can do that would be a big help to NCM

the current crisis at PAT, with large fare hikes and extensive cuts in service in the works, PIIN obtained commitments to work to obtain dedicated funding for public transportation from officials on the county and state level. PAT CEO Paul Skoutelas then pledged that if dedicated funding is secured, service and fares will not be jeopardized.

An important part of PIIN's action is to ensure that the many commitments obtained at this public meeting are not just used by public officials as photo opportunities. PIIN will follow up and hold all officials accountable to follow through on their public promises.

### More About NCM

[*Reputed by Sheryl Rodriguez, Liaison*]

Many of our Allegheny members have heard some of us discuss the Northside Common Ministries. In fact, several of our members work there. The NCM building, a large old brick church building at 1601 Brighton Road, approximately six blocks from Allegheny, houses at least five public service organizations, including the Men's Shelter and the Food/Household Supplies Pantry. On the third Thursday of each month Susan Hillman organizes the preparation and serving of dinner for the men staying at the shelter. I am in charge of delivering the food/clothing/household items you drop in the large wicker basket each week. I also use the money left in the small wicker NCM basket to shop for items the pantry needs.

There are several inexpensive things we can that would be a big help to the people who make use of NCM's services. People who do not live at the shelter are able to shower and do laundry there so there is a constant need for toiletries. Individual soaps and toiletries hotels supply are very appreciated. If you travel and your own closet is well stocked, please bring those hotel goodies home and drop them in our donation basket.

Any type of clothing, cleaning supplies, bedding, furniture, etc. that a family might need, including opened or used products, are also appreciated. About 400 families a month stop by the pantry and can take these items as needed.

Other useful items include used brooms, ironing boards, dishes, pots, baby clothes, linens, women and men's clothing, school supplies, and items for pets. If you want the tax deduction, bring in a SASE and written list.

Please keep your eyes open for any close-outs at any store. I've been able use the cash that you donate to purchase many items for pennies on the dollar.

I will try to insure that there are always Shelter business cards available on the table downstairs, but here's the contact to enquire about volunteer jobs at NCM:

John Murray, Pantry Director,  
1601 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212,  
**Tel:** 412/323-1170, **Email:**  
jmurray@northsidecommonministries.org

## GREEN PERSPECTIVE

*Jeanne Zang*

### Home Energy Myths Debunked!

**Myth #3:** The higher you set your heater's thermostat, the faster your home will warm up.

**Truth:** It will take the same amount of time for the temperature to reach 70 degrees whether the thermostat is set at 70 or 90 degrees. Setting the thermostat all the way up only wastes energy and increases your heating costs.

**Myth #4:** Compact fluorescent lights are those glaring, humming, flickering tubes seen in some offices.

**Truth:** There's a whole new generation of compact fluorescent light bulbs that are suited for home use. They screw into the same light bulb socket and produce the same quality of light as an incandescent bulb. A CFL uses 70 percent less electricity and lasts up to 10 times longer than an incandescent light bulb. (*Source: Portland General Electric*)

Look for more home energy myths in the next *Allegheny Advocate*.

**Start Up Weekend Report**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Start Up Weekend on October 8 & 9. We spent time with our new minister, David McFarland, looking into the past and future as we created a 100-year timeline of important events in Allegheny’s history and reflected on *Meanings* (observations about the congregation from history, patterns of behavior, and assumptions), *Myths* (long standing beliefs), and *Norms* (behaviors of the congregation). The Meanings we thought were most significant to the future of our congregation included: care for the physical space; a creative tradition; a long history of social justice action; community interaction.

The most significant Myths included: we are committed to social justice work; we are welcoming and committed to the neighborhood; we respect diversity; we are a “non-church” church.

Significant Norms included: the minister historically has had a lot of say in deciding his/her job; we strive for the democratic process (this can lead to difficult decision making); children and youth rituals are different than adult rituals; we greet/welcome newcomers; and historically we did not discuss money.

The weekend concluded with us reviewing areas of responsibility within the congregation and coming to agreement on who is ultimately responsible for these various activities and tasks. Below is a list in which we agreed upon the activities that belonged primarily to staff, congregants, or are seen as shared responsibilities.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Rod Thompson, our Ohio Meadville District Consultant for his planning and facilitation of this process. A special thank you also goes to Caitlin Thomas, Pria Mickle, Scott Anderson and Molly Hirtle for their assistance with childcare.

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Shared</b>
Children’s RE (planning & administration)	Adult RE	Children’s RE (implementation)
Secretarial	Creating mission	Implementing mission
Promote spiritual growth	Buildings/Grounds	Vision
Worship	Long range planning	Sunday Worship
Facilitation/Consultation (outsider’s perspective)	Committee work	Welcoming
Rites of passage	Archives	Social Action
Staff self care	Hospitality (practical)	Community Outreach
Official representative	Social activities	Leadership development
Denominational connection	Monitoring staff self care	Caring for one another
Facilitation of long-range planning	Finances/Budgeting	Endowments
“UU” piece	Personnel	Communications
	Membership	Listening well
	Newsletter	Evangelizing
	Calendar	Spiritual life of congregation
	Fund raising	Growth
	Structure/Policy/Governance	Making things happen
	Advertising	

## 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  
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### **Minister**

Rev. David McFarland

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### **Allegheny Web Site**

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



**Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church**  
**1110 Resaca Place**  
**Pittsburgh PA 15212**

# November 2004

	1 All Saints Day Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	2 Election Day!	3	4	5	6
7 Choir 9:30 am Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Finance Committee 9:30 District NA 1:30 pm	8 NA 7:00 pm	9 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	10	11 Armistice Day PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm	12 Newsletter Deadline!! OMD Jr High Conf Cleveland	13 OMD Jr High Conf Cleveland
14 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am G.E. cert. delivery Sharing & Music Service 5:00 pm	15 NA 7:00 pm	16	17	18 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	19	20 Coffee House 7:30 pm
21 Choir 9:30 am Thanksgiving Service and Membership Sunday Covered Dish Dinner after Service	22 NA 7:00 pm	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28 No RE program this Sunday	29 NA 7:00 pm	30				

# December 2004

			1	2	3	4
5 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm Orientation for new members 12:30	6 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	7 Program Comm. 7:30 pm Hanukkah begins at sundown	8	9 PIIN monthly meeting 7:00 pm	10 Newsletter Deadline!! (We're Serious)	11
12 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am RE Winter Faire   Soc. Just. 12:30 Vesper Service 5:00 pm	13 NA 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	17	18 DownUnder Coffee House 7:30 pm
19 Choir 9:30 am Winter Solstice Service (Intergenerational)	20 Annual Caroling NA 7:00 pm	21 Winter Begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm Reception follows	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa begins	27 NA 7:00 pm	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Open House 8:00 pm Service 11:00 pm	