

NOVEMBER 2005

# Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

## Bits & Pieces

Woody had a hard time finding his collar today. Every morning we get him to find his own collar (what he knows as 'clothes') so we can take him for a walk. He usually does so pretty quickly, then trots back over to us with his collar in his mouth for us to put on him. We haven't taught him to dress himself yet. (Did I mention that Woody is our seven-year-old Labrador Retriever?) But, today, he had a hard time finding it. He ran back and forth several times, returned to me empty-mouthed and with that cocked-head, cute puppy look. He then ran back and forth some more after I again asked "Where's your clothes?" Eventually he did find them. (Or rather, he found it.) But he did lots of running around in the meantime.

The scene is distressingly familiar. Running around and around looking for something in

the same place over and over again. Expecting that looking just one more time in that same exact spot, it will show up somehow. Magically. And no, I don't mean it's distressingly familiar because my dog does it.

But at least Woody has the sense to have fun in the process. I mean, he wanted to stretch his legs on a walk, but figured out another way to skin that particular cat. (Something about which he only dreams.) And whether he 'had fun' (or whether he dreams), I really don't know. But he looked like he was having fun. Now if more people could learn how to do that, to have fun and get their needs met even while running around like crazy, that would be a neat trick.

With blessings,  
Reverend Dave

## IN CHURCH

### Vespers For All Souls

Allegheny's annual candle-light Service to remember and honor our deceased loved ones will take place on Wednesday, November 2 (All Souls Day) at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary.

Please bring the names of those whose lives you would like to remember in this community of support and witness.

### PIIN Is *Creating Our Future*

In the world of deep and deeply entrenched problems, the complacent are part of the problem. If you want to be part of the solution to urban problems, Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) wants you on their side. Hundreds of people of different faiths from all over

the Pittsburgh region are expected to descend on North Side's Bidwell Presbyterian Church on Thursday, November 3, 2005, to address problems critical to Pittsburgh's future. PIIN will present *Collectively Creating Our Future*, a program of music and inspiration focusing on the results of three different citizen task forces studying Immigration Reform, Law Enforcement Accountability, and Responsible Institutional Investment.

Community and political leaders have been invited to this event including Pittsburgh's mayoral candidates. PIIN brings the power of collective action through negotiating with decision-makers and taking direct action when necessary. As one of the few multi-faith, multi-

*continued*

The All Souls Vespers service is a chance to honor our deceased loved ones.

Order your  
Centennial  
Ornaments  
now for the  
upcoming  
holiday season

racial coalitions in Southwest Pennsylvania, PIIN empowers local communities to join with its more than thirty faith-based organizations to solve local and regional problems.

*Collectively Creating Our Future* will be held at Bidwell Church at 1025 Liverpool Street on Pittsburgh's North Side. Programming begins at 7:00 PM and ends promptly at 8:30. PIIN is one of the ways Allegheny UU leverages our work for social justice. Save the date and support social justice.

### **Installation Weekend**

In celebration of the installation of our minister, Rev. David McFarland, Allegheny will host a weekend of activities, culminating in the Installation Service on Sunday the 6th. In addition to local ministers and community representatives, we are honored to host Rev. Forrest Church, Rev. Mark Belletini, and Rev. Art McDonald as celebrants for the Installation Service.

The weekend begins with a reception at Penn Brewery on Friday evening, November 4. On Saturday, there will be programs at First Unitarian Church starting at noon. Sunday is the day for the installation, and Rev. Church is preaching at the morning service.

A detailed schedule of events flyer is available on the pamphlet table. Also, there are details on the Church website.

### **Directory Update**

Mark and Kate Tomlinson have new contact information. Please mark your Directory.

### **Heather Kropf At The DownUnder**

You are invited to attend the DownUnder Coffeehouse on Saturday, November 19 from 7:30–9:30 PM to hear Heather Kropf with Keith Hershberger. Heather on piano brings bitter-sweet jazz-folk stylings to her song writing, weaving deceptively complex melodies around the universal subjects of love, life, and loss. She will make you feel comfortable with her voice, while making you ponder with her words. Come hear a true Pittsburgh treasure!

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday of the month. 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.

### **Holiday Centennial Ornament**

In honor of Allegheny's upcoming centennial celebration, the Fundraising Committee is selling centennial holiday ornaments. The ornaments are made of alder wood, feature an engraving of the church, and are selling for \$25 each. We hope these unique ornaments will become cherished keepsakes in many households. This is a fundraiser, so consider ordering extras for your children or to give as gifts. Please contact Alex West with your questions or orders.

### **Church E-mails**

Getting too much e-mail from Allegheny, but don't want to be left out of the loop? The Church listserve has an option that will create a daily digest of the messages of the day and send them to you as a single e-mail for that day. You can set this option yourself by going to: <http://groups.yahoo.com> and editing your membership, or you request this option via email to the church webmaster at [webmaster@alleghenyuu.org](mailto:webmaster@alleghenyuu.org). You should also contact the webmaster, if you want to join the list.

### **Welcoming Congregation**

As part of our Welcoming Congregation process, Allegheny is hosting a talk by Reverend Erica Swenson of the Atlanta transgender community on November 20. Rev. Swenson will be in Pittsburgh to speak at a Day of Remembrance event held at St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church that evening. Rev. Swenson will be joining us at Allegheny in the afternoon at 2:00 for an informal talk and discussion. The Day of Remembrance is a day for memorializing those who have met violent or senseless deaths strictly because they were GLBT. Please join us in the Emerson Room after our Thanksgiving Dinner to hear Rev. Swenson and welcome her to Allegheny.

## Guest at Your Table

Prior to Thanksgiving, we will be distributing Guest at Your Table boxes to everyone in the congregation. This is the annual campaign in support of our UU human rights organization, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). 2005 is the 30-year anniversary of Guest at Your Table program that helps to support the human rights work of the UUSC. We provide small boxes to be placed on your table,

to invite into our homes people from around the world who need our support in their struggle for basic human rights. If you have any questions about this project, please see someone on the Membership Committee or go directly to UUSC's website: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org). The boxes will be collected on at the beginning of the New Year. Thanks for your continued generosity in supporting this organization.

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

*Jill Brethauer, Treasurer*

### First Quarter Report

The first quarter of fiscal year 2006 ended on September 30, 2005 and brought no surprises. During the first three months, we had receipts of about \$55,500, including an \$18,000 grant for social justice work from the Unitarian-Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. During the same period, we had operating expenditures of about \$36,800. These amounts were in line with our operating budget. In addition, we spent nearly \$8,900 from our savings to repair and paint the exterior of the church. This expenditure has been recorded as a capital expenditure. Some specifics:

Sunday offerings during the first quarter were approximately \$15,100. This compares favorably with the \$14,800 received during the

same period last year. However, it is about \$700 less than the \$15,800 anticipated in the FY2006 budget.

We have paid the first installments of our dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association Annual Program Fund and to the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA. Our dues are based on our membership count and a "fair share" calculation of \$51 per member to the UUA and \$21 per member to the OMD.

The special collection on September 11, 2005 yielded a total of \$539 sent to Northside Common Ministries and \$399 sent to the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Be sure to take home a Guest at Your Table box to support the work of the UUSC!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

*Kim Winbush, RE Committee Chair*

### What's Going On

The RE program is starting out quite strong this year, with record attendance, our classes bursting out of the rooms! It's been great. . . such enthusiasm among the kids. Hopefully more folks from the Church can share in this enthusiasm as we continue to seek adults for two-week commitments to teach.

On October 30 we will be holding our annual Halloween Party for the kids, who are encouraged to come in costume. November 6, during Installation weekend, will kick off our

Third Rotation, entitled *Teachings of Jesus*, focusing on the Golden Rule and Jesus' message of kindness. That day the kids will start off in the church for a story by Rev. Dave and then head back to the U House for a video. On November 13 we will continue with the Third Rotation, and on November 20 the children will participate in an Intergenerational Service at the church. There is no RE program on November 27.

**SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER**

**NOVEMBER 5 [Saturday]** 7:00 PM At First Unitarian Church

**Giving Witness**

Rev. Dr. Forrest Church

Reverend Church will answer the call for responding to national and world events from the depths of our faith.

**NOVEMBER 6**

**A Saving Faith**

Rev. Dr. Forrest Church & Rev. David McFarland

Our special guest, Rev. Dr. Forrest Church will inspire us with his vision of the living tradition of which we are a part.

**NOVEMBER 13**

**Communion Service** 10:00 AM

Reader: Mac McMahon

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

**Taking Back Armistice Day** 11:00 AM

Jim Kleissner

In August, Jim Kleissner assumed his duties as Executive Director of the Thomas Merton Center. Join us as Jim recounts his journey from his internship at the world’s largest producer of nuclear weapons to his commitment to peace, justice, and the environment.

**NOVEMBER 20**

**Still A Pilgrim**

Rev. David McFarland

This year’s Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service will focus on our pilgrim faith.

**NOVEMBER 27**

**Putting On Your Blinkers**

Andrew Weber

Do not just help those in need – let others know when you are in need.

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

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION**

**Greeters**

**November 6**

Martha and Walter Brethauer

**November 13**

Pat Downey and Jane Schwarz

**November 20**

Maya Oshimo and David Minchez

**November 27**

Amelia Haviland and Jeanne Zang

**Refreshments**

**November 6**

Membership Committee

**November 13**

Rebecca Davis and Lynn Glorieux

**November 20**

Thanksgiving potluck dinner

**November 27**

Kathy Kozachenko and Betty Schwarz

## November 2005

		1	2 All Souls Vespers 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal follows	3 PIIN Public Action Meeting Tai Chi 8:00 pm	4 N.S. Reception 5-8:00 pm	5 UU Revival at First Church 12 noon on
6 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am Lunch 12:15 pm Installation Service 2:00 pm Reception follows Service	7 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm  NA 7:00 pm	8	9	10 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	11	12
13 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Communion Service 10:00 am District NA 1:30 pm	14  NA 7:00 pm	15	16 UUs United 7:30 pm	17 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>	19 DownUnder Coffeeshouse 7:00 pm
20 Choir 9:30 am Thanksgiving Dinner	21  NA 7:00 pm	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28  NA 7:00 pm	29 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	30			

## December 2005

				1  Tai Chi 8:00 pm	2	3
4 GE certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am Communion Service 10:00 am AIDS Day Service 11:00 am 'First Gathering' Service 7:00 pm	5 Board of Trustees 7:30 pm  NA 7:00 pm	6	7	8 PIIN monthly meeting RE Committee 7:30 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	9	10
11 Choir 9:30 am G.E. cert. delivery Solstice Service 11:00 am	12  NA 7:00 pm	13	14 <b>Newsletter Deadline!!</b>	15 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm Tai Chi 8:00 pm	16	17 DownUnder Coffeeshouse 7:00 pm
18 Choir 9:30 am Holiday Intergenerational Service 11:00 am	19  NA 7:00 pm	20	21 Winter Solstice	22  Tai Chi 8:00 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm
25 Christmas Day First night of Hannukkah	26  NA 7:00 pm	27 Program Comm. 7:30 pm	28	29  Tai Chi 8:00 pm	30	31 New Year's Eve

### Support SSN When Shopping Amazon

The Straight Spouse Network is for straight spouse or partners, current or former, of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender mates with the mission to reach out, heal and build bridges. Whenever you buy anything through Amazon online AND access it from the homepage of [www.straightspouse.org](http://www.straightspouse.org), SSN will receive a small percentage donation automatically. Get the side door habit and expand support to those who often go into the closet at the time their loved ones are coming out. Nancy F. who facilitates a Pittsburgh straight spouse group thanks you!

Go to [www.straightspouse.org](http://www.straightspouse.org) to get to Amazon.com!

### Arts in the Autumn Festival

There will be free admission to arts and entertainment Friday, November 11 through Sunday, Nov. 13 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the North Hills! There will also be an exhibit of original art, live music, crafts for Kids, and good food.

The art exhibit opens Friday, November 11, at 1:00 PM at the church in Ingomar. Located at 2359 West Ingomar Road, the church is not visible from the street, so look for their sign. Come and 'Meet the Artists' on Friday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

On Saturday, November 12, the art exhibit is open from 10 AM to 10 PM with crafts for kids during the day. At 1:00 The *Good Company Players* will play music on recorders. At 3:00, Maurice Rickard will perform music for belly dancing from his latest CD, *Music for Dance*, electronically altered ukulele and guitar sounds that are both rhythmic and reflective, and we will be treated to belly dancing by Baya. At 5:00 Saturday, the Greater Harmony Chorus of *Sweet Adelines* will sing those wonderful old barbershop songs. Saturday evening the Carl Arter Quartet will play jazz in a relaxed cabaret atmosphere from 8:00 to 10:00.

On Sunday, November 13, the art exhibit is open from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. At noon Todd Mussman, the 2004 Guitarmageddon

district champion, will perform on his unusual 8-string guitar, simultaneously handling both the bass and lead in his own creations from his new CD *File Under Jazz*. Caricatures will be drawn by 'toonbrian' from 12:15 to 4:15. At 3:00, Ballet Baroque will perform. If you saw them in Offenbach's *Gaiete Parisienne* at last year's *Arts in the Autumn Festival*, you won't want to miss this!

Check out the Church's website, [www.uucnh.org](http://www.uucnh.org), or call 412-366-0244 for more information.

### OMD Winter Institute 2006

Winter Institute, a schedule-free weekend gathering of UUs from the District, will take place February 17–20, 2006. There are outdoor activities, indoor activities, and plenty of opportunities to relax. Detailed information may be found on the Winter Institute flyer located on the bulletin board, or on the Founders Hall info table.

### District Social Justice Yahoo Group

The Social Justice Action Committee of the OMD has started a Yahoo group where the Social Justice leaders within the District can share information. Please consider joining the group and working together to make the world a better place. Visit the group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OMDSJAC>.

### CHOIR NOTES

#### Special Rehearsal

Choir members are reminded about the extra rehearsal after the All Souls Vespers on Wednesday, November 2 (about 8:30). We are preparing for the Installation Service on November 6. All other choir rehearsals will be at 9:30 AM on Sundays.

OMD Winter Institute will take place on February 17–20. Look for the flyer with information.

### Help Preserve Our Democracy

In the 2004 elections, there were widespread reports of problems with electronic voting machines. As many as one-third of all voters cast votes on electronic voting equipment that could not be independently audited. In nearby Mercer, Greene, and Beaver Counties there were high undervote rates on machines that were subsequently decertified. There were more than 10,000 cast votes that went uncounted statewide. In other areas of the country, there were thousands more votes recorded than people who signed in to vote.

Without a paper trail, the new federally mandated electronic machines could cause even more problems in future elections. There are two bills that address this very important issue.

On a Federal level, the “Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act” (H.R. 550) requires that all voting systems produce a voter-verified paper record of each vote cast and also requires the disclosure of vote-counting software code, bans the use of wireless devices, and mandates a percentage of random audits in each state.

On the state level, State Rep. Dan Frankel, has introduced a bill to require all electronic voting machines in Pennsylvania to produce a paper record of each vote. His bill (H.B. 2000) would give anyone who votes on an electronic machine in Pennsylvania the right to inspect the paper record of his or her vote and correct mistakes before leaving the polling place. The bill would also require that a voter’s official vote be preserved in a way that keeps the vote confidential.

Please contact your U.S. Representative and ask him or her to co-sponsor H.R. 550. (Mike Doyle and John Murtha are already co-sponsors. Melissa Hart and Tim Murphy are not.) Contact your State Representative and urge support for H.B. 2000. These two bills are vital to preserving fair elections, which are the cornerstone of our democracy.

Note: If you don’t know who your government representatives are, one place you can find this information is: <http://www.duquesnelight.com/OurCommunity/GovernmentAffairs/UseYourVoice/Allegheny.pdf>. Or you can call the League of Women Voters.

### Come Learn About Wal-Mart

Come find out why Wal-Mart needs to be held accountable for unjust practices that impoverish workers and threaten communities. The controversial new film, *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*, by director and producer Robert Greenwald (Outfoxed and Uncovered: the War on Iraq), will debut in Pittsburgh in November as part of *Wal-Mart* Premiere Week, an unprecedented grassroots effort that will see over 3,000 screenings across the nation from November 13–19, 2005.

This free public event is being hosted here in Pittsburgh by UUs United for Faith in Action. The screening will take place at 7 PM on November 18 at First Unitarian Church in Shadyside. Immediately following the film, there will be also be a brief presentation by two local groups and a discussion about the effect Wal-Mart is having on Pittsburgh and the entire nation.

The film takes the viewer on a deeply personal journey into the every day lives of families struggling to fight against a Goliath. From a small business owner in Missouri to a preacher in California, from workers in Florida to a poet in Mexico, dozens of film crews on three continents bring the story of an assault on families and American values. Current and former employees, managers and executives will tell all about the corporation’s inner-workings. *Wal-Mart* is based on individual human beings, all over the world, at all levels of society, telling their story in very personal terms.

The Pittsburgh showing of the *Wal-Mart* film is hosted by UUs For Faith in Action

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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### Allegheny Web Site

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



**Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church**  
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WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION