

SEPTEMBER 2004

Allegheny ADVOCATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ALLEGHENY UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 5

Labor Day Service 10:00 AM

Rev. Jack O'Malley

Father Jack O'Malley, leader of the Labor-Religion Coalition of Western Pennsylvania and Labor Chaplain for the AFL-CIO in Pennsylvania, will talk about putting his faith into action, particularly in the context of the local Justice for Janitors Campaign and interfaith coal worker justice, including his work with the Quecreek miners.

SEPTEMBER 12

Growing Home 11:00 AM

Rev. David McFarland

Rev. Dave will share with us some of his thoughts about "home" as we participate in the "Gathering of the Waters" ceremony. Please bring a splash of water from wherever your summer has taken you. And come prepared to share a bit about your journey – be it to exotic lands or to the water cooler on the job.

Vesper Service 5:00 PM

Rev. David McFarland

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

SEPTEMBER 19

Communion Service 10:00 AM

Reader: Donald Zeilman

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

How Shall We Live 11:00 AM

Neal Griebing

Neal Griebing is the Executive Director of Peaceful Dwelling Place, which offers healing approaches to individuals engaged with suffering, sickness, aging, and death. If it's true that none of us will get out of this life alive, the question becomes, "How shall we live?" Neal will encourage us to explore deeply our own mortality so that we might live fully within the light of death and consider serving others as they approach the end of their lives.

SEPTEMBER 26

Waddy Mean, "Worship?" 11:00 AM

Rev. David McFarland

Continuing talks that explore the basics of where Rev. Dave is coming from, he'll share his notions of what it means "to worship" and how the concept of worship relates to our lives as humans, our life as a church, and our life as a liberal religious witness in the world.

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

BOARD BUSINESS

Jennifer Wood, President

Coming Home

Coming home can be a wonderful thing. I have come to the conclusion that my parents' home is really a wildlife sanctuary. They carved out a small area in the middle of five acres, leaving most of it wild, with an invitation to all sorts of critters to come into their "yard." They have developed a community of sorts, with birds, squirrels, dogs, cats and people living very well together. So this started me thinking about our own relationships within our community and the greater Pittsburgh area, our Ingathering Service and the arrival of David and Tim to their new Pittsburgh home.

Allegheny County recently held public hearings regarding the continuation of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, our community's needle exchange program. From what I understand, only three people testified against continuing the pilot project. Two years ago, the Board drafted a statement of unequivocal support for this program and we were able to reiterate our stance on this issue. Thanks to those in our congregation who testified as community members, too. Our presence is continually needed in this and other important social issues affecting our region.

The Board of Trustees is gearing up for the annual retreat on Saturday, September 11. This year, we will have an outside facilitator to assist in developing and communicating goals with the staff, the Board, and committee chairs. Please approach a trustee or committee chair to share any ideas that you feel should be discussed at this session.

The U-House is getting some much-needed repairs and a new look – thanks to the House Committee and everyone who contributed their time and efforts. More repairs were needed than originally anticipated, but the office is reportedly looking great and the classrooms will be completed by the time RE starts September 19.

What better time to welcome one another home than Sunday, September 12. Ingathering is one of the most special services to me, and I am looking forward to hearing more about our journeys taken this summer. It also means David is here with Tim in their new Pittsburgh home with Allegheny UU; the choir is rehearsing again (and we're always looking for new members!); and our year begins anew. I am looking forward to it.

ADVOCACY AND MINISTRY

Rev. David McFarland

Being Together

Hello Allegheny! The calling of a new minister is an amazing, awe-some moment in the life of a church community. This is a huge moment for Allegheny! And as with all big life transitions – birth, death, marriage – let's treat these moments with care, with consciousness, with love, and with celebration!

I am really looking forward to working with you to discover how we can best work and serve and grow and enjoy life together. As a free-thinking community of personal, commu-

nal, and spiritual growth, we'll work to serve the congregation family, the lively and challenging North Side, and the goals of our living Unitarian Universalist faith.

I look forward to meeting with all of you over the coming weeks and months to discover where you are and how you see yourself in this loving and serving community. It's been a long road, but Tim & I are here and it feels great. See you at church!

Peace, Dave

... I look forward to meeting with all of you over the coming weeks and months ...

IN THE CHURCH

Leadership Retreat

Members of the Board, committee chairpersons and staff are invited to participate in our annual leadership retreat on Saturday, September 11 from 9:00 until 3:00.

There will be an outside facilitator present to help us in our planning for the upcoming Church year.

Book Sale

Sunday, September 12 is the date of the annual Mexican War Streets Society House Tour – we will be holding our book sale during this event. Book donations may be left at the church after Sunday Service, or by arrangement with Donald Zeilman. Please, no textbooks or books without covers.

Directory Updates

Work on the 2004–05 Church Directory is continuing. Please check your entry. If any changes need to be made, please contact Ann Sitrin at 412/244-0951.

Address Update

Mark & Kate Tomlinson have moved to Philadelphia. They retained their Pittsburgh cellular number.

Drumming Workshop

On October 3, *Rusted Root's* drummer, Jim Donovan, will be the speaker at our Sunday Service. He will follow up with an *Interactive Drumming Experience* on Wednesday, October 6 from 7 to 8:30 PM at the church.

In the Wednesday program, Jim gently guides the participants through a series of steps designed to help students learn the basics of hand drumming, musicianship and group dynamics through drumming. The *Interactive Drumming Experience* focuses on strengthening listening skills, creative expression, relaxation and having fun.

Jim provides the drums or you may bring your own. No experience required. The cost of the workshop is \$20 if you pay ahead of time, or \$25 the day of the event. Friends and family are welcome. Please see Jeanne Zang to sign up for the workshop. Jeanne and Kim Breneman have attended several of Jim's workshops, so talk to one of them if you would like more information.

Fall Fun Fest

Mark your calendars, Allegheny's annual Fall Fun Fest will take place Saturday, October 2, at the home of Jill Brethauer and Dave Samuel. Fun Fest is an outdoor, intergenerational cook-out/bonfire known for good food and fun times.

The Membership Committee will provide more updates as the event draws closer.

Book donations are still being accepted for the annual book sale on September 12. Visit the sale for great book bargains!

DOING JUSTICE

Alternative To Warfare Vigil

The Social Justice Committee has decided to once again hold a vigil every Saturday in front of the church from noon to 1:00. We had an ongoing peace vigil from November of 2002 to April of 2003. The focus of that vigil was to protest the war in Iraq. The new vigil will have a broader focus: an alternative to warfare.

The theme is not politically partisan. Rather, we want to call attention to the needs

of education, health care, affordable housing, and other social justice issues that are suffering at the expense of a wartime budget. We are also concerned about the ongoing casualties on both sides of the Iraq War. Please attend the vigil as often as you can and, if you wish, make a sign to hold with an appropriate message.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Jill Brethauer, Treasurer

Fiscal Year Report

Our financial “bottom line” for fiscal year 2004 was an operating deficit of approximately \$4,936. That is, over the 12 months that ended June 30, 2004, we spent \$4,936 *more* than we received for operations. Another way of looking at the situation is to say that we used some of our savings to pay for about 5 percent of our operating expenses (refer to the following chart for the percentage of operating expenses covered by the various income sources).

Thanks to the financial contributions and hard work of our members and friends, the operating deficit was smaller than anticipated.

But it is a concern that we continue to rely on spending money from our savings to support our operations. The deficit continues to be a concern for fiscal year 2005, which began on July 1. Our budget for FY 2005 anticipates a deficit of over \$6,000, which would entail spending down approximately 5 percent of our savings. As we pursue the wonderful work of the church, we must identify ways to increase our income and/or decrease our expenses and thus minimize or eliminate this deficit. The Board of Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Treasurer would welcome your ideas.

The operating deficit was smaller than anticipated.

Percentage of Operating Expenses Covered By Income Sources

Offerings	51%
Year-end appeal, bequests, and other contributions	15%
Grants	17%
Interest income	3%
Facilities use fees and miscellaneous income	2%
Fundraising events and activities, net of expenses	6%
Grocery certificates, net of expenses	1%
Subtotal: expenses paid from contributions and fundraising	95%
Operating expenses paid by using our savings	5%
Total	100%

SERVING THE CONGREGATION

Greeters

September 5

Diane and Mac McMahon

September 12

Barbara Stolarz and Devon DeAngelo

September 19

Rebecca Davis and Jaime McLeod

September 26

Nancy Karpinski and Tammy Taucher

Refreshments

September 5

Cheryl Napsha

September 12

Jane Dirks and Susan Hillman

September 19

Pat Dittig and Charlie Snowden

September 26

Donald Zeilman and Therese Libert

September 2004

		1	1 RE Comm. 7:30 pm	2	3	4
5 Giant Eagle certificate sign-up Choir 9:30 am District NA 1:30 pm	6 NA 7:00 pm	7	8	9	10	11 Leadership and Planning Retreat 9:00 am–3:00 pm
12 G.E. cert. delivery Choir 9:30 am Ingathering Sunday, Service 11:00 Vesper Service 5:00 pm	13 Program Comm. 7:30 pm NA 7:00 pm	14	15	16 Shelter Meal 9:00 pm	17 Newsletter Deadline!!	18
19 Choir 9:00 am Communion Service 10:00 am	20 House 6:00 pm NA 7:00 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Finance 11:30 am	27 NA 7:00 pm	28	29	30		

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kris Thomas, DRE

Beginning A New School Year

This year's Religious Education program will begin on September 19, in the freshly painted classrooms at Unitarian House!

Joanna Obuzor will once again lead the preschoolers' class. The WoRM (workshop rotation) program, for children in kindergarten through grade six, will focus on our Unitarian Universalist heritage, as we learn about famous UUs.

There will also be a Coming of Age class for the seventh and eighth graders, probably two Sunday mornings a month, and a youth group for 7th through 12th graders will meet on Sunday evenings. The schedule for Coming of Age and youth group has not yet been determined,

but we will have that information available before September 19.

Please look for the RE registration table after the Intergenerational Ingathering Service, on September 12.

Look for the RE registration table after Service on September 12.

MUSIC NOTES

Choir Start-Up

The choir will resume its regular rehearsal schedule on September 12 at 9:30 AM. The choir will be part of the Service on that day.

New choir members are welcome – just join us at one of the rehearsals on Sunday morning!

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

© 2004
Allegheny Unitarian
Universalist Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Minister

Rev. David McFarland

Board of Trustees

Jennifer Wood, President

Director of Religious Education

Kris Thomas

Director of Music

Kiki Barley

Caring

Nikki Perfetti

Finance

Bob Follette

Fund Raising Task Force

Linda Deafenbaugh

House

Donald Zeilman

Membership

Ann Sitrin

Program

Jeanne Zang

Religious Education

Kim Winbush

Social Justice

John Meikle

Welcoming Congregation

Jaime McLeod

Allegheny Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org



Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
1110 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh PA 15212