



Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church
1110 Resaca Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

1906-2006

WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION

AlleghenyADVOCATE

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church's Monthly Newsletter

**From
Rev. Dave's
Desk**

It's the bittersweet season of summer-to-autumn. In California where I grew up, it seemed always such a tragedy that bedtime came while the sky was still light. Always more play. Always more work. Always more friends to make. Always more to do, to get, to catch, and to become. Those evenings looking out the bedroom window, it seemed the air and trees had magic in them. Much as I thought I'd sneak out, I guess I decided to let the magic be. Those lucky few—the ghosts, the sprites—were enjoying their time. All was right with the world. Without time to rest, all the rest of it wouldn't've been much use anyway.

Newsletters are inherently biased toward what it is that we have done, will do, are doing, or want to do. I hope that this summertime you created moments when you stopped doing for a bit. That you created moments of rest and recreation for yourself. And if you forgot, it's not too late.

Re-creating is our task. That's one of the best parts of the ancient creation myths. Creation has been handled. It's just up to us to finish up here & there. We don't need to create worlds. We only need to re-create our little part of the world. Re-create what is deeply, authentically, uniquely ours to create.

As we gather Sunday to again re-create blessed community, may the waters we gather at Water Communion remind us of rest—the Sabbath that even God had to take.

Blessings,

Reverend Dave

September 2006

**Message
from
the
Board**

Welcome to a New Church Year!

Well, folks, it's September and time to begin a new church year. I hope everyone had a great summer and has come back re-energized and revived.

I want to give everyone an update as to what your Board of Trustees has been up to over the summer. Although for most people July and August are regarded as the slow, "take some time off" summer months, for the Board of Trustees they are a truly busy time.

Our work begins in June with the transition to the new Board of Trustees. Those joining us this year are Kim Winbush, Andrew Weber and Alex West. Continuing on as members are Barb Stolarz, Diane McMahon, Hazel Leroy, Maryanne Sonick and myself, Ed Kinley. The Board has accepted with regret the resignation of Cheryl Napsha and is currently seeking a replacement to finish out her term on the Board.

We also have elected officers. Alex West is remaining as Clerk; Maryanne Sonick is remaining as Vice-President; Kathy Graham has assumed the position of Treasurer and I am honored to be your new President.

The Board has already held its annual Board/Committee Chair calendaring meeting to lay out a plan for the upcoming year and has scheduled a Board retreat for late September.

The Board continues to be attentive to the financial situation of the congregation and has convened a Budget Task Force that met in August. The Task Force has submitted recommendations to the Board for balancing our budget for Fiscal Year 2007.

Several members of the Board attended a Leadership Workshop conducted by Jean Crane of the OMD (Ohio-Meadville District) in late August. Your Board will work this year on ways to plan smooth leadership succession and to identify and develop leaders from the congregation. Your Board has also done the annual review of the employment agreements with our Minister, Director of Religious Education and Music Director. That review has raised the obvious need for a more planned and professional evaluation process for our employees and we will work on that throughout this year. Our goal is to have a plan in process by the end of May. We will be closely involving our employees in this process.

I will be attending the OMD President's gathering in Akron, Ohio on Saturday 16 September and look forward to building relationships with others in our district.

We are also forging the beginnings of some ways we can strengthen our connections to our North Side neighborhoods.

I am planning on writing a column in every Allegheny Advocate this year to keep all apprised of your Board's activities. Remember, we our *YOUR* Board! We are always available for discussions with every member and not only seek but need your input. Without open communication from the congregation to the Board, and vice-versa, we operate only on instinct and a general sense of what the congregation wants.

Your President,
Ed Kinley

**Message
from
the
Board**
continued



We need your input!

AUUC Core Team Starts "Listening" Campaign

On August 9th the first meeting of the newly enlarged AUUC Core Team was held. What is a Core Team, you ask? Well, it has three primary functions:

1. It is the Core Team's job to create a culture of intentional and intensive relationship building within the church, which strengthens our connectedness to each other and to the church and puts us in touch with our individual self-interests.
2. The Core Team then uses the knowledge they've gathered about AUUC people to recruit, train and develop more church leaders and to agitate them to assume additional responsibilities in the congregation, because it's in their own self-interest to do so.
3. Finally, through this new leadership we then take the church into the public arena to work on social justice issues which relate to our individual interests and to the overall interests of the church.

During our August 9th meeting we learned some key definitions and methods for organizing within our congregation including the most important method: the one-on-one interview. We all did practice one-on-ones during the meeting, and before our next meeting (Wednesday 6 September at 7-8:30 pm) we have scheduled additional one-on-ones with each other to start a "listening campaign" within the church.

Over time, everyone in the church will be given the opportunity to get to know other members and friends better by participating in scheduled one-on-ones. Someone from the Core Team will be approaching you to participate in this. We hope you all will say 'yes'.

Or if you would like to jump-start this process, please contact one of the Core Team members now to schedule a one-on-one with him or her. (It's best to pick someone you don't know well.)



listen

Core Team members are Patrick Danaher, Alden Davidson, Gregg Dietz, Pete McQuillin, Khrys Myrddin, Dana Opp, Jay Poliziani, Barry Tepperman and Jill Wiggins. In addition, if you're interested in getting involved on the Core Team but missed this first meeting, please contact Pete McQuillin or Khrys Myrddin so they can schedule another one-on-one training session for you and others. Or just show up at the September 6th meeting at 7:30 pm at the U House. (By the way, Core Team meetings start and end right on time, so don't be late or you'll miss something.)

Several times throughout the year the Membership Committee sponsors a "What We Are About" session for newcomers to Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church. The next is scheduled for Sunday 15 October following the social hour at approximately 12:00 pm in the Emerson Room.

This session will provide a brief history of Allegheny and information about becoming more involved in this congregation. Whether you have only visited once or twice, or have been coming regularly for the last six months, please join us for this informative and enjoyable event.

On Sunday 10 September, following the Water Communion Service, please join with us in Founders Hall for an Ingathering Potluck.

Bring a dish, as well as your great summer stories to share with one and all. A sign-up sheet is available in the kitchen in Founders Hall, if you need help deciding what to bring, besides yourself.

See membership committee folks Lisa Carvajal, Barry Tepperman or Lynn Glorieux if you'd like more information on the event.

AUUC Core Team Starts "Listening" Campaign *continued*

What We're About



Ingathering Potluck



Finance Update

With a new church year upon us, it's a time of challenging beginnings and positive endings, financially speaking.

Endings first: We ended fiscal year 2006 on June 30th with an excess of operating receipts over expenditures of about \$7,100! This was a wonderful accomplishment, especially in light of the somewhat gloomy financial forecast with which the year began. At this time last year, our budget anticipated a significant operating deficit for FY 2006. In addition, the congregation recognized that the long-overdue and costly painting of the church exterior—which was not reflected in the operating budget—could no longer be delayed. The Board of Trustees appointed a Budget Review Task Force. The Task Force developed recommendations for reducing and deferring certain expenses and increasing receipts. With those recommendations, a balanced or “break-even” year was projected, *excluding* the anticipated cost of the painting. As the year progressed, with careful management and some sacrifice and also some luck, we were successful in living within the revised expense budget. Also, the exterior painting of the church was accomplished for about \$8,900—a more palatable outlay than the \$15,000 initially estimated. Moreover, pledge payments and offerings from members and friends exceeded the amount budgeted (based on pledge forms returned in the spring of 2005); the increase can be attributed to contributions from new members and friends as well as to some one-time contributions from several longer-term members. A summary follows of the major variances that took us from a break-even budget excluding the painting to a year-end excess of \$7,100 including the painting:

Target of break-even from operations	\$0
<i>Actual receipts higher (lower) than budget:</i>	
Pledge payments and offerings	\$13,400
Other contributions	(4,800)
Interest earnings	1,500
Net fundraising proceeds	1,300
Net grocery gift card proceeds	900
All other operating receipts	2,100
<i>Actual expenses (higher) lower than budget:</i>	
Church exterior painting (not reflected in original budget)	(8,900)
Utilities	1,800
Other facilities supplies, maintenance, and repairs (includes sidewalks, a portion of which the City of Pittsburgh will reimburse in FY2007)	(6,700)
All other operating expenses	6,500
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$7,100

In one way or another, each of you contributed to these positive results. Thank you! What happens with the \$7,100? It is in our bank account; in a sense, we are “repaying” ourselves for past years when we had to spend our savings in order to meet our expenses.

And now for the beginnings: Once again, we are beginning the year with a budget that anticipates a significant deficit from operations. How can this be? There are three main reasons:

- FY 2007 expenses are budgeted to be higher than FY 2006. They reflect the “wish list” of each committee and the Trustees and staff, as well as pay increases in keeping with the UUA “fair compensation” recommendations.

Finance Update
continued



Finance Update
continued

• As anticipated, the grant for social justice work that we received in FY 2006 (and for several years before) will not continue during FY 2007. Although we do hope to receive some funding for our social justice work, the net effect will be a decrease of at least \$12,000.

• Based on the pledge forms returned and estimates of offerings from new folks who might discover our congregation during the coming year, a modest increase in total pledge payments and offerings for FY 2007 is projected; the total is significantly less than the amount needed to balance the “wish list” budget.

A Budget Review Task Force (Ed Kinley, Kathy Kozachenko, Kim Winbush, Donald Zeilman, and Jill Brethauer) has been formed and will make recommendations in the near future.

Other financial items of note:

• In May, the church received payment of a bequest from Rev. Jesse Cavileer, our former Minister (1966–85) and Minister Emeritus, who died in 2004. The funds have been deposited in an interest-bearing account. The Trustees have asked the Finance Committee to recommend a process for planning for the long-term management and use of the funds. The process will involve the congregation.

• Also in May, the Finance Committee and Pete McQuillin continued work on the proposal to establish an Endowment Fund. Bob Follette, Finance Committee Chair, coordinated the effort. Thanks to Bob for arranging for a *pro bono* review of the related documents by a law student at Duquesne University.

• “Congratulations and thank you” to Kathy Graham and Ed Kinley, both conscientious members of the Finance Committee who recently were elected to larger leadership roles in our

congregation. As a result, the following changes have been made in our financial operations:

• With the election of Kathy Graham to Treasurer, Betty Schwarz has assumed responsibility for making all bank deposits. Please direct all offerings that you mail to the Church and all other contributions, facilities use fees, etc., to Betty. In addition, Betty continues to coordinate our Giant Eagle gift card efforts. Thanks, Betty.

• With the election of Ed Kinley to President of the Board of Trustees, Kathleen “Kenney” Kenney has assumed responsibility for tracking pledges and all other contributions. Contact Kenney if you want the answer to “Where do I stand on my pledge?” Thanks, Kenney.

• Please use one of the envelopes on the table in the Emerson Room if you are making a cash contribution to the offerings plate. Writing your name and the date on the front of the envelope before placing it in the collection plate will help ensure the accuracy of our pledge records for you.

Jill Brethauer

Finance Update
continued

Sunday 8 October: Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association of Pittsburgh will again be hosting a gathering of the faithful this autumn. Last year’s UU-Palooza was an all-weekend event with workshops and food and worship and song and fun. This year, it looks like it will be all that except the workshops. We’ll be celebrating Pittsburgh milestones, like Rev. Renee Waun’s Silver Anniversary of her ordination, the 10th anniversary of mine, East Suburban’s 40th anniversary of their founding, and Allegheny’s 100th. Come plan to spend the day celebrating together!

Save the Date!

UUs United for Faith in Action

On Wednesday 20 September, Dr. Dobson and Focus on the Family will arrive for a 6:30 event at the Mellon Arena. Their rally is billed as a time to “stand for the family to get equipped for the critical issues that will protect the family and what’s at stake this election.”

A counter rally and prayer vigil will be held to let those attending see that our families and the people who love us aren't invisible as we take a stand for ALL families.

UUs United for Faith in Action hopes to have a large turnout at this event. Please join us and wear your UU t-shirt if you have one.

For more information, talk to Jeanne Zang.

Many thanks to all who have made and supported the monthly UU Theme Basket Raffle this past year. This was a new FUNdraiser that allowed us to think about the different aspects of UUism that each basket maker chose to emphasize. Judging from the enthusiasm of those volunteering to make baskets, it seems that this activity is a keeper. As we move out of the beta testing phase, let me review some of the details of how each of you can participate.

Each month we welcome someone to create a basket based on a UU theme, such as one of the principles or sources of worship traditions, UU historical figure or ways of worshiping. Basket makers are asked to write up an explanation of their theme so we may all share in thinking about this aspect of UUism. Basket makers are also requested to make several copies of the list of contents for folk who wish to sell tickets in their workplace or community to take with them. Suggested value for baskets is in the \$20–\$40 range (remember it’s a fund–RAISER).

All are encouraged to buy tickets at one for \$2, three for \$5, or seven for \$10. Folk, who wish to, are encouraged to take tickets home to sell to their friends, families and coworkers. Basket makers are asked to either sell tickets at each coffee hour and other church events during their month or to recruit others to do so on their behalf. Everyone is encouraged to help the basket makers out since it makes them feel really good to know that their thoughtful donation is appreciated.

Baskets are typically raffled on the last Sunday of each month and all proceeds go to support the important work of our church. Sign up with Linda Deafenbaugh if you would like to make a basket.

UU Theme Baskets

The DownUnder Coffeehouse



Brad Yoder

Brad Yoder at the DownUnder

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is back from summer vacation and will be opening its doors on Friday 15 September to welcome back Brad Yoder <www.brad-yoder.com>. Please note this a *FRIDAY* night, rather than the usual Saturday concert. Brad is one of Pittsburgh's most creative and talented musicians. Like John Prine, Brad can write both moving and humorous songs, all complemented with his driving finger-picking that will leave you wanting to hear more. This year, he will be accompanied by bassist extraordinaire, Jason Rafalak, and playing songs from his soon to be released CD, *Someday or Never*.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open once a month, September to May, in the basement of the Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side.

Suggested donation is \$5.00. Call 412-322-4261 or see <www.alleghenyuu.org/downunder> for more details.



FUNdraisers Sneak Preview

Get ready for a year of great FUNdraisers. Everyone is encouraged to pick one or more that they would like to work on as no one should ever miss out on a good time.

- Mexican War Streets House Tour is on Sunday 10 September is when we sell beverages, hot and cold, to the tourists. Sign up for a shift and put your smile out there to meet and greet.
- DownUnder Coffeehouse takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month from September to May. See Steve Hirtle to bake or help run the event.
- Giant Eagle gift certificates are available each month through Betty Schwarz.
- UU Theme Baskets are another monthly event. See Linda Deafenbaugh to be a basket maker.
- Yummy Pie Sale is Sunday 19 November. Bob Follette is already out there taste testing pies to find the best bakery for our heritage recipes. We need a new person to manage the online and paper orders this year. And we need pie sellers to go to each of the Pittsburgh cluster churches to sell pies on the 19th. If you've ever wanted to visit another UU church, this is your big chance.
- 100th Year Ornaments. See Alex West to help showcase these beautiful collector items. No holiday tree is properly dressed without one.
- Pasta Dinner, Silent Auction and Talent Show will be Saturday 17 March 2007. Pat Downey always welcomes new helpers with the many tasks on one of our biggest social events of the year. We are particularly seeking new folks to coordinate the silent auction which raises some very significant \$\$\$ for the church. If you are someone who takes satisfaction at seeing results, let Pat know you are willing to be on the team.
- Directory Ads are our newest fundraiser. Barry Tepperman is the point person for all inquiries.



Great list isn't it? Fundraising is for everyone so we look forward to your energy and your creativity to help make this our best year ever.

Children's Religious Education Workshops begin with a bang on September 17 in the Unitarian House. We will continue following our Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM), where each topic is presented to three groups of children in three different styles. If you would like more information on how WoRM is designed, please see our RE Director, Kris Thomas, or our RE Chair, Lynn Yocum.

This year's theme is Humanism and Earth-Based Traditions. The Workshops will explore holidays celebrated by Modern Pagans, their ancient roots and their connections to many "traditional" holidays, like Christmas and Easter. The children will also attend workshops on the creation of our universe as told by science, Humanism and Native American Harvest Traditions.

We've added a group for our older "children" ages 10 to 13. Those younger will be divided into two other groups. Most RE sessions will start with a Childrens' Service in the U House. These sessions will introduce the theme of the upcoming workshops. Once each month, the children will attend a segment of the main service in the church building.

Each group will be supervised by Spirit Guides; adults who remain with their group for the entire year. Workshop leaders will present the same workshop to a different group of children for three weeks. The workshops styles are Drama and Games, Arts and Crafts, and Video.

We're looking forward to another exciting year.

**FUNdraisers
Sneak Preview**
continued

**Children's Religious
Education**



Racial Justice News

The AUUC Racial Justice Ministry will regroup with renewed energy after our brief summer rest. Our first meeting of the fall will be filled with planning for some exciting new projects in the local area. Our ideas and energies are needed to help the kids at the Jefferson Recreation Center. We have a great opportunity to play a direct hands on role with the kids at the center – this is a chance for our church to directly impact the lives of kids in our neighborhood. The Racial Justice Ministry will continue to build on our new bonds with both New Hope and Bidwell churches through both coordination of a planned neighborhood vigil to help curb gun violence as well as a racial justice focused movie night this fall. This is just the beginning and we your need help!

Join us on Saturday 16 September at 12:30 PM on the first floor of the church office building on Resaca Place (U House). All are welcome!



AUUC Contacts

Minister

Rev. David McFarland

Board of Trustees

Ed Kinley, 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

Kathy Kozachenko

Religious Education

Kim Winbush

Social Justice

Jay Poliziani

Welcoming Congregation

Marie Engberg

Allegheny UU Web Site

www.alleghenyuu.org

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AUUC October Events

Week of October 1st:

Sunday

Erev Yom Kippur

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** To be Announced
- **Greeters:** *This could be you! See Andrew Schwarz or Chris Stygar to volunteer.*
- **Refreshments:** Betty & Andrew Schwarz

Monday

Yom Kippur

- 7:30 - 9:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

- 12:30 PM Oakland Lunch Bunch

Thursday

- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class

Friday

Succoth Begins

Week of October 8th:

Sunday

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** To be Announced
- **Greeters:** *This could be you! See Andrew Schwarz or Chris Stygar to volunteer.*
- **Refreshments:** *This could be you! See Ellen Kerr or Pat Downey to volunteer.*
- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates
- UU-Palooza (See "Save the Date" for more information.)

Note: In order to provide a more stable and reliable schedule, the Advocate only prints six weeks of upcoming events.

Week of September 3rd:

Sunday

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speakers:** Tammy Taucher & John Meikle
Work & Spirit
How careers and employment affect our spiritual lives positively and or negatively. AUUC members Tammy and John will share their experiences and insights.
- **Greeters:** Pete McQuillin & volunteer
- **Refreshments:** Lisa Carvajal

Monday

Labor Day

- 7:30 - 9:30 PM Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday

- 12:00 PM Oakland Lunch Bunch

Wednesday

- 6:30 PM AUUC Core Team Meeting

Thursday

- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class

Week of September 10th:

Sunday

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Rev. David McFarland
Born with a Bang!
This Sunday's service will be a reverberation of the big bang that brought our universe into being. We will also celebrate our annual Water Communion.
- **Greeters:** Andrew Schwarz & volunteer
- **Refreshments:** Ingathering Potluck (See "Ingathering Potluck" for more information.)

AUUC September Events



AUUC September Events

Week of September 10th: *continued*

Sunday

- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates

Thursday

- 7:30 PM RE Committee Meeting in the U House
- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class

Friday:

- Allegheny Advocate Newsletter Deadline*
- 7:30 DownUnder Coffeehouse welcomes Brad Yoder (See “DownUnder Coffeehouse” for more information.)

Week of September 17th:

Sunday

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Communion Service
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Rev. Dave McFarland
Showing Up as Spiritual Practice
Never neglect the power of showing up. Showing up fully is often not just half the battle, but a battle fought and won.
- **Greeters:** Lisa Carvajal & Chris Stygar
- **Refreshments:** Jane Dirks & volunteer
- 12:00 Membership Committee Meeting

Thursday

- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class
- 9:00 PM Shelter Meal

Friday

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Saturday

Rosh Hashanah

Week of September 24th

Sunday

Rosh Hashanah

- 9:30 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Barry Tepperman
Days of Awe and Justice

The ten days of the Jewish High Holy Days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are a period for introspection rather than celebration. The atonement period calls for communal recommitment to social justice rather than personal penance. Reflections on heritage, ritual, commitment, and working the 12 steps to reinvent yourself as an advocate.

- **Greeters:** Lynn Glorieux & volunteer
- **Refreshments:** Pat Downey

Tuesday

- 7:30 PM Program Committee Meeting

Thursday

- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class

AUUC September Events

