

# AlleghenyADVOCATE

Monthly Newsletter of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church

## Notes from Rev. Dave's Desk

**Columbus:** In addition to holidays, Daylight Savings Time, and showers, April brings the Ohio-Meadville District Assembly, this year in Columbus, Ohio. It could be a great way to expand your Unitarian Universalist horizons.

**St. Louis:** And don't forget that the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly is nearby this year: June 21-25, St. Louis, Missouri. There's lots to plan for, so get on the UUA website for more information (<http://www.uua.org/ga/>). Talk to me or President John Engberg or incoming Ohio-Meadville District President and fellow Allegheny member Donald Zeilman about these important UUA events.

**Chicago:** The Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) training last month in Chicago went very well. All I saw of that favorite city of mine was the skyline. But I went for the inspiration and agitation to continue and improve our work for justice. Over the next several months, PIIN will be discerning social issues where we can have an impact in this very important "mid-term" election year. And come July, there will be another training here in Pittsburgh. If you are interested in cranking up your social justice work, let's talk.

**Pittsburgh:** One thing I learned at this event is that PIIN's focus on civil rights for immigrants is important here in Pennsylvania because our own Senator Arlen Specter is chair of the Senate committee that handles immigration reform. So yes, immigration reform is right because of a moral imperative to treat people humanely. And yes, it's right because it's part of a broader urban

agenda. But it's right for PIIN specifically because we're in Pennsylvania! Funny how some games make more sense just by knowing who the players are.

**New York:** A paper of mine was accepted at a conference on business ethics in April on New York's Long Island. It will be a great opportunity to get feedback from a room full of philosophers. The title of the paper is "What in the World is Human Dignity?" and assesses the concept of human dignity in international covenants. One step closer to finishing my PhD!

**Home:** For those of you who attend church regularly, you know that last month brought the death of beloved member, Tom Kerr. His was a full life: full of commitment, full of a humanitarian faith, full of work for justice, full of family. Our hearts go out to the family, especially his daughter Ellen Kerr who recently joined the church, and Tom's wife, Pat Swedlow. And our gratitude goes out to them as well, as the family designated the church as beneficiary of memorial gifts in Tom's honor. Together with the Rev. Jesse Cavileer's passing, this is another great loss not only to our church, but to the progressive causes that would have been near unthinkable without the work of these dedicated men. It somehow makes the future feel a bit less certain. But of course, the future was no less uncertain in their time and place. Inspired by their example, may we have the vision to see what is right and the strength to do what is necessary in our time and our place.

*Reverend Dave*

Inspired by their example, may we have the vision to see what is right and the strength to do what is necessary in our time and our place.

## From the Congregation

### The Welcoming Congregation Process

Since last October, under the steady leadership of Marie Engberg, the Welcoming Congregation Task Force has been shepherding AUUC through a careful process to determine (and document) how welcoming and accepting we are of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) members, friends and visitors. One goal of this work is to obtain the official Unitarian Universalist Association's Welcoming Congregation designation, which we can then proudly display in our advertising and literature. In addition, once we know just how GLBT friendly we are, we will then provide targeted training workshops to address any areas where we might need more education.

#### Survey Results

One of the early steps in the Welcoming Congregation certification process is to conduct a survey of our attitudes toward GLBT people and our interest in specific GLBT training. During January we passed out a six-page survey on three successive Sundays. We made an effort to reach everybody at AUUC those Sundays, including RE teachers, youth and visitors. Eighty-one people filled out the survey questionnaires.

The results of this survey are now tabulated. On April 9<sup>th</sup> the Welcoming Congregation task force will be available to discuss survey results with those who are interested during coffee hour. In addition, printed survey results or pdf files (either a complete tabulation or a two-page summary) will be available after that service.

### Survey Results Snapshot

This was not a rigorous statistical survey, and the results are only indicative, but they are very telling. The survey was divided into four parts:

- 1) self-reflection,
- 2) programming,
- 3) how welcoming is AUUC to GLBT people? and,
- 4) demographic information.

Here are some key results in each area:

#### Self-Reflection

We say we are very comfortable being with GLBTs in church, at work and in our personal lives. Our scores ranged from 1.0 to 1.6 on average, on a scale from 1 for very comfortable to 5 for very uncomfortable.

We would be slightly less comfortable having GLBTs as family members: 1.2 to 1.9.

We are even slightly less comfortable with us or our partners/spouses being attractive to or attracted to what we identify as the 'wrong' gender: 1.4 to 2.3.

We are slightly less comfortable with transgender people (1.2 to 1.9) than with GLBs (1.0 to 1.5) and heterosexuals (1.0 to 1.1).

#### Programming

No programming idea was a clear leader in the survey results.

On a scale of 1 for low interest to 5 for high interest, marriage equality was highest at 4.1 and AIDS was lowest at 3.5.

#### How Welcoming is AUUC?

On a scale of 1 for very unwelcoming to 5 for very welcoming, average scores were:

**One goal of this work is to obtain the official Unitarian Universalist Association's Welcoming Congregation designation, which we can then proudly display in our advertising and literature.**

Welcoming to GLBT members and regulars: 4.6

Welcoming to GLBT visitors: 4.5

Easy to be 'out' at AUUC (GLBs said): 4.0 to 4.5

Easy to be 'out' at AUUC (straights said): 3.6 to 4.0

### **AUUC Demographics:**

#### **Age:**

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Under 18  | 1.3%  |
| 18-25     | 1.3%  |
| 26-35     | 11.4% |
| 36-45     | 29.1% |
| 46-55     | 35.4% |
| 56-65     | 11.4% |
| Over 65   | 8.9%  |
| No answer | 1.3%  |

#### **Gender Identity:**

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Female    | 61.2% |
| Male      | 36.2% |
| No answer | 2.6%  |

#### **Sexual Orientation:**

|                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Straight        | 60.5% of total   |
| Straight Male   | 62.1% of males   |
| Straight Female | 63.2% of females |
| GLB or other    | 39.5% of total   |
| Lesbian         | 10.2% of females |
| Bisexual Female | 14.3% of females |
| Other Female    | 18.4% of females |
| Gay Male        | 27.6% of males   |
| Bisexual Male   | 6.9% of males    |
| Other Male      | 0.0% of males    |

*(Notes: One person identified him/herself as transvestite but didn't give a gender. Nobody identified him/herself as transgendered. Three GLB or other non-straight people reported not being 'out' at AUUC and one expressed an interest in forming a coming out support group.)*

### **Future Welcoming Programming**

Besides the April 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday service, we will have a Sunday service on June 25<sup>th</sup> (Pride Sunday) on marriage equality featuring Dana Elmendorf as our guest speaker, and we'll have another Welcoming Sunday service near October 11<sup>th</sup>, National Coming Out Day. In addition, we'll soon start our series of GLBT workshops—be sure to sign up for these. We welcome your comments and suggestions on the Welcoming Congregation process. Please contact Marie Engberg or any task force member.

## **Membership**

### **Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast**

The Membership Committee invites everyone to join us for our annual Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast starting at 9:15 on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Chef Charlie Snowden will be flipping his famous pancakes (blueberry, buttermilk, corn, buckwheat....) that morning so this is an event you do not want to miss. Feel free to bring friends and family.

“What We Are About” 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, April 30<sup>th</sup> following the social hour at approximately 12:30 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 6 months, please join us for this informative and enjoyable event.



**Mmmmm Good!**

## Religious Education

### Spring Update

The RE committee wants to reacquaint you with the WORM program that we are using next door with our children. The WORM, or, Workshop Rotation Model, entails having a group of children learn about a particular topic through three different types of workshops: games/ drama, art, and media. During the year, two spirit guides (dividing the year as they want between themselves) assigned to each group of children accompany the group to their workshops, assisting the teacher, and helping to lead the Children's Worship which occurs each week before the workshops themselves begin. These spirit guides provide continuity for the kids, but have no responsibilities in teaching or coming up with Workshop ideas.

The Workshop leaders teach identical classes two weeks in a row to two separate groups of children (it may be three groups next year, due to our increasing attendance!). While the topic is pre-chosen by the RE committee to fit in with the year's curriculum, teachers are free to (and encouraged) to come up with their own lessons based on the workshop (art or drama) and based on the teacher's own strengths and interests. For example, one teacher may approach Jesus' miracles through a skit, while another may utilize a board game or singing activity to impart the lesson. These teachers, thus, only need to come up with one idea to teach two weeks -- a small but important commitment to the children.

In the third week of each rotation, the children attend church for a talk with David, then return to the U House for a movie about the topic about which they've been learning. Only spirit guides accompany the children this week.

Another unique aspect of WORM -- other than allowing children to discover important UU teachings through multiple learning styles, and other than providing adults with an opportunity to commit to a very short term of teaching -- is that it allows children of different ages to learn together, as presently, the classes include kids from ages 5 to 12.

This year we've studied about the life of Jesus and will finish out the year discussing Buddha and Mohammed. Next year the children will be exploring Earth-based religions and humanism.

Along with spirit guides and teachers, the RE committee is always in need of snacks and help with parties. Please contact Kris Thomas, Lynn Yocum, or Kim Winbush if you are able to help. In addition, our DVD player is not working; if you have skills in repairing it, or if you can donate another one, please let someone on the committee know.

**This year we've studied about the life of Jesus and will finish out the year discussing Buddha and Mohammed.**



**We need this stuff and one of these.**



## Sundays in April

### April 2

#### Living as if Life Matters

Rev. David McFarland

Looking toward the Religious Education focus on the life of the Buddha, Rev. Dave will reflect on the well-lived life.

### April 9

#### Finding Allies

Welcoming Congregation

Join the Welcoming Congregation Committee and members of the congregation as they tell stories from their lives.

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

### April 16

#### Communion Service 10:00 am

Reader: TBA

Monthly gathering that celebrates community.

#### Easter Sunday Celebration 11:00 am

Rev. Dave McFarland

Resurrection Inside Out, Please join us at our Easter celebration for the whole family!

### April 23

#### Earth Day Celebration

TBA

Help us to welcome Rachel and Randy from the Pittsburgh Sierra Club office.

### April 30

#### Yom Hashoah

Edith Bell

We welcome Edith Bell back to Allegheny. Edith grew up a Jewish child in Nazi Germany. She will reflect on how her past helped to influence her life work.

## Serving the Congregation in April

### Greeters

#### April 2

Andy Schwarz

#### April 9

TBA.... *this could be you!* See Pete McQuillin if you want to get in touch with your 'Inner Mr. Roark'

#### April 16

TBA

#### April 23

Chris Stygar and Lisa Carvajal

#### April 30

Pete McQuillin

### Refreshments

#### April 2

Betty Schwarz and Greg Blackman

#### April 9

Anne Thompson

#### April 16

Easter Sunday/Pancake Breakfast

#### April 23

Jane Dirks and Kirt Fowler

#### April 23

Pat Downey and.... *this could be you!*  
See Ellen Kerr if you want to get in touch with your 'Inner Martha'

## April 2006

|   |   |  |                    |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--------------------|--|--|---|
|   |   |  |                    |  |  | <b>1</b>                                      |
| <b>2</b><br>▪ Giant Eagle certificate sign-up<br>▪ Choir 9:30 am<br>▪ Service 11:00<br>▪ District NA 1:30 pm                                  | <b>3</b><br>▪ Board of Trustees 7:30 pm<br>▪ NA 7:00 pm | <b>4</b>                                 | <b>5</b>           | <b>6</b><br>▪ Tai Chi 8:00 pm  | <b>7</b>   | <b>8</b>                                      |
| <b>9</b><br>▪ Giant Eagle certificate pick-up<br>▪ Choir 9:30 am<br>▪ Service 11:00 am<br>▪ Membership Committee mtg 12:45pm                  | <b>10</b><br>▪ NA 7:00 pm                               | <b>11</b>                                | <b>12</b>          | <b>13 Passover</b><br>▪ Maundy Service<br>▪ PIIN meeting<br>▪ RE Comm 7:30 pm<br>▪ Tai Chi 8:00 pm | <b>14 Passover</b>   | <b>15 Passover</b>                            |
| <b>16 Passover</b><br>▪ Easter Breakfast 9:00 am<br>▪ Choir 9:30 am<br>▪ Communion Service 10:00 am<br>▪ Service 11:00<br>▪ Membership Sunday | <b>17 Passover</b><br>▪ NA 7:00 pm                      | <b>18 Passover</b>                       | <b>19 Passover</b> | <b>20 Passover</b><br>▪ OMD Annual Meeting<br>▪ Tai Chi 8:00 pm<br>▪ Shelter Meal 9:00 pm          | <b>21</b><br>▪ OMD Annual Meeting<br>▪ Newsletter Deadline | <b>22</b><br>▪ Down Under Coffeehouse 7:00 pm |
| <b>23</b><br>▪ Choir 9:30 am<br>▪ Service 11:00<br><b>30</b><br>▪ Choir 9:30 am<br>▪ Service 11:00<br>▪ Committee on Ministry 6pm             | <b>24</b><br>▪ NA 7:00 pm                               | <b>25</b><br>▪ Program Committee 7:30 pm | <b>26</b>          | <b>27</b><br>▪ Tai Chi 8:00 pm   | <b>28</b>  | <b>29</b>                                     |

## May 2006

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

## District Doings

### New Church To Be Dedicated

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County, Ohio, is dedicating their new facility on Sunday, 2 April 2006 at 4:00 pm. Allegheny has received an invitation to this event, for those interested in attending.

The Wayne County Fellowship chose to construct their new building under LEED standards, and will shortly have the facility certified as a 'green' building. Pittsburgh architect, and UU, Ken Doyno was the designer.

The Fellowship is located at 3186 Burbank Road, Wooster, Ohio. It is an easy two-and-a-half-hour drive from Pittsburgh. The invitation will be posted and directions may be obtained on the Fellowship's website, [www.uufwc.org](http://www.uufwc.org).

### OMD Annual Meeting

The Ohio-Meadville District Annual Meeting will be held on April 21 & 22 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Ohio (Rev. Mark Bellitini's congregation). Each District congregation sends official delegates, but all District UUs are invited to attend.

This year, the UUA Commission on Appraisal will be holding one of its hearings on the Commission's current area of study. In 2005, they issued their report on theological diversity within the denomination. As a follow-up to that report, the District is also sponsoring a round table presentation on Friday evening around the topic of the common ground under our theological diversity. A number of well-known District ministers will be participating in that presentation.

Further information, including registration, may be found on the District website, [www.uua.org/omd](http://www.uua.org/omd), as a printable brochure. Speak to Allegheny president, John Engberg, if you plan on attending and wish to be considered as a delegate, or wish to discuss car-pooling. See you there!

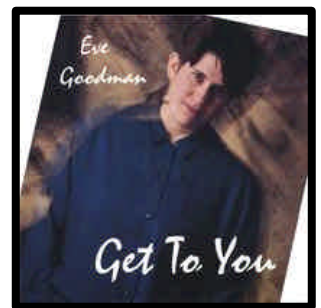
## Music Notes

### DownUnder Coffeehouse

Eve Goodman and Jack at the DownUnder Coffeehouse on Saturday, April 22 from 7:30-9:30 to hear Eve Goodman and Jack. Eve is a wonderful singer-songwriter, whose intricate guitar-playing and insightful lyrics will leave you captivated.

The band Jack features three of the most loved songwriters from the Calliope Songwriters Circle: Stacy Mates, Dave LaRose and George Kantor. Come hear some of Pittsburgh's most exciting singer-songwriters in a relaxed coffeehouse atmosphere.

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open one 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.



**CALLIOPE**

## Financial Matters

### Finance Update

With pledge payments and offerings of \$6,281, February marked the third month during fiscal year 2006 that our pledges and offerings have exceeded \$6,000. Avid readers of this column—I know you're out there!—might recall an earlier update in which I noted that the total of our pledge payments and offerings for all 12 months of FY 1992 was \$6,030!

Pledge payments and offerings for the first 8 months of FY 2006 (through February) were nearly \$49,400. The trends are moving in a favorable direction. Hooray and thank you!

### 8-Month Year-to-Date

#### Pledge Payments and Offerings

(rounded):

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| FY 2006 actual: | \$49,400 |
| FY 2006 budget: | \$42,100 |
| FY2005 actual:  | \$39,400 |

During the first 8 months of FY 2006, pledge payments and offerings accounted for approximately 58% of our income. The remaining 42% came from grants, special contributions, fundraising activities, facilities use fees, and earnings on our savings.

### News from the Finance Committee:

We welcomed Kathleen "Kenney" Kenney to the committee in March.

The draft budget for FY2007 is almost complete. It incorporates the committees' various requests to expand and enhance programs and services, and it reflects associated increases in expenses. It also reflects the anticipated end of the funding stream that has helped to support our social justice efforts over the past four fiscal years. This year, our grant from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock was for \$20,000. We have lots of work ahead

of us to balance the budget without the grant money. The increases in pledge payments and offerings mentioned earlier give reason for hope...but it will take a lot more than hope. More information about the budget will be presented during the upcoming canvass for pledges for FY2007.

### "Numbers Can Be Fun" Quiz of the Month:

**Question:** What did February 2006 and December 2004 have in common?

**Answer:** Total pledge payments and offerings in both months were \$6,281. (December 2004 also had 71 cents).

*by Jill Brethauer, Treasurer*

## Community View

### Clarence Darrow: The Search for Justice

#### Special Performance presented by First Unitarian

Ellsworth & Morewood in Shadyside  
Tuesday, April 11, 7:30pm

Starring: Gary L. Anderson, America's renowned Darrow portrayer

He fought against Creationism in the Scopes "Monkey" Trial, Racism, Social Injustice, the Death Penalty, Conspiracy Laws and Civil Liberties violations. Advance Ticket reservations are available by mail:

Make check payable to: First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, memo: Darrow, and mail to: 605 Morewood Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Include your name, phone number or e-mail, and number of regular and student/senior (65+) tickets reserved.

**February marked the third month during fiscal year 2006 that our pledges and offerings have exceeded \$6,000..**

## Something More

### Into the Light

*An artist reflects on the view from an abandoned cellar.*



John Dickinson began to paint after a career in business. “From my earliest time,” he says, “I was a museumgoer. Recognizing that each piece of art I saw was but the reflection of the vision of the individual who created it, I became curious about what my vision would reflect in art.” Unitarian Universalism, he says, “has enabled my vision to expand unencumbered by dogma or restriction, a good condition for creative activity.” Into the Light depicts the view from the cellar of an abandoned farmhouse in Virginia built in 1828 by his great-great-grandfather, Ralph Quarles Dickinson. “The house is now in ruins,” he says, “and the floors too decrepit to allow entry, but one can go into the cellar and, looking out, see this view. A startling and poignant moment came one day as I painted when I suddenly realized that some of the construction would have been done by his slaves.”

*Kenneth Sutton*

### Flowering

*Grow a life here.*

*At the ruins of the Seven Churches  
Inishmore*

Pick a crevice,  
a homey gap  
between stones  
and make it  
your own.

Grow a life here  
from wind  
rain  
and the memories of ancients  
embedded in limestone.

The bees will use you  
for their sweet honey.  
The rock will soften under  
your touch.  
You will draw moisture from fog  
and hold it.  
Your presence  
will build soil.

This is all we have  
in this life  
all we own:  
a flowering  
an opening  
a gap between stones  
for tiny tender roots.

*Linda Buckmaster*



*John Runyon*

**This page brought  
to you by:**



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Allegheny Unitarian  
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### Allegheny Web Site

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We are a spiritually-diverse, activist congregation.