

# *Allegheny*ADVOCATE

*Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church's Monthly Newsletter*

**From Reverend  
Dave's Desk**

Last month's news reported a slow-down on the World Wide Web in Asia. Evidently there's a big cable—one great big cable that runs from North America to Asia. And that cable broke.

First of all, it's unfathomable that there's just one cable gathering sand and fish poop on the floor of the Pacific Ocean, and that that's what links the www. Then, there's the feat of engineering that it must have taken to get it there. But beyond all that, the upshot of the story was: even though that one vital link was broken, the system still worked—just a bit more slowly. But the web didn't break.

That's because there were other links. Maybe not another über-cable like that one crossing the Pacific floor that broke, but there were other links: a maze of links from the other ways around the world. And then there were links from satellites orbiting the Earth.

That's like our connections to the web of beloved community that urges us forward along our spiritual journey. If we're counting on one connection, no matter how big or strong or amazing that connection may be, it's not enough. That's not how a web works. We need links on the ground. We need links from other links. And we need links from above. Otherwise, we crash.

*Reverend Dave*

*February 2007*

## **From the President**

Hard to believe it's February. The holidays are over and we've finally had some real winter weather. Your Board continues to keep its schedule full and its agenda overflowing.

At the January Board meeting we had presentations on two subjects. First, member Jeanne Zang and Rev. Don Dutton gave a presentation to the Board on Oikocredit, a microcredit organization. There has been discussion among the congregation for some time around this issue and the recent awarding of a Nobel Prize to one of the members of Oikocredit has caused it to rise to the surface again. For those not familiar with microcredit, organizations place money as an investment with a group that then gives loans to people in developing countries (many women) to begin small businesses. The Board is very interested in pursuing this and has referred it to the Finance Committee for feasibility evaluation. If you would like further information, see any Board member.

The second presentation was by Jay Poliziani for the Racial Justice Group. Jay came to inform us of the group's plans for a Black Heritage Weekend and for programs at Jefferson Recreation Center. The Board voted to allocate \$150 for the weekend event and \$600 for the Jefferson Recreation Center efforts. This \$600 includes \$200 to provide food for the children until a federal program kicks in.

If you recall, the Board had earlier challenged the Racial Justice Group to come up with plans for a long term programming relationship with the Jefferson Recreation Center. For a long time there has been talk that as individual members and small groups we have many social action efforts occurring, but nothing we could identify as a single item the church could own as a whole. This could be that item folks. There are many opportunities for all members of any ability and age to be involved. There are craft classes,

physical education activities, tutoring, karaoke, field trips and career day/employer visits proposed.

We always say we are involved and active in our community here on the North Side, here's an opportunity as a group to put those words into action. Talk to Jay Poliziani, Rev. Dave or any member of the Racial Justice Group to see how you can get involved.

The Board also conducted a Board retreat in January. The retreat focused on relationships between Board members and strategic planning. We spent a very constructive afternoon together and much was accomplished. I want to thank Allegheny member Kathy Lawson for facilitating. It was a very well run and organized day.

By the time you read this, we will have had our midyear meeting and officially voted on becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Thanks to all the members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee for two years of work to get us to this point. I will truly be proud of the moment when I can sign off, as your president, on the final paperwork to go in to the UUA to receive our certification.

Lastly, don't forget the From the Heart celebration sponsored by your Board on Friday 10 February. This year we will be honoring two truly deserving individuals, Andy and Betty Schwarz. The amount of hours and effort these two have put into the life of Allegheny is inestimable. Please join us as we celebrate their contributions to our community.

Happy Valentine's Day to one and all!

*Ed Kinley*

**From the President**  
*continued*

## Finance Update

*from Jill Brethauer  
(substituting for the  
intrepid Kathy  
Graham)*

The Finance Committee is preparing letters to send to each member and to friends who made a financial contribution to the church during calendar year 2006. The letters acknowledge the financial contributions you made during 2006 and provide a status report on your pledge payments for the first 6 months of FY 2007. The letters should be available by mid-February. Please contact Kathleen Kenney (“Kenney”) if you have questions or corrections or if you have any concerns about meeting your pledge commitment for the current year.

Pledge payments and offerings during December and cumulative for the first 6 months of FY 2007 were less than the amounts budgeted:

|                    | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| December 2006      | \$5,237       | \$5,813       |
| FY 2007 6 mos. YTD | \$35,992      | \$40,626      |

The church’s programming is based on the needs and interests of the congregation and depends on the enthusiasm, hard work, and financial commitment of each of us. Please check your records and try to catch up if you are behind in making your pledge payments. The Board of Trustees will review the budget at an upcoming meeting and decide what actions to take to balance the budget during the remainder of FY 2007.

Reminder: For calendar 2007, in order to deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record (e.g., canceled check, bank statement showing name of charity and date and amount paid) or a written communication from the charity. Check registers, diaries, or notes made around the time of the donation no longer are sufficient for the IRS. Members and friends making cash contributions are urged to place the cash in an envelope before placing the cash in the offerings plate. Envelopes are available in the Emerson Room.

The Board of Trustees of Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church cordially invites you to the 2007 "From the Heart" fund-raising celebration. This year we are pleased to honor Andy and Betty Schwarz from all of the good will, time, and hard work they have given Allegheny for the past decade. The Schwarzes have decided that all funds raised this year will go to purchase a new, larger hot water heater for Allegheny. This is good news for anyone who has volunteered to do the dishes after one of our events!

The celebration will take place on Saturday 10 February from 6:00 to 8:30pm in the U-House - 1110 Resaca Place. The Board will be providing delicious hors d'oeuvres & Valentine treats and there will be a cash bar serving wine and Andy's favorite beers. Entertainment will be provided by the Wonderful Willie D. All proceeds from the evening's festivities will go toward the purchase of the Schwarz Hot Water Heater. So, bring your sweetheart (and your checkbook) and join us for an evening of contests, comedy and crooning! Childcare will be available.

Every month, the church receives a packet from the OMD announcing the many activities available in the district. There are retreats, leadership training sessions, many workshops and youth and young adult activities offered. These items are posted on the bulletin board outside of Founders Hall. Every member should be perusing these items for possible areas of interest or chances to be involved with the wider range of UUs in the OMD. Take a look next time you are down for Fellowship Hour.

**From the Heart  
Celebration  
10 February 2007**

**Ohio Meadville  
District**



## The DownUnder Coffeehouse



Jack Erdie



Rick Malis

On Saturday 17 February at 7:30pm, the DownUnder Coffeehouse will welcome two of Pittsburgh's finest singer-songwriters, Jack Erdie and Rick Malis. Together they will cover a lot of ground from folk to honky-tonk to blues, providing wonderful stories in song about Pittsburgh and the surrounding region. Throughout their repertoires, you will find songs that center on the humor found in everyday events (You can't get their from here) and sharp-edged insights on injustice (Let their heads roll, which was recently recorded by Anne Feeney).

Baked goods, desserts and beverages will be for sale during the concert and the coffee is always free. Suggested donation is \$5.

Read more about the coffeehouse, including the new DownUnder blog, at <[www.myspace.com/downunder](http://www.myspace.com/downunder)>.

## "What's that stage doin' in our Sanctuary?"



The Quantum Theatre's production of "The Red Shoes" will take place in our church throughout February and into early March. "The Red Shoes" is the creation of Karla Boos and Caroline Loyola-Garcia after Hans Christian Anderson's famous fairy tale. It's a humorous journey, featuring fierce flamenco dancing as the The Shoes. The opening night performance is Friday 9 February at 8pm, including a post-show champagne reception. For more information, go to <[www.quantumtheatre.com](http://www.quantumtheatre.com)> or call ProArts at 412-394-3353 to purchase tickets.

# AUUC February Events

## Thursday 1st

- 6pm Quantum Theater Rehearsal
- 8pm Tai Chi Class

## Friday 2nd - *Groundhog Day*

- 6pm Quantum Theater Rehearsal

## Saturday 3rd

- 11am Peace Vigil
- 1pm Quantum Theater Rehearsal

## Sunday 4th February:

- 9am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
*Who Would Jesus Bomb?* Is there such thing as a "just war"? The Rev. McFarland will address religious motivations for war and what it might mean for the US to be an ethical superpower.
- **Greeters:** Lynn Glorieux & friend
- **Refreshments:** Jane Dirks & Nikki Perfetti
- Order Giant Eagle certificates
- 2pm NA Meeting

## Monday 5th

- 7pm NA Meeting
- 7:30pm Board of Trustees

## Tuesday 6th

- 12pm Oakland Lunch Bunch

## Thursday 8th

- 7pm PIIN Board
- 8pm Quantum Preview Performance
- 7:30pm RE Committee
- 8pm Tai Chi Class

## Friday 9th

- 8pm Quantum Opening Performance



# AUUC February Events

## Saturday 10th

- 11am Peace Vigil
- 6pm "From the Heart" Celebration
- 8pm Quantum Performance

## Sunday 11th February:

- 9am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Betsy Crane and Robert Heasley, UUs and Professors of Sociology, Indiana University of PA  
*Sex and the Soul: Affirming The Goodness in Our Sexualities* How to hold our own sexually in a positive way in a sex-negative world; How to move to the authentic sexual self as a source of goodness and joy; Healing physically and spiritually; Affirming sex for ourselves and the planet.
- **Greeters:** TBA
- **Refreshments:** Betty Schwarz & Jane Schwarz
- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates
- RE Valentine Party
- 7pm Quantum Performance

## Monday 12th

- 7pm NA Meeting

## Wednesday 14th - Valentines Day

- 8pm Quantum Performance

## Thursday 15th

- 8pm Quantum Performance
- 8pm Tai Chi Class
- 9pm Shelter Meal

## Friday 16th

- Winter Institute 2007 begins
- Newsletter Deadline
- 7:30pm Quantum Performance

## Saturday 17th

- 11am Peace Vigil
- 7:30pm Quantum Performance



## **Saturday 17th** *continued*

- 7:30pm DownUnder Coffeehouse  
*Two of Pittsburgh's finest singer-songwriters,  
Jack Erdie and Rick Malis .*

## **Sunday 18th February:**

- 9am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Communion Service
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
*What Love Requires* Rev. Dave will share his Valentine's Day reflections on the ethical imperative of Love.
- **Greeters:** TBA
- **Refreshments:** Ellen Kerr & The Quinlans
- 7pm Quantum Performance

## **Monday 19th**

- Winter Institute 2007 ends
- 7pm NA Meeting

## **Wednesday 21st - Ash Wednesday**

- 8pm Quantum Performance

## **Thursday 22nd - Washington's Birthday**

- 8pm Quantum Performance
- 8pm Tai Chi Class

## **Friday 23rd**

- 7:30pm Quantum Performance

## **Saturday 24th**

- 11am Peace Vigil
- 8pm Quantum Performance

# **AUUC February Events**



# AUUC February/ March Events

## Sunday 25th February:

- 9am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Ben Sota

*Using circus to re-build community and spark your inner-child* By teaching children and adults about timing, balance, and that there is no need to be afraid, they realize that they are capable of doing great things.

- **Greeters:** TBA
- **Refreshments:** Pat Downey & Rebecca Davis
- 7pm Quantum Performance

## Wednesday 28th

- 8pm Quantum Performance

## Thursday 1st March

- 8pm Quantum Performance
- 8pm Tai Chi Class

## Friday 2nd

- 8pm Quantum Performance

## Saturday 3rd - *Purim*

- 11am Peace Vigil
- 8pm Quantum Performance

## Sunday 4th March:

- 9am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Reverend David McFarland  
*Earth Communion* Rev. Dave will reflect on not taking the Earth for granted.
- **Greeters:** TBA
- **Refreshments:** Betty Schwarz & friend
- Order Giant Eagle certificates
- 7pm Final Quantum Performance

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



At the 2007 Annual Mid-Year Meeting held on Sunday 21 January, the Board of Trustees facilitated a discussion evaluating the progress we are making on the stated goals of our 2004-2009 Long Range Plan. We are about half way through this five-year period, and the Board wanted congregational input on where we should focus our efforts for the remainder of the time.

Though most of the comments were favorable, those members in attendance identified six areas where we need to significantly up our efforts in order for us to feel we are truly on task.

1. We need to provide adequate staffing for Allegheny to provide for the needs of the congregation and to carry out the programs we offer.
2. We need to redouble our efforts to integrate youth in all aspects of church life.
3. We need to achieve financial stability.
4. We need to provide more opportunities for adult religious education.
5. We need to come up with a comprehensive strategy in order to ensure that our social justice activities result in measurable outcomes.
6. We need to finish the work that has been started on our physical spaces, making certain that they are safe and accessible for all.

Most in attendance last Sunday felt that at our 101st annual meeting in May, we should bring up the possibility of launching a new capitol campaign in order to raise funds for our buildings. And there was a general feeling that we should hold more congregational meetings on single issues.

The Board of Trustees will be examining the results of the discussion in full at their regular February meeting.

## “How Are We Doing?”— Taking a Look at Our Progress on the Long Range Plan



**Ding! Wanna get away?**



A B&B experience will be hosted by Cedar Lane UU Church on the Washington DC beltway during the National Cherry Blossom Festival (night of Friday 13 April thru afternoon of Sunday 15 April). Transportation to and from the airport, the Metro subway entrance and church service on Sunday is included. A brief city tour (or Metro pass), reserved seats at the Annual Cherry Blossom Parade and a dinner at church Saturday evening are also all part of the festival package. (Participants will receive a package of tour materials and recommendations, including Metro maps, designed to make any spontaneous touring on your own easy.)

Cost: \$250/single; \$500/couple. Registration form must be received by Monday 19 March 2007, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of 50% of the total cost. A flier with registration form is posted on the bulletin board and at <[www.cedarlane.org/](http://www.cedarlane.org/)

**Celebrate/  
Participate Black  
Heritage Month**

Music, Performances, Consciousness Raising, You and Me, Let's Do It!

When: Saturday 3 February 11am-2pm

Where: Amani's Coffee House near the corner of Foreland and James Streets. Join local performers as they share their gifts with us. *This is a day of Family friendly activities for Adults and Kids!*

When: Sunday 4 February at 12 noon

Where: Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church at 416 West North Ave. Join us for a Consciousness Raising Workshop – ask your questions about race in a safe and open place.

And it's free!



## 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 18 February 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.

## At the New Hazlett Theatre



Joanna Obusor, who helps care for our children at the U House during RE, is the Stage Manager for Prime Stage Theatre’s production of “To Kill a Mocking Bird”. The play, directed by Richard Keitel, will be performed at the New Hazlett Theatre beginning Friday 23 February thru Sunday 4 March. Tickets are on sale now through ProArts Tickets at 412-394-3353 or order online at [www.proartstickets.org](http://www.proartstickets.org). *Break a Leg, Joanna!*

## Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show, Silent Auction



Mark your calendars for the annual Spaghetti Dinner, Talent Show, and Silent Auction on Saturday 17 March. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm and the talent show starts at 7 pm. Start thinking about your talent show skit or song and your silent auction donation. The auction has been very successful based on service items individuals have donated such as tutoring, baby and/or dog sitting, food preparation (soups to scones) and many more. Hope to see you there (and on stage).

## Interfaith Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2007

- 2 Candlemas - Christian  
Presentation of Christ in the Temple -  
Anglican Christian  
Imbolc \* - Wicca/Neo Pagan northern  
hemisphere  
Lughnassad \* - Wicca/Neo Pagan southern  
hemisphere
- 3 Tu B'shvat \* - Jewish
- 4 Four Chaplains Sunday - Interfaith
- 11 Meatfare - Orthodox Christian
- 14 St. Valentines Day - Christian
- 15 Nirvana Day \*\* - Buddhist
- 16 Maha Shivaratri \*\* - Hindu
- 18 Transfiguration Sunday - Christian  
Chinese New Year - Confucian/Daoist/  
Buddhist  
Cheesefare Sunday - Orthodox Christian
- 19 Clean Monday (Lent begins) - Orthodox  
Christian
- 20 Shrove Tuesday - Christian
- 21 Ash Wednesday (Lent begins) - Christian
- 25 Sunday of Orthodoxy - Orthodox Christian
- 26-March 1 Intercalary Days \* - Baha'i



*\*Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date.*

*\*\* Regional customs or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date.*

*CAPITALIZED bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.*

*[www.interfaithcalendar.org](http://www.interfaithcalendar.org)*

## 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

Lynn Yocum

### Social Justice

Jay Poliziani

### Welcoming Congregation

Marie Engberg

### Allegheny UU Web Site

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

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



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**WE ARE A SPIRITUALLY DIVERSE, ACTIVIST CONGREGATION**

