

# Allegheny **ADVOCATE**

*Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church's Monthly Newsletter*

## **From the Board Presidents's Desk**

Well folks, it's November already! The air has turned distinctly crisp and the colors of autumn are passing. The close of the harvest season is upon us and soon the holidays will be knocking at our door.

Don't forget the annual Thanksgiving potluck after service on Sunday November 19th. Take the chance to join in fellowship with church members and friends before the crush of the holiday season begins. This is a great chance to renew old friendships. I would also ask that one and all make an attempt at this event to get to know someone you are not very familiar with. Have a seat at a table with people you don't know. As our church grows we must make a concerted effort to reach out to each other and keep the closeness that has been one of Allegheny's strengths.

Also – don't forget the Yummy Pie Sale. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and a chance for you to lighten your cooking burden for Thanksgiving. Get some order forms folks (available online at our website) and sell to friends, family, and coworkers. This needs to be an effort of the entire congregation not just one or two people. It also is a chance for us to reach outside of our congregation for a source of funds. Besides, who doesn't like pie?

I also want to give everyone an update on the recommendations of the Budget Task Force. This group presented its recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the October meeting. The group (Jill Brethauer, Donald Zeilman, Kim Winbush and myself) looked at the proposed budget for FY07 in an attempt to reduce or

*November 2006*

**Message from the  
Board President**  
*continued*

eliminate the projected deficit. Allegheny is facing an extra tough fiscal position this year, with the end of the Veatch Grant we had been receiving the last few years, and with increased expenses related to growth.

Some key recommendations of the Budget Task Force were to delay filling two proposed part time staff positions, office assistant and bookkeeper; cut in half the amount of funds allocated for compensating outside speakers for Sunday services; decreasing funds available to Inreach and Racial Justice; and decreasing some spending related to Religious Education. These were not easy recommendations to make, since all these areas are important to Allegheny.

The major recommendation of the Budget Task Force was for Allegheny to spend more energy concentrating on Pledge Canvass and Fundraising, and evaluate the amount of time used on aspects of both in regards to the results. The task force felt that spending could only be cut so far before it impacts the operation and growth of the congregation. At some point, we will also have to fill the positions that we have again delayed creating. As Allegheny grows, so does the workload and we can not continue to expect volunteers to cover positions that should be filled with paid staff.

Even with these recommendations, we are facing a deficit for next year of slightly over \$10,000, which will force us to spend down our investments. We need to realize that as we do that our income from those investments also decreases, again weakening our bottom line. The Board of Trustees will continue to monitor our financial situation on a monthly basis and more adjustments may need to be made at midyear.

If anyone would like to discuss this further, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees. Any of us would be glad to provide more detail, and we are all open to input and discussion. This situation is important to our survival and needs to be taken seriously, however we need to approach it in a positive manner. Allegheny is full of strong, creative, and inventive people and I am sure together we can find a solution.

Your President,

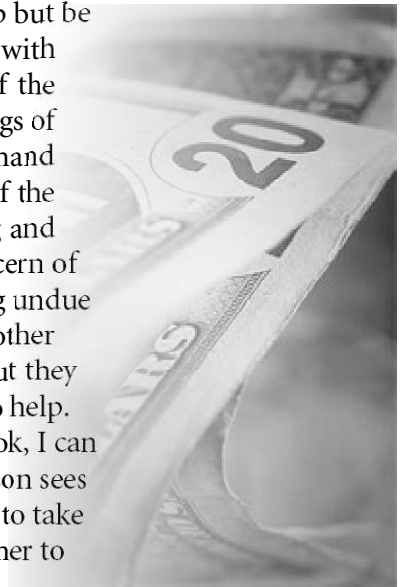
*Ed Kinley, Board President*

## **Message from the Board President** *continued*

First, I want to say thank you to Jill Brethauer for tending to the Treasurer duties so diligently for so many years, and continuing to assist me as I get accustomed to this position. Jill's dedication and attentiveness to details are wonderful blessings to this congregation. It is a pleasure for me to work with her and the other Finance Committee members, who are so supportive of me.

As I become part of the workings of the administration of the church, and see some of what it takes to get things done, I can't help but be impressed by the sincerity and selflessness with which people serve. One responsibility of the Treasurer role is to attend monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees. Now I observe firsthand some of what goes on behind the scenes of the church's operations -- the communicating and organizing, and how people weigh the concern of how can I serve the church without causing undue hardship to my family or compromising other commitments I have. Everyone is busy. But they see what needs to be done and they want to help. So, a task comes up and one person says, "ok, I can do this part of that," and then another person sees that the burden isn't so great, and steps up to take another piece, and their efforts come together to

## **Finance Update**



## Finance Update

*continued*

get the job done, and we all benefit. That's one of the rewards of this service work -- interacting with such genuinely caring people.

As I write this, October isn't over yet, so here are some highlights of the first quarter of FY 2007:

Offerings were \$20,135. This includes \$5,750 that members prepaid in the Spring to be counted toward their FY 2007 pledges. This compares with a budgeted amount of \$23,188.

We received funding in the amount of \$8,750 through the UU Urban Disciples Program. This grant is to be used to support our social justice work. As anticipated, the grant that we received from the UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock during each of the past 4 years is no longer available. (In FY 2006, the grant was for \$20,000. This funding through the Urban Disciples was made possible by the UU Veatch Program and will help us to make the transition.

Expenses during the quarter included \$1,824 to repair the church roof.

The Budget Task Force appointed by the Board of Trustees made recommendations to the Trustees concerning ways to balance the budget for the current year.

There are no capital improvements in the works at this time. Since this is my first report, the numbers are brief, but I will be providing more detailed information to you in the months to come. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions about topics related to the church's financial operations (making contributions, paying for facilities use, purchasing grocery certificates, etc.)

*Kathy Graham, Treasurer*

## **Making a Historic Centennial AUUC Pledge...**

In our hundredth year, we invite all AUUC members and friends to renew their commitment to our historic and social-justice centered church. We will be conducting a face-to-face pledge drive this fall, and we encourage everyone to participate. Our church leaders will be heading up the pledge drive, and they will be asking for your comments and suggestions about your hopes, your needs and your visions our church.

In this centennial year, AUUC membership has grown 100+ strong! Now more than ever before we need your individual commitment to keeping our church community connected, alive and financially strong. As we begin our pledge canvass, we want to hear what you think our growing community can do to nurture our own hearts and souls while working to achieve our justice-driven mission.

In the next few weeks, AUUC board members and committee chairs will be inviting you to participate in one-on-one discussions that will be scheduled with each of you. We also invite your active involvement in this community-building process through participation in AUUC's canvass "kick-off dinner" - (food to be provided by the Board) - at the church on December 2nd, at 6:00 PM.

Please email your thoughts and suggestions to us at: [AUUCpledge@gmail.com](mailto:AUUCpledge@gmail.com). (Your comments will not be made public unless we receive your prior consent.) We want to hear from you!

*Diane McMahan*



**Are we serious about this cause?**

The AUUC Racial Justice Ministry (RJM) is preparing to test our congregation's commitment to the cause. In coming months we have three major efforts under way and we need your help! These efforts will only work if we have extensive congregational participation.

**Just blocks from our door...**

Christopher age 22, Carl age 21 and Darrell age 19 died as the result of gun violence. The shootings occurred within walking distance of our Church. On Nov 2nd at 6:15pm a group of concerned congregants from area churches and neighbors will meet at AUUC to begin a shot march to the sites of those shootings and to also remember the 6 other young men who died as a result of gun violence in the North Side in the past year. We need your presence and also we need you to get the word out in the neighborhood. Print the attached flier and display it in store windows and on telephone poles in our area. And we need you at our November 20th meeting!

**Play to make a change**

The Jefferson Recreation Center has asked AUUC to help them help the kids in our neighborhood. The AUUC RJM is in the process of planning our efforts to offer support to the Jefferson Rec Center. The Center is located a few blocks from church and serves approximately 30-50 kids each day ages 6-14. The RJM will begin to prepare a community moment to present our hopes and goals to our congregation in November. What we need now are interested congregants who would like to offer their talents to teach a small group of kids a skill, a craft, a game- its up to you. The center needs volunteers to help with such projects primarily on weekdays between the hours of 5-8pm. Please contact Jay to get more info [poliziani@goodwillpitt.org](mailto:poliziani@goodwillpitt.org) on how to get started. If this connection is to work we need sustained church community support! And we need you at our Nov 20th meeting!



# AUUC November Events

## ***Sunday November 5th:***

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Rev. David McFarland  
*Voting for Our Children's Children*  
Rev. Dave's "Election Day Message" will include his thoughts on our obligation to future generations.
- **Greeters:** Lynn Glorieux & Friend
- **Refreshments:** TBA
- 12:00 pm Membership Committee Meeting in the U house

## **Monday the 6th**

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

## **Tuesday the 7th – *Election Day***

- 12:00 pm Oakland Lunch Bunch

## **Thursday the 9th**

- 7:00 - 8:30 pm PIIN Board Meeting - Bidwell Presbyterian
- 7:30 PM RE Committee Meeting in the U House
- 8:00 PM Tai Chi Class

## **Friday the 10th - *Veterans Day***

## **Saturday the 11th**

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church

## ***Sunday November 12th:***

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 9:30 am Communion Service
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** TBA
- **Greeters:** Barry Tepperman & Friend
- **Refreshments:** TBA
- Pick up Giant Eagle certificates

## **Monday the 13th**

- 7:00 - 10:00 pm Welcoming Committee Meeting



# AUUC November Events

## Thursday the 16th

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

## Friday the 17th

Newsletter Deadline

## Saturday the 18th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church
- 7:30 pm DownUnder Coffeehouse presents:  
*Erika Luckett and Emily Pinkerton*

## *Sunday November 19th:*

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** Rev. David McFarland  
*Thanksgiving is a Way, not a Day*  
It's been said that if you don't know how to pray, just try saying "Thank you." Rev. Dave will share his thoughts on a life of gratitude in his pre-Thanksgiving message. This inter-generational service will include a "Bread Communion," dispersing our annual "Guest at Your Table" collection boxes for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and lots of great music and great and grateful energy.
- **Greeters:** Andrew Schwarz & Friend
- 11:30 am Thanksgiving Potluck - *Mmmm, Delicious!*
- 3:00 - 10:00 pm Primetimers - Dave Whaley

## Monday the 20th

- 6:00 - 8:30 pm AUUC Racial Justice Ministry Meeting

## Thursday the 23rd - *Thanksgiving*

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## Saturday the 25th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church



## ***Sunday November 26th***

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service

– **Speaker:** Mimi Yahn

*“Even the smallest victory is not to be taken for granted. Each victory must be applauded because it is so easy not to battle at all, to just accept and call that acceptance inevitable.” - Audre Lord*

Mimi Yahn, a Pittsburgh area singer/songwriter and activist has made two trips to her former home of New Orleans since Katrina to help with the rebuilding. She will present a slide show and talk on Katrina’s impact one year later.

– **Greeters:** Peggy Thompson & Friend

– **Refreshments:** TBA

## **Thursday the 30th**

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## **Saturday the 2nd**

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church
- Pledge Kick-off Dinner at AUUC

## ***Sunday December 3rd:***

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service

– **Speaker:** Rev. David McFarland

*Sewing Threads into the Quilt of Life*

On this commemoration of the twenty-fifth World AIDS Day, Rev. Dave will reflect on the AIDS Quilt as a metaphor for life, for healing, and for the blessed community. Pieces of the NAMES Project's AIDS Quilt will be at the church. Check future newsletters for more details on public viewing of the Quilt.

– **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.*

# **AUUC November Events**

# **AUUC December Events**



# AUUC December Events

## Tuesday the 5th

- 12:00 pm Oakland Lunch Bunch

## Wednesday the 6th

- 7:00 pm AUUC Core Team Meeting - Founders Hall

## Thursday the 7th

- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## Saturday the 9th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church

## *Sunday December 10th:*

- 9:00 am Choir Practice
- 10:30 am Sunday Service
- **Speaker:** TBA
- **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

## Thursday the 14th

- 7:00 pm PIIN Board Meeting - Bidwell Presbyterian
- 7:30 PM RE Committee Meeting in the U House
- 8:00 pm Tai Chi Class

## Friday the 15th - Hanukah Begins Newsletter Deadline

## Saturday the 16th

- 11:00 am Peace Vigil in front of church
- 7:30 pm DownUnder Coffeehouse presents:  
*Riveting Rosies*

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



## **Black Heritage Celebration**

Our third major effort, A Celebration of Black Heritage is set for the weekend of Feb 2,3,and 4th. At this point we are seeking a venue for part or the entire event. Someplace on the North side and large enough to accommodate at least 100 people- we need help! Do you know a place and a contact person? Lets us know. Once the venue is secured we need your help again! We need to secure performers, facilitators, and leaders of the performances, workshops or seminars. At this point we are open for ideas—let us know!!!And we need you at our November 20th meeting from 6:30-8:00pm

## **A Page of a Different Color**

The Racial Justice Ministry has collected some great information about entertainment and educational opportunities in the local area (Thanks Avis!). These activities provide a chance for folks to experience first hand the skills and talents of many of the regions talented artisans and lectures of color. Check them out!

Celebration of Visual Traditions from 9/29 through 12/8 at the August Wilson Center at 209 9th Street Wed- Sat from noon –5pm. A touring exhibition of 40 pieces by 25 emerging and established artists of color.

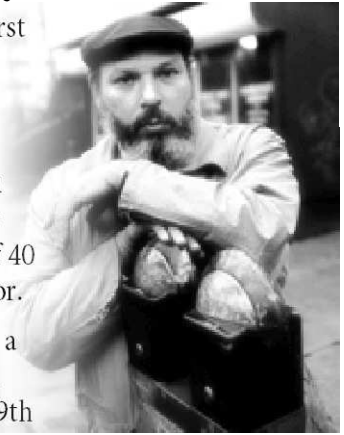
Colson Whitehead, author of Apex Hides the Hurt, a satirical look at identity politics, racial identity and corporate values will speak on Monday, February 19th at the Carnegie Lecture Hall. Info call 412 622 8866.

Sweetwater Center for the Arts

[www.sweetwaterartcenter.org](http://www.sweetwaterartcenter.org) is a great resources for a multitude of upcoming arts programs with an multicultural focus.

[www.TheSoulPitt.com](http://www.TheSoulPitt.com) is a website offering information on things happening in the local African American community.

And closer to home the Jefferson Rec Center has a Karaoke and Dance party for the kids every other Saturday from 7:00-8:30pm and they would love some visitors. Pat can be reached at 412 323 7268



## The DownUnder Coffeehouse



*Erika Lockett*

The DownUnder Coffeehouse will host national recording artist Erika Lockett ([www.erikalockett.com](http://www.erikalockett.com)) on Saturday Nov 18 at 7:30. Born in Mexico and raised in Venezuela and Brazil, she made her way to France as a teenager, playing in the subways where her own concoction of Folk/Latin/Jazz/Pop echoed in the underground. Named Female Artist of the Year 2004 by Just Plain Folks, her music radiates life and the wisdom culled from meeting the world head on with openness and an exuberant spirit. Whether singing in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese, Erika Lockett's music reminds us that beauty and a luminous heart transcend any boundary.



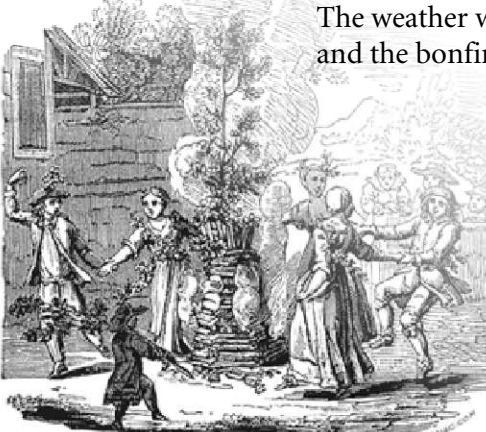
*Emily Pinkerton*

Pittsburgh's own Emily Pinkerton will open the concert. <http://www.emilypinkerton.com/>

The DownUnder Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday each month in Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church, 416 West North Ave, North Side. Suggested donation for this month's show is \$10. Desserts and coffee will be available. Call 412-322-4261 or see [www.alleghenyuu.org](http://www.alleghenyuu.org) for more details.

## Fall Fun Fest Thank You

A very special "THANK YOU" to Jill Brethauer and Dave Samuels for hosting our Fall Fun Fest. The weather was a bit chilly but the food was great and the bonfire kept us warm!



MIDSUMMER—THE BONFIRE.

Just a reminder - childcare is available at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings for those parents who wish to attend choir practice, meetings, or other church events?

## Religious Education Notes

Also, there is an OMD junior high youth conference coming up in Akron the weekend of November 17-19th. Anyone in grades 7-9 who wishes to attend should contact me (Kris Thomas) immediately. The registration deadline is November 6.

Plan on joining us for our annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck immediately following the service on Sunday November 19th. Please bring your favorite covered dish ready to eat!

## Thanksgiving Pot Luck



Following this year's Thanksgiving Service on November 19, there will be an all-church photograph taken to commemorate the congregation's centennial. If you are a member, former member, or friend, please join us for this milestone event. We're hoping to at least include all current member families. The photo will be taken outside of the church building, weather permitting. Our annual Thanksgiving dinner will immediately follow.

## All-Church Centennial Photo



## Interfaith Calendar

November 2006



- 1 • All Saints' Day - Christian remembrance of saints.
- 2 • All Souls' Day - Christian day of prayers on behalf of the dead.
- 5 • Birth of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib - Sikh celebration of the founder.
- 12 • Birth of Baha'u'llah \* - Baha'i celebration of the messiah.
- 15-Dec.24 • Nativity Fast - Orthodox Christian winter lent.
- 21 • Presentation of Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian honoring of Mary.
- 23 • Thanksgiving - USA interfaith celebration of the creation.
- 24 • Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur - Sikh observance.
- 26 • Day of Covenant \* - Baha'i celebration of the covenant.
- Christ the King - Christian celebration of Christ.
- 28 • Ascension of Abdul-Baha \* - Baha'i celebration of spirit rising.
- 30 • St. Andrew's Day - Christians recall the martyrdom of St. Andrew.

*\*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)*

**Minister**

Rev. David McFarland

**Board of Trustees**

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Kris Thomas

**Director of Music**

Kiki Barley

**Finance**

Bob Follette

**Fund Raising**

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**House**

Donald Zeilman

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**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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