

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

Now in our new home at
4326 Sardis Road, Murrysville!

Website
<http://www.esuuc.org>

Volume 41 No. 1

July, 2003

Editor, Andy Manhardt
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, June 29th, 10:30 AM – Intergenerational Summer Service –

This Intergenerational program put on by the children's RE group will be exploring patriotism, using paper bag skits. Dan Begg will facilitate the program.

We are entering a month-long series on the ethical, moral or practical choices that we make in our lives that manifest our values, and impact those around us in a variety of ways. Each week a panel of folks from the congregation will share how and why they make their choices on the selected topic. The topics were meant to offer springboards for congregational discussion as we explore our own reasons for making the choices that we make.

Sunday, July 6, 10:30 AM- "Matters of Choice", Part I: "Food and Diet Choices".

Panelists on this first Sunday will be **Kathy Begg, Keith Born, Mark Zingarelli and Renee Waun.**

Sunday, July 13, 10:30 AM- "Matters of Choice", Part II: "Spiritual Practice Choices"

We will have a panel discussion of spiritual practices. A few people in the congregation will share their spiritual practices and then the topic will be opened up to anyone in the congregation who wants to share their own spiritual practices, ask questions, or discuss the topic.

Facilitated by Karen Katilius.

Sunday, July 20, 10:30 AM- "Matters of Choice", Part III: "Reproductive Choices"

What is your opinion? Do you support the legalization of abortion? Do you agree with the current egg and sperm donation policy? Do you support mandated limits on reproduction in order to decrease population growth? Come join in a difficult but worthy discussion with our panelists.

Facilitated by Gerard Katilius

Sunday, July 27, 10:30 AM- "Matters of Choice", Part IV: "Green Choices"

What kind of decisions if any do you make in your everyday life because of the environment? Do you believe the decisions really make a difference and why?

Kate Codd-Palmer to lead the service; George Ratliff to lead the panel.

Sunday, August 3, 10:30 AM - "Reflections on Africa's Transition to Democracy"

by Dr. Ahmed Esa. Ahmed (the Robl's son-in-law) works in his homeland Somaliland, a small country on the horn of Africa between Djibouti and Somalia. He is Founder and Director of the Institute for Practical Research there. ESUUC donated money to the IPR in 1998 to buy tables and bookcases for its Library. Somaliland recently held its first-ever election for President.

Robl 50th Anniversary Reception

After the service, members and friends are invited by Bob and Jean to a buffet lunch to celebrate their Golden Anniversary. (Catered by new church member Michael Safran)

Sunday, Aug. 10th 10:30 AM – “Emerson, The Person and His Calling”

Sunday, Aug. 17th 10:30 AM – “Self-reliance” and “Nature”

Emerson's most famous essays

Sunday, Aug. 24th 10:30 AM – Emerson, poet laureate of the Interdependent Web, as revealed in the essays “History” and “Plato”

Sunday, August 31, 10:30 AM - “The Enneagram of Spiritual Essence”

The core of your being, just like the core of the Enneagram, is spiritual essence. As you mature, you form your self-concept by balancing three dualities: spirit-body, inner-outer experiences, and self-others as a source of personal validation. The Enneagram provides a model for understanding this process and redefining your spiritual identity to include your essence. Dr. William Culp is a Licensed Psychologist and a Certified Transpersonal Psychologist. He has been studying the Enneagram for fifteen years.

For updates on programs, or questions, check www.esuuc.org, or call (724) 327-5872

Religious Education News

Elementary: There are so many fine qualities associated with being a Unitarian Universalist, not the least of which is that we realize as a religious denomination that people need a break, so, there will be no formal RE program this summer. Yippie!!!!

Just as congregational program activity during the summer is scaled down and less formal in nature, so is RE. For the summer months we have a general activity that will be scheduled for each Sunday. We are trying to be flexible and, weather permitting, some activities will take place outside. Because attendance in the summer is much less predictable we have scheduled activities that work for any size group.

As an ongoing activity that anyone in the group can work on at any time, some of the students have shown an interest in making a scale model of the church building and peopling it with a congregation. We hope to have the materials together and a set-up/work space arranged by mid-July. The kids can then work on it as time permits.

Another activity, based on an area of strong student interest was chess, so Game Days (chess and other games) have also been scheduled. (As a side note, there is a fair chance of an RE sponsored church wide chess tournament sometime in the Fall.)

Lastly, the children in our RE program read. That is such a great thing. (The latest Harry Potter volume, due out shortly, is much anticipated.) We have therefore scheduled Reading Circle Days for this reason. The idea is that the kids will pass a book around and read it out loud to one another.

Religious Education News (Continued)

Like so many other members, Kate and I are taking the Summer to recharge. For this reason we will not be attending church every Sunday as we try to during the regular church year. As was indicated in last month's newsletter, sign up sheets will be posted. We are asking for adult volunteers to sign up for a Sunday and help the children who do attend with the scheduled RE activity and for nursery through the Summer months. If there is a Sunday on which anyone can help out in this area please sign up.

The schedule for July and August is below.

July 6 : Game Day/Chess
July 13 : Church Model/ Measure & Plan
July 20 : Outdoor Activity/Game
July 27 : Reading Circle
August 3 : Game Day
August 10 : Reading Circle
August 17 : Model Church
August 24 : Model Church/Outdoor Activity
August 31 : Game Day

This does not mean that RE lays on the beach all summer (would that it could be so!). We will be in touch with many of you through out the summer about the programs and activities planned for the Fall, including the Coming of Age program.

Everyone has been very generous with their time and support throughout the past church year. Kate and I thank you again for all your help. Have a great summer.

Kathy and Dan Begg, RE Directors
(412) 373-4106
nikitatude@earthlink.com

"Come and Meditate"

The Come and Mediate series will not continue for the summer. If there is someone who would like to take it over and sponsor them, please feel free to do so. There are no plans to continue in the future. Thanks to everyone who attended them, we had a lot of great meditations. We had a light labyrinth, Tai Chi, Yoga, Sanskrit Chanting, Merkaba meditation, drumming and others. It was a wonderful experience!

Merkaba Meditations

There will be a Merkaba meditation on Monday, July 21st, in the sanctuary at 7:30. Merkaba deals with the energy field in and around the body. Seen Hosford leads this meditation and the cost is \$10.00. Dress comfortably, no equipment is necessary. Bring a friend! Please let me know if you are attending this meditation. Contact me, Karen Katilius, at KarenIgerard@aol.com or call at 724-327-6321. We need at least 10 people for the class or it will be canceled.

Drumming

The drumming circle will be held on Sunday, July 27th at 7:30PM, in the sanctuary. This will be an adult drumming. We have extra drums for those that might like to try it and don't own one yet. Please let me know if you can attend, so we know if we have enough people to conduct one. Contact Karen Katilius at karenlgerard@aol.com or call at 724-327-6321.

Board Meeting

The ESUUC Board meeting will be held **July 8 at 7:15 PM**. All members are welcome to attend board Meetings.



“Rolling Up Our Sleeves”

I had the privilege of representing our congregation at the dedication service of the new building for the UU Fellowship of Ligonier Valley recently. What a glorious day it was. Their building had been “retrofitted” from a showroom for riding lawn mowers and garden equipment. A church member who had stopped by one day in late autumn to rent a backhoe, found the place empty with a sign on the door that the store had closed. With a sudden burst of visionary insight, the man realized the potential for the building’s use as a church! He called the number on the sign to ask about purchase possibilities, rallied some church members, and now they, too have gone from renting space (over a theater), to owning a beautiful building right on the main highway in Ligonier! I was eager to attend the dedication because I understood their excitement.

Many people at the reception asked me how we are doing, now that we have been in our first building for about a year. Our Annual Meeting had just taken place the night before, and I shared that we have had a marvelous first year, finding more and more ways to celebrate and use our space almost every week. They seemed intent on wanting to hear our success as something they could emulate.

With every success story there are people who carry the vision-- and the work load. We are blessed at our church with a wealth of these folks. At our Annual Meeting we had some heavy discussion around budget issues, realizing that in order to continue our pattern of growth, and to put us on solid financial ground, we would need the faith to persevere in our planned, projected deficit for the next two years. I was so pleased to see that we are not wringing our hands about this, but instead, rolling up our sleeves in a positive way to move forward with resolve.

This is the stuff that makes visions happen. I am so proud to be a part of this congregation of hard working visionaries, and to be able to share our story to inspire others!

Annual Meeting

The results of our Annual Meeting that was held June 15, 2003 were as follows:

Bylaw Changes

There were several bylaw changes proposed including: raising the limit on non-budgeted expenditures requiring congregational approval to \$750; waiving the 3 week requirement to call a congregational meeting to approve additional expenditures if there is a threat to safety or the integrity of the building; creating a quorum of 50% for the Board of Trustees and; creating the Board level position of facilities management.

It was moved (and seconded) to accept the bylaw changes as proposed in the annual meeting packet.

28 in favor

0 opposed

0 abstained

Board of Trustees Elections

The Nominating Committee submitted the following nominations for consideration:

Secretary – Leona Dunnett

Treasurer – Cathy Serventi

Religious Education Chair – Ken Noble

Facilities – Lew Ruffing

There was unanimous acceptance of elected officers by voice vote..

A vote of confidence was also held for the Chair of the new Committee on Ministry. The Committee on Ministry task force and the Board both recommended that, even though this Chairpersonship is not yet part of the Board of Trustees, that it was still important that the chair for the interim have the clear support of the congregation.

Ginny Connolly-Manhardt was nominated by the Nominating Committee and was accepted by a voice vote with none opposed and one abstention.

Special Acknowledgements

The following people were recognized during the meeting:

A moment of silence was held for **Johanna Fields**, a past president and valued member and friend of the congregation who passed away this year.

Walt and Mildred Courtley brought three beautiful pedestals to complement the beautiful woodwork they contributed already.

Nancy Fitzgerald was honored for her contributions to the community as a Commissioned Lay Leader. She was also recommissioned by a unanimous voice vote for another three year term.

Lew Ruffing, who is now the Facilities Manager was acknowledged for his excellent work as Religious Education Chair.

Shelley Lukon was recognized for her outstanding work as the Newsletter editor. Andy Manhardt will be taking her place beginning in July.

Cathy Serventi, who is now Treasurer was acknowledged for work as Secretary.

Chris Priano will be sorely missed as Treasurer. He was thanked for his extensive service to the congregation.

Annual Meeting (Continued)

Proposed Budget

Chris let us know that the good news for this year is we are not using capital reserves but rather operating reserves from previous years to cover the deficit from this year. However, it is important to point out that that we are still spending more money for operating expenses than is being covered by pledges and canvas contributions.

Chris also noted that the deficit for next year will be lower than had originally been proposed (about \$7000 instead of \$10000) because the mortgage will be lower than originally thought because we negotiated an escrow review earlier than we thought. Also as a result of the Town Meeting held the previous week pledges increased to \$28,000 for the year.

It was proposed and seconded that the proposed budget with an estimated deficit of \$7000 be accepted..

In favor: 26

Opposed: 2

Abstained 1

There was also a general consensus (although not voted on) that we seriously considering reducing our dues payments to the national and regional UU organizations next year is our budget situation has not improved significantly.

New Business

Signs & Symbols

It was proposed and seconded that the Signs & Symbols committee be authorized to spend the \$2875.00 allocated by chalice lighters on a front sign.

22 approved

1 opposed

2 abstentions

Feng Shui

It was proposed and seconded that the congregation agree to the (privately funded) proposal as presented in the meeting packet with the amendment that the Aesthetics Committee would have a voice in the final approval.

Amendment

24 approved

0 opposed

2 abstained

Proposal with amendment:

25 approved

0 opposed

0 abstentions

Aesthetics and Landscaping

It was proposed and seconded that we approve Phase 1 (including painting the ceiling and the chair rail) of the proposal funded up to \$1140 of capital funds with the amendment that the use of the funds be subject to the consent of the Facilities Manager and the Board.

Annual Meeting (Continued)

No objections to the amendment
In favor 23
Opposed 3
Abstention 1

It was proposed and seconded that we appropriate \$500 of capital funding for landscaping from capital improvements with the friendly amendment that the expenditures be subject to the approval of the Facilities Manager and the Board.

23 in favor
1 abstention
0 opposed

Naming the church site

It was moved and seconded that we explore the possibility of adding a site name.

6 In favor
14 opposed
1 abstention

It was also moved and seconded that we explore the possibility of changing the congregational name.

In favor – 9
Opposed 11
Abstentions 1

The full minutes of the Annual Meeting will be available by request by email (to Cathy Serventi: darthduckie@yahoo.com) and in a binder available at the church by July 1, 2003.

200th Birthday of Ralph Waldo Emerson

May 25th marks the 200th birthday of Emerson, and Unitarian-Universalists are celebrating this anniversary year in style! Ralph Waldo Emerson is the most recognized and revered figure in the Unitarian movement, and is also credited as the architect of American intellectual culture.

ESUUC will explore the writings and legacy of Emerson through a series of Sunday programs in August. Emerson believed that each person “is an inlet” to the “one mind” of creation, so anyone interested in authentic self-development is invited to participate in these salon style discussions.

While Minister Rev. Dr. Rene Waun is on summer sabbatical helping AIDS orphans in Uganda, Board President Gerard Katilius will facilitate this series.

Sunday, Aug. 10th 10:30 AM – Emerson, The Person and His Calling

Sunday, Aug. 17th 10:30 AM – “Self-reliance” and “Nature”, Emerson's most famous essays

Sunday, Aug. 24th 10:30 AM – Emerson, poet laureate of the Interdependent Web, as revealed in the essays “History” and “Plato”

If you're interested in participating in the pre-studies and panel leads, or simply learning more about this icon of American literacy, please contact Gerard Katilius at (724) 327-6321.

Great Lakes Leadership School (Eagles)

We received our formal invitation to the Eastern Great Lakes Leadership School (Eagles). This year's session will be conducted from **July 20th through 26th**, at Brock University, St. Catherine's, Ontario, very near Niagara Falls. This is an exceptional experience. It certainly helps one in a leadership role in the UU church, but also has significant personal benefits. Please consider this opportunity seriously, and if you, or someone you think would be a great candidate would like to go, please get back to me soon so we could start planning.

Warm regards, Gerard Katilius



We celebrated the end of another Church year tonight at the Annual Dinner; it's a wonderful opportunity to recognize our successes, and the great people who choose to belong to our church. For those who couldn't make it, we sincerely thank you for your support and hard work that you have provided throughout the year. It was especially heartening to see the list of candidates the nominating committee presented for our Board of Directors for the coming year. Kathy Ruffing and Brien Palmer worked hard, and came up with a first class slate of people who were unanimously voted into office!

Before they take over, I want to recognize a few individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty – Chris Priano has served our church well for many years now, not only as Treasurer, but also as the coach and mentor of several other individuals who otherwise would not have taken on this responsibility. It is truly the mark of an advanced person who not only does a job well, but also can teach and help others to do it well, too – thank you!

We didn't formally recognize our minister tonight, but I'd like to take a moment here to mention what a great job Renee Waun has been doing. In addition to her regular Sunday services, Renee serves as a key ambassador to ESUUC in many ways – she represents us at the Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium, the Murrysville and Export Area Ministerium, the Pittsburgh Area UU Cluster, OMDUUPRL, District Conference and others. Her Pastoral Care is extensive, and she also participates in most meetings and special activities of the church. It is my pleasure to work with her, and I want to express our appreciation for all she does. We also wish her safe travels and good luck on her trip to Uganda to help AIDS orphans this summer!

Our immediate past President, Andy Manhardt, has generously offered to take over editing of the newsletter from Shelly Lukon. Shelly has done a great job, and I am certain Andy will do well, as he has contributed already in so many areas of our church.

It is my pleasure to work with so many nice people, for such a good cause – thank you!

Murrysville Community Day

Murrysville Community Day scheduled for June 7th was cancelled due to the wet weather. It may be rescheduled for this fall. Watch the newsletter for the date. ESUUC will have a booth with information and activities. Helpers are needed. Look for the signup sheet.

Annual UUA Meeting in Boston this Summer

Our annual meeting of Unitarian Universalists is in Boston this year from **June 26th - 30th**. Consider going for wonderful programming, lots of UU's and a reinforcement of our wider community. Much more information can be found on the web at **www.uua.org/ga**. Others who have been there and can tell you about it include Alan, Jennifer and Jessica Halperin, Jane Longdon, and Nancy Fitzgerald.

Cleaning the Church

Beginning this summer we will start to have a private janitorial service clean the church. Thank you to all those members who have so willingly volunteered their time over this past year to keep our church clean. Don't think we are completely off the hook—there is always that “deep” fall and spring cleaning we may be called upon to help with.....there's always something with owning a home.

Refreshments

During the summer there will not be a formal refreshment list. I am probably going to ask that members volunteer to donate a non-perishable item such as crackers, chips etc. so that there is always something available each Sunday during the summer.

Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352

AUUC “Down Under” Coffee House

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church (412 West North Avenue, “North Side” of Pittsburgh) presents their monthly “Down Under” Coffee House, which invites fellow UU's, neighborhood friends, and interested participants to attend a coffee house/performance event. This event occurs on the **third Saturday** of every month from **7:30 to 9:30 PM**. There is a \$5.00 admission fee. This month's coffee house will be held on **July 19**. The purpose of the Coffee House is to raise funds to sustain, maintain and renovate the church, as well as to offer a welcoming community meeting place where local performers can enjoy and be enjoyed within an intimate coffee house setting. The coffee house utilizes AUUC's newly renovated downstairs “Founder's Room”. Coffee is free to all. Baked goods and soda will be for sale. For more info, please contact Diane McMahon at **DianeM677@aol.com** or (412) 322-0132.

Grief Support Summer Day Camp

Here is a free opportunity that we are invited to consider for our personal growth and healing: Grief Support Summer Day Camp for children and teens who have experienced the loss of a loved one. The camp will be held **10 AM - 1 PM, June 23 - 27**. This event is offered by Pastoral Associate Kathy Klocek at St. Bernadette Parish, located in the Garden City area of Monroeville. Call Kathy at (412) 373-7588 for details.

Historic Pilgrimage to Transylvania in July

Since the historic roots of UU-ism grow in the country that is now Transylvania, a group from the West Shore UUC and Project Harvest Hope are combining to offer a tour there **July 6th through July 18th, 2003**. Estimated cost for the trip is \$2200-\$2500 per person, including air fare and hotel. If you are interested in finding out more, please call pilgrimage leader Kathleen Rolenz at (440) 333-2255. It is said to be a rigorous trip, but a memorable and meaningful one.

Newsletter Deadlines

There will not be a newsletter published for the month of August. The deadline for the August newsletter will be **Sunday, August 10th**. This deadline is a week earlier than usual so that we can get this issue out in plenty of time for people to make their plans for September. Please Email me with your articles at manhardt@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 373-3668 church and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

Andy Manhardt, editor

Calendar

(Sunday Services are listed on the first page)

- Sunday, June 22 Drumming Circle will meet at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Questions: call Karen at (724) 327-6321
- June 23 – 27 Grief Support Summer Day Camp for children and teens, 10 AM - 1 PM, St. Bernadette Parish, Garden City; call Kathy Klocek at (412) 373-7588 for details
- June 26 – 30 Annual UUA Meeting in Boston; for more info, visit www.uua.org/ga
- July 6 – 18 Pilgrimage to Transylvania; for info, call Kathleen Rolenz at (440) 333-2255 (Estimated cost for the trip is \$2200-\$2500 per person, including air fare and hotel)
- Monday, July 21 Merkaba Meditation at 7:30 PM,. Cost: \$10. Questions: call Karen at (724) 327-6321
- July 20 - 26 Eastern Great Lakes Leadership School (Eagles) at Brock Univ., St. Catherine's, Ontario
- Sunday, August 10 Service on Ralph Waldo Emerson: Emerson, the Person and his Calling
- Sunday, August 17 Service on Ralph Waldo Emerson: "Self-reliance" and "Nature", Emerson's most famous essays
- Sunday, August 24 Service on Ralph Waldo Emerson: Emerson, poet laureate of the Interdependent Web

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July Newsletter

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