

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. 6

January, 2004

Editor, Andy Manhardt
newsletter@esuuc.org

Annual Congregational Retreat

Saturday January 10, 2004, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m:

Meaningful Ministry: Salvation? Service? Support? Sustenance?

Join us for our annual retreat on January 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be exploring the concept of "ministry" as it applies personally and congregationally. Take some time to identify not only what you have to offer but what you need from the church. Once we as a congregation have figured out our own personal ministries we can begin making our church known and valued in the community. This will also be an opportunity for the committees to show off their accomplishments for the year and their plans for the upcoming year.

Please help us make ESUUC a visible, positive, progressive force in the community while at the same time making your own participation in the church more meaningful and fulfilling. Come and be inspired!!

If you require any kind of special accommodations please let Leona (secretary@esuuc.org), Maureen (vicepresident@esuuc.org) or Cathy S. (treasurer@esuuc.org),

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, January 5, 10:30 AM- "Go Ahead--Make My Day"

Dr. Waun will muse on how difficult people and situations that push our "hot" buttons are really the very things that push us to grow. As we begin another New Year, let's start by exploring this intriguing topic.

Sunday, January 12, 10:30 AM- Intergenerational Play - "Jacob's Ladder and Sarah's Circle"

We'll explore different approaches to spirit, God and each other based on gender as prompted by some reporting in A Woman's Journey to God by Joan Borysenko. There's biological evidence of difference, and religious and cultural value in honoring both ways. Nancy Fitzgerald, CLL

Sunday, January 19, 10:30 AM- "How might Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King deal with Terrorism?"

In this program we will explore some of Dr. King's views on the use of non-violence in promoting peace and harmony in the world. We will then have a discussion of how Dr. King might have adapted his philosophy to deal with our current problems with the terrorism we face from people who base their actions fanatical religious views.

Sunday, January 26, 10:30 AM- "Annual Pancake Breakfast"

One of this congregation's longest traditions is our annual pancake breakfast, held during January of each year. Join us for pancakes, sausage, juice and other breakfast goodies prepared by the males of the congregation. We will take voluntary donations to defray the cost of the breakfast.

Sunday, February 1, 10:30 AM- "The African American Soul"

February is African American History Month. In observance of that, Dr. Waun will present another musical program using spirituals to reflect on African American spirituality.

Religious Education News

Class Schedules

Middle School

January 4th - Discussion: What is religion? Led by Ken Noble

January 11th - Middle School attends services

January 18th - Mosque Visit

January 25th - Pancake Breakfast

Upper Elementary

January 4th - Beginnings of Unitarianism & Universalism in America. Led

by Dan Begg

January 11th - Religion - Free to Choose (Part 1). Led by Someone Yet To

Be Identified

January 18th - Religion - Free to Choose (Part 2). Led by Maria Luczkow

January 25th - Pancake Breakfast

Lower Elementary

January 4th - A Time for Giving Gifts - Epiphany. Led by Kathy Ruffing

January 11th - A Time to Plant Trees - Tu Bishvat. Led by Marianne Jew

January 18th - A Time to Bless the Animals - St. Francis Day. Led by someone

yet to be identified.

January 25th - Pancake Breakfast

Nursery

January 4th - Merritt Bailey

January 11th - Mary Kukura-Straw

January 18th - Gayle Pamerlau

January 25th - Pancake Breakfast

Religious Education Thank You

2003 was a wonderful and rewarding year in RE. We are pleased with the growth and stability in the program. We are very grateful to everyone who has helped with teaching, volunteering, fundraising, movie night, and Coming of Age. A special thanks to Ken Noble for his efforts as RE committee chair. We are looking forward to 2004.

Dan & Kathy Begg

Coming of Age

It has been a very active year for the Coming of Age program and the new year promises more of the same. The months ahead will prove interesting and challenging to our students in Coming of Age.

On January 18th a visit to a local mosque is scheduled as part of the program's look into other faiths. A trip to Cleveland is tentatively scheduled for the week-end of April 23 as part of a service project involving the UU church there. The COA trip to Boston is tentatively scheduled for May 21st, 22nd & 23rd. Both students and parents are reminded to plan ahead for these dates.

Adult Religious Education

Understanding the Bible

Adult Religious Education/Forum- Mondays, January 5 and 12, 7:30-9:30pm-

A two part discussion and study for those wanting deeper insight into the hows, whys and whats of the world's most used (and abused) book. Call **Maureen and Jerry Lilly** to RSVP for refreshments count and directions, as the group will meet at their home, 311 Yettman Dr. in Plum. 724-327-653. No special preparation required. Bring a Bible.

Dr. Waun will facilitate.

Evensong

In this Evensong series, participants will explore individual life journeys through sharing thoughts, experiences, doubts and current beliefs. We will meet on Monday from 7:30 pm until 9:30 pm at the church beginning Jan. 19th and ending March 15th with a break over Feb. 16th for Valentine's and President's Days.

Each week, we will follow an order of service, with the central event being a sharing time. We will be listening attentively and without interruption to one another. Here is our plan:

Jan. 19—Gathering One Beginning Together: Show and Tell

Jan. 26—Gathering Two Religious and Spiritual Experiences

Feb. 2—Gathering Three The Divine: What Do I Really Want?

Feb. 9—Gathering Four The Human: What Limits Do I Encounter?

Feb. 23—Gathering Five The Messiah, the Christ, the Buddha, the Divine Made Manifest: What Is Possible? What Keeps Me Going?

Mar 1—Gathering Six The Community: What Is Possible Together?

Mar 8—Endings: How Do I Live with Loss and Death?

Mar 15—Ministry: What is My Ministry? What Am I Called to Do in the World?

Evensong is a good way to explore personal beliefs and possibilities and a great way to get to know a group of people.

There is no fee for Evensong. To register, please call the church office at 724-327-5872 or talk to either of us.

For the first session, we would like to have a Show and Tell as part of the gathering. Please bring an object, photo, or memento to speak of to the rest of us.

We look forward to beginning. If you have any questions, please give one of us a call.

Nancy Fitzgerald
412-731-2994

Andy Manhardt
412-373-3668

Chalice Circles

We are considering organizing Chalice Circles in the coming year and are curious what interest exists in the congregation for doing so. For newer members Chalice Circles are groups that meet regularly over a set period of time to discuss various topics. We are asking what interest there is in starting up a circle (or circles), what topics are of interest, and who might be willing to facilitate or lead a circle group. Your responses are appreciated.

Dan & Kathy Begg

New Members

Jackie Passant: Jackie signed the membership book on October 12th, and has been an active participant in our church community. She has two children: Sonya (soon to be 8) and Adam (3 and ½), a cat (Sally) and a husband (Hans). Jackie laughingly tells of meeting Hans, who is Dutch, just before he was to move from Pennsylvania back to the Netherlands. After a few more meetings, Hans changed his plans, stayed in PA and married Jackie. Their family lives in Natrona Heights.

Jackie likes cooking and baking, gardening, and moderating an Internet forum called Roundtable. She manages the interest group on libraries, and is active in her local library, particularly since the state has cut library funding by 50%.

We can thank Mary Kukura-Straw for telling Jackie about ESUUC, during online discussions at an Internet interest group dedicated to breast-feeding issues. Jackie says that she found the church community to be very open and welcoming. "Its just what I wanted", she reports.

Please introduce yourself to Jackie if you haven't already, and let's continue to make her (and everyone else) feel welcome.

The Born family: Joining our church this past April is the Born family - Jill, Keith, and their toddler son, Xander. The Borns became UUs in 1998 in Erie and moved to this area in Sept., 2000. Jill is a programmer/analyst, and Keith, a former accountant, is now a stay-at-home dad. They are glad to live so close to this church and are grateful for the support they received last winter during Keith's illness.

Keith enjoys raising tropical fish, and Jill makes beaded gemstone jewelry. They both enjoy the outdoors, and first met through a club that offered hiking, camping, kayaking, and a variety of outdoor activities to its members. However, most of their free time is spent playing with Xander these days. Xander is very inquisitive and active. Jill and Keith can't wait until they can understand what in the world he is saying.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observances

The Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium-This year the MIM has planned something really different and marvelous: *“Dream Alive! A Celebration of Black History”*. Nationally known **Kim and Reggie Harris**, gifted singers/composer/storytellers have developed a creative presentation that brings history, life issues and current events right off the page. For over 25 years, this duo has traveled and performed for audiences all over the country.

Please come to this powerful event on Monday, January 19 at 7pm at St. Bernadette’s beautiful and spacious sanctuary, 245 Azalea Dr. Call 412-272-0050 for details. Please join us!

The National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) hosts the region's longest-standing commemoration of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. This year's re-styled family event, free to the public, offers a variety of intergenerational activities which will entertain and educate about *“Rev. Dr. King the Man, the Mission, and the Meaning”*. This project, generously funded by ProArts, includes our Partners in Peace: storyteller/artist **Alison Babusci**, writer **Sandra Gould-Ford**, **The Mattress Factory**, **The New Pittsburgh Courier**, **The New Yinzer**, **Pittsburgh CityPaper**, **StudioLuxe**, **Vintage Senior Center**, and **WYEP-FM**.

Judy Shepard to speak at IUP

On Monday, February 2, 2004 at Indiana University of PA., Matthew Shepard’s mother Juday will speak at 6:00 pm in Fisher Auditorium, 403 South 11th Street, Indiana, PA. It is free and open to the public.

October 8, 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard were awakened in the middle of the night in Saudi Arabia, where Dennis works, by a telephone call no parent should ever have to receive. What they heard changed their lives forever. Their eldest son, Matthew, was in a coma after having been brutally attacked-because he was gay. On October 12, Matthew passed away. Judy Shepard's talk will be an opportunity to hear, support, and mourn with her, Shepard's visit is part of a campus-wide campaign called "Fostering a Caring Community." As part of this campaign, a student production of The Laramie Project, a play that explores the impact Matthew Shepard's death had on the people of Laramie, Wyoming is tentatively scheduled for March 19-21, 2004. For more information, contact the Center for Student Life at 724-357-4799.

PIIN Accomplishments - 2003

Public Education Task Force

Pittsburgh Public Schools administration pledged to:

- Remove cultural bias from the student Code of Conduct.
- Revise the Social Studies and History curricula to include African-American and Muslim contributions to the United States.
- Explore extending the African-Centered Academy through grade twelve.

Economic Equity Task Force

PIIN secured \$150,000 initial investment from Allegheny County to board up or demolish abandoned houses in the City of Wilkinsburg.

Civil Rights Task Force

PIIN secured a public reporting process from the City of Pittsburgh’s Office of Municipal Investigations on citizen complaints against police officers.

Youth Recreation Task Force

PIIN engineered a partnership with the Pittsburgh Public Schools to provide children with Internet access in recreation centers located in low-income neighborhoods. (*But unfortunately the recreation centers were shut down by the Mayor's office due to lack of funds, postponing computer installation*).

PIIN Regional Allies Table

Brings together stakeholders to listen to each other, identify shared goals and winnable issues, and create concrete plans.

- Elected officials at all levels
- City and borough managers
- Religious organizations
- Businesses
- Universities
- Unions
- Citizens' groups
- Other community and opinion leaders

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

PIIN is in fundraising mode to contribute to the funds to keep our grass-roots congregation based community organizing group going. You have the opportunity to support PIIN by placing an ad for your business or for congratulations in the ad-book to be distributed at the first annual banquet in March. Please consider a full page (\$500), half page (\$300), quarter page (\$175) or eight page business card size (\$100). Camera ready Ad Copy is needed. You can also be a donor to honor or memorialize someone for any amount from \$5 to \$100. Talk to either Renee Waun or Nancy Fitzgerald to sign up.

P. S. We would love to have a table of 15 folks from ESUUC at the banquet! Details to come.

Join the Choir!

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to be part of small but mighty band of enthusiastic singers? Consider joining the choir. We practice about an hour before services on the first Sunday of every month, sometimes also on the third and/or fifth Sundays, as announced. If you would like to participate, just come. Or...if you would like to chat with someone about this, you may call **Rev. Waun** at 412-731-2834 or **Marylyn Devlin** at 412-372-6113.

Hymnals

The choir is sending in an order for hymnals after mid-Jan. '04. If anyone in the congregation is interested in purchasing a hymnal at the same time, contact Marylyn Devlin (marylyndevlin@msn.com) or Marianne Jew (mxj@alltel.net). They are \$28.00.

Learn How To Read Music

Have you always wanted to learn to read music? If so, Jean Robl will be teaching two classes January 4 and January 11 after church. Bring a pencil. Jean will supply manuscript paper. Call her at 412-372-8972 or e-mail to BandJRobl@hotmail.com if you plan to attend.

Drumming Workshop With Jim Donovan Of Rusted Root:

Dear friends:

I was thinking that a drumming workshop with Jim Donovan of Rusted Root would be a lot of fun. HE

PROVIDES ALL OF THE DRUMS, needs 20 - 30 people minimum, the cost is \$20.00 pre registration and \$25.00 at the door. As of right now he has January 4, 9, 10, and 25th open. I have not checked the calendar, first I wanted to see if there was any interest at all. If non of these dates work I will try for something else. I just want to know if there is enough interest to go further with it.

If you are interested in this workshop please let me know.

E. Mail me at karenlgerard@aol.com or call 724-327-6321 or grab me at church and let me know.

Peace,

Karen Katilius

Adult Drumming Circle

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DRUMMING CIRCLE ON JANUARY 11TH AND 25TH. We meet in the sanctuary at 7:30. There are extra drums if you do not have one and would like to try drumming. It is informal and lots of fun!

REQUEST:

Someone has requested that we start a little earlier, maybe 6:00 or 6:30 . This way we would get home sooner for those who work outside the home. (It is hard to stop drumming once we get started.) Think this over and we can vote on it at the drumming circle.

Any questions e mail me at karenlgerard@aol.com or phone me at 724-327-6321

Karen Katilius

Refreshments

"Coffee and Conversation" is an integral part of Sundays at ESUUC. This time honored ritual takes place after every Sunday service and consists of coffee and other beverages, as well as a snack. Snacks are provided by congregational members and friends on a rotating basis, and the list of names is posted in each monthly newsletter. The duties of the assigned refreshment person(s) include setting up the coffee and hot water for tea and cocoa, setting out plates, cups, napkins, plastic cutlery and the food, as well as cleaning up when everyone is finished.

Jan. 4 Andy and Ginny Connolly-Manhardt

Jan. 11 Bill Culp

Jan.18 Marylyn Devlin

Jan.25 Leona and Tom Dunnett

If the Sunday assigned to you is inconvenient, please try to switch with another person on the list. Feel free to call me with questions. Maria Luczkow (724) 327-3352.

Murrysville Meals on Wheels

If you are looking to do some outreach in your community why not consider Murrysville Meals-on-Wheels. We serve 50 clients, a hot meal and a cold meal on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, prepared at Laird Hall, North Hills Road, Murrysville. The commitment is only once a month.

Drivers: 10:45 a.m - 12:30 p.m. Call Rosemary at 724-327-4295.

Cooks: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Buyer (Meat/Fruit etc.) Wednesday once a month

Bakers: Picks a day Call Lynn: 724-327-6842

Congregational Committees

Editor's note: This section for reports from the various church committees is intended to better inform the members of the congregation about the activities of the church and to encourage members to attend and participate on committees. All committee meetings are open to church members and friends and anyone interested in the committee activities is encouraged to attend. All committees are also encouraged to report on their activities for the newsletter and to provide their meeting dates for the calendar.

Current Committees

Committee - Chair

Aesthetics - Jane Longdon

Building and Facilities - Lew Ruffing

Caring and Concerns - Maria Luczkow

Committee on Ministry - Ginny Connolly Manhardt

Finance - Cathy Serventi

Landscaping - Sue Mallick

Membership - Brien Palmer

PIIN - Nancy Fitzgerald

Religious Education Committee - Ken Noble

Signs and Symbols - Leona Dunnett

Social Enrichment

Drumming - Karen Katilius

Sunday Programs / Celebrations - Kate Codd-Palmer, Jean Robl

Welcoming Congregation - Chris Priano

Committee Calendar

Jan. 4 Welcoming Congregation 12:00 At the Church

Jan. 6 Program Committee 7:15 PM at the Church

Jan. 8 Board of Trustees - 7:15 PM at the Church

Jan. 18 Aesthetics Committee - 12:15 PM at the Church

Jan. 18 Finance Committee - 12:15 PM at the Church

Welcoming Congregation Committee

The Welcoming Congregation Committee hosted a very successful Town meeting on December 7th, in which we reviewed our progress toward becoming a Welcoming congregation, and how it relates to the Religious Education program in our church. It was clear that there was uniformly strong support for our current RE diversity curriculum and the welcoming congregation effort. There was also consensus that the OWL (Our Whole Lives) human sexuality curriculum would only be a voluntary, supplementary RE curriculum, at parental discretion.

Chris Priano announced that he will be stepping down as the Welcoming Committee chair, due to his job relocation. Many thanks to Chris for his excellent leadership of this committee.

At the January 4th meeting we will introduce new co-chairs Maureen McHugh and Matt Mathis and review the input from Town meeting. We will formulate plans for the next several months to detect any lingering unwelcoming in our congregation and to complete the formal Welcoming Congregation process. There will also be a discussion of appropriate outreach to GLTB people in the surrounding communities.

Aesthetics Committee

The regular meeting of the aesthetics committee was held on December 21 after the service. Jane Longdon brought 4 revised sketches submitted by Adrienne Heinrich to fit altered format of 8 ft. x 8 ft. The committee concluded that all four sketches were satisfactory and that we would ask Adrienne to make the choice herself.

The committee selected Jean Robl to be the liaison with artist for the selection of materials for the work. The Committee recommended that Adrienne construct the large piece and a cross be included in the work with the same level of emphasis as the symbols for other religions.

The committee also recommends that a complementary piece for the lectern and a banner (to be taken to General Assembly) be constructed by church members based on Adrienne's design.

Retreat Saturday January 10 was explained by Maureen McHugh. Plans for the afternoon: each committee will have table for a visual display of accomplishments and plans. Aesthetics will have a display. In addition, a comment sheet will be developed by Jane Longdon. As a follow-up, a sign will be prepared by Andy Manhardt inviting interested people to our regular monthly meeting January 18.

Since the tapestry finished by Adrienne will cost \$3000, the committee discussed ways to raise the money. It was decided to have a rummage sale in March and a Crafts Show in May.

Information Management Committee

Email List

The new email list is up and running. The list is moderated which means that Cathy or Leona has to approve anything that goes through which will cut down on the spam. We are looking for more moderators so if you know of someone that might be interested please let us know.

If some wants to be added to the list or if they want to post a message have them send a message to esuuc_news@esuuc.org, or they can email Leona or Cathy directly.

Rather than sending out messages one at a time, we're going to try and save them up and send out a weekly compilation (on Thursday). That way we can also remind people of what the service is and who is doing snacks etc. If there is a time sensitive message, however, we can send them out as soon as we know a message is waiting (so CALL Cathy or Leona, don't just assume that we're checking our email constantly.)

Email Addresses

Please remind committee chairs that Cathy is happy to set-up a committee list forwarding for them if they like.



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

“Time to Exercise”

After the holidays we hear a lot of people say they have resolved to get more exercise, so January becomes a boom sales time for health clubs, personal coaches and home workout equipment. Well, I'd like to pick up on something our own UUA President William Sinkford urged a month or so ago: that we understand the importance of exercising.....the right to vote.

As a denomination, we are strongly encouraged to find ways of getting more people to vote this year, either by helping with registration drives, educating people about voting, driving folks to the polls, etc. Sinkford points out that if all UU churches would resolve to do this in the New Year, we could significantly impact voting results, especially for the Presidential election.

How about our congregation? Can we find ways to work within our neighborhoods to impart this encouragement? Or, can we volunteer on behalf of our church to work in areas of Pittsburgh where voter turnout is key? There are many community resources to help us in this regard.

So, for 2004, let's join with kindred UU's around the country and really make a difference in this critical New Year. Let's help get out the vote....and we may as well start now.



mUUsings from the President

by Gerard Katilius

I came to Unitarian-Universalism for the theology – I was not happy with my “religion of record” (Catholic), saw an ad in the paper, and soon became a regular. Karen got involved because of the people, and now we are both having fun.

The wonderful thing about UU is that we both have fun with UU people. Karen and I have been together for over 30 years, and this is the first group we've been associated with where we both love to mingle and talk with all of the people. It's even nicer because we love their kids also, and as we get to meet some people's parents, they are great, too! Our Minister is intelligent and charismatic, and certainly more fun than any minister or priest I've ever known. A symptom of a great organization is that it attracts great people, and that is exactly what we have at East Suburban Unitarian-Universalist Church. Each of us is on a path of growing, learning and changing, and it is great to be on this path with you.

Happy Holidays!

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline for the February Newsletter will be January 18. 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 and Forums are listed on the first page)

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sunday | Choir Practice - 9:30 AM at the church |
| January 4 | |
| Sunday | Welcoming Congregation Committee – 12:15 PM at the Church |
| January 4 | |
| Sunday | Learn how to read Music – 12:15 PM at the Church |
| January 4 | |
| Monday | Adult Religious Education/Forum 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Lilly's |
| January 5 | |
| Tuesday | Program Committee Meeting - At the Church |
| January 6 | |
| Thursday, | Board of Trustees meeting – 7:15PM at the Church |
| January 8 | |
| Saturday, | Congregational Retreat – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Church |
| January 10 | |
| Sunday, | Learn how to read Music – 12:15 PM at the Church |
| January 11 | |
| Sunday, | Adult Drumming Circle – 7:30 PM at the Church |
| January 11 | |
| Monday, | Adult Religious Education/Forum 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Lilly's |
| January 12 | |
| Sunday, | Aesthetics Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the Church |
| January 18 | |
| Sunday, | Finance Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the Church |
| January 18 | |
| Monday, | Evensong Series, 1 st session – 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Church |
| January 19 | |
| Monday, | Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance, Monroeville Interfaith Ministerium – 7:00 PM at St. Bernadette's Church |
| January 19 | |
| Sunday, | Adult Drumming Circle – 7:30 PM at the Church |
| January 25 | |
| Sunday, | Annual Pancake Breakfast – 10:30 Am at the Church |
| January 25 | |
| Monday, | Evensong Series, 2nd session – 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Church |
| January 26 | |
| Sunday, | Choir practice – 9:30 AM at the Church |
| February 1 | |
| Sunday, | Welcoming Congregation Committee 12:15 PM at the Church |
| February 1 | |
| Monday, | Evensong Series, 3rd session – 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Church |
| February 2 | |
| Monday, | Judy Shepard Speaks – 6:00 PM at Indiana University of PA |
| February 2 | |

