

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. 8

March, 2004

Editor, Andy Manhardt
newsletter@esuuc.org

Manifest our Mission

Saturday March 13, Tentatively 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Rod Thompson will facilitate an exciting workshop for everyone in our congregation on Saturday March 13. In this workshop we will build on the individual mission statements created at the church retreat in January. There is no need to be concerned if you weren't at the retreat because we will begin this workshop by reviewing the results of the January retreat and giving anyone who was not there an opportunity to provide their input. Now that we have been in our own building for almost two years and are becoming comfortable with our surroundings, it is time to determine how we will relate to our local outside community as well as the greater Pittsburgh area. Please join us for what is sure to be a stimulating and provocative discussion.

ESUUC Sunday Services

Sunday, March 7, 10:30 AM - March 7, 2004, 10:30AM- "I, The Crone"

In recognition of "Women's History Month", **Dr. Waun** will offer a program on the "crone". Is this third face of the "mother" archetype to be celebrated or eschewed? Waun will reflect on the meaning and role of the crone today and in times past.

Sunday, March 14, 10:30 AM - "Our Unitarian Universalist Forbearers that we DON'T talk about"

We readily identify many of our country's founding fathers and mothers and other famous persons as Unitarians and/or Universalists. We are proud of people like Thomas Jefferson, John and John Quincy Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Barton, Joseph Priestley, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau. But there are many equally famous persons that we don't talk about. Why? Do we have something to hide? Join us on the 14th and find out.

Rev. Rod Thompson, District consultant of the Ohio-Meadville District of the UUA

Sunday, March 21, 10:30 AM - "Will the Real Mary Magdalene Please Stand Up"

Mary Magdalene has long been one of the most misrepresented women of Christian history and teaching. New scholarship, including a gospel attributed to her, bring new insights to light. Presented by Sue Lau. Sue Lao received her Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pittsburgh. Her areas of specialization are biblical studies and historical studies in the world's religions, especially as the latter relate to women.

Sunday March 28, 10:30 AM - “*Inside The Bush White House*”

Join us for a conversation about this recent book by Ron Susskind, subtitled "George W. Bush, the White House, and the Education of Paul O’Neill." George Ratliff, Brien Palmer and Jerry Lilly will each give a short perspective on the book. They will the ask for the perspectives of the congregation.

Sunday April 4, 10:30AM - Canvas Kick-off Sunday- “*Why Should I Care?*”

Dr. Waun will help us to think about things that evoke our sense of responsibility—toward the church, as we begin our annual canvas drive, and toward our government as we consider the importance of our “Get Out The Vote” campaign. The **Funshine Folk** will be with us to help embellish the theme. Remember to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before going to bed Saturday night for the beginning of Daylight Savings Time on this day!

Religious Education News

Class Schedule:

Nursery:

- March 7 Kate Zingarelli
- March 14 Merritt Bailey
- March 21 Mary Kukura Straw
- March 28 Mary Kukura Straw

Lower Elementary:

- March 7 Students will attend first part of service. Planning for Fathers Day intergenerational service.
- March 14 Planning for Fathers Day service
- March 21 A Time for Teaching of Jesus
Lew Ruffing
- March 28 A Time for Rebirth - Easter
Marianne Jew

Upper Elementary:

- March 7 Students will attend first part of service. Planning for Fathers Day intergenerational service.
- March 14 Guest Interview
Dan Begg
- March 21 The Rights of All People First Part
Maria Luczkow
- March 28 The Rights of All People Second Part Maria Luczkow

Middle School:

- March 7 Celebrating a Culture, The Black Church Leona Dunnett
- March 14 Visit to an African Methodist Episcopalian Church (Tentative)
- March 21 Kids will attend the service.
- March 28 Open for service project/fundraising

RE Happenings:

Coming of Age:

On Sunday Feb. 15 we attended service at St. John the Baptist Carpatho-Russian Church in Turtle Creek. It was quite a contrast to the prayer service we attended at the Mosque, and to our own services. For one thing, the service itself was 2 hours long!!! Father Jeff took time away from a luncheon his own congregation was having to spend time with us and answer our questions. I wish everyone could have come with us, I'd love to get everyone's impressions, and I know we could have some fascinating discussions. I for one am finding this part of the COA journey very rewarding. The contrasts between the services we have seen and the religions we have studied so far are quite remarkable, but so are the similarities, and sometimes in ways you don't expect. Very cool experience.

Our next visit will be to an African Methodist Episcopalian Church, tentatively scheduled for March 14. Stay tuned for further details.

Movie Night etc . . .:

By the time you read this, we will have had another COA Fundraising Dinner/Movie Night - I hope you all attended and had a great time!

In March, date not set yet, we hope to have an intergenerational game night. Details to follow.

In April, we are planning to have an intergenerational chess tournament. Details to follow.

Teacher Recruitment

We have already begun planning for next year and are actively recruiting teachers as part of that process. We will contact anyone who is teaching now soon, and would also welcome anyone else who might be interested in helping out. If you do have an interest, please let us know as soon as possible and we will fill you in on the details.

Thanks for the Truffles!!

We would like to extend a special thank you to Merritt Bailey for spear heading the Truffle sales and the making of the Truffles. As a purchaser of two boxes of Truffles and one of the Almond Brikle (all of which were gone within 1 week . . .) may we say, they were delicious!! Thank you also to the COA kids who helped in the process. This was a very successful fundraiser - it generated over \$600, which will be used for the COA trip in the Spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy and Dan Begg
RE Directors

Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network

First PIIN Annual Banquet to Feature Carol Moseley Braun as Keynote

We have 10 tickets reserved for our church to fill one table at the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network's first annual banquet on Saturday, March 20, 6pm at the Omni William Penn Hotel. Several hundred PIIN supporters are expected to gather for this time of celebration and witness as we hear from former Presidential candidate, Ambassador and Senator Carol Moseley Braun speak about justice issues that are important to her as well as to PIIN. Our congregation is a member of PIIN, along with the other four "Pittsburgh" UU churches, so we have a strong UU presence in the organization. Please see Rev. Waun 412-731-2834 or Nancy Fitzgerald 412-731-2994 if you would like to get one or more of those tickets before they are all gone (cost \$35 each).

Choir Notes

Join the choir! Practices will be on Sundays, March 7 at 9:30am to sing that morning, March 14 at 9:30am to sing that morning (Rev. Rod Thompson, our District Executive will be preaching that day), and Sunday, April 4 at 9:30am to sing that morning.

Choir Festival- the Allegheny UU Church on the North Side is hosting a cluster Choir Festival on Sunday, March 28 for choirs from all Pittsburgh area UU churches. Each choir is invited to sing something, then join with all the other choirs to sing some pieces together. Practice will begin at 1:30pm that day, and the festival will take place at 3pm.

Volunteer Recognition Reception

Since we have moved into our new building, so many members of the East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church have contributed time, money, and wonderful energy, that it is time to pay back. If you have volunteered for anything, please plan to attend this reception, Saturday, March 6th, 7:00PM at the church. Wine, other light refreshments, cheese and fresh bread from the Breadworks will be provided. Please join us for some nice conversation, a little fun, and lots of thank you's!

Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop

ESUUC will be hosting an Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop conference at our church building the weekend of Apr 30- May 2,. This is an exceptional event, that 4 of us had the opportunity to attend when it was held in Erie last year.

- 1) First, I invite anyone interested in seeing our church continue the growth and vitality we have experienced over the last few years to attend. You'll learn a lot about UU, plus help to refine your own mission and vision.
- 2) Second, we expect about 30 leaders of UU churches in the District to converge on our church, and will need food and possibly home hospitality. The Erie congregation treated us extremely well, and each of us made new, wonderful friends when we stayed at their houses. Please consider opening your heart and your house to visitors to our church!

In these early stages of planning, please contact Gerard Katilius, president@esuuc.org, or 724-327-6321, if you can attend, and/or help with food and hospitality.

Opportunities for Personal Growth and Church Growth

How would you like an opportunity to support our church's growth, help develop our sense of community, and contribute to your own personal growth?

The Nominating Committee is currently seeking candidates for a number of ESUUC Board of Trustees positions. This year, three existing Board positions need to be filled. The positions that are to be filled are listed below, along with a summary of responsibilities. See the ESUUC By-Laws for a detailed discussion of responsibilities.

- President (currently held by Gerard Katilius). This position is typically stood for by the Vice-President, after he or she serves out his or her term. This Board position shall be President of the Church and Chairperson of the Board. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Church and of the Board, but shall not vote at these meetings except to break a tie. The President is an ex-officio member of all committees & shall sign all agreements except those pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

- Vice-President (currently held by Maureen McHugh). Perform duties and exercise powers of the President in the President's absence and shall be coordinator among the Standing Committees.
- Program Chair (currently held by Kate Codd-Palmer & Jean Robl). Assemble and chair the Program Committee which will be responsible for setting Sunday programming goals and arranging for their implementation.

Elections are held at the ESUUC Annual Meeting in June. The elections are conducted by use of a secret ballot. If there is no objection, and only a single slate has been presented, the vote may be conducted by voice vote.

We are looking for good people to help us go forward into the future. We encourage you to stand for one of the available positions. (We may even nominate you ourselves!) You will find help and support from the current position-holder, the Board, and the standing committee members.

This is a good opportunity to help the church community and yourself grow. To put in a nomination for yourself or for another person, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members below:

Brien Palmer	[email: brienp@adelphia.net phone: (724) 325-3903] or
Kathy Ruffing	[email: ruffing@bellatlantic.net phone: (724) 327-1291].

Rummage Sale

As announced last month, there will be a Rummage Sale at ESUUC on Saturday, March 27th from 9am until 3pm. As you think Spring and spring cleaning, we welcome your contributions like electronics, household goods, crafts, decorations, childrens toys & clothing, BOOKS, holiday items and more. As we did last year, you may bring items to the church on Thursday, March 25th from 5-8pm and on Friday, March 26th from 9am until 7pm. We need volunteers to make this sale a success. If you can donate some time, please call Maureen McHugh at (724) 733-3620.

Tibetan Monks Visit A Success

On Friday, Feb. 13 a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks from a monastery in India are on tour across the eastern states and Canada. They needed a performance venue near the Greensburg area because they were coming from Ann Arbor on their way to New York. There was an urgent message on the church answering machine on Tuesday the 10th asking if the monks could use our building as part of their journey. Of course, we said yes, and quickly contacted as many people as we could with the news of their program.

On such short notice, about 40 people came to see the monks chant, pray, dance, and raise consciousness about the missing Penchant Lama in China. Several attendees were very interested in our activities and received newsletters and pamphlets from friendly church people. What a great way to be in ministry as well as to enhance our visibility in the community. We suspect that more and more opportunities such as this one will come our way!

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.

March 7 Jerry and Maureen Lilly
March 14 Jane Longdon
March 21 Maria and Tom Luczkow
March 28 Sue Mallick

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.

District And National UU News

16th Annual Men's Retreat- March 5-7, Sandscrest Retreat Center near Wheeling, WV. Led by The Rev. Daniel Budd from Cleveland, the theme is "The Importance of Poetry in Men's Lives" based on the book *The Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart* (Robert Bly). Cost is \$150—a great deal, considering the sumptuous meals and accommodations. Contact Bill Kroesser to register 304-744-3114 or Bill_Kroesser@hotmail.com

Young Adult Round Table- March 13, 7PM and overnight in the Marietta, OH church. Subject: "Tell Us a Story." If you are a young adult ages 18-35, contact Michael Dobson at anansi92276@aol.com for details. Sounds like fun!

UU Consultation on Urban Social Justice Ministries March 18-21, Boston Convention Center. Conference on Urban Ministries features Professor John A. Powell keynoter, workshops, presentations and participatory activities. Contact: Parisa Parsa 510-459-5762 for details, or visit www.urbandisciples.org.

UU's For Social Justice- <http://www.uusforsocialjustice.org> – One of the Actions of Immediate Witness passed at the 2003 General Assembly calls for Congressional support for the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act of 2003 (H.R. 1483). You can show your support by purchasing a **bumper sticker**: "Support Our Troops –Stop Using Depleted Uranium" Visit the website for details

Congregational Committees

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 – Matt Mathis

Committee Calendar

Feb. 29 Finance Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the church

Mar. 4 Board of Trustees - 7:15 PM at the Church

Mar. 7 Welcoming Congregation, 12:15 PM

Mar. 21 Aesthetics Committee meeting – 12:15 PM at the church

Council of Committee Chairs

A Council of Chairs Meeting after the service on Sunday, February 8.

Each of the committee chairs briefly outlined the committee’s plans for the rest of the year to verify that there were no significant schedule conflicts.

The development of a church handbook was then discussed and each committee chair was asked to provide a description that includes both your mission statement (if you have one), your long term and short term goals, and the “day to day” activities of your committee for publication in the handbook. Methods of minimizing cost such as publishing the handbook on the web were discussed as well as the possibility of accepting advertising from members to defray its cost.

Each committee was also asked to send a budget for their committee for next year to Cathy Serventi by March 1st that includes:

1. Operating Budget Items – these are ongoing expenses necessary to run the church
2. Any Capital items (one time expenditures you would like to make) for the upcoming year that will be voted on at the annual meeting
3. Long term expenses that we need to start contributing towards, such as building maintenance, that won’t necessarily be spent every year but that also won’t roll over every year. We are essentially creating a savings account for expenses that we know will be coming up every year.

Aesthetics Committee

Rummage Sale

The Aesthetics Committee will sponsor a Rummage sale on Saturday, March 27 to raise funds for improvements to the sanctuary.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, February 22 at 12:15 PM to present the Aesthetics Committee’s recommendations for the sanctuary décor and to vote on the following 2 resolutions.

1. I vote to accept the Aesthetic Committee's recommendation to commission Adrienne Heinrich to construct a tapestry for the front of the sanctuary.
2. I vote to accept the Aesthetics Committee's recommendation to accept in principle the Long Range Plan developed by Norman Harai, Architect, to up-grade the decor of the sanctuary.

The first resolution was amended as follows: Adrienne Heinrich will be commissioned after 75% of the needed funds are pledged.

The first resolution passed by a vote of 24 to 2 and the second by a vote of 22 to 4.

A short discussion was also held on the possibility of the Aesthetics committee sponsoring a craft show at the church in May. The proposal was generally well received by the congregation members present.



Pastor's Column

by Rev. Renee Waun

“Later On” is Now Upon Us-

This month marks the end of the second year we have occupied our new building. I wonder—how long should we be referring to our “new building”? Perhaps as we start our third year here, we will begin to shift that reference.

Something else is happening as we make this more and more our home. Some of us remember when we were involved in the purchasing process, that the visionaries in the congregation were wondering how we would deal with the thought of outgrowing this building. But we thought, “What a great problem to have”. And we knew we would have to tackle this sometime—later on.

Well, folks, later on is now upon us. The church growth experts say that when the sanctuary, the religious education space and the parking lot are all being used to 80% of capacity, we have hit our ceilings to growth, making it necessary to strategize for the future. We have been at more than 80% on several occasions, so we really are in a wonderful growth spurt.

Your Board and pastor have foreseen this eventuality and have appointed a Strategic Growth Planning Task Force that will do the necessary research and reporting to address options for the future. We hope to have some concrete ideas in place by the Annual Meeting in June.

Isn't it exciting to be part of a church that is growing so fast? We had been predicting such a challenge, and now it is here. Our job is to greet it with enthusiasm and positivity, for it truly is a wonderful affirmation of our ministry and presence in this community. If you have ideas to share, we are eager to hear of them!



mUUsings from the President

by Gerard Katilius

In the past 48 hours we sponsored two major activities at our church building supporting most of our UU principles! The inherent worth and dignity of every person was celebrated in both the Friday night performance of the Tibetan monks, and the President of the Pittsburgh Transsexual Support Group's program Sunday morning. The people of Tibet are being suppressed and killed by China, and Transgender individuals are suppressed and minimized by the government and many religious groups in the United States.

We seek to promote Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; we can only do this intelligently when we take the time to learn about groups that are not being treated fairly! The monks shared the story of the Tibetan people's persecution, and Wendi Miller told us her own story of shame, denial, and finally self-discovery and assertion, in a culture that officially lists most categories of transgender as medical and psychological disorders.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations is another one of our principles. The Tibetan monks live their lives in an advanced spiritual state, which we can learn from, and appreciate by witnessing their meditations and chanting. It is fairly easy to "accept" them, for the few hours we spend in their presence. Ancient and native cultures around the world believed that individuals who experienced both female and male gender traits were spiritually advanced. It is a little harder for us to accept individuals from our own culture, speaking our own language, who flaunt traditional gender roles – they're "different". But taking the time to listen to, meet and support these people truly supports spiritual growth in us and our congregation.

It was an honor and a pleasure to host these two very different groups in our new church building. In reality, the goals of both are the same – world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. I trust that the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part will continue to give us opportunities like these to help make a positive difference in the world.

Peace Rally, March 20

Thomas Merton Center is holding a Peace Celebration March 20th at 1pm at Flag Staff Hill in Schenley Park This is the 1 year anniversary of the USA decision to go to war with Iraq. Contact Carmen Elliott of the Thomas Merton Center at 412-921-1780 for more information.

UU Infidels Publishing Newsletter

The UII, Unitarian Universalist Infidels, is a UUA-Related Organization whose purpose is to support and work to maintain a place at the UU table for atheist, agnostic, skeptic, and secular humanist UUs. This spring it will publish the first issue of a semiannual (twice yearly) newsletter that will provide a voice for viewpoints and opinions not usually represented in *UU World* magazine.

You can order this year's spring and fall UII newsletters by sending your name and address and a check for \$3.00 to UII, 16265-D Dahlgren Road, King George, VA, 22485. (If you care to send more, it will go toward the fee for the booth we are going to have a General Assembly.) We plan to include a section titled

"Talkback to UU World" and invite your comments. The *UUI Newsletter* will also be published on-line at www.uu-infidels.org , and if you wish, you can join the UUI discussion group by sending an email to uui-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Newsletter Deadlines

The newsletter deadline for the February Newsletter will be March 21. Please Email me with your articles at manhardt@adelphia.net or call me at (412) 373-3668 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)

Sat. Feb. 29	Finance Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the church
Mon. Mar. 1	Committee Budget Requests for next year due to Cathy
Mon. Mar. 1	Evensong #4 - 7:30 PM at the Church
Thurs. Mar. 4	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 PM at the Church
Sat. Mar. 6	Volunteer Recognition Night, 7:00 PM at the Church
Sun. Mar. 7	Choir Practice 9:30 AM at the Church
Sun. Mar. 7	Welcoming Congregation, 12:15 PM At the Church
Mon. Mar. 8	Evensong #5 - 7:30 PM at the Church
Sat. Mar. 13	Workshop with Rod Thompson 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Church
Sun. Mar. 14	Choir Practice 9:30 AM at the Church
Mon. Mar. 15	Committee on Ministry Survey Questions due due for Committee Chairs
Mon. Mar. 15	Evensong #6 - 7:30 PM at the Church
Sat. Mar. 20	PIIN 1st Annual Banquet - Omni William Penn Hotel
Sat. Mar. 20	Peace Rally – Flagstaff Hill 1:00 PM
Sun. Mar. 21	Aesthetics Committee meeting 12:15 Pm at the Church
Sat. Mar. 27	Aesthetics Committee Yard Sale and COA Book Sale at the Church
Sat. Apr. 3	Canvas Kick-off Wine & Cheese Dinner
Sun. Apr. 4	Choir Practice 9:30 AM
Sat. Apr. 17	Circle Dinners -Time and place to be determined
Sat. Apr. 24	Circle Dinners -Time and place to be determined