

East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church



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

Telephone
(724) 327-5872

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

Volume 47 No. 19

December 2009

Editor: Mary Warwick
newsletter@esuuc.org

ESUUC Sunday Services

December 6, 10:30 am- *"Friends In High Places"* Who are your heroes and "she"-roes—living or dead—who have helped you to set your moral or spiritual compass? **Dr. Waun** will identify an impromptu panel to lead an interactive discussion on this topic, inspired by the lives of famous figures such as Helen Keller, the Dalai Lama, Susan B. Anthony, Jesus of Nazareth, Diana, Princess of Wales, Mohandas K. Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday, December 13, 10:30 am – *"Meeting Your Angels"* -- In this holiday season, Angel reader Janet Jackson will talk about working with Angels to make your life smoother and less stressful. There are Angels for every thing and every purpose. Learn how to easily access these Divine beings to assist you in every aspect of your life. Angels can guide us every day, every step of the way. The Angels love us just the way we are!

December 20, 10:30 am - *"Follow That Star"* -- ESUUC members present a somewhat tongue-in-cheek version of the Christmas Star and the Wise Men who followed it to--- well, come and see where they end up. Written by our favorite in-house playwright David Schwartz.

December 24, 7:30 pm -- Our annual traditional story-centered *Christmas Eve Service* will feature: favorite carols; a book by Patricia Polaccio called **The Keeping Quilt**; naming babies born since last Christmas; and the singing of *Silent Night* with hand held candles. **Dr. Waun** will facilitate

December 27, 10:30 am – *"That Was the Year that Was"* -- Back by popular demand, Marylyn Devlin and George Ratliff will review 2009 as the new year fast approaches. Come listen, question and comment.

January 3, 10:30am- *"Making Friends With Change"* - As we live our lives we experience a tension between who we are now and who we are becoming. Transformation is something to be welcomed, not feared, and it helps to understand the ages and stages as we enter this new year of growth and surrender to the mystery. **Dr. Waun** will facilitate.



Pastor's Column: Less is More

by Rev. Renee Waun

Someone close to me was out of work for most of this past year, trying throughout that whole time without an income to make ends meet for his family of five (wife and three kids). The cheer that went up was pretty big on the day he got his new job last month, but as you can probably imagine finding a job doesn't solve the finances overnight. There was a huge backlog of credit card and medical bills that still had to be addressed, plus other essentials that had been put on the back burner for months. So for that family, the upcoming holidays have come with revised priorities, and will be a challenge for how to honor gift-giving traditions.

Whether our financial situation is challenging, as in the family above, or whether we are doing okay, the holidays present an annual opportunity to re-examine our priorities and to scale back on materialism. For some, the real fun is preparing surprises for loved ones. For others, being together with family and friends is the most important thing. And for still others, reaching out to make the world a better place is what this season is all about.

Whatever it is that makes the holidays special for you, I hope you will manage to avoid stress and the pressures of consumerism, and instead find peace, love, meaning and joy in the midst of it all. And be sure to take time to relax and care for yourself! You deserve it.

Holiday Crafters Market

We hope you will all come to do some holiday shopping at our church on Saturday, December 19 from 9am to 3pm. Crafters from the area will be selling jewelry, gourd art, apparel, accessories, etc. We have a new supply of fair trade African crafts including hand carved jewelry, hobo bags, batiks, large woven bowls, small stuffed zoo animals, crib mobiles, picture frames and coin purses. ESUUC's Mary Kukura-Straw will be selling handcrafted pottery, weaving, and crocheted items. Mary Warwick will be selling hand painted wine glasses and olive oil dispensers.

There will be raffles, too, supporting the African Rural Schools Foundation. Julia Begg has organized this sale with her youth helpers, so please come to show how much we appreciate our youth in this great endeavor. Thank you!

Service Auction: Thanks!

An enormous "Thank You" goes out to Merritt Bailey and her hard-working committee of organizers, decorators, cooks, auctioneers, cashier, dish washers, bar tender, publicity helpers, child care attendees, contributors of items, bidders and others who loaned and carried furniture, candles, linens and glassware and helped to clean up...for the fabulous Service Auction evening. The sanctuary looked (and sounded) so

festive with the lavishly decorated bistro tables, lighted trees and holiday music. The food and drink: absolutely delicious and the mood jovial as we all had lots of fun raising money for the church. We are so lucky to have such creative and devoted church members to orchestrate these things. Wow! Now comes the pleasure of "collecting" on and enjoying all those wonderful items that were tallied by the winning bidders. Thanks everybody!!!

Annual All-Church Retreat

Save the date: Saturday, January 23, 9am-3pm for a day set apart just for us. This year's retreat theme is: "*Shiny People*"- when we shine, we attract good things, both as individuals and as a church community. Let's spend a day exploring the ways in which we already shine, and some ways we can polish up for the future. We will have time to get to know each other in a deeper way as we cultivate our shininess together. The Annual All-Church Retreat is always a time of food, friends, sharing and fun, so we hope you will save the date and plan to join us! Dr. Waun and Board members facilitate the day and provide a wholesome lunch. Watch for details in next month's newsletter.

Deck the Halls

Add a little brightness to a darker time of year. Please join us after service on Sunday, December 6, to help decorate the church for the holiday season.

Stone Soup Sunday.

As many of you know, Stone Soup Sunday is the day we do our best to help the needy in our own community by donating to the Westmoreland County Food Bank. On December 22, please bring something (non-meat) to add to our soup pots, so that our head Stone Soup Chef, Mary Kukura-Straw, can make some delicious soups for the annual Stone Soup Lunch. And don't forget some cash to buy your admission to the lunch itself! All cash will go to the Food Bank.

Another important way you can help the Food Bank is to bring in a grocery bag (we have some in the church lobby, but of course you may use your own bags too) filled with nonperishable groceries and other staples. Desired items include, but are not limited to: canned fruits, vegetables, soups, and meats; non-sugary cereals; boxed potatoes, rice, or pasta; peanut butter; baby foods, juices, diapers, wipes, or other supplies; paper products such as toilet paper or tissues; household cleaning products; personal care items such as soap, shampoo, or toothpaste. Please, no items in glass containers.

This year more than ever, your donations are important. Please give what you can to help the people of our community.

Sunday Book Club and Pot Luck

The Sunday night book club will meet on December 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Susan Goodis and Matt Mathis. This month's selection is "Shadow of the Silk Road" by Colin Thubron. Pot Luck will be take-out Chinese food.

Caring and Concerns

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, and honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." - Leo Bucaglia

Happy Birthday!

Kim Katilius
Bill Pamerleau
Zea Zingarelli
Aaron Bailey

Happy Anniversary!

Tom Cors & April Soule

As a community, we share our positive energies to enhance our personal joys and to lessen the burden of those who are having difficult times...

Condolences

Karen Katilius for the recent loss of her mother

In Loving Memory Of our departed:

Tom Bailey's mother
Dan Begg's nephew
Melissa Alcorn-Ferry's nephew

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials. Please contact Susan Goodis at Caring@ESUUC.org or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

Social Hour/Snacks

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments. It works out, on average, to about one turn per person/couple per year. We also have Sharing Sundays, on which anyone who desires can bring in a goody or goodies to share.

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member/couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot. If you are still confused, or need assistance, contact Brenda Shiring at brennyren@yahoo.com or 724-

334-1507. If I'm at the service and you want a hand, just come and get me. The only thing I WON'T do is let you off the hook – we need your participation to keep this fun tradition alive (and everybody fed)!

If the week you're assigned doesn't work for your schedule, please switch with someone else for that month.

Dec. 6	Mary Warwick
Dec. 13	Kate Zingarelli
Dec. 20	Sharing Sunday
Dec. 27	Sharing Sunday

Jan. 3	Merritt Bailey
Jan. 10	Dan & Kate Begg
Jan. 17	Chris Clifton
Jan. 24	Kate Codd-Palmer & Brien Palmer
Jan.31	Marylyn Devlin

Future Workshop Announced

Allegheny Unitarian Universalist Church on the North side of Pittsburgh has been selected as a field test congregation for Thandeka's new adult workshops called "What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology". We want to encourage members of near by Unitarian Universalist congregations to participate with us. This announcement is intended to spark interest. A final more detailed announcement will follow for the January sign up period. The text of the newsletter announcement is below and also in a text box in the attachment. Thank you for helping us to spread the word.

Congregational Committees

Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly Building and Facilities – John Graham Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerleau Community – Brenda Shiring Social Justice – Marylyn Devlin and Judy Graham Finance – Chris Priano	Green Congregation – Merritt Bailey Membership – Marylyn Devlin Music – Alan Halperin Religious Education – Mary Kukura-Straw Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Brien Palmer Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
---	---

Newsletter Deadlines

January 2010 (2010!) newsletter deadline: **Sunday, December 20th**.

Please email your articles to newsletter@esuuc.org or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

Get the Weekly Email News

If you would like to receive a weekly email that includes items not in the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events for the week, please send an email from the address you would like subscribed to **esuuc_news@esuuc.org**. You can also send a message to that address if you would like it included in the weekly email announcement to the congregation.

Calendar

Wednesday, December 2

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Sunday, December 6

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Saturday, December 12

6:30pm Evening Book Club

Sunday, December 13

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, December 16

1:00pm Current Events Group

7:30pm Board Meeting

Sunday, December 20

10:30am Sunday Service

11:00pm Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, December 27

10:30am Sunday Service

Sunday, January 3, 2010

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Sunday, January 10, 2010

10:30am Sunday Service