

# 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. 9

April, 2004

Editor, Andy Manhardt  
[newsletter@esuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@esuuc.org)

---

## *Canvass Kickoff Wine and Cheese Reception,*

Saturday, April 3rd, at 7:30PM.



This has been an exciting year for ESUUC – we have lots of new faces, plus lots of positive energy from so many of our members. The vibrant Coming of Age program has been rewarding in many ways, and our building is frequently used for meetings; it truly is a wonderful time to be a member of East Suburban Unitarian-Universalist Church!

As Renee and Kate often say during Sunday service, being part of our church community also has financial responsibilities. Our budget is not yet balanced, and there are lots more things we can do once we get that on track.

**Please join us for the Canvass Kickoff wine and cheese Reception, Saturday, April 3rd, at 7:30PM.** "The theme of this year's canvass is "**Bursting at the Seams**". Pledge forms will be available to make it easy for you to complete. If you're not able to make it, we will schedule a personal visit at your convenience during the month. Giving to our church pays dividends in many ways – please share generously!

Gerard Katilius, President

## *ESUUC Sunday Services*

**Sunday April 4, 10:30AM - Canvas Kick-off Sunday- "Why Should I Care?"** *Rev. Renee Waun*

**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, or you will miss it all!

**Sunday April 11, Easter Day-**

*Rev. Renee Waun*

**9:15AM-** Come for a children's Easter Egg Hunt in the church yard (weather permitting, otherwise inside).

**9:30AM** Join us for a Pot Luck Easter Breakfast. You are invited to bring your favorite rolls, coffee cake or other treat, or fresh fruit of some kind or combination. Beverages will be provided.

**10:30AM**- Easter theme worship- **Dr. Waun** will speak on “*Someone Died, Someone Rose Again*”. We are all aware that for Christians, the meaning of Easter is in the idea that Jesus rose from the dead and still lives. Are there other ways of thinking about people for whom “death” of any part of themselves triggered the creation of something new and alive? Does this not happen to some degree in every life?

**YOU ARE INVITED to lend us a potted flowering plant** to help decorate the worship area for that morning. Think how beautiful it would be if we had lots of colorful flowers to look at on Easter day! Bring them with you to worship.

**Sunday, April 18, 10:30 AM - "Yard Sale Lessons"**

**Rev. Joan M. Sabatino**

As we move into warmer weather and begin to plan clean up projects around the house and yard, I offer lessons on friendship, letting go, and economics learned in my front yard last summer.

Joan Sabatino is the Minister at the Indiana, PA UU Church

**Sunday April 25, 10:30 AM - "Trying To Help Create Peace"**

**Janet Jai**

In my life, I try to create peace through my professional writing, my poetry and art, and my meditative life. I will talk about how I feel called to all this, the difficulties, ways that are open to people to create peace, and how important it is to work for peace at this time in the world.

Particular highlights will be an Everyday Art project to create peace that anyone can get involved in right now, attending the Nobel Peace Laureates Centennial in Oslo in 2001, and a current issue I'm writing about - the Help America Vote Act and Voter-Verified Paper Trails. I will share information about the new voting technology and the importance of making sure our votes count, which is really a non-partisan issue.

janet j. jai is a poet-artist who has developed original forms of poemART and sound poetry.

**Sunday, May 2, 10:30AM- "Would You Believe!"—**

**Rev. Renee Waun**

Not referring here to the big beliefs, such as whether there is a God or a Hereafter, but the more personal, everyday ones that directly affect our physical choices, like “I believe that this food will make me healthier”. **Dr. Waun** will explore the way our beliefs impact our decisions and choices. Can we merely look at someone and know something of what they believe? Are our beliefs perfectly evident even to ourselves?

## *Religious Education News*

### ***Class Schedule and Teacher:***

#### **Nursery**

**April 4** Kate Zingarelli

**April 11** **Easter - NO RE CLASSES, NO NURSERY PROVIDER**

**April 18** Mary Kukura-Straw

**April 25** Merritt Bailey

#### **Lower Elementary**

**April 4** Children will attend the first part of the Service. Planning for Father's Day service

**April 11** **Easter - NO RE CLASSES**

**April 18** Open - kids will assist with a special project

**April 25** A Time to Return Home, Yom Ha-Atzmut. Kathy Ruffing

#### **Upper Elementary**

**April 4** Children will attend the first part of the Service. Planning for Father's Day service

**April 11** **Easter - NO RE CLASSES**

**April 18** Louisa May Alcott, Writer, 1st half of Lesson. Karen Katilius

**April 25** Louisa May Alcott, Writer, 2nd half of Lesson. Karen Katilius

#### **Coming of Age Class**

**April 4** Class will attend the first part of the Service. Hinduism & Yoga - Cathy Serventi

**April 11** **Easter - NO RE CLASSES**

**April 18** Buddhism & Zen Cathy Serventi  
**April 25** Discussion of visit to New Hope

Church. Faith Statements.

## *RE Events:*

### **COA Class and their Mentors Attend Trinity African Methodist Episcopalian Church**

On Sunday, March 14, we visited our third church for this year. Trinity is a small church located in the Hill District. The Rev. Helen Burton took time to meet with us before the service and give us the churches history along with outlining their beliefs. She and her congregation made us feel very welcome and invited us all to come back anytime.

This service was, again, very different from the others we have attended, but warm and sincere and uplifting. Several of the congregation's youth participated in the service through expressive dance. Clearly, this was a supportive and caring community. I for one am glad to have had the chance to join them. Our next visit and last visit before the COA Ceremony, is tentatively scheduled for May 2. We plan to visit one of the local Hindu temples. Details will be sent out to all participants once the visit is confirmed. (We hope to be able to schedule one more visit after that, for those who are interested, to participate in a Pagan service.)

### **COA Service Project**

On Saturday, April 24, our COA participants will be visiting New Hope Church, a store front UU Church in Cleveland. This is an urban church with a service mission that provides help to AIDS victims, abused women and children, and does whatever it can for the people in its community. Among other things, the church provides a community garden which helps to provide food for participants. Weather permitting, we will help the good people of New Hope get the garden ready for planting. If the weather is not so good, we are likely to assist in painting and possibly general maintenance at a nearby school that New Hope supports.

### **RE Sponsored Intergenerational Game Night**

On Friday evening, April 16, we are sponsoring a game night and invite everyone to attend. This is not a fund-raiser, this is just for fun. We invite you to come, bring a game you like if you want to, munchies and/or drink to share if you care to, but please, come and join us for this All Church event. We will have a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you are thinking about coming. No obligation, we would just like to have an idea of how many people to plan for.

### **RE Sponsored Intergenerational Chess Tournament**

On Saturday, May 15, we are sponsoring a chess tournament for all ages. Anyone who is interested, please sign up on the sheet that will be posted on the RE bulletin Board. We need to have an advance idea of who will attend so we can pair people up before the tournament starts. If anyone has a chess set they are willing to lend us for the day, that would also be appreciated. Please just let us know.

### **Teacher Recruitment**

Yes, it's that time of year again! We are already deep in planning for next years RE program. With the completion of the Coming of Age program and the children involved in it moving on to youth group we will be making a change in next years classroom set up. The new set up will look like this:

1. Nursery - birth to 4
2. Early Program - Kindergarten through second grade
3. Elementary - second or third grade through fifth grade
4. Middle School - 6th grade through 8th grade

**Youth Group** - Leona will be our Youth Group Advisor. Right now the thought is that the Youth Group will meet on an evening and we will not have a formal Sunday School program for them. We will need folks for the other 4 groups.

The age ranges may change slightly between now and September, depending on how many kids we have signed up for next year, but this gives you an idea of the ranges we are talking about.

For the 2004 to 2005 year, our overall RE theme will be centered on diversity. In keeping with this theme, we have selected the following curriculum:

**Pre-School** - *We Are Many We Are One* - Offers children the grounding of a religious community and tradition, along with the freedom to discover and express their uniqueness. The underlying theme throughout is anti-bias and multi-cultural education, which celebrates diversity and interdependency. This is a year long program

**Elementary** - *Rainbow Children: A Racial Justice and Diversity Program* - this is an anti-bias, pro-diversity curriculum that addresses racial and ethnic prejudice while affirming the inherent worth and beauty of the child, the family, the community, and the diversity of humankind. Beginning with the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, it celebrates the differences and commonalities of all people. This is a part year program.

Second program for this age group will be *In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program*. In this program, children explore peace and fairness through stories, discussions, and activities. Participants learn constructive ways of resolving conflict and promoting peace in their own lives. They learn to see their connections to the larger community, to the natural world, and to the Unitarian Universalist peace and justice heritage.

**Middle School** - *In Our Hands* - This particular curriculum is available in two formats - one for the younger and one for the older kids. Our plan is to use it in both classes. This is a part year curriculum. For the second part, we will use *Race to Justice - A racial Justice and Diversity Program*. Promotes self-esteem, reduces prejudice, and affirms racial, ethnic, cultural, and familial diversity. Directly addresses the definition and nature of racism in age-appropriate ways, engages participants in hands-on activities, and builds community.

We also plan to provide some simple materials, books, etc. that can be used for the Nursery kids. We recognize that most of the children in the nursery are toddlers as opposed to babies and, although we have no plan to do a formal Sunday school curriculum with them, we do hope to begin introducing UU ideas through the use of stories, coloring and simple games.

We will start the new year with a short program on families that all classes will participate in. For these sessions we plan to show a video called "That's a Family", and work with a curriculum called "Celebrating Families". Both the movie and the curriculum deal with varying family structures and the need to give children a sense of belonging, a sense that their families are precious, as real as any other. Explores my family, kinds of families, what's special about my family and what makes a family.

Another change we plan to make this year is to ask one teacher at each level to act as a sort of head teacher for the group. We find that we are being pulled in so many different directions on any given Sunday that we are not always able to give everyone the attention we want to provide. We hope that by making this change each teaching group will be more cohesive and will have a go-to person readily available at those times when we are not. Dan and I will still plan to be there and available, we just thought that with the growth we have experienced it was important to take our planning to the next level so we are prepared for the future.

In the past year, to date, our program has grown by 1/3. If we grow that much again next year we will be glad we did this much planning!

### **Our Whole Lives Training**

OWL is an age appropriate sexuality program sponsored by the UUA. There are 5 parts to it: K-1st grade, 4th - 6th grades, Junior High, Senior High, and Adult.

Over this past winter we had two volunteers, Matt Mathis and Susan Goodis, attend OWL training for K-1 and 4th - 6th grades. Thanks to their willingness, we will be able to offer OWL training for one or possibly both, of these age groups in the 2004 to 2005 year. We will be holding a parents meeting to discuss the program and give you the opportunity to ask whatever questions you may have before making the decision on whether or not to sign your children up for the program. We plan to offer the training in addition to the program that will be available during Sunday service. The OWL training varies in length with the age group it addresses. Please watch for more information and announcements at service on the where and when for the parents meeting, where we hope to answer all of your questions.

### **Summertime Blues?**

During the summer with vacations and travel for so many members of our congregation we find our attendance in the RE classes drops off dramatically. The RE Committee has therefore decided not to offer a formal summer program this year. We would however like to have at least one adult available to be with the children who do attend on any given Sunday. We are therefore respectfully requesting that anyone who can commit to spending one week-end over the course of the whole summer helping out in RE. Don't be surprised if you see Dan running around with a clip-board seeking recruits! Seriously, if you can help, it would be more than just appreciated.

As subtle as we have tried to be, you have no doubt guessed that this is all leading up to something, and you are right! As part of our planning we are asking you to let us know if you are interested in teaching next year. We hope you are! Please get back to us as soon as you can. We need to know the following:

Are you interested in teaching next year?

If yes, what level are you interested in?

Would you be willing to be the head teacher for the group?

We do require all participants in the program to obtain (if they don't have it already) and provide copies of their Criminal Record Check and Child Abuse Clearances. If you have already given us this information, you will not need to do it again this year.

If you do have an interest in teaching, please get back to us as soon as you can, since we are in the planning stages for next year right now. Our goal is to have the best RE program we can possibly create, but we cannot do it alone.

Thank you all for your help and your continued support of our children.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy and Dan Begg  
RE Directors

*Soulforce is Coming to Pittsburgh*

## **We are Invited to Participate**

Soulforce is a national, non-denominational advocacy group that addresses the injustices and abuses in mainstream churches regarding GLBT persons. Founded in 1998 by The Rev. Mel White (author of *Stranger at the Gate*) this e-organized and headquartered group ([www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org)) rallies at gatherings and national conventions of mainstream churches—doing acts of peaceful, nonviolent, civil disobedience based solidly on principles developed by Gandhi and King.

Soulforce is coming to Pittsburgh to peacefully demonstrate at the United Methodist General Conference April 27-May 7, because of that church's stand against gay ordination (you may have read about the Rev. Karen Dammann trial recently), holy unions and GLBT life in general. Direct action training and activity will be held near the end of the second week, and all people of faith, including Unitarian Universalists, are encouraged to participate.

Dr. Waun has been part of Soulforce for four years, participating in three demonstrations, being arrested twice, and spending two days in jail in Orlando. What impressed her deeply was the fact that she once met a group of Unitarian Universalists led by The Rev. Marny Harmony (niece of our own church member Ruth Schultz) as they once stood with Soulforce demonstrators at the Southern Baptist Convention, to provide support and affirmation—as a matter of principle, knowing that wherever there is oppression, no one is truly free.

We have an opportunity next month to stand for that principle. We all know persons who have suffered at the hands of a mainline church because of their sexual orientation. Now we can show our solidarity with those who work tirelessly to make a difference. Soulforce hopes that over time, by promising to show up at every national convention of churches that disapprove of GLBT persons, slowly but surely they will help American churches to open their doors and arms to all people, not just straight ones. Every major emancipation in our culture has come about through demonstration and civil disobedience. Opening all church doors to GLBT persons is the next emancipation. For details on how you can participate in this Soulforce Pittsburgh action, contact Dr. Waun 412-731-2834, [revmom@pitt.edu](mailto:revmom@pitt.edu) or go to [www.soulforce.org](http://www.soulforce.org). Trainers include Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi.

## *Circle Dinners*

Circle dinners are being planned for two Saturdays in April, the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup>, also Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> (Adults only for this one). The two Saturday Dinners will include dinners for adults as well as dinners where children can be included – providing there is a willing host. These dinners are designed for participants to get acquainted on a more intimate level than would normally occur at meetings and at Sunday Services. They work as follows: sign up on the sheet or call me, indicating date preference and whether you wish to be a guest or volunteer to host a dinner. If you are willing to host indicate how many people you can handle, including yourselves – usually 5 to 8. I will at random assign guests to hosts and provide each volunteer host with a list of guests. The host arranges the time and what each guest contributes to the meal. If you are interested but cannot accommodate either date, give me a call anyway, a third date might be possible. - Maureen Lily (724) 327-6453 or e-mail [gpm@adelphia.net](mailto:gpm@adelphia.net).

## *RUSTED ROOTS Comes to ESUUC Again*

Jim Donovan will be hosting another Interactive Drum Jam at ESUUC

Date: May 16th, 2004

Time : 12:30 - 2:30

\$20.00 in advance (a check made out to Jim Donovan ) and sent to Karen Katilius

\$25.00 at the door

3464 Treeline Drive  
Murrysville, PA 15668

ALL are WELCOME! This is open to the community, so invite your friends and neighbors.

Drums can be borrowed from Jim Donovan.

Any questions - call Karen at 724 327-6321 or e-mail me at Karenlgerard@aol.com

## *Drumming Circle*

The drumming circle will meet at 7:30 in the sanctuary at ESUUC

.Date: April 25

Come experience a great sense of community while drumming. All are welcome, bring a friend! Any questions? E-mail Karen at Karenlgerard@aol.com

## *The Laramie Project*

Seton Hill University, Greensburg

April 1 - 7, 2004.

**Tickets - 12. (Group Rate is \$10 for 16 or more)**

This moving play is based on the people and happenings of Laramie, Wyoming after Matthew Shepard's death in 1998. Moisés Kaufman and Members of the Tectonic Theatre Project made several trips to Laramie, interviewing townspeople and recording their reactions. From these interviews, the company constructed a theatre piece that has been produced in hundreds of college and professional theatres and in film.

For More Information Contact Seton Hill University at 724-838-4241

## *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](mailto: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].

## *Connections*

Congratulations to Brian Ogle and June on the birth of their daughter, Ariel.

Congratulations to Renee Waun on her recent croning (a celebration of her becoming a crone, wise old woman).

Congratulations to Maureen McHugh for being named a Vagina Warrior in conjunction with the Vagina Monologues at IUP (for her work against violence against women.)

Congratulations to Leona Dunnett's children for their stellar performance at the local spelling bee.

Cheers to Keith Bjorn on his recovery from surgery.

Cheers to Marcia Klepac for a healthy Spring.

Cheers to Wally Chubb-we are happy to see him after a long absence.

Condolences to Maureen McHugh and her family on the death of Fran's mom, Patricia Barrett.

Connections is produced by the Cares and Concerns Committee. Send any news to be shared with the ESUUC community to Maria Luckzow.



## *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.

April 4th - Maureen McHugh

April 11th - Easter Brunch Everyone bring a brunch dish to share

April 18th - Laurie Montgomery

April 25th - Andrea and Ken Noble

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 UU News*

### **Our Annual District Meeting April 23-24**

The annual meeting of the Ohio Meadville District to which we belong will be held on Friday night over Saturday, April 23-24 at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh. Because it is so close to us, we are hoping that several of our members will plan to attend all or part of this important event, three of whom would be our official delegates.

The Friday night schedule begins with a supper and opening worship. Saturday goes from 9-5:30 and includes worship, business meeting, lunch, keynote speaker Kay Montgomery, Exec. Vice President of the UUA, workshop selections, installation of officers and closing worship.

If you are interested in participating, please see Gerard Katilius or Rev. Waun.

### **We Are Hosting the District Small Congregation Growth Workshop**

On the weekend on April 30-May 2 our church will host a group of folks from the Ohio-Meadville, St. Lawrence and Heartland Districts in a Small Congregation Growth Workshop. It will be organized around these three growth strategies: 1. building a mission and ministry focus; 2. ensuring adequate resources and infrastructure; 3. knowing what it takes to make the change.

Our church is already growing rapidly. Some of our officers have had training in growth strategy but this is an opportunity for a lot more of us to really hone in on what growth will require of us as time goes on. The registration deadline is April 5 and space is limited. So if you are interested in participating in this worthy event IN OUR OWN CHURCH building, please let Gerard Katilius know immediately.

### **The Ohio-Meadville School of Congregational Leadership July 25-31**

Anyone in a leadership position at the church should consider going to this marvelous July event at Hiram College in Ohio. It is training, it is networking, it is spiritual and intellectual growth--it is for you. Gerard Katilius has attended this school and came back quite enthusiastic about the experience, so you may wish to ask him about this as you consider your own participation. The cost of the week is \$525 for one person from the church, or \$470 for each of two or more persons from the church, if registered before May 25. See Gerard Katilius or Rev. Waun for more information.

## **March for Choice in Washington D.C. April 24-25**

Buses are leaving from the East Shore UUC in Kirtland, Ohio and rolling through Pittsburgh on their way to Washington, D.C. so that UUs can participate in the March for Choice on April 24-25. Roe v. Wade is under attack. Join with others if you are a person who wants to keep choice a choice. Cost for the bus will be around \$50 per person. All Souls Church in D.C. is the host, and will provide dinner and sleep-in or home hospitality. You can email Dorothy Lemmey, Ph.D., RN for details. Dotlemmey@aol.com. Other area UU churches are also bringing folks and will be riding all together on the buses.

## *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

April 18 Finance Committee Meeting -  
9:00 AM at the Church

April 18 Aesthetics Committee meeting -  
12:15 PM at the church

### *Aesthetics Committee*

A successful church rummage sale was held on Saturday March 26 to raise money for the purchase of the tapestry to be designed and made by Adrian Heinrich. We will report the results next month. To date, over 75 percent of the funds needed to purchase the tapestry have been pledged, raised or contributed, enabling the board to sign a contract with Adrian.

On Saturday June 5, an arts and crafts show will be held at the church, also to raise funds for the tapestry. Both congregational and community artists and crafts people can obtain a space for a contribution of \$25.00 for non-members and \$20.00 for members of our congregation. More details will be available in the May newsletter.

### **Committee Calendar**

April 1 Board of Trustees - 7:15 PM  
at the Church

April 4 Welcoming Congregation, 12:15  
PM

### *Newsletter Deadlines*

The newsletter deadline for the February Newsletter will be April 18. 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.



## *Pastor's Column*

*by Rev. Renee Waun*

### *There's Power in Sharing the Flame*

Did you ever experience a time when some deep injustice triggered a flame inside your soul that continues to burn in a sort of “righteous indignation” around a particular issue? This happened to me most powerfully when I listened to the stories of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons over my years of ministry. After awhile, as this inner flame of mine grew stronger, I became an “accidental advocate” and wrote a book challenging the mainstream church for its role in perpetuating the negative, sometimes abusive attitudes we hold in our society about GLBT persons. I wrote that the mainstream church was the primary cause of this cultural situation and so the mainstream church must take responsibility for correcting it.

There is a national group called Soulforce that was founded on this very concept. It calls all those who experience that inner flame of injustice to join together in a persistent force for bringing the mainstream churches into accountability. This is the meaning of the term “Soulforce”. I devote some of my personal, non-church time to Soulforce and I invite you to see what this group will be doing next month in Pittsburgh to help open all church hearts and doors to GLBT people. There is an article about Soulforce below. If a flame burns within you as you think about your GLBT friends who have been alienated from their church because of their sexual orientation, and you would like to join with others to do something powerful and meaningful from that place deep inside, please talk with me about it. 412-731-2834  
revmom@pitt.edu



**Croning Ceremony**

## *THANK YOU*

I felt so blessed and affirmed at my croning ceremony because so many of the church women and girls were able to attend. Thank you for being there for me and for thus making the statement for and about women so powerful. Especially I want to acknowledge and thank you for the very meaningful gifts. The Virginia Woolf doll sits proudly on my book shelf and the wonderful gift certificate from 10,000 Villages is not only a generous gift to me, but also provides much needed support for the Third World women who craft the marvelous items for that store. It was the perfect idea and I love you all. Renee Waun



This month we accomplished two things that promise to have a strong impact on our church. Although both turned out very nicely, the process we went through to get them done was even more impressive. I'm referring to the project for renovation of the Sanctuary, and the proposed refresh of our Mission statement.

A number of people in our church worked diligently over the past year to synthesize a way to elevate the quality of our Sanctuary space. This process has been a true model of co-operation, collaboration and compromise. At times it was frustrating, but the resolution to proceed on a tapestry by Adrienne Heinrich and integrate key elements from the Harai plan signaled success. I am certain our finished Sanctuary will look wonderful when they are complete.

Our Ohio-Meadville District Consultant, Rod Thompson, presided over the All Church Workshop March 13<sup>th</sup>. This was follow-on to our All Church Retreat in January, where individuals created their own personal mission statements. With a good cross-section of the church represented, Rod led us through intensive discussions to distill a proposed refresh for our Mission statement. I believe you will find that it that captures the essence of our church nicely – please look it over when you have time, in the back of the Sanctuary.

In both cases, new and old members of our church worked side-by-side, bringing forth excellent points, yet also giving in and trusting each other. More than paint, materials and words, our church is a place of relationships and action. It is an excellent sign that we work well in teams on these infrastructure projects, and bodes well as we plan for the active future of ESUUC – thank you

*Calendar* (Sunday Services and Forums are listed on the first page)

Apr 1 to 7	Laramie Project at Seaton Hill College
Thurs. April 1	Board of Trustees Meeting – 7:15 PM at the Church
Sat. April 3	Canvass Kickoff Wine and Cheese Reception - 7:30 PM - At the Church
Sun. April 4	Start of Annual Canvass
Sun. April 4	Choir Practice 9:30 AM at the Church
Sun. April 4	Welcoming Congregation, 12:15 PM At the Church
Mon. April 12	Religious Eeducation Committee 7:00 PM at Starbucks
Fri. April 16	Family Game Night – At the church
Sat. April 17	Circle Dinners – at members homes
Sun. April 18	Finance Committee Meeting – 9:00 AM at the church
Sun. April 18	Aesthetics Committee Meeting – 12:15 PM at the Church
Sun. April 18	Circle Dinners – at members homes
April 23-24	Annual District Meeting – at First Unitarian Church
April 24 - 25	March for Choice – Washington DC
Sat. April 24	Circle Dinners – at members homes
Sun. April 25	Adult Drumming – 7:30 PM at the Church
Mon. April 26	Canvass Ends
Apr 27 – May 7	Soulforce in Pittsburgh

Apr 30 to May 2	Ohio-Meadville Small Congregation Growth Workshop conference - at the church
Sat. May 15	Chess Tournament - At the Church
Sun. May 16	Rusted Root – 12:30 to 2:30 at the Church