

September 2007



A·L·U·U·C NEWS



Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
11:00am - 2:30pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday:
11:00am - 4:30pm
Available other times by appointment

Office Phone:

217-585-9550

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Rev. Martin Woulfe
minister@aluuc.org

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Berkley Moore
minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

Coordinator of Religious Education:

Meg Schnake
CRE@aluuc.org

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Mike Haynes
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Cheryl Wycoff
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Music/Pianist:

Bonnie Ettinger
music@aluuc.org

Newsletter Editor:

Scott Wade
newsletter@aluuc.org

October Newsletter Deadline:

September 21, 2007

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Services are held Sunday morning at 10:30am. Guests are welcome. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages.

September 2

The Church of Theatre? (How my profession shaped my spirituality)

Missy Thibodeaux-Thompson will share how she discovered theatre at a young age, and how her theatrical journey has informed her spiritual journey through life.

September 9

Water & Stone Communion by Rev. Martin Woulfe

As the summer wanes, members & friends return to ALUUC to share their individual stories and spiritual insights inspired by their adventures and travels. Following a tradition attributed to UU women ministers in the early 1980's, we will blend our separate measures of water and stones into a common bowl and share our stories, as individuals and as families. Surplus water will be available in case you forget to bring any.

September 16

Salvation by Character by Rev. Martin Woulfe

The current issue of the UU World includes a meditation that dismisses the notion of "Salvation by Character," a concept near and dear to my heart. I will explore the notion and suggest how and why it is still very relevant to liberal religion and to the survival of humanity.

September 23

Reflections on Angels by Rev. Martin Woulfe

According to one theologian, every person who is serious about religion needs to wrestle with the matter of Angels, or at least, have a theory about them. Taking a cue from James Luther Adams and Paul Tillich, I will present my thoughts on Angelology – the discipline of the study of Angels.

September 30

Jill Grove will speak on "Economic Differences in School". She will be talking about the underlying differences in assumptions and behavior of students and their families based on economic well being. These differences affect acceptance and learning styles, and the means that can best be used to educate particular students. She is offering a presentation tailored to helping the church understand what it can do to make a difference. Ms. Grove is the Principal of Springfield School District 186's Early Learning Center. As an expert in the topic on which she will speak, she has presented locally and regionally.

October 7

Why I Haven't Read Harry Potter by Rev. Martin Woulfe

Several people have expressed surprise to hear that I have not read any of the Harry Potter books – nor do I have any burning desire to read them. In this service, I will discuss my reasons, which very much differ from those offered by some conservative critics of the series.

(this is a Change for Change Sunday)

What is Change for Change?

On "Change for Change Sundays," we take a special collection during the service. Half of the money collected helps support the general mission of ALUUC; the other half is used to support various Social Justice Initiatives of the congregation. Past beneficiaries have included the Springfield Overflow Shelter and Peace Camp.

From the Minister. . .

One of the things that I cherish most about living in Illinois is the cycle of distinct seasons. Currently, summer is already visibly passing. As I skim ahead through my calendar book, I know full well that the coming autumn is more than a mere time of transition. It is truly a time to savor each day which in succession will herald cooler temperatures, fewer insects, and the first traces of red, gold and yellow upon branches/trees.

I have always felt most alive during this time of year. Perhaps my seasonal enthusiasm is conditioned by the fact that for much of my lifetime, here was the signal to return to school. I welcomed each new academic year, looking forward to new teachers, new lessons, new friends, and new activities.

Perhaps too the awareness that the seasons of fertility and growth are passing, to be followed by the seasons of harvest and stillness – stirs in me the desire to make the most of the present.

As a minister, I also cherish the way that we will re-gather as a community. True, many people have been present and active throughout the summer; still, it generally seems that with the stone and water communion, we gather anew with new energy, greater focus and a whole host of different activities.

It is good to be alive now; it is good to be with one another. I'll see you soon.

~ *Martin*

New to UU Class

Now that you've found us, are you thinking about joining? Do you want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and what it means to become a member? If so, then this orientation is for you. Rev. Martin Woulfe will conduct a class that will present the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. The class will meet on 2 consecutive Wednesdays, September 12 & 19 from 7:00 to 9:30pm at the ALUUC. Please let us know if you will need child care. You can sign-up by contacting Rev. Woulfe at 585-9550 or email minister@aluuc.org. You can also sign-up using the ALUUC website by clicking on New to UU listed under Important Links on the bottom left side of the homepage.

From the Board President. . .

Summer is nearing its end, and before long the seasonal change toward autumn will be in full swing. The ALUUC is undergoing a number of changes as well. The Aesthetics Committee has done a fantastic job of cleaning, painting, and getting our place organized. Thanks go out to Debby Hagan, Gwen Childs, Victoria Vincent, Anna Williams, Nancy Ray and all those who have jumped in and helped this busy team in their spare time and on the scheduled work days.

We also have a new Office Manager, Cheryl Wycoff, who has boldly accepted the challenge of keeping our busy office in order. I hope everyone will soon have a chance to meet Cheryl and give her a warm welcome!

The Prairie Wind CUUPS group is currently restructuring their leadership and reviewing their by-laws, ensuring that all those who follow an Earth-based spiritual path can find a safe and welcoming place to practice their faith within our community.

The Board of Directors has seen a change as well. Jeffrey Bennett has tendered his resignation as Treasurer due to conflicts with his personal and professional life. Many thanks go to Jeff for his outstanding service on the Board and his continued support and dedication to our congregation and our community. Stepping up to fill the vacancy is Ken Wade. Ken has been a member of our congregation for a couple of years now and we are grateful to him for lending us his valuable skills and knowledge.

Throughout these changes, the one constant I can see is the love and dedication that the members of this congregation have for each other and their spiritual home, and I am grateful to be a part of it.

~ *Mike Haynes*

From the Coordinator of Religious Education. . .

August is upon us! The Rock & Water Ceremony welcoming us back to a new church year is just around the corner. This is a much-cherished ritual in my family. I believe it has to do with the concrete nature of the elements. Children, as well as adults, appreciate the solid, tangible aspects of rocks and water. For those of you new to the routine, on Sept. 9, plan to bring with you rocks and/or water from your experiences this summer. We blend them together to represent a “rejoining” after time spent away from one another this summer.

This will be an Intergenerational Service, which means all members of our congregation will stay in the service, except those needing nursery care. These services are designed to appeal to entire families. Children too, enjoy hearing where people have traveled and love joining their parents in front of the congregation to share aloud their stories. It is appropriate and encouraged for children to also bring along quiet activities to use, as they need during the service.

Maybe most exciting of all...Religious Education classes will begin the following week (Sept. 16th)! It's not too late to register.

~ *Meg Schnake*

Group Meetings & Other Events. . .

Book Discussion Group

BookGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on September 25 at 7:30pm to discuss "*So Long, See You Tomorrow*" by William Maxwell. Contact Barbara Moore to find the location of the meeting. Future books we will read include "*Pale Horse, Pale Rider: Three Short Novels*" by Katherine Ann Porter, and "*Everyman*" by Philip Roth.

Bridge Group

BridgeGroup@aluuc.org

This group meets at the ALUUC on the second Friday of every month at 7:00pm. Group contact person is Chris Romaine.

Build Your Own Theology Group

BYOTG@aluuc.org

The September meeting of the BYOT Group will be held with the Christian Interest Group on their meeting date and time, September 10 at 7:30pm.

Christian Interest Group

ChristianInterestGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on September 10 at 7:30pm at the ALUUC. Retired Episcopal Bishop William Black, a good friend of our minister Rev. Martin Woulfe, will speak on "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time". All ALUUC members and friends are cordially invited to attend. While garnering his seminary education in Chicago, Bishop Black took a number of courses from Unitarian Universalist professors at Meadville Lombard including "every single one given by [the late] James Luther Adams". As Bishop in Springfield, Ohio, he was noted as an advocate for women and Blacks in the Episcopal ministry. Light refreshments will be served at a social period following Bishop Black's remarks.

Dream Group

DreamGroup@aluuc.org

This group meets at the ALUUC on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. In a relaxed atmosphere, each person in the group will share a recent dream of his or her own choosing. Then two dreams will be selected for further discussion. It is an opportunity to exchange insights without engaging in group therapy as such. Group contact person is John Glosser.

Humanist Discussion Group

HumanistGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on September 24 at 7:00pm at the ALUUC for the second meeting of the new Humanist Discussion Group. All are welcome. Carol Floyd will summarize and comment upon Michael Shermer, [The Science of Good and Evil: Why People Cheat, Gossip, Care, Share, and Follow the Golden Rule](#). Discussion will follow. If you have questions about this group, please contact Carol Floyd.

Labyrinth Walk

Labyrinth walks during the 2007-08 liturgical year will be conducted on the fourth Friday of each month, from September through June, from 7:00 to 9:30pm. Any questions can be directed to Rev. Martin Woulfe at Minister@aluuc.org

Meditation Groups

Simple Meditation is hosted every Thursday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, please contact Debby Hagan at meditation@aluuc.org.

The Sangamon Zen Meditation Group sits most Saturday mornings at the ALUUC from 9:00am to 11:30am. Please check the website calendar for dates.

Movie Night

Movie Night will resume on Sunday, September 23rd, at the home of Rev. Martin Woulfe & Angela Aznarte, beginning at 6:00pm. Refreshments will be available. The film will be "What Dreams May Come" starring Robin Williams; a discussion will follow.

News Covenant Group

NewsGroup@aluuc.org

Join us on September 6 at 7:30pm Lori and Henry Farrington's home. Contact Lori or Henry if you have any questions.

The Occasional Choir

Check the online calendar for practice dates. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter

CUUPS@aluuc.org

The Prairie Wind Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans is an eclectic Earth-centered group. We host several rituals throughout the year. Check out the information about the Mabon Ritual on page 6.

The Christian Interest Group & Build Your Own Theology Group Special Joint Meeting on September 10 at 7:30pm

Retired Episcopal Bishop William Black, a good friend of our minister Rev. Martin Woulfe, will speak on "It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time" at the next meeting of the Christian Interest Group, which will be combined with the September meeting of the Build Your Own Theology Group. All ALUUC members and friends are cordially invited.

While garnering his seminary education in Chicago, Bishop Black took a number of courses from Unitarian Universalist professors at Meadville Lombard including "every single one given by [the late] James Luther Adams". As Bishop in Springfield, Ohio, he was noted as an advocate for women and Blacks in the Episcopal ministry.

Light refreshments will be served at a social period following Bishop Black's remarks.

* Fellowship Committee *

Have you ever wondered what committees we have at the ALUUC and what they do? Well, this will be the perfect opportunity for you to find out! **September 23rd**, immediately following the Sunday service, there will be a delicious potluck and fun festivities too! All our fabulous committees will be there to tell you about what they do and answer any questions you may have about them. This could be your chance to sign up and join one of these great committees! It's a great way to meet more people, make friends and contribute your special talents to ALUUC! See you there.

Linda Haynes, Fellowship Committee Chair



**Please give a warm welcome
to our new Office Manager**

Cheryl Wycoff

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Deepen your spirituality and get to know others in a small group setting.

This fall we will gather for an 8 week session called "Planet Earth." A small group of 8-12 will have a trained facilitator to explore topics such as Beauty, Animals and Living Mindfully in a home or at the church. Each session has interesting readings and activities to help spur discussion and build understanding.

We hope to have day and evening options. Because each session builds on the previous session in terms of new learnings and group trust, it is very important that participants commit to attending all sessions if at all possible.

SIGN UP: September, before or after church.

FACILITATOR TRAINING: September 23 from 12:00 to 3:00pm, lunch and materials provided.

GROUP MEETINGS: October and November.

FACILITATOR FOLLOW-UP: December 9 from 12:00 to 1:00pm, lunch provided.

We are looking for more people who would like to facilitate or host groups.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Gwen Childs or Jan Droegkamp

Prairie Wind CUUPS Chapter
Mabon / Fall Equinox
A Thanks-Giving Harvest Feast and Ritual Celebration
September 22, 2007
5:00pm

This year we will be celebrating the Fall Equinox outdoors. (Weather permitting)
 We will gather around the fire pit over which we will cook our harvest feast and share in the telling of stories, watch the sun set, share a harvest feast and create beautiful music together. A Pot of Harvest Stew will get us started.

What to bring:

- A blanket or lawn chair
- A story or poem (it can be funny, enlightening, inspirational, whatever you would like.
- A Pot Luck dish to share or campfire foods such as hot dogs or marsh mellows
- A drum or other musical instrument.

This will be a much laid back Ritual Celebration that we hope you all can attend.

Co-coordinators:
 Buffy Lael & Brenda Wade
CUUPS@aluuc.org



ALUUC to Revive the Green Sanctuary Committee

WE HAVE MANY COMMITTED MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED ON THIS PROGRAM.
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

Anyone who is interested in joining the Green Sanctuary Committee, please contact Jan Droegkamp at GreenSanctuary@aluuc.org. We will have an organizational meeting in September to elect a chair and define the 2007-08 goals.

A Green Sanctuary is a UU congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.

Green Sanctuary Goals:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UU's.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UU's to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

For more information see http://uuministryforearth.org/grs_overview.htm



DRAWN TO THE RHYTHM

Performance and Community Rhythm Circle with
JUDY PIAZZA

Saturday, September 29th at 7:30pm
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road, Springfield, IL 62711
217-585-9550

\$10 at the door

JUDY PIAZZA is the very embodiment of the concept of world music. Her artistry is rooted in the rhythms and melodies of peoples and cultures from around the world - from ethereal Native American chants and flute to the delicate gossamer strains of her dulcimer and guitar work to the haunting echoes of the aboriginal didgeridoo to the powerful beat of the many drums and percussion instruments of which she is master. Judy's vocals and stories weave these disparate musical elements into a seamless and unforgettable performance. Bring your own percussion instruments to take part in a community rhythm circle after the performance.

BIO: Judy has been performing and teaching for over thirty years, bringing her passion and skills to groups throughout the country and to Japan, Mexico, S. America, and more at festivals, conferences, schools, and workshops. She has performed with Ubaka Hill, Glen Velez, Russill Paul, Bill Miller and others and is known for her talent, her generous teachings, and her captivating style as she educates and inspires through her music. Find out more at www.resonanceandrhythms.com

It's that time of year again!!!

The ALUUC will be having their annual **Trash & Treasure Sale Friday, October 5th, & Saturday, October 6th**. So, clean out your closets, attics, garages and basements or any other place you may think of and donate to the ALUUC Trash & Treasure Sale. You will feel so good to have your spaces cleaned out and you can feel **absolutely wonderful** for contributing to a great cause too! We can also use as many people as possible to help with the set up for the sale, which begins September 30th, immediately after Sunday service. That is also the time that everyone can begin to bring all their donations to the ALUUC. This is another fantastic opportunity to help the ALUUC and get to know other people. So, join the fun and please help make this sale a **great success!**

Linda Haynes, Chair
Trash & Treasure Sale

Are You Interested in Becoming a Wedding Officiant?

At the June meeting of the Board of Directors, a Wedding Officiant policy was adopted. The purpose of this program is to identify and train ALUUC members who are interested in performing wedding and union ceremonies for non-members.

According to the policy, "The ALUUC may appoint one or more of its voting members as an Officiant, empowered with the authority to officiate at weddings and similar ceremonies to the extent permitted by this policy". The ultimate decision as to who may be appointed as an Officiant rests with the Board of Directors of the ALUUC. The Board shall act upon the recommendation of the minister and the Committee on Ministry.

The following profile is presented as a guide: The Officiant should be a mature person of either sex, over 25 years of age, and a voting member of the congregation. Personal characteristics are more important than professional qualifications, though some background in professions working directly with people is helpful. It is important that the Officiant is able to communicate easily with people in a spirit of empathy, helpfulness and concern, and that he or she be a person whose public image will enhance the reputation of the congregation. It is important, however, that in situations where a professional level of counseling is called for, the Officiant must be aware of local resources to which referrals may be made.

The Officiant's role challenges the appointee to reflect on and clarify his/her Unitarian Universalist values. It will provide experiences which encourage the individual's spiritual growth, and which will, in turn, contribute to the strength of the congregation. For this reason, there is benefit to the congregation in some rotation of the role of Officiant among its members. "

If you are interested in becoming a designated Wedding Officiant, please contact Rev. Martin Woulfe to begin the process.

Greater Springfield Interfaith Association Annual Welcoming Banquet

The Greater Springfield Interfaith Association invites all persons to attend its annual Welcoming Banquet on Wednesday, Sept 5 at 10 am; this year's event will be held at the MCL Restaurant at 2151 W. Wabash. This year's banquet will include a meal, a presentation by Kavitha Cardoza of WUIS-FM, and the conferring of the 2007 "Humanitarian of the Year Award." All are welcome; admission at the door costs \$10.00.

Conscientious Knitters

The next meeting will be September 30 at Diana and Marissa DeWeese's home from 3:00 to 5:00pm. If you need directions, please contact Diana. Two dozen hats for newborns were knit by our group and will be sent to the Coastal Women for Change Women's group in Biloxi, MS, on the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Aug. 29th. Thank you to the people that helped with this project. Contact Jan Droegkamp with questions about the group or to get on the email list.

September 2007

* Event not held at the ALUUC

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Zen Meditation 9:00am
2 Worship Service 10:30am	3 LABOR DAY	4 Board Meeting 7:00pm	5	6 Meditation 7:00pm * News Covenant Group 7:30pm	7	8 Zen Meditation 9:00am
9 Worship Service 10:30am	10 Christian Interest Group & Build Your Own Theology Group 7:30pm	11	12 New to UU Class 7:00pm	13 Meditation 7:00pm	14 Bridge Group 7:00pm	15 Zen Meditation 9:00am
16 Worship Service 10:30am Prairie Wind CUUPS Meeting 12 Noon	17	18 Committee Night 7:00pm	19 New to UU Class 7:00pm	20 Meditation 7:00pm	21	22 Zen Meditation 9:00am Prairie Wind CUUPS - Mabon Ritual, 5:00pm
23 Worship Service 10:30am	24	25 Dream Group 7:00pm * Book Discussion Group 7:30pm	26	27 Meditation 7:00pm	28 Labyrinth Walk 7:00pm	29 Zen Meditation 9:00am Judy Piazza Performance 7:30pm
30 Worship Service 10:30am						

Dates & Times subject to change. Please check the website calendar for any changes/updates.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:

<i>Minister</i>	Rev. Martin Woulfe	minister@aluuc.org
<i>Minister-Emeritus</i>	Rev. Berkley Moore	minister-emeritus@aluuc.org

Board of Directors:

<i>President</i>	Mike Haynes	president@aluuc.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Gwen Childs	vicepresident@aluuc.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ken Wade	treasurer@aluuc.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Carol Floyd	secretary@aluuc.org

<i>Board Members</i>	Carley Mattimore Bill McCall Delinda Chapman Henry Farrington Ceceilia Haasis Scott Wade
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Committees:

<i>Committee on Ministry</i>	Frank Kopecky, Chair Michael Plog Perry Hines Rebecca Anderson Myra Epping TBD	CoM@aluuc.org
<i>Endowment Trust</i>	Dave Braddock Kurt DeWeese Frank Kopecky Nancy Standen Victoria Vincent	Endowment@aluuc.org
<i>Nominating</i>	Roger Powers, Chair John Malan Berkley Moore Debby Hagan	Nominating@aluuc.org
<i>Aesthetics</i>	Debby Hagan, Chair Victoria Vincent Gwen Childs Nancy Ray Anna Williams	Aesthetics@aluuc.org
<i>Electronics & Communications</i>	Scott Wade	ECC@aluuc.org
<i>Facilities</i>	Kurt DeWeese	Facilities@aluuc.org
<i>Fellowship</i>	Linda Haynes	Fellowship@aluuc.org
<i>Finance</i>	Barbara Moore	Finance@aluuc.org
<i>Floral</i>	Vi Lanum	Floral@aluuc.org
<i>Membership & Publicity</i>	VACANT	
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Jodi Perko	
<i>Program</i>	Craig Bailey	Program@aluuc.org
<i>Religious Education (RE)</i>	Brenda Wade	RE@aluuc.org
<i>Social Action</i>	VACANT	SAC@aluuc.org

FYI...

NAMETAGS

If you need a replacement nametag, please either email your request to nametags@aluuc.org, or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot on the nametag rack. You can also request it through the ALUUC website.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address notices and other subscription request can be done on the ALUUC website by clicking on the Members link. Or you can email the information to ECC@aluuc.org or by mail to:

ALUUC Attn: ECC
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, IL 62711-7346

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMING EVENTS

Submission for Announcements and Coming Events should be submitted electronically to office@aluuc.org by Thursday at 12:00 noon.

Removal from Newsletter Mailing List:

If you would like to stop receiving this newsletter, please either contact the church office or send an email requesting to be removed from the newsletter mailing list to: newsletter@aluuc.org

*** Reminder ***

Please remember when participating in meetings held in the RE classrooms to clean up afterwards. We want our youth and our volunteer teachers to know that we value their efforts by respecting their space. Thank you!

At The Zoo

THE FUN PAGE

X A K P V E T T N R A F N C M H K
 H W L O R L L P I V V D K O M H P
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- Bats
- Cheetah
- Chimp
- Cougar
- Elephant
- Giraffe
- Gorilla
- Hippopotamus

- Koala Bear
- Lemur
- Leopard
- Lion
- Lizards
- Llama
- Monkey
- Panda

- Polar Bear
- Rhinoceros
- Rooster
- Snakes
- Swan
- Tiger
- Wolf
- Zebra

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Phillip Anderson, Cat Arremann, Craig Bailey,
 Jim Beaumont, Dave Braddock, Steven Britt,
 Fred Dietz, Rob Ewart, Beverly Holmes,
 Joe Hylak-Reinholtz, Frank Kopecky, Jodi Perko,
 Dianne Roberts-Hill, Phil Salisbury,
 Linda Wheeland and Rodd Whelpley

Civil War Facts

RICHMOND
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*** ATTENTION to all Senior Youth and their Parents ***

The **Senior Youth** will begin their Sunday evening schedule starting on **September 9th**. Any high school freshman through senior is invited to attend our Sunday morning RE class as well as our Sunday evening time together from 4:00 to 6:00pm. Please mark your calendar and start your church year with us!

Special note to Parents: We will be hosting a "Parent Info Night" on **September 16th** at **5:00 to 7:00pm**. Buffy and Meg invite you to come learn about Senior Youth, upcoming events, ideas and expectations. We hope to see you there!

