



A·L·U·U·C FOCUS

JANUARY 2009



745 Woodside Road
Springfield, Illinois 62711
217-585-9550
www.aluuc.org

Abraham Lincoln
Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Office Hours:
Monday & Friday
11:00am to 2:30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
11:00am to 5:00pm

Worship Services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30am. Religious education and child care are provided for children of all ages. Large Print Bulletins and Hymnals are available each Sunday for those who would like to use them.

January 4 ~ "Making a Practical Difference in World Health"

Sister Ann Pitsenberger speaks and shares visuals in behalf of the Hospital Sisters Outreach of St. Francis. This group, based in Springfield, gathers and ships good quality, used medical equipment all over the world to fill specific requests. With every item, whether an X-Ray machine or an ambulance, a kit to keep the item in good repair accompanies it. This is a Change for Change Sunday, and the Hospital Sisters' Medical Project will receive the offering.

January 11 ~ "The Questions Posed by Seekers" by Reverend Martin Woulfe

In this service, Rev. Woulfe will invite members, friends & guests to pose their questions about Unitarian Universalism, be they liturgical, theological or historical. What would you like to know?

January 18 ~ "The Dover, Pa. School Case: Protecting the Science Content of Biology Courses from Creationism"

Lee Beneze addresses the 2006 federal court decision in which the Dover, Pennsylvania School Board was prohibited from teaching "intelligent design" as part of the Dover high school's biology course. This case was the latest in a series in which the courts have ruled that "creationism," "scientific creationism" and (now) "intelligent design" could not be taught as "science". This service is an early memorial to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin (born, as was Lincoln, on February 12, 2009). Lee's presentation will explain this collision between science, religion and the law. Mr. Beneze is a respected Springfield attorney.

January 25 ~ "Humility, Hope, History, and Hummus: UU Identity in the 21st Century"

While statistics and Sunday mornings might tell us that UU congregations struggle to have a thriving young adult community, in fact Unitarian Universalism has much to offer young people, especially if we work to embolden the religious identity of not only young people, but everyone in our congregations. Ms. Elizabeth Marsh is a UU seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California and is serving as the Jane Anderson campus ministry intern at the UU campus center, Channing-Murray Foundation, at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

~ This service will also include a ceremony to mark the beginning of Reverend Woulfe's sabbatical ~

From the Minister. . .

I often feel that after the candles of December have been extinguished, the weeks that immediately follow are the bleakest. Those weeks are often marked by a bitter cold and a relative silence in nature -- a sharp contrast to the bustle that filled the final weeks of the preceding year. Those weeks invariably arrive and keep pace, according to their own terms, almost insisting that our actions slow down as well. One's outlook -- and use -- of that time varies according to one's temperament, I suppose.

How quickly has our time together flown? Is it possible that we have already shared five and a half years together? I page through my appointment books for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 and see that it has been so. Is it possible too that with the arrival of February, I begin a four month sabbatical? Part of me whispers that I had best make the most of this month, to ensure that everything is in order before I officially step away from most of my ministerial duties. Common sense, I suppose. So, there is still work to be done.

I have shared what plans I have envisioned for myself during this coming sabbatical period - take a class in Spanish and another in art; visit UU churches in other cities on various weekends, and read, read, read. On the one hand, I will not be in the office every day and will seldom be seen at meetings -- on the other hand, I will be "on call" for major pastoral care issues and am in fact scheduled to preach twice here. I expect that I will still be involved with the labyrinth walk, once a month and will submit a column to the newsletter. Will my sabbatical have an impact on ALUUC? No doubt, there will be some adjustments as other people step up to fill some of the roles which I have been accustomed to fill. Naturally, different people have differing styles of listening and acting -- I trust that you will be as patient with them as you have been with me, and I trust equally that they care about you and this institution as much as you -- and I -- do.

In short, a sabbatical is a time of growth -- both for the minister and for the congregation. When this sabbatical concludes, at the end of May, I suspect that we all shall marvel at how much we have grown.

~ *Martin*

From the Board President. . .

Lately, I have been so consumed with activity that I seem to be managing on a day-by-day basis. I know that many of us are operating this way--our nation included--and I look forward to settling down and tackling the crises we face in the New Year. Each day, I am sending out a little prayer into the universe. It speaks to my dearest hope that we can renew our optimism and focus our energy on helping President Obama find the wisdom and resources he needs to lead us. I concentrate on my wish that we will put the common good ahead of our selfish, short-term interests as we struggle to recover from difficult circumstances. Not everyone may agree, but I think that there is great power when we marshal our collective intentions.

I also am reminded of the great power that we possess as a major support system for each other. Recently, Victoria Vincent sent me a wonderful document published by the Des Moines Unitarian Church--my first. My eyes were filled with tears as I read about the church that meant so much to me and about the people I loved there. John Isom was my first minister--a folksy but very erudite Southerner and former Baptist. Edna Griffin was a tiny but powerful African-American woman who was a legend in the civil rights movement in Des Moines. Even though I was just a newcomer, I was invited to wonderful dinners in their homes to get acquainted with other members. At John's house, we were shown his workshop where he made his own dulcimers, and he played several beautiful songs for us. At Edna's house, I was introduced to collard greens and mashed parsnips, and she shared fascinating stories with us. Memories of many other beloved friends at that church still sustain me over 35 years later, and I hope that we are creating the warm, welcoming sense of community that embraced me so long ago.

So, even though it's cold outside, I urge everyone to come out to our windy acreage for Sunday services, interest groups and special activities. If we huddle close together, we can hold each other up and generate a lot of warmth! Today is the time to create the memories that will bring tears of joy and gratitude to our members tomorrow.

~ *Gwen Childs*

Groups & Events

Book Discussion Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 27th at Barbara Moore's home, to discuss Ian McEwan's *Saturday*. Call Barbara if you have any questions. Future books we will discuss include, *Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home* by Matthew Pinsker; *My Mortal Enemy* by Willa Cather; *The Photograph* by Penelope Lively; *The Member of the Wedding* by Carson McCullers; and *An Incomplete Revenge* by Jacqueline Winspear. Everyone is welcome.

Build Your Own Theology Group (BYOTG)

This group will not be meeting in January. They will resume regular meetings in February. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this group, please contact John Glosser.

Christian Interest Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:30pm on Monday, January 12th in the Darwin Room at the ALUUC. Vi Lanum will be speaking and leading a discussion on the place of food and meals in the life, fellowship and ceremonies of Christian and other groups. Part of the background she will be using is recent UU articles on these topics. A communion will follow for those who wish to participate.

Dream Group

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday, January 5th in the Emerson Room at the ALUUC. This is a chance to discuss recent dreams in a relaxed and informal setting. If you have any questions, please contact John Glosser.

Flute Circle

This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00pm at the ALUUC. Flutes will be made available for others to try. The focus of this circle will be the care and playing of the Native American Style Flute, but other types of flutes will be welcome. Any questions can be directed to Mike Haynes at FluteCircle@aluuc.org

Humanist Discussion Group

This group will not be meeting in January. Its next meeting will be on Monday, February 23rd at 7:00pm. Questions about this group should be directed to Carol Floyd at

HumanistGroup@aluuc.org

Labyrinth Walk

The Labyrinth Walk is held on the third Friday of each month from September through June, from 7:00 to 9:30pm at the ALUUC. All are welcome.

Meditation Groups

Thursday Evening Meditation meets every Thursday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the ALUUC.

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

Movie Night

There will be no movie night for January.

News Covenant Group

This group will depart from its usual first Thursday meeting date in January and instead will meet at 7:30pm on January 8th at Mary Reed's home. Call Mary if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

The Occasional Choir

The choir practice is at 9:30am on Sundays. Check the online calendar for dates. For those parents with children, childcare now starts at 9:30am. For more information about the choir, please contact Jim Redlich or Bonnie Ettinger.

Benevolence Fund

On Sunday, December 21 and on Christmas Eve, donations were received to replenish the ALUUC Benevolence Fund. These donations totaled \$812.91. Thank you to all who made a contribution – your generosity is very much appreciated!

During 2008, a total of \$1187.75 was distributed by the ALUUC pastoral care committee, in consultation with the minister, to assist members and friends who were experiencing financial distress. If you are interested in making a contribution to this fund, please send a check to ALUUC and write “Benevolence Fund” in the memo line.

HELP WANTED

The *Fantasy Auction* is scheduled for February 28th, and despite our best efforts, we still need to fill the *Executive Director* position. We are also looking for volunteers to staff the committee. We have several good ideas for themes, and various Board Members can offer help and advice—but **WE NEED HELP!!!**

In order to balance our budget this year, we have an extremely daunting Fundraising goal to meet. This is an important way to serve our congregation. Besides, this event is a lot of fun! If you are willing to help in any way, please contact *Gwen Childs* by email at President@aluuc.org



The Flower Committee Report...

Have you seen the beautiful arrangements that Becky Croteau created from her flower garden and simple elegance of those from Fifth Street Florist? If you have not, take a longer look next time. Becky is the newest member of my committee and I'm proud of her floral artistry and commitment.

You've seen the “Magic Vase”. Reverend Martin Woulfe used it in a recent sermon; it was just one of many that Beverly Holmes has contributed to the church. I love her idea of using traditional holiday items in her arrangements. Baby Pumpkins and Honeysuckle just to name a few. Beverly's arrangements express her enter beauty and her willingness to take on any challenge.

As for myself, I created and contributed a 150th Universalist Anniversary arrangement this past week. The small Norfolk Pine encircled with Holly and two kinds of Pine branches looked sparse from a distance. It was my intent to show what they may have had 150 years ago. I placed seven birds on the tree to represent the seven principles to connect us to the present.

There are openings for new additional members on this committee. It takes a few hours of time and we do give lessons in flower arranging. Please contact me if you'd like to participate at flower@aluuc.org and I will get you started.

I appreciate all who have contributed flowers this past year to beautify our sanctuary. New sign-up sheets for 2009 will be posted soon. We have been fortunate as a committee to be the benefactors of additional monies to sustain our work. To all these people who have requested be anonymous a very big THANK YOU!

Respectfully,
Vi Lanum
Flower Committee Chairwoman

GSIA Meeting at ALUUC

ALUUC will host the next meeting of the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association on Tuesday January 13th. The meeting will begin at 11:45am and last until about 1:00pm. This month's topic will be on "The Differences of Spiritual Types according to the Meyer-Briggs Inventory;" if you would like to take a test to determine your own Meyer-Briggs type, please contact Reverend Martin Woulfe. All interested persons are invited to attend; please bring your own lunch.

Sabbatical

While Reverend Martin Woulfe is on sabbatical (February 1 through May 31), pastoral care concerns should be addressed to Michael Plog or Delinda Chapman.

From the Program Committee...**Announcements**

Members and friends are reminded that all announcements should be sent to the Office Manager no later than Wednesday for inclusion in the printed announcements on Sunday.

Milestones

On those Sundays when the regular service does not include Milestones, members may choose to light a candle on the table in the rear of the sanctuary. If you have a particular joy or sorrow that you would like to share with others, you may now write it down on a 3x5 card which will be provided on that table and leave it for others to read.

Annual Pledge Drive

The annual pledge drive will begin in the latter part of March. It is crucial for the ongoing financial well being of the congregation that we have a successful pledge canvass. The UUA suggests that there should be a thorough pledge canvass every 2 or 3 years. A thorough canvass is one in which a canvasser meets with the individual or family pledging to discuss the pledge, the ongoing ministry of the congregation, and other related matters. We plan to have such a canvass this year. Kent Childs and Frank Kopecy have agreed to be co-chairs of the pledge canvass.

There are two important requirements to make a canvass such as the one being planned work. First, there must be a large and willing group of canvassers. If enough people volunteer to canvass, no one will have to meet with more than 3 or 4 individuals or families. The Board has already agreed to participate. It would be wonderful if a person from every committee, covenant and interest group volunteers to be a canvasser. Second, there must be willingness on the part of all congregants and friends to meet with the canvasser and openly discuss the responsibility of pledging and other matters concerning the ongoing work of the church.

We realize that there are some who are not able to pledge a great deal of money, but there are others who are able. Our goal is to have as many members and friends pledge as possible, and that they pledge as much as they are comfortable giving. It is important that persons participate in the pledge drive even if the amount is comparatively small. In many congregations the amount pledged increases over the years as family wealth and responsibilities change.

This newsletter item is being written during the Christmas season. It is a time when many of us make year end contributions to various charities. It is a good time to start thinking about how much to contribute to what for many is the most significant charity – the ALUUC. Also consider volunteering to be a canvasser!

Kent Childs & Frank Kopecy, Pledge Drive Co-Chairs

CONTACT INFORMATION

Clergy:

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

Staff:

<i>Office Manager</i>	Cheryl Wycoff	office@aluuc.org
<i>RE Coordinator</i>	Meg Schnake	CRE@aluuc.org
<i>Music/Pianist</i>	Bonnie Ettinger	music@aluuc.org

Board of Directors:

<i>President</i>	Gwen Childs (2009)	president@aluuc.org
<i>Vice President</i>	Delinda Chapman (2009)	vicepresident@aluuc.org
<i>Treasurer</i>	Victoria Vincent (2009)	treasurer@aluuc.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Carol Floyd (2009)	secretary@aluuc.org
<i>Board Members</i>	Ceceilia Haasis (2009) Beverly Holmes (2009) Mark Hanson (2009) Phillip Anderson (2010) Kitty Wrigley (2010) Bill McCall (2010)	ceceilia_haasis@yahoo.com baholmes98@warpcnet.net mark_al_hanson@hotmail.com phillip74@aol.com kittyw1@peoplepc.com bill.mccall@llcc.edu

Committees:

<i>Committee on Ministry</i>	Rebecca Anderson	CoM@aluuc.org
<i>Endowment Trust</i>	Frank Kopecky	Endowment@aluuc.org
<i>Nominating</i>	Roger Powers	Nominating@aluuc.org
<i>Aesthetics</i>	Debby Hagan	Aesthetics@aluu.org
<i>Electronics & Communications</i>	Scott Wade Jerry Zarley	ECC@aluuc.org
<i>Facilities</i>	Kurt DeWeese	Facilities@aluuc.org
<i>Fellowship</i>	Diana DeWeese	Fellowship@aluuc.org
<i>Finance</i>	Barbara Moore	Finance@aluuc.org
<i>Flower</i>	Vi Lanum	Flower@aluuc.org
<i>Membership & Publicity</i>	Jodi Perko	MPC@aluuc.org
<i>Pastoral Care</i>	Michael Plog	PastoralCare@aluuc.org
<i>Program</i>	Craig Bailey Penny Wollan-Kriel	Program@aluuc.org
<i>Religious Education (RE)</i>	Brenda Wade	RE@aluuc.org
<i>Social Action</i>	Tom & Rachel Zehr	SAC@aluuc.org

FYI...

NAMETAGS

If you need a replacement nametag, please either email your request to office@aluuc.org, or print your name on a piece of paper and place it in the nametag slot on the nametag rack.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Change of address notices can be done by completing the ALUUC Membership Update Form found in the church office. You can also email the information to Updates@aluuc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Submission for Announcements and Coming Events should be submitted electronically to office@aluuc.org no later than Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

NEWSLETTERS ON TAPE

If you would like an audio tape of the ALUUC Newsletter, please contact Jim Redlich. A cassette is produced every month and duplicates are available upon request.

NEWSLETTER OPTION

To stop receiving this newsletter or to change from mail to email, please send your request to webmaster@aluuc.org Thank you.

*** Reminder ****

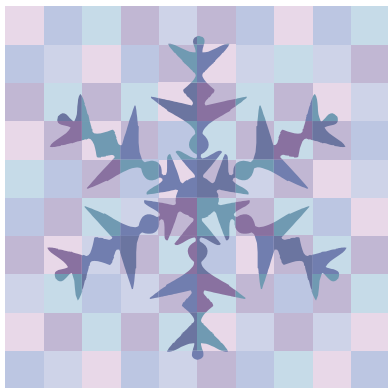
Please remember when participating in meetings held in the RE classrooms to clean up afterwards. We want our youth and our volunteer teachers to know that we value their efforts by respecting their space. Thank you!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Here are the names of members and friends who are celebrating birthdays this month. If this is your birthday month and your name didn't get included, we're sorry. If you want to be listed here in the future, please email Scott Wade at webmaster@aluuc.org with the month of your birth.

Tracy Anderson
Peggy Fenley
Linda Haynes
Shelley Reither
Catherine Talano
Chris Trader
Deanna Trader



New to UU

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. Reverend Martin Woulfe conducts a class that presents the fundamentals of liberal religion and the history of this congregation. A New to UU Class is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th at 7:00pm at the ALUUC. For more information, please contact Reverend Woulfe at Minister@aluuc.org



ALUUC Membership Anniversaries for January

Heiko & Renata Buchloh (2007)
 Mary Capparelli (2003)
 Bernie Carver (2008)
 John Herron (2003)
 Jeremy Izzard (2007)
 Carol Kneedler (1991)
 Buffy Lael (2002)
 Doug & Teresa Liberati (2007)
 Sally Millichamp (2002)
 Barbara Moore (1972)
 Berkley Moore (1970)
 Pamela Salela (2007)
 Meg Schnake (2002)
 Dan Schull (1998)
 Stacey Shinkle Van Bogaert (2003)
 Rachel Walker (2005)
 Jerry Zarley (2005)

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1 Happy New Years!	2	3 Zen Meditation Group, 9:30am
4 Worship Service 10:30am	5 Dream Group 7:00pm	6 Board Meeting 7:00pm	7	8 Meditation 7:00pm * News Covenant Group, 7:30pm	9	10 Zen Meditation Group, 9:30am
11 Worship Service 10:30am	12 Christian Interest Group 7:30pm	13	14 Flute Circle 7:00pm	15 Meditation 7:00pm	16 Labyrinth Walk, 7:00pm	17 Zen Meditation Group, 9:30am Prairie Grapevine 7:30pm
18 Worship Service 10:30am Committee Meetings, 12:15pm	19	20 Adult RE: Music & Spirituality 6:00pm	21	22 Meditation 7:00pm	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 Zen Meditation Group, 9:30am
25 Worship Service 10:30am	26	27 * Book Discussion Group, 7:30pm	28	29 Meditation 7:00pm	30	31 Zen Meditation Group, 9:30am

* Event not held at the ALUUC

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