



# ALUUC Focus

Volume 1 Issue 5

November 2011

## Special points of interest:

- Kids Club Returns
- Game Night
- Help for Haiti
- Holiday Cards
- Movie Night
- Guest at Your Table

## Congratulations, Lynnda White!

Our intern, Lynnda White met with the regional committee of the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in Chicago on Wednesday, October 26. This is an important milestone in the process of becoming an accredited UU minister; every UU seminarian who aspires to be a minister is first designated an



Aspirant; once they have been approved by the committee, they are regarded as Candidates.

We are happy to report that Lynnda satisfied the committee's expectations and has been promoted to Candidate status!



## From the Minister

In early November, I will be presenting a paper at the Prairie Group, an annual conference of UU ministers at Pere Marquette. Each year, papers and responses on a particular topic are presented after which we discuss those themes in detail. The theme for this year's gathering is "The Apocalypse" and will feature essays on how apocalyptic thinking came to be and how it has evolved. My paper will be a reflective essay, presenting "a personal testimonial of (my) own responses to the reality of the decomposition of the world and (my) struggle to find a way to preach and practice hope in the apocalyptic times in which we presently live."

Apocalyptic predictions are not new. A recent famous example would be that of Harold Camping, who announced that the Rapture was imminent six months ago but then amended his forecast when nothing happened on the date in question. Nor did anything occur on the revised date, October 21st. I marvel at the mindset of those who persist in making such predictions not to mention those who stubbornly believe in them.

The notion that the world – and humanity in particular – will have a definite end, when a supernatural force will intervene in history separat-

ing the elect from the damned has a certain appeal to those who are frustrated with the present. That belief absolves such people of committing to the grueling task of creating justice and compassion in the world. Why bother, especially if a Divine Being will descend, like some magnificent deus e machina, and clean up all our troubles?

I believe that apocalyptic thinking is foreign to modern Unitarian Universalism because we tend to focus both on the present realities of human suffering, and our attendant responsibility – both as individuals and as a covenanted community – to engage in the work of justice and peace, to heal what one poet called "this bruised and hurting world." As Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed reminded us at the last District Assembly, we are perhaps prone to imagine that our labors will yield noticeable results in our lifetime – but that is no more than an exaggerated hope. Whether we see tangible results or not, may we be committed to the great work of redemptive service. As Dorothy Day (one of the founders of the Catholic Worker movement) said, "No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do."

~Rev. Martin Woulfe

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## From the Board President

Fall Back on **Sunday, November 6, 2011, as Daylight Savings** begins.

It was amazing! Well above expectations! The Trash & Treasure sale was the best demonstration of our congregation community working together, and it is no surprise that we achieved a very favorable result. Thank you all for the planning, organization, donations, labor, and good will.

'Pastoral care' is a term describing the actions of people who offer help and caring to others in their church or wider community. It can include listening, supporting, encouraging and befriending others. Pastoral care of Members and Friends of the ALUUC is a special characteristic of our congregation, and it has been particularly evident the past few weeks. We are blessed by the time and attention of the Pastoral Care Committee (Delinda Chapman, Chair) and the efforts of many other Members of the Congregation attending to those who are ill, infirmed, or experiencing other problems for which our community can intervene or provide support. The holiday season will soon be here – a special time to share the love and compassion that can be directed through the Pastoral Care of everyone.

An appeal was recently made regarding donations to the ALUUC Benevolence Fund, which is used to meet special needs of others. Additional donations will certainly be well-received.

Members of the Pastoral Care Committee and Reverend Martin Woulfe determine the use of the money in the Benevolence Fund. Federal Internal Revenue Service Publication #526 sets out the requirements for charitable donations to a benevolence fund in terms of tax deductibility. Only general designated contributions to the benevolence fund are allowed. Tax deductible donations cannot designate a particular individual or purpose. Anyone can submit suggestion regarding those who need help, but the final approval is left to the Pastoral Care Committee and the Minister.

The IRS requires the following documentation when the Fund is used to help needy individuals or families:

- A complete description of the assistance
- The purpose for which the aid was given
- The charity's objective criteria for disbursing assistance under each program
- How the recipients were selected
- The name, address, and amount distributed to each

recipient

- Any relationship between a recipient and officers, directors, or key employees or substantial
- contributors to the charitable organization

In the event the church decides to close this fund, all money in the fund at that time must go towards the general church budget.



Diana DeWeese working in the Community Garden

A lot of time, effort and caring has been invested in the "Community Garden" initiated by Lara Marlow and the many others who tilled, weeded, planted, weeded some more, watered and harvested different vegetables that have been donated to the Kumler Outreach Ministries Food Pantry of Springfield.



Vegetables growing in the Community Garden.

Please let the following gardeners know how much their labor has been appreciated: Laura Marlow and Scott Marlow and their daughter Cordelia, Pat Goller, Randy Pratt, Phillip Anderson, Diana DeWeese, Greg Greeley, Pamela Salela, George and Amanda Metcalf.

~Kurt DeWeese, Board President

## Sunday Morning Services

November 6, 2011

### “Becoming More Fully Human: Religious Humanism as a Way of Life”

Carol Floyd

Carol Floyd will address Humanism as a personally satisfying and morally responsible way to live. Some practical advice will be offered about the qualities that enable one to live well. Also it will explore Humanism’s resources for living ethically and dealing constructively with common human problems and personal crises. (Based on a book with this title by William Murry, who has served as Dean at Meadville-Lombard Seminary).

**Will include a “Change for Change Collection.”**



November 13, 2011

### Shades of Meaning: De Colores

Rev. Martin Woulfe

As our movement seeks to become more multicultural, we are encouraging the use of songs in different languages, especially Spanish. One song that has achieved popularity is “De Colores,” which is rendered in both English and Spanish in our hymnal. How are our lyrics different from the original, and what might we learn from both?

November 20, 2011

### A Service of Thanksgiving

Rev. Martin Woulfe

In this service, we will reflect upon the gifts that we have received as well as the gifts that we offer. This service will include a “Litany of Thanksgiving,” composed by the members and friends in attendance and a presentation on “Guest at Your Table.”

November 27, 2011

### “The Truth Beyond the Blackboard”

Rev. Tom Burdett

Rev. Burdett will share his insights into the various masques that one may wear, e.g. certainty, fear, virtue and doubt. Through all of these masques, there has been and remains at least one constant: a loving community, sometimes large and sometimes incredibly tiny, that has served to both pave the way and point out the path.

December 6, 2011

### UU Pilgrimages

Rev. Martin Woulfe

Various religious traditions celebrate the idea that becoming a pilgrim and making a special journey is important to deepening one’s spirituality. To where might a UU pilgrim travel, and what might we learn both from the journey itself and the destination?

**Will include a “Change for Change Collection.”**



**Remember  
Daylights  
Savings set  
your clocks  
back an  
hour,  
Saturday  
Nov. 5th.**

Worship services are held Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. Religious education & child care provided for children of all ages. Large print bulletins & hymnals, as well as hearing devices, are available upon request.

























