From Your Minister:

I have been reflecting on the Dalai Lama’s admission that he is a “Professional Laugher.” Laughter is, so it is claimed, the best medicine—perhaps even for sick souls. I can attest that ministers often tell jokes, often at their own expense—or to poke fun at those who are exceedingly serious. I know of one colleague who was inspired to parody songs based on “Hymns for the Celebration of Life” but rendered as “Hymns for the Celebration of Strife.” Another colleague demonstrated that one could sing “Amazing Grace” to the tune from “Gilligan’s Island;” yet another shared a little ditty called “The Very Model of a Model Unitarian,” the tune of which is borrowed liberally from Gilbert & Sullivan (a version of which one can now find on YouTube). As I skim various Facebook postings by my colleagues, I note that humor is alive and well. Here is one “oldie but goodie,” supposedly a chain letter sent among congregations: THE PERFECT PASTOR

….The perfect pastor preaches exactly 10 minutes. The perfect pastor condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone’s feelings.

….The perfect pastor works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church janitor.

(cont., pg 2)

From Your ALUUC Board President:

Last month the board passed a policy establishing the different ways to remember and celebrate the lives of our deceased members, friends, and loved ones. The hard working members of the Facilities Committee are looking at ways to move this from written policy to substantial reality. One part is easy: the Book of Memory, which will designate two pages for information about the deceased. One part is not-so-easy: a Memorial Display, with engraved nameplates of the deceased displayed for contemplation. One is darned difficult: the Memorial Garden.

The Memorial Garden will be an area designated for reflection and formal services for the committal of cremated remains of our loved ones. If/when the Garden is ever built, a spoonful of ashes will be mixed with the soil in the Garden. I use the word “if” because there are construction issues (materials, design, etc.) and fiscal issues (expense unknown at present).

Some people have qualms seeing or thinking about ashes put in the ground (cont., p. 2)
From Your Minister (cont.)

….The perfect pastor makes $100 a week, wears stylish clothes, drives a new car that reflects well on your church, buys ten excellent books each week, and donates $80 a week to the parish.

….The perfect pastor is 29 years old and has 40 years’ worth of experience.

….The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with teen-agers, and he/she spends most of his/her time with the senior citizens.

….The perfect pastor smiles all the time with a straight face because she has a sense of humor that keeps him/her seriously dedicated to the parish.

….The perfect pastor makes 15 home visits a day and is always in the office to be handy when needed.

….The perfect pastor always has time for parish council and all of its committees. He/ she never misses the meeting of any parish organization, and is always busy evangelizing the unchurched.

….The perfect pastor is broken enough to understand all people, but perfect in mental, emotional and physical health.

….The perfect pastor is always in the next parish over where your friend attends church.

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other parishes that are tired of their pastor too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him/her to the parish at the top of your list. If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors from which to choose. One of them should be perfect.

Have faith in this letter – it works. But beware! One parish broke the chain and got its old pastor back in less than three months.

Sincerely, Martin Woulfe

From Your ALUUC Board President (cont.)

with no container. Some have an aversion about being anywhere close to the death of another human. That unease is very real to those having it.

For me, such a memorial location and service has particular symbolic significance. My body is made up of atoms created inside long ago exploded stars. Those heavy atoms, as opposed to hydrogen and helium, traveled through space and got “caught” in the birth of our solar system and the Earth. My body has temporary use of these atoms; that stellar material that made me and made you. After I am dead, that stellar material will continue; will become the building blocks of other people.

I see symbolic meaning in this cycle of life experience. I understand how some people may see spiritual meaning; I do not. For me, there is no ethereal, otherworldly involvement. There is no supernatural consciousness of the material involved. But, the symbolism, for me, is a concrete expression of our seventh principle. By mixing my ashes with soil of the planet, we are showing respect and importance of the web of nature, and demonstrating we are a part of that web.

All the other six principles are abstractions. We can point to examples of how we affirm democracy, support equity, or encourage others (and ourselves) to grow. But the physical process of mixing my “star-stuff” material with other stellar material on the planet is a tangible expression of my unity with the universe.

Sincerely, Michael Plog
From Your Director of Religious Education

The 2013 Holiday Pageant committee is making a request for talented children who would be willing to perform for the pageant this year. Vocal, instrumental, or other performances are welcome. Rehearsals begin in November and will be held each Sunday during the regular RE class time. A "dress" rehearsal will be held Saturday, December 14th (time to be decided). The Holiday Pageant will be held Sunday, December 15 during church service. Those children interested should contact Kathy Schultz or Marla Johnson, DRE.

The committee is also looking for volunteers interested in helping with rehearsals, costumes, and other duties as assigned. Please, contact Kathy or Marla. Thank you.

Kids Club/District 12

Kids Club/District 12 will meet Friday, November 1 at 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the church. Kids Club will be celebrating the Day of the Dead. District 12 will be participating in activities to be decided upon. Please, RSVP to Marla Johnson, DRE at dre@aluuc.org.

Pastoral Care Notice:  Rev. Woulfe & Paul Oakley will be attending Prairie Group, a UU Minister’s study group, from 11/04 to 11/07. Please direct any pastoral care or concerns during that time to Delinda Chapman or Jodi Perko.

Rev. Mark Kiyimba wishes to extend his deep appreciation for the hospitality extended to him during his visit to Springfield, and he is most grateful for the collection taken during the October 20th service, which raised $1,032. That money will be used to support the two orphanages which he founded.
From Your Intern:

Universal Love and a Parable of Jesus
by Paul Oakley, Intern Minister

I am writing this month’s column after the March on Springfield. I marvel that we are at this point. Don’t Ask Don’t Tell and the Defense of Marriage Act are both relegated to a shameful chapter of our history, and marriage equality already is the law in fourteen states and the District of Columbia. As a young adult never could I have imagined this was possible.

As I carried the ALUUC banner at the march, I was grateful to see signs identifying other churches supporting equality and love. There were many from non-UU congregations. Many churches and other organizations from Chicago, sporting matching signs, really stood out: Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, United Church of Christ, Catholics and others.

I made my way through the crowd, talking with as many as I could who were holding these signs, thanking them for marching for justice and fairness. One Lutheran minister apologized to me that his denomination was so late to accept non-celibate LGBT clergy, so late to support marriage equality. It was genuine shame I saw on his face, a wish that his denomination had been on this journey toward justice as long as the UUA. I reminded him of a parable of Jesus, in which day laborers who worked the whole day and those who only worked a few hours received the same pay (Matthew 20:1-16). I told him that I was simply grateful that they are working with us now.

I was reminded that earlier in the month at a UU ministers retreat that Martin and I attended, the Rev. Debra Hafner, Director of the Religious Institute, had presented a series of challenging sessions on being sexually healthy – as individuals, as religious professionals, as congregations, as a denomination. In one workshop she let us know many ways in which Unitarian Universalism’s progress does not yet measure up to the steps several other religious groups have taken. I came back committed to examining our Safe Congregation policy to see how what we have can be enhanced.

In the “What Moves Us” class I started facilitating in mid-October, our first session focused on 18th-century Universalist preacher George de Benneville’s theology of universal love. We explored how it continues to resonate with us today despite ways we frame our insights differently than he did. One of de Benneville’s most dramatic experiences was waking up in his coffin two days after being declared dead. In those two days he had a near-death experience in which he saw heaven and hell so vividly that, on waking, he believed his happiness would be incomplete while one creature remained miserable. This commitment still moves us, as do its echoes through time: Emma Lazarus taught us that no one is truly free until everyone is free; and Australian aboriginal activist Lilla Watson famously told non-aboriginal activists that they could just go home if they were there to “help” aborigines, but if they were there because their own liberation was bound up with the aborigines’ liberation, then they could work together.

Allies for justice realize that they too will not be free until LGBT persons, persons of color, and all are equal before the law and in society. Let us continue to answer the call of Universal Love together.

Paul’s Office Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-3pm; and Sunday after coffee hour. Please call to schedule an evening appointment.
Sunday Morning Services

November 3, 2013

Samhain
Tracy Zieber & UU Pagans
Most people think of Halloween as an industry created holiday to drive up profit margins by selling candy and costumes, but its origins are rooted deeply in ancient Celtic spiritual practices. Many Pagans and spiritualists celebrate these roots by honoring the Beloved Dead at Samhain.

* Change for Change * Daylight Savings Time ends – “Fall Back” 1 hour!

November 10, 2013

Covenant? What does that mean?
Paul Oakley
Unitarian Universalism is a religion that isn't held together by everyone's believing the same thing. We have a wide variety of approaches to how we understand what is ultimate. What holds us together is our covenants, our promises to each other, our commitments in the world. What does this mean to our faith? Potluck after the service.

November 17, 2013

Assessing the Spirituality of the Sixties
Rev. Martin Woulfe
What a time it was, it was. Some said “God was Dead” while others followed The Grateful Dead; some found religious expression in the Civil Rights movement, others sought escape from a consumerist culture. It was an era of Vatican II, Vietnam, Civil Rights, assassinations, etc., – now, fifty years after the abrupt end of “Camelot,” are we ready to see clearly or do we as yet see through a glass darkly?

November 24, 2013

Thanksgiving
Rev. Martin Woulfe & Paul Oakley
This week’s service invites us to reflect upon gratitude and will include “A Litany of Thanksgiving,” the contents of which are contributed by members & friends. Guest at Your Table boxes will be distributed.

November 24, 2013

GSIA Thanksgiving Service at ALUUC 7 pm
Please join us as we host this special service, extending a warm welcome to our neighbors and their faith traditions. A special offering will be received to support a local charity.

December 1, 2013

My Favorite Scriptures
Rev. Martin Woulfe
Throughout his life, Rev. Woulfe has studied various scriptures from different traditions; there are several which are among his favorites, in terms of beauty and wisdom. He will share those and explain their relevance to his life and ministry.
SISTERS NEWSLETTER
The Sisters Newsletter is up and running. Anyone who wants to help with writing articles and stuff should be sure to contact Michele Stewart through sisters@aluuc.org

IMPORTANT DATE SAVER:
Marriage Equality Rallies at State Capitol on November 5 & 6
Join Us for the People of Faith Vigil at the Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday or Wednesday, Nov. 5th & 6th anytime between 10 am and 2 pm! Lieutenant Governor Shelia Simon will give us brief remarks during the NOON HOUR on Wednesday as we sing and make music! The following day on Nov 7th is the LAST DAY of the Session in 2013. Contact either Peggy Patty or Rev. Woulfe to help.

Join other UUs and SAME- Springfield Alliance for Marriage Equality in the Illinois Capitol Rotunda as we spread the LOVE! Contact Peggy Patty or Martin Woulfe.

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) is a national organization that is organized into regional chapters whose goal is to provide support for parents & friends of LGBT persons as well as for LGBT individuals. Some time ago, a previous local chapter existed, but has been disbanded. A new PFLAG group is open to all & welcomes your energy! This group meets on the third Monday—next meeting is November 18 at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Woulfe or Peggy Patty.

CIRCLE SUPPERS—Thank you to our Circle Suppers hosts: Nancy Standen, Randy and Sarah Eccles, Michael & Martha Plog and Jodi Perko. This year’s series of Circle Suppers will continue early next year.

Help Represent ALUUC at UIS’s International Fest on 11/15. UIS has invited us to share information about ALUUC & UUism at their International Fest “Passport to the World,” 5 – 8 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to practice your “elevator speech” and share why ALUUC is important to you. If you are interested in attending, please see Rev. Woulfe for details.

Mayor’s Community Prayer Breakfast  Tuesday, 11/19  7:30 am at the Hilton
Every year, members of Springfield’s various faith traditions gather in advance of Thanksgiving to share a breakfast and celebrate the diversity to be found among us. This year, for the first time, Rev. Martin Woulfe was on the steering committee. While November 19th is a work day, it is anticipated that hundreds will gather. Rev. Woulfe has reserved a table for members of ALUUC; the cost per ticket is $20; if you would like to purchase a ticket, please see him.
Hello ALUUC,
Marla and I have been running Third Sunday for the past two plus years. The program has grown over that time. We could use some additional volunteers to help keep it going. If you would like to get involved in this very worthwhile program, please contact one of us. The time commitment is small and the emotional reward, terrific!

In accordance with our first principle, ALUUC helps various charities in the Springfield area with donations of needed items, recycled items or cash. Every month we ask a local charity what they need, then we ask you to help by bringing donations to the service on the third Sunday of the month. A little bit goes a long way.

Victoria Vincent and Marla Johnson (treasurer@aluuc.net, cre@aluuc.net)

Essay Contest: Vinod Gupta has donated $250 as a prize for an essay contest. The contest will be open to middle school and high school students ages 12-18. The subject will be carrying on the legacy of Gandhi and ML King. The title Gandhi, ML King - me? What can I do to carry on their legacy today? Possible subject matter, school bullying, gang violence, gun control, war, etc. Essays will be due by Sunday, December 15, 2013, and the prize will be awarded on ML King Day. Try to keep the essays around 1000 words. Essays should be submitted to either Tom VonDeBur or Jackie Jackson.

The Greater Springfield Interfaith Association - GSIA Thanksgiving Service:
The Greater Springfield Interfaith Association will hold its 2013 worship service in celebration of Thanksgiving at ALUUC on Sunday, November 24 beginning at 7 pm. This annual event brings together representatives from many of community’s various faith traditions. The last time this was held here was in 2003. Our choir will participate, along with Rev. Woulfe & Paul Oakley. Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments afterwards & to help clean up. If you can help, please notify Rev. Woulfe.

Day After Thanksgiving Gathering

The ALUUC is again hosting a Post-Thanksgiving meal and afternoon social time for Members and Friends and their families on Friday, November 29, beginning @ 1:00 p.m. We will be sharing leftovers, watching movies, playing board games, or doing puzzles or crafts. It will be a potluck, so bring a dish or dessert to share.

Any questions, contact Diana or Kurt DeWeese.

Like us on Facebook! https://www.facebook.com/
Two more ways to get connected! Check us out at our page Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation and join the group of the same name for updates and special notices.
Voices From the Choir  by Tracy Zieber Minks

If anything can be said about me, it’s that I am a consistent person. Certain aspects of my life have always held fast: my insomnia, my love for animals, and my love for singing. According to my mother, I had insomnia even as a baby, but rather than cry I learned to sing to myself while in my crib. Of course, I’m sure it was mostly cooing and babbling for a long time, but eventually it gave way to humming and basic vowel sounds. As I learned to talk and string together sentences, I began learning bits and pieces of songs from the radio or from my mother, and when I could not sleep I would sing these phrases over and over to myself while sitting in my crib.

As I got older my love of music grew, as did my love for animals. I grew up on a working cattle farm, and I would roam the pastures with my father. I would sing to the cattle to help keep them calm when he had to treat them or give them injections. I learned how to hum to the horses to keep them steady when the farrier came to tend their hooves and replace their shoes. When I could not sleep at night, I would go to the barn or stables and sing old, familiar songs to the animals resting there for the night. If they minded my intrusion, none of them ever complained.

Now I am fortunate enough to have the ALUUC choir as a creative musical outlet and I am proud to join my voice to the others who sing on Sunday mornings. But it seems that I can’t quite get away from inflicting my insomnia driven musical bursts on my four-legged friends. I recently had a bout of sleeplessness and I figured, since I was awake, I might as well take the opportunity to practice some scales and vocal exercises to stretch my range. One of my cats disagreed. After struggling to reach a particularly high note, my cat finally jumped into my lap and knocked my headphones and computer away. I believe she thought the devices were torturing me and causing me to scream. Or perhaps she’s just more of a bass fan. I am glad, at least, that the choir and congregation seem more appreciative of my efforts than the cat was.

MUSIC COMMITTEE
The Music Committee meets on the fourth Sunday after the morning service. The next meeting will be Sunday, November 24, at 12:00 pm in the Fuller Room after the service. The stated purpose/goal of the committee is “to assist music staff and promote the healing ministry of music at ALUUC services and programs, in accordance with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles.”

Drum Circle for Adults at ALUUC on November 20th!
Join us for the Joy of Drumming on the third Wednesday of November from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at ALUUC! No experience necessary to get into the Rhythm of Life. Contact Peggy Patty or Diana DeWeese for more information. Beginners welcome!
Change for Change
Thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members and friends, $201.56 was collected for the Central Illinois Food Bank. The Social Action Committee has selected the Holiday Party for Foster Children at ALUUC as the November Change for Change recipient. Let’s do it again! Last year, thanks to the generosity of ALUUC members, the Holiday Party for children in foster care through CYFS (the Center for Youth and Family Solutions) was a ROARING SUCCESS! Gifts of good quality—that actually matched the children and teens’ wishes—and a lively party helped make a very difficult season far more cheerful for these young people and their foster families. Please help make the magic again through contributions to Change for Change and other means (see page 11 for more information).

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table
Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table - a decades-long UU tradition. By bringing home a beautiful Stories of Hope booklet and Guest at Your Table envelope, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action in the United States and around the world. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human rights leaders, UUSC promotes workers' rights, rebuilds sustainable communities, advances civil liberties, and heals people affected by disasters. Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human rights work continues. Please consider making a contribution that meets member benefit levels ($40 or more). Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from any government or denomination, your support and membership are vitally important.

We will open our Guest at Your Table program on Sunday, November 24 with an intergenerational program coordinated by our RE Director, Marla Johnson. Make sure to pick up your Stories of Hope booklet and envelope. If you prefer, you can make your contribution directly online at http://www.uusc.org/guest.

Our 2013 holiday cards are here!
The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a variety of designs — including brand-new ones (Peace on Earth and Holiday Children) and best-selling favorites (Rainbow Pines and Be the Light) — and discounted assortment packs. And as always we have a variety of past year’s designs available while supplies last. Check out all of the designs and buy them today in UUSC’s store.

Looking for unique holiday gifts?
Check out all of the new products (we've added hundreds!) available for sale directly at http://shop.uusc.org New categories — like Fair Foods, Eco-Apparel, Sustainable Home, Natural Wellness, and more — make it easy to find just what you are looking for. Besides creating a dialogue about products for sustainable living and living wages for workers, buying these ethically sourced goods support our vital human rights work around the globe. UUSC is fully committed to ethical production. Whenever possible, we use materials that are sweatshop-free, union- or cooperative-made, and environmentally sustainable. In this way, we put our social justice principles into action and directly participate in shaping a new economy that relies on solidarity and cooperation, not exploitation.

Who will Create this Year’s Directory?
Do you have strong editorial skills and like to organize data and photos? How would you like to be in charge of the 2013-14 ALUUC Friend & Member Directory. We own the software, which is easy to use – but we need to update photos and information. Can you do this? Please contact Rev. Woulfe for more information.
**New to UU Class**

Have you been attending ALUUC and feel this should be your “spiritual home”? Would you like to learn more about UUism and this congregation? Please sign up for an informal session on Monday, November 11, 7 pm and meet other new people, as well as Rev. Woulfe and our Membership Coordinator, Susan Solon. All are welcome. Please sign up on the sheet posted by the water fountain. Child care will be provided upon request.

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**The prairie is right on schedule!**  
First, we are seeing dandelions, goldenrod and other pioneer plants—plants that have evolved over time to take advantage of disturbed soils. Sometimes we call them weeds, because we don’t want them in our gardens, but they are filling a special role in nature by colonizing bare or empty ground. This past summer, we dug out some non-native, invasive pioneers like thistles and sweet clover, so they will not be an ongoing problem. As time passes, we will see nature taking its course as more prairie plants that need less disturbed soil begin to flourish. Already we are seeing many prairie species bloom, including nodding wild onion, blazing star, black eyed Susans, purple coneflowers, and penstemons. Donated root stock of several more flowering species was planted last spring and a few more will be added this fall.

Some seeds did not germinate last year, because it was too dry. So, they bided their time until more favorable conditions and began to sprout this year. These are plants like prairie dock and compass plant that are present but will take several years to bloom. They are sending their roots deep into the earth—sometimes eight feet or more. In the next several years, six feet shoots with pretty yellow flowers will grace the summer landscape.

Many prairie plants have these extremely deep roots, which over thousands of years—by their living and dying—have helped make Illinois soil one of the most fertile soils in the world. Deep roots are an adaptation to fire, which Native Americans periodically set to freshen the prairie grasses for game. Fire is necessary for the maintenance of prairies, killing off less fire adapted species and burning the winter remains of prairie plants. The ash, then, returns nutrients to the soil. This fall or winter, we will provide the same services as the Native Americans by burning off the prairie when the conditions are right.

ALUUC members planted this prairie for the many benefits it bestows. Some benefits are practical such as not having to expend gas and time mowing the area now in prairie. The prairie also provides flowers for the altar, a place for reflection and meditation as well as habitat for insects, animals and birds—habitat that our cultivated landscapes of corn, soybeans and even gardens do not provide. Our prairie will never duplicate the original prairie ecosystem that covered much of Illinois 150 years ago, but it can provide an opportunity for children and adults to observe and learn from the “Web of Nature” espoused in the UU Seven Principles, a web which we celebrate and respect.

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**Labyrinth Walk, Oneness Blessing, and Communion**

A Labyrinth Walk will take place on Friday, November 15 at 7 p.m. at the ALUUC. Walking the labyrinth is an ancient practice—older than most religions—and is a wonderful way to center.

Labyrinth walks have grown in popularity not only among UUs, but among other faith traditions as well. Our labyrinth has been in use longer than most in central Illinois: come see why. Adding to the spiritual depth of the experience, John Malan and Carley Mattimore-Malan will be offering a Oneness Blessing to participants. A UU Communion will be celebrated afterwards. Future dates are: 2013 is December 20; and 2014 dates are 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18, 5/16 and 6/20.
Holiday Party for Foster Children at ALUUC: Third Sunday and Change for Change

Thanks to your generosity, the foster children under the care of the Center for Youth and Family Solutions (CYFS) had a WONDERFUL holiday party at ALUUC last year! We have been hearing positive feedback all year from kids, foster parents, and staff. Everybody felt welcome and comfortable, the kids were thrilled with the gifts, and thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere. For once, the teens were not short-changed, either! (And for some children, these were actually the only toys/best toys they received.)

Everybody is already excited about the Holiday Party 2013! CYFS has had an enormous turnover in foster children this year, particularly through adoption and new cases, and currently serves 90-odd children. Turnout at the party last year broke records, and we expect even more this year!

Can you help us give a repeat performance? Toys for Tots hasn't had an opening for a new organization, so we are counting on raising funds and collecting presents through other venues. Again, we would love to focus on honoring the teens with gift cards (Target is preferred but also feel free to ask a teen's advice).

The younger children are all asked what they would like from Santa, and we try to accommodate; we welcome any amount in cash, checks (made out to ALUUC, note - CYFS), and gift cards (Target or Toys R US) so we can shop for them, or the donation of popular toys. Examples are: Unwrapped, new Nerf balls, musical toys, stuffed animals, building/stacking toys, cars, trucks, Legos, soccer balls, basketballs, dolls and accessories (especially strollers and beds), play kitchens and accessories, push toys, purses and clothes for dress up, and craft items.

Last year, we had some theme baskets to raffle, and they were a huge success, so we would be happy to continue that new tradition!

Although the party is not open to all, there is a need for a few volunteers, especially to help kids at craft tables, and for set-up and clean-up. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Manthei (she will have a confidentiality agreement for you to sign).

Again, thank you very much for your generosity and support!

Prairie Grapevine Concert

Steve and Cindy have been performing together for over 20 years, bringing together their love of traditional music and their wealth of original songs. Accompanying themselves with guitars and concertinas, their live performances are known for rich harmony, compelling songs and a good dose of humor. Their five duet albums have appeared on many folk Top Ten lists, from the WFMT Midnight Special (Chicago) to The Boston Globe. Steve Gillette has been writing songs since the 1960's.

For more information, go to:
http://www.prairiegrapevine.org/
**Springfield Overflow Shelter**

Once again this year, ALUUC will be serving meals to the homeless at the Springfield Overflow Shelter (SOS) on the first Sunday of each month November through March. We are contracting with Arena Food Services who is giving us their same great price per meal. We are so pleased to announce that we collected $812 on Sunday, October 13 for SOS. Thank you to all who participated in this collection. If you were not with us on October 13, but would like to donate to this important activity of ALUUC, please make out a check to ALUUC with SOS written on the "memo" line. If you are interested in helping serve, please contact Delinda Chapman. Thank you to all who make these meals possible for the homeless in our community.

**Foster/Adoption Interest Group: All Our Kids (A-OK)**

A-OK is an ALUUC interest group for people who were, themselves, fostered/adopted; have ever fostered/adopted children; are interested in fostering/adoption; have birth children who are/were fostered/adopted; who have an intellectual or academic interest in fostering/adoption; who might like to provide support for foster/adoptive families; who just want to. For now, we meet during potlucks (second Sundays) around 12:15--bring your food to the Fuller Room (just past the nursery). Also, feel free to contact Jennifer Manthei for more information (please enter “All Our Kids” or "A-OK" in the subject line of your email).

**Movie Night Sunday, November 17, 6 pm  “The Impossible”**

This 2012 film is based on the true story of one family’s amazing tale of survival in Thailand during the calamitous “Christmas Tsunami” of 2004.

Rated PG-13. Refreshments are provided.

**Game Night**

6:00PM, Friday, November 8th. Pizza, snacks, sweet treats, board games, hot cocoa, BYOB. The usual. See Susan Solon for more information or email her at welcome@aluuc.org.

**Mexican Train Raffle**

Thank you to everyone who bought a ticket for a chance to win a deluxe edition of “Mexican Train.” The lucky winner was Jan Droegkamp.

**Welcome New Member**

We welcome Brie Urbanec, who signed the membership book on October 27.

**Internship Commissioning Service on November 10**

Please join us as Paul Oakley is officially welcomed as our intern during 2013-14.

**Milestones:**

Ken Sibley is moving to the Soldiers & Sailors home in Quincy.

Long time member Clara Lily White has returned home. Clara Lily has been a member here since 1966. Please keep her, and her family, in your thoughts and prayers.

Tom Vaught’s daughter Laura Vaught and David Phaneuf will be married on November 2.
Ministerial Stipend Update:
Thank you to all who have contributed towards the special intern minister’s stipend fund drive, as authorized by the Congregation on September 15. To date, nearly $7,500 has been received and an additional $400.00 has been pledged. Our hope is to raise between $5,000 and $15,000 to support Paul Oakley during 2013-2014 as he serves as our full time intern. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send or drop off a check made out to ALUUC with “intern fund” written in the memo line and give it to the Treasurer.

ALUUC "Stands On the Side of Love" at the Marriage Equality March with Thousands of Other Illinoisans!

Awesome attendance from UUs around Illinois who traveled to Springfield for the Marriage Equality March & Rally at the Capitol on October 22nd! Around two hundred UUs were present representing twenty three UU congregations at the March on this social justice issue!

ALUUC hosted a lunch for approximately one hundred of these hearty souls. Tracy Zeiber-Minks did a great job organizing the food for the lunch. We thank these great cooks and kitchen volunteers: Diana DeWeese, Kurt DeWeese, Marissa DeWeese, Jan Droegkamp, Peggy Fenley, Greg Greeley, Leroy Jordan, Phyllis Lau, Vicki Lock, Peggy Patty, Robyn Nation, Dianne Roberts, Dave Stewart, Tom Vaught and Tracy Zieber-Minks.

Kurt DeWeese organized shuttles from ALUUC to the March site for the out of town UU members to use. Peggy Patty organized a "Jammin for Justice" Drum group that helped provide drumming as the March began around the Capitol. These fifteen drummers had lots of fun sending out the "rhythm of love" to the crowd...Phyllis Lau, Diana DeWeese, Buffy Lael, Dave Steward, Kathy Schultz, Terri Woodliff, Tracy Zeiber-Minks, Tina Bennett, Debbie Czarnopys-White, Ruth Souther, Beverly Overline, Jean Ferritier, Claudia Dedaultillos, Tracy Owens, and Peggy Patty.

Rev. Woulfe spoke at the March comprising approximately three thousand supporters! Beside him on the March stage were several dozen clergy including ten UU ministers from Illinois holding the huge "Standing On the Side of Love" banner. The crowd was so appreciative of the UU clergy presence on this important justice issue! It was a Beautiful Day!

2013 Trash and Treasure Sale (cont. from page 14.)

Delinda Chapman, Kurt DeWeese, Mary Salisbury, Kathy Schultz, Ken Watson, Kathy Whitworth, Penny Wollan-Kriel, Jodi Perko, Paul Oakley, Fred Dietz, Joellyn Vondebur, Brian Otwell, and Vinnie Gupta.

Thank you to the Salvation Army crew who came and took what was left!!

Thank you, Thank you everyone! Diana DeWeese, 2013 Trash and Treasure Sale Chair
2013 Trash and Treasure Sale

The 2013 Trash and Treasure Sale is over!!! Once all the checks have been processed we will have raised over $6,000!

We have two items that may be purchased through our “Virtual Trash and Treasure Sale”. Posey Robertson has donated a patio set – table, 6 chairs and umbrella, brand name is Tropitone. My online research determined it’s probably worth several thousand dollars new. We are asking $900.

Mary Ryan has an Acrosonic - Baldwin piano for sale for $200. The "E" key in the middle of the keyboard needs to be repaired. Whoever buys it will have to drive to Jacksonville to pick it up. Mary will donate the purchase price to the Trash and Treasure Sale. If you are interested please call Mary, her phone number is in the church directory.

Thank you to our donors. I was really impressed with the quality of the items in the sale. I also want to thank everyone who shopped before and during the sale. By Thursday night, we raised almost $900 in sales to our volunteers.

Thank you to Kathy Rem for arranging our media advertising again this year.

Thank you to Nancy Standen and her team of cooks who prepared a hearty meal for the workers for the past 7 days. We were grateful for every spoonful we ate. Thank you: Nancy Standen, Tom Vaught, Susan Solon, Pat Goller, Beverly Holmes, Delinda Chapman, Peggy Fenley, Mary Ryan, Greg Greeley, Vicki Lock, Jack Kriel, and Ann Casey. I think Nancy was there nearly every day making fresh bread for the volunteers! YUM!

Thank you to Marissa and Kurt DeWeese for their help in making our large canvas signs, to Michael Wyker, Tracy Zieber, Melissa Bernhardt, Kurt DeWeese and Jim Custer for their help in putting up those signs. Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Krell, who live on Woodside Road, for allowing us to put one those signs in their yard.

Thank you to Kathy McKamey for storing our risers each year. Thank you to our volunteers who showed up at the AAUW Books Sale and gleaned through their books and packed up over 20 boxes of books for our sale: Art Darken, Susan Solon, Mark Hanson, Martin Woulfe, Evan Withers, Marissa and Kurt DeWeese.

Thank you to Posey Robertson and her family, Clara Lily White and her family and Kurt DeWeese’s mother’s family for their significant donations of furniture, house wares and treasures.

Thank you to Gwen Childs for her guidance and wisdom and in particular for her long hours of work in housewares and furniture. I would not want to do a sale without her. Thank you to Tracy Zieber and Martin Woulfe who were there every day and who gladly did all that was asked of them.

Thank you to Renata and Heiko for taking care of the Treasures room again. I estimate that 20% of the income from sales came from the Treasures room. Thank you to Art Darken and Virginia Forrer, who again did a great job in books. They worked nearly every day and apologized when they couldn’t! Thank you to Eugena Austin for taking charge of Children’s clothing and Dianne Roberts for taking charge of Children’s Toys and Books.

For picking up furniture, tables and risers, thanks to David Braddock, Greg Greeley, Paul Oakley, Vicki Gardner, Kurt DeWeese, and Randy Pratt. Thank you to Cherry Hills Baptist Church for loaning us 20 tables again this year.

Thank you to everyone who worked during the 7 days – from setup to prep to sale to cleanup. Several of you worked multiple shifts and I thank you for giving that much of your time to the sale. Thanks to Kerri Skrudland, Kelly Anderson, Mary Ryan, Maria Radosta, Stewart Jacobson, Mark Hanson, Greg Greeley, Susan Solon, Martin Woulfe, Tabitha Bernhardt, Jim Custer, Peggy Patty, Phyllis Lau, Marissa DeWeese, Terri Woodliff, Gwen Childs, Kent Childs, David Stewart, Michele Stewart, Mindy Miller, Evan Withers, Jan Droegkamp, Scott Marlow, Nancy Derrig, Eugena Austin & girls, Tracy Zieber, Virginia Forrer, Renata and Heiko Buchloh, Dianne Roberts, Art Darken, Tom Vaught, Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Kurt DeWeese, Evan Withers, Carol Kneedler, Pat Goller, Randy Pratt, Buffy Lael, Neha Patel, Martha Plog,
**DREAM GROUP**

This group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7 pm. This is an opportunity for folks to discuss their dreams in a relaxed, friendly and informal setting. The discussion format uses tested procedures for lay dream-groups. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information about the group and meeting location please contact Phil Gregg.

**HUMANIST GROUP**

The Humanist Group emphasizes core values such as dignity of the individual, equality, and social justice. We discuss a variety of topics including morality/ethical values, humanism as way of life, separation of church and state, science/evolution/neuroscience, behavioral economics and progressive politics. Programs have usually focused on book reviews or media presentations followed by group discussion; but other formats can be considered. Volunteers in the future are encouraged.

The next meeting will be on November 25th at 7:00PM in the ALUUC Sanctuary. Vi Lanum will be reviewing the film "Swing Vote" (2008; starring Kevin Costner), using the film as a stepping-off point to discuss voter apathy; the role of the media in elections; the effect of lobbyists, polling, "spin doctors", market research, crisis management, and other aspects of the modern election process. "Swing Vote" is the story of a presidential election that comes down to one man (Costner).

For a brief review by Roger Ebert, see: [http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/swing-vote-2008](http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/swing-vote-2008); for a trailer, see: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWodSDYgfXA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWodSDYgfXA).

The Humanist Group will not meet in December, but will meet again on January 27th. Tom Solon will lead a discussion on the latest edition of the "Seven Up" series, "56 Up". This ground-breaking documentary series by British filmmaker Michael Apted chronicles the lives of several British citizens from the age of seven onwards, highlighting how their socioeconomic class has impacted their lives. This latest edition of the series is available online at PBS until November 13. See: [http://www.pbs.org/pov/56up/](http://www.pbs.org/pov/56up/).

If you have questions about the group, please contact Frank Kopecky or Carol Floyd (HumanistGroup@aluuc.org).

**NEWS GROUP**

The News Group meets on the first Thursday of each month. Join us at 7:00 P.M. on November 7 at Frank and Linda Kopecky's home. Call the Kopecky's if you have any questions. Everyone is welcome.

**BOOK GROUP**

The Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Join us on November 26 at 7:30 P.M. at Barbara Moore's home to discuss *Catcher in the Rye* by J. D. Salinger. Everyone is welcome. Call Barbara Moore at if you have questions. Future books we will read include *Dear Life: Stories* by Alice Munro, *The Centaur* by John Updike, *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy, *Orphan Train* by Christine Baker Kline, *Flashback* by Nevada Barr, *In the Electric Mist With Confederate Dead* by James Lee Burke, and *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls* by David Sidaris.

**THE SPANISH CLUB**

The Spanish Club will not meet in November.

**THE PAGAN GROUP**

The Pagan Group will have a planning meeting Sunday, November 10 at 12:30 pm in the Emerson Room. Contact Tracy Zieber-Minks by phone or email aluucpagans@gmail.com for more information.

**THE GRACE MUTUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

The group will not be meeting until 2014. This group is open to people who have had to struggle with the effects of illness and other serious problems. We hope that by sharing our experiences and coping strategies we will be able to help each other. Everyone is welcome. Contact Cathy McKamey for more information.
November 2013

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<th>Sun</th>
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<td>6pm Kids Club</td>
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<td>10:30 am Change for Change 12:00 pm Personnel Committee</td>
<td>*7 pm Dream Group</td>
<td>6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7 pm Meditation</td>
<td>7 pm Meditation</td>
<td>6 pm Game Night</td>
<td>9:00 am Zen Meditation</td>
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<td>12 pm Potluck 12:15 pm A-OK Mtg 12:30 pm Pagan Mtg.</td>
<td>Veterans’ Day</td>
<td>7 pm Board Mtg, 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>6 pm “What Moves Us”</td>
<td>6 pm Wedding Rehearsal 7 pm Meditation</td>
<td>7 pm Labyrinth Walk</td>
<td>9:00 am Zen Meditation</td>
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<td>3rd Sunday 12 pm Committees Meet 12 pm SAC</td>
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<td>4:30 pm Private rental 7:30 pm Prairie Grapevine Concert</td>
<td>6 pm “What Moves Us” 6:30 pm Drums</td>
<td>7 pm Meditation 7:30 pm Men’s Group</td>
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<td>9:00 am Zen Meditation</td>
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<td>1:00 pm After Thanksgiving potluck &amp; games</td>
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*Don’t Forget to “Fall Back!”*
Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday, November 2: be sure to set your clocks back one hour before bedtime!

* indicates event takes place off-site.
# Contact Information

## Clergy:
- **Minister**: Rev. Martin Woulfe
- **Minister Emeritus**: Rev. Berkley Moore
- **Intern**: Paul Kent Oakley

## Staff:
- **Office Manager**: Cheryl Wycoff
- **RE Director**: Marla Johnson
- **Membership Coordinator**: Susan Solon
- **Music/Pianist**: Bonnie Ettinger

## Board of Directors:
- **President**: Michael Plog
- **Vice President**: Peggy Patty
- **Treasurer**: Victoria Vincent
- **Secretary**: Eugena Austin

## Committees of the Congregation
- **Committee on Ministry**: Dianne Roberts
- **Nominating Committee**: Berkley Moore
- **Endowment Trust**: Jeff Bennett

## Committees of the Board
- **Electronics & Communication**: Jerrid Foiles
- **Newsletter**: Cheryl Wycoff
- **Webmaster**: Carol Kneedler
- **Facilities**: Kent & Gwen Childs
- **Aesthetics**: Gwen Childs
- **Flower**: Vi Lanum
- **Fellowship**: Kurt DeWeese
- **Finance**: Meg Evans & Art Darkin
- **Green Sanctuary**: Susan Solon
- **Welcoming & Publicity**: Delinda Chapman
- **Pastoral Care**: Ed & Kathy Schultz
- **Program**: Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant
- **Religious Education (RE)**: SAC@aluuc.org
- **Social Action**: (217) 585-9550
Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation
745 Woodside Road
Springfield, Illinois 62711
217-585-9550

Visit us on the web at www.aluuc.org

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The Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation

congregation and the people who make it so special. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our community together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our community together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our community together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our community together for spiritual growth and fellowship. Whether you're looking for a church to call home or just curious about Unitarian Universalism, we invite you to get to know our community together for spiritual growth and fellowship. 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