In the Interim
Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran

In February a minister’s fancy lightly turns to thoughts of . . . no, not Valentines, though that is a close second. For most of my 27 years of ministry, February has been time for launching the (shhhhh) Operating Canvass. The time in the year when (gasp) the church takes a hard look at reality and says, oops, I guess we can’t run on air, or on good wishes.

But February is also the month when we celebrate Valentine’s Day. Last year I saw it billed as “Valentine’s Day” and today “Valentine’s Month” garnered over 5 million hits on Google. We’re told that over 190 million Valentines are exchanged, and that’s just counting the kind you buy in the store. Most are given to members of our own families . . . leading me to ponder the need to be generous with caring and exuberant with giving when it comes to the places that matter to us, too. Yes, places. Communities. Congregations. This church.

Let me be direct. It takes close to $2,000 per day to do what we do at Eliot Chapel. If you want to do more . . . to add staff, or increase programming, or take better care of the facilities, or contribute fairly to our UU movement . . . you see where I’m going?

It’s no secret. While volunteering is the much-appreciated lifeblood of the church, it isn’t sufficient. Eliot Chapel can’t run on air, or on good wishes. What Eliot needs is generosity of spirit and exuberance of giving. What Eliot needs is . . . you.

This “Valentine’s Month,” I urge you to consider not just the people you love, but values you affirm, and the communities that nurture and challenge you to keep those values alive. Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of The Little Prince, said that “Life teaches us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward in the same direction.”

When you are asked (and you will be) to make a financial pledge to the 2013-14 Operating Canvass, please consider a commitment that is just a little more generous than you thought you could be. Together, we can change the world, one act of generosity at a time.

Blessings,
~ Maureen

email: mkilloran@eliotchapel.org
Eliot Chapel Bad Weather Policy

It is the policy of Eliot Chapel to serve the mission of the church by being open and available on Sundays mornings, weekdays, and at other times when programs are scheduled. However, on rare occasions, extreme weather conditions may require the cancellation of scheduled Chapel activities in the interests of public safety.

If travel advisories have been issued by state and/or local government asking that people stay off the roads and not drive, all activities are automatically cancelled and Eliot will close. If the Lead Minister or his or her delegate conclude that road conditions or other weather-related consequences present a danger to travelers, Eliot will close.

In the event the decision is made to close Eliot and cancel events, the recording on the Chapel voicemail system will be changed and a notice posted on the home page of the website. Staff scheduled to work at that time will be notified by telephone, by their immediate supervisor. In extreme weather conditions, Sunday morning volunteers should check the Chapel’s voice mail and/or website.

All members, friends, and staff are urged to use discretion when making choices about traveling in times of hazardous weather conditions.

Youth Group Shines Focus on Humane Society

Our shared offering for February has been chosen by the Fifth and Sixth Grade Youth Group, and will go to support the work of the Humane Society of Missouri, enabling them to care for the many animal companions in our community. Since 1870, the Humane Society has educated pet owners about proper care, found pets new homes, and investigated cases of animal cruelty. Since 1870, the Humane Society of Missouri has been dedicated to second chances. They provide a safe and caring haven to all animals in need - large and small - that have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Their mission is to end the cycle of abuse and pet overpopulation through rescue and investigation efforts, spay/neuter programs and educational classes. They are committed to creating lasting relationships between people and animals through adoption programs. They further support that bond by making available world-class veterinary care, and outstanding pet obedience and behavior programs. They are also a valuable partner for the Eliot Chapel RE program, joining with the 5th and 6th grade youth group in their current study of how to live out UU principles by the way we care for animals. The youth group will be taking a field trip there this month, and then starting service projects to help the Humane Society. Thank you for your generous support.

As a result of our shared offering, Eliot has given a total of $8,589 to organizations so far this fiscal year. Thank you for your generosity.
Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of a Search

You may have noticed that your Ministerial Search Committee has largely disappeared by the time you read this newsletter. Rest assured we have not been abducted, but have enthusiastically entered the interview process for your next settled minister. Since we have done this once before, there is both a sense of deja-vu and also the thrill of the newness in meeting another group of talented, passionate ministers. It is also a reminder of our strong belief that our next settled minister needs to know of the congregation’s generosity and support of its ministries with a successful canvass this year. For other encouraging news, please check out the bulletin board display for the Search outside of the Sanctuary on your way into Adams Hall. This contains the last few pages of the packet ministers reviewed to assess Eliot. The pages show the many positive and wonderful steps we have taken over the last couple of years to be a vibrant, generous, justice-minded congregation and the vision for Eliot’s future.

In reviewing our newsletter article from last February, we felt it would be a great idea for the congregation to be reminded of the “Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How” of our search.

The “W’s and H” of the ministerial search:

**Why?** Because, as of early January, we have selected four excellent pre-candidates for our settled minister position!

**Who** are they? While we cannot break confidentiality and give names or details about our pre-candidates, we can tell you that each has exciting and unique gifts to offer Eliot.

**How** do we know this? We have already had engaging phone conversations with each pre-candidate, much reference checking, and in-depth looks into each candidate’s background and ministry. Now we have invited four to separate pre-candidating weekends for a face-to-face interview.

**What** goes into each of these interviews? Each pre-candidate arrives and meets the MSC at an informal evening dinner. The next couple of days are reserved for formal interviewing and for pre-candidates to get to know the MSC, Kirkwood, and the St. Louis community. The search committee also has an opportunity to see each candidate preach at a neutral pulpit. The interview format and content are worked out cooperatively with each prospective minister, but each interview includes the following elements:

- Discussion of minister’s professional history — including any statement or questions from the search committee as well as those from the candidate.
- Discussion of the alignment of their ministry with Eliot’s mission.
- Discussion of important areas of church life. Time is allowed in each area for questions from the candidate as well as the committee. Areas covered include: theology, pastoral care, and worship; leadership and lay leadership development and roles; religious education; stewardship; social justice and community work. The Search Committee has prepared questions for each area to be used as guidelines.

**When and Where** does all this take place? Platform 9 ¾? Down the rabbit hole? The merry old land of Oz? No, but we must maintain confidentiality for both our congregation and our pre-candidates so the names and dates of our pre-candidates’ interviews will remain private. We can say that we are taking much of the next month or so for these interviews, and we appreciate your patience in the process. You will know the results of this search sometime in late March or early April.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Service,
The Ministerial Search Committee

Jan Erdman, Ted Lau, Kevin Mitchell, Jordi Prats, Trina Priese, Amy Stark, Julie Triplett

email: eliotsearch@eliotchapel.org
**In Touch with RE**

As children, my sister and I often immersed ourselves in board games, many of which are still in my Dad’s house awaiting my niece’s discovery. One game we used to play was Guess Who, a game where one must identify who different folks are based on various clues.

So what does Guess Who have to do with the Religious Education program? During the upcoming months, quite a bit actually. As elementary kids wrap up their 16-week units on the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith curriculum, they’ll soon be introduced to a variety of figures from the Jewish and Christian scriptures, one of the six sources the UU faith draws from. Who are some of these folks they’ll be able to “identify” in the coming weeks?

- **Queen Esther**, an important female figure in the Hebrew Scriptures and a model of courage and wisdom.
- **Daniel**, and how his faith helped him overcome a significant obstacle involving a particular feline species.
- **King David**, a symbol of courage who had to overcome bullying.
- **Jesus**, the most significant figure in Christianity.
- **And many more.** Check out the updated curriculum material on the church website to learn more.

And later this spring, Kindergarten-2nd grade will experience stories and insights from Hinduism and Buddhism, two world religions which inspire many UU’s in their ethical and spiritual life, while 3rd & 4th graders explore fables and sacred stories from around the world through an exciting curriculum, Chalice Theater, which uses drama to provide “entertainment and epiphany” to kids and leaders alike. And do you know what else is so special about Chalice Theater? It was authored by Eliot member **Steven Mead**, who also serves as the D.R.E. at First Unitarian Church of Alton. I am delighted to call him a colleague and friend.

See you at Eliot,
Scott

~ Scott Stewart,
Director of Religious Education

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**Youth Coffeehouse**

Come one, come all. Don’t miss the annual Children’s & Youth Coffeehouse on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This is one of the most popular family events of the year and is great fun for Eliot folks of all ages. All children and youth in grades K-12 are encouraged to sign up to perform their special talent (singing, playing instruments, dancing, reading, comedy, improvisation, etc.), and Eliot folks are encouraged to attend and enjoy an evening of fun, fellowship, and delicious desserts. Kids, you can sign up to perform, either individually or with friends, by contacting Christie Lee at christie@eliotchapel.org no later than Sunday, February 3.

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**In Sympathy**

Our condolences to Eliot families who have lost loved ones recently:

- Joan Lepchenske, whose mother Rose Schumacher died on December 27.
- Donna Bossow and her husband Donald Lueders. Their brother-in-law, Kenneth Judson, died on December 28.
- The family of Mary Feagan. Her sister, Ann Feagan Nord, died on January 11 in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Laurie, John, Henry and Sophie Chappell. Laurie’s mother, Joan Baumgartner, passed away on January 16.
Music Notes

Friends of Music
Present a free, classical music concert on **Sunday, Feb. 3** at 3:00 pm at Eliot. The program will include Madeline Kaufman, soprano, accompanied by Joanne Cruickshank, piano, performing arias and songs representing strong female characters by Mozart, Donizetti, Sir Arthur Sullivan, Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein. Also featured will be Angie Smart, violin, accompanied by Chiann-yi Yawitz, piano, playing Johannes Brahms' Sonata #3 in D minor and Antonio Bazzini’s “Round of the Goblins.” Learn more about Friends of Music at [www.fomcstl.org](http://www.fomcstl.org).

February Music Highlights
**Sunday, Feb. 3:** Leon Burke will inspire us by singing some of his favorites.
**Sunday, Feb. 10:** Youth Sunday - Eliot’s youth will be providing all music for their worship services.
**Sunday, Feb. 17:** our special music will include Michele Isam (sax and vocals) and Billy Engel (guitar and vocals) with Ric Vice on bass and Clancy Newell on drums.

Music Sunday is Coming
The choirs and musicians are preparing for Music Sunday on March 3. The focus this year will be on “PEACE.”

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News From the Board of Trustees

The Board’s new year began with a retreat to develop our skills in preparing and directing linkage events and also in drafting interpretations of our policies for monitoring purposes. There was much discussion and sharing of ideas. We received a pat on the back from our facilitator as we drilled down to a deeper level of thought and introspection than most Boards with whom she has worked. If you check out the Board Bits on the Eliot Chapel website, there will be more explanation of these and other Board processes and how they are important to the governance of Eliot Chapel.

In an effort to learn more about where you, the congregation, see Eliot Chapel in the future and how the Board can work to meet that vision, we invite you to our last two linkage events of this year. They relate to our last two ends statements. The linkage event for End statement #4 (experiencing the spiritual journey and reverence for the natural world) will be **Sunday, Feb. 17** at 12:30 pm, and the linkage event for End statement #5 (through Eliot’s actions the wider community understands UU values and their roles in the betterment of community) will be on **Sunday, March 10**, also at 12:30 pm. Both events will be in rooms 001/002. We look forward to seeing you there.

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Thanks for Inviting A Guest At Your Table
A special thanks to everyone who contributed to the 2012 **Guest at Your Table** offering. Eliot members and friends of all ages contributed $1,036.31 in support of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s human rights efforts. A special thanks to Anne Meneely and Mary Lu Durbin for tabulating this year’s offering.
serving a community that relies on her wisdom and advice, Marilyn struggles quietly with decisions about her own future. As she seeks to reconcile the commitments of her profession with a longing for intimacy and love, childhood memories of mental illness and alcoholism come to the surface and must be dealt with before she can move forward.

Join Rev. Maureen in Adams Hall to see this compelling 90-minute view of “ministry from the inside out.” Discussion follows. Sign up in the hall outside the Sanctuary, or contact the office at 314-821-0911 or reserve your spot by emailing frontoffice@eliotchapel.org.

SOUL REPAIR:
Book Discussion Group with Rev. Maureen

When a society sends men and women off to war, it must accept responsibility for returning them home to peace. Veterans make up 7% of the US population but account for an alarming 20% of all suicides, a rate which is increasing. In their new book Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury after War, Rita Nakashima Brock and Gabriella Lettini Brock address this issue based on their direct work with vets. They explore what moral injury looks like, how vets cope with it, and what can be done to heal the damage inflicted on soldiers’ consciences. The book tells the stories of four veterans of wars from Vietnam to current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also explores the effects of war on families and communities, and the community processes that have gradually helped soldiers with their moral injuries.

Rev. Maureen invites you to read this important book along with her over four Thursdays in March (March 7, 14, 21, 28) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Junior High Room.

As a participant, you are expected to purchase your own copy of the book, to read between 30 and 50 pages each week, and to bring your copy of the book with you each week. The class will be offered if between 8 and 15 people sign up. You may register for the class by signing on the sheet on the bulletin board between the Sanctuary and Adams Hall, or on the new bulletin board in the foyer. You may also contact the front office at frontoffice@eliotchapel.org or 314-821-0911 to register.

Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War was published by the UU publishing house, Beacon Press, in 2012.
Is It Time For You to Join Eliot Chapel?

You've been attending Eliot Chapel for a while. You've either taken an introductory class, or visited with a minister, or read materials about Unitarian Universalism. You are supporting (or are ready to support) the church financially within your means. Now it's time to consider stepping up to Membership. We'd love to welcome YOU into the Eliot family. The Membership Book will be open after both services on February 3, and on the first Sunday of every month throughout the year. Please contact Debbie Ross at membership@eliotchapel.org or Rev. Maureen at mkilloran@eliotchapel.org if you'd like more information. We welcome the following individuals who joined the Eliot community in January: Beth Curtiss, Linda Anderson, Holly Little, Pamela Kuehn, Patricia Parker, Ellen Keller, Sarah Mason, Brian Mason and Carol Connor.

Interested in Membership? Plan to attend

“Introduction to Our Faith”
Saturday, February 16
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
In Adams Hall

Join Rev. Maureen Killoran for a more intimate look at Unitarian Universalism – its history, its meaning and its relevance in today’s world. Lay leaders will be on hand to share some of the history of Eliot Chapel and to take you on a story-filled tour of our building. Your questions are an important part of the experience. This program will be particularly helpful to those who are new to our faith or are seeking membership and greater involvement in the Eliot community, but long-time members who would like a refresher are welcome too!

Lunch and refreshments are provided and childcare is available. Please reserve your space no later than Friday, February 8. You may sign up on the bulletin board between the Sanctuary and Adams Hall, email membership@eliotchapel.org, or call the front office at 314-821-0911.

Covenant Group Potluck /Mixer
Sunday, Feb. 24
12:30 to 2:30 in Adams Hall

Are you interested in covenant groups, but not sure WHAT they are or HOW they feel? Join us for a potluck /mixer in Adams Hall and participate in a "sample" covenant group.

Learn more by stopping by the Covenant Group information table in Adams Hall on February 10 and 17, email covenantgroups@eliotchapel.org or talk to Kelly Avant, mixer coordinator, Ann Lemon, or Roz Marx.

Current and Future Covenant Group Facilitators:
On Saturday, March 16, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Eliot Chapel is hosting the Annual St Louis Area Covenant Group Enrichment and Training Retreat, with invitations to the current, future and potential Covenant Group Facilitators from First Unitarian, Alton UU, and Emerson UU churches. This retreat will include enrichment activities for current facilitators, plus training activities for future and "I'm just thinking about it, maybe" covenant group facilitators.

Interested? Talk to a member of the CG Development Team wearing the ASK ME ABOUT COVENANT GROUPS buttons, visit the covenant group information table in Adams Hall on February 10 and 17, or email covenantgroups@eliotchapel.org.

**Meet Your Social Justice Team Leaders**

The Social Justice Team at Eliot Chapel is coming together! We have three projects and fourteen teams currently. Almost all the leaders are in position, and are in the process of organizing their teams. Each Project Coordinator is charged with creating a plan, with the help of Team Leaders, which will identify goals, tasks and activities for reaching those goals. Team Leaders are charged with organizing their teams around the tasks and activities, as well as gathering input for the project goals.

Project Leaders are **Pat Gray** for Standing on the Side of Love, and **Ellen Keller** for Children, Youth, and Families. The Project Coordinator for Homelessness is vacant, so if this is something that you are passionate about, this is your chance!

Team Leaders for Standing on the Side of Love include **Beth Griffin** for Immigrants and Refugees, **Jeanne Kloeckner** for Native American, **Carolyn Burke** for Reproductive Justice, **Tim Gardner** for Racial Justice, **Laurie Chappell** for Economic Justice, with **Mary Quinn** and **Jim Lyon** leading the Fair Trade activities. We are in need of a new activities leader for Fair Trade, a Co-Leader for the Native American Team, and a Team Leader for LGBT.

Team Leaders for Homelessness include **Susan Cunningham** for Winter Outreach, **Nancy Shepard** for Gateway 180, **Ray Tretter** for Habitat for Humanity, **Cindy Duhigg** for Cardboard City, and Co-Leaders **Joanne Prats** and **Karen Gender** for Room at the Inn.

Children, Youth, and Families has three teams: **Mary Wilson** leads Crisis Nursery, **Lora Dawson** leads Youth in Need, and **Cathy Brown** leads Nurses for Newborns.

Please help me congratulate our leaders as we grow an outstanding program!

~Nancy Spargo  
Social Justice Coordinator

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**Social Justice in Action at Eliot Chapel**

**Off-the-Grid Potluck and Slide Show to Benefit Habitat for Humanity**  
Saturday, February 16  
6:00 – 8:30 pm in Adams Hall  
Take part in an unusual potluck, followed by a presentation by **Flo Reaves** and **Jim Lyon** on their experiences living on an Idaho mountaintop without various comforts of civilization. The potluck is intended to show how to eat well during an interruption of our local infrastructure.

Potluck dishes should be made without using anything that requires refrigeration or electricity; not even a recent trip to the grocery store. Contact Jim or Flo for recipes if needed. Please sign up in the hallway between the Sanctuary and Adams Hall for the potluck, or just show up for the show at 7:00 pm. An offering will be taken which will be used to support Habitat for Humanity.

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Tim Gardner and other Eliot members and friends marched with Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates (MIRA) in the Fourth of July parade.

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email: socialjustice@eliotchapel.org
Ongoing Service Opportunities

**Winter Outreach:**
- **Food Preparation:** We make hearty casseroles and stews to feed residents of the temporary shelters on days when soup kitchens are not open. Contact Nancy Shepard at linshepard@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in helping.
- **Hosts:** We are supporting the Quaker Friends in their efforts to provide temporary shelter with monetary contributions and by spending the night with residents. Contact Susan Cunningham at suejimdoer@msn.com for more information.

**Kirk Care:**
- **Assessment teams** meet with new clients in their homes to determine the scope of help that Kirk Care can provide. Training and support materials are provided to assist in these meetings. Time commitment is several hours per each new client and you would be called approximately once per month.
- **Food Delivery:** Gather food from the Kirk Care pantry for delivery to clients. Deliverers are called on as needed, usually a few times per month. Training on pantry procedures is provided.

For more information on these opportunities to serve our neighbors in need, contact Mary Quinn at snyderandquinn@mac.com.

**Social Justice in Action: How – and WHAT – Are We Doing?**

**Winter Outreach**
We collected $2,600 to be used for shelter support and bus passes. Thanks for the generosity! The individuals who benefit from our collections are very grateful.

**Team Signups**
Every team that requested volunteers has recruited at least a minimum number of people, with many teams of a healthy size. Team Leaders and Project Coordinators will be meeting and organizing activities. It is never too late to sign up, and we still have a few vacancies for leadership roles. If you are interested in Project Coordinator for Homelessness, Team Leader for LGBT, or Fair Trade, or want to help Jeanne Kloeckner lead the Native American Team, contact Nancy Spargo at socialjustice@eliotchapel.org.

**Social Justice Fair**
We had 14 speakers, and over 60 people in attendance at our first annual Social Justice Fair, and consider the event a success. Guest speakers explained their programs and services, the roles of volunteers, and how Eliot Chapel has supported their organizations. It was a celebration of involvement. We now have 150 people on the Social Justice distribution list, without counting Room at the Inn volunteers (we are still counting, there are so many!) Eliot Chapel can be proud of how our community is investing in our global well-being.

Did You Know?
The Eliot Chapel weekly email – “This Week at Eliot” – goes out to over 600 email addresses every Friday with up-to-date news and announcements? Are you in the know?
To subscribe, contact Communications Assistant Terri Burtin at news@eliotchapel.org.
Partner Church News
Recently, the Partner Church Link received a letter from Sandor Varga, the minister of our partner church in Transylvania. A link to the full letter can be found on the Eliot website at http://www.eliotchapel.org/groups_activities.
Here is an excerpt from the letter:

Dear Beth, Committee members, Eliot Chapel,
Time has been flowing by quickly bringing with it tremendous changes. We have seen people joining our churches, and we have seen people leaving our churches. Newborns were added to our congregations, and dear friends have passed away. Throughout all these changes one thing remained steady: our friendship. We started out making contact, then we followed it by becoming partners, and then friends, despite the Atlantic Ocean situated between us. What a strong bridge this must be if it can arch over the ocean...

As the last 20 years were passing by, and people have come and gone, the miracle of our Partner Church connections stood the test of times. Our original contact turned into a lasting friendship. Our homes became your home, and your homes became our home.

On January 10 we received the funds for the Bread Program, $2804, or 9646 lei. I remember Beth’s note about the potluck dinner your committee organized for the congregation. I thought of you, and I was in there in spirit, and I’m happy, because the potluck may have raised awareness in your congregation, and that may have brought in more donations for the Bread Program. I speak for all of our elderly and ailing members when I thank you for your generous help.

I also want to thank all committee members whose hard work brought about donations that, in turn, make a big difference in the lives of our kindergartners, elementary schoolers, high schoolers, and college students ...

May God bless you all.
May God bring you peace.
May God watch over your families.
May God watch over the USA.

Sending you friendly hugs,
Sandor

Women’s Alliance February Events
Women’s Alliance typically meets on the first, third, and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9:30 to 11:45 am. Two of those weeks they meet in Adams Hall and one week is a field trip. If you would like to learn more about the group, please join us for an upcoming meeting or contact Sue Blandford at womensalliance@eliotchapel.org.

Tuesday, Feb. 5 - Book Discussion. Malindy’s Freedom by M. Johnson & T. Delsoin. Discussion Leader: Janie Fowler
Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Dolls from Antique to Vintage - Karen Clare. Coordinator: Beth Rossow
Tuesday, Feb. 26 - Movie - "The Untouchables." Coordinator: Julie Triplett

25th Annual Eliot Book Fair
March 8-10
We need your gently used book donations now until the end of February. Children’s books can be dropped off in a box outside the Religious Education office or you may drop all bags/boxes of books in the Eliot Library. Please no encyclopedias, text books, computer manuals, magazines, pamphlets or audiovisuals. We do accept audio-books.

We also need YOU to volunteer to help with set-up, working shifts during the book fair, and break-down at the end of the book fair. A volunteer sign-up table will be in Adams Hall after church on February 17, February 24 and March 3. The sign-up sheets will also be posted on the library door after February 17. Thanks for all your help.

~Sue Blandford

Art4U
The February artist on exhibit in Adams Hall is Mark Hurd, who specializes in fine art, graphic design and illustration. He is the owner of "Dancing Moon Graphic Design." Look for the poster with his bio and contact information in Adams Hall with the exhibit. The Art 4 U Team hopes you are enjoying the artwork each month in Adams Hall and we would love to have feedback and comments.

~Maryann Mace, chair
art4u@eliotchapel.org
**Women's Weekend - April 6-7 at the Wyman Center in Eureka**  
**www.EliotWomensWeekend.com**  
**Theme: Women In Transition**

The long tradition continues - Eliot Chapel sponsors a time to retreat, relax, and find community among other women. Please join us at the Wyman Center located in Eureka, MO. You may spend one night or just come for the day. Women’s Weekend features a wonderful variety of workshops, Sunday service, a White Elephant Sale, massage, hiking and a campfire, good food and time for relaxation and socializing.

The theme, "Women In Transition," brings women together in one community. As Eliot is in transition with the possibility of a new Senior Minister, so are the women of Eliot. It can be transition to young adulthood, motherhood, divorce, death of a loved one, retirement - any change in our lives. We are here to share the emotion, spiritual connection, creativity, unique relationships with others, and diverse experiences.

This retreat is open to all UU women and friends including Alton, Emerson and First UU St Louis. Cost to attend Women’s Weekend is $40 for the day; $70 overnight. Scholarships are available. Registration begins online in February and continues through March 31. For more information go to [www.eliotwomensweekend.com](http://www.eliotwomensweekend.com) or check out our table in Adams Hall starting in March.

Questions? Contact Carolyn Burke at womensweekend@eliotchapel.org.

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**Bergfried Team Update**

Thank you to all who have supported Bergfried with their precious time and donations, including our past chair, Kelly Birmes. Kelly will continue to work on the Bergfried Team as Operations Manager, and Shawn Cummings has been elected the new chair (You may know him as the “Jester” from Madrigal Dinner – but don’t tell him that you read it here first!) Thank you also to everyone who shared in the potluck dinner, and all of the contributions to the art exhibit for Bergfried in Adams Hall last month – we hope everyone was inspired to create their own memories at Bergfried.

Bergfried is open to all, either at one of the planned functions, or as a private reservation. Just contact bergfriedreservations@gmail.com or start a conversation with a Bergfried Team member wearing the team name badge - we hope to see you soon. Here’s a look at what is coming up in 2013:

- **February-October**: Day trips to explore the land, led by Eliot members
- **April**: Earth Day RE program for middle school kids
- **May 3-5**: Men's Advance with pig roast
- **May 24-26**: Memorial Day campout and Lewis and Clark Bonfire & “Bergstock”
- **Month of May**: Green house available for Hermann MaiFest revelers
- **June 21**: Solstice celebration (tentative)
- **TBD**: B.A.B.E.S. @ Bergfried
- **October 11-13**: Columbus Day Campout
- **Month of October**: Green House available for Hermann Oktoberfest revelers

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**Chili & Games Night**

Don’t Miss Chili & Games Night  
**Saturday, Feb. 2.**  
**5:30 pm in Adams Hall**  
Questions? Contact chiliandgames@eliotchapel.org.
Dated material. Please deliver by February 1, 2013

Worship in February

Sunday, Feb. 3 – 9:30 & 11:00 am
WHO’S DRIVING THE BUS?- Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran
Have you ever felt pulled in a dozen directions -- caring for those you love, keeping up with your work, trying to make a difference in the world? Inspired by a well-known children’s story, Maureen asks, “Who’s driving YOUR bus?”  Music will be extra special this morning, with two (2!) solos by our own Leon Burke, plus a reggae-style choral anthem with bass and conga.

Sunday, Feb. 10 – 9:30 & 11:00 am
YOUTH SUNDAY - “Facing the Unknown”
Join us for worship as members of the Senior High Youth Group explore ways in which we can best face the uncertainties, curiosities, and fears life brings.

Sunday, Feb. 17 – 9:30 & 11:00 am
WHAT WILL YOU BRING TO THE FEAST? - Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran
Another Sunday with fabulous music, as we welcome jazz musicians Michele Isam and Billy Engel, with Ric Vice on bass and Clancy Newell on drums, and a choral anthem that will rock the rafters. Maureen saved some of her favorite stories for this Sunday as we look more deeply at what it takes to ready Eliot Chapel for its exciting Next Chapter. This is one service you won’t want to miss!

Sunday, Feb. 24 – 9:30 & 11:00 am
THE POWER OF WORDS - Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran
What are your “hot button” words – the ones that stop your ears or get under your skin, particularly when the preacher says ‘em once too often? What might happen if you took a deep breath, perhaps practiced listening in a different way?

Children in grades K-4 begin each Sunday in the Sanctuary with their families for the beginning of the worship service before leaving for their RE classes.