

Upcoming Worship Services

Sunday Morning Services begin at 10:30 am

Childcare is available in the Nursery for infants and children who are not yet 3 years old. Unless otherwise stated below, religious education classes are provided each Sunday for children in preschool through high school.

March 4 How Long Should a Ministry Last? Revs. John Weston & Don Beaudreault

The Rev. Dr. John H. Weston has served as Transitions Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association since 1998. Ordained in 1988, before being called to his current position, John served as a community minister in health care and as minister of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Kansas City, Missouri. He holds degrees from Meadville/Lombard Theological School, the University of Chicago Divinity School, Columbia University, and Dartmouth College. As Transitions Director, John seeks to make the time of congregational transition, including the interim period, a time of increased congregational health, and to maximize, as well, the transparency to one another of congregations and ministers during the search process. John and his wife, Susan, a development officer at Brown University, have two adult sons and two grandbabies. They enjoy hiking, canoeing, theater, and classical and country music. John enjoys gospel, too. They live in Providence, Rhode Island.

****DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS at 2 am on March 11. Don't forget to spring your clocks ahead one hour****

March 11 Raised Him Up with a Big Bear Hug, and Sat Him Down Again Rev. Beaudreault

The Peace Corps had a recruitment ad that went something like "It's the hardest job you'll ever love." A similar thing can be said about Unitarian Universalism: "It's the hardest faith you'll ever love." Why? Because it asks us to be real. It asks us to give big bear hugs instead of wimpy handshakes. It asks us to be committed not half-hearted.

Join us for our Canvass Lunch after the worship service.

March 18 Women's Heritage Service

Beth Ligouri

March 25 Walking Our Talk the Unitarian Universalist Way

Rev. Don Beaudreault & Social Action Cttee

For over half a century, our liberating movement has been articulating its faith through the actions of our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC programs in the United States and around the world have championed human rights, provided humanitarian relief in the face of natural and manmade disasters and helped to provide economic development. Along with our social action committee, our minister shares the message of the UUSC efforts to walk our talk, particularly in light of the struggle in Darfur.

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50 Years of Celebrating Community Continues!

**Our annual Fellowship Luncheon
is March 11
after the worship service.**

**The luncheon is an all-congregation event
to kick off the annual pledge campaign.**

**Come for the service,
stay for the community!**

From Our Religious Educator

As I was getting ready to leave church this past Sunday, I noticed the red message light flashing on my phone. Hmmm...should I let the message go and return it on Monday? I admit, I was tempted to close the door and enjoy a belated Sunday lunch with my family. My conscience and instincts got the better of me. I listened in...

To paraphrase. . . "Hello. . .this is Ben. . .I'm a youth advisor from Belmont UU Church in Massachusetts. Our youth group is on our way back from a service trip to San Antonio, Texas and we were. . .ah. . .delayed at O'Hare. We can't get a flight out until Tuesday morning; we're at a hotel on Dundee Road in Palatka. . . we just wanted to call and connect with your church."

Anyone who's ever chaperoned a group of youth could immediately identify – food, transportation, any medications needed — the checklists began going through my mind, but I wasn't prepared for the next part.

"We're a fairly large group – 51 youth and 9 adults." Wow! Not the typical size of a UU youth group, and not an easy group to maneuver. As we began talking about the possibilities, and identifying what their needs might be, the Social Action Committee was just finishing their meeting – how fortuitous!

Without hesitation, people began thinking of all they could offer. Nancy Cowger and Laurie Schmidt went to meet with the advisors, help purchase food and toiletries (the group didn't have access to their luggage), and above all enjoyed a valuable, impromptu exchange learning about one another's churches. On Sunday, the Social Action Committee provided an Italian dinner from Pizza Bella for the group. On Monday, Nancy brought several advisors to our church for a tour and visit, and Laurie Lantz helped assist them with arrangements. To read more about the youth's story visit: uubelmont.org & click on First Church Blogs- Youth Group trip to San Antonio.

This is just one example, among a myriad I've encountered since arriving at CCUU, of the generosity and talent that abound at this church; I'm grateful and feel privileged to be a part of this community.

May our days ahead be filled with awareness and inspiration to act on the many opportunities that surround us daily to care for one another ~

Peace,
Colleen

The Budget Process Continues

On a very snowy Saturday night, many Countryside members enjoyed delicious food and reviewed the budget items that have been proposed for the 2007-08 church year.

There are still two steps left in the budget process:

Step 3: The Annual Canvass **March 11**

This will start at the Budget-Building meeting and run through March. Our pledges make up 85-90% of our Operating Revenues, so this is how we pay for the goals that we express in our Proposed Budget. A Celebration Luncheon will be given after the service on Sunday, March 11 to celebrate the current year and look ahead to next year's goals.

Step 4: Budget Reconciliation **May 20**

This is usually held at the Annual Meeting in May to reconcile any differences between the Proposed Budget and the revenues raised from the Canvass. This year, let's plan to raise MORE money than expected and decide how to spend the extra!! Either way, we will leave this meeting with a Balanced Budget for next year and a great sense of accomplishment.

So please save the dates and plan on being part of our church democracy at work.

March 11 Celebration Luncheon and Canvass Kick-Off

May 20 Congregational Meeting and Budget Reconciliation (if needed)

New Members

Please welcome the following new members who signed the Membership Book during the worship service on February 18. They have colored dots on their nametags to make it easier to find them and welcome them during coffee hour and other events.

Russell Hilliard & Shelby Smith

Daniela Mahoney

Henry Tideman

Ministerial Musings

By Whose Authority?

Every time there is a change of leadership in any group, the people in that group wait to see how the new leader will accomplish his or her duties. Having been both a leader and one who has been lead by others, I have always approached the question “By Whose Authority?” with a certain degree of skepticism.

That is so, because I look to Ralph Waldo Emerson as the quintessential Unitarian Universalist “authority on authority” when he penned:

*Nothing is at last sacred but
the integrity of your own mind.*

Someone else who has been a spokesperson for my beliefs on authority is Harry Truman with his famous line:

The buck stops here.

Now, this is not to say that I believe I am the ultimate authority – or even a temporary one – for others, but I do believe that I have the responsibility to be one for myself, and that you have the responsibility to be one for yourself.

Be that as it might, neither Emerson nor Truman believed that the individual should have this sense of “self” authority by ignoring the opinions of others. They thought it was imperative to be open to what others thought in fashioning one’s own concepts.

Indeed, a good leader is one because s/he listens to what others think and adds these opinions to her/his own thoughts.

Benjamin Disraeli says it precisely with:

I must follow the people. Am I not their leader?

The joy of being a UU for me is that this is exactly how we go about deciding things. We practice congregational polity (meaning that the members of all our UU congregations decide on matters of church “business” or stands on issues). We vote. There is no higher authority than ourselves – no church board, no pope, no potentate, no politician with the power to turn a thumb up or down. There is no ecclesiastical or governmental hierarchy. Each individual – we the people – have the ultimate decision making responsibility.

Saying all this, I must add that I do not always agree with others – nor do I expect them – or you, specifically – to always agree with me.

No one has been chosen by others to be God’s chosen spokesperson. No ONE person (including the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association – or even Emerson!) speaks for Unitarian Universalism – we all do!

(continued...)

Care Ministry Update

By now, members should have received a letter concerning volunteered services for the Care Ministry. If our data matches your wishes, you do not have to do anything. However, if you wish to change any information, please return your changes to the church office. Thank you for your help in maintaining up-to-date data for this valuable service! ...Bob Spielman, Care Ministry Coordinator

Ministerial Musings (cont’d)

There is no “royal we” in our liberating movement – just “we.”

The fact is, no one is obligated to believe the way another UU does when it comes to matters of theology or philosophy. Nor, even if we delegates at our annual General Assemblies vote to accept or reject some social issue does an individual have to agree with the majority vote.

If any of us ever feels we HAVE to do so, then we need to come back to asking the question “By Whose Authority?” and answer it by saying our own name. Not to do so is tantamount to merely accepting the “party line” – in other words to living dogmatically via the decisions of others, rather than respecting the Emersonian sacredness of “the integrity of your own mind.”

...Don Beaudreault

focus

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Church Office Hours *Mon-Fri, 10 am - 3 pm*

Minister	<i>Don Beaudreault</i>
Director of Religious Education	<i>Colleen Vahey</i>
Minister Emeritus	<i>Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely</i>
Community-Based Minister	<i>Dr. C. Scot Giles</i>
Music Director & Pianist	<i>Jeffrey Hamrick</i>
Music Director Emeritus	<i>John Denny</i>
Congregational Administrator	<i>Laurie Lantz</i>

Lay Ministers

Ken Bobbe and Joyce Swedlund, Coordinators	
Richard Chay	Sue Price
Larry Frank	Kimberly Tilford
Trudy Kleckner	Dan Yokas
Jane Matthews	

For assistance from our Lay or Care Ministries, please call Ken or Joyce.

Environmental Action

Next Meeting Scheduled

Environmental Action (a subcommittee of Social Action) will be meeting on Sunday, March 18 at noon in room 6 (the 6th-7th grade room). All are welcome to attend! If you have questions, contact Gail Wisniewski.

Green Corner: From the Union of Concerned Scientists

Appliances account for about 20 percent of a household's annual electricity use. Since most of our nation's electricity is generated from fossil fuels (such as coal and natural gas), which contribute to global warming and air and water pollution, replacing older appliances with more efficient Energy Star-rated models can go a long way toward reducing your environmental impact. However, these appliances are only as efficient as the person using them. No matter what model appliance you own, there are easy ways to make sure it is using as little electricity as possible:

Refrigerator/Freezer: Leave a few inches of space behind the refrigerator to ensure proper air circulation and vacuum coils at least once a year. Don't keep too cold, which can waste energy. Recommended temperatures are between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) for refrigerators and 5 °F for freezers.

Dishwasher: Run only when full. Choose the air-dry option. Check to see if your dishwasher has an internal heater (which heats incoming water to 140 °F or higher). If it does, you can lower your home's water heater temperature to 120 °F.

Washing Machine: Use cold water for washing and rinsing clothes to reduce electricity use by up to 90 percent. If you must use hot water for a wash, use cold water for the rinse cycle.

Wash full loads of laundry as much as possible. Use your washer's high-speed spin cycle to extract the most moisture possible from your clothing, which will reduce drying time.

Dryer: Dry heavier and lighter items separately to reduce overall drying time. Whenever possible, dry multiple loads of laundry in a row—each subsequent load will use the residual heat from the previous load. Use the cool-down cycle for the last load to allow the clothes to finish drying with residual heat. Be sure to clean the filter after each load for more efficient drying.

The Green Festival is coming to Chicago!

This is a very exciting opportunity for those of you who are interested in the environment. Dates: April 21 & 22. Location: McCormick Place/Lakeside. For more information visit www.greenfestivals.org. Contact Gail Wisniewski if you are interested in forming carpools for

(continued...)

Welcoming Congregation Committee

The Welcoming Congregation Committee is looking for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered Countryside members who would like to speak at our workshop on Saturday, March 17. This workshop will provide participants with the opportunity to hear firsthand what life is like for our LGBT members. The format will consist of each panel member sharing their experiences as an LGBT person for about 10 minutes, followed by a short question and answer period. Anyone interested in being part of this panel, or for more information, contact Sue De Luca.

Book Discussions

Book Circle

Are you planning to read *The Audacity of Hope* by Barack Obama? Would you like to discuss the book with others? This is your opportunity! The Book Circle will be meeting to discuss it on Sunday, March 18 at 6:30 in the Sr. High Room. We welcome your participation.

Last Mondays Book Discussion

Join us on Monday, March 26 at 7 pm in Room 4 to discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See. *Foot binding; nu shu, a secret language used exclusively by the women of Hunan Province for 1000 years; and laotong, the arranged friendship between little girls meant to last a lifetime, provide the framework for See's riveting look at a little-known chapter in 19th-century Chinese history. See's meticulous research and exquisite language deliver a story that is haunting, powerful, and, at times, almost too painful to bear.* (from Library Journal)

Green Corner (cont'd)

attending this event. From the website: At the Green Festivals, we're celebrating what's working in our communities, for people, for businesses and for the environment. Here, green means safe, healthy communities and strong, local economies. Join us for these huge parties with a purpose. You'll enjoy more than 200 visionary speakers (including Debra Shore, David Korten, Riane Eisler, and Bill McKibben – from StepItUp2007.org) and 400 green businesses, great how-to workshops, green films, green career sessions, delicious organic cuisine and live music. Learn...network...socialize...eat well...shop green.

RE News

Thank You

Many thanks to Cherita Axel and Alisa Pontarelli for their outstanding graphic design work for our RE and AFD brochures. We greatly appreciate your time and talents! Copies of the 2007 Adult Faith Development catalog will be available in the pamphlet rack across from the church office soon.

Thank you to Margaret and Matt Myren, and all the members of the Sacred Movement Covenant Group who led children's chapel this month as part of our Spiritual Practices series. The children/youth have enjoyed the opportunities to dance and experience an introduction to yoga. Don't hesitate to ask the children to show you something they've learned!

Coming of Age Mugs

Back by popular demand! If you didn't get a chance to purchase a "Co-Exist" coffee mug before we sold out, you're in luck! We're ordering more. Reserve your mug by placing an order at coffee hour on Sundays, or visit our booth at District Assembly in Oak Brook, April 13-14!

Journeys Retreat

Mark your calendars for the annual Journeys weekend, May 11-12. This year's theme: "Embracing Our Political and Religious Diversity: Affirming our Views on Politics and Faith." Dan and Sharon Wiseman will be our facilitators. Registration forms are available on the bulletin board across from the church office. We hope you will join us.

Protestant Reformation Class

It's time to sign up for the next class in the history of Christianity. This session will cover the Protestant Reformation in five Monday evenings April 16-May 14. As with the other classes, we will supply extensive notes and use a combination of lecture and professional DVD material. Classes run from 7-9 pm. This is stand-alone material; you do not have to have attended the previous classes to attend this one. Come join in. Please sign up on the bulletin board and/or tell Rem Stokes of your plans.

Hospice Volunteers Needed!

Hospice of Northeastern Illinois relies on volunteer support to care for more than 1,000 patients and families annually. All talents are needed, no medical or professional background is required. The next volunteer training session will be held Fridays, March 23 and 30 from 8:30 am - 5 pm in Barrington. For more information or an application, call 847-381-5599 or apply at www.HospiceAnswers.org.

Considering Church Membership?

The next Joining Sunday will be June 3. If you are interested in becoming a member of Countryside Church, please speak with one of the greeters or the minister. In addition, you are encouraged to attend the following:

Newcomer Orientation

This is a brief, non-binding, informal discussion regarding the unique characteristics of Countryside Church and is held once every other month. These orientations will be held in front of the pulpit on Sundays shortly following the service. The next orientation will be March 18. You will have a chance to ask and discuss any questions about joining the Church and the unique nature of this UU church.

Path to Membership Classes

The next series of Path to Membership classes will be held in April and May. Sign-up sheets are on the kiosk near the Greeters' window.

Facilities Committee Needs You

Do you know that:

- our church building won architectural design awards and is considered an architecturally significant building?
- our facilities are our single biggest financial asset?
- our building is no longer new and requires more ongoing maintenance as the years go on (don't we all)?
- We face significant building related capital expenditures in the approaching years?

The Facilities Committee is mobilizing to address these challenges and is expanding. We seek two types of individuals to help keep things in tip-top shape and preserve our church facilities:

- 1) Committee members: folks who help identify and manage projects, assist with obtaining quotes and interact with outside vendors.
- 2) Hands on fixers: folks who have handy skills in one or more area. People with general repair abilities (or interests) willing to assist occasionally on projects ranging from simple repairs and maintenance to plumbing, electrical, painting and carpentry. Hands-on fixers are not required to attend committee meetings. Just make yourselves and skillsets known!

Please contact Paul Sneddon, Facilities Chair, if you can contribute to these efforts. Our building needs you!

p.s. to all of you who assist behind the scenes with little recognition, thank you.

District and National UU Events and Announcements

District Assembly Registration Open

Central Midwest District Assembly will be held April 13-15 at the Oak Brook Marriott in Oak Brook, IL. The theme is: Congregations Alive! Embodying a Story that Matters. The keynote speaker will be Alice Mann of the Alban Institute. District Assembly will explore how congregations can and do matter in people's lives and capture their imaginations through presentation, individual reflection and impromptu conversation; shaping deep stories that weave our lives together. Alice Mann will help us discover and learn how to tell and how to live our compelling Unitarian Universalist stories, making our congregations more vital and vibrant.

Registration brochures are available in the pamphlet rack across from the church office or you can register online: www.regonline.com/12020.

District Spring Young Adult Con!

The Central Midwest District's spring conference will be held March 9-11 at First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Wisc. It will feature the themes of radical inclusion, growth, our environment and our world. To register, go to <http://www.connectuu.com>. Cost is a sliding scale of \$35-70. For scholarship applications (due March 2), please visit <http://cmwd.uuyan.org> soon.

Transformation Through Pilgrimage

Check out the flyer on the church bulletin board about trips to Transylvania giving both youth and adults the opportunity to discover the historic roots of Unitarianism. You can also visit the UU Partner Church Council website for complete itineraries, pricing information, and information about custom tours: www.uupcc.org

Mingle with Singles

North Shore Unitarian Church invites singles from Countryside and other like-minded friends to a Fireside Potluck Supper and Retro Music Night on March 3 at 6:30 pm. We'll have tunes from the 50s, 60s, and 70s and will take a "stroll" down memory lane. Bring a dish/beverage to share. If you have some favorite "oldies but goodies" albums, bring them too. Come and enjoy great food, socializing, fun music and even dancing. Does anyone remember how to do the "mashed potatoes"? RSVP to Virginia Love at 847-215-1855, or virginialov@yahoo.com.

In April, the Mingle with Singles program will be on the second Saturday because Easter is the first weekend. Mark your calendar for a movie and pizza on April 14.

Bayside UU Summer Camp

Consider a week of family fun at Bayside Camp, a Unitarian Universalist family camp held at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Bayside is a small (75-90 person) summer camp that will be held at the Wesley Woods Conference Center July 15-21. The camp includes morning adult workshops and worship services - with an emphasis on a variety of activities based on age for the kids - and lots of free time in the afternoons for family fun and relaxation. Founded in 1988, Bayside Camp aims to provide a nurturing "family" atmosphere for singles and families of all configurations and traditions. For more info, contact Emma Williams at 608-838-6604 or cnmne@verizon.net or browse our website at www.yahoodrummers.com/bayside/.

Join the UU Coaching Network!

This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity and inclusion. To learn about it, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org.

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) asks you to invite a friend to check us out!

Do you know someone who

- would benefit by a spiritual community available 24/7?
- works on a Sunday morning?
- lives in an isolated area?
- does not have access to a local UU church?
- is housebound and unable to attend a local church?
- is an active member of a local congregation who wants even more?
- is a church staff person or religious professional who would enjoy a congregation of their own?

To check out the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), go to www.clfuu.org and click on the "Welcome Banner" across the screen. Questions about the Church of the Larger Fellowship? Contact Beth Murray, 617-948-6150 or bmurray@uua.org.

Final Year: wUUrld's WhaleCoast Alaska

This is the 12th and final year that five UU Fellowships in Alaska invite UUs to eco-cultural tours in June and July. This is the 12th and final year. Groups are limited to 12-30 people. Tour leaders are the Rev. Dick and Mary Weston-Jones, UUs who founded wUUrld. It is recommended that reservations be made by March. Information is on the bulletin board across from the church office, or go to www.wuurld.org, email alaska@wuurld.org, or phone 1-888-998-8753.

Countryside Is Making a Difference - And You Can Too!

Countryside is hosting “Using Native Plants in the Home Landscape”, a workshop presented by horticulture experts from Citizens for Conservation. The workshop will explain the advantages of using native Illinois plants in your home landscape, and introduce you to simple ways to begin incorporating native plants. In addition, you’ll see examples of native plants in use in a variety of settings, including prairie gardens, butterfly gardens, and traditional gardens.

A 30-minute program will be followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers. A short tour of Countryside’s garden will be conducted for anyone interested.

The workshop will be held on **Saturday, April 21 at 9 am** and it is open to the community; a \$5 suggested donation will be taken at the door with proceeds going to Countryside Church and Citizens for Conservation.

The workshop is hosted by Countryside Church because we are dedicated to making a difference in our environment. The church recently received a certificate of achievement in Environmentally Friendly Landscaping from Conservation @ Home, a partnership of Citizens for Conservation and Barrington Hills Conservation Trust. The certification is provided to landowners whose garden and landscaping meet criteria such as controlling invasive species, including native plants for the benefit of wildlife and/or water conservation, and protecting high quality natural areas.

Countryside’s garden was originally installed when the building was completed in 1993, and has been constantly improved every year by a small team of passionate volunteers. Native plants are incorporated throughout the garden and most recently, in 2006, a native-plant garden was started at the south end of the building.

If you are interested in applying for certification for your own home landscape, information about the Conservation@Home designation will be available at the workshop.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Thurs, 3/1	NO Choir Rehearsal		Fri, 3/16	Fri. Daytime Kinship Circle	9:30 am
Fri, 3/2	Drum Circle	8:00 pm	Sat, 3/17	Welcoming Congregation Workshop	10:00 am
Sun, 3/4	Conversations with God Covenant Group	8:30 am	Sun, 3/18	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am		Newcomer Orientation	11:45 am
	CRE Committee Meeting	12:00 pm		Coming of Age Group Meeting	12:00 pm
	OWL Class	12:00 pm		OWL Class	12:00 pm
	Sacred Movement Covenant Group	12:30 pm		Environmental Action Meeting	12:00 pm
Mon, 3/5	Communicating Compassionately Class	7:00 pm		Sacred Movement Covenant Group	12:30 pm
	Welcoming Congregation Ctte Mtg	7:00 pm		Book Circle: The Audacity of Hope	6:30 pm
Tues, 3/6	Program Council Meeting	7:00 pm	Mon, 3/19	Communicating Compassionately Class	7:00 pm
	Buddhist Dharma Circle	7:00 pm	Tues, 3/20	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm
	Countryside Youth Ensemble Rehearsal	7:30 pm		Countryside Youth Ensemble Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Weds, 3/7	Weds.Daytime Kinship Circle	10:00 am	Weds, 3/21	Parents as Spiritual Guides Class	7:00 pm
	Getting to Know You Covenant Group	7:00 pm	Thurs, 3/22	Men’s Covenant Group	7:30 pm
	Parents as Spiritual Guides Class	7:00 pm		NO Choir Rehearsal	
	Membership Committee Meeting	7:00 pm	Fri, 3/23	Movie Night: Spiritual Cinema	7:00 pm
Thurs, 3/8	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 pm	Sun, 3/25	Conversations with God Covenant Group	8:30 am
	Amnesty International Meeting	7:30 pm		Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
	NW Suburban NOW Movie	7:00 pm		Social Action Committee Meeting	12:00 pm
Sun, 3/11	Artist’s Way Covenant Group	9:00 am	Mon, 3/26	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group	7:00 pm
	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am	Tues, 3/27	Tues. Compassionate Comm. Cov.Group	7:00 pm
	Canvass Luncheon	11:30 am			
	OWL Class	12:00 pm			
Mon, 3/12	Communicating Compassionately Class	7:00 pm			
Tues, 3/13	UU Principles Covenant Group	7:00 pm			
	Tuesday Kinship Circle	7:30 pm			
Weds, 3/14	Parents as Spiritual Guides Class	7:00 pm			
Thurs, 3/15	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 pm			

Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines

February 26 & March 12 @ 9 am

Submissions can be placed in the *Focus* mailbox in the church office or emailed to ccuu@ccuu.org.