
Upcoming Worship Services - Sunday Worship begins at 10:30 am.

During summer worship services, childcare will be provided for ages 0-3 in the nursery, and we'll have one large mixed-age class for ages 4-12. Children and Youth are welcome in the worship services.

August 3 Got Rocks?

Stephanie Matz

“Simplify, simply, simplify!” Thoreau said. Well, that’s easier said than done. Especially when we move the discussion beyond material goods to the psychological and spiritual baggage we accumulate over the years, the baggage that influences us all the time whether we’re aware of it or not. Conventional wisdom tells us to “Let Go.” Fundamentalist wisdom goes a step further and tells us to “Let Go, Let God.” But it may be time to turn that thinking on its head. Instead of asking ourselves what we should let go of, maybe we should start with figuring out what we want to KEEP. Of the multitude of influencing rocks (some substantial, some invisible) that weigh us down each day, which are the jewels and which are. . .well. . .just plain rocks.

This service will include a Story for All Ages. Children should start their morning in the sanctuary and will be released to their classroom following the story.

August 10 How Can We Keep from Singing?

Colleen Vahey

The title comes from one of my favorite hymns, “Above the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing; It sounds an echo in my soul, How can I keep from singing?” (My Life Flows on in Endless Song, SLT #108). How do we hear that ‘still small voice within’, the voice of what’s calling to be lived more fully in our lives? Through movement, story and meditation, we’ll explore how we might, in the midst of life’s tumult and strife, make way for the “echoes of our soul” to be heard.

August 17 Faith of the Savoyard Vicar

Rem Stokes

In his 1762 book, *Emile*, the author, Rousseau, expresses his religious belief through the character of a vicar who says: “Doubt about things we need to know is a state too violent for the human mind; the mind decides, in one way or another, despite itself, and prefers being mistaken to believing in nothing. ...It is better to follow our own illusions than those of others. At least then we can be sure of our sincerity. ...Know how to be ignorant and you will deceive neither yourself nor others.” This was enough to get the book banned and the author exiled. This talk will explore the historical and religious significance of these ideas.

Share-the-Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

August 24 The Negative Person

The Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

Everyone has confronted the dilemma of having to deal with negative people. Sometimes they are ill, sometimes they are disturbed, sometimes they are just nasty, but they are always a problem. On this Summer Sunday our Community Minister, Dr. Giles, will explore how best to deal with the negative person and the dangers of not dealing with them well. Dr. Giles will explore the advice from scripture, psychology, theology, his own experiences from many years of cancer care, and even from the martial arts.

August 31 Forgiveness?

Janeane Weprin

We have all heard that forgiveness is essential to living a peaceful, loving life. Right? So what does it really mean? How does it happen and can we make it happen?

Share-the-Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Unitus.

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From Rev. Hilary re. Knoxville Tragedy

Although I have not formally begun work as the minister of this congregation, it was impossible to learn of the Knoxville shooting and not think of the impact on the congregation. The shooting happened on Sunday morning, July 27, as you gathered at your church and I was preaching at Unity Chapel in bucolic Spring Green, Wisconsin. A man with no apparent connection to the church opened fire in the service wounding more than ten people and some have died from their wounds. Although the service was a children's service, no children were injured and the children were quickly whisked to safety nearby.

While such a tragedy hits us harder because it seems closer to home, it is more accurate to say that violence has infected this society pervasively - and still our churches hold out great hope for reversing that violence.

Countryside Church is no more at risk after that shooting than before. But certainly, we are deeply affected and more aware. We learned some important things from the response of the congregation. One was that the members of the congregation acted to stop the gunman and were successful and the primary person to stop him was both unarmed and uninjured. Another was that the members of the congregation remained protective of one another and the children and minimized the harm that could have been done by responding quickly and caringly.

This is a time to be compassionately mindful of the TVUUC members. It is possible that learning of this event will raise grief and anxiety for many people. This is a time to be compassionate with ourselves and one another as we respond from individual histories of pain and loss. This is a tragedy that will have an impact on that congregation and the other churches in the area - as well as our association. A UU trauma response team is on its way - even before the day was done - while each person may want to help, there are skilled people able to intervene effectively and each person can help best by waiting for word and for requests for help. This is a time to remind ourselves and the children of our congregations that Unitarian Universalists gather in religious community in hope and in the intention of helping to create a society where compassion and respect can lead.

Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association said in a press release: "I know that many people, both in Knoxville and around the country, are struggling with shock and grief right now. I pray that those so affected will find strength and comfort... Unitarian Universalists around the world are sending love and prayers to the Tennessee Valley congregation to tell them they are not alone on this dark day."

May each of us find peace in the wake of this violence. May each person remember that there is comfort, healing, and safety within our congregational community — we can turn to one another and it will bring

From Our Religious Educator

This past Sunday tragedy struck two of our UU congregations in Knoxville, TN — Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) and members of the Westside UU Church who were attending TVUUC's service. I invite you to hold the victims and their families, the perpetrator, and all who mourn and grieve, in your thoughts and prayers.

The past few days I've heard from some parents about the myriad of emotions such a tragedy evokes. We can't "make sense" of what happened, but I imagine and hope there will be renewed conversation and commitment about our social action witness, addressing mental health issues and our health care system, the death penalty, and modeling peace and reconciliation in a fractured world.

Inevitably, people feel drawn to what they can do following such a crisis. We can respond with renewed commitment to care for one another and our local community. During our Family service this Sunday (children attend the first 20 minutes of worship) our worship leader, Stephanie Matz, will lead us in a time of prayer and remembrance. We will invite our children and youth in RE to process their feelings, fold peace cranes, and make a card to send to the children and youth of the two congregations affected. (If you would like to review helpful hints for talking with children about tragedy, please see related article in this newsletter).

Rev. Hilary and I have also talked, and want you to know that over the next few weeks we'll work with leaders of our church to enhance safety policies and procedures for protecting the children and youth in our care.

And in the end the greatest thing we can do is return to that which lives, moves and breathes through us - the spirit of life and love. As the poet, Robert R. Walsh writes,

"Trust . . . the strands of love that bend and stretch to hold you in the web of life that's often torn but always healing. There's (our) strength. The shifting plates, the restive earth. . . (our) precious life, they all proceed from love, the ground on which we walk together."

From "Fault Line," Noisy Stones: A Meditation Manual, Skinner House Books, 1992

May you feel embraced by moments of grace and love in the days ahead ~

Colleen

more strength and safety. May all our congregations have a positive and powerful influence in the world such that acts of mindless violence become more and more unthinkable.

Peace and healing to you all, Hilary

The Minister's Muse

Finally ...

The move is in full swing. My stuff is here in Palatine and my time for renewing myself and thinking ahead to the next year has begun. Well... the fact is, that it takes a while to complete a transition, to settle in, to make a home, and to truly become the new minister of this great church. Settling in—doing the real work of transition—takes time. During August I'll still be out of the office and unavailable for routine church activities - as if any church activities were really routine! Although I will be doing planning for the year, the real work of transition for us all will begin in September, when I move into my office and begin to get to know you better. This past week my family did a lot of unpacking at the new house. On one level we're opening boxes and finding places for things. On another level we're planning for the future together by deciding together where things will work best, what colors we like, how we want to live. And on an even more important level all the work that we're doing together is an opportunity to build our sense of belonging to one another in the midst of change and our sense of home by building memories and meaning together. That's a lot of what we will be doing this year as minister and congregation. It's time to do planning and work, take part in the church year - but simultaneously, we'll be making our connection, creating mutual trust, building memories, and finding meaning together.

One thing that I shared on my ministerial record sheet - which search committees read on-line - was an experience that I had when I must have been about 6 or 7 years old. I was walking down the street - focusing on the ground - so close at that age. Suddenly I recognized that everything that I was seeing and experiencing was changing me - each thing was significant in ways I did not yet know but that would become a part of me. I think that early experience is a key I want to give you for understanding me. I don't ever feel finished nor do I think that any one of us is finished during our lives. In each day, in each new endeavor even in the routine daily life, there are things to learn and things-both large and minute—which can change us if we but pay attention. Even without attention change happens. It happens when we are alone or together. There is more possibility and power for growing and learning when we can remember that all those layers of experience and meaning are working all the time.

I'm growing more excited every day. Looking forward as well as savoring the joy of settling. I remember the joy I felt during the candidating week - discovering

even more wonderful people and a truly remarkable congregation. As I typed in the words "Minister's Muse" above, I was reminded of why I call it a "muse." Because the congregation and everyone in it are my muse - my source of inspiration.

We are fortunate to be a congregational community. It means that in everything we do we have the invitation and freedom to look more deeply and to see the richness of meaning in every moment, in every meeting. It is my hope that together we will learn and grow in significant and positive ways. It is now in our hands and hearts.

...Hilary

Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines

August 25 @ 9 am

September 8 @ 9 am

Submissions can be emailed to ccuu@ccuu.org.

RE Teacher Orientation: August 23

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Aug. 23, 9am-2pm for our annual RE teacher orientation, and look forward to a wonderful day of worship, learning, preparation and sharing. We have much to look forward to in the coming year! Childcare and lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to Lisa Hagenbuch, Co-Chair of the Religious Education Council.

focus

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Church Office Summer Hours *Mondays & Thursdays*
9 am - 2 pm

Interim 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 Trudy Kleckner, Coordinators	
Richard Chay	Joyce Swedlund
Larry Frank	Kimberly Tilford
Jane Matthews	Dan Yokas

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

Adult Faith Development (AFD)

Movie Night

Please join us on Friday, August 8 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall for a showing of Iran (Is Not the Problem), which offers historical context for the present tension between the US and Iran. Will truth be the first casualty of the next war? What can we do to improve relations between the two countries and move toward enduring peace? Discussion to follow the film.

AFD Council Meeting

The next quarterly meeting of the Adult Faith Development Council will be Monday, Aug. 18, 8-10pm. Please contact Dan and Sharon Wiseman, AFD co-chairs, for more information.

Green Affirmations

Look on the Green Sanctuary Committee bulletin board (next to the church office) for occasional postings of our church members' Green Affirmations. You may be surprised by what you see! If you are interested in eating locally produced food, or wondering why you should even care, visit www.illinoisfarmdirect.org where you can search for your local farmers markets, www.familyfarmed.org which will tell you how to find local food at retail grocers, and www.localharvest.org which has a wealth of information including restaurants that serve local foods.

Book Discussion Groups Book Circle

All are welcome! Please join us on Sunday, August 10 at 6:30 pm in classroom 6 for a discussion of Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver. The book is about local food and sustainable agriculture and "takes the genre to a new literary level. Her tale is both classy and disarming, substantive and entertaining, earnest and funny. Kingsolver has the ear of a journalist and the accuracy of a naturalist. She makes short, neat work of complex topics." (review by Nina Planck)

Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us on August 25 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss In the Castle of the Flynns by Michael Raleigh. (Please note the change of title from previous announcements.) The book is *about a young boy growing up Irish in a vibrant 1950s Chicago neighborhood. Now grown and looking back on those years, Daniel recalls his bouts with grief and fear of abandonment as he learns to adjust to his new surroundings amidst his oddball family.*

Open Forum Discussion

In this group, we agree to discuss current issues and controversies in a welcoming, mutually respectful manner. Please enjoy ease in parking and punctual arrival at church by joining us before the service for a stimulating exchange of diverse views. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the Senior High Room (Classroom 5). We plan to discuss the following topics on the following dates (based on breaking news, topics do sometimes change).

- August 3: Equality and Difference: What Kinds Do Each of Us Want... and By What Means?
- August 10: Educational Reform: What, If Any, Does Each of Us Want... and by What Means?
- August 17: What Direction Does Each of Us Want Society to Go... and How?
- August 24: topic to be determined by participants during the prior week
- August 31: Speculation, Speculators and Oil: Opinions and Evaluations

Newcomers remain welcome. To ask questions or to be added to our email list from which to receive readings, please contact Vid Axel.

Pride Parade 2008

Countryside marched in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade on June 29. Most everyone marching agreed that this was a success. Marching along the route we received many thanks, shouts, and hugs. However, an older black woman mouthing "thank you" was the strongest message I've received.

We received lots of press coverage. A front page picture and page 4 story in The Daily Herald (posted on the church bulletin board), picture and article in Pioneer Press, and I heard we were on the Tribune webpage.

The Rainbow Friends is thankful to several people who made this a success: Jeff Hamrick, who talked things up, made us look marvelous marching; Laurie Lantz, who passed the information in the Sunday announcements; all those who agreed to be interviewed by the press; and all the people who marched with us and showed the crowd a strong supportive presence from Countryside. Lastly, the Countryside sign waving in the crowd brought joy to those of us marching.

*If you are proud of this church, become its advocate.
If you are concerned for its future, share its message.*

*If its values resonate deep within you,
give it a measure of your devotion.*

*This church cannot survive without your faith,
your confidence, your enthusiasm.*

Its destiny, the larger hope, rests in your hands.

~Michael Schuler



Social Action News

Daily Reading!

*And God said to Noah
"Make yourself an ark of
cypress wood, make room in
the ark, and cover it inside
and out with pitch." And
God further said to Noah
"if you are not good with*

*tools, you can instead purchase a ticket to the Corn
Roast and Hootenanny to raise money for the Heifer
International Gift Ark." And it was good. Genesis 6:14*

Proposed Easing of Concealed Weapons Ban

The public has only until August 8th to comment on the latest showdown over U.S. gun rights — a proposal to ease the ban on concealed weapons in our national parks. Please mail or e-mail your comment on this proposed change. A good article on the proposed easing of the ban can be found at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25630796/from/ET/>

Comments on the proposed rule change may be sent by mail to: Public Comments Processing, Attn. 1024-AD70, Division of Policy and Directives Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222, Arlington, VA 22203. They may be submitted online by following instructions at www.regulations.gov.

Money Management Pilot Program a Success!

At our leadership retreat for Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist (CCUU) last summer, it was decided to have the congregation adopt a long-term social action project. David E. Cohen, chairman of the Social Action Committee, contacted Christine M. Favia, Palatine Township Outreach Coordinator to see if CCUU could help Palatine Township in any way. After meeting with the Outreach Coordinator and the caseworkers of Palatine Township, we were requested to provide money management classes to the low-income recipients of the food pantry. This was the number one need that Palatine Township could not provide to the food pantry recipients.

Over 113,000 people live in Palatine Township encompassing all or part of: Palatine, Rolling Meadows, Inverness, Arlington Heights, Hoffman Estates, Barrington, South Barrington and Schaumburg. The food pantry recipients come from a large geographic area within the township.

We decided to set up a pilot program based on the curriculum called "All My Money" from the University of Illinois extension. The University of Illinois held a 2-day program to train the trainers who then trained the mentors. Damian Christianson, Leslie Evans, Karen Noorani and

(continued on page 6)

Looking for Covenant Group Ideas

As usual, this fall we will be opening up enrollment in Covenant Groups to the whole congregation and visitors. Every fall, we look at our list of groups and ask the congregation for their ideas for groups— different topics or dates/times. So, this is a call for your ideas! If you want to start a covenant group, or request times or dates for a group that would work for you, send your thoughts ASAP to Stephanie Matz. We will begin preparing enrollment materials in the next few weeks, so we'd like to hear from you!

Youth News

Excerpts from article in the Midwesterner by Kimberlee Tomczak, Central Midwest District Youth Coordinator:

Is UU a philosophy or a religion? Are UUs heretics, Christians, or even a cult? Where did the flaming chalice come from? How do you answer these questions? How do you articulate your faith? Our youth struggle with their Unitarian Universalist identity in a questioning world every day. At the first CMWD Youth Council held at the Community Church of Park Forest, IL, we tried together to find some answers.

CMWD Youth council is a new opportunity and event we created this year for youth in our district to connect, share resources, receive leadership training and participate in the democratic process.

Each congregation was asked to send two youth representatives to the Central Midwest district youth council for a weekend of leadership development and elections; twelve of our district congregations were represented. (Countryside was honored to be represented by two youth leaders, Emily Smith, Elliot Sepos, and youth advisor, Kim Tilford.)

Representatives spent Friday evening munching on snacks, getting to know each other and in worship together. On Saturday Dori Davenport asked our youth to define the qualities of a good leadership and asked the youth what they had to offer as leaders. The afternoon was spent in conflict and consensus, the healthy kind. Heather Godbout, a member of Unity Temple and DYSC youth advisor, facilitated a detailed search into the causes and responses to conflict. Then the youth practiced handling conflict, using improve theatre and realistic UU congregational scenarios.

Congratulations to Elliot Sepos of our church who was elected to the District Youth Steering Committee at Youth Council. We are very proud of our entire youth group!

Talking with Children about Tragedy

In times of crisis, it's easy to assume that young children don't know what's going on. But one thing's for sure, children are very sensitive to how their parents feel. They're keenly aware of the expressions on their parents' faces and the tone of their voices. Children sense when their parents are worried, whether they're watching the news or talking about it with others. No matter what children know about a crisis, it's especially scary for them to realize that their parents are worried.

Who Will Take Care Of Me?

In times of crisis, children want to know, "Who will take care of me?" They're dependent on adults for their survival and security. They're naturally self-centered. They need to hear very clearly that their parents are doing all they can to take care of them and to keep them safe. They also need to know that people in their community and in the world, and other people they don't even know, are working hard to keep them safe, too.

Helping Children Feel More Secure

Play is one of the important ways young children have of dealing with their concerns. But, even playing about the news can be scary and sometimes unsafe. So adults need to be nearby to redirect that kind of play into nurturing themes, such as a hospital for the wounded or a pretend meal for emergency workers. When children are scared and anxious, they might become more dependent, clingy, and afraid to go to bed at night. Whining, aggressive behavior, or toilet accidents may be their way of asking for more comfort from the important adults in their lives. Little by little, as we adults around them become more confident, hopeful and secure, our children probably will, too.

Scary, Confusing Images

The way that news is presented on television can be quite confusing for a young child. The younger the children are, the more likely they are to be interested in the typical news scenes of close-up faces, particularly if the people are expressing strong feelings. When there's tragic news, the images on TV are most often much too graphic and too disturbing for young children. Limit your own TV viewing and that of your child.

Talking And Listening

Even if we wanted to, it would be impossible to give our children all the reasons for such things as war, terrorists, abuse, murders, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes. If they ask questions, our best answer may be to ask them, "What do you think happened?" If the answer is, "I don't know," then the simplest reply might be something like, "I'm sad about the news, and I'm worried. But I love you, and I'll take care of you."

If we don't let children know it's okay to feel sad and scared, they may try to hide those feelings or think something is wrong with them whenever they do feel that way. They certainly don't need details of what's making us sad or scared, but if we can help them accept their own feelings as natural and normal, their feelings will be much more manageable for them.

Highlight Those Who Helped

Focus attention on the helpers, like the police, firemen, doctors, nurses, paramedics and volunteers. It's reassuring to know there are many caring people who are doing all they can to help in this world. Many churches are helping people through this tragedy; the children of the TVUUC went to the neighboring Presbyterian church during this crisis.

Helpful Hints

Give your child extra comfort and physical affection, like hugs or snuggling up together with a favorite book. Physical comfort goes a long way towards providing security. That closeness can nourish you, too.

Try to keep regular routines as normal as possible. Children and adults count on familiar patterns of everyday life.

Plan something that you and your child can enjoy together, like taking a walk or going on a picnic, having some quiet time together or doing something silly. It can help to know there are simple things in life that can help us feel better, both in good times and in bad.

Even if children don't mention what they've seen or heard in the news, it can help to ask what they think has happened. If parents don't bring up the subject, children can be left with their misinterpretations. You may be surprised at how much your child has heard from others.

Let your child know if you're making a donation or going to a meeting, attending a peace vigil, writing a letter or e-mail of support, lighting a candle, saying a prayer, or taking some other action. It can help children know that adults take many different active roles...and that we don't give in to helplessness in time of crisis.

*Information gathered from Patty Wipfler of www.handinhandparenting.org
and information from Fred Rogers www.pbskids.org/rogers/parentsteachers/special*

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Green Greetings from Your Social Action Committee

Meet Rev. Hilary Krivchenia, our new minister, at the annual rompin' stompin' Corn Roast and Hootenanny on Saturday, September 6, 2008. The festivities begin with appetizers and refreshments (wine, beer and soft drinks) at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. We will be serving grilled corn, chicken, side dishes, dessert and coffee.

Once again we will have our popular Hootenanny, headed by Tom Dempsey and Jeff Phillips. In terms of our Hootenanny, we always feel the more the merrier, so if you are so inclined to join the entertainment tell Tom, the master scheduler. Age and talent don't matter. Musical numbers, poems, story telling, etc. are encouraged, as is audience participation. We can all sing along, hoot, holler and dance, or sit, listen and relax.

As in past years, in addition to starting off the church year, the Corn Roast is a fundraiser. This year our goal is to raise \$5,000.00 to benefit the Heifer International Gift Ark Program, which provides 15 pairs of animals to farmers throughout the world. Each family who receives livestock will pass on one or more of the animal's offspring to other families who are in need in their community. Our gift will multiply year after year. Imagine how our gift could change the world. Two cows bring milk and income to a Russian village. Two sheep help families in Arizona produce wool. Two camels help families in Tanzania earn income by transporting agricultural and industrial materials. Two oxen pull plows and carts in Uganda. Two water buffalo help Cambodian families increase rice production through animal draft power. And that's just the first five sets of animals!

This year our table settings, decorations and plates will be as green and environmentally friendly as we can make them. The used corncobs and other waste will be provided to a pig farmer and a worm farmer to use as animal feed. The Social Action Committee supports Countryside's efforts on being green, and we invite you to join us in these efforts.

With Rev. Hilary Krivchenia being introduced at the Corn Roast, tickets are going fast. Be sure to get your tickets by completing the lower portion and mailing it to or placing it in the Church office. Please make your check payable to "Countryside Church" and write "Corn Roast" in the memo section of the check.

Thanks from the Social Action Committee! With your help, we can make a difference!

*****Cut Here*****

Countryside Church Corn Roast 2008 RSVP Form

____ Adults @ \$16 each ____ Children under 12 @ \$8 each ____ Family @ \$55 (please list family members and ages to help planning)

I would also like to donate \$_____ for the Heifer International Gift Ark Program

Total amount of check: \$_____ Check number: _____

Name: _____ Telephone _____

A limited number of tickets may be available at the door (\$25 for adults, \$10 for children)

Social Action News (cont'd)

David Cohen attended the 2 days of training through the University of Illinois Extension and obtained teaching certification for the eight-week course. In order for the Palatine Township caseworkers to integrate what is taught during the 8-week session, they also attended the training and received the teaching certification.

The pilot program started June 11 and ran for 8 consecutive weeks. Damian Christianson and Leslie Evans were the co-teachers for the pilot program. Eight family units from the Palatine Food Pantry food pantry encompassing 10 adults and 11 children participated in the pilot program. Each client was paired with a specific mentor for all 8 sessions. The pairing of a mentor with the family was a new twist to the All My Money curriculum. It had never been tried before. Having a mentor assigned to each family was a great success. Each client received individual help during the class to tailor what was learned to his/her specific situation. The mentor and client also acted together as a team to find the best way to improve their money management skills. A special thank you our mentors: Marty Farrington, Maria Gregorio, Theresa Kenders, Nancy Klein, Gary LaBedz, Siri Laurin, Karen Noorani and Ken Sepos.

The eight sessions covered the topics of making spending choices, envelope budgeting, planning your spending, understanding credit, handling credit problems, building consumer skills, taking consumer action and handling checks and checking accounts. A case worker from Palatine Township attended each session.

In addition to teaching the adults, Juli Circarelli and Stephanie Walen-Suh taught the children literacy skills and money management skills while the adults attended the money management sessions.

Snacks were provided each week from both individuals and from Rainbow Friends. A special thank you to all who provided snacks for the sessions.

The purpose of the pilot program was to work out the kinks before asking CCUU to formally adopt the program. We learned something new each session. At the end of each session, the teachers and mentors met to discuss what worked and what didn't. Based on feedback from the teachers, trainers, clients and Palatine Township, it is clear that this is a program that should be adopted.

First and most important, the program clearly benefited our clients, the food pantry recipients. The five of eight families that completed the pilot program now

have skill sets that better prepare them to overcome many of the pitfalls that caused them to become dependant on the food pantry. Each client has been provided a reference book to use in the future covering everything from budgeting to consumer protection laws.

Second, this program turns our church covenant into action, recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every person, no matter the person's financial or social status.

The time has now come to decide whether to commit to Palatine Township (and to our covenant) to run this program on a long-term (3 to 5 year) basis. This can only happen if you decide to participate in the program. We will need people to be teachers, mentors, childcare providers, snack providers, set-up persons, etc. Your level of commitment can be to commit to an entire 8-week session, to help set up, bring snacks or help in childcare for one evening. But we need you to make the commitment. Are you willing to commit to help the food pantry recipients? If yes, please let Dave Cohen, Damian Christianson, Leslie Evans or Karen Noorani know. Or just drop a note in the Social Action Committee mailbox. Together, we can make a difference!

August Share-the-Plate Recipients

August 17: Habitat for Humanity International seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat has built over 250,000 houses around the world, providing more than 1 million people in more than 3,000 communities safe, decent, affordable shelter.

August 31: Unitus is an international nonprofit organization working to reduce global poverty by increasing access to life-changing microfinance services (small loans of \$40 - \$250).

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice

UUSJ will hold its summer quarter meeting on Sunday, August 17 from 2 to 5 pm at the UU Community Church, 70 Sycamore Dr, Park Forest. The program, between 2 and 3 pm will feature a panel addressing the subject "War with Iran: Not Inevitable," which will be followed by a discussion with the audience. This program is sponsored by the UUs for Social Justice Peace Task Force. The program will be followed by a UUSJ Board of Directors meeting, which is open to all. For driving directions or for a pick up from a Metra stop near Park Forest, write to uusj@sbcglobal.net or phone 773-643-8061 at least 2 days in advance.

From the UUA: Knoxville Relief Fund

For more information on the UU response to the tragedy at the Tennessee Valley UU Church (TVUUC) in Knoxville, go to <http://www.uua.org/news/newssubmissions/117156.shtml>.

From UUA President William G. Sinkford

“I am shocked and sorrowed by the terrible shootings in the sanctuary of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. My heart is heavy and my prayers are with our injured sisters and brothers in Knoxville. While many details of this tragedy remain unclear, our Association will do all we can to support Unitarian Universalists in Knoxville in the hard days to come.

A tragedy such as this makes us acutely conscious of the beauty and fragility of our lives and those of our loved ones. I am especially saddened by this intrusion of violence into a worship service involving children and youth. I know that many people, both in Knoxville and around the country, are struggling with shock and grief right now. I pray those so affected will find strength and comfort.

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Trauma Response Ministry are on their way to Knoxville to offer additional ministry to the congregation as it grieves. And Unitarian Universalists around the world are sending love and prayers to the Tennessee Valley congregation to tell them they are not alone on this dark day.”

What You Can Do To Help

Donate to the UUA Knoxville Relief Fund. The UUA in collaboration with the Thomas Jefferson District has established the Knoxville Relief Fund to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee. Your gifts will assist the Tennessee Valley UU Church and the Westside Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and their members, and will show them that they are not alone during this time of shock and grief. Please feel free to contact the UUA with any questions or concerns you may have at 888-792-5885 or campaign@uua.org.

Credit card donations can be made through the UUA’s secure website, <http://www.uua.org/giving/donatenow/117168.shtml>, or send checks payable to the “Knoxville Relief Fund” c/o Tom Klein to: Unitarian Universalist Association Stewardship and Development, 6th Floor; 25 Beacon Street; Boston, MA 02108.

Send letters of sympathy. Those killed and injured were from two area congregations that were participating in a joint worship service at TVUUC. Letters of sympathy may be mailed to both Knoxville congregations:

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
2931 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN 37919-4624

Westside Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
616 Fretz Road
Knoxville, TN 37934-1604

Job Ministry: Unemployment Doesn’t Come Easy

When unemployment hits a family, it is not only the person laid off that feels the pain, it is the whole family unit. One of the first steps to take is to set up a regular time when communications between family members can take place, including steps taken to find new employment, progress made, and corrective actions to resolve issues encountered. This small piece of advice is just one suggestion you will hear at the meetings of the St. Hubert Job and Networking Ministry at their regular Monday meetings and at their seminar events to help with your job search. You’ll learn helpful tips and hints for improving your competitive edge and gain insight into how to better reach those job openings and the hiring managers. Join us for these free meetings and events along with an opportunity to network with others for the help you need. More details can be found on the bulletin board across from the church office. Contact Bob Podgorski at 847-925-6005 with questions regarding St. Hubert Job Ministry Events.

- Resumé Review: August 9, 9 - 11 am at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 451 Terra Cotta, (Rte. 176 and Oak St.), Crystal Lake.
- How to Gain Competitive Edge: August 11**, 7 - 9:15 pm, St. Hubert Ministry Center, 729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates. **For The Newcomer: If you are new to Networking and/or job search, join us at St. Hubert, 6:00pm, prior to our regular meetings (on the second Monday of the month only).
- Employment Application Workshop - An Hispanic Program: August 16, 9 am - 12 Noon, Church of the Holy Spirit, 1451 Bode Road, Schaumburg.
- Creating a Career Portfolio: August 23, St. Francis de Sales Ministry Center, 135 S. Buesching Rd. Lake Zurich.
- Critical Thinking in Your Job Search: August 25, 7 - 9:15 pm, St. Hubert Ministry Center, 729 Grand Canyon, Hoffman Estates.

COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH

Unitarian Universalist

1025 Smith Road

Palatine, Illinois 60067

(847) 359-8440

Return Service Requested

Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the website: www.ccuu.org. If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form and submit it to the church office.

Weds, 7/30	6pm	Social Action Project - All My Money	Tues, 8/19	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle	Weds, 8/20	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Support Group
Thurs, 7/31	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191		7pm	Northwest Suburban NOW Mtg
	7pm	AFD Better Day Mtg	Thurs, 8/21	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191
Sun, 8/3	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group	Sat, 8/23	9am	RE Teacher Orientation
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion		1pm	1st Choir Rehearsal
	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Group	Sun, 8/24	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Mon, 8/4	9am	Sunday Times Deadline (blue insert)		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
Tues, 8/5	6:15pm	Motherhood Kinship Circle	Mon, 8/25	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
	7pm	Program Council Meeting	Weds, 8/27	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Group
Thurs, 8/7	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191		7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle
Fri, 8/8	7pm	AFD Movie Night	Thurs, 8/28	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191
Sat, 8/9	8:45am	Rise Up and Call Her Name		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Sun, 8/10	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion		7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
	12pm	Environmental Action Committee Meeting	Sun, 8/31	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	6:30pm	Book Circle	Mon, 9/1		Labor Day - church offices closed
Tues, 8/12	6pm	Chicago Master Singers Auditions	Tues, 9/2	6:15pm	Motherhood Kinship Circle
	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle	Weds, 9/3	7pm	Power of Now Discussion Group
	7:30pm	LM	Thurs, 9/4	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191
Thurs, 8/14	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Fri, 8/15	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle	Sat, 9/6	5pm	All-Congregation Corn Roast
Sun, 8/17	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Group	Sun, 9/7	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion		10:30am	Ingathering Worship Service
	12pm	Social Action Committee Meeting		7pm	Compassionate Comm. Covenant Group
Mon, 8/18	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting			