

## Worship Services

Worship services & religious education begin at 10:30 Sunday morning.

*Unless otherwise noted, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.*

As an experiment, we are not posting the upcoming sermon topics. We want to encourage you to come on Sundays to be together in community. Special events or collections are noted below.

### New Worship Experience Spirit Circle for All Ages on October 4 at 9:30 am

All are invited to this new worship experience. See flyer on page 5 for more details.

### Next Share-the-Plate: Oct.18

Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Palatine Township Food Pantry.

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## Focus Deadlines

Oct. 26, Nov. 23

Submit articles by 9 am

to ccuu@ccuu.org

## The Minister's Muse

This past weekend with Mike Durall was a time of challenging and yet totally common sense questions. One that stuck with me in particular was how relaxed we are about church attendance. It's almost a standing joke among Unitarian Universalists that there is no compulsion to attend Sunday services since - well - no one is going to hell for sleeping instead. And, you know, I have been absolutely comfortable with this for years - well sort of. The question of Sunday attendance really made me revisit my comfort... I wouldn't be here each Sunday - as a minister - if I didn't think that there was something of significant value going on here - each Sunday. There are folks for whom the habit of coming to service is a long and positive one, and there are folks whose past associations with church make it a harder habit to cultivate.

One of the things that Mike Durall said is that Unitarian Universalists often act as if a walk in the woods is as good as an hour of worship. I suppose that's true if all you are looking for is connection with Spirit or an hour of peaceful contemplation. But worship is about more than that. Attending service is about a shared experience — a collective life. It's about the search for truth and meaning taking place in the meeting of minds and spirits. It's about feeling the presence of others and being present to others. It's about the strength and encouragement available in community. It's about the making and keeping of a covenant with others and what is possible when we gather our energies and resources. It's about the inspiration derived from the fruits of reason, imagination, and creativity. It's about the growth of relationships over time, through rites of passage, celebration, mourning, and trial. It's about learning together about the landscape of our lives. It's about the summons to a better life - to living a life of purpose. In the woods, no one is liable to tell you to practice generosity; you may hear the gentle prodding of your own conscience, but no one will deliver the news about the struggles of the world or of your neighbor and remind you of your place in that world.

Someone said to me recently, "I have no use for church - if we just lived by the Golden Rule the world would be fine." But the world would not be fine because the Golden Rule is not enough - you need to treat others as they would be treated, not as you would be treated - and to do that you need those others. The Golden Rule isn't enough because ethics don't help you navigate the hard night of the soul in the presence of death or great suffering. Ethics don't give you companions to rejoice with over the beauty of life. They don't hold your new born, bless that child, and promise an extended circle of care and wisdom for that young life. The recent losses we have experienced in this congregation have made it clearer - it matters that we matter to one another. For that to work, we have to be present to one another.

At its best, religious community provides things that a walk in the woods can't begin to touch - just as a walk in the woods offers other things. And religious community is only at its best when we participate in it. It's not a grocery store - stocked and ready for us to pick up a quart of life when we are low. Religious community, a spiritual life, philosophical depth are only available to us when we show up for them, participate in them and make them happen. It takes practice - showing up on Sunday is part of that practice. Don't do it out of guilt (guilt produces bitter fruit) - do it out of hope. I'll look forward to seeing you - when the time is right!

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## Celebrate Halloween at Countryside

On Saturday, October 31, we will be having a Halloween fundraising event for Countryside adults. Doors will open at 7:30pm and between 8 and 10:30pm, we'll have activities including a costume contest, dancing, bingo, 50/50 raffle and more! At 10:30pm, we will have last call, and the doors will open for Countryside teens to join us for a showing of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show." Come by to chat about the event and sign up at the Information Island beginning Sunday, October 4. (Note: the nature of the Halloween event has been changed based upon feedback from many families that they wanted to spend the evening celebrating in their neighborhoods.)

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## Games Night

On Friday, October 2 at 7:30 pm at the church. Games and cards will be provided; if you have a game you want to play, bring it with you. Gals: bring beverages to share. Guys: bring snacks to share. For more info, contact Damian Christianson or Mary Janes.

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## Song Circle

All are invited to an informal gathering of singers and musicians on the 3rd Friday of the month, October 16\* at 7 pm in classroom 4. Bring an instrument if you play one, your voice, lyrics and music if you want others to sing and play with you, and your own beverages and snacks. Any questions, contact Tony Pretto. We hope to see you there. \*Note: this is a different date than was originally published.

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## Time and Talent Auction

### Save the Date!

This year's Time and Talent Auction will be held on Saturday, November 21. More detailed information about the event, donations and reserving your spot will be coming soon.

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## Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are welcome to come meet with me. Come join me in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. I would like to meet you and have a chance to connect and to answer questions. I'm eager to welcome you!

2009-10 Meet the Minister Dates: Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 11, May 23, Jun 6.

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## Great Choir

### Every 1st Sunday, including this Sunday, October 4

Here's an opportunity for those of you who want to find out what it's like singing with our wonderful Countryside Choir (or perhaps you would sing with us regularly but cannot commit to our weekly rehearsals): experience the Great Choir!

We'll meet at 9 a.m. sharp in the choir room (just off Atherton Hall) and work on hymns and an accessible (fun and not too challenging) anthem for the morning. Show up! The choir and I will welcome you warmly and you will, we hope, have a GREAT time.

See you in choir!

...Jeffrey

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## UU Children's Choir

If you know of young UUs who like to sing and whose birthdays fall between June 28, 1997 and June 22, 2000, please encourage them to try out for the UU Children's Choir, which will meet and perform at the UU General Assembly in Minneapolis in June 2010. The audition deadline is October 20, 2009. A copy of the application is posted on the bulletin board outside Jeff Hamrick's office or go to [www.uucc2010.com](http://www.uucc2010.com).

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## Path to Membership Classes

### Now being offered Sundays and weekdays

In an effort to be as responsive as possible to the needs of our Countryside community, this fall we are offering Path to Membership classes on Sunday mornings as well as on weekday evenings. All visitors are invited to attend these Path to Membership classes. Classes cover UU history, traditions, Principles, practices and beliefs as well as Countryside history, society, stewardship and much more. Classes include time for discussion of spiritual journeys, socializing and refreshments.

The Sunday morning classes are meant to be family-friendly - while parents are in class, children will be cared for by our RE teachers, but the Sunday format is not limited to families with children. The Sunday class will be from 9 am to 10:30 am on two consecutive Sundays, October 18 and 25. The evening class will be on three consecutive Tuesdays, November 17 and 24 and December 1. The evening class is three nights because the final evening is a potluck dinner. To register for a class, please contact Cathleen Chay or call the church office.

Joining Sunday for both classes is December 6. During this service new members are recognized and warmly welcomed by the congregation. A reception for new members and their families follows service.

## Heartfelt News

It is with sorrow that we share with you the death of Leonard Larson, father of Vid Axel, father-in-law of Cherita Axel, and grandfather of Aliana Axel (all of Countryside). Len died, at home, with his loved ones nearby, on Sunday evening at 10 pm, of apparently of congestive heart failure. Len had long been struggling after a severe stroke, a stubborn cancer, and a heart condition. Information is forthcoming about the memorial service.

## In Memoriam

**Paula F. Cowan**

**September 7, 1953 - September 15, 2009**

A memorial service was held for Paula on Thursday, September 24.

## In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. Forrest Church

*Excerpted from www.uua.org*

Rev. Forrest Church, acclaimed author of more than two dozen books and longtime minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City, died on September 24, following a three-year battle with esophageal cancer. He was sixty-one years old.

Said UUA President Peter Morales, "We have lost a brilliant and articulate thinker, a champion of democratic values, and a compelling advocate for liberal religion. More importantly, we have lost a kind, thoughtful, and loving spirit.... Even as we feel our loss, let us be grateful for his enduring legacy."

(Church) was a strong proponent of both religious and political liberalism.

In 1986, Church told the Boston Globe, "...generally, politicians try to change society for the betterment of the individual. I like to change the individual for the betterment of society." Through his work as a minister and a public intellectual, Church profoundly influenced both individuals and society.

Church reached a wide audience through the...books that he authored or edited in the course of his career. His ...works include Our Chosen Faith: An Introduction to Unitarian Universalism, The American Creed, ...and Love and Death. Church's final book, The Cathedral of the World: A Universalist Theology, will be published by Beacon Press in November.

Church spent his final years reflecting on the importance of living each day with love and gratitude. He writes in Love and Death, "The goal is to live in such a way that our lives will prove worth dying for... The one thing that can't be taken from us, even by death, is the love we give away before we go."

## Lay Ministry: We Are Here For You!

Again, in this time of loss, it is important for our community to knit together - to lean upon one another, to call on the Minister, the Lay Ministry Team, and one another. These are the times when we come to realize how much our lives are enriched by the many people who bring themselves into congregational life. They become a part of our lives and, as we experience their deaths and our losses we also recognize how much we need one another and the unique comfort of congregational life - comfort which can be a casserole, a hug, a card, or a listening ear or a shared prayer. Please be sure to reach out as you need support in this time. And remember that this place is, in fact, where we bring our vulnerable humanness in order to receive and to give the strength that religious community - community based in meaning - can offer. See you at church on Sunday.

## In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Gretchen White on the death of her sister.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Laurie Lantz and family on the death of her grandmother.

## focus

### Published by Countryside Church

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Church Office Hours *Mon-Thurs: 9am-3pm*

*Fri: 9am-Noon*

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*

[RevHilaryK@ccuu.org](mailto:RevHilaryK@ccuu.org)

Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*

[RE@ccuu.org](mailto:RE@ccuu.org)

Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*

[Music@ccuu.org](mailto:Music@ccuu.org)

Minister Emeritus *Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely*

Community-Based Minister *Dr. C. Scot Giles*

Music Director Emeritus *John Denny*

Congregational Administrator *Laurie Lantz*

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.

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## From Our Religious Educator

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I'm feeling inspired by our conversations with church consultant, Michael Durall, this past weekend. In my three years as DRE at CCUU, I never cease to be amazed by the tremendous generosity and spirit, and potential for growth in this congregation. It is a privilege to be a member of your staff; thank you!

From the RE perspective, the past three years have been very busy, continuing many good things and planting seeds for future growth — the great opportunity to call Rev. Hilary as our settled minister, enriching our Sunday morning RE experiences, building new programs, updating curriculum, developing communication and support systems - it's all been vital work. But the greatest challenge I heard from some families when I first arrived at CCUU, was that, "our children don't like to go to worship." As a religious educator, I was pained to hear that something so central to our identity and spiritual growth, was missing from some children's experience. We are not alone in this challenge; many churches are seeking ways to create meaningful worship experiences for all ages, and I believe we are in an excellent place to continue addressing this challenge in creative and transformative ways!

As UUs, we believe worship, in its broadest sense, is an integral part of spiritual growth. Whether it's taking time to marvel at the beauty of a sunset, or holding hands with people gathered in a circle, there is a powerful longing to connect with something larger than ourselves. As parents, and as our child's primary spiritual guides, we seek ways to help children worship - to look deep within, attune to their natural wonder and curiosity, and attune to a larger, abiding dimension - whether we call it energy, mystery, spirit, human potential, greater good, god/dness, love - the particular realities and metaphors are less important than the abiding need for attunement and awareness.

I believe children need some worship experiences in peer groups, and we currently provide these experiences in our RE classes, youth cons, and Spirit Circle services (formerly children's chapel). Children also need opportunities to worship within a larger multigenerational community, that for UUs is the congregation. In our culture there are few places, if any, other than houses of worship, where five generations gather under one roof to explore life's greatest questions, and search for meaning and purpose! What a tremendous opportunity and gift we have when we gather together!

With every opportunity there is some challenge. We come to church with differing needs and expectations, some of which are shaped by our age. I believe, however, that the need to make meaningful connections with others, to explore life's meaning and purpose, and to help make the world a better place - abides in each of us, regardless of age. I believe that only by being together can we learn from one another, and that increasing opportunities to worship together, strengthens the whole community.

So, we invite you to join us next Sunday, Oct. 4, for a new worship experience beginning at 9:30 am. We'll gather in the Sanctuary for a worship experience designed for ALL AGES - this means lighting candles, singing, movement, and stories. It will be followed by time for breakfast and fellowship, equally important elements to our spiritual nourishment! An offering will be collected to support Journeys from PADS to Hope, providing area families with emergency shelter. We hope you will join us!  
...Colleen

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### Membership Ctte Needs YOU!

Now that our exciting Mike Durall weekend is over, you all know, I'm sure, that changes will be happening soon. We on the Membership Committee are chomping at the bit with eagerness and energy and would love to have a few more eager and energetic people join us in helping our church change and grow. We have a few inspirational, stimulating and provocative ideas but we ardently welcome even more. We're very much looking forward to putting them into action. If you're interested in joining the Membership Committee and being an valuable part of the exciting new era for Countryside, please phone or email Cathleen Chay OR Yuki Juretic.

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### Parents of Young Children

Please join us for fun and fellowship at our Fall Playdate and Potluck on Saturday, October 3, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at Plum Grove Reservoir Picnic Shelter, 1100 W. Algonquin Rd (inside the Harper College campus). Kids can enjoy the playground while adults socialize in the picnic shelter. In case of rain, we will meet in Atherton Hall at church.

Please bring a dish or beverage to share. RSVP to Christina Caglar. In the event of inclement weather, Christina will email on Friday everyone who has RSVP'd to let them know the final location. We hope to see you there!

**You're invited to a . . .**

# **New Worship Experience**



## **Spirit Circle for ALL AGES!**

**Worship can be active, multi-sensory & fun!**

**Please join us!**

**Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009**

**9:30am-9:50am -- Sanctuary**

**followed by breakfast & fellowship**

**9:50-10:20am -- Atherton Hall**

**An offering will be collected for Journeys from PADS to Hope, serving area families in need of emergency shelter. Thank you!**

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## Adult Faith Development News

### **Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Group**

We will meet next on Tues, October 6. We will be airing a 90-minute documentary, "Constantine's Sword" by Oren Jacoby, with discussion to follow. "A former Catholic priest goes on a personal odyssey exploring the dark side of Christianity in this thoughtful 2007 documentary. James Carroll...asks if religion is influencing American foreign policy. He visits the Air Force Academy in Colorado... and learns that evangelicals are freely recruiting troops on campus. He also finds that anti-Semitism is a growing problem there. And he looks back at Christianity's past, at the Emperor Constantine's vision of the cross as a sword and symbol of power. From there, he uncovers evidence of church-sanctioned violence against non-Christians. The timely film raises uncomfortable questions about Americans' deeply held beliefs."

### **Movies with Meaning**

On Friday, October 9 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall. we will show The Miraculous World of the Very Small. Fungi, bacteria, and tiny engines inside every cell of our bodies. What can we learn from them? Can they help us live together and care for the planet we share? Three medium-length features, interspersed with lighter short segments.

### **Last Mondays Book Group**

Join us on October 26 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss The Book of Air and Shadows by Michael Gruber.

### **Book Circle**

At our next meeting, we will discuss Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters - and How to Talk About It by Krista Tippett (of NPR). We will meet on Sunday, November 1 at 6:30 pm in room 6. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion!

### **Gong Meditation with Kenny Kolter**

Immerse yourself in sound with the healing vibrations of the gong. A Gong Meditation will both calm and inspire your spirit. The vibrations can help balance and cleanse the energy in your body. The sound & vibration works at a cellular level and can help with stress, fatigue, depression, anger, and blocked energy.

The Adult Faith Development Council is sponsoring another Gong Meditation on Saturday, November 7, 3-5 pm, in Atherton Hall. Suggested donation for this event: \$20. (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds) Advanced registration is kindly requested. To reserve your spot, please contact Erv Toth.

This is an experience you will never forget. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat, blanket or pillow and water and be prepared for a journey of a lifetime.

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## Seeking Social Graces

Do you enjoy small social get-togethers? Do you like getting to know people? Do you enjoy inviting people into your home? Perhaps you enjoy Circle Suppers but can't commit to 4 months in a row? If so, you are the perfect candidate to be a host for a new member dinner. We want to make sure our new members feel welcome and at home - and going to a small dinner gathering is a good way to help people get to know each other and develop a sense of belonging. You can host the dinner in a circle supper fashion, order a pizza or make the entire dinner yourself - it's entirely up to you. You can invite some long-term members as well as new members. And the schedule is flexible, so you can also choose a date which is convenient for you. If you are interested in hosting an occasional new member dinner party, please contact Lisa Bohne.

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### **Fall Women's Retreat**

The Central Midwest District UU Women's Connection will hold the 2009 Fall Retreat on November 6-8 in Lake Geneva. The keynote address will be given by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca Armstrong. A registration form is on the bulletin board across from the church office, or can be obtained on-line at [www.uuwomensconnection.org](http://www.uuwomensconnection.org). The registration deadline is October 4.

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### **Chicago Area UU Churches (CAUUC) Multiracial Congregations: Can we get there from here?**

The Reverend Qiyamal Rahman, Director of Contextual Ministry at Meadville-Lombard Theological School will speak at the annual meeting of the Chicago Area UU Council, Saturday, November 7, 9am-3pm at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, [www.nsuc.org](http://www.nsuc.org). The day will include an afternoon of roundtable discussions sharing perspectives and developing "next steps" toward multiracial congregations. Register at [www.uuchicago.org](http://www.uuchicago.org).

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### **GoodSearch for Church**

Go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter 'Countryside Church UU' as the non-profit you want to support, and the church will earn a penny every time you search the Internet and a percentage of every purchase you make online! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue to the charities its users designate. GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates a % of each purchase to your favorite cause! For more info, contact Bob Spielman.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the church website ([www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org)) under the "Events & Rentals" heading. If your church meeting or event is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form (available with the calendar on the website) and submit it to the church office.

Tue 9/29	7 pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group	Sat 10/17	8am	CMwD Elem OWL Training
Wed 9/30	6 pm	Making the Most of Our Money		TBA	Circle Suppers
Thu 10/1	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Sun 10/18	8:30am	Artist's Way Covenant Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
Fri 10/2	12pm	Worklife Support Group		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Song Circle		11:45am	Meet the Minister
	7:30pm	Games Night		12pm	COA Meeting
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg		12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group
Sat 10/3	9am	AFD Enneagram Workshop		1:30pm	CROP Walk @ All Saints Lutheran
	10:30am	PYC Playdate & Potluck		7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
	4pm	COA Retreat	Mon 10/19	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution
Sun 10/4	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Tue 10/20	7pm	RE Council Mtg
	9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages		7pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
	7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>		7pm	Worship Council
Mon 10/5	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution	Wed 10/21	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
Tue 10/6	6:30pm	AFD/HCAN mtg		7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	7pm	Program Council Meeting		7pm	Journey Inward
	7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp	Thu 10/22	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	7pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Wed 10/7	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money	Fri 10/23	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group	Sat 10/24	8:30am	Zen Wkshop, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
Thu 10/8	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)		9am	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sun 10/25	9am	Path to Membership class
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Fri 10/9	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg		7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
Sat 10/10	8am	Resume Review	Mon 10/26	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution
	5pm	Sr High Lock-In		7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
Sun 10/11	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Tue 10/27	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting		7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group		7pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
	7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>	Wed 10/28	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
Mon 10/12	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution	Thu 10/29	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
Tue 10/13	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Wed 10/14	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money	Fri 10/30	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg	Sat 10/31	7:30pm	Halloween Fundraising Event
Thu 10/15	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Sun 11/1	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Fri 10/16	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle		9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages
	12pm	Worklife Support Group		12pm	COA meeting
	12pm	CMwD Elem OWL Training		7pm	Zen Meditation, <a href="http://www.greatplainszen.org">www.greatplainszen.org</a>
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg			