

Thoughts from the President ...

The last half of 2009 was a very busy time for Countryside Church UU (CCUU). We can be proud of what we have accomplished even as we look forward to new goals and changes. I can't begin to mention all of what we've done, but here is a general rundown, for those of you who might not be aware of all that is going on among our members and friends:

Worship

In addition to our wonderful services planned by our minister and staff, including children's worship, we have also had a number of guest speakers and seasonal services to enhance our spiritual seeking. The creation of a new service, the Spirit Circle service, has added another dimension to our worship; and the investigations in preparation for a possible second Sunday morning service have generated much discussion. In addition to the current music program, the Great Choir and the soon-to-be Morning Song time add much depth to our worship experience. These new aspects expand the music program to any folks who wish to participate in an informal way.

Study

Among all the exciting things happening in the RE program are: artwork, OWL, Coming of Age, an active summer program, ever-evolving curricula, youth involvement in social and outreach projects, and much more. There's always something new and exciting "cooking" (literally and figuratively) in the RE wing. It is difficult to say that this program is just "study" as worship and service are an important component of the experiences our children and youth find here.

We have had a variety of study experiences for adults as well, including Gong Meditations, yoga practice, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven study, theology classes, Path to Membership classes, AFD film/discussion series (which will be adding a spiritual component in coming months), book groups (which sometimes lead to field trips), and many more I'm sure I have neglected to mention.

Your leadership team has been fired up through a Central Midwest District class, a Board retreat and a weekend-plus consultation with Mike Durall. These shared activities have given us much to discuss. Congregational feedback on Mike Durall's recommendations has also given us much to consider.

Our Covenant of Right Relations, on which we will vote at our annual meeting in May, has been a topic of study you will be hearing more about in the coming months. This Covenant is based on one that is used in the church Roger and Emily Ehm now attend, and will lead us to consider our communication with and behavior toward one another.

Service

It seems that many of the projects that come to mind belong in the category of service, which makes me glad that we are focused on more than only our personal relationships in congregational life. Some of those projects are:

Our busy committees continue to work hard for our various goals, with their individual goals being based on their visions for the future and their collective goals being articulated via the Program Council. These meetings are now mostly

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Soup Lunch This Sunday

The Coming-of-Age class will be serving delicious homemade soup immediately following the service on Sunday, January 10. This is the group's only fundraiser and helps fund their trip to Boston in June. Please plan to enjoy a wonderful lunch. Thank you for your generous support!

Upcoming *Focus* Deadlines

February 1 and March 1

Submit articles by 9 am to ccuu@ccuu.org

From the President (cont'd)

held on "Super Tuesdays," with meetings preceded by a worship experience to set the tone for the evening and bring all together in a shared, spiritual framework.

Fundraising for both the operating budget and the building campaign have been successful because of the efforts of several very hard working individuals and groups. The Time and Talent Auction in particular has provided all of us with the opportunity to serve others, as well as to have fun the rest of the year! Building renovations continue to be a big focus, with the repairs and replacements that have been made to the roof, siding, and windows being supervised by dedicated member volunteers. More improvements are to come.

Several new members have been welcomed through the efforts of the Membership Committee, and the Membership Engagement program has begun to address the needs of current members. We look forward to the involvement of these families within our church family.

A new sexton position has been filled through the persistence of those involved in personnel issues, and a staffing plan for maintenance and growth of our goals is under construction.

We continue to pursue Green Sanctuary certification and the Welcoming Congregation initiative has expanded to its next incarnation to help us "live" our welcoming commitment. The Making the Most of Our Money project has assisted several low-income families to address financial planning needs and was recently endorsed by the Board as a congregational concern.

The gardening group has expanded during our second growing season and plans to expand still further next year. The children's garden, part of the summer children's program, adds to the colorful crops on the hill. We hope eventually to offer even more of our produce to the local food pantry.

The fair trade sales have grown to include both a Fair Trade Fair and regular sales of such items during coffee hour....and our coffee continues to be made (and cleaned up), this year by "assigned" volunteers, spreading the work among all members.

I know I have left out many important elements of our church life and I apologize for that. All of our volunteers: those who teach, cook, decorate, plan, organize, implement, clean up, sing, march, paint, listen, participate... and spread the word about CCUU, make this church community the vital congregation that it is.

A Final Note

We have lost a number of beloved members this year, through both death and relocation, but each of them has left behind a legacy of generosity and commitment to our organization that insures their presence will be felt here for a long, long time.

Gratefully, Judy Ball

Pancakes This Saturday

Tired of washing your own pots and pans after cooking a hearty Saturday morning breakfast? Well put those utensils away! Rainbow Friends want to cook you breakfast. On Saturday, January 9, Rainbow Friends will be hosting a pancake breakfast for the whole congregation and their guests in Atherton Hall from 9 am 'til 12 noon. Everyone is invited. Please use the breakfast as a way to introduce your friends, family and neighbors to Countryside Church. Interested in helping? Rainbow Friends are looking for more friends to help with the event. Please contact Sue DeLuca or Ron Polomchak for more information on helping. Rainbow Friends will graciously accept donations to help off-set the cost of the breakfast supplies.

Movie Night January 8

Adult Faith Development (AFD) Movies with Meaning and the Journey Inward Group have joined forces to show spiritual movies every other month beginning January 8 at 7 pm with the movie The Secret. The Secret reveals the natural law that is governing all lives. By applying the knowledge of this law, you can change every aspect of your life. If you are new to this movie, it can change you and your life! If you have seen this movie, it will be a great refresher. For more information, contact Hal Snyder or Erv Toth.

Honoring Bob Spielman

On Sunday, January 17, please plan to attend a celebration after the church service, honoring Bob Spielman. Bob is retiring from the volunteer position he has held for more than 15 years, that of Care Ministry Coordinator. As Care Ministry Coordinator, Bob would contact members that had previously agreed to provide services to members in need of transportation, meals, visits, check-in phone calls, shopping, or help at memorial services. Bob would then make sure these services were provided in a timely manner. His contribution to Countryside Church in coordinating these activities has been outstanding! Come and help us celebrate! Cake and coffee will be served.

Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are welcome to meet with Rev. Hilary. Join her in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. Next Meet the Minister is January 17.

The Minister's Muse

One of the great pleasures of being a Unitarian Universalist minister is the rare chance to describe our religion - our beliefs, our practices, and our tradition to people who have not known us before. I had that pleasure this past week with two high school students from a local high school who had to research a religion for a class at school. They were, it turned out, the last to pick their topic and been assigned this one. I was not daunted by that. They were joined by the mother of one of the girls. You know often we give ourselves a hard time because we can't put our faith into one three sentence creed. But - every time I have one of these opportunities I rediscover that I love the depth of our faith - the different aspects, the concrete things we do believe in and the freedom to explore at the same time. I think it would be a great thing if each of us decided to set themselves a New Year's project of talking to one person - as an experiment - at least as a start - about Unitarian Universalism. It requires patience - with yourself - first of all. You need to be patient that there is not one good zinger you can deliver. Then you need to be patient with the process - of discovering all the places that the person you are talking with will want to take the questions - "do you believe in hell?" (do you mean the collective "you" or the personal "you"?) You need to be patient as you discover that you have more answers than you thought that you did. I noticed that when we had our bring a friend to church day, the people who came had a good time and learned a lot about Unitarian Universalism. This would be sort of like that - but more like take out than dine in. Maybe practice with someone at home first - someone who can be supportive and ask some good leading questions. I don't often get the chance to spend an hour or so talking with someone like I did this week - but there are numerous shorter opportunities. I think that the chalice I wear is part of it - people ask about the chalice - and I am able to share a bit of our story - although sometimes I just trip over opportunities - like the time a few weeks ago when I was buying candle holders at IKEA for our Winter Solstice service - which was long but truly lovely - with the spiral of greens leading to the chalice in the the center and the candles being lit one after another as people entered and left the spiral. Anyway - I was at IKEA and the woman at the check out said "are you having a holiday party?" and I said "Well - these candles are for the spiral of greens at our solstice service at church this Sunday evening." "Gosh," she said, "I didn't know there was any place that was doing that - cool! Where are you?" "Palatine." I

responded of course, "The Unitarian Universalist Church." "Oh! I live in Palatine!" she said. We had a some warm conversation and parted. I don't know if she will show up for a service sometime or not - but now she knows about us and can seek us out.

When I hear about the terrible things done in the name of religion - and no religion seems free of it's atrocities - I feel grateful to be a part of a reasonable as well as compassionate faith and one worth sharing. For some people I hope that learning about our faith will help them to practice theirs with more reason and compassion - for others, learning about our faith may lead them to our door. Either way - we all win. And each time I am give the chance to talk about it - my faith becomes deeper and stronger and I receive more sustenance from this great tradition. So - this year I resolve to find more ways to bring our light out from under it's bushel. I hope that you will too - because we will all find the world a brighter place for it.

Rev. Hilary on Vacation

Rev. Hilary will be on vacation and on study leave from Christmas until January 12. In case of emergency, please contact Ken Bobbe or Trudy Kleckner on Lay Ministry, Chris Smith on Committee on Ministry, Board President Judy Ball, or the Church Office.

focus

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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.

Upcoming Worship Services

Unless otherwise noted, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services, which begin at 10:30 am.

January 10

Boldly Going

The Rev. Heather Janules

It is the stuff of science fiction and wild imaginations: You are traveling along a road late at night and suddenly an alien ship lands in front of you. The aliens invite you to enter the ship and come with them. You are unsure whether this trip will be for a brief jaunt to the moon or for forever. Do you board the ship? Drawing from a conversation at a church craft fair, this unlikely scenario leads us to consider many questions. How do I respond to unexpected risk? How do I balance individual destiny and commitments to others? What in my beliefs and values helps me make these decisions? Just a few days into the new year, this service will invite us to reflect on our relationship with boldness and new opportunities.

The Rev. Heather Janules serves Cedar Lane UU Church of Bethesda, Maryland as the Associate Minister and Minister for Pastoral Care.

January 17

Martin Luther King, Jr Day

The Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

3rd Sunday Share-the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Riverside Foundation in Lincolnshire, which provides residential services for people who have developmental disabilities.

January 24

Whole Stories, Whole Lives

The Rev. Elizabeth Harding

Following the worship service, the film Traces of the Trade will be shown with a discussion to be led by the Rev. Elizabeth Harding, who will be presenting the sermon on that day. In the film, Producer/Director Katrina Browne tells the story of her forefathers, the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Given the myth that the South is solely responsible for slavery, viewers will be surprised to learn that Browne's ancestors were Northerners. The film follows Browne and nine fellow family members on a remarkable journey which brings them face-to-face with the history and legacy of New England's hidden enterprise.

January 31

Ecclesiastes

The Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Special music will be provided by Jeff Hamrick and guest soprano, Michelle Areyzaga.

5th Sunday Share-the-Plate: Half of the offering collected will be donated to Home of the Sparrow, whose mission is to empower individuals and families to eliminate homelessness, joblessness and hunger by teaching self-reliance, independence, and self-discipline. In pursuit of its mission, Home of the Sparrow advocates with local community, religious and governmental agencies to initiate policies and implement programs that prevent homelessness, joblessness, and hunger in the communities they serve. For more info, see their website: <http://www.h-o-s.org/>

Move On Up!

Front row seats at The Goodman: 50% premium pricing

Front row seats at this summer's U2 concert: 200% premium pricing

Front row Bears seats: 100% premium pricing

Front row seats at CCUU: NO PREMIUM whatsoever!

That's right folks, in other venues, front row seats command a premium, but here our front row seats are premium-free, yet they remain virtually empty on Sunday. There are many reasons to move on up to the front rows:

* Do it to make our sanctuary more welcoming to visitors

* Do it to make our minister and choir feel less lonely

* Do it because you can—where else can you take advantage of front row seats without paying a premium!?

And, as added incentive (as if you needed more!), this Sunday and this Sunday only, FREE coffee at coffee hour for the first 25 people who move to one of the front two rows! Go ahead . . . you know you want to . . . move on up!



Noteworthy

Morning Song

Kick Off Delayed

The kick off of Morning Song, an all-ages music, rhythm, and movement experience has been

delayed and will not start January 10. Stay tuned for a future announcement of the new kick-off date.

Countryside 1st Sundays

Spirit Circle for All Ages and the Great Choir will meet the 1st Sunday in February - February 7. Watch for info in the Sunday Times.

From the Membership Committee

ChocolateFest on February 14

White chocolate, milk chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate, chocolate with nuts, with peanut butter, and on and on. To all you chocolate lovers: be sure to save Sunday, February 14, for our very popular annual ChocolateFest. This will take place right after the worship service, and we request any and all of you bring your favorite chocolate dish (finger food only, please!) - cookies, cookie bars, brownies, candy, and anything else you can think of - and take them before the service to either the kitchen or on the buffet tables in Atherton Hall.

Save the nearest spaces for guests!

As we grow, it becomes all the more critical for us able-bodied folks to park in the parking lot south of the church, even when there are empty spots near the church. We want to leave guests (and potential members) as many parking places as possible near the church. Thanks for your cooperation!

Living the Welcoming Congregation Show Your Commitment as a Rainbow UU

The beginning of the year is always a time for reflection and hopefulness. As you think about your personal commitment as a UU going forward in 2010, sometimes a symbol acknowledging that commitment can be important to you, your family and friends.

During 2010, the Living the Welcoming Congregation Program committee is asking you to affix our rainbow label to your name tag. As you may know the rainbow is known throughout the world as a sign of diversity and inclusiveness, of hope and of yearning. By wearing this you will be asking the Countryside community to support your desire to remain hopeful and that you yearn for growth by recognizing how diversity and inclusiveness impacts you.

Through out the year we'll be looking at how diversity and inclusiveness makes each of us special; and helps all of us to grow too. The Rainbow labels will be available after worship on the nametag board and at the information island. Look for us.

The Living the Welcoming Congregation Committee is: Greg Ward, Jane Matthews, Sue DeLuca, Jim Booth, Jeanie Michalec, Joy Simon, Tim Walsh, Sue Wendt, and Dan Yokas. Dan Wiseman, consultant. Rev. Hilary, ex-officio member.

What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?
~Mary Oliver

From the Board of Trustees

Potential Second Service

Have you noticed the sanctuary is filling up on Sundays? And if there is a multi-generational service, it is noticeably at excess capacity? New members are joining the church, and a greater diversity of interest groups and offerings are making CCUU an even more desirable, vital and welcoming community. This is a fruitful time to make our congregation and Unitarian Universalism available to more people in the Northwest suburbs.

Over the last several years, thoughts of a second Sunday service surfaced and were preliminarily addressed by a task force (led by Chris Smith) - however the idea was put on a back burner when our settled minister at that time departed.

Now, with our new settled minister firmly in place, growth indicators show that it is time to re-evaluate offering two services and work toward a possible completion date in the Fall of 2010. As we move forward, the Board invites your input regarding the impact and implementation of a second service. This is not a decision to make lightly, and we ask for your careful consideration and open mind to assure a successful evaluation and realization.

Our minister and staff are very supportive of the idea, highly motivated and qualified to lead in this direction. Please refer to the list of Discussion Points on page 6 to assist in answering some questions you may have. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Board, Rev. Hilary, or a member of the staff. Your comments and thoughts are highly valued.

On Wednesday, January 20, the Board will vote on the second service proposal they requested, which was drafted by Rev. Hilary and staff.

Open Forum Discussion

We endeavor to discuss "the issues of the day" while respectfully welcoming diverse perspectives. We meet in Room 6 on Sunday mornings at 9 am. We socialize for 15 minutes prior to discussing the day's topic from 9:15 to 10:15. Feel free to bring your own coffee and/or snacks to share. We welcome diverse points of view!

Our topic for Sunday, January 10 will be: Got Faith?

Our topic for Sunday, January 17 will be: Peace on earth, and goodwill towards all?

For more information, please contact the Open Forum Discussion (OFD) facilitators, led by Vid Axel, at ofd@ccuu.org

Discussion Points re. Proposal for Two Worship Services

How was this proposal developed?

The proposal was developed by the staff, at the request of the Board President, in response to historically unaddressed expressed needs at Countryside that were confirmed by the research of Mike Durall, our visiting consultant, author of *Creating Congregations of Generous People* and *The Almost Church Revitalized*, with a strong and successful track record of promoting congregational thriving. It was reviewed by the Board of Trustees during fall and winter of 2009, and is being published now in advance of the Board vote on January 20.

Is the staff ready for this change? Can they handle the extra time to manage two services?

Yes! The staff drafted the proposal and is excited about it. They are providing input to the Personnel Committee so that Countryside can develop a long-term staffing plan to ensure we can develop the volunteer and staff resources needed to support a congregation of our size.

When will the service be held?

At this point, the most likely scenario will be two Sunday morning services with an interim time for gatherings between the services. This will allow opportunities for connections to be made among the whole congregation and also lend itself to the shared availability of and increased participation in religious education experiences.

What will the second service be like?

For efficiency, both services will be similar, but not identical. Right now, we don't have the volunteer network available to create an identical service (e.g. we don't have two full choirs), but research suggests that this move will accelerate our growth. When that happens, we will have more human and financial resources available as well as more options: we could add a second choir, young adult service, meditative service, midweek service, etc, in order to reach out to populations we may not be reaching currently. In the meantime, people have lots of great ideas, and we are collecting them to be considered and implemented — if not now, then maybe later.

I'm worried that this is going to divide our congregation into two.

That's a valid concern, and it's true that some might lose a sense of intimacy. However, many congregations have gone through this transition and report that it has in fact strengthened their community. We are extremely aware of this and will do all we can to minimize this risk. By keeping both services similar in content, we are more likely to sustain a cohesive spiritual community.

If the Board votes 'yes' at their January meeting, when are we going to implement two services?

We are taking a very planful, deliberate approach. The staff and program/committee members have already been researching how to make this transition successfully by learning from other congregations who have been through it. If approved, we will have an implementation team that is representative of the many facets of our church life to develop a full plan. It's possible that we will be ready by September.

Aren't we moving too fast?

Actually, we've discussed the idea of adding a second service to our worship schedule for several years. In fact, in 2005, a task force was convened to consider it. It never moved forward, however, because our settled minister at the time departed, and the congregation needed to focus on searching for our new settled minister. Now the time has come to make that move, and we are doing it in a very deliberate process with the involvement of many people within the congregation.

Whom can I talk to with questions, comments, ideas, or to volunteer to help?

Feel free to contact Reverend Krivchenia or any member of the staff; or Judy Ball or any member of the Board of Trustees. We don't have all the answers yet, as we are early in the process, but we welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Getting to Know Our New Members

John Evans grew up Methodist but started going to Countryside at the Brockway location with his late wife, Leslie (a long-time member) when their two sons were part of the church's religious education program. "I helped paint the church, I helped paint other people's homes, I did all that UU stuff..." he says, but stopped going when the boys were in their mid-teens. When asked why he decided to join Countryside, he said he didn't like the color of the visitor's badge (purple) and so is now wearing a "normal" color badge, that of a full-fledged member. His hobbies are beer-tasting and home "dis-maintenance." For the latter, he regularly tries to fix something in his home, and ends up paying someone to repair his repairs. He also likes humor about Unitarian Universalists, whom he thinks are sometimes too serious. John does market research for A C Nielsen in Schaumburg. His two sons are James, 28, and Chris, 24.

Christine Gralewski, who was raised Presbyterian, heard about Countryside through member Judy Miller, who used to bring the "Sunday Times" to Chris's home. Chris was born in Skokie but grew up in Glenview and Palatine, graduating from Fremd High School. One of three girls, she went to Harper and Eastern Colleges to study Recreation Administration and now handles customer service for Robert Half International. Her hobbies are swimming, fishing, playing the guitar, and playing darts. She's looking forward to finding challenging and interesting volunteer opportunities at Countryside, having already helped to paint a couple of the classrooms.

Janet Ogle is originally from a suburb north of Boston, Massachusetts, grew up Catholic, and majored in sociology at Suffolk University. She received her Master's degree in social work from Boston College, where she met her husband, also a social worker. She works with senior citizens, and Jim works with kids at local service agencies. Janet found herself "moving away" from her Catholic religion when she went away to college, and when she and her husband moved to Chicago, visited the Second Unitarian Universalist Church in the city and loved it. Janet enjoys reading and has been a member of Countryside's Last Monday Book Club for about a year-and-a-half. She's also involved in exercise, walking and cooking.

Karen and Alan Greenland were married in Countryside four years ago, with Alan's uncle, a Presbyterian minister, presiding. Karen was brought up Catholic but wasn't involved and felt as though she was missing out. She wanted to be part of a community and is now looking forward to being a part of Countryside. Alan has

already become part of the Green Sanctuary Committee, as well as Social Action. Karen has attended a meeting or two, but hasn't decided specifically on which of the many offerings to take advantage of. He is an optical engineer for Northrop and is an excellent cello player (according to his wife!). Karen is a systems engineer for Sun Microsystems in Itasca. They both like to participate in triathlons, reading and watching sports, particularly football and NASCAR.

Ginny Lopez is a retired elementary school teacher who graduated from North Central College in Naperville and received her Master's from University of Illinois. She taught all subjects and coordinated the science program with the I-Max "Antarctica" movie as well as training other teachers to teach science. "I LOVED it!" she says about her 32 years in School District 58 in Downers Grove. Growing up in the Congregational church, she studied comparative religions in college and drifted away from formal religion when she married her husband, Ken, whose work was in retail and who had only Sundays to spend time with his family. They have two grown children, 8 adult grandchildren, one great-grandchild and another due this summer. Now that she's retired, she's organizing details about her family history and also loves sports. Both her parents were physical education teachers and coaches, and Ginny belongs to a golf league and swims regularly. She used to coach synchronized swimming and includes some of the movements in all her workouts. She occasionally hikes with the Sierra Club and also enjoys cross-country skiing. She's a member of the DuPage Birding Club and helps them monitor bluebirds' boxes, whose detailed records are on a GPS system.

Dori Lewis and Shawn Tennant are getting married at Countryside Church on May 1, Dori's birthday. They met when Shawn asked her to come to his apartment and watch a football game - their balconies faced each other - and as she says, "I never left..." Shawn is from St. Louis and works in downtown Chicago doing IT support. He spent several years in the military, both in Iraq and Afghanistan. He loves playing video games and regularly gets together with friends to play basketball and hockey for fun. Dori grew up Lutheran, is from Wisconsin, and works as a forensic scientist for the Illinois State Police, testing drugs and testifying in court. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin in Whitewater with a major in chemistry and a minor in math. She practices yoga and loves to draw using colored pencils. They both are passionate about all sports and especially love watching football and baseball.

Social Action Update

Making the Most of Our Money for 2010 & 2011

MMOM sessions are scheduled to begin March 31, 2010; October 6, 2010; and March 30, 2011. Each session will meet on Wednesday nights and last for 9 weeks. Please consider being a mentor in the adult program or a teaching assistant in the children's program. No experience needed. We will provide all the training you need. The next mentor training class is scheduled for March 20 at 9 am.

Toiletries Collection Continues

Rid yourself of unopened shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, moisturizer, shower gels and other beauty items you don't use and help struggling women feel better about themselves. Full-sized, samples and hotel freebies are welcome. No make-up or used products please. Deposit your items in the blue bin in the coat closet for delivery to the Wheeling Township food pantry for distribution to needy women. This is an ongoing program, not just for the holidays. But what a great time to clean out your closet and make a difference in another person's life!

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is Tues, Jan.19 at 7 pm in classroom # 1. To contact social action, you can use our new e-mail address: socialaction@ccuu.org.

Photographs of the under construction campus in Talagang:



Construction work in progress of the side



Exterior view from side of the under construction campus



Preparation for pouring of the ground floor roof slab



Exterior view of the campus



Preparation for pouring of the ground floor roof slab



Construction of the main room under construction

Countryside Church is providing the entire school library for this TCF USA School being built in Talagang, District Chakwal, Pakistan. The school will open in April, 2010

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the church website (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.

Wed 1/6	7pm	Transition Meditation	Wed 1/20	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group		7pm	Journey Inward
Thu 1/7	6pm	Pride Youth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Thu 1/21	6pm	Pride Youth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	7pm	Hatha Yoga		7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Fri 1/8	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning	Fri 1/22	7pm	Games Night
Sat 1/9	TBD	Circle Suppers	Sat 1/23	9am	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
	8:30am	Zen Workshop, www.greatplainszen.org		9:30am	Worship Council Retreat
	9am	Pancake Breakfast		3-8pm	Chalice Circle Facilitators Retreat
Sun 1/10	9am	Open Forum Discussion	Sun 1/24	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	11:30am	Soup Lunch Fundraiser for COA		2pm	Meal Prep for PADS
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group	Mon 1/25	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org	Tue 1/26	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg
Tue 1/12	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle		7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
	7:30pm	Sr High Covenant Group		7:15pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
Wed 1/13	7pm	Transition Meditation		7:30pm	Adult Faith Development Council
	7pm	Program Council Meeting	Wed 1/27	7pm	Transition Meditation
	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg		7pm	Program Council Budget Discussion
Thu 1/14	6pm	Pride Youth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Thu 1/28	6pm	Pride Youth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	7pm	Hatha Yoga		7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sat 1/30	9:30am	Spirit Play Team Training
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting	Sun 1/31	9am	Open Forum Discussion
Fri 1/15	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle		12pm	COA Mtg
	12pm	Worklife Support Group		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
	7pm	Song Circle		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
Sun 1/17	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group	Tue 2/2	7pm	Program Council Meeting
	9am	Open Forum Discussion		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp
	11:45am	Meet the Minister	Wed 2/3	7pm	Transition Meditation
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group		7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group
	12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg	Thu 2/4	6pm	Pride Youth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	4pm	Chalice Circle Facilitators Mtg		7pm	Hatha Yoga
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org		7pm	Scripture Class
Mon 1/18	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Tue 1/19	7pm	RE Council Mtg	Fri 2/5	12pm	Worklife Support Group
	7pm	Social Action Committee Meeting	Sat 2/6	9am	RE Council Planning Retreat
	7pm	Worship Council			

Transmission Meditations

The Journey Inward group will be having Transmission Meditations on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 pm starting January 6.

We will begin with a brief introduction to how do the Transmission Meditation. We will then sit in meditation for 1 hour in silence. This is a powerful spiritual experience. For more information, contact Erv Toth or Rose Schulz or visit <http://www.meetup.com/Journey-Inward-Meetup-Group>.

Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us Monday, January 25 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss The House on Fortune Street by Margot Livesey.