the **LINK**





Send corrections/comments/additions to: <u>churchoffice@friendshipchurchumc.org</u> Accepting submissions for the September issue through August 20th.

Reflections from Pastor Anna



"...this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11

One pastor shared this story and I think there is a lesson for me:

"At a social gathering two tables were set with a fountain of punch on each table. On one table, a sign read "NON-ALCOHOLIC." On the other table the sign read "ALCOHOLIC." The "ALCOHOLIC" sign was accidentally knocked off the table when someone noticed a conservative pastor go up to the table, fill his glass with the unmarked punch and begin to sip.

After drinking three glasses of the unmarked punch, the pastor made his way back to the table for another refill. The person who had been observing the pastor went up to him and asked: "Reverend, do you know what you're drinking?" "No," he responded, "And I don't want anybody to tell me."

The message is clear. "Lack of knowledge is one thing. Resistance to learning is something else."

This year summer has arrived late and seemingly leaves us soon. Most public schools start at least a week earlier than usual. When you read this article, you are probably completing 'back to school' shopping for your children, whether they are bound for out-of-state college or kindergarten a block away from your home.

The leadership of Friendship has also been busy. Throughout the summer, the Nominations and Leadership Development Committee has met weekly to seek new leaders and Sunday School teachers for Friendship Church. The leaders of the Core Groups met and evaluated and celebrated what we have achieved together and prayed about how we could be more intentional in our efforts for re-discovering the joy of fellowship as followers of Christ. Surely we have been living out what we have learned: that church is the people, not just a building.

The council decided August 18 will be 'back to church, back to school' Sunday. We will worship at 10am, followed by the church picnic that the Social Life Ministry Team has diligently planned for many months. Also August 18 will be our last Sunday with Deacon Tammy who has been with us since April of 2012. You will have a chance to say thank you to her for her wonderful ministry with us and among us as we say farewell to her.

August 25 we will celebrate the Core Group ministry. We call it "Core Group Kick Off" Sunday. Also on this Sunday, right after worship, we will embark on a series of learning opportunities on The Bible and Immigration. Reverend Michael Mann, conference staff for Outreach and Mission, will lead Session I. Session II will be offered on Sunday, September 22, from 6 – 8pm. Please look for details in this newsletter and also at the information center.

I am deeply grateful for those who silently and faithfully put their sweat, love and care into our environment so that we all can enjoy them: Thanks to the lawn mowing team and security team. Special thanks to Gene Paquette and Larry Hilb and double thanks to Kathryn Bulman who had to come out sometimes twice a day to water the plants and pull out the weeds and dry leaves, especially in this summer's heat.

I pray that as we prepare ourselves for a new season of learning, may God open our hearts and minds, ears and eyes, so that we will not resist learning but keep on learning and make us accountable to one another and strive for the best in the sight of God and thereby praise God's name in what we do and what we say.

Blessings,

Pastor Anna

ANGELS UNAWARE ~ August 2013

A monthly column that highlights folks who do "good stuff" for Friendship Church



As your Angel Reporter flies about this month, it is HOT! As one of our church sign sayings once said..."if you think it's hot here...!" My halo isn't really melting but it's close.

Your reporter was very happy to find out a bit about one of our newest employees, Grace Toledo. Grace is the office manager at Friendship and truly is the "go to" person for our church. Almost every piece of news go through her, so if you wish something done, published, inserted or stuffed, stop in and see Grace!

Grace is a native Chicagoan and grew up on the north side. Yes, folks, she is a die-hard Cubs fan! She comes from a large

family. Early in her life, Grace knew exactly what her vocation was. She liked being the organizational person at work and as a result, has held several jobs as an administrative assistant. She worked in a law firm downtown as the assistant to one of the partners and also worked at the Illinois State Medical Society. Most recently Grace was the assistant to Pastor Scott Field and the Office Administrator at Wheatland Salem United Methodist Church. A reorganization in their office structure brought Grace to Friendship Church.

Grace and her husband, Ivan reside in Plainfield. Grace describes Ivan as a wonderful man who smiles all the time! With both of them growing up in large families, Grace and Ivan have five children—four daughters (Sarah, Jenny, Michelle, Emily) and their youngest, Benjamin. In late summer, Grace and Ivan will send Ben off to Kalamazoo College where he will play football for the Hornets. So if you see an extra-large box of tissues next to Grace's desk in August, you'll know that the Toledo's have delivered their youngest off to school!

With all of their five children and four grandchildren in the area, plus a wedding to organize in October for one of her daughters, Grace has lots to keep her busy. Grace's hobbies include baking and shopping, especially digging for "treasure" at local flea markets.

You probably have noticed Grace's efficiency if you have had contact with her in the office. She enjoys being organized and doesn't leave anything to the last minute. Her creativity and originality are evident in our newsletter, bulletin and inserts.

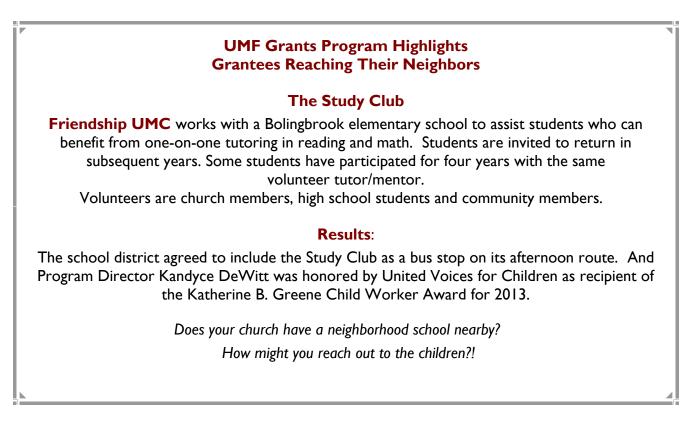
Grace is also a Notary Public for the State of Illinois. The next time you need a document notarized, stop in and see Grace. She looks forward to serving the people of Friendship Church!

Grace is enjoying getting to know the people of Friendship and find us true to our name! She is off the clock on Sunday when she and Ivan attend The Compass Church in Naperville, a Bible oriented church.

Please stop in to the office and introduce yourself to Grace, our Angel Unaware for this month! We welcome her and we are grateful for her hard work at Friendship Church.

UMC Northern Illinois Conference

UMC's Study Club was highlighted in the July edition of the UMF newsletter! See below.



A Letter to Friendship Church from Northern Illinois Conference

June 24, 2013

Thank you very much for your generous contribution of \$250, check #33434, to the Northern Illinois Conference, received during the first annual Bishop's Appeal offering held during annual conference, June 5—8, 2013. This was our first ever experience of pooling our resources from the pew to the annual conference floor, and I am pleased to announce that as of today we have raised almost \$80,000.

This is an unprecedented level of giving during annual conference, and we are grateful for your support. This year the Bishop designated the offering to support the Campaign to Benefit Harvest 2020, and it will go toward the work of planting new faith communities throughout Northern Illinois.

Thank you for your participation and contribution. Together we are creating a culture of generous giving in the Northern Illinois Conference.

Sincerely,

Anne Coon Harvest 2020 Campaign Manager



New Opportunity for Ministering to the Community

Friendship is partnering with a new community group called **Parent Mentoring Program (PMP).** PMP's mission is to equip parents with the tools and a support network to achieve success for themselves and their family. This will be done through adult mentoring, monthly workshops and coaching. This program is headed by Amania Drane, chair of Friendship's Outreach & Missions Committee. The Northern Illinois Conference has also provided a \$2,000 grant through their Creative Ministries Grant program.



Additional details will be forthcoming. If you have questions or would like to get involved, please contact Amania at 630-985-6421 or <u>niaenterprises l@comcast.net</u>.



Northern Illinois IAF United Power for Action & Justice, Lake County United, & DuPage United – Fox River Valley Initiative REGIONAL 2-DAY TRAINING

Friday, September 20 [|] 6:30pm – 9:00pm Saturday, September 21 [|] 9:00am – 5:00pm

United Methodist Church of Geneva | 211 Hamilton St., Geneva, IL 60134

Parking is available directly west of the church and side streets.

SUMMARY

Northern Illinois Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) will offer a 2-day version of its acclaimed national leadership training in Geneva in September.

Co-sponsored by **Northern Illinois United Methodist Conference**. It will include the core universals and skills taught in somewhat longer IAF training offerings. This training will be useful for emerging leaders, leaders who have been involved in broad-based organizing but have yet to participate in other trainings, and staff of member organizations.

REGISTER TODAY! info@dupageunited.org

For more information contact: Adrienne McCauley, 512.560.8838 or adrienne@dupageunited.org.

The Bible and Immigration | Sunday, August 25, 11:15am & Sunday, September 22, 6-8pm | Friendship Church

Presented by Reverend Michael Mann, conference staff for Outreach & Mission

Where does scripture meet your story? The Bible includes some of the oldest accounts regarding the migration of people and God's attitude towards those who sojourn in a new land. This fall, study what the Bible says about migration, learning the principles that recur throughout Scripture and may even apply today. Hear where your story may intersect with the larger story of God's movement throughout history. Listen for where God is moving today.

Session II, September 22. Have you heard the latest about immigration? What about the history and stories of migration in this country? Come and hear the background of immigration in the U.S. Share your own stories that point to the continually changing nature of migration and our collective story.



In **October of 2014**, Friendship will celebrate its 40th anniversary. The Bishop will worship with us on the first Sunday in October. Old friends and pastors of Friendship will be invited to attend.

A committee has been formed to begin working on the details for the occasion. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of the members listed below or attend the meeting scheduled for Thursday, 8/1 at 7:30pm. Wayne Fetters, Carolyn & Loren Weber, Jane Pierce, Jody Hargett, Mike DeWitt or Susan Higginbotham.



We're updating our database!

Look for the form next time you are at church to update your information.

Please fill out the form and drop it in the box at the Information Station.



Church Picnic | Sunday, August 18 | 11am— 3pm

This year's picnic will be held on Sunday, August 18, immediately following the service.

Fun and games beginning at 11:00 with lunch served at 12:00.

The Social Life Committee is asking everyone who plans on attending to fill out the registration form and return it to the box at the Information Station as quickly as possible.

Completed forms must be turned in no later than August 11, 2013 to ensure enough food is prepared for all. Additional sign-up forms can be found at the Information Station.

When registering, please indicate how many people will be in attendance and what food selection you would like to bring. There are a variety of nonfood items also available for those who do not cook, but wish to contribute to the celebration.

RSVP by **August II** to reserve your spot.

Ministry Fair

Want to know what is

In combination with our

we will hold our annual Ministry Fair. All ministries

their focus and activities.

happening at Friendship Church?

Church Picnic on August 18,

Questions? Contact Nancy O'Gara or Kathleen Campbell.



Everyone's Invited to First Thursday dinners We will be meeting at Portillo's on Boughton and Route 53 for our First

Mark your calendar for 6:00pm to 8:30pm on **August I** to have a time of fellowship, friendship and NO COOKING with other church members. ministry

Look for posters or displays in the back of the Worship Area and in the Friendship Center.

and committees will display information detailing



News from Deacon Tammy

Deacon Tammy's last Sunday will be August 18.

"I am filled with both sadness and joy as I prepare

to say good bye to Friendship Church.

I will miss being a part of God's amazing work in this church and the surrounding communities. But I also look ahead and know that God has even more great things planned for both Friendship Church and me.

I am pursuing full time employment in a local school. Friendship Church will always have a special place in my heart! Many blessings to you all."

Deacon Tammy Biltgen



Core Groups Are Gearing Up for a New Year

Our Core Groups are getting ready for a new year of small group meetings in member's homes.

The hosts and facilitators met in June to evaluate this year's activities. With some tweaking of the geographical Any questions can be directed to Stephanie Coates at groupings and a few new leaders, we are ready to begin anew this Fall.



Our kick-off will take place during the church service on August 25.

If you were not able to attend this past year, we hope you will give it a try this year.



Calling All Prospective and Present Choir Members!

It's that time for choir member recruiting here at Friendship. We're always looking for new members to join the choir and we can always use more voices.

If you're not in the choir, what can I do to get you in the choir? Do you enjoy singing but are afraid because you don't read music, DON'T BE! You don't

have to read music to be in the choir, so why aren't YOU in the choir?

As we look toward the fall, the 10:45am service is joined in singing with the *Chancel Choir*. The choir is open to anyone age 14 and older. The choir sings most every Sunday from September through May and does a wide variety of music including contemporary, classical, and gospel. No previous musical experience is necessary, just the desire to sing and have fun doing it! Rehearsals begin, Wednesday, **September 4** at 7:30pm in the choir room. Come join in the fun while singing praise to the Lord!

The Adult Bell Choir will start back up on Wednesday, **September 18** from 6:30-7:20pm in the youth room. Anyone 13 years old and up are invited to play in the bell choir. No previous musical experience is necessary!

The Children and Youth Bell Choirs will start back up in late September. In order to determine the times and groups, please email me no later than August 31, indicating your child's interest in bells.

630-783-8192 or at stefcoates@comcast.net



News & Notes

Upcoming Event ~ Navigating the Affordable Care Act A Healthcare Education Conference for Religious and Community Leaders

Join us on **October 1-2, 2013** for Plenary and Small Group Sessions providing faith and community leaders with the information they need

ions need People of Faith Seeking Justice and Health

to help people of the community navigate and access health security provided by the Affordable Care Act.

Navigating the Affordable Care Act: People of Faith Seeking Justice and Health is a HEALTH CARE EDUCATION CONFERENCE being convened by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

The Conference will gather at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and one confirmed site in Aurora. More sites will be available soon. On Tuesday night, the Conference begins at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with a plenary session featuring the Rev. Gary Gunderson, Professor of Faith and Health of the Public, Wake Forest University School of Divinity. The introductory plenary will be web streamed to all satellite sights. On Wednesday, all campuses will host a morning plenary and then gather in small groups focused on empowering congregational leaders to help constituents access health care benefits.

The Conference is sponsored by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, the American Association of Pastoral Counseling and the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago in partnership with The Campaign for Better Health Care, The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation: Advocate Health System, Samaritan Counseling Center in Naperville and the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy of Chicago.

Conference Tuition

Garret-Evangelical Campus: \$75 before August 15 / \$150 after August 15 Satellite Campus: \$50 before August 15 / \$100 after August 15



Safe Sanctuaries Conference-Wide Training Saturday, August 24 | 9am ~ 3pm First UMC, 216 Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL | Cost: \$25

Registration fee of \$25 covers the cost of lunch, materials and background check.

The essentials of Safe Sanctuaries will be covered. Safety on the internet and in social media will be explored through some hands-on interactive activities. Participants are invited to bring their laptops, tablets and smart phones.

To register or for more information contact: Linda Lowery: llowery@umc-cornerstone.org or 847.464.4673, ext. 11 or Natarsha Gardner: ngardner@umcnic.org or 847.931.0710, ext. 16

Caring Christians

Caring Christians is moving into its 2nd year at Friendship United Methodist Church.

We believe that many hearts and souls have been touched by the care offered through our ministry. To date the Card Ministry group has mailed over 150 cards to members during happy, sad, or difficult times. We will continue to offer the "cards" to those who would enjoy receiving a gentle reminder that you are never alone. Please contact the church office and let us know of someone who would benefit from a small gesture of kindness.



Caring Christians is available for hospital visits, funeral receptions, rides to medical appointments or emergencies for those who are unable to drive themselves, meals, telephone ministry and/or service repairs. We are only a phone call away. We are there when you need someone.

Please feel comfortable to allow us to help you, if needed. We care!!



Last chance to catch a game this season!



FUMC Financial Update January ~ June 2013

The Finance committee wishes to thank the entire congregation for an excellent first half of the year, and hopefully the start of a very successful 2013. We were able to increase our income and hold our expenses in check so that we ended June with a small surplus to help us control the difficult summer months and give us a great start for the balance of the year. Below I have listed the total financial picture on a year to date basis, and hope that we are able to repeat these efforts for the remainder of the year.

	TY(000)	Ly(000)	Budget (000)	Inc/Dec LY(000)
Income	\$129.2	\$120.3	\$121.5	\$8.9
Expenses	\$127.3	\$124.1	\$125.3	\$3.2
YTD Surplus/Deficit	\$2.0	(\$3.8)		\$5.8



As you can tell from the chart above, we are just short of a \$9000 increase in income for the first half. This was primarily driven by our increase in congregational giving (+\$4900) and a few specialized giving contributions for specific programs at our church. As a congregation, we are stepping up to the challenge and we have every confidence that this will continue throughout the year.

The expense control has been excellent and our committee chairs continue to do a great job of controlling the expenditures of their committees and our trustees continue to keep our church looking great while minimizing our costs. Everyone should be complemented on a great job.

As we head into the last half of the year, we need the continued commitment of all of our congregation to keep up the great work, and bring Friendship to a solid financial finish for the year 2013. Thanks to all for your efforts and support.

Michael DeWitt, Chair of Finance

Children & Family Ministry News



Fri. August 2nd

7:05pm

Joliet Slammers Game

Sun. August 4th

I0am Family Worship

Sun. August II^{th}

10am Worship & Sunday School

Sun. August 18th

10am Worship & Sunday School

llam

ALL Church Picnic

Sat. August 24th

8am Parkie's 5K

Sun. August 25th

10am Worship & Sunday School

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We had another hugely successful week of Vacation Bible School at Friendship Church!

Many people were needed to make this such an amazing and memorable experience for children from our congregation and community!

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who helped to make this possible: planning team, decorating crew, snack team, craft team, preschool teachers, games team, Bible storytellers, VBS nurse, registration team, photographer, audio & video team, and our amazing TEEN helpers! We had over 50 children and 20 adults helping us throughout the week!!!



Joliet Slammers Game & Fireworks

August 2 | 7:05pm | Silver Cross Field

Join your Friendship Family for a night of fun at the ballpark!

Tickets are \$10 each for a reserved seat and \$2 in Slammers Money to spend at the ballpark.

Please contact Deacon Tammy to reserve your tickets TODAY! Quantities are limited!!!

Deacon Tammy says good-bye

I am filled with both sadness and joy as I prepare to say good bye to Friendship Church.

I will miss being a part of God's amazing work in this church and the surrounding communities. But I also look ahead and know that God has even more great things planned for both Friendship Church and me.

Friendship Church will always have a special place in my heart!

Many Blessings to you all,

Deacon Tammy Biltgen

Sunday School

Summer Sunday School at 10am continues through August 25.

We will have Family Worship on Sunday September 1 at 10am.

We will return to two services and two Sunday school hours on Sunday September 8. Please join us at either 9am or 10:45am!

We are still recruiting teachers! Please let Pastor Anna or Deacon Tammy know if you would be willing to guide our children in their faith journeys.

Vacation Bible School











August 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 2 | 7:05pm | Joliet Slammers Game | Silver Cross Field

Sunday, August 4 | 10am | Family Service

August 10 & 17 | 10:30am ~ 12 noon | Bible Study at Ms. Terri's

Sunday, August II | II:30am | Confirmation Teachers Meeting | Meeting to discuss and learn the updated curriculum

Sunday, August 18 | Church Picnic and Rally Day

Attention 6th & 7th graders: We are planning to go to Feed My Starving Children in Aurora.

No date has been set yet. Watch for information to follow.



Welcome back to our Chrysalis kids!



Janet Dimgba Maxwell Dimgba Solomon Karmara Rebecca Netty Katy Lichty Olamide Olatunde McDavis Ansere

hrysalis

Look for them at church and ask them how this event was!

First Friends Preschool



First Friends Preschool

Things are gearing up as we enter a new school year at First Friends Preschool.

We are holding an Open House at 6:30pm on Friday, **August 23**.

Please recommend us to your family, friends and neighbors who are looking for a Christian preschool. They can come that evening to see the classroom and meet the teachers.

We still have openings in our Monday, Wednesday,

Friday four-year-old class and in our Tuesday/Thursday three-year old class.

Parent Night will be Tuesday, August 27 at 6:30pm.

Both parents and children are welcome at the Open House and Parent Night. Childcare will be available.

As always, interested parents can learn more at firstfriendspreschool.info.

Contact Chris Bosacki with questions at: chrisbosacki@firstfriendspreschool.info.

We're looking forward to a great year!



Thanks to Friendship Church's Praise Band for leading worship this summer!



DAYBREAK

Please email your requests to

prayerrequests@friendshipchurchumc.org

if you don't use email please call the church office and the request will be forwarded. If you do not have access to a computer and wish to join the prayer chain, please advise the church office or see Kathryn Bulman, prayer chain coordinator. Please be mindful that even though prayer requests may be common knowledge, it is our responsibility to maintain confidentiality.



Celebration offerings

The tradition of the Celebration Offering came to us from our African Fellowship.

On the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate God's abundant gifts on our lives, a special offering is taken in addition to the general offering. It's a

chance to celebrate the blessings God has bestowed upon our lives. Look for the special offering envelope in the bulletin. There is a place to mark if you would like to share your story with the congregation during a Sunday worship.

We have been blessed continuously with generous sharing and giving from our church families to share their moments of thanksgiving and joy with others who need an extra encouragement.

This month we have received 7 celebration offerings, totaling \$60.00. They are for the celebration of a birthday, renewal of the body and spirit, baptism, and life.

May God continue to bless you richly as your compassionate heart grows daily!

Blessings, Anna

Serving at **Daybreak** is a long standing tradition at Friendship. On the third Friday (and following Saturday morning) we donate food, cook and serve two meals. Watch inserts in 2nd Sunday bulletins for details on how to donate and get involved in serving at the shelter.

> Dinner on Friday, August 17 @ 5:00 pm Breakfast Saturday, August 18 @ 5:00 am Richard Guzman, Coordinator

SENIOR BIBLE STUDY & LUNCHEON

Is open to all senior adults. It meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:15am. The study is led by Pastor Anna and is followed by a delicious luncheon. If you would like to attend, contact the church office at 630-972-1011

Study & Lunch: Thursday, August 15 @ 11:15 am

AA & GA

Friendship is a place of help and hope for those struggling with addictions. Meetings are open to all. **AA Meetings:** Saturday @ 9am & Sunday @ 5pm

GA Meetings: Friday @ 7:30 pm



DRESS A GIRL

Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress.

Turn donated t-shirts into beautiful dresses for girls in need. Join us for cutting, sewing and assembling dresses.

Call the Church office to find out when and where we are meeting next.

Feel free to drop off children's t-shirts, pillow cases, 100% cotton fabric and ribbon at the Giving Center in the front entry so this team can create beautiful dresses!

ANXIETY/PANIC ATTACK SUPPORT GROUP

Meets the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month from 7—9pm. Open to all

August 2013 ~ Friendship Church

All Church Services and Sunday School Meet at 10:00am through August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				I 7:30p Anniver- sary Committee Mtg.	2 10a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	3 9a AA
4 10a Family Worship 5p AA 5p Gujarati Worship	5	6 10a Hour of Faith	7 6:30p Scouts	8 7p Anxiety/Panic Att. Support Grp 7p Parent Mentoring Grp	9 10a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	10 9a AA
 I I I0aWorship I1:30a Confirmation Teachers Mtg. 5p AA 5p Gujarati Worship 	12	13 10a Hour of Faith 6:30p Nomina- tions Comm.	14 6:30p Scouts	15 11:15a Senior Study/Lunch	16 10a Hour of Faith 5p Daybreak 7:30p GA	17 5a Daybreak 8:30a Market Day 9a AA
18 10aWorship Church Picnic Ministry Fair 5p AA 5p Gujarati Worship	19 7p Sunday School Teacher Training	20 10a Hour of Faith NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 6:30p Scouts	22 7p Anxiety/Panic Attack Support Grp 7p Parent Mentoring Grp 7p Worship Planning	23 10a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	24 9a AA 6-8p Emmanuel Cobbinah Funeral
25 10aWorship Core Group Kick-off 11:15a The Bible & Immigration 5p AA 5p Gujarati Worship	26	27 10a Hour of Faith 7p Outreach & Missions	28 6:30p Scouts	29	30 I0a Hour of Faith 7:30p GA	3 9a AA