



Kairos

August 17, 2011 Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Mission: *Guided by reason and sustained by love, we are a liberal religious community inspiring people to transform our world.*

**August 21, 2011
10:00am**

From Naysayer to Yaysayer

The Rev. Dr. Matthew-Johnson Doyle

Our culture seems to prize the critic – those who tear down others, ideas, and hopes. We are pretty good at saying No. A whole political party seems to have perfected the art of “Hell, No.” How can we turn ourselves, our town, and our society towards saying yes?

**August 28, 2011
10:00am**

Homecoming

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

We come from many rooms, and gather together again to begin a new church and school year. Reflections on coming home and renewal. A fun, multi-generational service. The 2nd annual Homecoming potluck/BBQ will follow the service. Please bring something to grill for your family and a dish to share.

**Sunday Helpers
August 21, 2011**

Ushers..... Pam & Barb Wilson
Greeters Misha & Kadison Lentz
Coffee.....The Harmon Family
Hospitality Volunteer needed
Worship AssociateAlice Enichen
Sound Tech Phil Hjemboe

**Sunday Helpers
August 28, 2011**

Ushers..... Jean Babb & Cheryl Stockwell
Greeters Eric van Est & Lori Higgins
Coffee Volunteer needed
Hospitality Volunteer needed
Worship AssociateSusan Dunn
Sound TechLeah Krippner



SHARE THE PLATE

The Action for Children Task Force is again asking for your support by providing funds for the purchase of school uniforms for homeless students in our Rockford public schools. **August 21st will be a Share the Plate Sunday** when we will give to this program 100% of the cash plate donations plus checks made payable to the UU Church with “school uniforms” written on the memo line. The uniform cost of approximately \$20.00 is an exorbitant sum for families that are without a permanent residence, and any amount you can contribute will help us help these children by easing their entrance into the new school year.

This is the sixth year we have supported this program, and unfortunately the number of children it serves continues to grow. Last August we were able to spend \$1605 for uniform shirts and pants because of your generosity. Let’s see how many children we will be able to help this year.



Matthew's Memo

At the start of a new school year and church year, it seems a fine time for me to share with you what we might call "Matthew's rules of change." These rules, learned from others and from much personal and professional experience, have been a great help to me in my life, and may be in yours, too.

1. Change is always happening. The ancient Greek philosopher Heraclites said that "you never step into the same river twice" – and he was right. Everything living changes, all the time. Our bodies are changing, and so are our relationships and our contexts. The absence of change is death.
2. Change involves loss. With every change, we lose something. We might lose an identity, a connection, a myth we thought was true, a comfort, or a way of living. Some losses are no big deal, and some are a very big deal. People do not fear change so much as they fear the loss that comes with it. It's important to know what losses you are or might experience with any change.
3. Change involves gain. With every change, we gain something. We create a new identity, make a new connection, learn more about the world or ourselves, and new pathways are opened for us. Sometimes the gain of change is much greater than the loss, and sometimes vice versa. Often, we have no idea of the gain or loss will be greater until many years later.
4. Change is easier when done for the sake of vision, or for love. We are willing to change and risk when we believe in where we are going, and have a sense that the change will help us get there. We are also willing to change for someone, or something, we love: a child, a lover, a cause, a community.
5. Success in life and leadership is largely about managing the pace of change. Too much at once is disorienting. Too little leads to stagnation and disinterest. But when it is just right, then things really hum.

In addition to these rules, there is one corollary: thriving through change requires the religious virtues: forgiveness (for we will sometimes get it wrong), trust (for we don't always know where we are going), and wonder (for we may be surprised by what we find if we are open to it).

I try to practice these rules, and am the better for it when I do. Give them a try, and let me know how they work for you.

In faith,
Matthew ☺

Church Family News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **Janet Beger** (8/20), **Bev Baxter** (8/22), **Marcy Davis** (8/22), **Marlowe Holstrum** (8/24), **Betty Caputo** (8/26), **Eugene Duncanson** (8/27), **Ben Lantz** (8/27), and **Lynn Liston** (8/29)!

Happy Belated Birthday to **Chris Dunn** (7/24)! We hope that it was wonderful.

Contact Information Update: Kay Hotchkiss' new mobile phone number is (779) 200-0703. Grandon Tolstedt's new mobile phone number is (815) 633-2150 (same as the old land line).

Scotti Lichtenheld had surgery a couple of weeks ago, and returned home on Sunday, August 7th. Cards and calls are welcome.

Duane Wilke had prostate surgery on Tuesday. He is grateful to the staff at Rockford Memorial and especially Dr. Michael Fumo, who performed the robotic surgery.

Jim Bailey is recovering after heart surgery (two valves replaced and one repaired). You can follow Jim's progress at www.caringbridge.org

We extend our sympathy to Ted Zobal on the death of his mother, Clara Irene Zobal; Clara died peacefully in her home on Thursday, Aug. 11, at the age of 88. A memorial service was held on Monday, August 15, at 10 a.m., at Sunset Funeral Home.

R.E. Corner

On August 21, 2011 at 9:55 a.m. in the Margaret Fuller room, we will be exploring Abstract Art with Kimberlee Carlson. Experience the process of letting the lines, shapes and colors take over! Our inspiration will be the book The Dot by Peter Reynolds, the abstract artist Jean Miro and our featured artist in the narthex, Tom Littrell.

We will be joined by the children of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of DeKalb. After service you are invited to join them in visiting the Discovery Museum, www.discoverycentermuseum.org.

On August 28, 2011 at 10 a.m. we will be together at our annual homecoming for stories, song and celebration!

“Play”date with our Playground! Aug. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

We need everyone's help to make our playground dreams come true!

Join us in creating a dynamic play-scape for our children.

We need everyone's help!

Could you be a refreshment server, snack maker, boulder mover, stump step trimmer or digger? Lots to do, so we can find a job for you. **We will provide lunch. See you Saturday Aug. 20th!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Margie Balogh (8/20, age 15), **Grace Benoit** (8/23, age 15), and **Hannah Furman** (8/26, age 1)!



Hospitality & Coffee Really Need Your Help!

We are in serious need for volunteers to help with Coffee & Refreshment Service, Hospitality Table Hosts, Ushering and Greeting.

We need you to start up our fall season right with warm beverages and welcoming. We will gladly train new volunteers!

Looking for Coffee & Refreshment Service help for all shifts for these dates: August 28(2 shifts), Sept. 4, 18, 25 and Oct. 9, 16, 23

Starting Sept. 11 there are 3 coffee shifts to be filled.
8:15 –8:45am Set up coffee and refreshment service.
9:45 –11:00am Set up coffee and refreshment service.
12:00 –12:45am Maintain coffee and refreshment service;
clean up.

Hospitality Table Hosts, Ushers and Greeters are needed at 8:15am and 10:30am for these dates: Sept. 4(Hospitality Only), 11, 18, 25 and Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30.

Please contact Kimberlee to sign up; call (815)398-6322 or e-mail pd@uurockford.org. First Choice goes to the first to volunteer!

Much to the people and covenant groups that have kept the warm greetings, coffee, tea and refreshments flowing all summer long!

Church Meetings and Events

ROLLERS: For bicyclists of any ability, and their friends and families. Our next bike ride is on Sunday August 28th. We will meet at the south end of the parking lot of the YMCA at 200 Y Blvd in Rockford at 1:00 p.m. and roll along the Rock River on the bike path to Machesney Park. You will be pleasantly surprised with some of the views along the way. You are welcome to ride at your own speed, go as far as you like and turn around at any time. Call Eric van Est ([815-985-9049](tel:815-985-9049)) with any questions.

We also want to make you aware of the bike ride that is held as a fundraiser for several local Rockford arts programs. Start is at the Riverfront Museum Park on Sunday, Sept.11. The course is designed by our church member Steve Gausebeck. More information at www.BikeForTheArts.com

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON? is what retired attorney Ben Healy will ask members at September's **Food for Thought** gathering. Ben will conduct a dialogue on a current events topic to be announced, following lunch of BBQ, potato and pasta salads, cherry fluff and cookies. Lunch starts at noon Friday, September 2 in Deale Hall. Program at about 1 p.m. Please call Mary Ellen Haney (399-8490) to reserve for lunch if you are not called. -Barb Smith

THE RACK IS BACK! The book exchange rack will be back in Deale Hall. Please donate some “gently” used books and borrow some if you wish. Let’s keep it neat, so we can continue to have our “cheap reads”
Hilda Stellema

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP: Saturday, October 29th from 9:30a.m.-2 p.m. This class is for newcomers, visitors, and friends who are interested in getting more involved. More information to come in the following weeks!

Let's Have Some

FUN

**Why is the Rock & Roll
Hall of Fame in Cleveland?**

**Find out November 5th
at The FUN - Raiser Auction**



New Member Spotlight: Chris Dunn

Chris Dunn is a very involved engineer, husband and father, so getting together for an interview after he joined the church this spring took several weeks.

You've probably seen Chris with his beautiful wife, Susan, and their 9-year-old daughter, Ren and 3-year-old son, Aaron, at church, as they attend regularly. Susan was already a UUer when she and Chris met while she was an infusion nurse at Swedish American Hospital, and Chris was a patient. They first met on that Friday and had their first date on Saturday. Record time!

After growing up in Rockford and getting a BS in Mechanical Engineering, Chris worked in Itasca before returning to Rockford to work at General Electric as an Aviation Design Engineer for the last five years. He is in the Valve Group where he might spend two years on a program to design, test and assemble highly engineered valves for airplanes at the old Barber Coleman plant site.

Chris likes to cook and to cook out in his free time. When he recently took a hiatus from that hobby, the entire family lost weight.

The Dunns have an anniversary and several birthdays in one summer month, so they have been busy celebrating and being active with friends of late. Chris is also a Chicago Bears fan.

A favorite part of being a UU member for Chris has been enjoying the opportunity to be in a Chalice Group last winter. He likes the liberal, open nature of the church where there isn't always a definitive right or wrong. In addition to the Chalice Group, Chris has agreed to be on the Ministry Committee this Fall.

"I hope the church will continue to help me grow into a well-rounded and reasonable person who doesn't take my thoughts as absolute," says Chris. "I hope to become more open-minded."

Sounds like a valuable new UUer, doesn't he?

Submitted by Rhea Overley

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS GA2011: AIW Changes

An AIW is an "Action of Immediate Witness," a social witness tool that is only pursued at General Assembly. This tool is structured with a mass of rules designed to involve as many delegates from as many congregations, districts and regions as possible, and it incites ardent discussions during plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday, the last days of GA.

Since the upcoming Justice GA2012 in Phoenix was limited to "necessary" business, GA2011 decided what that will mean for AIW's. Two different proposed amendments to the bylaws were proposed. One abolished AIW's, not just for GA2012 for the foreseeable future. This was supported by delegates who consider the time spent in plenary debating these proposals as a waste of time. The second proposal eliminated AIW's only for GA2012 and reduced the number of issues debated in plenary from 6 to 3.

The revised AIW procedure passed. During the discussion, we learned that, while AIW's are not binding on the Association or on congregations, they do empower the UUA staff to address issues during the year. If an issue comes up for which there is no Statement of Conscience or Action of Immediate Witness in our history, the advocacy staff will not make a stand, no matter how strongly they may feel. I have a new appreciation for the AIW I proposed, which passed at GA2008, supporting wind and solar power. That AIW is still empowering our UUA staff to support these alternative energy sources.

It's only 308 days to Justice GA 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Submitted by Teresa Wilmot, 815-399-5263; work 815-654-7321

Community Bulletin Board

Wine Dinner at Wind Ridge Herb Farm Benefit event for Womanspace on August 25

Womanspace invites the public to a benefit Wine Dinner at Wind Ridge Herb Farm on August 25 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. This multi-course dinner with complementary wine pairings, will be hosted by owner Liz Fiorenza. Chef Tim of the Forest City Pub at the Radisson will entertain and enlighten guests with information on cooking with herbs, marinating, and more. This fundraising dinner is open to the general public, so register by August 23 to reserve your seats. Vegetarian courses are available, and tickets are \$100 per person, \$45 of which is a charitable donation to Womanspace. Business owners are encouraged to consider a table of four as a special gift for their best clients, employees, or referral sources. Wind Ridge Herb Farm is just northeast of Rock Cut State Park at 466 Quail Trap Road in Caledonia. For tickets, contact Womanspace at [815-877-0118](tel:815-877-0118), info@womanspace-rockford.org, www.womanspacerockford.org or www.facebook.com/Womanspace.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven "The Apostle Mary" females only, age 13-adult. Sunday, August 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Fountain View Room at Womanspace, facilitated by Gale Ketteler & Tracy Pease. Cost: \$40/four sessions or \$15/session. New participants welcome. Registration requested by August 19. More than Goddess 101, this class demonstrates that ancient matristic civilizations were peaceful and also reclaims stories of powerful women in ancient Judaism and early Christianity. We'll look at female imagery, symbols and language in this woman-honoring curriculum and ask questions like: What would it be like to grow up in a world where the divine was imagined to be female? Offered in partnership with the Unitarian Universalist Church, Rockford.

Gale first explored feminine theology [sic] in the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven course in Madison in the 80s. She has facilitated it twice in Rockford and is thrilled to help other women discover empowering stories that pre-date patriarchal history.

Tracy is pursuing a Masters degree in mental health counseling and has participated twice in the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven course.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

KAIROS SCHEDULE: The next issue of Kairos will be published on Wednesday, August 31. **Articles are to be submitted by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 29.**

Please e-mail your article submissions to kairos@uurockford.org

ADULT WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: July 3rd-110, July 10th-114, July 17th-120, July 24th-94, July 31st-113, August 7th-115, August 14th-121

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The *Kairos* is published bi-weekly. Articles are to be submitted by noon on the Monday before publication. Articles may be submitted by e-mailing your article to kairos@uurockford.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Church
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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Church Calendar at a Glance</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;">(Please keep in mind that the calendar changes on a daily basis and does not show outside rentals. To check on the availability of a date please check with the church office.)</p>	
<p><u>Sunday, August 21</u> 9:30-11:30 a.m. Childcare, N * 9:55 a.m. RE Summer Program, MFR * 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, S * 11:00 a.m. Social Hour, DH *</p> <p><u>Wednesday, August 24</u> 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting, CCR *</p> <p><u>Friday, August 26</u> 9:30am UU Mom's Group, CL *</p>	<p><u>Sunday, August 28</u> 9:30 -11:30 a.m. Childcare, N * 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, S * 11:00 a.m. Church Picnic *</p> <p><u>Monday, August 29</u> Kairos Deadline (e-mail submissions to uukairos@rockford.org)</p> <p><u>Wednesday, August 31</u> Kairos Crew, OWR</p> <p><u>Friday, September 2</u> 12:00 p.m. Food for Thought DH & CL *</p>
<p style="font-size: x-small;">*=Interested persons welcome, S=Sanctuary, C=Chapel, DH=Deale Hall, HCR=Hotchkiss Choir Room, CCR=Caskey Conference Room, OWR=Office Work Room, CL=Connolly Library, N=Narthex, YL=Youth Lounge, WY=Whitney Young Meeting Room(1), MFMR=Margaret Fuller Meeting Room; CB=Clara Barton Meeting Room(2), EMR=Emerson Meeting Room (21), TBD = To be determined</p>	

