



### MINISTER'S SLANT (a viewpoint that leans...)

When Dorothy Gale awoke from her dream of Oz, she told her family and friends, "Some of it was scary, but most of it was beautiful!" That is exactly how I feel when I look back upon my life and when I wake up to what is real and present every day. The morning sun comes in the east-facing windows of my house, enters the crystals hanging there and sends rainbows careening across the ceiling. It ricochets off the walls and ends in the kitchen at the far end of the house. I put my hand on all the colors I can reach. When I move away, the color does not follow me. It follows its own trajectory dictated by the angles carved into the crystal it shines through. All the same, for these few moments, light blesses me.

This evening, late June, I'm standing at the kitchen window, looking north, and twinkling lights rise slowly from the ground, hover over the shrubs and flowers, blink out. Time to rejoice; time to shout "Hurrah!," time to sing praises. One of Earth's recurring miracles has returned in 2017. This is not the year they do not return, for there are far fewer every year. Now, each flash of luminescence is a blessing.



Oh, I know that the crystals in the window bend the light on its way into the house, and that certain colors appear in the slanted light. I know that the fairy twinkling's outside that window in the evening are Lampyridae, fireflies that emerge from their larval, carnivorous stage to fly, drink nectar, give light, mate and lay eggs for next season's spectacle. I know (having just looked it up) that the magic lantern show is caused by the chemical reaction of Luciferin, Luciferase and Oxygen. But that knowledge, small and newly gotten as it is, does not diminish the wonder of it. The morning and evening light shows are the first order of Creation — "Let there be Light!" And the amazement continues down to this day.

Luciferin, the chemical in the bodies of the fireflies, was named after Lucifer — the Shining One, the Light Bringer, the Morning Star — also, the One who fell from heaven, or rather the One who falls from heaven — all the time! Somehow, over the years, theologians cast him into the ranks of the evil ones, along with Satan and the so-called demons. I surmise they may have done so because Light is so seductive a presence that it distracts the pious worshippers from the proper God. Well then, cast me among the sinners, for Lucifer has caught my eye, and ever on the look-out for Beauty, I see it there, waking me in the morning, singing vespers at eve, and I am surrounded, held in the grace of the Light, and I am so unrepentant that I intent to be mindful not to walk far from where appears whenever it appears. I aspire to walk the beauty path, as the old Navajo did: In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively, may I walk. (From the Navajo Night Chant, 2nd Day) Blessed be all of you who walk the path, on whom the Light has shined! — Armida

## Fundraiser Report – by Lee Anderson

Cajun Dinner was a rousing success. Tables were filled with people from all over this area, enjoying the “vittles” cooked up by Chef Michael Staver. Joan Metzger had suggested something new for the Men’s Dinner this year. Dan Metzger and Doug Dufford corralled Michael, who chose the menu since he’s a fan of Cajun. Joan suggested cash donations to allay the cost of ingredients, and together Joan and Michael procured the makings of the tasty dishes: Shrimp Étouffée, gumbo and jambalaya. Mark Haman and Doug Dufford joined Chef Michael in the kitchen early Friday, with pots bubbling away, and Joan took care of the dining room and service set-up. Many of our male members took turns at the serving table and helped with clean-up in the kitchen.

Dan Metzger arranged for his friends Mary and Daveed to keep the Patterson Room lively with their music. Mary Bachman grew up in Texas, and has lived in Des Plaines since the early sixties. Her touch on the ukulele is incredible, and she can sing any folk music you could ask for, from A to Z! Daveed Thompson makes his guitar or banjo sing. He’s not only a musician but a local t.v. producer from Bolingbrook, as well as a part time farm laborer. Mary and Daveed and Dan have been playing together for five years at various venues in Chicago and suburbs, and at the Willow Folk Fest as well as in our church.

Ticket takers Brett Blair and Bill Schuldt did their job at the entry table, and we’re happy to report that this Fun-d Raiser was not only fun, but profitable. From ticket sales and extra donations (including wine), the amount of \$1365 will help to keep our church alive!

(Thanks to Nancy Schuldt, and the Fun-d Raising Committee and Pictures by Laura Dufford)



**Brat & Hot Dog Sale at Sullivan’s made \$207 in profits!  
Thank you to all volunteers & Laurie Wurster, organizer.**

**Plant Sale made \$942! Thank you  
to Parry Stevens & Alice Ericksen,  
co-chairpersons & all volunteers!**



## Co-Moderator's Report

The first of July marks the halfway point of the Church's fiscal year, and this is a reminder for anyone that's concerned or has a question about their pledge for 2017 to contact Randy Downing. ( 563-663-1912 ) or ( <[ransyltdown@sandprairie.net](mailto:ransyltdown@sandprairie.net)> ) The discussion group will convene again in September with the new program called Touchstones. More details will be forth coming in the August newsletter.

The board decided at the June meeting to take the month of August off for Sunday services, however we'll be holding our annual summer picnic on the last Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, with the location to be determined. Please plan on attending this fun event before we start back up with services in September.

The book, art, and music sale will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were 4 themes generated from the long range planning committee cottage meetings.

1. SPIRITUAL GROWTH / FINDING MEANING - We gather together in our search for truth and meaning.
2. A CARING COMMUNITY – We are friendly, welcoming people who work, play, and celebrate together and support one another in times of need.
3. SERVICE TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY – Our place in the community is founded on social and environmental justice, diversity, compassion, and service to others.
4. A GOING AND GROWING CONCERN – We honor our history as we create a thriving liberal religious community in Northwest Illinois.

A whole plan will be presented to the congregation soon after board approval. A huge thank you to Doug and Linda Weeder for organizing the cottage meetings and to everyone that participated. Our contract with the Rockford Church has not been renewed. We want to thank them for transitioning us through the period between our change in ministry. The July newsletter is being produced in house by Kate Miller and others. Another thank you goes out to the Cajun Dinner fundraiser that netted \$1,365.00.

## Notices

Sharon Zigmont is doing a **Food Service update** for the area churches on Tuesday, July 25th, at 1:30 p.m. at the Stockton Museum. Everyone is welcome. RSVP, please to Judy VenHuizen at 815-947-3374.

Our newsletters are now being produced in-house, sent electronically through Mail Chimp and there are 46 people that receive it by "snail mail". We want to be sure the snail mail list is accurate and hope to reduce this number to save on printing and postage.

If you're receiving this newsletter via the post office and wish to receive it via email, or, if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter please contact Sheila: [sheila.haman626@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.haman626@gmail.com) or call at 815-777-0493 or text at 563-552-8596. You may also send a note to Sheila Haman c/o, the UU Church of Stockton, 219 N. Pearl, Stockton, IL 61085.

Please note that our newsletters are always posted on the church's website, so if you can get to a computer, you can find it there. Thank you for helping us "clean up" our contact list. – Sheila Haman

## **BOOK, MUSIC AND ART SALE**

The "Funraising" Committee will be holding the church's semi-annual book music and art sale, (named "BAM" by Lee Anderson) on the first Friday and Saturday of September. As in the past, the "good stuff in the back room sale" will also be part of this fundraiser. (No clothes, no large furniture, good stuff please!)

Please bring your donations for this sale to the church by mid-August. Please bring books in small boxes that aren't overly heavy! Set-up will begin the week before the event, and help is always appreciated. Contact Mel Heidenreich 815-947-2386, Linda Weeder 815-777-0875 or Nancy Schuldt 815-281-0034.

## **COUNCIL HILL STATION BENEFIT CONCERT - Saturday, September 16**



**Who are these gals enjoying themselves at Council Hill Station?!**

Mark your calendars for our annual Council Hill Station Benefit Concert in Scales Mound! Saturday, Sept. 16, from 2-5 p.m. at rustic and relaxing Council Hill Station at 6511 N. Hill Rd. in Scales Mound, IL.

This year's band will be local favorites, the Kamfire Kings, playing 60's, 70's, and 80's Acoustic Rock. \$5 suggested donation gets you in the door. There will be music, food and beverages, a silent auction, and 50/50 drawings at this family friendly event. All money raised goes to support our 12 UU Monthly Service Partners.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** We will need silent auction items and volunteers. Contact any of the committee members to get involved: Bill and Nancy Schuldt, Doug and Laura Dufford, Alice Ericksen, Kate Miller, and Mark and Sheila Haman.

## NW Illinois Gender and Sexuality Alliance Offers Volunteer Training

Riverview Center's NW IL Gender and Sexuality Alliance will be holding a volunteer training on Sunday, July 16 from 4-6 p.m. at the CTE Academy, 950 U.S. 20 W., Elizabeth (formerly the AVC). The training is for adults interested in learning about the group and the volunteer opportunities that are available.

The NW IL Gender and Sexuality Alliance offers a safe and fun place for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Questioning) people and their allies to meet on a regular basis. The mission is to provide support and education to LGBTQ youth in an effort to reduce self-harm, bullying, substance abuse, as well as increase their self-esteem through a mentor-lead peer group. Meetings are led by trained community members, school professionals, Riverview Center employees, and student leaders. The group meets twice a month from 7-8:30 p.m. at the CTE Academy and is for all Jo Daviess and Carroll County High School Students.

The training is free and open to anyone. If you are considering being a volunteer who has direct contact with youth, a background check will be required at a cost of \$10. Those interested in attending the training are encouraged to sign up at the NW IL GSA Facebook page, although drop-ins are welcome. For questions, please email [NWILGSA@gmail.com](mailto:NWILGSA@gmail.com).

## News From Friends

Mary and Rollie Davidson are in Alaska. Last summer we were State Park Volunteers near Seward then transferred to Crooked Creek State Recreation Site near Kasilof, south of Soldotna, when I got a job at Central Peninsula Hospital in Soldotna. They convinced me to stay and work through the winter so we found an apartment near the hospital and put the RV in storage. We found a job for this summer at an RV park and motel near Denali NP and moved there May 12. It has not been very busy yet but should be picking up. Rollie works in the office part-time and I do odd jobs like walking guests' dogs when they spend the day visiting the national park and laundering motel linens. We get 3 days off every week to explore! Driving down to Seattle in late August then back to MN and WI for a visit in September. Hope to make it to Stockton for a Sunday service. Will keep checking the newsletter for other events.



**CALENDAR- July 2017**

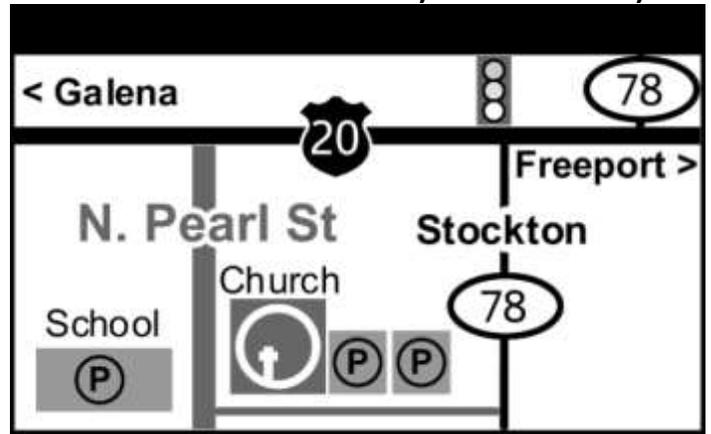
Sunday, July 2, 10:30 a.m. The story *Tigers Above, Tigers Below* introduces the Strawberry Communion, which may relate, tangentially, to the sermon, *Wrapped in the Flag*. Rev. A. takes a brief look at patriotism, what can it possibly mean in the political environment of 2017? Any ideas? Mel Heidenreich at the piano. (Pray the local strawberries are available.)

Sunday, July 9th 10:30 a.m. Clinton Stockwell "The Power of Community", and Sally Fisher at the piano. After church meeting — GOOD GRIEF! Is there such a thing? The grief workers will gather at Armida's after church for a light lunch and session number one. Call Armida, [815-990-8200](tel:815-990-8200), or sign up on the hospitality table to participate.

Sunday, July 16th, 10:30 a.m. Misha Sanders, Ministerial Intern and superb preacher, will be speaking and Lee Anderson at the piano.

Sunday, July 23, 10:30 a.m. Rev Armida will tell the story of *The King and the Beggar*, and relate it somehow to the sermon of the day, *Don't Judge an Emperor by the Clothes He's Not Wearing*. and Joan Harmet at the piano

Sunday, July 30, 10:30 a.m. *Summertime, And the Livin' Is...* Last Sunday before our August recess. Summer — heat, mosquitos, sunburn... What good is it? Rev. A and Sally Fischer at the piano.

**CHURCH INFORMATION****219 N PEARL STREET, STOCKTON, IL**

Wheel chair parking and elevator access is available from the rear parking lot.

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

Rev. Armida Alexander

[UChurchOfStockton.org](http://UChurchOfStockton.org)

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