



MINISTER'S REMARKS

Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants. — Epictetus

They are my favorite places -- thrift stores, antique shops, bazaars, garage sales -- I walk slowly past things of the past, things that were once part of people's lives. The people let them go or passed them on, but the things, being inanimate, cannot choose to let themselves go, so they hang around the periphery of life like sad ghosts who do not know where they belong any more. Certain charitable organizations may give them a last home, perhaps exchange them for money for good works. I think that is a pretty good way to spend one's last years -- to be transformed into good work and be given another life in another place. It's a species of resurrection!

I remember that during the years I was doing intern ministry and moving every year, thrift stores enabled me to move to a new post and furnish an apartment for very little cash outlay. The availability of tables, chairs, couches, etc. made it possible to rent unfurnished (hence cheaper) rooms, and the "ghosts" were restored to life. When the year was up, they went back for another go-round. This easy-come, easy-go attitude toward things has stayed with me, yet I still have much to learn from the old ways of the native tribes before Western so-called civilization came to America with its cruel economic practices and consumer ideology. The old ones could live simply and well and not destroy the Earth for profit. I yearn to quell what acquisitiveness I still struggle against and live more simply and do less harm to the Earth and other living things.

My excursions to the shops are less frequent these days, since my space is amply furnished with more than I need. Ambling down the aisles with nothing in mind, my walk becomes contemplative. The memory of people who never had or wanted these things accompanies me. The memory of people who did want them but couldn't keep them is with me, too. I feel like a Buddhist student sitting in the charnel grounds to learn first-hand the transitory nature of all things. Instead of watching a corpse reduced to ash, I pass by myriad objects in various states of decomposition, and I see them in my imagination rise up out of Earth and fall back into it. Rise and fall, like waves on the ocean -- gentle, natural, obedient to moon, tides and wind.

Seldom does one thing attract my interest enough to bring it home, but I find riches, warnings, and random bits of wisdom glimmering there in the dust. I've learned something about things.

- Sometimes, they are easier to get than to get rid of.
- Fewer things = More freedom, more clarity, more time.
- Things can be distractions from our real business in this world.
- Detachment is a difficult but worthwhile discipline.

CO-MODERATOR'S REPORT

As we head into summer, the Board of Trustees looks forward to encouraging discussion among the membership regarding issues of tolerance and being a Welcoming Church. We have had such discussions at more than one BOT meeting and have come up with some intriguing ideas.

On another topic, this year's fundraising is off to a good start with a successful Brat Sale at Sullivan's and our biennial Plant Sale at church. Be sure to attend the Cajun Dinner on Saturday, June 3, from 5-8 p.m.

The Board approved switching from Soul Matters to a program called Touchstones. It is for 12 months instead of nine, has material that the whole congregation can benefit from, doesn't require "homework" for the discussion groups, and has expanded materials for the Worship Team to develop services.

See you in church,

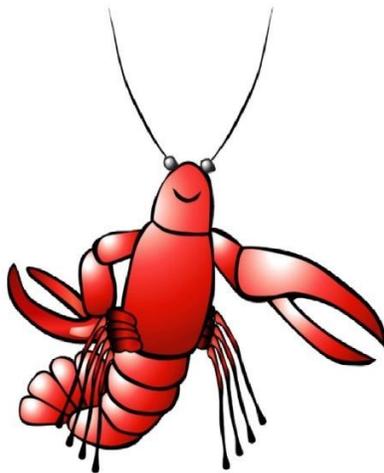
Mark Haman
Co-Moderator

CHURCH NEWS



Many thanks to everyone who continues to support the Freeport Area Church Cooperative with donations of personal items and toilet paper. Though our donations have been increasingly generous the FACC always runs out of these all-important items quickly as there is great need in our community. Please continue to give generously and know how much our contributions are appreciated!

Cajun Dinner



Saturday, June 3, 2017

5—8 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church

219 Pearl St, Stockton

Entree:

- Shrimp Etouffee
- Jambalaya (veggie and w meat)
- Gumbo

Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drink

Music and Fun!!!!

Adults \$12

Children (under 10) \$6

Call 815-947-2720 for more info.

Volunteers needed for CAJUN DINNER!

The Cajun Dinner Crew is in need of volunteers to help with the following:

- provide southern-style desserts (preferably southern, but we will accept any kind)
- provide pralines (or at least does someone have a recipe?)
- work the night of the event (serve food, buss tables, and wash dishes)

If you can help, please contact Doug Dufford at 815-947-2720.



New Member Welcomed on April 30

A new member welcome ceremony was held on April 30th for Jeanie McKewan. Jeanie is from Stockton and has already been very involved in church activities. Welcome, Jeanie!

June Sundays — Come for inspiration; stay for the coffee! In between: friends!!

If you've been attending church regularly, you know that the quality of services here at the UU Church of Stockton has been very high. Some Sundays Rev. Armida is in the pulpit connecting her stories with universal truths; sometimes it's a guest speaker and sometimes it is one of our very own members sharing their insights. No matter, it's always worth a trip to church. June's services will be just as meaningful.

June 4 our own **Dan Metger** will be sharing words with us. Then, **Rev. Armida** on June 11 and June 18. And on June 29 we will hear from **Nancy Schuldt**.

Even as summer schedules can get very hectic, your Worship Committee hopes that you will be joining us this month. See you in Church.

CHURCH DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

Please note the following corrections and additions to the Church Directory:

Nanette Mosher's email address is nmhndwvr@hotmail.com (not mnhndwvr).

Many of you remember members Susan and Quentin Ryder who moved from Woodbine several years ago.

They were in recently for Frannie Thomas' memorial and wanted to share their contact information:

Susan and Quentin Ryder, 5112 Coventry Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46804

phone: 260-444-4533

email: qsryder@gmail.com

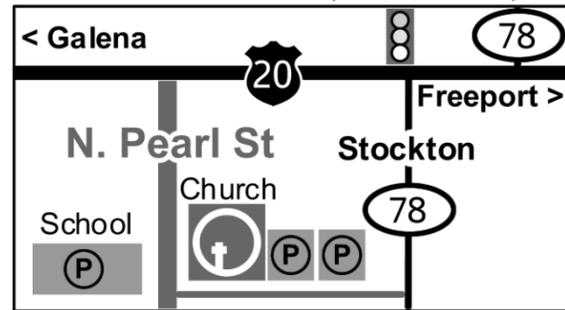
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

ATTENTION: THE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE WILL ALWAYS BE THE 20TH OF THE MONTH AT 5 P.M. PLEASE GET YOUR NOTICES AND ARTICLES TO TED (TKDAVENPORT@HOTMAIL.COM) OR MARK AND SHEILA (HAMAN@ATT.NET).

CALENDAR – JUNE 2017

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

CHILD CARE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

REV. ARMIDA ALEXANDER, MINISTER

UUCHURCHOFSOCKTON.ORG



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085