



Kid's Page

By: Colleen McDonald
To: The church's young people and their families

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Here are the plans for the first day of Religious Education, Sunday, September 16:

Babies – 2's will play indoors or outdoors, or nap, as needed.

2's & 3's will put together a chalice puzzle.

The Pre-K – 5th grade classes begin the morning in the Chapel (9:55 – 10:15).



Pre-K - 1st will learn what to do with a *sharing bowl* and how to make a *friendship circle*.

1st – 3rd Grade will play a name game and learn the meaning of *community*.

4th/5thGrade will learn a new version of *Follow the Leader* and share their ideas about the "3 C's."

Middle School will share in their first worship circle and play a game called *I Can't Wait to Be King/Queen*.

8th Grade will meet with the Senior High group.

Senior High will focus on the theme of *being in community*.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **Carly Vollmer** (September 5, age 10), **Molly Freund** (September 9, age 10), and **Juway Damm** (September 15, age 9).

LOCKS OF LOVE



Over the summer **Carly Vollmer** did something unusual. Colleen asked her to write about her experience for Kids Page. Here is Carly's story:

"Some of my friends were getting their hair cut and donating their hair to 'Locks of Love.' 'Locks of Love' is an organization that people with long hair (like me) cut off and donate so that they can use it to make wigs for kids with cancer. The doctors give the kids a medicine called chemotherapy and radiation to kill the cancer. But the medicine also makes their hair fall out.

"I found out my hair had to be ten inches or longer to make a wig. Then I had to wait until my hair was long enough, which was only another inch. I found out other information on the web site too (<http://www.locksoflove.org/donate.html>).

"In August I got my hair cut and had twelve inches donated! We put my clean hair in a zip lock bag, filled out the form and packaged it. I went to the post office with my Mom and mailed it. Now my head feels light and my hair is five inches long. I feel really good that I was helping the kids with cancer.

Carly Vollmer

COLLEEN'S COLUMN

It's a new church year. This Sunday is the start of our religious education program for children and youth. Maybe you will be in a new room. For sure you will have some new teachers, and you will probably see some new faces in your group. (Maybe you are brand new yourself!)

Also, things will look new downstairs—or at least, they will look very different from the way they looked when church school ended, in June. We don't have a day care center in that space anymore. All the day care furniture, toys, and artwork on the walls is gone. The whole area has been cleaned and re-painted. The rooms have, or will be getting, new furniture. They have also been named for the famous Unitarian Universalists many of you voted for last spring.

But that's not all that's new downstairs! Instead of being upstairs for a story, your class will have your own worship downstairs, most Sundays. Pre-K – 5th grade students will have Children's Chapel in the Chapel, from 9:55 – 10:15. The other groups will have a worship circle in their own classroom.

That's enough NEWS for now! I hope to see you Sunday!

Love,
Colleen

BOOK CORNER

Have you ever visited a Jewish Synagogue? A Hindu Mandir? A Muslim Mosque? A Buddhist Temple? A Sikh Gurdwara? Or a Christian Church? A new set of books in the Kids Corner of our church library can help you do just that, without even getting in your car. Look for the "Places of Worship" series to help you learn more about the beliefs and practices of different religions in Rockford as well as around the world. (Then you and your family may want to plan some actual visits to one or more of these religious communities near-by.)



TEA PARTY CELEBRATION



An Alice in Wonderland Mad Hatter Tea Party Celebration will take place on Saturday, Sept. 22, 10:30 AM, at Wonderland Books and Toys (1625 N. Alpine Rd., Rockford). Celebrate Wonderland's 20th birthday at this special event, with activities such as making your own Mad Hatter Hats and joining in a tea cup race. Costumes are welcome. Space is limited, so make your reservation by calling 815-394-1633.

CALL FOR WRITERS

Like Carly, do *you* have an interesting experience to share with Kids Page? Colleen would like to hear from you!!



PARENTS CORNER

The benefits of boredom by Ann Pleshette Murphy

As summer... ends and before the school year heats up, it's the perfect time to pencil a new routine into your kids' afterschool activities: boredom. Offering children plenty of extracurricular enrichment can be a good thing, but too much of it can lead to stress. In fact, 41% feel stressed most or all of the time because they have too much to do, reports a recent poll by KidsHealth. Research also shows that enforcing boredom, or opportunities to daydream produces brainwaves associated with creativity. When kids have a chance to sit with their thoughts—not while playing a video game, watching TV, or doing homework—their brains benefit in ways that enhance other kinds of learning. And being able to calm yourself and de-stress can have lifelong health benefits. So the best thing for your child to do this fall may be absolutely nothing!

