



HOYLETONIAN

FALL
2015

**INSIDE:
SPECIALIZED
FOSTER HOMES
MEAN HEALING**

**HOYLETON'S
2015 PROM QUEEN
MEETS KIRK RUETER**

A LETTER FROM CHRIS

Dear Friends,

The recent budget crisis in the State of Illinois has created an opportunity for us to reaffirm who we are as an organization. What we are called to do and who we are called to serve has never been clearer than now.

The mission of Hoyleton Ministries is to care for God's children who need us most, to be there for them when no one else is. We are there for them because nobody else is. Many feel that their last hope is gone. It is our mission to bring that hope back for young people like Brandy and Logan, two exceptional residents on Hoyleton's campus who share their stories on the following pages.

The budget gridlock in our state government has delayed funding for 13 out of 17 Hoyleton programs. We are currently continuing to offer services through extended lines of credit and contributed support, but that is not a permanent solution.

This situation has made it clear how crucial the support of our community is to what we do. While state aid has failed to materialize, volunteers and donors are doing much to provide assistance. We are thrilled to announce that Craig Steiner has been hired as our new Director of Philanthropy and will continue to build those relationships.

Craig is a big part of our optimistic future and will focus his time on development relations. He grew up in Belleville as part of

a UCC family and brings extensive development and marketing experience to our ministry.

It is people like Craig and Pastor Bob Goddard, who is profiled later in this issue, who change people's lives by sharing their professional expertise. We at Hoyleton Ministries thank them for helping us find new ways to live our commitment to supporting the most vulnerable people in our community.

There is a well-known story told throughout our ministry of a social worker who became overwhelmed by the need of the children she served. She prayed to God, asking him, "Why are you letting these children suffer? What have you done for them?" And a thought immediately came to her: "I made you."

It is in our DNA at Hoyleton Ministries to serve God's children who need us most, and we will continue to be there for them regardless of state funding. It is why WE were made.

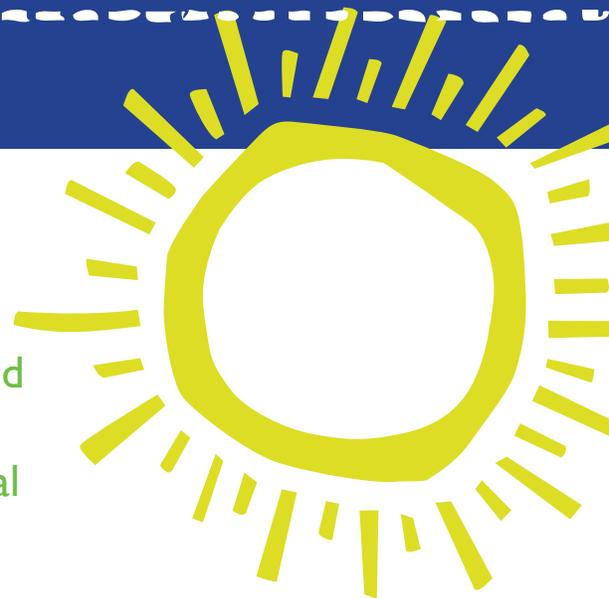
Yours in Faith,



Chris L. Cox, MSW, LCSW
President and CEO
Hoyleton Ministries

OUR MISSION

HOYLETON MINISTRIES seeks to enable all people, young and old alike, to realize the wholeness of life that God intends. This will be accomplished with the compassion of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit reaching out to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of those with whom we journey.



HOYLETON HELPS GET THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTED RIGHT

The school bell is ringing...there's a surging crowd of your fellow students...now rush to find your classroom!

We all remember the excitement and nervousness of starting a new school year. Imagine how much easier all the hustling and adjustment of this important day is when you have a brand new backpack and all the school supplies you need to get things off on the right foot.

Each August, before the children who are touched by Hoyleton's programs begin school, we proudly host a back-to-school picnic in an effort to get these students eager and prepared for a new year of learning. This event is free to all families in our foster program as well as families in Puentes de Esperanza.

Over 200 backpacks filled with all the necessities for school were given out to students this year.

"The kids really look forward to this picnic," said one mother who attended with her two children. "They enjoy it not only for the backpack and supplies, which they appreciate, but to see their friends who are also in foster care."

The back-to-school picnic is one of many events that further Hoyleton's mission to serve the children and families of Southern Illinois. This event gives some much-welcomed assistance to our foster parents who graciously provide welcoming homes to children.

"It was certainly a team effort to make this fun-filled day possible," said Tijauna Ingram, Foster Care Licensing Representative with Hoyleton. "We're so grateful to Kretzer's Grill for donating the hot dogs and hamburgers and we also couldn't have done it without the team of volunteers who assembled the backpacks and supplies."

Education is the key to a brighter future for both individual students as well as the community. We at Hoyleton want to wish the young people of Southern Illinois a safe and successful new school year filled with learning, growing, and achieving!

Romantic Wright and her foster son, turned adopted son, stand in front of the many backpacks that were given to Hoyleton's Foster Families



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hoyleton Ministries

Tim Boyce
Board Chairperson
Rev. Michael Southcombe
Vice Chairperson
Patricia Daiber
Secretary
Kelly Bandy
Barbara Bray
Donna Davis
Ann Ferguson
Dale Fiedler
Rev. Bob Goddard
Dr. Desarie Holmes
Rev. Del Miller
Rev. Jeffrey Schwab
Paul Sterrett
Rev. Kevin Strobe
Chris Cox
(ex-officio)

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services

Barbara Bray
Board Chairperson
Sonja Uzzelle
Vice Chairperson
Rev. Don Jones
Secretary
Larry Kaburick
Christy Pursell
Ron Shownes
Mark Westcott
Chris Cox
(ex-officio)

Puentes de Esperanza

Paul Sterrett
Board Chairperson
Dale Fiedler
Vice Chairperson
Mercedes Mark
Secretary
Noe Marquez
David Ritter
Lari Vanderpoel
Chris Cox
(ex-officio)

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Chris L. Cox
President and CEO
Laura Huge
Director of Administrative Services
Sharon McDevitt
Director of Child Welfare
Monte Mister
Director of Residential Services
Craig Steiner
Director of Philanthropy

DISCOVERING THE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL WITHIN LOGAN



Those who know the fun, caring young man who was voted Hoyleton's 2015 prom king marvel at the transformation this young man has made through his own hard work and the support of a devoted team that has helped him build a new life.

Logan came to Hoyleton Ministries in 2013 through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services when his mother, after a long journey of helping him face personal challenges, eventually made the tough decision to relinquish guardianship. Logan found refuge and focused care at Hoyleton's residential treatment facility.

Logan arrived at Hoyleton scoring well below his ability on IQ tests and with a list of behavioral issues that he needed help addressing. His treatment team realized right away that this was a person who could achieve much more, a young man who had great potential for success.

Hoyleton staff jumped right in, working with Logan each day in the areas of education, life skills, vocation, mental health, and medication plus Milieu psychotherapy treatments. Using these tools, Logan saw almost immediate positive results and has continued to work diligently to improve himself.

His efforts have paid off: after only 8 months at Hoyleton, Logan had a substantial increase in his IQ score and hasn't been hospitalized during his time on campus.

"Logan is motivated by his wish to return to his mother. This has played a big part in his success and made him open to great change," said Brandon Rudolph, Logan's case manager at Hoyleton.

Logan and Brandon have also set some long-term goals to guide his future.

"Logan told me that he saw himself going down one of two paths: jail or growing up and having a family. He wants to have a family and support them in a career as a mechanic," said Brandon.

Much of Logan's success is a result of learning to control his anger. Before coming to Hoyleton, certain external situations would cause him to become angry and act on it. Through Hoyleton's counseling services, Logan has learned what triggers his anger and how to manage his response.

He is now a bright, positive young man who shows a great deal of care for others. He was voted prom king by his peers, has graduated the 8th grade, and received the President's Award at his graduation. Most important to him are the extended visits he now enjoys with his mother.

Logan embodies the transformative ministry Hoyleton is committed to. We salute him and the other young people who strive each day to make a better life for themselves!

A crown, a sash, and a smile... Logan was chosen as Hoyleton's 2015 Prom King after enjoying a transformative year in our residential treatment facility.

PROM QUEEN PUTS OTHERS FIRST

Sometimes simply knowing that someone cares about you can make all the difference for the young people at Hoyleton. That certainly was the case for Brandy, the 2015 Hoyleton Prom Queen.

Beginning at the age of 5, Brandy went through multiple foster homes and faced behavioral challenges before finally coming to Hoyleton at age 14.

That was the day that things began to change.

Audrey Sawyer, Case Manager, explained that in Brandy's case, she needed to be shown that others genuinely cared about her.

"No one had nurtured her," Audrey says. "Our staff let her know that we care and are interested in her life. That gave Brandy what she needed to open up and share things about herself with others."

It was this sharing that helped Brandy make the transition from a closed-off young person to the happy young woman chosen to be our Prom Queen. She is constantly smiling, laughing, joking, and bringing joy into the lives of those who are happy to be near her.

Brandy is an avid athlete and jumps right into any sport. On any given day, she can be seen outside dancing, skate boarding, or socializing with her peers. When asked what she wants to do after transitioning out of Hoyleton, she says she wants to live more independently and play

on a recreational basketball team.

What is truly amazing about Brandy's story is the girl who came to Hoyleton believing no one cared about her has become known for nurturing others.

"She is friends with everyone. She is always checking with her peers and even the staff to be sure they are okay and having a good time," Audrey said. "And she is usually having a good time as well."



Top right: Brandy is all smiles after being named Prom Queen

Right: Brandy poses with Hoyleton native and former San Francisco Giants pitcher Kirk Rueter during a recent visit to our main campus.

FOSTER HOMES MEAN HEALING FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIALIZED NEEDS

Inside a comfortable home, an 8-year-old boy is lashing out verbally at his foster parent, “Grammy.” She tilts a caring ear and a calm face toward him and asks why he’s behaving so strongly.

“Don’t you want to get rid of me like everyone else? I know you are going to throw me out – let’s just get it over with,” he says.

“I’m not going to throw you out. We just don’t yell and cuss in this house,” she responds.

The child pauses, thinks for a minute, and then says “I might just want to try that.”

Hoyleton’s Specialized Foster Care program is dedicated to placing young people who have unique challenges with families that can give them a loving, stable home. The specialized care designation is given by the Department of Children and Family Services and is divided into two categories: behavioral and medical.

Children in behavioral specialized care have often been traumatized by severe abuse or neglect, meaning they require close supervision and extensive treatment. Those in medical specialized care face medical challenges that require intensive treatment regimens.

Many children who require specialized care are served in residential facilities, but those who are placed in a supportive family home enjoy unique benefits.

“We call our specialized foster families ‘Angels of God on Earth,’” said Sharon McDevitt, director of Child Welfare and Prevention Services. “We feel blessed when we find wonderful homes where these kids can find the care and attention they so badly need.”

Once a part of Hoyleton’s Specialized Foster Care Program, the families receive training and treatment. They are also offered higher stipends, respites, and as much staff support as they need.

“Sometimes it’s hard for parents to understand that they can’t take things personally. We teach them that outbursts aren’t directed at them. These kids may have been through several homes already – it is understandable that they have a hard time connecting,” says Sharon.

Another parental response is to shower foster children with attention and gifts.

“We train parents to see that these kids need consistent, fair guidance and a strong structure far more than gifts and big birthday parties,” she said. “The rewards of being a specialized foster care parent can be incredible.”

“Parents like Grammy are amazing,” Sharon says. “She has cared for 50 children and has even adopted some. The kids yell – she doesn’t. Through time, they understand and they heal.”

Hoyleton is looking for new specialized foster families. Those interested can experience it first by serving as a weekend respite home. Contact Sharon at 618-213-3170 ext. 1116 to learn more.



A little superhero from Hoyleton’s Specialized Foster Care Program attends our Back to School Picnic

STATE BUDGET CRISIS STOPS PAYMENTS FOR KIDS IN NEED

Since the creation of the Child Welfare Act in 1964, the State of Illinois has played an important role in caring for the most vulnerable of its citizens. That 50 year precedent changed in 2015 when state funding for many of Illinois' critical social programs became an unknown due to the budget crisis.

Governor Bruce Rauner proposed \$6 billion in state budget cuts earlier this year, which was to take effect on July 1, 2015, if passed by the legislature. His plan was in response to the rollback of a temporary income tax hike that expired in January. Those taxes provided funding for human services, including \$82 million in mental health care and programs for those living with special needs.

The legislature has not been able to reach an agreement, so Illinois is currently running without a budget and has effectively stopped or slowed payments to Hoyleton for these services. The courts have made rulings to improve the situation, with a judge recently ruling that Child Welfare Services must be funded, but there is still much work to be done.

Of the 17 programs Hoyleton currently offers, only four are receiving promised payments in state aid. The rest are funded through lines of credit and contributed income.

There is some good news. A program that supports 18 to 21-year-olds who are in the care of the state was slated for termination but is being reconsidered as a direct result of the passionate advocacy of

those who contacted their representatives expressing concern. That change in the state's position is an affirmation that people can make a difference.

Until the state budget crisis is resolved, Hoyleton Ministries will continue to look for creative ways to fund the crucial services we provide for children throughout our area. A months-long state budget gridlock does not lessen the need that those children feel or our commitment to care. In fact, it increases it.

We are calling on those who support the Hoyleton mission to get even more involved during this time, staying informed and providing assistance where possible. This budget challenge will affect tens of thousands of children who have nowhere else to turn. The stakes could not be higher.

Your charitable contributions are crucial in this situation. Right now, two of our new programs are currently in great need of baby cribs, stoves, and furniture. For information about how you can help, contact Craig Steiner, our new Director of Philanthropy, at 618-493-9400.

And finally, continue to reach out to state elected officials. Remind them that those of us who vote have not forgotten our vulnerable populations who aren't old enough to have that privilege. We must continue to be their voice.



LEAVING A LEGACY

There are a variety of ways to further the mission of Hoyleton:

- Cash
- Real Estate and Property
- Wills and Bequests
- Qualified Retirement Plans / IRAs
- Life Insurance
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

To learn more about these options, please contact Craig Steiner at csteiner@hoyleton.org or 618-493-7575 ext. 1368.

HONORS & MEMORIALS

Gifts to Hoyleton are the perfect way to pay tribute to a friend or honor a loved one. They also help us create positive change in the lives of our clients and the communities in which we live. Please contact Amanda Garrison at 618-493-7575 or agarrison@hoyleton.org to discuss making a gift dedicated to someone special.

BE OUR FRIEND!!

Find us on Facebook and check out our website, hoyleton.org, to stay plugged in to fundraising efforts and upcoming programs.



facebook.com/HoyletonMinistries

PASTOR BOB GODDARD ENJOYS 30 YEAR COMMITMENT TO



Pastor Bob Goddard has supported Hoyleton Ministries for over 30 years. He has served as a board member, a volunteer, a donor, and even on the staff. But Bob isn't looking for praise or thanks. In fact, he will say that he is grateful to be a part of Hoyleton Ministries because it is a constant reminder for him and his congregation of who they serve.

Pastor Bob and Hoyleton first came together when he was pastor of the Zion United Church of Christ (UCC) in Hoyleton 31 years ago. At that time, the ministries of Hoyleton were still owned and operated by the Illinois South Conference (ISC) of the United Church of Christ (UCC).

"Becoming pastor meant you also had a seat on the board," he says.

In 1988, ISC UCC decided that the home would be better served as its own nonprofit. Pastor Bob has a background in accounting and business administration, which proved to be particularly useful in setting up Hoyleton Youth and Family Services and the Children's Home Foundation.

He has since moved on to serve three other congregations: St. Paul UCC in Edwardsville (where he also served as a counselor for families at the Hoyleton Family Counseling Center), O'Fallon United Church of Christ in O'Fallon, IL and his current position as Senior Pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Columbia, IL.

Even though these larger churches and congregations require more of his time, he hasn't lost touch with Hoyleton, continuing his work as a passionate supporter and member of the Hoyleton Ministries Board.

Pastor Bob believes Hoyleton transforms lives by just offering hope. He tells a story of walking across the main residential campus and coming across an 11-year-old boy shooting baskets.

"He looked at me and asked if I had a minute," Pastor Bob said. "I told him I did and

HOYLETON

he blurted out, 'Am I going to hell? All my life I've heard how bad I am, that I'm a horrible person. I must be going to hell.'"

"He was 11 and already believed he was condemned for eternity," continues Pastor Bob. "Often our biggest task is to share hope for their future. How can a child have hope if he already believes he is condemned? Think of Hoyleton foster care, residential care, and Puentes services - the biggest thing they all bring is hope."

Pastor Bob believes that Hoyleton Ministries benefits the spiritual life of the communities they serve in as well as the children they serve.

He explained that Hoyleton Ministries has always been an extension of the church in the community, starting when they were founded as an orphanage more than a hundred years ago.

"There is a straight line between the children we cared for then and those we serve today. We are still part of the covenant

that was created 100 years ago," he said.

"Caring for children is who we are as a church. In the gospel text, when the disciples wanted to chase off children gathering around Jesus, he said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.' We know that we are part of His ministries when we are involved with Hoyleton," Pastor Bob said.

"The most important thing today - regardless of what funding comes from the state - is for all of us to remember that this is our ministry. We may have to do things differently in the future, but what we are commissioned to do never changes. We help because that is who God has told us to be," he said.

Pictured Left: Rev. Robert K. "Bob" Goddard, St. Paul United Church of Christ Columbia, IL, Senior Pastor. Ordained by the United Church of Christ in 1984 and called to his current position in 2005

RSVP NOW TO OUR ANNUAL AUCTION



Call 618-493-7575
to RSVP today!

Follow the yellow brick road to

an AUCTION in OZ



FRIDAY **2015** **REGENCY**
October 16 **CONFERENCE**
CENTER

Doors open at 6:00
Dinner at 7:00

400 Regency Park O'Fallon, IL 62269

Single Tickets - \$55
Table of 8 - \$400

HONOR AND MEMORIALS • APRIL 1 2015 – AUGUST 31 2015

● Tributes to

● Gifts from

IN MEMORY OF

Ellen Ahlmeyer

Roland and Jean Ahlmeyer

George O. Beck

Merlin and Gloria Gusewelle

David and Audrey Steiner

Ann Bennett

Rev. Jerry Bennett

Charles & Bertha Brucker

William and Jan Brucker

Melvin and Nellie Dauderman

Rev. Kenneth and Jean Knobloch

Donald Dix

Kathleen Fischer

Jerry Engbring

Ruth Goldschmidt

David Etling

Michelle Etling

Brian Hinkle

Roger and Robin Skaer

Carol Young

Clyde & Fred Eversmeyer

Phyllis Cassidy

Paul Farmer

Rev. Michael Erwin

Alfreida Fauss

St. John UCC, Maeystown

Women's Fellowship

Violet Forcade

Wayne Forcade

Raymond & Aurelia Harris

David and Marcia Braswell

Arline H. Jaconis

Alvin and JoAnn Steiner

John F. & Romelle Kaeser

David and Marcia Braswell

Steven Kaeser

David and Marcia Braswell

Melvin and Stella Keilbach

Evelyn Lashley

Bill Keller

Doris Keller

Margaret Kirchner

Denise and Carolyn Porter

Imogene Koelz

David and Audrey Steiner

Vernon Kremmel

Robert and Marge Wolfmeier

Eugene Mathews

David Rennegarbe

Michael & Roger

Donald and LaVerne Felts

Walter Morio

Kathleen Morio

Mothers

Friedens UCC, Marissa Evangelical

Daughters

Mary Niemann

Stanley Niemann

Rev. Dr. Jerry Paul

Friends at Hoyleton Ministries

Joshua Paul

Friends at Hoyleton Ministries

Elmer and Alice Plocher

Joseph and Jean Jacober

Margaret Pollmann

Shirley Anderson

Alex Ramone Rahn

Gerald and Joan Rahn

Rev. Craig and Evelyn Reed

Marvin and Ruth Redman

Janet Reed

Lamont Reid

Vernon and Shirley Reid

Thomas Reinacher

Alvin and JoAnn Steiner

Marilyn Riechmann

Jeffrey and Donna Rabenort

Archie Riggs

Leila Riggs

Rev. Norman & Grace Roberts

Paul and Julia Roberts

Joe Schellhardt

Larry and Kathy Washausen

Earl & Ardell Schewe

Marilyn Ahrens

Wilbert Sensel

Carmelita L. Sensel

Rev. Leonard F. & Louise Weigel

Barbara Schultz

Margaret Wessel

Chyrel Wessel

Roger Young

Shirley Anderson

Corrections from last Hoyletonian

Jack Klaus

Gloria Klaus

IN HONOR OF

Mike and Christine Anderson's wedding anniversary

Shirley Anderson

Robert Bittle's 12th birthday

Shirley Anderson

Muriel Brockmeier's 80th Birthday

Earl Grotefendt

Chris Cox

Trinity UCC, Marissa

Holy Ghost UCC, Lenzburg

Donald Freeland's 90th Birthday

Becky L. Trexler

Fred Robinson and Betty L.

Gerth's marriage

Janet Alexander

Mary Ellen Battoo

Rev. Lawrence and Marilane Becker

Charles and Jean Claxton, Jr.

Betty L. Gerth

Sara Mae Hinchcliffe

Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn

Rev. Dr. James and Ruth Mennerick

James and Dianne Mertz

Herschel and Sandy Ruhmann

Caroline Souza

Mildred Hoffman

Bonnie Hoffman

Hope House Residents

Barb Bray

Rev. Kenneth Jr. and Norma

Kramer

Salem Evangelical UCC, Quincy, IL

Jessica Krauss

Kenneth and Nancy Krauss

Netia Krieter, Get Well

Shirley Anderson

James and Dianne Mertz's 50th

Wedding Anniversary

Betty L. Gerth

Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn

Sylvester and Darlou Mehrmann

Dale and Ruth Nagel, Get Well

Shirley Anderson

Marvin and Doris Neumann's

80th birthday

Alvin and JoAnn Steiner

David & Audrey Steiner

Bill and Carol Reckman's 50th wedding anniversary

David & Audrey Steiner

Gary and Di Rufer's wedding anniversary

Shirley Anderson

Shelly Rufer's birthday

Shirley Anderson

Donald and Janet Schilling's 50th wedding anniversary

Robert and Joyce Ann Sliment

Merle Schrupf's 80th Birthday

Earl Grotefendt

Ronald and Dianne Winney's

50th wedding anniversary

Eldon and Lois Schoeber

George & Mary Wirth's 50th

Wedding Anniversary

Shirley Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Merritt

Wooldridge's wedding

Scott and Barbara Battoo

Lucille Yann, Jr.

Shirley Anderson

Jana Zurliene's birthday

Jerry and Karla Zurliene

Kelli Zurliene birthday

Jerry and Karla Zurliene

Corrections from last Hoyletonian

Jerry Zurliene's birthday

Karla Zurliene

Honor and Memorial tribute gifts allow supporters of Hoyleton Ministries to pay a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones. Hoyleton is grateful for these gifts in recognition of others.

When you recognize someone or mark a special occasion with a gift, we will notify the honoree or honoree's family with a letter describing the memorial or honor gift that includes our thanks.

For additional information about making an Honor or Memorial gift, please contact Amanda Garrison at 618-493-7575.

A GREAT DAY FOR GOLF



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our annual Golf Classic! It was a great day for golf and a great day for Hoyleton. With 33 teams participating and a net income of approximately \$14,000 in revenue, your efforts resulted in a successful event. Funds raised go directly to support our programs and services and help us continue to support children and families in the communities we serve.





P.O. Box 218
Hoyleton, Illinois 62803-0218

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit #2828

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



From our archives...They were all grown up, but these former residents of what was then called the Hoyleton Children's Home remained thankful and proud of their time spent in our caring environment. They're shown here riding in the 1961 parade through the streets of downtown Hoyleton.

If you know one of these adults or young people... we wanna hear from you!

Contact us 618-493-7575 and tell us your story.



EMAIL IT TO ME!

If you prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please notify Amanda at agarrison@hoyleton.org or 618-493-7575

The *Hoyletonian* is published by Hoyleton Ministries. Articles may be copied and distributed along with the notation they came from the *Hoyletonian* and Hoyleton Ministries.