

# The ROCKSPIRIAN

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## Rockspire Neighborhood Memory Café

By Pam Johnson

A Memory Café is an enjoyable place where people with a desire to maintain healthy brains and/or living with memory problems attend with their caregivers and interact socially with others in a safe, supportive, and engaging environment. It's a time to laugh, feel inspired and be empowered in the beauty of Rockspire's natural setting.

The concept of memory cafés started in the 1990's in the UK, spreading throughout Europe and finally coming to the USA. Although still an unfamiliar resource to many, there are now hundreds of memory cafés nationwide.

In 2011 I, along with other healthcare professionals, explored having one in the Dallas area. This initiative was sparked by a family care partner who wanted her husband to have the opportunity to stay socially active and be mentally stimulated. Our first memory café opened in Richardson, TX in summer 2012. Last August, we launched the **Rockspire Neighborhood Memory Café** with the help and support of Brandi Schneider, Peggy Way, and other local volunteers and musicians. It's a time for fun and friendship for both caregivers and their loved ones as they enjoy homemade goodies, fun activities, and live music. There is only one rule for our café, which is "There are No Rules" so that no one feels embarrassed or uncomfortable.

The next **Rockspire Neighborhood Memory Café** is **Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>** from **10am to 12 noon**, and will be regularly held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month through November.

For questions or information please contact by phone or email Pam Johnson (214-476-8248) [pamjohnson@rockspire.com](mailto:pamjohnson@rockspire.com), or Peggy Way (479-253-1583) [2atbeaverlake@gmail.com](mailto:2atbeaverlake@gmail.com).

The Schmieding Center, in partnership with the First United Methodist Church in Eureka Springs, is offering a unique look into dementia with a program called: **Alzheimer's Experience: Take a Walk in their Shoes**. This program simulates the symptoms of dementia and is designed to allow others to see, feel and hear the experiences of someone living with dementia. Sessions are about 30 minutes and by individual appointment. The program will take place at the **First United Methodist Church** from **9:00am-3:00pm on March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

To register, go to <https://uamscaregiving.org/springdale/aex/>  
For more information, you may call Brandi Schneider, Director of Aging Services and Administrator at 479-751-3043.

Rockspire Neighborhood Memory Café  
at the MobbyMac Carriage House  
Photo by P. Johnson 19Aug24



## ***Adopting a Regenerative Framework for Developing Rockspire***

By David Williamson

At November’s Rockspire Forum we presented research on the essence of the Eureka Springs region called “*Story of Place*” which focused on three core elements: **Process**, **Purpose**, and **Value**. These questions address the core elements of the essential aspects of place:

- How does this place organize and renew itself?  
“**Core Process**”
- What does it consistently pursue?  
“**Core Purpose**”
- What value does it generate as a result?  
“**Core Value**”



The full “*Story of Place*” presentation can be found at <https://rockspire.com/forums-2/>.

Our next step in the regenerative process involves development of clarity around the role or “vocation” that Rockspire should play within the Eureka Springs community. Understanding this vocation is a powerful instrument for inspiring people to come together around a common purpose. Establishing a “Vocation of Place” for that:

- Is grounded in a deep, pattern-based understanding of the local web of life – “*Story of Place*”.
- Depicts Rockspire’s potential within its region and beyond in a way that people experience as authentic, meaningful, and significant.
- Is integrative and holistic in ways that bridge cultures, classes, and generations.
- Can be translated into personal aims and principles that people find relevant in their own lives.
- Can serve as the regenerative source of direction for a project, reminding everyone in the community of their larger purpose.

***Construction is moving forward*** on three homes on Rockspire Road. The foundations and retaining walls are nearing completion as plumbing is being installed. Some steel and concrete columns are also complete.

Formwork for concrete walls at the Wright’s Residence  
Photo by G. Myers 16Feb25



Drone photo by Dylan Buyskes of Onion Studio <https://www.onionstudio.com/>

