

Red River Ramblings

Volume 7, Issue 8

August, 2010

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
 ...a home for religious liberals in Southern Oklahoma and North Texas.

A Month of Sundays

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August 1

"Fourteen Angels"

Rev. Barbara Morgan, preaching

Rev. Barbara Morgan, who lives in Denton with her partner Patricia (Pat), moved to Texas ten years ago from the Pacific Northwest so that Barbara could accept a call from Horizon Church in Carrollton. They will be returning there after the end of the year, but until then, Barbara has graciously accepted our invitation to minister to us once a month. Here's what she says about her first sermon with us: "The gods are dying...in the heart of the silence you will hear the sound that gives it away: the soft, crazy thud of the feet of the gods as they stagger across the earth; the huge white hands fluttering like moths; the little moans of bewilderment and anguish...They are dying, dying, and their twilight thickens into night." This quote from Frederick Buechner was the inspiration of a sermon I preached earlier this year. However, my journey to the place where I preached it enlivened at least one god. "Which one?" you ask. Come listen to an amazing story next week.

August 8

"Please Don't Call Me a UU!"

The Reverend Dr. Don Fielding, preaching

Rev. Fielding doesn't like to call himself a Unitarian Universalist, but why? Come and hear his explanation. And if he doesn't like to be called a Unitarian Universalist, what does he like to be called? He says he will tell us next Sunday.

August 15

"The Prayers of My Unbelief"

Pamela Wat, preaching

Pam received her Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 2005. Since graduation she has been working primarily as a hospital and then hospice Chaplain. This past year she completed an internship at Community UU Church of Plano and recently received ministerial fellowship from the UUA. This fall, Pam will start as the Consulting Minister at Denton UU Fellowship. Pam lives with her husband Jeff and step-daughter Genevieve in Denton.

August 22

Megan Dalby-Jones, preaching

In September, Megan will be beginning a new internship and will not be available to minister to us each month as we've become accustomed to. Don't miss her last Sunday with us, and be sure to watch the weekly news for details about how the RRUU community plans to celebrate her new job, show our sincere appreciation for her service to us, and give her a great send-off.

**August 29th
5th Sunday Forum**

Living HIV Positive is our 5th Sunday Forum focus on August 29th. Our guest speakers will be staff and clients from the Callie Clinic, the only HIV/AIDS program in the Texoma area. The staff and clients will form a panel discussion and offer their perspectives on what it is to live with a diagnosis of being HIV Positive. Plan now to be at RRUU to learn and grow with our guests. The Callie Clinic will be the recipient of our September Share the Plate offering.



Adult Forum
 Worship & Children's RE

10:00am
 11:15am

Calendar of Events August, 2010

1-Sun at 10 am; ADULT FORUM *Articulating Your UU Faith* class

1-Sun at 11:15 am; WORSHIP: Rev. Barbara Morgan leads worship

4-Wed at 7 pm; SPIRIT WITHIN, a New Thought Chalice circle

6-Fri at 7 pm; UJJAM, a Music Interest Circle

7-Sat at 10 am; WORSHIP ARTS TEAM meeting

8-Sun at 10 am; ADULT FORUM *Articulating Your UU Faith* class

8-Sun at 11:15 am - WORSHIP: Rev. Don Fielding leads worship

8-Sun at 12:45 pm; FREETHINKERS, a Humanist Circle

10-Tues at 6:30 pm; Board of Trustees meeting

13-Fri at 7:30 pm; RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, a Nature-Based Chalice Circle

15-Sun at 10 am; ADULT FORUM *Articulating Your UU Faith* class

15-Sun at 11:15 am; WORSHIP: Ms Pam Wat, ministerial candidate leads worship

17--Tues at 7:30 pm; GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Interest Circle

18-Wed at 7 pm; SPIRIT WITHIN, a New Thought Chalice Circle

19-Thurs 15 at noon; MINDFULNESS, Meditation Chalice Circle

22-Sun at 10 am; ADULT FORUM *Articulating Your UU Faith* class

22-Sun at 11:15 am; WORSHIP: Ms Megan Dalby-Jones leads worship

29-Sun at 10 am; ADULT FORUM: *Articulating Your UU Faith* class

29-Sun at 11:15 am; FIFTH SUNDAY FORUM: Panel Discussion of staff and clients of The Callie Clinic

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All September newsletter submissions are due to
newsletter@rruu.org
by August 28th, at 5:00 p.m.
.....

Au- August Birthdays

2 - Johnnie McAdoo
9 - Helen Schulze
12 - Nathaniel Price
14 - Jack Blue
16 - Jean Roelke
18- Penny Armstrong Bertrand
23 - Jim Murphy
27 - Darrin Wade
29 - Carolyn Fridley
30 - Jackie Gauthier
31 - Douglas Morgan Strong



AFTER CHURCH LUNCH BUNCH

Sun.-Aug 1 at 12:45,
Pop's Place Restaurant, Denison

The After Church Lunch Bunch is heading to Pop's Place restaurant, just a couple miles from the church (4531 Texoma Pkwy Denison). Pop's Place is a family owned small restaurant that serves down-home food, and is very reasonable. The ACLB (that's After Church Lunch Bunch) has a singular purpose: find a place for people to enjoy a Dutch-treat meal together. Period. It is a fine way to get to know others in the congregation.



Green Team Tip of the Month

Pete Schulze says the two easiest ways to do the most about your environmental impact are to *drive less* and use your energy dollars to *purchase commercially available wind power*.

Member News

Kudos of the Month, and Thanks, go to....



...*Dianna Neimann-Harris* for her constant, prolific, and meaningful contributions to this newsletter.

...*Penny Armstrong and Joyce Peak* for giving an entire week of their time to participate in the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE). Look for word from them next month about their time and learnings from this awesome training.

...our own *Peter Schulze* for informative, interesting and thought provoking leadership in worship engaging us in learning and conversation around issues relating to the oil spill.

...*Second Mile Donors* who have given anonymously to add to the budget for paid professional pulpit guests, a "stock supply" of logo embroidered polos and tee-shirts, mobile cabinets for the kitchen and other items large and small to enhance our RRUU family life.

...the *quiet planners of the Dutch Treat Lunch Bunch* for arranging and publicizing the informal "lunch out" gatherings after worship. As many as 20 friends and members of RRUU have gathered at various inexpensive restaurants for food and fellowship as a result...know YOU are welcome anytime you are able to join in!

...our monthly *Worship Coordinators* who tend to the multiplicity of "little" details to make our weekly service time an organized and peaceful experience along with the Worship Associates who serve with our pulpit guests to lead and guide us in worship.

People to Remember on the Journey



Christine Davis was diagnosed with multiple brain tumors last month and has made the conscious, informed choice to enjoy her remaining time with the support of Hospice. She and caregiver-spouse Jack Blue appreciate your positive thoughts, brief visits, cards and support. Their address is 2502 Meadows Drive #102 in Denison (75020) and the home phone is 903-464-9006. Feel free to call if you would like to bring by a meal or meet some other need (hint: Christine loves the chicken fingers basket from the Cotton Patch and says she'd be happy to have it for dinner every night for the rest of her days).

Please extend your expressions of sympathy to Marie Bellman in the recent death of her father, and remember Jan Fletcher whose brother continues to battle infection and a long journey of rehabilitation after his extended illness.

Friend of RRUU Kat Walston is also in need of our love and support as she copes with new medical issues leaving her unable to drive. You are most welcome to contact Kat at her

home in Denison to help provide rides to worship and for other needs she has.

Suzanne Durland continues treatment for her medical issues with depressingly regular trips to Dallas in the care of chauffeur-spouse Don. Expressions of care and encouragement are always welcome in their ongoing efforts to seek better health.

Remember RRUU friend Trier Ward and "the guys" J.D., Cade, Lief and Emory as they work to find the way through the changes in their lives. Trier spends most of her time in their Denison home with four small children and welcomes visits or invitations to join others for some time visiting with adults!

Children's Religious Education



Helen Schulze continues to study our seven principles with our children in August. Offers of help and involvement are **always welcome**. If you are willing to help with the Children's RE program, please alert Helen or a Board member.



Adult Forum

Articulating Your UU Faith is a 5-week class that will meet each Sunday in August. Open to all (Sundays 10-11 am) The class is free.

Final Thoughts on the BP Oil Spill

After I spoke last Sunday I realized I failed to end with a hopeful message. Here it is. There is a solid track record of people solving problems when they become determined. In the 1960s American rivers sometimes caught fire – not today.

In the fifties black and white kids in Sherman couldn't go to school in the same classes – today they do. In the 40s my parents' generation had to stop the Nazis – they did. Before them infectious disease was a scourge – not today. Before that agricultural societies went from one famine to the next – not today. I realize these problems aren't entirely solved, and they are much worse in some places than others, but they are much less severe than previously in places where people decided to make a change. The problem I talked about last Sunday – essentially the problem of sustainability – has only been appreciated for a little while. No one even used the word when I was in college. Today lots of people are concerned about solving it. In my opinion the Senate blew it last week when they gave up on climate legislation for this congress, but they almost didn't blow it; they almost tried to pass it whereas a few years ago they voted 99-0 against the Kyoto Protocol.

- Pete Schulze



Report From GA

RRUU members Elbert and Marion Hill represented the church as delegates to General Assembly in Minneapolis, MN, June 23-27. They report that the most hotly de-

bated issue was whether the UUA should boycott Phoenix as the site for its 2012 GA. The UUA Board of Trustees had called for moving the convention site in response to the passage of Arizona SB 1070 (which requires law enforcement personnel in Arizona to check immigration status of any person suspected of being in the U.S. illegally, when “any lawful contact” is made with that individual). But the Board referred the decision to General Assembly delegates after a letter from UUA President Peter Morales proposed UUA hold the convention as scheduled in Phoenix but make it a different kind of convention, one focused on the issue of immigrant justice, with other convention business kept to a minimum. Morales’ letter included invitations from two immigrant advocacy groups to hold GA in Phoenix.

After hours of debate and negotiation in mini-assemblies, delegates overwhelmingly approved a compromise resolution to hold a “Justice General Assembly” in Phoenix in 2012. Phoenix-area UUA congregations were among those speaking in favor of the compromise.

In other business, delegates adopted a Statement of Conscience on “Creating Peace” after four years of congregational study, and chose “Immigration as a Moral Issue” as the topic for the next four-year study. (Of the five proposed study topics, RRUU’s delegates had voted for “National Economic Reform: A Moral Imperative,” reasoning that economic justice would be basic to resolving each of the other four proposed issues.) The convention also approved Actions of Immediate Witness to work for Gulf Coast environmental and economic justice, and to advocate for “cleaning up” the Clean Energy Bill. Proposals to advocate ending the blockade of Gaza and the growth of Israeli settlements on Palestinian territory, and to advocate ending the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan, failed.

“UUs have strong feelings about issues,” Elbert noted, “and people on both sides of arguments made good points. But I’m proud of our denomination’s ability to find valid compromises on divisive issues.”

Delegates were urged to encourage members of their home congregations to attend GA 2012 in Phoenix, Marion said, “in order that UUs’ witness for justice can have maximum impact.”

For those who have never attended a GA but would like to experience a more typical one than 2012 will be, she suggested members also consider attending GA 2011 in Charlotte, North Carolina. “The Ware Lecture on Saturday evening is always a highlight—this year, Winona LaDuke, a Native America activist and economist gave a great talk about environmental issues from a Native American perspective.

The workshops are informative and helpful, and meeting other UUs from across the country is inspiring and fun.”

Logo Embroidered Polos and Tees

Many of the RRUU family can be seen sporting polo or tee shirts in a variety of colors which proudly display an embroidered version of the RRUU logo. Thanks to a thoughtful donation, we have a limited supply of shirts still available if you would like one.

The shirts are very high quality and are available at \$20 for a polo (collared) shirt and \$15 for a tee shirt. Our “stock” of shirts is stored on a rack in the back of the sanctuary and will be brought into the entry way on Sundays. In early fall we will do another special order for polos, tees and sweat shirts.

Please be sure to make payment for your shirt in cash or a check to RRUU and give it to Dianna Niemann-Harris. Also, those who already have a shirt but have not paid for it, please do so ASAP as currently we have more shirts gone out than payments which have been made. If you have a shirt and don’t remember if you paid for it or not please simply make payment...all profits from the shirt sales go to RRUU.

Tee and sweat shirts with the RRUU logo printed rather than embroidered will be available for order in the near future for about \$10 and \$15 respectively. Watch the newsletter and E-news for availability and ordering information!



How To Begin (*Changing Your Life*) by [Forrest Church](#)

Begin by turning the page. Today you can open a new chapter of your life. If you are trapped in your story (stuck in place, botching the same old lines), revise the script. Practice a new line or two. When reading a book, we sometimes reach the bottom of a page only to realize we have been glossing its words without **registering their meaning. We haven’t been paying attention. We don’t have the faintest idea what we’ve just read. So we go back** to the top of the page and try to concentrate. It happens again. Sentences dissolve into words. Words into sounds. The books of our lives are no different. Resist the temptation to wallow over some dark passage until you know exactly what went wrong. You **never will. Besides, perfection is not life’s goal. Neither is unnecessary pain.** If you are stuck, open a new chapter. Turn the page.

This is the sixth of 10 suggestions by Forrest Church. The other 9 can be viewed at UUA.org, , [Spiritual Life](#) , [Today’s Readings](#).

Board Bits

What your Board did at their last meeting, July 13, 2010



- * Everyone on the board was in attendance. We started at 6:40 pm and went home around 9:07 pm. See full board minutes for details.
- * Amy Hoffman-Shehan acted as our Process Observer and timekeeper for the meeting.
- * Minutes were approved for the last meeting and reports were accepted.
- * Long range planning - consultant wants us to redo values, mission, vision statements before attempting the new 5 year plan. We will start this work in late August or early September.
- * No additional members of the congregation attended the meeting.
- * Board approved updating of bank card signatures.
- * Board Representatives were selected for the year 2010-2011. Board Rep will be responsible for the setup/cleanup checklist sheet on Sunday.
- * Joyce was selected to be board Secretary with Jim as backup.
- * Dianna Niemann-Harris was approved as Membership Committee Team Leader.
- * An A-V consultant who is also a UU has agreed to review our equipment plan for no charge.
- * Pledge campaign has wrapped up with about 85% of membership participating.
- * Ways and Means are working on fundraiser ideas - Service Auction for fall, Grocery bags suggested by Charlie Mathis, clothing swap suggested by Doyle Adams. W&M needs to write fund raising policy.
- * UN Envoy Program is progressing - anyone interested in working on it should see Don Durland.
- * Don Durland will be handling Staff Supervision for child care and cleaning.
- * Many sections of the new Policies & Procedures are ready for board review.
- * Brief review of NTAUUS Board Training - planning a board retreat for July 22, 6:30 - 9:30 at the church with another day set later for continuation.
- * Amy would like us to consider social action / justice outreach film series to attract community involvement.
- * NTAUUS report from Jim - remember September 19th is Gay Pride Parade in Dallas - some from RRUU will be attending. Will support our work towards becoming a Welcoming Congregation.

If you would like to see the full board minutes – they will be posted on the “Board Board” in the back of the Sanctuary as soon as they are available. There is also a Book with the minutes that have been removed from being posted. The next board meeting is August 10th, starting at 6:45 p.m. Board meetings are open to all, if you wish to be on the agenda please contact a board member. Deadline for the

agenda and reports to the board is August 5th. Those wishing a few minutes during the “open mic” will want to be ready to speak around 7:00 pm.

Board of Trustee Resignations

It is with great regret that the board accepts the resignations of Paula Blackshear as Treasurer and Joyce Polk as Trustee at Large.

Fiscal Year 2010 Ending Report Highlights



- * \$29,566.85 was received from pledges and offering in FY 2010
- * \$ 3,482.46 or 12% of the income was given to Haitian Relief, Beth Emeth & Share the Plate
- * \$ 3,300.17 value was given as gifts-in-kind during FY 2010
- * \$ 8,742.93 was the net income for FY 2010
- * \$ 8,258.58 of the net income is encumbered (grant/matching for sound system & 5 year plan)
- * \$ 484.35 is the unencumbered net income remaining from FY 2010
- * The full FY 2010 ending report as submitted to the Trustees is on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

Commitment Campaign Final Report



Our Commitment Campaign for this fiscal year formally came to a close the end of June with outstanding success. Nationally, an average of 52% of church members pledge annually. That average is higher at 73% in Unitarian Universalist congregations. We have cause to celebrate at Red River Unitarian Universalist as 85% of the membership made a financial commitment to offset this year's budget!

The FY-11 budget approved at our last congregational meeting cited an anticipated pledge amount of \$24,104. As the result of a well executed campaign faithfully responded to by the membership, our actual pledges for the fiscal year are \$25,010 exceeding the budgeted amount by nearly a thousand dollars.

A detailed campaign final report was submitted to the Board of Trustees and can be viewed on the Board bulletin board in the back corner of the sanctuary. Generous thanks are due to all who participated in any way toward the success of the campaign.

Message from Marla

Marla Loturco, President, RRUU



I would like to personally thank the Worship Arts Team for all of the hard work they put into each and every Sunday Worship Service. Currently this team has only four members, team leader Darrah Dunn, Jan Fletcher, Penny Armstrong and Dianna Niemann-Harris and they are working their hearts out for the rest of us to hopefully have a Sunday spiritual experience. Each week they attempt to put elements into the service to satisfy each congregation member attending. Not all elements will be for every individual. We need to enjoy what is there for us and accept the elements which are there for others.

The worship team welcomes your response to the Sunday Worship. The only thing that I ask each of you – if the response is not totally positive – please save that response until you get home and write them an email. They have spent lots of time preparing and have just experienced all of the energy and pain of a presentation. Giving them criticism, however gently, at the end of service is very hard to hear and very demoralizing. Also in your email, state the positive things you liked first – not just the suggestions you have for change.

Worship is the core of our Sunday experiences. Thank you Worship Arts Team for your work to make those experiences satisfying.

Marla

Voices of Liberal Religion



Articles published in various UU newsletters, this month from The Rev. John Gibbons lifted from *The Parishioner*, the newsletter of the First Parish, On The Common, Bedford, MA,

“Common Thoughts

I’m seeing a pattern.

First, there’s a new and popular book titled “Without Buddha I Could Not Be a Christian.” Then there’s another new book titled “It’s Really All About God” with the subtitle “Reflections of a Muslim Atheist Jewish Christian.” And now we in Bedford have some new parishioners (a same-sex couple, by the way) who, before coming to First Parish on Sunday mornings, attend The Pub Church on Saturday nights, a Disciples of Christ church that meets over beers in a bar called The Dugout on Commonwealth Avenue across from Boston University – thepubchurch.blogspot.com. (Years ago, btw, I too had a few beers at The Dugout. The last time was a bleak November night in 1972 when on the bar’s TV I watched McGovern concede the presidency to Nixon. At the

time, I didn’t think of it as church, but even the religious need sometimes to cry into one’s beer.)

And, more highbrow, there’s also Harvard Divinity School professor Harvey Cox who recently prophesies the end of fundamentalism, saying: “The very nature of human religiousness is changing in a way inimical to fundamentalist thought. The most rapidly growing spiritual groups today focus not on someone else’s authority, but on a direct encounter with the divine. Whatever else it may mean that so many people call themselves ‘spiritual but not religious,’ it suggests they still yearn for contact with the sacred, but are suspicious of the scaffolding, the doctrines, and hierarchies through which it has often been conveyed.”

Where has Harvey been? I’m glad he’s belatedly awakening to the last two hundred years of Unitarian Universalism. For centuries now we’ve been saying that religious experience matters more than religious beliefs. Who cares where you get your inspiration? It matters that, once in a while, you’re inspired. And, yes, welcome to the holiday season. Once in a while I hope you are inspired – Christian/Buddhist/Atheist/Muslim/Jewish/Pub-going/Unitarian Universalist/ or none-of-the-above.

The menu is vast. Welcome to the feast.

The Rev. John Gibbons just celebrated his 20th year ministering to the congregation at The First Parish in Bedford, MA.

Newsletter Survey



So, what’s the shortest word in the English language that contains the letters abcdef? You probably guessed – it is feedback. The folks who bring you the monthly newsletter and the weekly e-news want some feedback - open, honest, straightforward, candid even blunt thoughts, reactions, opinions, suggestions so we can make sure we’re sending you information you want to read.

Statically something like 89% of people don’t bother returning a survey. We’re hoping you’ll be in the 11% that does. We’re even doing our best to make it easy. You won’t have to open mail, fill out a paper form, find a stamp, remember to get it to the mail box. Instead, how about getting a beverage, breathe in three times to center yourself and click on this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Y7PLX8G>. The survey will take about 4 minutes, and in excellent Unitarian Universalist tradition, there are ample places for you to type in comments.

The survey will also be available on the church’s web site and in the sidebar of the weekly e-news throughout August.

One question that is not on the survey is “What is your name?” We’re interested in what is said, not who said what. The results along with all comments will be available in September for anyone interested.

Share the Plate with...



Loaves and Fishes, Durant, OK
Salvation Army, Grayson County



We're Number Two...and also number one and number seven. When we consider the seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote, our Social Action efforts at RRUU relate most closely to the second, seventh and first principles:

- * Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
- * Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
- * The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

While social action reflects our commitment to all of the principles, these three are most directly related to the things we do or fail to do in the area of acting on and in the social milieu of our day and time.

Our July *Share the Plate* cash offerings of \$60 went to the *Families Feeding Families* meal program out of Durant, OK. The program welcomes anyone who is in need of a meal with no restrictions, application or criteria other than being hungry. Families in the Durant area prepare and serve a simple evening meal daily, free all who come to their site in search of food. This is a mission and ministry which RRUU has supported for some years as part of our Social Action.

Our ongoing "*Fill the Plate*" donations of cash, paper/hygiene products and nonperishable food will also travel to Southwest Oklahoma the next few months. The items and dollars donated during July, August and September will be delivered to the *Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry* in Durant for distribution. All are encouraged to bring smaller sized toothpaste, deodorant, hair care products, cleaning products and/or paper products (tissues, toilet paper, feminine needs items, paper towel) and place them in the green bins in the rear of the sanctuary. Since the food pantry can purchase food items for ten cents on the dollar, cash or a check are the most cost effective way to help feed people.

This month we are also joining to help children and youth in struggling families get ready for school. All are invited to bring backpacks and/or school supplies. Please give generously to our August 8, 2010 *Share the Plate* offering for back to school help. Each RRUU household is encouraged to bring any or all of the following to contribute: backpacks, pencils, blue or black pens, red pens/pencils, 24 count crayons, markers, glue sticks, rulers, pink pearl erasers, loose leaf paper, folders, single subject spiral notebooks, 3 ring binders, pencil boxes, 5 subject spiral notebooks, and folders. The supplies, backpacks and dollars collected will go to the Back-to-School Program of the Salvation Army of Grayson County and of the Duran/Bryan County Families Feeding Families Organization.

Some have asked "Why Oklahoma when our church is in Texas?" The reality is state borders are nothing more than an imaginary line. Our congregation extends into Oklahoma by virtue of our members and friends. Some come to RRUU from Bryan County, OK, and we have participants from Cooke, Fannin and Grayson Counties in TX. The Social Action Team endeavors to share our gifts in essentially a 30 mile radius of our physical location. When we are aware of special needs, the circle expands to include Haiti or New Orleans, synagogues and temples, those of all races, orientations and genders. In the same way we welcome all in worship and events, so we work to reach out to all. Come celebrate your principles by taking action in social needs and issues!

September 26, 2010 is Social Action focus in Adult RE

Clothing Swap



RRUU member Doyle Adams is arranging a Clothing Swap to benefit the Crisis Center Thrift Store. Members and friends of RRUU are invited to bring clothing and accessories they no longer need or want and swap them for items of their choice. Leftover items will be donated to the Crisis Center Thrift Store. There will also be a box for rags and clothing too worn out to wear, as the Crisis Center can sell them to a rag recycler. Please speak to Doyle Adams to sign up to participate in the clothing swap or to volunteer to help with the event.



"But I don't have
TIME to..."

One Hour (or less) Ways
to Do Your Part

A shortage of time seems universal in our RRUU family and indeed all across this country. Did you know there are multiple choices of ways you can be a part of RRUU in one hour or less? It's true! Here are just some of the opportunities for you to be involved...

GREETERS are needed for each Sunday morning. Prerequisites: a willingness to say "Good Morning", hand people a copy of the Order of Worship, remind them which hymnal to pick up and invite newcomers to visit the Visitor Table for information and to fill in a very brief information sheet. Time Involved: 10:45 am - 11:15 am on the Sunday you agree to be Greeter. To Get Involved: Contact Jan Fletcher at 903-892-8396 or by email to

Community Social Action Opportunities

Operation Warrior is a community event at Loy Lake Park on Saturday, August 28, 2010. This Texoma area fund raiser will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project whose purposes are:

- To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women
- To help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of severely injured members.

Consider joining Dianna Niemann-Harris and Tim Riek to help work a game booth or serve food. For the more adventurous, you are invited to participate in the 5K run or Motorcycle run and all are encouraged to come eat, drink and play at Loy Lake August 28th. Not only is this an opportunity to help wounded soldiers and be involved in the community, doing so while wearing an RRUU tee or polo shirt will help let people know we are here and welcome all kinds. For more information, talk to Dianna any Sunday, email rruudianna@email.com or call 903-327-2069!

A *Whitewright High School Senior* is returning to finish her diploma this fall with her rare form of leukemia in remission. During her illness the father lost his job due to missed work. Complications of his diabetes resulted in the recent amputation of one foot and probable loss of the other in the near future. While they await approval of disability income and Medicaid coverage, the family of three is living on the **mother's slightly above minimum wage fulltime job**. Anyone who might wish to help this young woman with some back-to-school clothes or contribute to a drawing account for school incidentals please email socialaction@rruu.org or call Dianna at 903-327-2069.

Permaculture Design

Sponsored by CORE



CORE [www.TexomaCORE.org] - the small non-profit in that organized a few years ago to fight off a coal-fired power plant in Fannin county - is now focusing on local food production as a key to sustainability and transition. To that end, two of their members are hosting a Permaculture Design Certification Course at Wildscape Acres near Ravenna, Texas, from Sep 25–Oct 9, 2010, led by Patricia Allison with Dylan Ryals-Hamilton, Mateo Ryall, and guests. Patricia is well-known in permaculture circles and has been teaching the course since 1994. More information is at <http://wildscapeacres.homestead.com/Permaculture.html>

Austin College Community Service Day



FALL IS COMING – and with it an influx of college students at area colleges. **Austin College is holding its annual “service day” on Thurs. Sept 2.** It is a time when students can wander around an array of booths in order to learn about the community. The church signed up for a table so students can learn about Unitarian Universalism and RRUU in general and about the Green Team specifically. If you want to share our good news why not spend an hour of two helping spread the gospel of liberal religion! Send an email to announcements@rruu.org if you want more information and/or want to support this outreach in some way.

It is no secret that many UU students tend to drop out of the church after high school, some forever, and others return later in life (often when their own children start asking those pesky questions about religion). We want to extend an invitation for college age UUs to keep their faith! During August an email will go to all UU ministers and congregations in Texas and Oklahoma asking if they would send us the names of any students in their congregations that are moving to Sherman or Durant so we can personally reach out to the students.

Small On The Wall

An exciting small works exhibit by an eclectic group of local and regional artists will be held at Artplace Gallery, 413 West Main Street, Denison, Texas from July 16th to August 31st. Gallery hours are 9:30 to 3:00 Tuesday and Wednesday and 9:30 to 6:00 Thursday through Saturday.



“**Small on the Wall II**” is by no means a small show with seventy-eight works by more than different artists to its credit. With mediums ranging from encaustic to oils, and styles from traditional to abstract, this show is nothing if not diverse.

Artists represented include Latrell Olnier, Stephen Olnier, Jack Ousey, Rachel Cross, Robert Ostman, Shea Archer, Laura Lawson, Marie VanArsdale, Jerry Tate, Dianne Bennett, Stephen Yochum, Sara Duran, Mary Karam, Michael Williams, Paul Walsh, Pam, Robyn Raggio, Shelley Tate Garner, *S. Lloyd Durland, Don Durland, John Robinson, Theresa Traweek, Reba Browning, Pam Straus, Jaci Leeper, Janice Howell, Steve O. Black, Sharon Burris, Mort Hamilton, Traci Martin, Rudy Ellis, Steven Phillips, Jeanne Cacace, CeroCien, Barbara Larimore, Elizabeth Padgett, Mike Mahler, and Arlene Cason.*

The show is free and open to the public. For more infor-

RRUU Chalice Circles: Which Small Group Is Right For You?

Chalice Circles are small groups of people who meet regularly for the purpose of getting to know one another while learning, discussing, and acting on topics of common interest. All members and friends are welcome! If you are interested in attending a particular circle, contact Circle Coordinator, Jan Fletcher, at chalicecircles@rruu.org.



MI NDFULNESS, a Meditation Circle, meets Thurs Aug 19 at noon at the home of Carla Murphy in Whitesboro. Facilitator is Richard Newlin. **NEW AND EXPERIENCED MEDITATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**



PFFFT, an Outdoor Activities Interest Circle, meets each month on a Saturday. The group is discussing attending the 2nd Saturday lecture at Hagermans. Facilitator is Suzanne Durland. **ANYONE WHO LOVES THE OUTDOORS IS WELCOME!**



FREETHI NKERS, a Humanist Circle, meets the second Sunday of each month in Fellowship Hall at 12:45. The next meeting will be Aug 8. Facilitator is Jim Gauthier. **ALL FREETHINKERS ARE WELCOME!**



RED RIVER EARTH SPI RIT, a Nature-Based Spirituality Circle, meets seasonally at the Church. Facilitator is Penny Armstrong. **NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle, meets the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan in Sherman. Next meeting is Aug 17 to continue preparations for Earth Day April, 2011. Anyone who loves the planet and would like to help with the 2011 Earth Day Festival is invited to join us. As there was no July meeting, the TEAM may make up for it with a meeting the first Tues, Aug 3. Watch the Wed E-News announcements Facilitator is Amy Hoffman-Shehan. **ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE EARTH ARE WELCOME!**



UUJAM, a Music-Making Interest Group, meets the first Friday of each month at 7 pm at the home of Jan Fletcher in Sherman. The next meeting will be held Fri, Aug 6. The JAM meets in an informal circle to share favorite songs and all musicians and listeners are welcome. Bring your instruments, songs and snack/drink to share. Facilitator is Jan Fletcher. **ALL MUSIC MAKERS AND LISTENERS ARE WELCOME!**



CHRI STIAN UU, a Christian-Centered Chalice Circle is suspending meetings for a season.



MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle, meets on moveable dates at moveable locations. Plans are still in the works for **the Aug "Feast"**. Watch your email & the weekly E-News for the announcement. Facilitators are Elbert & Marion Hill. **ANYONE WHO LOVES COOKING AND/OR EATING IS WELCOME!**



LAI D BACK BOOK GROUP, a Book Reading and Discussion Interest Group, meets periodically to discuss the selected reading and share insights. The group discusses the selection via email. Facilitator is Suzanne Durland. **ALL WHO ENJOY THOUGHTFUL LITERATURE ARE WELCOME!**



SPI RIT WI THI N, a New Thought Chalice Circle, will meet at Marla Loturco's home in Whitesboro the first & third Wed at 7 pm. The group continues to study *Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for UU's*, a new UU Tapestry of Faith program.



Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
 ...a home for religious liberals in Southern Oklahoma and North Texas

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.RRUU.ORG

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Jim Gauthier, Suzanne Durland,

Penny Armstrong

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Children's Religious Education: Helen Schulze

Youth Advisor: Open

Membership: Open

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