



Red River Ramblings

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Sunday Celebrations ~To Enrich our Lives

Aug 7

TRANSITIONS: CAN WE GET THERE FROM HERE? The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong

Somehow I thought getting old would decrease the transitions life hurls at us. Do times of change come with more or less agony as we age? Life seems to be giving us abundant amounts of chaos – the debt the killings in Oslo, being kicked out of the church – a look at how transitions impact and improve our lives

Aug 14

SPIRITUALITY The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding

Spirituality is a "Reflection" (what Don calls "Sermons") on what spirituality is and how it occurs within the human complex of emotions - yes, even for Unitarian Universalists. In this Reflection Don compares and contrasts "spiritual experience" with "religious experience," and provides some examples of spiritual experiences of his own. He ends the Reflection offering some ways that most anyone can prepare and experience what he considers to be a genuine spiritual experience.

Aug 21

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY AND PLACE Ron Wallace & Don Althoff

We bid goodbye to our years on Harrison Street with a service that was planned weeks ago (a most serendipitous thing). Poet Ron Wallace brings a morning of his own work which will be augmented by the keyboardist talents of Don Althoff.

Ron Wallace is a Native son of Oklahoma and a national poetry award winner. He is the author of four volumes of poetry, winning the Oklahoma Writer's Federation "Best

Book of Poetry Award" twice (in 2009 and again this year). Wallace's Choctaw, Cherokee, Osage heritage is intertwined with his Scots-Irish roots and often reflected in his writing. Ron teaches at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and lives in Durant with his wife Janie and son Matthew who is a student at OU. You can get to know Ron a bit more by visiting his web site [RonWallacePoetry](http://RonWallacePoetry.com).

Aug 28

WHERE ARE YOU ON THE 'JOURNEY OF YOUR SELF?' Dr. Richard Newlin

Each of us are on a life long Journey of 'Self'. One day early in Life we awake and realize, "I AM HERE! I am not my Mama! I am not the Dog. I am not the Tree. I AM ME!" So for all of us the Journey begins. Then one day someone else will pick up our hand, or listen to our chest and say "He is gone!" The Journey ends. Over the many, many thousands of years that we humans have been here, some have reflected and shared about the journey from -- "I AM HERE" to the "He is gone".

I was born in rural Northern Indiana. I was an alive, joyous child. Then at 18 months, I experienced a horrific childhood accident. I survived but my life had been radically altered by spending the next 12 months in my 'personal Hell'.

The rest of my life I have been engaged intensely in the study, discovery, and 'Journey' of Self. I will share thoughts about 'The Journey' based on my life experiences and study, from 'Self Awareness' to 'Self Transcendence'.

Adult Forum ~ 10
Silent Meditation ~ 11

Worship ~ 11:15
Fellowship Gathering ~ 12:15

Manna from Marla ~ We're moving *again!*

"After nearly ten years, our landlady wants us out – by August 26th."

Dear Friends,

We are an awesome group. I am gratified and amazed by the number of people who helped with the move from the Sanctuary into the Fellowship Hall, office, storage, and Adult Forum rooms and all that it entailed.



I want to thank everyone who participated for all of their hard work. Bruce Cameron and the Cameron's Grand Daughter Summer did an amazing amount of work changing around locks, protecting our sound equipment and preparing the walls in the Fellowship Hall for painting.

Then the painting crew came in consisting of Bruce, Summer, Jodie, Suzanne, and Don. Amazing what a coat of paint can do for the looks and feel of the room. Our own design coordinator, Doug, came last and made sure the pews were set, the wall hangings hung, the pictures were on the wall and

the pulpit area was arranged.

Many visitors and congregants have commented on how comfortable and welcoming the area now feels.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Just as we have been getting settled into Fellowship Hall a series of less-than-wonderful conversations took place with Betty, our landlady. Without boring you with the details (she did hang up on me several times), she sent an official letter giving us 30 days notice, per our current lease. We must be out of the building by midnight, Friday, August 26, 2011.

Two things are happening at the same time: The New Home Committee is scrambling to find us a place to meet and we need to organize and get ready to move.

Betty wants us to vacate the classrooms so she can paint (she wanted this done last week) and to that end I need to again ask for everyone's help after things on Sundays to empty various classrooms so her crew can paint.

The New Home Committee has made arrangements for us to visit some locations starting this Sunday (Jul 31) and no doubt other Sundays we will also be looking.

If you have any suggestions, know of any places we could explore, or even have a huge tent we could put up somewhere (just kidding, the heat would kill us off), please let Elbert Hill or me know.

I read somewhere that chaos in the world brings uneasiness, but it also allows the opportunity for creativity and growth.

I'm focusing on the creativity and

growth part since focusing on chaos only brings indigestion.

This Sunday, July 31 we will be looking at a potential new home. It is located in the Morton Street Plaza. We will be looking at two side-by-side suites on the west side of the shopping center, which are now occupied by The Refuge church.

The address of the shopping center is 2300 W. Morton St. Directions from the church: Go north on Austin to Morton St., go west on Morton (about 3 miles, give or take) to Vick Ave. (very short street, about one block west of Park Drug). Morton St. Plaza is on the south side of Morton.

Here are two pictures from the Refuse Church facebook page:



Again, thanks everyone for pitching in.

Marla

The Adult Forum ~ “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”

For the next several weeks the Adult Forum will focus on a far-reaching thesis offered by Dr. Karen Armstrong (author of *The Case for God*). It takes courage for a religious historian and writer of Dr. Karen Armstrong’s stature to step out from behind the scrim of scholarship and analysis to offer guidelines for a spiritual practice designed to make humanity a kinder and saner species. Armstrong has composed a Charter for Compassion, which calls for the restoration of “compassion to the heart of religious and moral life” in a “dangerously polarized” world. Exquisite and affecting explications of

Buddhist, Confucian, Judaic, Christian, and Islamic commentary prepare the ground for meditation exercises meant to engender “open-mindedness” and the cultivation of compassion, making for the most sagacious and far-reaching 12-step program ever. The schedule (always open to revision once we get into the book) looks like this:

August 7th, “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”

The Seventh Step: *How Little We Know*
The Eight Step: *How Should We Speak to One Another?*

August 14th, “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”

The Ninth Step: *Concern for Everybody*
The Tenth Step: *Knowledge*

August 21th, “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life”

The Eleventh Step: *Recognition*
The Twelfth Step: *Love Your Enemies and A Last Word.*

August 28th, **Something Interesting** will bubble up from somewhere, come and be surprised

Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, Aug 27th
@ 5:01 pm
Send stuff to:
newsletter@rruu.org

Among Ourselves ~

THIRTY YEARS AND COUNTING...



Warm wishes and loads of congratulations go to Bruce and Carolyn Cameron who on August 1st will celebrate their thirtieth anniversary.

Love seems the swiftest, but it is the slowest of all growths. No man or woman really knows what perfect love is until they have been married a quarter of a century.

~ Mark Twain

BIRTHDAY WISHES THIS MONTH GO TO ...

Johnnie McAdoo	02 nd
Helen Schulze	09 th
Jack Blue	14 th
Trier Ward	16 th
Penny Armstrong	18 th
John Rawson	26 th
Jackie Gauthier	30 th
Doug Strong	31 st

 **Wishing you all the best in the year to come. May your days be filled with sunshine and beautiful colors. And may your nights be filled with comforting dreams and wishes to come.**

A REMINDER FROM BUILDINGS & GROUNDS...

Thank you for helping keep the little tomatoes watered in front of the church. Anyone who is at the church for any reason can water so we have something alive in those planters. We are in a drought. But surely we can have a little green up around the church building. Also, be sure to lock doors. I’ve found the front door properly locked but both stoppers were not hooked.

Doyle Adams

MOVEABLE FEAST ...

is going South of the Border – dinner at Kent’s Tex-Mex restaurant (2900 W. Woodlawn, Denison) and then returning to church to watch an all time favorite flick *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou*. Everyone is warmly invited, whether you’ve been to a Feast before or not.

A Message from Boston ~ President Morales on Trial in Phoenix



A year ago today, our Unitarian Universalist principle on the inherent worth and dignity of all people led me to Phoenix to participate in a National Day of Non-Compliance in protest of SB 1070. Along with others, I chose to engage in an act of civil disobedience by blocking the entrance to the Maricopa County jail.

I sought to impede — if only for one day — Sheriff Joe Arpaio's dehumanization of migrants, his raids on barrios, and his campaign of terror. After fourteen hours in jail, I was able to leave freely and return to my family. Others in Maricopa County jail were less fortunate.

Today, I am one of six people standing trial in Phoenix for my actions of civil disobedience. I view this as an opportunity to again shine a light on the growing human rights crisis in Arizona. In addition to raising these issues in the press, I have written a letter to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and Attorney General Eric Holder urging that DHS immediately sever Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's access to immigration programs like 287(g) and Secure Communities, and that the Department of Justice conclude its ongoing investigation into abuses by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and bring Sheriff Arpaio to justice.

Will you join me in asking these leaders to stop the abuse and injustice that is rampant in Maricopa County?

[Click here to send a message to Secretary Napolitano and Attorney General Holder.](#)

Following my arrest in 2010, I led an effort to bring together seven other denominations and a dozen faith-based organizations in signing a letter to President Obama urging an end to policies like the frightening "Secure Communities" program that "Arizonify" local law police by requiring them to enforce unjust federal immigration laws.

These programs criminalize immigrant communities and tear apart families. Our letter was delivered in February to the Department of Homeland Security. Unfortunately, Secretary Janet Napolitano has taken no action in response.

Similarly, I am thankful that the Department of Justice launched an investigation into Sheriff Arpaio's actions, and I am hopeful that upon completion, the Sheriff will be held accountable for his crimes. But justice delayed is justice denied. The Department of Justice investigation has been a slow process. I am not an investigator or a civil rights attorney. I appreciate that finding evidence requires due process. But as a minister who cares deeply about the suffering of other people — people whose freedom exists at the whim of Sheriff Joe Arpaio, a man who has shown himself to thrive on cruelty — I feel compelled to ask Attorney General Holder to bring Sheriff Arpaio to justice swiftly.

There are approximately 8,000 inmates in Sheriff Arpaio's jail cells, many of whom have been victims of policies that have been deemed unconstitutional. This past year, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a ruling that Sheriff Arpaio has repeatedly violated the constitutional rights of detainees by housing them in overcrowded conditions, at "dangerously high temperatures," and feeding them "overripe, moldy, and generally inedible" food. Sadly, these are just the most obvious of Arpaio's abuses of basic human rights. **Please join me in speaking out against these human rights abuses.**

There is a domestic human rights crisis in Arizona. I have seen it firsthand, and I am compelled to act. I will continue to shine a light on the human rights crisis that is taking place. Please join me in standing with immigrant communities in defense of their and our barrios because we cannot be neutral. We are called. We are all Arizona.

In faith,
Peter Morales,
President
Unitarian Universalist Association

Board Bits ~from the July 21st Board Meeting

“It’s time to take a look at the church by-laws”

The board meeting was held on July 21st. All board members were present. In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

Amy Hoffman-Shehan has agreed to be the Board Secretary for the next year, as well as Correspondent for the Board. Since Amy has to work on Sundays after church we will be looking for a volunteer who would act as secretary for the Fall and Spring Congregational Meetings.

The Board Covenant was reviewed, modified slightly and approved unanimously. There is a copy posted on the website under governance if anyone would like to read it.

Elbert Hill is going to act as the point person on the Board for the New Home Committee. Please check with him if you are interested in helping in the search.

Amy Hoffman-Shehan will help to organize and plan the review team for the current bylaws. Some of the topics which might be addressed:

- While the congregation is so small we might temporarily remove some of the restrictions on people from the same family being on the Board, Committee on Ministry and Nominations
- the size of the Board (the number of trustees) might be reduced until we grow larger
- Suggestion to change the terms for Committee on Ministry and Nominating committee to 3 years each member with revolving dates (one person elected each year so we don't face a new committee all at one time)
- stagger the election of officers so all officers are not new at the same time
- make the Secretary of the Board an elected position rather than appointed so people know what they are volunteering for ahead of time.

The next board meeting is August 18th, starting at 6:40 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 11th. Those wishing a few minutes during the “open mic” will want to be ready to speak around 7:00 pm.

UUJam – a music playing and listening chalice circle meets the 1st Friday of each month at the Community Room at Meadows of Wesley Village Community Room, [2603 Meadows Dr, Denison, TX 75020-7280](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2603+Meadows+Dr,+Denison,+TX+75020-7280). (click the address to see a map).

Everyone who enjoys playing or listening to music is warmly invited to drop by.

HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH:

Thur	Aug 4	9:30 am	Worship Team
Fri	Aug 5	7 pm	UUJam
Sun	Aug 7	10 am	Forum, Compassionate Living
		11:15	Worship-Doug Strong
		12:15	Fellowship Gathering
Sat	Aug 9	9:30 am	Worship Team
		10 am	PPFFT
Sun	Aug 14	10 am	Forum, Compassionate Living
		11:15	Worship-Don Fielding
		12:15	Fellowship Gathering
Thur	Aug 18	6:40	Board of Trustees meeting
Sat	Aug 19	7 pm	Moveable Feast
Sun	Aug 21	10 am	Forum, Compassionate Living
		11:15	Worship-Ron Wallace
		12:15	Fellowship Gathering
Sat	Aug 23	5:02 pm	Newsletter Deadline
Sun	Aug 28	10 am	Forum, Compassionate Living
		11:15	Worship-Richard Newlin
		12:15	Fellowship Gathering

*“Our August
Share the Plate
will be the on
Sunday, August
10th”*

Treasurer's Report ~ watching the pennies

June income for RRUU was \$1,712.00, with expenses coming in at \$1,557.42. For the second month in a row, income exceeded expenses (by \$154.58 for the month of June.)

Among her last duties, retiring Treasurer Dianna Niemann-Harris submitted a closing report for RRUU FY – 2011. It shows a net income of \$44,762.52, with total expenses of \$46,649.34. This led to a loss of \$1,886.82 for the fiscal year. However, giving (\$25,334) exceeded pledges (\$24,032) by \$1,032. Pledges for FY 2012 stand at \$16,860.00. The final calculation for FY 2011 in-kind gifts shows that \$20,676

was donated. These gifts included office supplies, stamps, computers, worship supplies, food for RRUU events, donations for special speakers, etc. The majority of administrative and worship supply expenses were met with in-kind gifts. RRUU made 100% of its "fair share" giving amounts to UUA, SWUUC and NTAUUS, and 15% of the budget was given in gifts to the community. Gifts included donations of money as well as purchases of such items as a used power lift chair, the ingredients for Thanksgiving meals for three families and the purchase of plumbing supplies for a low income family.

Although former Treasurer Dianna Niemann-Harris frequently commented about her "limitations" as a treasurer, I have been amazed at the results of her efforts. In addition, the files she turned over to me as the 2012 treasurer are in perfect order and her many lists of typed instructions will prove invaluable. I can't thank her enough for her patient training, and my wish is that I can carry on as well as she has for the past two years.

Marie Bellman
Treasurer

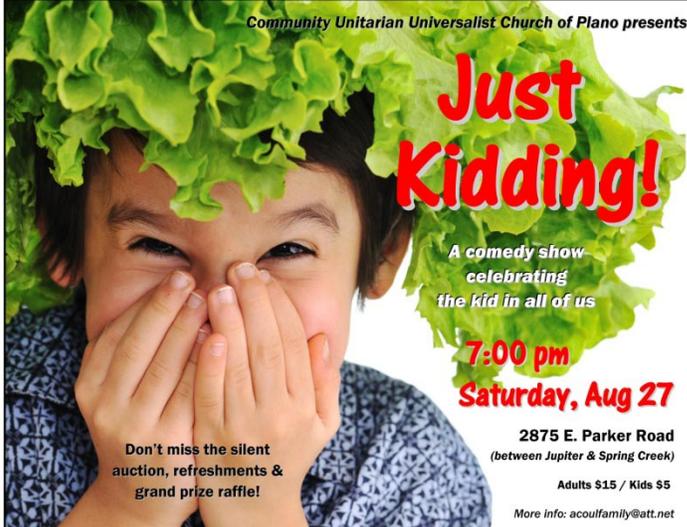
"For the second month in a row, income exceeded expenses."

Community UU Summer Pops ~ and we're invited!

Please join Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano for our uproarious Summer Pops comedy show: "Just Kidding! Celebrating the Kid in All of Us," at 7:00 Saturday, August 27. "The world is a pretty serious place these days," says the show's director, veteran North Texas thespian Robin Coulonge. "With our show, we'll all take a break and bring back some of the simple laughter we knew as kids."

Kids and grownups will perform, but it won't be a kiddie show. Dick and Jane are past 70 by now, and when

they bring their grandkids to the show, we'll make sure they all go home with music in their ears and big goofy grins on their faces. Dick and Jane will also be glad to know that, if their grandchildren get too fidgety, they can make their own escape to the church nursery, where child care will be provided with each child's paid admission. The curtain goes up Saturday, August 27, at 7 pm, at Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano, 2875 East Parker Road. \$15 \$5 for kids.



Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano presents

Just Kidding!

A comedy show celebrating the kid in all of us

7:00 pm
Saturday, Aug 27

2875 E. Parker Road
(between Jupiter & Spring Creek)

Adults \$15 / Kids \$5

More info: acoufamily@att.net

Don't miss the silent auction, refreshments & grand prize raffle!

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Marla Loturco, *president*
 Don Durland, *vice president*
 Marie Bellman, *Treasurer*
 Elbert Hill
 Richard Newlin
 Amy Hoffman-Shehan
 Kat Walston

Committee on Ministry:

Carolyn Cameron
 Gerry Shehan
 Peter Schulze

Team Leaders:

Adult Forum: *Suzanne Durland*
 Building/Grounds: *Doyle Adams*
 Communications: *Doug Strong*
 Finance/Endowment: *Marion Hill*
 Hospitality: *open*
 Membership: *Marion Hill*
 Worship: *no single leader, duties are rotated among members*
 Ways & Means: *Don & Suzanne Durland*

Committee on Ministry ... wants to talk with you

The Committee on Ministry wants to know your thoughts about worship, specifically who you would like to have come and speak to us and whether you would like to have more Sunday mornings Forums (and not just on a Fifth Sunday). As you know during the Fifth Sunday Forum we sus-

pend normal worship. We only have the candles of community, light and extinguish the chalice. The rest of the time is devoted to an outside speaker, followed by questions and answers. Please take a few minutes and chat when you get your phone call.

“What Sunday speakers do you want to hear again?”

Chalice Circles ~ Everyone is invited!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle, generally meets once a month at Amy Hoffman-Shehan’s home. Facilitator is [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle, meets on moveable dates at moveable locations. The group will gather for on Aug 19th and venture to Kent's Tex-Mex restaurant for a Dutch-treat dinner and then return to the church to watch *Oh Brother, Where Art Thou*. . Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

PFFFT, an Outdoor Activities Interest Circle, meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at Hagerman Wildlife Refuge. Facilitator is [Suzanne Durland](#).

RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, a Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitator is [Penny Armstrong](#).

UUJAM, a music making and music listening Circle – meets the first Friday of each month. Facilitator is [Jack Blue](#).

RED RIVER Unitarian Universalists

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