



Red River Ramblings

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Sunday Celebrations ~To Enrich our Lives

October 2nd - ASSOCIATION SUNDAY

"The 7-F Syndrome"

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong, speaking

Ours is an amazing and rich legacy. Born of rebellion against orthodoxy, the two branches of our family tree reflect some interesting events and people. A look at Faith, Freedom, Fellowship, Fulfillment, Foibles, Flowcharts and Food .. all critical elements of this somewhat strange and unorthodox religious movement we call our own. A Sunday to celebrate our connections with over 1,200 other UU congregations and the Association of which we are a part. We'll take a special offering this morning in support and solidarity with other UU congregations.

October 9th

"A Peaceful, Just, and Prosperous Society"

Pat Scott, speaking

One of the recommendations from the Committee on Ministry survey was for services that focus on other religious traditions, especially Eastern religions. Buddhism has as many different sects as Christianity has different faiths. Today Pat Scott and members of North Texas Buddhist will offer us a glimpse into Japanese Buddhism in general and Nichiren Buddhism in particular. Nichiren Buddhists believe that the spread of Nichiren's teachings and their effect on practitioners' lives will eventually bring about a peaceful, just, and prosperous society.

October 16th

"Building Homes, Building Hopes"

Frank Vaughan, speaking

This week we celebrate "World Habitat Day" by inviting Frank Vaughan, a member of Horizon UU Church in Carrollton, to bring a multimedia sermon about Habitat for Humanity from a very personal perspective. Frank, along with a team of UU youth, built a Habitat house in New Orleans last year. Habitat for Humanity's 500,000th house built, rehabilitated or repaired worldwide was dedicated in Maai Mahiu, Kenya, on

World Habitat Day, Oct. 3rd. Do you know the connection between the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas tree and Habitat for Humanity? Come and be enlightened about an organization that is building homes and building hopes.

October 23rd

"The Other World"

Dr. Richard Newlin, speaking

*Each of us as alive aware humans experiences our life in two dimensions, **The Outer World** (the air we breathe, the food we eat, the others we share with, the work we do) and **The Inner World** (feelings, thoughts, imaginings, dreams) that are very real to each and can be shared with others but remain an inner private world. For many, many years and across the globe some have been able to recognize, experience and dialogue with a third realm, **The Other World**. This is the world that has spawned Gods - Goddesses. It has been described as Heaven and Hell. Richard Newlin has experienced and dialogued with this Other World for most of his life. He will share some of what he has learned and possibly you might be able to acknowledge and dialogue with your own 'Other World'.*

Oct 30th - FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY

"Unitarian Nondualism"

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, speaking

Nondualism originated in India as one of many Hindu beliefs. Recently, nondualism has spread like wildfire to England, Australia, and the United States. Nondualistic Centers are popping up; there are many new nondualistic teachers and nondualistic literature is beginning to become common. But what is nondualism? In this reflection Don tries to both explain what nondualism is, and why it just may be the worldview that can accompany the ethical religion of Unitarian Universalism. Ralph Waldo Emerson - and the early Unitarian movement called Transcendentalism - were heavily influenced by Hindu thought; come and see if you don't agree that it just might be time to resurrect nondualism once again.

Our Fall Congregational Meeting is this morning after tings.

Adult Forum~10 Worship~11:15
Silent Meditation~11 Fellowship Gathering~12:15

“The Fall Meeting is our time to rejoice at all the things we have managed to accomplish this year!”



Manna
from
Marla

Dear Friends,

Another month has flown by. It seems I was just writing for the last newsletter in September and already it is October. This has been a very busy month. As a church we have moved out of the Harrison Street, moved into the Burnett Avenue and cleaned at both locations. The building loan has been finalized and the bidding is almost complete for the wedding chapel which was donated to the church.

Many people have helped in these endeavors. I want to thank everyone who had a hand in the moving, you are too numerous to name but I appreciate all of the work you accomplished.

The Labor Day “Labor of Love” to cleanup at the Burnett Avenue location was a success with over 18 people attending to assist. Many bags of trash were accumulated, surfaces were prepped for the next step, windows were cleaned or scrapped. Many, many thanks go to our point person for the construction at Burnett

Fall Congregational Meeting ~Sun. Oct 30th

New beginnings are always both exciting and a bit unsettling. Some like change; some deplore it. With all the "newness" associated with the move to Burnett Ave it will be comforting for many to remember that our Fall Congregational Meeting is soon upon us. It will feel familiar, even in a new location. At the fall meet-

ing we learn of the many activities and programs (remember when we amended the bylaws so we could have both a spring and a fall meeting).

A reminder that the following committees submit written reports are due Oct 11. You can email your report to communications@rruu.org

- Children's RE
- Adult Forum
- Communications
- Finance & Endowment
- Facilities & Grounds
- Long Range Planning
- Social Action
- Ways & Means
- Worship
- Chalice Circles

Thanks.

Avenue – Bruce Cameron. He has been ably assisted by Carolyn Cameron as needed in coordinating everything. Bruce has spent almost every day at RRUU. He has directed the contractors, hired and directed day laborers from the area and in general hammered, sawed, and worked his heart out for us. So very much has been accomplished and on Sunday, our first day in the new chapel, it was truly obvious. Bruce you have been invaluable. Carolyn, thanks for allowing and assisting him to do all of this work. Thanks, too, to all of the workers helping Bruce.

Another unsung hero is Marion Hill. As the leader of the Financial Team she has spent many hours of email, phone calls and trips to the lawyers, to coordinate the purchase of the Burnett property, the renovations loan, the donation of the wedding chapel, pricing insurance and other tasks too many to enumerate. I hope you and Elbert are really enjoying your well deserved vacation.

Marie Bellman is another who has worked very hard this month to coordinate all of the treasurer financial aspects of the move, purchase, and donation. I feel fortunate she is handling this area and doing such a spectacular job.

Appreciation is also due the aesthetics

team. They have been discussing, viewing, and assisting with implementation for many decisions being made at our new home.

We're settling in even as the work continues. The new roof is on, and up next is the mandatory rebuilding of the front porch which will incorporate a ramp so that the entire first floor (both the chapel level and the nursery, kitchen and meeting room level) will be accessible. A master plan for drought tolerant landscaping is in the works along which can include a compost bin, all aimed at keeping our pledge for sustainability.

If you haven't yet seen the church be sure and come. It is an amazing space for us and our Sunday services for October promise to be stimulating and inspiring. And, don't forget our Fall Congregational Meeting is Sunday, October 30.

See you at church - OUR church! It feels so good knowing we are our own landlord.

Marla

New Church Phone
Number:

903.231.3232

Social Actions In Action ~ Coins...

For some years we have, as a congregation, designated the second Sunday as "Share The Plate" in which all cash contributions are donated to a local community organization. In September those with a passion for Social Action met during the Adult Forum and created a list of where our Share The Plate donations will be sent for the next year. The recipient groups selected are:

- November: Salvation Army Food Bank
- December: Key Memorial Church Food Bank
- January: Grayson Shelter (neighborhood)
- February: Durant Food Bank
- March: Hanna's Horse Shoes of Hope
- April: ARF a no kill dog shelter, Whitesboro animal rescue foundation
- May: Lion's camp for children
- June: Camp Sweeny for diabetic children
- July: Callie clinic (aids)
- August: Begin to collect school supplies
- September: Earth Day in Sherman
- October: United Nations

**The group also wishes to continue collecting hats, sunglasses and cloth bags for field workers in third world countries.*

**We will continue with our own food bank box asking for toiletries and paper items since often they are not given at food banks. Staples would be appreciated too.*

**Other suggestions for S. A. are to collect stocking stuffers for Grandparents as Parents (in place of the giving tree)*

**Guest At Your Table this Nov/Dec (Amy will be working on this with all*

RRUUs)

**Cash would be welcome for walk-in in need for food or money given to RRUU to purchase coupons at a local restaurant that could be given out to those in need.*

**suggestions were made for finding out how we could help the Grayson County Women's Shelter. No one has volunteered to look into this at this time.*

Everyone is welcome to join this group, share your thoughts, ideas, energy and good works.

Newsletter Deadline

Sat. October 29th

@ 5:01 pm

Send stuff to:

newsletter@rruu.org



... and Caps

We have collected over 120 caps this year. We sent the last bunch to Central America and our next shipment is off to Ethiopia which will be in November. Help us fill the box so others may have sight.

The Adult Forum ~ A Month of Sundays

Oct 2 ~

"How Can We Best Use Our Wonderful new Space To Make A Difference?"

Carolyn Cameron will lead an open conversation on how we can use our building to make our place in the community. Do we want to offer space for meditation, yoga, 12-step program, women's or men's groups, Mother's Day Out, ESL classes, a community garden? The possibilities are thrilling!

Oct 9 ~

"In The Beginning ... What?"

A discussion, led by Joyce Peak, focusing on individual impressions and/or thoughts about a Creator - what shape or form or sort . . . Is there one?

Oct 16 ~

TBA

Oct 23 and

Oct 30 ~

"Living Healthy in Recovery"

There are many kinds of addictions and they all have one thing in common. They can destroy minds, families, relationships, lives. There are many approaches to helping ourselves and others live healthy and happily in recovery. Elbert Hill will facilitate.



Some "before"
pictures ...



UU Jam ~ Friday, October 7th

*“Music is
Humanity’s Gift
to Itself.”*

Musicians, Singers, Listeners... lend your... presence! Everyone is warmly invited to come.

UUJam meets in the Meadows of **Wesley Village Community Room, 2603 Meadows Dr, Denison, TX 75020-7280**. (click the address to see a map) Use of adult beverages *in modera-*

tion is allowed at the Community Room.

UUJam creates a circle of performers, moving around the circle as each chooses and performs a number, then the next person offers a piece. Listeners are welcome to request a song when it is their “turn”. UU Jam last 2-3 hours with the

opportunity to come and go at will, eat, laugh, share, sing, hum, whistle and be at ease. Generally the music is inside and conversation is outside.

Questions? Need a ride? Call Jack Blue who is coordinating this monthly (on the First Friday) gathering. Her number is 903.624.0004

Board Bits ~from the Sept 6th Board Meeting

The board meeting was held on September 6, 2011. All members were present. In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

- Report on the Board Retreat
- Need to change the Registered Agent
- Possible Nominating Committee appointments
- Possible Board appointments
- Budget
- Renovation Loans

- Renovation Plan
- Move Plan
- October Congregational Meeting Planning

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

Financial Update ~the treasurer’s report

*“The generosity
of RRUU
members and
friends was
overwhelming!”*

September was one unbelievable month! The generosity of RRUU members and friends was overwhelming. Seven “units” of church members lent \$50,000 for the renovation of our new church, with a 4% interest rate over a ten-year period. On top of that, over \$31,000 was given to the church, through check or outright purchase, by members and friends to further facilitate the renovation. This additional funding will be put to good use, as new needs continue to arise. For example, it was recently discovered that the porch cannot be repaired; it must be replaced.

The \$31,000+ is an approximation because everyone may

not have informed me of their donations. I will try to keep an informal tally of what has been contributed. If any church member/friend has a receipt or a list of what they have given for the renovation, please give me a copy and I will add it to your in-kind gift list as well as the tally. If a reimbursement is needed, I will be happy to write a check (and will need a receipt.)

Regular offerings totaled \$1944.26 in September; because of the Labor Day work date, there were three collections instead of the usual four. However, all bills were covered, with over \$300.00 to spare. (As in the past two months, bills were less than

usual.) Spirit Horse Therapeutic Riding was the recipient of our Second Sunday Share-the-Plate, and slightly over \$43.00 was sent to them. Checks in the amount of \$10,500 were deposited for the building renovation fund!

This month I will be working on getting thank-you notes to everyone who has made building renovation donations or purchases; these can also be used for tax purposes. Some members have asked for a run-down on how much of their pledge has been donated so far this year, and I will also be sending those out to everyone who has pledged.

Marie Bellman
Treasurer

The Chapel ~ Pews or Chairs or Both ?

There are those who think the pews are appropriate, create a sense of the sacred and are an important part of the chapel ...

There are those who find the pews so uncomfortable that they squirm to find a position that won't create stiffness ...

And there are those who have the exact reaction to the chairs and find them so uncomfortable that it is painful ...

There are those who think the chairs are perfect, allow for flexible room arrangements and that the pews thwart liberal worship ...

And there are those who don't feel strongly one way or another, who are equally comfortable in either pew or chair.

There are those who think the walls need to be adorned with symbols that reflect our heritage and faith ...

There are those who want the walls free of anything so the chapel will be less cluttered and free of distractions ...

There are those who want the room arranged in traditional rows and those who want us in a circle and those who want is to be able to see one another *across a crowded room...*

We are a typical UU congregation wrestling with newness, each anxious to offer an opinion or two or three or more.

The Worship Team wants to suggest we play with pews, chairs, views, symbols and opinions over the next few months as we settle into life in the chapel and invites everyone to play with sitting in different places, different chairs/pews to see if we can collectively come up with arrangements that meet the greatest need. To that end you can look for some tinkering, not on a weekly basis, but more like for a month at a time - long enough to see if we really like or really don't care for the current layout.

Currently the team is playing with two rows of chairs in the center and pews on the sides, facing the side wall, with the nine banners on the front, side and back walls. Other arrangements will be tried in the weeks ahead. The goal is to have something more settled by the turn of the year.

“The goal is to see if we can find the perfect room arrangement ~ by trying different things as we get comfortable with the Chapel.”

HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH:

Sun	Oct 2	10 am 11:15	Adult Forum Worship Association Sunday
Sun	Oct 9	10 am 11:15 12:15	Adult Forum Worship Fellowship Gathering
Sun	Oct 16	10 am 11:15	Adult Forum Worship
Tue	Oct 18	6:40	Board of Trustees meeting
Sat	Oct 22	6 pm	Moveable Feast
Sun	Oct 23	10 am 11:15 12:15	Adult Forum Worship Fellowship Gathering
Sat	Oct 29	5:01 p	Newsletter Deadline
Sun	Oct 30	10 am 11:15 12:15	Adult Forum Worship Fall Congregational Mtg

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Marla Loturco, *president*
 Don Durland, *vice president*
 Marie Bellman, *Treasurer*
 Elbert Hill
 Richard Newlin
 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*

Looking Ahead ...



A Thanksgiving Pilgrim Feast Sunday, Nov 20th

This special service is modeled after the Passover Seder - in which the entire congregation sits around tables and participates in readings, songs and toasts in a special program that traces our roots to New England shores during 1620. We will break bread together and feast on a Thanksgiving Dinner (pot luck style) with the church providing the turkeys.

The Pilgrim Feast has been celebrated at UU churches for some years and some may recall that we did a Feast some years ago.

Put it on your calendar, you'll be glad you did.

Dear RRUU ~

*Congratulation to you all
 who have done a great job
 in finding a new loca-
 tion.*

*Tamara and I follow all
 that you do and we wish
 you good luck in your new*

*location. With all the hard
 work you have done and the
 commitment of the whole con-
 gregation I know you will con-
 tinue to be successful.*

Hope to see you soon.

Bob Mease

Chalice Circles ~ Everyone is invited!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator is [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle, meets on moveable dates at moveable locations. The group will travel to Doug Strong's home in Richardson on **Saturday, Oct 22**. Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

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

UUJAM, a music making and music listening Circle – highlighted this month on page 5. Facilitator is [Jack Blue](#).

RED RIVER

Unitarian Universalists

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How to reach us:

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