



Red River Ramblings

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Sunday Mornings ~To Enrich our Lives

Sunday, Feb. 5 ~

"Welcome to my World: The World of Pluralism"

Mike Ghouse

Mike Ghouse is a speaker, thinker, writer, optimist, educator and an activist of Pluralism, Interfaith, Islam, India and Civil Societies. He manages the Foundation for Pluralism and World Muslim Congress and offers Pluralistic solutions to the media and the public on issues of the day.

Mr. Ghouse was a speaker and a moderator at the 2009 Parliament of World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia, and was speaker at the Universal Peace Federation's peace initiative in Jerusalem in August 2010. Mike is a conflict mitigator and a goodwill nurturer. He has spoken at several UU churches as well and we're excited about his being with us.

Sunday, February 12th ~

Spiritual Songs for Healing Grace

The Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris

In celebration of February being African American Heritage Month, Rev. Dr. Melanie Harris preaches (and sings) "Spiritual Songs for Healing Grace" helping us to better understand music from the African American church. This video was taken during her sermon delivered at Pathways UU Church on February 27, 2011.

Dr. Melanie L. Harris is Assistant Professor of Religion and Ethics at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

Sunday, Feb 19 ~

"The Angry Black Woman Moment"

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong

We make the world a better place by our actions. We join groups, become the 99%, we stand up for the rights of others but then go home, have dinner and relax. Most of us don't Occupy, and frankly our involvements are, at best, sideline events. I was dismayed by Romney's comment last week that he is "not concerned about the very poor. We have a safety net there." Not a very astute comment to make at the start of Black History Month. A sermon about the franchised and the disenfranchised and what we might do to make things a bit better.

Sunday, Feb 26 ~

"So Great A Cloud of Witness"

The Rev. Tony Lorenzen

We have invited the Rev. Lorenzen to speak to us about mission-oriented (outreach or service-oriented) and the ways in which we might become more involved within the community.

The Rev. Lorenzen is a Unitarian Universalist Christian living a missional life in north Texas. He is a Reiki master and a member of the UU Spiritual Practices Network. His blog "Sunflower Chalice" is a spiritual resource for the religious left.

The Soul Café ~ 9:30
Adult Forum ~ 10
Worship ~ 11:15
Fellowship Gathering ~ 12:15

The Soul Café ~ open each Sunday!

*"Take a look,
when you see
the smiles and
hear the laughter,
you will
know you are in
The Soul Café"*

Welcome to The Soul Café.

The café, the room formerly known as the kitchen, is open to members, friends, visitors and guests from 9.30 to 1 every Sunday, and for special events.

The café was constructed by Bruce Cameron and is operated by the Good Times Team. The menu features coffee

and other beverages, pastries and light snacks, and conversation and friendship.

The Soul Café, therefore, is many things. It is, first, the kitchen, the physical space. It is also the name of the 9.30 event, and it is the name of the activities that take place at that time.

And The Soul Café is also the name of all those

emotions that pour forth from people as they gather there, as they spend time with their friends in a place where they can be who they really are, telling their stories and having a good time.

Take a look next Sunday: when you see the smiles, and hear the chatter and the laughter, you will know you are in The Soul Café.



Manna from Marla

February, - what landmark! During February the porch railing will be installed and that will allow us to get our occupancy permit for the house. While we do have the permit for the chapel, the house was contingent on the completion of the porch & railing. A major coup for Bruce!!

This leaves one major project currently underway – the nursery, which is being created in what was originally the maid's quarters in the basement. After the nursery, and depending on our resources, we will look at

making the first floor of the house handicap accessible and possibly a heat/cooling source for the four rooms on the second floor. Thanks to all who have made generous donations to the renovation fund.

With so many people doing so much, the Board is inviting the congregation to a special "Thanks and Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner" on Saturday, February 18th. The evening is our opportunity to express personal appreciations to anyone in the church for anything someone has done which you value. Please plan on attending.

As all of you know, Bruce Cameron received one of the Marty Robinson Awards for Volunteers from NTAUUS this year. RRUU had a large showing of celebrants attend-

ing the recognition banquet at UU Oak Cliff on January 21. I want to thank all of those who attended and celebrated with Bruce, it was a lovely afternoon.

February also brings a variety of speakers to our pulpit, including something we've never tried - a sermon on video. In celebration of Black History Month, we'll watch the sermon an Assistant Professor of Religion and Ethics at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth preached at Pathways UU Church in South Lake.

We're a small but mighty congregation and these are indeed landmark days (and months) for us.

See you in church, friends.

Marla

Thanks & Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner ~ Saturday, Feb. 18th at 6:30

The Thanks & Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner will start with a surprise. We all know about pot luck suppers which have assignments ("If your last name is between A - E, bring a salad").

Not our Thanks & Appreciation Pot Luck dinner! This will be truly the "luck of the pot".

Bring whatever you wish. Granted we could end up with twenty double layered chocolate coconut cakes or fifteen artichoke and cheese dips but why stifle creativity?

"Before we eat, we'll introduce our food contribution to help us individually decide what to take and what to avoid."

Just remember to bring enough to serve 8 hungry people, that way, no matter what we have, there will be enough for one and all.

Before we eat, we'll each introduce our food contribution to help us individually decide what to take and what to avoid.

Between dinner and dessert will be the time to offer words of thanks to anyone whose contributions or efforts or support or help you want to recognize.

Adult Forum ~ The Open Mind Center

February 5th ~

The **Let's Grow Group** reports back on efforts to come up with a growth plan and ideas about how to improve/refine ideas we've collected.

February 12th ~

Let's Talk About Love
Write a paragraph or two, bring in a reading, an old love letter, memories of a first love? How is love part of your personal identity?

February 19th ~

The Spaces We Occupy With Our Speech and the ways in which we listen is the theme today

February 26th ~

Examining our Struggles and Casting off the Shame We Feel by Naming Them is the topic of the morning.

The Adult Forum meets from 10 - 11 each Sunday morning.

DON'T FORGET!

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012 12:30
p.m. in the chapel

Purpose: Vote on Bylaw

WE WANT' YOU

The Nominating Committee is looking for a few good, emotionally mature people to serve.

We're looking to recommend several leaders to the congregation for positions covering 7/1/12 to 6/30/2014. Several officer and trustee openings, as well as places on the Committee on Ministry and the Nominating Committee itself are set to be open.

Please contact any one of the committee members, or email the Chair, Joyce Peak at mamiess@yahoo.com for more information or if you're interested in being considered. (Oh, and just because you don't contact us, doesn't mean you won't hear from us!)

Bruce Cameron ♦ Penny Armstrong ♦ Joyce Peak



Board Bits ~from the Jan 17th Board Meeting

The board meeting was held on January 17, 2012. All members were present.

In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

- Finished planning the February 5, Special Congregational Meeting.
- Finalized the calling plan, documents and meeting agenda.
- Planned the Thanks & Appreciation Dinner for February 18, 2012
- Reports were given on the Commitment Campaign, Celebration Dinner
- In February – all board members will be ready to review the first three sections of the Policies & Procedures Manual
- It was decided that Long Term Planning will be bequeathed to the next board – after their board retreat.
- A new date needs to be found for the Board Retreat since July 14th is the NTAUUS Board Training

The next board meeting is February 21, 2012, 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 February 14. 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

"While reports continue to be upbeat regarding church renovations, incoming funds for church operations are not so positive."

Reports from the treasurer continue to be upbeat when it comes to the church renovation. Another \$7,000 was donated to the renovation fund in January; this was much-appreciated as over \$16,000 was spent for improvements this month. The front porch looks beautiful, and the railing is underway. Doug Strong was again busy selling seating and added \$250 to the general savings fund. Thanks to his efforts,

\$3,250 has been earned from the sale of pews and chairs. The income will be used to purchase new tables and chairs.

Incoming funds for church operation were not so positive. Although approximately \$9,700 was added to the RRUU treasury in January, over \$7,300 was earmarked for special funds – the renovation, Grayson County Shelter (our Second Sunday Share-the-Plate recipient) the purchase of chairs and tables, etc.

This left under \$2,400 to operate the church, and operating costs topped \$2,900.

In order to assist our budget, we recently changed insurance agents. RRUU is now being insured through Insurance One Agency of Dallas. This company saved our church money and better suited our needs. We received a credit of \$620 from Church Mutual, our former agency.

Marie Bellman
Treasurer

Movable Feast ~To the theater!

Movable Feast this month are going to see Darrah Dunn perform at the Sherman Community Players' production of *Bus Stop*, on Saturday, Feb 11th.

Jim Scott Concert ~A pleasant time

Our first community event - Jim Scott in concert - was well received by the small but highly enthusiastic audience. The music, the commentary and the array of treats that people brought (and bought) all combined to make the afternoon a success.



From *A Prairie Home Companion's* Joke Show:

"Do you know why Unitarian Universalists don't want to go to heaven?"
Because they don't believe in gated communities.



Unitarian Universalists always try to die on the Second Thursday of the month because that's when the recyclables are picked up.

HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH:

Fri	Feb 3	7 pm	UU Jam
Sun	Feb 5	9:30 am 10 11:15	The Soul Café Adult Forum Worship "Welcome to My World: A World of Pluralism"
		12:15 12:30	Fellowship Gathering in the Soul Café SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sat	Feb 11	7:30 pm	Movable Feast - Sherman Community Players
Sun	Feb 12	9:30 am 10 11:15 12:15	The Soul Café Adult Forum Worship "Spiritual Songs for Healing Grace" Fellowship Gathering in the Soul Café
Tues	Feb 14	7:30 9 pm	Green Team meeting Board reports due
Sat	Feb 18	6:30 pm	Thanks & Appreciation Pot Luck Dinner
Sun	Feb 19	9:30 am 10 11:15 12:15	The Soul Café Adult Forum Worship " " Fellowship Gathering in the Soul Café
Tues	Feb 21	6:40 pm	Board of Trustees meeting
Sat	Feb 25	5:01 pm	March Newsletter Deadline
Sun	Feb 26	9:30 am 10 11:15 12:15	The Soul Café Adult Forum Worship "So Great A Cloud of Witness" Fellowship Gathering in the Soul Café
Tues	Feb 28	7:30	Green Team meeting



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:

Joyce Peak & Suzanne Durland
 Building/Grounds: *Laura Shehan*
 Communications: *Doug Strong*
 Finance/Endowment: *Marion Hill*
 Good Times: *George Gravley*
 Membership: *Marion Hill*
 Worship: *no single leader, duties are rotated among members*
 Ways & Means: *Don & Suzanne Durland*

RED RIVER

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'Beyond The Pale' In Concert ~ In Plano, Feb 4th

A wild musical evening is coming to the Community Cafe (2875 E. Parker, Plano) on Sat. Feb 4th when **Beyond The Pale** delivers a wild ride with stunning harmonies and dazzling instrumental flare. Weaving traditional Celtic music together with songs and world instrumental pieces, this quartet effortlessly spins out fiery reels, jigs, original songs, both humorous and haunting, offering culturally rich stories and music from around the world, including Celtic, Bluegrass, Folk, Mexican Polkas, Eastern European and Scandi-

navian tunes, Americana/Appalachian and even a little Texas Swing!

The concert starts at 7 pm - the Community Café is a project of Community UU Church.



Chalice Circles ~ Everyone is invited!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle meets on Feb 14 & 28 to work on the upcoming Sherman Earth Day Festival (April 21st). Facilitator is [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle - details on page 6. Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

UUJAM, a music making and music listening Circle – meets Fri. Feb 5th. Facilitator is [Jack Blue](#).