



Red River Ramblings

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Five Sunday Mornings ~ To Enrich our Lives

Sunday, July 1st

"Are You the 1%?"

Rev. Nate Walker, video

Nate met the 1%er and it wasn't pretty. In this confessional sermon Rev. Nate Walker struggles to live his own ideals. Rev. Walker is the minister of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia and the worship team felt this video sermon is one you will not want to miss.

Sunday, July 8th

"The Making of a Religious Naturalist"

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, speaking

An examination of Chet Rayma's book *When God Is Gone, Everything is Holy*. It includes scientific, philosophical, and religious thought, and concludes with a religious naturalist's understanding of death. I give my own description of how this way of looking at the world fits into my life, and why I feel it is such an honest way of responding to life.

Sunday, July 15th

"A Celebration of Sobriety: 10 Years and Counting"

Dr. Elbert Hill, speaking

Although many people do not have a problem with drugs or alcohol themselves, probably almost everyone has friends or relatives with some form of addiction. Perhaps hearing this story of one person's journey of personal experience with alcoholism will help those without the disease of addiction to

better understand the depth of such problems and the difficulties of coping with them.

Sunday, July 22nd

"Not What You Know"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, speaking

Someone, probably Will Rogers, once observed, "It's not what you know that gets you in trouble, and it's not what you don't know. It's what you know that just ain't so!" In this reflection, Dr. Tata will invite you to ponder some of the misconceptions that abound these days, from the sublime to the ridiculous and back again. Questions will arise: In the Internet age, are there any sources of truth we can rely on? What truths should we be questioning? And, most personally, how can we deceive ourselves so brilliantly sometimes? What happens when the scales finally fall from our eyes and we see something clearly for once? Get ready to think, laugh, and wonder about what we think we know.

Sunday, July 29th ~

"Credo Challenge"

Several Congregational Members

Several people from the congregation have been asked to prepare five minute talks on what their Credo would include. The beliefs, or "truths" that have become the foundation of their world. What they turn to when they need to ground themselves and what principles guide their behavior.

The Soul Café ~ 9:30
Adult Forum ~ 10

- ♦ Worship ~ 11:15
- ♦ Fellowship Gathering ~ 12:15

Board Bits ~ From the June 14th Board of Trustees meeting

The board meeting was held on June 14th, 2012. All board members except were present except Kat Walston, who was absent do to a change in work schedule. In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

- The last two sections of the Policies & Procedures Manual were reviewed. These included Building & Grounds and Worship. After an online vote – the entire Policies & Procedures Manual will be posted on our website under Congregational Governance.

- Kat Walston and Richard Newlin have resigned from the Board of Trustees, effective June 30, 2012. Replacements were appointed at this board meeting. Carolyn Cameron was appointed to replace Kat Walston as Secretary of the Board. Paula Blackshear was appointed to fin-

ish Richard Newlin's term as Trustee At Large.

- Discussion of ways to improve Congregational Meetings based on the May meeting.

- Elbert has checked with the city regarding fencing options for a children's play ground. Estimates will be obtained.

- A permit for the sign in front of the building must be acquired.

The next board meeting is July 19, 2012, starting at 1:00 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 July 12th. Those wishing a few minutes during the "open mic" will want to attend.

Adult Forum ~ Sunday Mornings

July 1

Adult Forum continues their study of world religions with Buddhism, Hinduism, Ba'hai Faith and Jainism. Information comes from Beliefnet.com and from various internet sources and the format will continue with participants summarizing information and reporting to the group.

July 8

Speaking at Adult Forum this Sunday will be Marion and Elbert Hill. They attended U.U. General Assembly in Phoenix as delegates recently and will share their experiences with the group.

July 15

This will conclude the study of world religions with information from Beliefnet.com and various Internet sources. Participants will summarize and report on the Church of Divine Science, Scientology and Christian Science.

July 22

This will be the first of four lectures on The Theory of Evolution: A History of Controversy, by Edward Larson Ph.D., University of Georgia. There are a total of twelve, 30-minute lectures, and we will break them up into three segments of four each. There will be other topics between the segments and all twelve DVDs will not be shown in twelve weeks.

The first four lectures carry the story through Charles Darwin, who is the single scientist most associated with launching the modern theory of evolution. The DVDs are published by The Teaching Company, a part of The Great Courses.

Lecture number one is titled "Before Darwin" and discussion will follow.

July 29

This will be the second of four lectures from a series on The Theory of Evolution by Edward Larson Ph.D. and is a part of The Great Courses. "Evolution in the Air" is a thirty minute lecture on DVD, and discussion will follow.



Epistle from Elbert

Greetings from General Assembly in Phoenix, AZ! The organizers of this year's General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist At the 2010 GA, many delegates wanted to vote to boycott Phoenix, which had long been scheduled as the site for the 2012 GA, because Arizona had just passed S.B. 1070, its "Papers, Please" legislation allowing police to stop anyone they suspect of being an undocumented alien and to demand proof the person is in the U.S. legally. But GA congregations in Arizona, led by UUA President Peter Morales, asked that the UUA honor its commitment to come to Phoenix but to use our presence there to make a statement against harsh treatment of immigrants in the state, both documented and undocumented.

Accordingly, many elements of the 2012 convention were different. First, the plenary sessions (where business of the association is conducted)

were fewer and shorter. Then, all of the educational workshops were devoted to justice in some way (immigration, economic injustice, women's issues, racial issues, modern slavery, LGBT issues, people with disabilities, and the legalities that relate to all these). Several sessions discussed the Doctrine of Discovery, which Doug ably covered in his sermon a few weeks ago. Some sessions, especially ones on financial injustice, repeated the same statistics, which became a bit boring but did emphasize important points. Marion and I often had trouble deciding which of several concurrent sessions we would attend, but we usually went to different ones so that we could cover as many as possible.

Events at GA also included three "witness" opportunities during the week, the most important of which was on Saturday evening, when an estimated 2,000 yellow-shirted UUs were bused from the convention center to the infamous Tent City established by Sheriff Arpaio where immigrants unable to produce documentation of their legal status are kept in inhumane conditions. About 100 counter-protesters jeered the UU crowd, but no violence

occurred. The Hills will be back at RRUU on July 8 and will be making a report in Adult Forum about GA.

As your incoming president, I am looking forward to a great new church year, with all of us working together to create an even better religious community than we have been. We owe Marla an enormous amount of thanks for keeping us going the last three years, shepherding us through difficult days, and leading us to our current situation in OUR OWN SPACE, where we are striving to become good neighbors with the community around us and where we feel free to speak out with an independent voice on issues. I personally am counting on help from Marla and from all of you in our continuing endeavors.

Yours in the UU spirit,
Elbert

"an estimated 2,000 yellow-shirted UUs were bused from the convention center to the infamous Tent City established by Sheriff Arpaio "

Financial Update ~ the treasurer's report

The Fiscal Year for 2011-2012 has just ended. How did we do? You be the judge.

Total assets for the fiscal year ending in June 2011 were \$55,483 compared with assets of \$62,156 at the end of June 2012. Since the church building is entered as an asset of \$23,725, the figure of \$62,156 is on the low side. We do have \$47,944 left to pay on the renovation loan and had no such liability last year. However, we also have no rent to pay.

In checking the budget, the figures look good. For total income, \$66,583 was raised compared to the budgeted \$49,893. The majority of the increase of \$16,690 was given for the renovation of the church. Pledges and weekly offerings were also up.

For the most part, expenses were below budget. Administration costs were nearly \$500 below budget; childcare, \$685 below budget; utilities, \$428 below budget and worship costs, \$1796 below budget. RRUU did not meet

its goal for community giving. We were approximately \$950 below what we had hoped to contribute to the community.

Finally, the budget planned for a net loss of \$49,900. At the end of the fiscal year, the books showed a net loss of about \$41,275. This is 82.7% of the expected loss.

Carole Harner will begin her term as treasurer in July, and I am happy to have a pro take charge. At this point in time, I can truly say that I enjoyed the experience and learned more than I ever imagined!

Marie Bellman
Outgoing treasurer

“Fiscal Year 2011-2012 has just ended. How did we do? You be the judge!”

*Due to General Assembly and other unforeseen happenings – both of these were postponed so. . .
Lunch and Huddle on July 22nd.*

New Members Lunch ~ July 22nd

A lunch honoring new church members is being held July 22nd after worship service. New members, their spouses, partners and families, will be RRUU's guests; all other members and friends are requested to bring a food to share.

The New UU Program ~ Calling all new members and visitors

The New UU program provides important tools to help our congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into our faith communities. We are a unique religion and this program addresses the needs

of newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for members of our congregation to share with newcomers what it means to us to be a Unitarian Universalist. It gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. It provides a chance for newcomers to the congregation and longtimers to connect. And beyond all of that - it is a great program.

Doug Strong and Marion Hill will co-lead the program and EVERYONE is invited to attend .. new members and newcomers are Strongly (no pun intended) encouraged to come. As is often the case it is a struggle to find two dates that fits everyone life. To ease that, all who want to attend will huddle after things on Sun. July 22nd at the back of the chapel - WITH CALENDARS - and together we will find two dates that everyone can make. Got questions? Speak with Doug or Marion!

The After Church Lunch Bunch ~ An After the 4th Celebration

- On July 8th, The After Church Lunch Bunch is inviting everyone to join them after church outing. The eating place is La Colina, a Mexican Restaurant located at 2401 S. Austin (spur 503) in Denison. It is on the corner of W. Coffin St., across from the Sonic Drive-in and next to Health Trends.



Some of the **Moveable Feast** Attendees for Taste of Texoma. A Good time was had by all – see the next meeting page 7.

Newsletter update ~ Just the facts, Ma'am or Plain & Simple!

Wonder why the newsletter doesn't have all of the wonderful graphics, pictures and exciting articles this month? Doug had to go out of town and I had to put together the newsletter. It certainly makes me realize how very much goes into producing the newsletter each month. Next time you see Doug, **please** thank him for all of the work he does each week/month, creating the "Order of Things", E-news, and Newsletter. All are very time consuming and require lots of creativity!

Have You Written Your Credo Yet? ~ Send to Rev. Don Fielding

On May 6th, in a "Reflection" entitled Credo – 2012 Rev. Don Fielding gave us a talk in which he gave us his beliefs on what he called "The standard Christian package," and asked you to consider doing the same – to write out your beliefs. He also said that if you would like, though it is not necessary, you could send him your beliefs and he would read them, perhaps comment on them, and return them.

Don's snail-mail address is:
Rev Don Fielding
3609 Hendrick Dr
Plano, TX 75074

Or you can email your credo to:
fielding82@verizon.net

NTAUUS Board Training ~ July 2012

On July 14th, NTAUUS will present "Toward Effective Governance," a training session for Boards of Trustees. Jim Key, President of the Southeast District and candidate for Moderator of the UUA, will facilitate, drawing on his years of experience as an international corporate consultant.



The workshop will be held from 9:00am-4:30pm at First Jefferson UU Church in Ft. Worth; congregation boards, nominating committees, and potential trustees are invited.

Online registration will be open June 1st. The cost is \$15 per person, including lunch. [Register](#)

RRAMS ~ July 11

Red River Acoustical Music Society will meet on Wed, July 11 at 7:00 pm at the church. Please go to the Meetup website and join RRAMS. All the announcements will be through the meetup website. Go to www.meetup.com and then do a search for RRAMS.

FreeThinkers ~ Interested?

If you are interested in stimulating, challenging conversation and in being part of a Free Thinkers discussion group – please see or email [L.D. Clark](mailto:L.D.Clark).

New Interest Group ~ Book Club

I have never joined a book club although I have been invited to several. Sometimes the book being discussed doesn't interest me but more often I'm afraid I'll be expected to make comments that are smarter than I am. So this group is being formed by someone who has no idea how it 'should' be done. We will meet on July 19 at 11 am in the Adult Forum room. Bring a book you've read recently. It can be a literary masterpiece, a cookbook, a trash novel.... if you liked it, come tell us about it. Bring a brown bag lunch. I'll make iced tea. After we talk about our books we'll eat and decide if this should be a regular occurrence or if once is enough. Email questions to [Carolyn Cameron](mailto:Carolyn.Cameron).

Board Retreat ~ July 27-28

A year ago Red River Unitarian Universalist Church received a grant from NTAUUS for a board retreat. It could not be used that year due to the board's involvement with finding a new church home and the move. The retreat was intended as an extension of the previous Long Term Planning Grant received the year before.

Our new board will be having the retreat this year. At the retreat the board will be learning about Long Term Planning from Mary Sue Foster.

A Long Term Planning Team is in the works. If you are interested in participating please contact [Elbert Hill, Board President](#).



Earth Day Festival

Share The Plate ~ Sunday, July 8th

This month all cash contributions on July 8th, our regular "Share the Plate" Sunday will go to the Grayson County Homeless Shelter.

A decision was reached at the congregational meeting in May to alternate our "Share the Plate" offerings between the Grayson County Homeless Shelter and the Texoma Earth Day Festival. Odd months will go to the Shelter, even months to the Festival.

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*
 Carla Murphy, *vice president*
 Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
 Carolyn Cameron, *Secretary*
 Paula Blackshear

Committee on Ministry:

Gerry Shehan
 Peter Schulze
 Joyce Peak

Team Leaders or Team:

Adult Forum: *Joyce Peak*
 Aesthetics Team: Bruce, Joyce, Maura,
 Doug & Kat
 Building/Grounds: *Carolyn (acting)*
 Chalice Coordinator: *Open*
 Communications: *Doug*
 Finance/Endowment: *Marion*
 Good Times: George, Carolyn, Carole,
 Faye & Lura
 Membership: *Marion*
 Safe Congregation Panel: *Elbert*
 Social Action: *Open*
 Ways & Means: *Open*
 Worship: *Carla, Doug, Faye, Gerry,
 Marla & Richard*

NTAUUS Rep: Gerry Shehan

RED RIVER

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SWUUSI ~ July 22-27, 2012

Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI) is the Southwestern District's week-long multigenerational summer camp experience. Each year SWUUSI offers opportunities for faith development, education, entertainment, and recreational activities for all ages. Whether it be relaxing in the sun, discussing in the classroom, or singing in the choir, SWUUSI offers something for everyone! SWUUSI is held at the Western Hills Guest Ranch in Hulbert, OK.



SWUUSI is a truly multigenerational experience. Worships and most group activities are open to all ages. SWUUSI offers faith-filled and fun programming for children and youth grades K-12. There are programs and activities led by and offered to our Young Adults, as well as the opportunity for Young Adult group lodging. Daily workshops offer learning, faith development, and fun opportunities for adults of all ages.

Each day at SWUUSI, there are morning and evening worship opportunities. District staff, new to the district Ministers, youth and young adults offer worship services to bring the camp together, further the camp theme, and -most importantly- ground us in our shared faith. In addition to the daily worship opportunities, each evening attendees are invited to Sunset Talks. Throughout the week, four different speakers will offer inspiring talks in a relaxing outdoor setting. Sunset Talks are a great way to wind down in the evening.

Chalice Circles ~ Everyone is invited!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle generally meets on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Facilitator [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#)

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle meets next July 20 for a dinner at the church hosted by Carole Harner and Faye Shadrick.

Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

"OMMMM..." Meditation Group Will meet the last Sunday of every month. The date for the next meeting is July 29th. CD Meditations and Drumming Circle with Potluck to follow – come join the fun at 12:30 PM in the Adult Forum Room.

Facilitators [Joyce Peak and Paula Blackshear](#).