



Red River Ramblings

INSIDE:

- **Baby Shower**
- **Bookmark Making Party**
- **Worship Team reports**

Elbert's Letter	2
Baby Shower	2
Chapel Renovation	3
Adult Forum	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Worship Team	4
Credo anyone?	5
Bookmark party	5
Church calendar	5
Booked for lunch	5
Dallas Pride	6
UU Women	6
Chalice circles	6
Leadership list	6

Five Sunday Mornings ~ To Enrich our Lives

Sunday, September 2nd

"Labors of Love ~ the Annual All-Church Work Day"

We are a DIY congregation (Do It Yourself) and once a year we attack the building - windows, floors, yard, even the chandelier! This Sunday, starting at the crack of nine - we'll reach the magnificent and the mundane. We'll attack crevices and cracks; polish our elegant oak paneling, paint the nursery, wash windows and make the place sparkle.

Sunday, September 9th - **Water Communion Sunday**

"Five Smooth Stones"

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong, *preaching*

James Luther Adams was probably the foremost 20th Century UU theologian. I often struggled to grapple his intellectual genesis and felt downright dumb when I didn't grasp what he was saying. You can imagine then, my pure fear, when I invited him to deliver the sermon for the 260th anniversary of the First Parish in Bedford MA only to have him reply, "Only if we shared the sermon together."

On Sunday I want to explore with you what his work and what he felt was the essence of our religious movement. It is important for us to know who our "heavy thinkers" have been and how they influenced liberal religion.

We will celebrate water communion - one of the most unique Unitarian Universalist ceremonies. Originally created for the UU Women's Federation Convocation in 1980 "as a way for women who lived far apart to connect the work each was doing locally to the whole." Bring with you a small container of water - from your summer travels, or from the kitchen sink in the Soul Café and together we will celebrate our community's gathering together - our first year in a new building and now in a newly renovated chapel.

Sunday, September 16th

Forgive, Forget, Reconcile, Remember

Rev. Nate Walker, *preaching via video*

In recognition of Rosh Hashanna and Yom Kipper, the Jewish New Year, the Rev. Nate Walker will speak about Forgiveness and Reconciliation, via video in a thoughtful sermon he delivered at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia during the high holy days last year.

Sunday, September 23rd

What in the World Are We Doing?

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

This sermon will focus on and reclaim the word "mission," as in mission, vision, and values. Dr. Tata will talk about the denominational mission - the UUA and what it advocates for and supports; celebrate and affirm RRUU and what the congregation in looking at local outreach and speak about defining our own personal missions (not the same as a credo but related).

Sunday, September 30th

The Bitter & The Sweet: Stories of Immigrant Women, Their Food Traditions and Making Do

This Stage Reading Presentation is an original adaptation by Ruth Trudeau. Her source material was "97 Orchard, An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement" by Jane Ziegelman. We'll hear stories of 19th century immigrants from Germany, Ireland, Italy and Jews from Eastern Europe. They came to America for work and for food. In their struggles to make do, they assimilated American foods but also shared with us their food traditions.

Continued on Page 2 ⇨



Soul Café - 9:30 ♦ Worship - 11:15
Adult Forum - 10 ♦ Fellowship - 12:15



Epistle from Elbert

Things seem to be going well for RRUU these days. We now have an (almost) completed sanctuary, which really adds to the ambiance of worship.

Thanks to everyone who worked hard on making it such a pleasant place to be. Among the workers, Bruce did a lot (as always), and Doug painted and painted! Most Sundays during both July and August, attendance has been up from what it generally is in summer. As people return to their fall schedules, I hope that those attendance figures will go even higher. If you know members or friends who haven't been attending, give them a call and tell them you miss them. And remember to take opportunities to invite people you think might appreciate what RRUU offers; experience shows that most people have found us because someone invited them.

We now have a Long-Range Planning Team to help us enact a five-year plan (One was recently drafted by the board and will be discussed by the congregation at the fall meeting on October 21.), as well as to develop further plans to keep us growing toward where we want to go in the future. In you have ideas to improve our congregation, talk with Amy Hoffman-Shehan, George Gravelly, L.D. Clark, Gil or Marilyn Alexander, or me.

Exercising a prerogative of the presidency (if any such prerogatives exist), I'll be reminding all of us occasionally of the behavioral covenant our congregation adopted on November 8, 2009. For example, the last part of the covenant notes that in our interactions with each other there should be no side conversations or triangulated communication. In a small church like ours, it seems especially important that individuals speak directly to any person they have an issue with rather than talking about that issue to others. We generally do "play nice" with each other. But we adopted a really good statement of how we covenant to treat each other, and it seems useful to focus on specific

Five Sunday Mornings ~Continued

Ruth Trudeau lives in Dallas with her husband, Steve. They are members of Horizon UU Church where she is active with the Horizon Players, a drama group that does two presentations a year: a Sunday service and a summer theatrical/musical piece. This August they presented an original melodrama musical, "The Perils of Pearleen" by Jim Sturdivant. She has scripted and directed a number of presentations for Horizon Players, including adaptations of Robert Fulghum's writings, Spoon River Anthology, Midsummer Night's Dream, Story Theatre, poetry and songs of Woody Guthrie, and interpretations of Richard Avedon's photographs. Ruth is a district sales manager for 3A Composites, selling architectural components in the commercial construction market in Texas, the surrounding states, Colorado and Arizona.

portions of it from time to time.

Don't forget we will have our fall congregational meeting October 21. In order to vote at a meeting, a member must have given documented active support to the church during the year prior to the meeting, and this support must have been recorded by at least a month prior to the meeting date. Active support can be financial (as little as \$5, given either by check or in an envelope with your name on it, so it can be documented by the treasurer as being yours) or a donation of time and talent (such as serving on a church committee, acting as worship associate, or contributing in some other way to the ongoing activities of RRUU). In order to qualify to vote on October 21, your contribution needs to be received by September 20.

See you in church, everyone!

Elbert

A Baby Shower ~ for Terra May



A baby shower for Terra May Thome (and proud parents Brooke & Joe) will be held at the church after morning service September 23.

The congregation has already contributed donations to a clothes-dryer fund totaling \$292, and this fund will be presented to Brooke at the shower. Isn't it fun to be able to give a gift that you know mom and baby can actually use? Everyone come join us at the shower, bringing a nice card, your sense of fun, and your good wishes for the Thomes.

If you didn't get a chance to donate earlier, you still can. Or if you wish to bring a little something for Terra in addition to the dryer, that's fine but certainly not required.

This shower is just to enjoy friendly conversation (no dumb shower games, promise) and to celebrate the entry of Terra into the world. Oh, bring an appetite for the potluck too, and whatever food you wish to contribute.

Chapel Renovations ~More beautiful every day!



"The Place Where People Meet to Seek the Highest Is Holy Ground"

The transformation continues and to those who saw the chapel the day we purchased the building will smile every time you walk into the room. The new walls, French doors and color scheme along with the chairs we purchased last spring combine to make the space - in every sense of the word - Holy!

Adult Forum ~Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m.

2 Sept.--work day, no Adult Forum

9 Sept.--Topic discussion led by Gil Alexander on Galileo's daughter's letters to her father.

In the history of the world, two scientists figure prominently in the conflict between science and religion, Galileo and Darwin. Darwin, of course is prominent because of his views on evolution. Galileo is perhaps more important, however, because his evidence that the earth was not the center of the universe, created a conflict that existed for more than 350 years after his death. Galileo's Daughter is a story of love, faith, discovery, ignorance, betrayal, and persecution. It is illustrated by the letters of his oldest daughter, Virginia, who became a nun in a convent at the age of 15 and who faithfully wrote to her father during his period of excommunication and punishment. These letters were preserved and were translated by the author, Dava Sobel, and are contained in this manuscript. They give insight to the conflict that Galileo had between his faith and his discoveries.

16 Sept.--Topic discussion led by Kat Walston on "Space: Physical, Psychological, Emotional and Mental". How

much space do you need? How often is your space impinged upon? How can one preserve one's space and how to know when you're in someone else's?

23 Sept.--Topic discussion led by Amy Hoffman-Shehan based on the essay series "This I Believe," using the book "This I Believe on Love," and we'll use a couple of the essays to start the discussion.

This I Believe is an international organization engaging people in writing and sharing essays describing the core values that guide their daily lives. Some 100,000 of these essays, written by people from all walks of life, are archived here on our website, heard on public radio, chronicled through our books, and featured in weekly podcasts. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

30 Sept.--Part 5 of Evolution lectures from The Great Courses. The presenter is Edward Larson, University of Georgia, and the topic is "Debates over Mechanism".

Financial Update ~ the treasurer's report

Thanks to everyone who worked on making the bookmarks and/or made a cash contribution, in July we received \$2,525 for the chapel renovation from the sale of bookmarks and other donations. We spent \$1,500 in July. At the end of July we had a total of \$4,142 still available for renovations, some of which will be spent in August.

In July we spent \$1,500 on a board retreat. This was funded by a grant received last year from NTAUUS.

Excluding the renovations and board retreat discussed above, in the month of July we had income of \$2,973 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,242, we had net income from operations of \$731. However, this amount does not include the cash payment of principal on our loan.

The change in cash from general operations, including the payment of principal, was a de-

crease of \$312 for the month of July. The actual net income for July of \$256 was higher than the budgeted loss of \$1,820. The improvement is partially due to renovation costs that will occur in August and partially due to the timing of pledge income.

As of the end of July 2012, we had assets of \$37,653 in cash and our building. To offset these assets, we have debt of \$46,901 which was needed to pay for the required renovations.

In July we contributed \$80 to the Grayson County Shelter from our second Sunday share the plate program. The shelter was very grateful for our contribution.

Carole Harner, treasurer

"In the month of July we had income of \$2,973 from general operations. After operations expenses of \$2,242, we had net income from operations of \$731,"

Worship Team Report ~ an update on keeping Sunday mornings special

It is no secret that, as a congregation, we struggle with hymn singing. Some would have us stop singing all together, others would have us sing "only songs we know". The rub being what one knows another has never heard before. The Worship Team has an idea, borrowed from other UU congregations, which we want to institute over the next several months.

We want to learn more hymns through repetition. Starting in September the first hymn we sing each week will be the same - it will be a new hymn and repeating it for 4 Sundays will help us learn it. Then in October we'll

select another unknown hymn to learn. We will have the second hymn on any given Sunday be related thematically to the morning sermon. The last hymn we sing will be one familiar to most everyone. Over the months we hope we will be successful in expanding our singing repertoire.

We have also made a slight rearrangement of the chairs in the chapel by adding a center aisle so people can get in and out of the rows with more ease. Like most people, we tend to sit as close to the aisle as possible because we don't much like climbing over someone to get to a seat. By having a central aisle, we triple the number of aisle seats!

Recently we've had more "live" special music - and are looking for anyone who would enjoy sharing your creative talents - whether you play an instrument, sing or even dance!

Lastly, for those who remember Pam Gauthier, the pianist who played for us some years ago and moved to the north, she has returned to Sherman and sends her warmest regards to the congregation.

It is no secret that we struggle with hymn singing.

What's Your Credo ~ Want to share it?

- Our recent worship service in which four folks shared their personal credo statement was so well received that people have asked the Worship Team to do another one sometime over the winter. To that end, we are in search of people who would like to prepare a 5 minute Credo presentation.

If you have been pondering what your core values are, how you arrived at them, how you choose your choices in life, what motivates, inspires and uplifts your spirit - why not prepare a Credo statement?

It is a life affirming experience, and helps you focus what is it that makes you who you are.

If this sounds intriguing, or challenging and you want more information - speak with a member of the worship team, or email us at worship@rruu.org.

Your Worship Team:
Marla Loturco, Carla Murphy,
Richard Newlin, Faye Shadrack,
Gerry Shehan, Doug Strong

Have you thought about joining the congregation? We welcome all who wish to consider RRUU their spiritual home. Speak with any board member - joining is not complicated and requires no "profession of faith".

The Church Calendar ~ is but a click away 24/7

Remember that the church calendar is always available on line. You can access it by clicking on the logo to the right or on the church web site or Facebook page.

You can also copy the link below and paste it into your smart phone. If you use Google calendar, you can link it to your personal calendar as well.

Here's the link:

www.localendar.com/public/rruucalendar?style=D2



Bookmark Making Party

There will be a bookmark making party on Sunday Sept 9th on the Camerons' deck - unless it rains, in which case it will be held at 'The Cantina'. Bring a sack lunch or some fast food and meet as soon as you can get there after church. Iced tea and maybe some cookies will be served.

ChaliceArt will be holding several sales in October, November and December so we should be able to sell as many as we can make. These funds are making our church more beautiful. We need all your busy little hands!

If you need directions - chaliceart@yahoo.com

Booked For Lunch ~ not in Sept.



Booked for Lunch will be Out To Lunch in September - meaning that the group is not meeting. Look for the next gathering on Thursday, October 11th

For those who are wondering ... Booked for Lunch - a book group that has no idea where it's going - meets once a month and has been a wild hit - with everyone talking about something they've been reading.

Bring a good book you've read recently and plan to tell us about it. Bring a sack lunch or stop for fast food on the way. Iced tea and maybe cookies will be provided. Email bookclub@rruu.org for more info (There isn't any.)

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*
 Carla Murphy, *vice president*
 Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
 Carolyn Cameron, *Secretary*
 Paula Blackshear, *Trustee*
 Marla Loturco, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Gerry Shehan
 Peter Schulze
 Joyce Peak

Team Leaders or Team:

Adult Forum: *Joyce*

Aesthetics Team:

Bruce, Joyce, Maura, Doug & Kat

Building/Grounds: *Carolyn*

Communications: *Doug*

Chalice coordinator: *open*

Finance/Endowment: *Dan*

Good Times:

*George, Carolyn, Carole, Faye,
 Lura & Marion*

Membership: *Marion*

NTAUUS Rep: *Gerry*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Elbert*

Social Action: *Open*

Ways & Means: *Open*

Worship:

Carla, Doug, Faye, Gerry, Marla, Richard

Dallas Pride Parade ~ Sunday, September 16th!

This year's annual Dallas GLBT Pride Parade is Sunday, Sept 16th. We've been invited by First Unitarian Church to join with them in the parade. They write, "*Y'all are cordially invited to come to the 'big city' and join in the fun! We now have yellow SSL shirts in stock; please message me if you want to purchase or want to ride in the parade. Remember the shuttle from First, which is MUCH easier than finding a parking space.*"

You can get all the details from the Pride web site [here](#).

Call for Worship Proposals ~ UU Women!

We hope you plan to attend the 2013 Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference in the "sparkling city by the sea", Corpus Christi Texas, February 22-24, 2013. SWUUWCon is a gathering of women from the SouthWest district, encompassing all or parts of six states and Mexico, as well as women from outside our district. We expect approximately 150-200 women to join us.

SPIRITUALITY AND RITUAL: *Rhythmic Waves for the Soul*

CREATIVITY: *Waves That Carve Into Being*

SOCIAL JUSTICE: *Making Waves for Justice*

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY: *Splashing in the Waves*

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: *Sound and Body Waves*

Do you have a great idea for a workshop that fits within our tracks? We will be choosing our workshops by October 1, as registration will be opening in November!

This is a wonderful way to be able to give service to our women's community. Please use this form to submit a proposal for a 90 minute workshop at the February 22-24, 2013 Southwest UU Women's Conference "Making Waves: On a Sea of Change". We hope to see you in Corpus Christi!

You may download the PDF and mail your proposal to Debbie Cannatella, 8134 Etienne Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78414. E-mail to conference@swuuw.org or fill out the online form!

Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

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 in October. The next feast will be Sept 29th when Kat Walston celebrates a Croning ceremony at church. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

"OMMMM..." Meditation Group Will meet the last Sunday of every month. The date for the next meeting is August 26th. 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](#).

BOOKED FOR LUNCH, an informal book discussion group that meets the second Thurs of each month from 11 - 1 pm at church. Open to everyone. Facilitator: [Carolyn Cameron](#).

RED RIVER

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