



Red River Ramblings

June 2013
Volume 10, Issue 6

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REMEMBER...

You can access the church calendar by clicking on the picture below.



Adult Forum ~10:00
Worship~11:15
Children's
R.E.~11:15
Fellowship
Gathering~ 12:15

Enter, Rejoice & Come In ~Sunday mornings at church

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Money Matters

The Rev. Sam Schaal, *preaching*

What is the spiritual meaning of money?
What is the moral compass of wealth? How does money really matter?

The Rev. Samuel Schaal returns to our pulpit this Sunday. A former consulting Transition Minister, Sam currently owns a financial chaplaincy practice helping individuals discover their deeply held values as a foundation for a heart-centered approach to financial planning.

Sunday, June 9, 2013

Song of Marie

The Rev. Paul Beedle, *preaching*

In what would have been her 90th year, Rev. Paul reflects on how his mother is still present in his life though she died 20 years ago, and how that is grace.

Rev. Paul Beedle serves on the UUA's Music Leadership Credentialing Committee. He has served as Chaplain at Houston Northwest Medical Center and as minister at Unitarian Universalist congregations in Ohio, California and Texas.

Share the Plate Sunday: Cash donations will be contributed to the Texoma Earth Day Festival.

Sunday, June 16, 2013

Fathers and Daughters; Mothers and Sons

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

Successful women through the ages often had extraordinary relationships with fathers who took an interest in their intellectual lives. Less acknowledged but equally important is the

role of the mothers in supporting their daughters and sons in their spiritual and vocational journeys. This talk aims for a heartfelt but un-sentimental look at the profound relationships that form our lives.

Sunday, June 23, 2013

When I have Dementia...

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

OK. I have not been so diagnosed but given my family history and a rational calculation of my odds, I'd be foolish to think otherwise. For most, mental decline is inevitable as we age. I stumble for words that are in my head and not on my tongue; I type and the letters come out in the wrong order; things I need and should know are just not there. I'm not alone wondering, worrying and pushing aside serious thinking about 'people who have trouble thinking' which is a nice way of saying people who have dementia. Dementia touches every family and even with no immediate prospect of a cure, there are new approaches - radical and wonderful - to help. They won't change the fact that I'll not be able to think, but will change the ways I feel.

Sunday, June 30, 2013

At Exactly 5 O'clock in the Afternoon

Daniel Melenez, *leading*

Daniel Melendez will share his experience with bull fighting as an animal activist. He will recite the elegy by Federico Garcia Lorca titled; "The Lamentation of Ignacio Sanchez Mejias".

Daniel Melenez has been a UU since 2005. He is a past president at Arlington UU and currently attends Pathways UU in Euless Texas. He is an active member of NTUUC Education Committee. Daniel lives in Arlington with his wife Rebecca, her two daughters Jennifer and Jessica and his two Cattle Dogs Rowdy and PJ. By trade, Daniel is a Mechanical Designer.

Elbert's Epistle



If you haven't been behind the church building recently, you should go. Building & Grounds Chair Marilyn Alexander has planted flowers in the area between the playground and the garage, creating a very attractive memorial garden. Earlier, we had planted a memorial tree there to replace the one we had to leave at the Harrison St. location, a

tree that had been donated to the church by then-member Pam Nelson in honor of her daughter who had died. We've retained the idea of a memorial garden at our new, permanent location, and these flower plantings really enhance that space.

At the Congregational Meeting on May 19, we elected by acclamation the following slate of board members presented by the Nominating Committee: Gil Alexander as Vice President, 2-year term; Doug Strong as Secretary, 2-year term; and Paula Blackshear as Trustee-at-Large, 2-year term. Team members elected by acclamation include: Nominating Committee members Helen Schulze, 3-year term; and LD Clark, 1-year term; and Committee on Ministry member Peter Schulze, 3-year term. We also adopted a budget for the 2013-2014 year which is (thanks to generous pledges by members and friends and to lots of hard work by Treasurer Carole Harner) in the black!!!! We also discussed and adopted a new 5-year plan (printed elsewhere in this newsletter) and discussed possible fundraising ideas.

Among other things, the 5-year plan calls for us to have a net increase of 4-5 new members each year, to increase average attendance at worship services by 4-5 persons per year, to increase interest groups by 1 or 2 per year, and to increase Community Service Projects by 1 or 2 per year. These are things that can't be done just by the work of the board or the Worship Team, but each of us needs to be involved. Regarding increasing our membership, for instance, if you know people who don't attend any other church or who are dissatisfied with their current church experience, consider inviting them to visit us some Sunday.

Even though our newly adopted budget is in the black (but not by a lot), the church has many needs (mostly additional remodeling) that could be met by other fund

raising. (Our primary fundraising activity now is the making and selling of chalice-themed bookmarks, which bring in much-appreciated funds through sales at our website and at events where RRUU members Bruce and Carolyn Cameron sell their gorgeous Chalice Art jewelry.) If anyone has an idea for another fundraising project, let us know—your idea could be just what is needed to supplement our other funding. Please give any suggestion you have to me or to any other board member.

Also, please consider becoming a member of the Chalice Lighter program by which special projects at UU churches are funded. As a Chalice Lighter, you'll get requests for a \$10 contribution (or more if you're feeling generous) no more than three times a year, and each time you'll be told about the worthy project your gift will help fund. RRUU has benefited from Chalice Lighter grants more than once, and probably will be applying for another grant at some point. (Hint, hint: When applying for a CL grant, it looks great when numerous individuals in your congregation are CL donors.) Details about this program are posted on the bulletin board near the chapel at RRUU.

See you in church, friends!

Elbert

5 Year Plan

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church Approved May 19, 2013

- 1) Increase Community Service Projects from 4 to 8
- 2) Develop Religious Education program for youth with average attendance of 20, paid part-time Director of Religious Education, playground and paid childcare in nursery
- 3) Growth in membership to 60 members
- 4) Operate at a profit
- 5) Attendance, including friends and visitors, to average 50 per week
- 6) Worship services with 3 ordained or professional speakers per month
- 7) Increase interest groups from 5 to 8
- 8) Improve Building and Grounds
- 9) No minister planned in 5 years

2013 Taste of Texoma

Thank you Moveable Feasters for supporting The Boys and Girls Club of Denison by attending the 2013 Taste of Texoma. This year we had at least 600 people attend and should clear \$10,000. In my 9 1/2 yrs on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Denison and participating in as many Tastes, we have never had as many people attend, great restaurants, and good raffles. It was because of people like you that we did so well.

A special thanks to Doug Strong for his 5 hours of hard volunteer work. He was a wonderful aid being in just the right places when we needed an extra hand. I am sure others would have been willing to volunteer, but I was not in charge of the volunteers who were from the board of the Boys and Girls Club and I could not have managed to coordinate more help.

Judy Donahue

Spring Meeting ~ what happened

It was a good meeting. The election results:

Elected officers:

Vice President (2015):	Gil Alexander
Secretary (2015):	Doug Strong
Trustee at Large (2015):	Paula Blackshear

Nominating Committee:

(2016):	Helen Schulze
(2014):	L.D. Clark

Committee on Ministry:

(2016):	Peter Schulze
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Amended Budget Was Approved:

See it on the church website [Approved Budget](#)

5 Year Plan Was Approved:

See it on the church website [5 Year Plan](#) or pg.2

You are invited to become involved with any of the committees, like membership, communications, long range planning, caring & concerns, social action, ways & means, worship. Please contact [Elbert Hill](#) and let him know.

Watching General Assembly Online

Events in the Plenary Hall will be streamed live, and posted for viewing afterwards. To watch click [here](#).

Some Program You Can Watch (Times listed are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)).

- **Opening Celebration and Plenary I**, Wed, June 19, 8:00 p - 10:00 p
- **Thursday Evening Worship**, Thurs, June 20, 5:45 p - 6:15 p
- **Candidates Forum**, Thurs, June 20, 8:30 p - 10:00 p.m
- **Friday Morning Worship: Broken Vows, Whole Lives**, Fri, June 21, 7:45 a - 8:45 a
- **Sing**, Fri, June 21, 7:15 p - 7:30 p
- **Ware Lecture**, Fri, June 21, 7:30 p - 8:30 p
- **Service of the Living Tradition**, Sat, June 22, 8:30 p - 10:00 p
- **Sunday Morning Worship**, Sun, June 23, 9:00 a - 10:30 a
- **Closing Ceremony**, Sun, June 23, 7:30 p - 9:00 p

Check out the complete schedule [here](#).

RED RIVER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Hello ... Can You Hear Me?

DIR
ECT
ORY

JUNE.2013

Calling All members & active friends:

You now have the new church directory waiting in your In-Box.

Download and keep it on your desktop for easy reference, or print it out!

Board Bits ~ from the May 2013 Board of Trustees meeting

At the May meeting, the board mainly made plans for the Congregational Meeting (which was May 19) and for a retreat/workshop with consultant MarySue Foster leading, which will be on September 15, 2013. (The retreat/workshop had been scheduled for an earlier date but has been postponed until September.) More information about this workshop will appear in the July newsletter.

Our newly hired DRE, Lesli Dauenbaugh, will be gone for about 8 weeks during this summer, and Carolyn Cameron is organizing volunteers to teach children's religious education on Sunday mornings during this time. She already has several volunteers and says no one need volunteer for more than one week, also that help with lesson plans is available, and that volunteers can do a wide variety of activities with the children.

The Southwest UU Summer Institute (SWUUSI, pronounced "Swoozie") is coming up in July. In case you've never been to SWUUSI, it's a week of family fun, varied workshops, and worship experiences, and is a great place to meet other UU's from Texas, Oklahoma, parts of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Kansas. Details are at

Save Sunday, Sept 15th for a special all-church retreat, including breakfast, worship and time to focus on "Who Exactly Are We"

uuasouthernregion.org/swuusi2013.html and also on the bulletin board just outside the chapel at church.

The board will be meeting one week earlier than usual in June (on June 6 at 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room at the church). If there's any area you would like to address the board about, just show up. Or if you'd just like to see what happens at board meetings, you're welcome to attend.

Elbert



The Adult Forum ~ Sunday mornings @ 10 AM

June 2

Great Courses, Lecture #9 of Chinese religion: Chinese understandings of the cosmos have influenced all of East Asia, and the rest of the world. Before studying the particular religious traditions of China--Confucianism, Daoism, Chan Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism---we must look at the cosmological beliefs and folk traditions that have shaped the Chinese worldview for millennia.

June 9

Great Courses, Lecture #10 of Chinese religion: Two most important indigenous traditions from China are Confucianism and Daoism. This lecture deals with rituals, relationships and values.

June 16

Building Your Own Theology pp. 23-29. What do sin and salvation have to do with being Unitarian Universalist? Many joined our group to escape such theological notions? The purpose of this lesson is to learn the varied meanings of these words and to determine if they have a place in liberal religious theology.

June 23

Building Your Own Theology pp. 30-38. This lesson is the study of our own ultimate destiny and the fate of humanity, the struggle of good and evil and survival of our world. "Good and Evil" questionnaire and discussion.

June 30

Building Your Own Theology pp. 39-45. Taking into account our personal lives and the larger world, we will discuss apathy, responsibility, and volunteerism. We will make a list of things we like to do, categorize them and discuss the way they balance.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of April we had income of \$5,304 from general operations. This is higher than usual due to special donations from various members. After operations expense of \$2,871 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$2,433.

We received donations of \$115 for renovations in April, primarily from bookmark sales, and did not have any renovation expense. We have \$4,344 still available for renovations.

We are doing much better than our budget thanks to everyone who has helped to keep expenses lower.

On a year to date basis, our net income from general operations continues to cover our year to date principal payments. We are doing much better than our budget thanks to everyone who has helped to keep expenses lower than budgeted and/or made additional donations. For the year to date period of July through April 2013, we had net income of \$7,462 from operations on the income statement. We also had expense of (\$4,129) for the cash payments of principal on our loan, net income of \$1,227 for renovations, expense of (\$1,500) for the board retreat that was covered by a grant from last year, and we have \$8,515 remaining from two new NTAUUS grants for RE and worship.

As of the end of April 2013, we had cash of \$50,015 and debt of \$39,337. The cash amount includes \$4,344 reserved for renovations and \$10,519 reserved for grants for the RE program, worship and board retreats.

In April we contributed \$125 to the Earth Day Festival from the Share the Plate program.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

Out To Lunch ~ Sun. June 2nd



This month it is off to **De Happy Cajun Restaurant** in Pottsville. The place has had a face lift and a rejuvenated menu. They're at 50055 N. State Hwy 289, Pottsville · (903) 786-4909. (Go West on Morton Street and turn Right on Hwy 289.) We'll look for you around 12:45 on Sunday, June 2nd.

RRAMS Group ~Wed. June 5

Due to summer vacations, RRAMS has a date change. Bring yourself, instrument(s), voice, or just your ears and join them on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 PM at RRUU for a fun evening of music.

Moveable Feast ~Tue. June 11

This month the Feasters will gather at Doug Strong's home in Sherman. A pot luck, the evening's culinary theme will be "Summer Salads" ~ anyway those coming wish to define a summer salad. (Google found 28,200,000 in .22 seconds). Come around 6:30 PM.

Meditation Group ~Sun. June 30

Because Fellowship and Refreshments are served in the upper foyer, the Meditation Group will meet, from now on, in the Chapel starting at 12:45 PM on the last Sunday of each month.

Open to all who enjoy meditating, or simply sitting quietly for a period of time. If you've never tried meditating, come and give it a try. You may be surprised how wonderful it can be.

Birthdays in June

- June 02 – Chelsea Armstrong
- June 09 – Richard Newlin
- June 12 – Leslie Dauenbaugh
- June 17 – Jo-D Harrison

Upcoming Conferences open to everyone

Standing on the Side of Leadership

June 1, 2013 • First Unitarian, Dallas



Peter Bowden, Media & Ministry Consultant
Unitarian Universalism Unleashed

Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley
UUA Director of Congregational Life
Congregations and Beyond



Meet the Candidates for UUA Moderator
Tamara Payne-Alex & Jim Key



All this plus seventeen workshops!

Opening Worship at 8:30 † Childcare available
Youth & Young Adults Lunch in Raible Chapel
www.northtexasuu.org/leadershipconference



Attending a UU event is a terrific way to meet other UUs - beyond our tiny congregation!

The Leadership Conference on June 1 is also a way to meet the candidates running for UUA Moderator.

The Rhetoric of Worship workshop is a unique opportunity to delve into the underlying spiritual dimensions of worship, along with learning some of the 'tricks of the trade.'

Try it, you'll be surprised, delighted and better for it!

The Rhetoric of Worship Workshop ~ June 14th



A 3-hour workshop coming June 14th (from 1 - 4 pm) with Rev. Dr. Christine Tata. Here's a peek at what we'll be studying. Open to all who wish to attend.

Logos: Worship begins with the *logos*, the word – the verbal message that you want to deliver. We'll talk about the best ways to choose and deliver those words, and how important it is that they are heard – and how very important the words are in our tradition. What message does the church want to give?

Ethos: Then we'll talk about the church's *ethos* – its attributes and reliability as a source of truth. The ethos of an institution is displayed in the attention it pays to the necessary components of its work. If everything is sloppily done, the sound is bad, the hymns don't fit, the offering is lackluster, the missions are forgotten, and the worship unprepared, it belies the important message it is trying to convey in its logos. Here is where we will address all the technical details that are so important.

Pathos: Finally, once we have defined our logos, and we have created a reliable ethos, our worship can evoke *pathos* – it can encourage the movement of the human heart. This third session will talk about how vulnerable people can be when they come to church and the worship leader's responsibility to be generous and cautious and kind, in helping people move through the moments. The church needs to have a coherent message and a credible, competent framework, in order to make a safe space for feelings. We'll talk about the music, and the candles, and the meditation, and all the other ways in which the human heart responds to worship at its best.

Want to attend? The worship is free, so is the workshop! Please Register [here](#).

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*
 Carolyn Cameron, *vice president*
 Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
 Doug Strong, *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, Paula & Kat

Building/Grounds: *Marilyn*

Communications: *Doug*

Chalice coordinator: *Open*

Finance/Endowment: *Dan*

Good Times: *Carolyn, Carole,
 Lura, Marilyn & Marion*

Long Range Planning:

Amy, Gil, Marilyn

Membership: *Marion*

Nominations: *Faye, L.D., Marla*

NTAUUS Rep: *Marla*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Elbert*

Social Action: *Open*

Ways & Means: *Open*

Worship:

Carla, Doug, Faye, Marla

We need your time ~ for just one hour only!

Our official RE program for children will not be meeting this summer. This will extend funds from our grant and give us time to grow the program. Meanwhile, we want to be as welcoming as possible to the children who do come in the summer so we are asking (pleading) for everyone who possibly can to volunteer for childcare just one hour on one Sunday. We have seven volunteers of the twelve we need - Helen, Joyce, Carole, Lanan, Robert, Carolyn and Bruce.

This is soooo easy. We are not asking you to sign up for a specific day. If children attend one of the volunteers will be asked to help. That person can read, play games, go to the playground or just visit with the child/children for an hour. It should be enjoyable for everyone. If you are more comfortable with a planned activity, we have some available. If you'd like to 'wing it' that's fine too.

If we have enough volunteers, each one should be called on just once. It's a great way to get to know our RRUU children and for them to know you.

Email [Joyce](#) or [Carolyn](#) if you will help.

Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle is taking a well deserved break after another successful Earth Day Festival. Facilitator: [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle will go to Doug Strong's home on June 11th. Details on Page 5. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

OMMMM... Meditation Group, Meditation meets the last Sunday of each month @12:45 in the Chapel. Open to all who wish to learn more about meditation and to participate in meditating. Facilitator: [Paula Blackshear](#).

BOOKED FOR LUNCH, an informal book discussion group that is taking the summer off so we can all enjoy hours of leisure reading.

OUT TO LUNCH, One Sunday a month after things we go out for a Dutch-treat lunch. There is no agenda, no reports, no minutes - just everyone heading out and breaking bread together. See page 5 for details. Email announcements@rruu.org if you have a restaurant suggestion.

mail to:

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