



# Red River Ramblings

August 2013  
Volume 10, Issue 8

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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

## Meaningful and Spirited Worship ~Each Sunday!

**Sunday, August 4, 2013**

### Keeping the Sabbath Holy

Leah Rivera, *speaking*

Leah Rivera is an active member of the Denton UU Fellowship who honors her Jewish roots while celebrating her UU faith. Of her remarks Leah writes, *"When I had first imagined what I would say about "Keeping the Sabbath Holy", I had intended to tell you of my own spiritual journey and then give you many "good" reasons as to why you could consider this practice for yourself. In the two months since I had envisioned my hopefully wise and astute advice I realized that UUs often hear a lot of hopeful and sage advice encouraging us to engage in spiritual, religious and even mystical practices. I have changed the thrust of what I intend to do on Sunday, from offering recommendations of what you might wish to do, to showing you what I do each week as I celebrate the Sabbath."*

**Sunday, August 11, 2013**

### Atheist Spirituality

The Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, *video sermon*

One of the absolutely joys of technology is being able to bring to our congregation some of the best UU preaching ever! This Sunday we will watch a sermon by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, senior minister at All Souls Church in Tulsa, the largest UU congregation (not counting the Church of the Larger Fellowship - a church without walls). Of his remarks which were delivered on May 19, 2013, he writes, *"Many people do not understand the difference between spirituality and belief in God. Most Buddhists do not believe in God (they are Humanist) and yet they are world renowned for their teachings of spirituality*

*and spiritual practices such as meditation. Brain science and evolutionary science has helped explain some of what is understood today as spirituality. As Pentecost is celebrated by Christians around the world, let's look at movements of the spirit from a Humanist perspective.*

**Sunday, August 18, 2013**

Daniel Polk, *speaking*

**Sunday, August 25, 2013**

### There Are No Accidents

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

Our spiritual lives are based on story-telling. We all have a story to tell because we are all alive. We all experience coincidences, twists of fate, happenstances, luck and good fortune. Conversely we've all experience hardships and tragedies. Some coincidences seem to have no effect on us, others, however, are significant. Is it possible that everything that happens to us has a purpose and that there are no accidents? A sermon about some of the "sweet mysteries of life."

## Remember...

If you travel this summer, bring back a small container of water for our annual Water Communion Ceremony on Sunday, Sept 8th

## Elbert's Epistle



Our visiting minister on July 21, Rev. Tony Lorenzen, introduced us to a Christian Praise Song, "Sanctuary," to which he said one of our UU churches in Boston wrote UU lyrics. The song goes:

*Make us aware we  
are a sanctuary  
Each made holy  
loved right through  
with thanksgiving  
we are a living  
sanctuary  
a-new.*

The song reminded me of our mission statement, adopted by the congregation a few years ago: "We are a sanctuary for religious liberals celebrating compassion, diversity and spiritual growth." In former times, the church was often a sanctuary for individuals who were seeking freedom from a tyrant, brigands, or other forces that threatened them. Our sanctuary is, for me, a place where I am free to believe and act as my conscience tells me is right. In the church I was raised in, freedom of belief was not an option. If one's ideas were different from those of the group, that individual was ostracized. I hope RRUU can remain a place of safety and support for those who think and act differently from the crowd, and who pursue spiritual growth in their own way.

PLEASE read MarySue Foster's description (elsewhere in this newsletter) of the all-church workshop she will lead for the congregation on September 15. Those who were on the board last year can tell you that she leads an interesting, worthwhile workshop. Remem-

ber that both breakfast and lunch will be provided at this event

It is with sadness that we learn we are losing the Dauenbaugh family, as Rick's employer is moving him to Cincinnati. Rick, Lesli, Matisse, and Hawk have become great friends to all of us in the church. They quickly became active in all aspects of our congregation, and we will surely miss them.

For those of you who remember Glenda Zumwalt, who was a member of RRUU several years ago, her husband, Gene Campbell, died of cancer this past Monday. He was a caring, compassionate, and fun person, and he will be missed.

Marion and I spent the last full week of July at SWUUSI (Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute), a camp for all ages held at Hulbert, OK. Though SWUUSI has changed somewhat (both in location and focus) from when we attended numerous times years ago, we still had good experiences with our workshops. Watch out! She has come back an even more diligent watchdog of the environment after four days in a workshop about global warming. Pam Watts' Sunset Talks each evening were excellent. Also, the renovation fund is richer by \$112 from bookmarks and earrings sold in the SWUUSI marketplace (plus \$50 from earrings an RRUU member bought recently).

Start going through your cabinets, closets, cupboards, etc. If you find things you haven't used in a year or more, consider setting those items aside for our yard sale in September.

See you in church, friends!  
Elbert



### *~ A Special Invitation ~*

Grayson County NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and SIMA (Sherman Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance) are hosting a Unity Scholarship Banquet on August 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Austin College Wright Center. Tickets are \$30.00 per person or \$240.00 for a table of 8. Money from ticket sales goes to fund scholarships for graduating seniors who are members of one of the 15 Alliance churches or members of GCNAACP.

Three members of RRUU have already committed to purchasing tickets. If anyone else is interested in buying a banquet ticket, please email Elbert Hill ([here](mailto:mhill@communicomm.com)), [mhill@communicomm.com](mailto:mhill@communicomm.com) or 580-924-7715.

## Appreciative Inquiry ~ A Perfect Fit for Unitarian Universalists!

I first got introduced to Appreciative Inquiry in the early 1990s. Somehow I had gotten myself invited to a meeting of community leaders -- business, non-profit, religious, and creative -- who were working on a plan to make Dallas a more inclusive city. The guest speaker was a woman from Chicago who had founded a youth-based, intergenerational program that was re-shaping the conversation in Chicago, one neighborhood at a time. I was intrigued.

Bliss Browne, the founder of Imagine Chicago, talked about engaging youth and their elders in a conversation about their dreams for the city. The conversations, held in small groups and one-on-one, literally ignited people to action, calling them to go to work on the ideas that they cared about.

A small group of us founded Imagine Dallas, working with a group of high school girls and several members of that year's Leadership Dallas business leaders. The program was a success and got folded into a larger organization at the end of the year. I have continued to apply the principles of Appreciative Inquiry daily to the work that I do to create and build communities that work.

Many UU congregations report that they use Appreciative Inquiry (AI) in their congregational life. It certainly seems like a perfect fit and a powerful tool. Churches/congregations are aspirational bodies. One reason to even *form* a church is to provide a safe space for people to explore their ideas about a better world -- and to challenge the members to go to work to create that world.

What could we learn from Imagine Chicago? Here's how they outline their principles:

- Everyone is valued
- Every citizen, young and old, applies their talents to create a positive future for themselves and their community
- Hope comes alive in the flourishing and connecting of human lives
- Young people and others whose visions have been discounted develop and contribute their ideas and energy.

Sounds very "UU," doesn't it?

Imagine, for a moment, applying those four principles to Red River.

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*"What if Red River had a not-so-secret mission of connecting human lives so that the entire community flourished?"*

**Everyone is valued:** Red River has made quite an effort to value all. How might that be expanded? What could be recognized in the coming years in your many communities? What do you want to be known for?

**Every member, young and old, applies their talents to create a positive future for themselves and their community:** Doesn't this sound like the heart of RE? Does this give you some clues for building programs? Does this statement light you up? How might you bring it to life both at church and in other organizations?

**Hope comes alive in the flourishing and connecting of human lives:** Personally, I like the thought of letting hope loose in the secular community. In fact, I'm a fan of subversive movements in general. What if Red River had a not-so-secret mission of connecting human lives so that the entire community flourished? What would that look like?

**Young people and others whose visions have been discounted develop and contribute their ideas and energy:** Who else could be included here? In the coming years, how we build connections and empower "those whose visions have been discounted" will be critical.

Food for thought.

See you Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>!

MarySue Foster,  
Facilitator for your All Church Retreat

PS. You can find out more about Imagine Chicago [here](#):

PPS. I'd love to hear your ideas about building community. You can email [here](#) -- just be patient with my spam blocker; I'll get you out!

## Board Bits ~ from the July 2013 Board of Trustees meeting

Most of the members of the Board of Trustees attended a NTUUC-sponsored day of training at Community UU Church in Plano on July 13. We had workshops on Visioning, Policy-Making, and Stewardship. As we put ideas gained from those sessions into practice, we hope to become a better board, one that will serve RRUU well in the coming years.

At the July 11 board meeting, we discussed the moving of the sound system (already accomplished) to enhance the AV person's ability to control sound quality. Also, a new air-conditioning unit for the Emerson room is planned. New electrical outlets have been installed in the Barton and Emerson rooms, and new windows are being installed in several locations. Thanks to Building/Grounds chair Marilyn Alexander

and skilled craftsman Kevin Bartell for making these needed updates to our building.

The board approved two school-supplies drives, with supplies gathered by the end of July going to children of active-duty military who live in Bryan County, OK. The supplies collected in August will go to Terrell Elementary School in Denison, TX.

The Social Justice/Action team has been revived, with Vice-president Gil Alexander serving as chair. Anyone interested in working with Gil on this effort, please let him know (send him a message [here](#)).

The board decided to have a yard-sale and free-food event on the church lawn near the end of September, specific date not yet decided. Gil will organize this event.

## Annual School Supplies Drive ~ Shop, Bring, Give, Smile



During August our Annual School Supplies Drive will benefit Terrell Elementary School a few blocks from our church.

You can purchase any school supplies you want. (A detailed list for each grade is posted in the weekly e-news if you need help.) A large collection basket is in the foyer outside the chapel. We'll be collecting the first three weeks in August - the more we collect, the more children we'll help.

## The Adult Forum ~ Sunday mornings @ 10 AM

During August the Forum will continue with the series **Cultural Literacy for Religion: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know** - a video series by Mark Berkson.

**August 4:** Lecture 15: *Living a Jewish Life*

**August 11:** NOTE: Lectures 16-18 discuss *Christianity from the life of Jesus through the theology of Paul to the Catholic and Orthodox Churches and the Protestant Reformation. The traditional denominations of the Christian faith are described, and the modern evangelical, fundamentalist, Pentecostal, and liberal Christian movements are compared and explained.*

Lecture 16: *The Life and Commemoration of Jesus*

**August 18:** Lecture 17: *Catholic and Orthodox Christianity*

**August 25:** Lecture 18: *Protestantism and Christianity Today*



**We're having a church yard sale!**  
Start saving your treasures! Our yard sale will be on a Saturday in late September.

Save anything and everything!

It will be only one day, there will be refreshments and hopefully many of our neighbors will stop by. The purpose is not only as a fund raiser, but a way to become better acquainted with and better known in North Town.

More details will be the E-news and Order of Things.

## Treasurer's Report

This has been a great year thanks to everyone who has helped keep expenses lower than budgeted and/or made additional donations! I'm very proud to be part of such a wonderful group.

In the month of June we had income of \$2,518 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,309 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$209. There was no renovation work in June.

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wonderful group.*

On a year to date basis, our net income from general operations continues to cover our year to date principal payments. For the year to date period of July 2012 through June 2013, we had net income of \$8,943 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 \$8,308 remaining from two new NTAUUS grants for RE and worship.

As of the end of June 2013, we had cash of \$51,288 and debt of \$39,337. The cash amount includes \$4,344 reserved for renovations and \$10,358 reserved for grants for the RE program, worship and board retreats.

In June we contributed \$67 to the Earth Day Festival from the Share the Plate program. Thank you for being so generous!

Carole Harner, Treasurer

## So Long Dauenbaugh's

It is with great sadness that we bid good bye to Rick, Lesli, Matisse and Hawk Dauenbaugh. Rick was so successful turning around the plant where he has been the manager that the company is transferring him to their operations in Cincinnati. Their last Sunday with us will be August 4<sup>th</sup>.

In her brief time as our Director of Religious Education, Lesli was barely able to get her feet wet before summer started. She was gearing up full swing for the start of the fall school year when the news came of their transfer.

While we understand, we are sorry to see them go.

## Meditation Group ~Sun. Aug. 28

Need to unwind? Relax? Take your mind off \_\_\_ (you can fill in the blank)? Why not come and meditate with us?

The Meditation Group meets the last Sunday of the month at 12:35 in the chapel, following worship. Everyone is welcome and chances are everyone could use a little peace & quiet these days. Why not try it?

## Terra May turns One

Baby Terra May Thome will celebrate her first birthday and we're all invited to join her at Chuck-e-Cheese, Towne Center, Sherman from 5-7 on **Tues. Aug 6th**. Brook and Joe hope you can stop by and help them celebrate.



## Birthdays in August

may your birthday bring  
you as much happiness  
as you give to everyone  
who knows you  
Happy Birthday

02 Johnnie McAdoo  
06 Terra May Thome  
08 Chad Meyer  
09 Helen Schulze  
14 Jack Blue  
18 Penny Armstrong  
27 Gil Alexander  
29 Carolyn Fridley  
30 Jackie Gauthier  
31 Doug Strong



## Leadership

### Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*  
 Gil Alexander, *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*

**Building/Grounds:** *Marilyn*

**Communications:** *Doug*

**Chalice coordinator:** *Open*

**DRE:** *Open*

**Finance/Endowment:** *Dan*

**Good Times:** *Carole, Lura,*

*Marilyn & Marion*

**Long Range Planning:**

*Amy, Gil, Marilyn*

**Membership:** *Marion*

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

**NTUUC Rep:** *Marla*

**Safe Congregation Panel:** *Elbert*

**Social Action:** *Open*

**Ways & Means:** *Open*

**Worship:**

*Carla, Dan, Doug, Faye, Marla*

## Out To Lunch ~ Sun. August 18<sup>th</sup>



After a glowing report from the Moveable Feast (who enjoyed dinner there last month) the **August Out To Lunch event** will take us to Blondie's Sports Bar & Grill, 2700 S. Eisenhower Pkwy, Denison. We'll look for you around 12:45 on Sunday, Aug. 18th. Everyone is invited to come - we each pay our own way.

## Moveable Feast ~In August? YES!

Sometime during August the Feasters will venture to a local restaurant. Where, you ask? At press time the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer trumped organizing and a decision hadn't yet been arranged. Keep checking the Wednesday's e-news for the date and place.

## RRAMS Group ~Wed. Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>

Bring yourself, instrument(s), voice, or just your ears and join them on Wednesday, Aug 21 at 7:00 PM at RRUU for a fun evening of music.

## 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 a local restaurant this month. The date will be posted in the e-news Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

**OMMMM... Meditation Group**, Meditation meets the last Sunday of each month @12:35 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. They return in September.

**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 7 for details. Email [announcements@rruu.org](mailto:announcements@rruu.org) if you have a restaurant suggestion.

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Church (all one word)

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### RED RIVER

#### Unitarian Universalists

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