



Red River Ramblings

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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 Events ~Each Sunday!

Sunday, September 1, 2013

The Annual Labor of Love

Everyone Pitching In Together, working

9:00 - Noon

While Labor Day is our nation's tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Our *Labor of Love* is a way each of us can work for the strength, prosperity and well-being of our church. Since we have no cleaning service or janitor or maid - we take one Sunday a year, put on our grubbies, roll up our sleeves and dig in to clean, repair, revamp, restore, refurbish with the sole reward, repayment, recompense, remuneration or reward knowing that together we've had 'done good' for the church. This is the perfect Sunday for those among us who like to avoid coming on Sunday mornings! PS: In order to not be sidetracked, we'll have no Adult Forum, nor Worship Service today.

Sun. September 8, 2013 - Water Communion

Water, Water, All Around . . .

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

Sound familiar? What lines of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's epic poem did you choose to memorize and recite in English class? The water? The ice that "*cracked and growled, and roared and howled*" or maybe the albatross that "*sank like lead into the sea.*" For me it was the image of the water "*...and all the boards did shrink; water, water all around, But not a drop to drink.*"

This Sunday is our annual Water Communion, when we each bring a small container of water with us - from home, from a lake or a pond, or from some spot where you went this summer. The theme of the morning will, naturally, be water with an assortment of readings, music and remarks about the current state of H₂O both close to home and worldwide.

Sunday, September 15, 2013

Who, Exactly Are We?

MarySue Foster, *facilitating*

9:30 - breakfast

10-12:30 - retreat

12:30 - lunch

It has been months in the planning and now it is here, THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT or Forward as our facilitator likes to call it. This special morning is important for us as a church community. Thanks to a generous grant from NTUUC we have an outstanding facilitator, free meals and the fervent hope that everyone will come participate, learn and celebrate together. (details on page 3)

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Kindling Hope in a Time of Despair

Mark Gilman, *speaking*

Crises--financial instability, climate change, loss of direction--are compounding and the outlook can look grim. Could it be that in the midst of all these challenges a bright future beckons? Likely so, but the good society will be reached only if we re-organize our institutions around the virtues. Come and hear the case for optimism about the future, based on pragmatism, not platitudes."(More on page 6)

Sunday, September 28, 2013

A Shrewd Awakening

The Rev. Chuck Freeman,

Most of us, at some point of frustration at hearing about the woes of the world have thought, "I'm just one person, what impact I can really have in a world of 6 billion people?" The answer we give ourselves often is more of a justification to do little. Yet we know there are ways to make a difference. Our guest this Sunday is an riveting and engaging preacher whose message will intrigue and challenge and uplift and ... well come and hear Chuck. You'll be glad you did. (More on page 6)



Elbert's Epistle ~ Update from the president

On August 23, nine people (members and friends) represented RRUU at the NAACP (Grayson County chapter)/Sherman Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance scholarship banquet at Austin College. We enjoyed excellent food, musical presentations, and several talks about the importance of education to young people, as well as seeing more than a dozen students receive financial help to continue their education at colleges around the area and beyond.

I'm really looking forward to our Congregational retreat/Workshop with MarySue Foster on September 15. She led our Board retreat last summer and helped us to define goals for the church and see ways of achieving them. I believe she will do the same for our entire congregation. But that will happen only if most of us are there to participate. Please come, and help us define who we are, where we want to go, and how to get there. Do we want to grow and become more of a force for liberal religion in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma, or not? If not, why not, and what do we want instead? If so, what can we do to get there? Read MarySue's letter elsewhere in this newsletter to learn more about what she plans to cover on the 15th.

Now that summer vacations are about over and schools are back in session, I think we should have an increase in attendance of

members, as well as visitors, at worship services—at least I hope that's true. Let's all make visitors feel welcome, and let's invite friends and neighbors to come see what we are about.

Remember our garage sale on September 21. We need all members and friends to bring things to sell, and to help with the work of setting up and running the sale. Our operating budget is in good shape, but we still have more to do on remodeling and that fund could certainly use more money. We're hoping people from the neighborhood will come, so this could also be an excellent opportunity to get to know our neighbors. And it will be fun for RRUUers to get together over this kind of activity, something a bit different from usual "church stuff."

Please check out all the good work done on the grounds, as well as recent replacement of several windows in the church—thanks to Marilyn Alexander, Building & Grounds chair, and to skilled craftsman Kevin Bartell. Excellent job, both of you!

The Camerons sold RRUU bookmarks at the Chalice Art booth at General Assembly of the UUA in Louisville, KY, this past June, raising about \$500. Marion and I took both bookmarks and chalice earrings (all made by busy RRUU hands) to SWUUSI in August, raising another \$112. Money goes fast on remodeling projects, of course, and we will need even more to keep up with the needs of our aging (but historic) building. Let's all contribute our still-useable cast-offs to the garage sale and make it a huge success!

See you in church, friends,

Elbert

*"Please come
and help us
define who we
are, where we
want to go and
how to get
there."*

The Adult Forum ~ Sunday mornings @ 10 AM

Sept 1: "Labors of Love" - the All Church Work Sunday. No Forum Today

Sept 8: *Building Your Own Theology*, Session 7: Individualism & Community, What is the Role of the Church [pp 46-51]

Sept 15: *The All-Church Retreat* No Forum today

Sept 22: *BYOT*, Session 8: Why Do Bad Things Happen [pp 53-60]

Sept 29: *BYOT* Session 9: Death and Immortality, How Do We Celebrate Life?



We are Called ~ An incredible Sunday morning experience on Sept 15!

We are called . . . Thus begins one of my favorite Christian hymns. Some UU groups sing it as well, with the lyrics slightly altered.

I notice in the news lately that even secular institutions are using the expression of "calling," feeling the pull of something greater than yourself, especially with regards to a career or life's work. How are you called? What would you listen to in order to figure that out? Is it something you *can* figure out, or does it just come to you one day . . . on a silver platter, so to speak? As a flash of insight!

"Calling" is something more than, What do you want to be when you grow up, sonny? It is something one feels compelled to do, no matter what. We might say it feeds our soul or fulfills our purpose. Maybe it makes your heart sing. When you're working on it, forwarding it, you're "in the zone."

For some of us, it's rarely spoken aloud; a calling is more in the dream category. Maybe it would even be bad luck to speak it openly. Or maybe it would be embarrassing to say it openly to others, something more easily spoken by very young people. "When I grow up, I want to make a difference in the world." "I want justice." "My dream is world peace."

If I asked you to stop reading right now and write down your calling, what would you write? Does it come out easily? Does my question draw a blank? Is it some cliché that you've heard a thousand times? (Clichés are okay. They got that way because they are useful expressions, just overused.)

*We are called to act with justice;
We are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another;
To walk humbly with God.*

As individuals we may respond to calling in many ways. We can always ignore it. We can

"save" it until retirement or some other milestone in life. We can enthusiastically pursue it, looking for every opportunity to act on it. . . or some combination of these.

Here's some homework before we meet on September 15:

- How does your calling fit with the calling of this congregation? Are they synonymous? Are they radically different? How do you handle that for yourself? Do you take every opportunity to speak aloud that which calls you (your own or the congregation's)? Or do you prefer to keep it under cover?
- Secondly, one of the functions of a church or any group that is out to make a difference is to provide a setting that reminds people of their calling and inspires them to go back out into the world to work on that. Does your meeting place, for this church or any other group, reflect that? Not just the physical setting but the words and the music and the art and the parking and the ambiance and everything you can think of. What does this place and this organization call forth in you? In others?
- And, here's the third part – how can you design your congregation so that others are called to join and called to express their own passion and hopes for the world? What would you have to include? What would you need to work on/improve? What could be left behind?

I look forward to our Retreat (which I like to call a Forward) on September 15. We will be grappling with these and many other questions about calling and congregation then!

MarySue



*"How are you called?
Here's some homework before we meet on September 15th."
(See the three bullets to the left.)*

Board Bits ~ from the August 2013 Board meeting

"The Board decided to reinstitute an Endowment Committee that will establish guidelines for how gifts will be used."

The RRUU Board, at its August 8 meeting, passed a Board Covenant to govern the way board members have promised to interact with each other for the current church year. The Covenant can be found on the church [website](#).

Final plans were approved for the Congregational Retreat/Workshop on September 15. Breakfast will be at 9:30, and the workshop will run from 10:00-12:30. Lunch is at 12:30, and then the Board will continue discussion with the workshop facili-

tator until about 3:00 p.m. Further details appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Board decided to reinstitute an Endowment Committee (separate from the Finance Committee, with which it had been combined) and establish guidelines for how endowment money will be used in the future. The Endowment funds that the church had on deposit earlier were used to help buy and refurbish the current building. The Board decided to study, and possibly to revise, the church's Policies and Procedures manual over the next

few months.

The Board set September 21 (from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.) as the date for a church-wide garage-sale fundraiser. All members and friends of RRUU are asked to set aside items for donation to this church fundraiser, and to bring them to the church when announced in an upcoming e-news.

The beginning time for regular Board meetings is changed from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m. (still on the second Thursday of each month). As before, any member or friend of Red River UU is welcome at all Board meetings.
Elbert

The Yard Sale Cometh ~ September 21st

On Saturday, September 21, we are planning a church-wide yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We invite you to do the following.

Save things that we might use in the sale and bring them to the church on the previous Sunday. Please put stickers with prices on the items. We will want clothing and especially coat hangers that we can use to display clothing. We will have clothes racks.

Plan on helping with the sale, if you can. We will need people there early to set everything out. We will be providing hotdogs and drinks for those who help and those who purchase.

If you have expensive items that you would like to sell, we ask that you bring those items and sell them yourselves, so that you can handle your own negotiation with buyers. We ask that you plan on donating at least 10% of the sale or more

to the church, as you feel is appropriate. We have discussed putting expensive items on the veranda so that they have a bit more security.

This yard sale should be viewed as a chance to make a little money and meet our neighbors. Your input and help will be appreciated.

Contact [Gil and Marilyn Alexander](#)
580-283-3312, 580-980-1267

Treasurer's Report ~ A Monthly Update on our Finances

I'm very proud to be part of such a wonderful group of people who keep expenses down *and* are so generous.

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.

On a year to date basis, our net income from general operations continues to cover our year to date prin-

cipal 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 left from NTUUC 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

Children's Religious Education ~ Exploring, Learning, Growing!

If you have children, grandchildren, neighbors or friends who would be interested in learning more about our wonderfully diverse religion please bring them to church Sundays from 11:15-12:15. We will meet in the Emerson Room and may move to the crafts room upstairs.

September 1: This week's RE lesson and craft will teach us about the importance of being kind and in choosing friends who show kindness to others. We will brainstorm about "The Goose Story" and use markers to make a small mural.

September 8: Some religions believe there is more than one god, and this Sunday we will explore beliefs of Australian Aboriginal religions. The craft will be patterned after Aborigi-

nal painting.

September 15: Because of the all church workshop there will be no RE. Any children present will be supervised on the playground or inside, depending on the weather.

September 22: "The Boy Who Was Afraid to Try" will be read aloud and discussed and the craft will be to paint our feelings.

September 29: The lesson and craft will help us learn about earth centered religions, especially Native American. We will discuss and make a Medicine Wheel.

Of interest to us all: With the help of Lanan & Robert Shelton, two kids, Matisse and Hawk Dauenbaugh created two garden steps for our memorial garden. Here is a picture of their efforts or you can walk on them in the garden next to the playground.



D.R.E. Search

The Search is on - Again....

Most of you know that our new DRE, Lesli Dauenbaugh has moved due to Rick's job success.

Unfortunately they also took their children - the nucleus of our new RE program. Now we must find a new DRE (and some new children) and start again. Fortunately we have a grant from NTUUC to help us with that.

The DRE Search Committee needs your help. If you are interested in the position, or know anyone who is, please pass on this information. We need someone who is enthusiastic and eager to teach UU principles to children. Planning lessons and teaching every week is the core of the job description. Click [here](#) to apply by email or for more information.

We also need the help of every person at RRUU to recruit children for the program. Even now there are plans for every Sunday. Joyce Peak has offered to do the job while we search - up to four months. Please think about bringing your children, grandchildren, neighbor's children (Bring their parents too!) and any others you know. The space and the activities are ready and if you help us round them up, Joyce plans to make them want more!

KEEPING IT CLEAN ~ Everyone's Job!

We all need to remember that cleaning of the RRUU building is the responsibility of all the members. Essentially, it works this way. If you see something that needs to be done, please do it if you can. If it is something that requires more than what you can do, please tell Marilyn.

The things that members have taken on to handle themselves include, but are not limited to the following.

Dusting furniture, woodwork, fans and trim; vacuuming; cleaning bathrooms; emptying trash; washing windows, sweeping porches, cleaning kitchen; and cleaning refrigerator.

Additionally, donations have "magically" appeared that include paper towels, toilet paper, bath and kitchen cleaning supplies.

For all of this, we are grateful and know that it makes RRUU a more pleasant place for our congregation to meet.

RRAMS ~ Red River jam - why not check out the Red River Acoustic Music Society? They meet at church on Wednesday, Sept 18th @ 7 PM.

Meditation Group ~Sept 28th

Give yourself a special treat - meditation for an hour on Sept 28th from 12:30 - 1:30 PM. The meditation group sometimes sits in silence, sometimes meditates with guided music. Meditation relaxes you, increases your sense of calm and is lots cheaper than a massage! Hope to see you there!

Birthdays in September

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 02 Kaiden (Hawk) Dauenbaugh * | 26 Paula Blackshear |
| 04 Judy Donahue | 29 Kat Walston |
| 18 Gerry Shehan | 30 L.D. Clark |

About this month's Guest Speakers ~ Mark Gilman & Chuck Freeman



Mark Gilman serves as secretary of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is' of Dallas and is a member of the Regional Council of the Baha'is' of the Southeastern States. A world citizen with a life-

long interest in community building, he studied applied, urban anthropology at the University of Memphis and spent nine years serving in the secretariat of the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa, Israel. He embraced the Faith at age 17 while living in New Hampshire. He works as a public librarian in downtown Dallas, and is married to Harriet, whose father, Sam Ferguson, was born and raised in Denison. They have a daughter, Catherine.



The Rev. Chuck Freeman has been in the ministry since 1977 serving Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist congregations. He is the founding minister of the Free Souls Church in Round Rock, Texas. Chuck

is a founding member of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry and its Executive Director. He is also a certified Chaplain who has ministered in the Texas Medical Center in Houston and with Hospice Austin. He is the co-founder of Hospice Austin's Bereavement counseling program. Rev. Freeman is the creator, producer and host of the radio program "Soul Talk" which has been broadcasting since 1996. Chuck is a lively, reflective, down to earth man who combines irreverence, compassion, and a playful humor in his life and work

Booked For Lunch ~ Returns September 12th?

What have you been reading lately? Something wonderful, or interesting, or important? Is your leisure reading technical journals, or romance novels, smut?

Booked for Lunch - a book group that meets once a month with everyone talking about something they've been reading. We took the summer off (so we could read more) and the fun starts again on Thursday, September 12, at 12:30 PM in the Barton Parlor. The board meeting doesn't start until 2 PM, so we will have plenty of time to talk. We want to hear about what you've been reading. The conversation is always fun and this is a great way to find out about new authors and interesting books.

Iced tea and something sweet will be provided. You can bring a sandwich if you wish or eat before you come.

See you there, Carole

"The conversation is always fun & it's a great way to learn about interesting books."

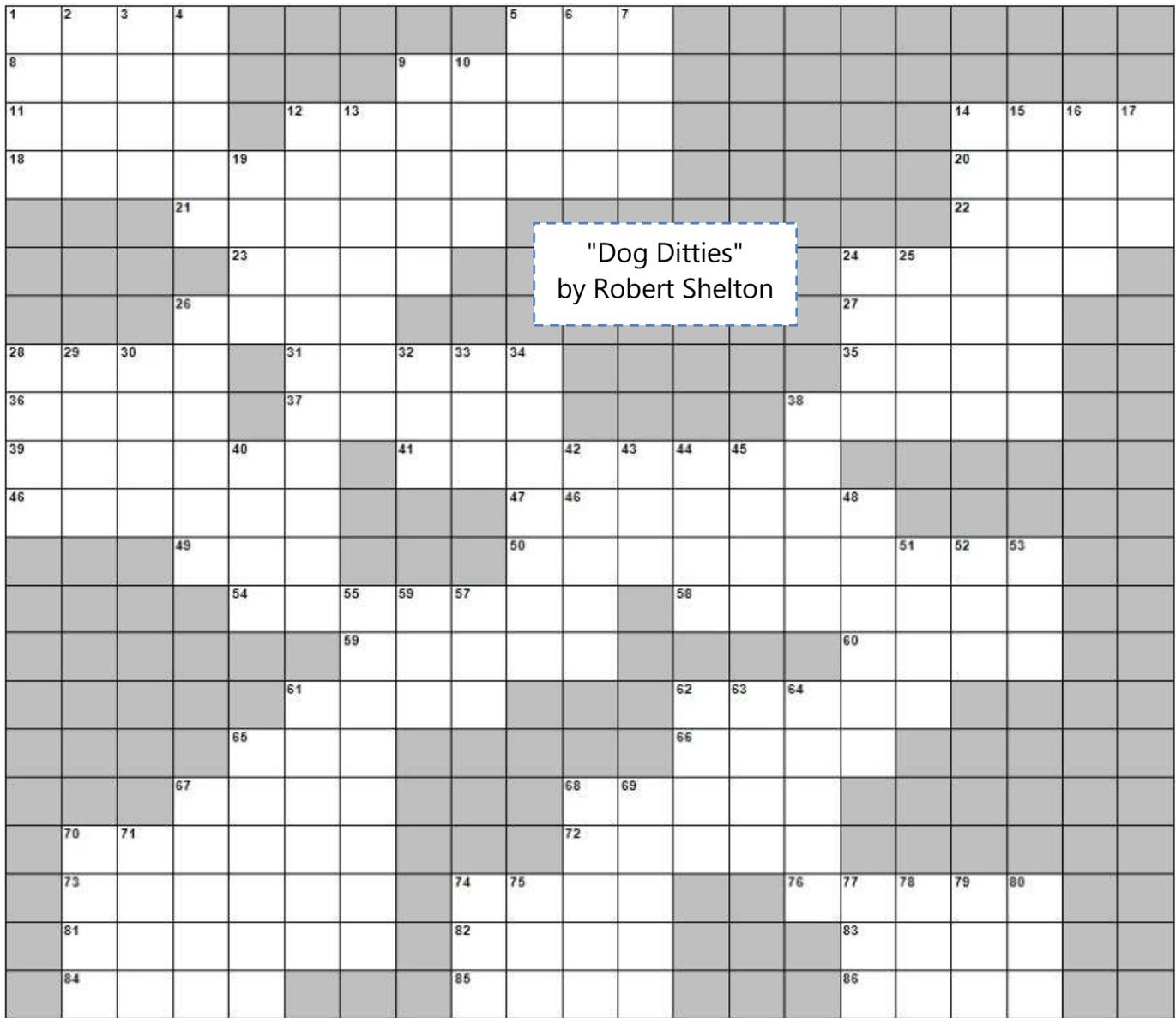
Know Anyone Thinking of Ministry?

Starr King School for the Ministry invites anyone who may be interested in attending seminary or theological graduate school to attend a virtual fair on September 18 from 9 - 5.

Since five ministers have come from our tiny congregation, we thought this unique opportunity was worth sharing. Starr King School for the ministry is excited to participate along with over 30 other school. Details at the link below:

[Seminary & Theological Grad School Virtual Fair on September 18, 2013.](#)





- ACROSS:**
- 1. calm
 - 5. southern state (abbr)
 - 8. in style of (music)
 - 9. porch
 - 11. demeanor
 - 12. encloses anew
 - 14. company heads (abbr)
 - 18. dog brain?
 - 20. head cover
 - 21. sweetners
 - 22. Denmark capitol
 - 23. openwork fabric
 - 24. salamanders
 - 26. sect
 - 27. French river
 - 28. corridor
 - 31. make wet
 - 35. monster aide
 - 36. buck stops here
 - 37. magistrate
 - 38. wind swept
 - 39. prayer formula
 - 41. primary dog?
 - 46. dog embrace?
 - 47. Corey Fieldman film
 - 49. electric _____
 - 50. dog jail?
 - 54. sevens
 - 58. made safe
 - 59. wash off
 - 60. lice
 - 61. hang
 - 62. golly!
 - 65. small bird
 - 66. buddies
 - 67. small shed
 - 68. erected
 - 70. misleads
 - 72. host
 - 73. attire
 - 74. tulip
 - 76. valued
 - 81. eights
 - 82. ocean home
 - 83. tear apart
 - 84. actress lone
 - 85. lager
 - 86. allot
- DOWN:**
- 1. summer retreat
 - 2. collection
 - 3. buttery spread
 - 4. estates
 - 5. pleat
 - 6. laze
 - 7. recess
 - 9. cursed
 - 10. art community
 - 12. royal dog?
 - 13. made happen
 - 14. dog oath?
 - 15. Asian
 - 16. paints
 - 17. packed house (abbr)
 - 19. oner
 - 24. hammer target
 - 25. therefore
 - 26. dress
 - 28. rope fiber
 - 29. Malaysian capitol
 - 30. extended
 - 32. unlit
 - 33. high note
 - 34. gym tools
 - 38. toots
 - 40. regrets
 - 42. hangman's loop
 - 43. Chinese measure
 - 44. _____ Sten
 - 45. nests
 - 48. noises
 - 51. novelist Leon
 - 52. seine
 - 53. dental degree (abbr)
 - 55. practice exams
 - 56. soft metal
 - 57. final
 - 61. dog scene?
 - 62. grand
 - 63. heavy wind
 - 64. change
 - 65. candy type
 - 67. _____ Sark
 - 68. _____ Starr
 - 69. reddish brown
 - 70. treats rudely
 - 71. fortune
 - 74. shirt protector
 - 75. avail
 - 77. limb
 - 78. golf gadget
 - 79. Tolkien tree
 - 80. Denison icon (abbr)

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*

Acting DRE: *Joyce*

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: *Gil*

Ways & Means: *Open*

Worship:

Carla, Dan, Doug, Faye, Marla

Out To Lunch ~ September 22nd

This month Out To Lunch, (our all-church, everyone's invited, we each pay our own fare) is heading to **Loose Wheels**, 4716 Pool Road, Denison.

Our reservation is for 12:40 PM.

According to their Facebook page: *Loose Wheels is a one-of-a-kind restaurant,*

private club and event center. Featuring outrageously delicious Texas cuisine - unmatched anywhere else. Our delicious signature dishes are guaranteed to put a little flavor in your attitude.

Everyone's warmly invited to come enjoy what sounds like an adventure in eating!



Moveable Feast ~ September 26th!

After a couple of months meeting in restaurants to enjoying an evening together, the Moveable Feast will gather at the home of Judy and Tom Donahue in Denison on Thurs. Sept 26th..

Anyone who is a part of RRUU can become part of our monthly gathering by contacting Marion and Elbert the facilitators and asking to join. (Click on their names below to send them an email.)

They can explain how the process works, since we have more people who participate the many hosts can handle.

Don't be shy. There is no better way to get to know folks than sharing a meal together.

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 the home of Judy & Tom Donahue on Thursday, September 26th. 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, is an informal book discussion group that is taking the summer off so we can all enjoy hours of leisure reading. Join in the conversation on 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 above for details. Email announcements@rruu.org if you have a restaurant suggestion.

mail to:
 PO BOX 1806
 DENISON, TX 75021-1806

How to reach us:
 Email: info@rruu.org
 Phone: 903.231.3232
 Web: www.rruu.org

Facebook:
 RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch
 (all one word)
 weekly E-News:
announcements@rruu.org

