



Red River Ramblings

In this issue:

**The
BIG
Event is on
June 8th**

**David Roth
Concert
June 14th**

**Spring
Meeting
Update**

**Move to
Amend**

**Plus Five
Fabulous
Sunday
Mornings!**

The Church Calendar
(click the image)



Come, Come, Whoever Your Are ~ and be home!

Sunday, June 1, 2014

The Spirituality of the Beatles

The Rev. Martin Woulfe, *preaching*
(on video)

On February 9, 1964 were you watching the Ed Sullivan Show? Do you remember all the screaming? Do you remember what they sang?

On Sunday we will celebrate The Beatles' music and watch a video sermon by the Rev. Martin Woulfe. Of his remarks he writes, *"This inter-generational service will explore the music and legacy of the Fab Four, who first arrived on our shores fifty years ago - what did they learn, what did they share, and what was the impact on our society?"*

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Get Together and Do Something

MarySue Foster, *preaching*

Years of exposure to social justice work and other Unitarian Universalist principles leaves some of us cause-fatigued. There is so much to do and so few resources. Where can we begin and what difference will it make anyhow? We'll look at some real life examples to see if we can make a template that will empower all of us, including those of us who mostly sit and cheer!

Remember

The Big Event

follows worship today

Sunday, June 15, 2014

The Gradual Dawn of Light

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

Herodotus, credited with being the father of history, wrote his immortal work because he wanted to "preserve past events from oblivion and to perpetuate the just renown that belonged to men of departed generations". On this Fathers Day, I wish to speak about one such father - our father, if you will and explain why I think it is important to do so. Whom, you may ask? Come and find out.

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Holmes, Doyle and Watson:

A Spiritual Balancing Act

D. Scott Cooper, *preaching*

How do we as UUs balance our experience of and emotional response to the "transcending mystery and wonder" with our respect for the "guidance of reason and the results of science?" What implications might this hold for how we approach the way we live our lives?

Sunday, June 28, 2014

As Much Light As Heat

The Worship Team, leading

This "mostly music" program celebrates the season of summer with words and music. Familiar musical selections rule the day, presented by members of the Worship Team and some well-known friends of the church. We will remind ourselves that, along with our famous heat, we are equally surrounded by wonderful Light. Plan to attend a program as refreshing as lemonade!



Epistle from Elbert

The biggest event coming up in our church is the Open House / Block Party / Picnic / Fan Drive / Book Signing on

June 8 after our regular church service, 1-3 p.m. It reminds me of my Baptist days, when we sometimes had a Sunday-afternoon event that we called "all-day singing and dinner on the grounds." (Dinner, as all good Southerners know, is the noontime meal.) For RRUU's event, we expect to have live music provided by the talented singers and musicians in our congregation, and I'm guessing the audience may sometimes be encouraged to sing along. (You won't be required to sing if your tune-carrying ability equals my own.) To volunteer your musical talent, contact Doug Strong (972-658-1188).

We'll also collect fans (box type or oscillating, whatever will keep someone cool in the Texas summer) for donation to a charity that distributes fans to needy individuals. And RRUU member Marion Hill will sell and sign copies of her new mystery novel (COOK THE BOOKS) to anyone interested (but no pressure to buy).

Please invite your friends and neighbors to come. We especially hope folks in our immediate neighborhood, including residents of Grayson County Shelter, will come and that we'll all get better acquainted. Congregation members and friends will provide the picnic edibles, so be sure to sign up with Carole Harner (903-436-6304), indicating what type of food you will bring (sandwiches, side dish, dessert or beverage).

We had a very helpful and necessary congregational meeting on May 18. In addition to approving the usual reports that everyone received by email before the meeting, and electing officers (slate submitted by the Nominating Committee elected by acclamation), we had a really useful and spirited conversation about ideas for fund-raisers and ways of letting people know about us and increasing our influence in the community.

Some of the suggestions included: a Service Auction, Visitor Sundays, Kayak Adventures, and an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. For those unfamiliar with Service Auctions, people offer a service or a product that one couldn't obtain elsewhere, such as: a place at a gourmet dinner prepared by one or more of the church's excellent cooks, a poem written just for the buyer, or tutelage in a skill such as playing a musical instrument. At a service auction RRUU had a few years ago, the church raised about \$1,200 and had lots of fun doing it. I bought a one-of-a-kind chalice Marla had made. Marion sold the right to name a character in her mystery novel that has just been published, and that character became a good addition to the story. This fall may be a good time to do another such auction, so be thinking of services you can contribute for fun and to benefit RRUU!

Tommi Homuth suggested that we designate one Sunday a month as Visitors Day, when all members and friends will make a special effort to invite acquaintances who might be interested in the liberal-church experience that RRUU offers. Tommi has agreed to be Greeter Coordinator, and she will work with Marion to develop the Visitors Day idea.

Gerry Shehan owns seven kayaks and is certified as a Master Naturalist, and he has offered to take groups (for instance, UU's from north Texas and beyond) on a nature adventure as a fund-raiser for RRUU. He would like volunteers from our church to go on a "trial run" to help him determine details such as the optimum length of time for such a trip. Anyone interested in helping Gerry develop the Kayak Adventures should get in touch with (903-870-8187).

Gil and Marilyn Alexander have offered to host church members and friends at an Ice Cream Social at their Two Bears Ranch near Colbert, OK, some time during the summer, date and time to be announced later.

Thanks to everyone for these inventive and fun ideas! I will work with new President Dan Althoff and the board on getting these ideas and other plans going during the upcoming year.

See you in church, everyone.

Elbert

The Big Event ~

Our Block Party, Picnic Book Signing and
Fan Collection
Sunday, June 8th from 1 - 3 PM

This unique event is the culmination of a wondrous brainstorming session at the May Board of Trustees meeting. It began with the idea of having a "focused" potluck picnic after the service where everyone could offer ideas about church growth. There was a lot of energy around the table and someone suggested we invite the neighbors and maybe our Little Free Library could be inaugurated. Then came the idea of using the event to remind the congregation of our commitment to collect fans for distribution to those in the community who don't have air conditioning. Inviting the neighborhood might mean we're having a "Block Party" more than a church picnic. "Great idea," everyone said! Later in the meeting, when it was announced that Marion Hill's new book is coming out any day, someone said, "A Book Signing would be terrific." The result of synergetic dialogue was clear. A multi-focused, all-church event!

So, it is that on Sunday, June 8th from 1-3 PM we will be hosting a Block Party & a Potluck Picnic & a Fan Collection & a Book Signing.

Anyone have a great idea about how we should decorate our church facade for our block party/picnic/fan collection/book signing? No one is suggesting anything elaborate, maybe some balloons decorating the yard, possibly a sign outside mentioning the block party? Just thinking about how to indicate to people in our neighborhood that something festive is going on June 8 and that they're all invited. All suggestions welcome!

We need some stuff:

- a container large enough to hold ice and drinks
- some music CD's that will draw folks
- help decorating on Sunday morning
- people to volunteer to clean up
- FOOD!!!

There is a sign up sheet in the upper foyer or you can email the church (info @ rruu dot org).

This will be a unique Sunday - starting with MarySue Foster leading worship! Ironic that her sermon title is **Get Together and Do Something!** She had no idea how appropriate her choice was. Do come.

Introducing our Speakers ~

for the month of June

The Rev. Martin Woulfe is the first full-time minister, at Abraham Lincoln UU Congregation in Springfield, IL. He grew up in Chicago and found UUism nearly thirty years ago. After ten years of active participation as a lay person, he decided to become a minister and was granted UU fellowship after completing training at Meadville Lombard Seminary.

MarySue Foster has more than 30 years' experience in community development. Her work has ranged from teaching, training and consulting, to serving as an executive with diverse groups. She loves language and inquiry. Her paper on Listening as a social construct won Best Paper award at the 2014 Conference for Global Transformation.

She earned a Master of Arts in Religious Leadership for Social Change in 2010 from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. She lives near her multi-cultural, multi-generational family of origin, volunteers widely, and plays seriously as a mixed media artist.

The Rev. Doug Strong is a sixth generation Unitarian Universalist who entered ministry after a career with the American National Red Cross. He retired from active ministry in 2003 having served congregations in California, Maine, Texas, Virginia, Arizona and Wisconsin. He earned his Masters of Divinity from Starr King School and in 1997, he co-founded Red River UU Church and continues to be an active lay member of the congregation.

D. Scott Cooper has been an active member of the First Unitarian Church of Dallas for nearly fifteen years. Poised to begin his third year of seminary at Brite Divinity School, Scott recently received the Walker Ministerial Scholarship for students preparing for the preaching ministry.

Scott lives in Oak Cliff with his husband Conrad and stepson Harrison.

Financial Update ~ from our church treasurer

In the month of April, we had income of \$3,264 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,050 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$1,214.

In April, we received a renovation donation of \$250. To install air conditioning on the top floor, we used the NTUUC grant of \$6,250 plus savings of \$2,734 for a total of \$8,984. (Additional costs for vents and insulation will occur later.) In addition, we had other grant expense of \$523 for worship and religious education in April.

For the year to date period of July 2013 through April 2014, we had net income of \$13,321 from operations, net expense from renovations of \$8,341, net grant expense of \$6,172 and principal payments of \$3,967. The total change in cash for the year to date period was a decrease of \$5,159. Operations expense was lower than budget for the year to date period, but that was offset by higher renovation expense.

As of the end of April 2014, we had cash of \$46,129 and debt of \$35,370. The cash amount includes \$2,003 reserved for renovations and \$4,129 reserved for grants. The amount reserved for grants was reduced in April to pay for air conditioning on the top floor.

In April we donated \$112 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Festival.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

Board Bits

~ From the May 2014 meetings.

At its May 8 meeting, the Board of Trustees of RRUU discussed plans for the June 8 neighborhood block party. (Details about the event appear elsewhere in this newsletter.) Everyone, let's invite friends and neighbors and make it a really fun get-together!

The board decided to auction off the stained-glass window which was discovered in the attic of our building when new heating and air-conditioning were added recently. Bids are currently open in a silent auction.

Doug mentioned that postings to the church's Face book page are not automatically going out to people who have "liked" the page. Gil volunteered to find out why.

Elbert Hill, President of the Congregation

Welcome Leaders

~ Elected at the May 18th meeting

Dan Althoff - *president of the congregation*

Robert Shelton - *Treasurer*

L.D. Clark - *Nomination Committee*

Gerry Shehan - *Committee on Ministry*

Carole Harner - *Committee on Ministry*

They will assume their posts on July 1st, the start of the fiscal year.

Thanks for your outstanding work - to our outgoing leaders

Elbert Hill - president

Marla Loturco - past president

Carole Harner - Treasurer

Tx UU Justice Ministry ~ Lobby Day, Jan 20, 2015

The Texas UU Justice Ministry is working on creating a "Lobby Day" during the next Tx legislative session. It is our opportunity to help shape the decisions that will be made by our elected representatives. Here's a tentative outline of the day:

Purpose - Lobby day for UU's from all over the state of Texas. Opportunity to connect with one's elected officials and begin the dialog on our top 3 legislative issues of Women's Reproductive Justice, Medicaid Expansion, and Economic Justice/Inequality.

Date - January 20, 2015. The session starts on the 13th. Many legislators arrive on Monday and leave early on Friday during the beginning of the session. Therefore we think Tuesday will be a good day.

Location - **We are working with** Donna Howard's office to reserve a room in the Capitol Annex or Cafeteria for us to gather.

Agenda: Here is the possible schedule.

8:30 to 10:30 am. – Chuck would introduce the plans for the day and present our key legislative issues, (1) Women's

reproductive justice, (2) Medicaid expansion, and (3) Economic justice. Then we would have presentations from supportive legislators like Donna Howard and Kirk Watson about the legislative process and the upcoming session expectations. Rev. Carlton Smith (UUA Regional staff for social justice) could tie our issues into the larger regional/national picture. Karen Neeley (1st UU Austin, lobbyist for local Texas banks) would do a quick briefing on how to handle legislative meetings, the importance of staff, and follow up. We can possibly try a little role playing. Understand the importance of the "ask": Can we count on you to support these issues?!

11 to 3 – legislative meetings. Each participant should try to schedule a meeting with his/her representative and senator in advance. If that is not possible, try drop by. Visit with staff if legislator is not available. Leave behind our one-pager on our issues.

3:30 – 4:30 – Fellowship, checking in and adjourn. Try to reserve space at First Methodist Church Family Life Center. Have snacks and coffee. Participants report back on results of meetings.

Move to Amend ~ A sermon follow up.



Amend the Constitution: Corporations are not Persons and Money is not Speech

2013 Action of Immediate Witness

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human person, and in the use of the democratic process in society at large, and because approval of the 2011 AIW opposing Citizens United paved the way for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to take the spiritual lead in the passage of a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not persons and money is not free speech;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly encourages [Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries](#) nation-

wide and other affiliated Unitarian Universalist organizations to join this important cause. Working together with other groups and other faith traditions, we can make a significant impact to further the progress of a constitutional amendment to preserve the constitutional rights that our founding fathers intended solely for human persons, restore the effective voice of the people, and save our democracy.

You can see the complete text of the Action of Immediate Witness [here](#).

Watch the 30 minutes Legalize Democracy film [here](#).



David Roth in Concert ~ June 14th @ 4 pm

The Adult Forum

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday in the Barton Parlor at 10 am. We gather informally to discuss topics of interest - religious, spiritual, ethical or current. Topics are generally in 'sets' including *Building Your Own Theology* or from *The Great Courses*.

Booked for Lunch

I'd like to thank everyone who has attended our meetings this year. We've had some great conversations. During the summer we'll be taking a break. Keep reading and plan to tell us all about it in the fall.

Carole

The Meditation Group

Has decided not to continue meeting for a while. If interest in having a meditation group resurfaces we will try again.

Moveable Feast

The June Moveable Feast will gather at Cylvia and David Lawrence's home in Van Alstyne on Thursday, June 5th @ 6 p.m. Please let Marion Hill know if you haven't yet confirmed so we have a head count to tell the Lawrences.

Out to Lunch

This month's Out to Lunch will be the Big Event on June 8th (See details on page 3 of this newsletter). Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and support this community outreach idea.

where song, spirit and speaking meet ...

David Roth in concert



"David and his music will touch you to the depth of your soul. He'll make you laugh and cry, inspire you to rise and fly."

Jack Canfield, co-author
Chicken Soup for the Soul

"David has reached our hearts. With voices like his still singing, there's a certainty that the candle will remain lit, the hope reasserted and the dream still sung."

Peter Yarrow
(Peter, Paul & Mary)

Saturday,
June 14, 2014
4 PM

Tickets \$15.
at the door

followed by an optional
Community Potluck Supper
(bring a dish to share. Your food contribution
is your ticket to the dinner.)

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
515 N. Burnett Ave
Denison

DavidRothMusic.com



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

Team Leaders or Team:

Adult Forum: *Joyce*

Aesthetics Team:

Bruce, Joyce, Maura, Paula

Building/Grounds: *Marilyn*

Communications: *Doug*

Chalice coordinator: *Open*

DRE: *Joyce*

Finance: *Dan*

Good Times: *Carole,*

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:

Dan, Doug, Faye, Marla



From *The Simpsons*'s episode "I'm Going to Praiseland"

Lisa, listing the ice creams at Rev. Lovejoy's table: "Wow, look at all these flavors! Blessed Virgin Berry, Commandmint, Bible Gum..."

Rev. Lovejoy, handing her a bowl:

"Or, if you prefer, we also have Unitarian ice cream!"

Lisa, peering into the bowl:

"There's nothing here."

Rev. Lovejoy, crossing his arms smugly: "Exactly."

Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle is on sabbatical leave having completed the 6th Annual Earth Day Festival. Facilitator: [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle meets, generally, once a month. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

OMMMM... Meditation Group, meets the last Sunday of each month @12:35 in the Chapel, but is temporarily, at least, not meeting.. 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 meets the second Thursday from 11 - 1. Facilitator: [Carole Harner](#). They will be taking the summer off.

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. Email announcements@rruu.org if you have a restaurant suggestion.

RED RIVER

Unitarian Universalists

515 North Burnett Ave
 Denison, TX 75021

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

