



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalists ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 21, No. 10 ♦ March 2020

Sunday, March 1, 2019 ~ 11:15 am

Living Our Faith Out Loud

The Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, *preaching (video message)*

In the midst of these defining and tumultuous times, when so much is on the line, we must ask “How can we live the values of compassion, justice, democracy and interdependence in bold, courageous ways that have the power to make a measurable difference today and for the future?” Dr. Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association preached in Dallas. We will view her remarks on Sunday.

Sunday, March 8, 2019 ~ 11:15 am

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS TODAY

The Hartshorne/Brightman Correspondence: A Unitarian Universalist Philosopher and Methodist Philosopher in Dialogue

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *preaching*

This talk will explore one of the most significant philosophical correspondences of the 20th Century comprised of a sustained 23 year dialogue (1922-1945) between UU philosopher Charles Hartshorne and Methodist philosopher Edgar S. Brightman. Hartshorne was one of the leading proponents of process philosophy, and Brightman was the most prominent Boston personalist philosopher of his time and had significant influence on the thought and worldview of Martin Luther King Jr. Topics of the correspondence include their views on knowledge, the nature of reality, social responsibility, justice, and peace.

Sunday, March 15, 2019 ~ 11:15 am

Our Universalist Roots and Branches

The Rev. Kalen Fristad, *preaching*

A sermon focusing on roots and branches of Universalism starting with John Murray, who came to believe in Universalism in England. He came to America in 1770 and preached the first sermon on universal salvation in a chapel built by local farmer Thomas Potter, and subsequent spread of Universalism up until the present time.

Sunday, March 22, 2019 ~ 11:15 am

Managing Disturbing Emotions

The Venerable Tashi Nyima, *speaking*

What are emotions? How do they arise? How are they sustained? The Ven. Tashi Nyima will share a practical approach to managing emotions.

Sunday, March 29, 2019 ~ 11:15 am

FIFTH SUNDAY ALL CHURCH POTLUCK TODAY

Renegade and Other Poems

Ron Wallace, *presenting*

Oklahoma poet Ron Wallace returns for his third Poetry Sunday with us. This visit he brings his latest book *Renegade and Other Poems*, winner of the 2018 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry. Wallace, an English instructor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, has authored eight poetry books, three of which were finalists for Oklahoma Book Awards. His work has appeared in numerous magazines and journals. He was a 2016 nominee for the Pushcart Prize and the winner of the 2016 Songs of Eretz Poetry Review Prize.

Speaker's biographical information available on our website > [Upcoming Morning Assemblies](#)

Jim's Jabber



For those that missed the Sunday assembly on February 23rd, you missed a great presentation by James Smith. James and his wife Barbara bought our building in 1971 and created the Smith Memorial Chapel. In 1962 they added the chapel to the building and until they sold the house in 1996 they lived on the second floor with their three children. James was the first American of Color to operate a funeral home in Grayson County.

OUR ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER was on February 27th. David Dyer was this year's awardee of the ***Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award***. Congratulations, David - a well deserved recognition of the many things you've done to enhance our church (see below).

Also at the appreciation dinner we thanked everyone for what they do to support all the activities that Red River needs/does. I showed a series of slides on all the different committees, teams, and programs we do. The list is over 40 and I know I missed a few (my apologies). In addition, I sent out emails to many of the teams and committees asking from each an estimate on how many volunteer hours they put in during a

year. Adding all these numbers together as well as plugging in some estimates for emails I either didn't send out or those that did not respond, I got just over 5000 hours that we spend in volunteer time per year. If we paid \$10/hr for this time that's over \$50,000 which is more than our annual budget of \$44,479. This is a small church of just over 50 members and it takes a lot in money and volunteer hours to make us successful. Thank you everyone for making this happen and contributing to our success.

Planning for the April 18th Earth Day Festival is well underway. We are still looking for volunteers. We will also have a Red River booth at the festival and will need volunteers to help staff the booth for the day. See Amy, Marla or me if you are interested. This is a most visible outreach program that Red River sponsors and it is a golden opportunity to get the word out about who we are to the Texoma community.

The beginning of February we received a grant from NTUUC to help cover the cost of upgrading our security camera system and to add video streaming to our Sunday assemblies. I'm still getting some final quotes and refining the budget for this project and hope to start on it soon. I am looking for at least 2 people interested in becoming the video streaming techs so contact me if you are interested.

See ya'll in church, soon.

Jim

David Dyer Honored

Jim Holmes, the 2019 Awardee did the honors of announcing this year's recipient of Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award during the Appreciation Dinner: We selected this person because they are always available to help. They have served on several committees and when we have a difficult time finding people for various committee duties, they make themselves available. In addition, when we need help in cleaning, repairing, or remodeling this person often steps up to volunteer their time and skills and gets the job done. By now, most of you have guessed that I am speaking of **David Dyer**, this year's awardee of the *Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award*.

David's current position is the Secretary on the Board of Trustees. I think David would be the first to admit that he prefers working with his hands over taking minutes and typing them into a computer document. This was evident to the Board when he presented his first minutes, hand carved on wood tablets. A beautiful work of art but David is not the best speller (or maybe the chisel auto correct feature let him down) so the tablets didn't work out so well. After a crash course on word processing on the computer David now does an excellent job as the Board Secretary. He always

says yes and when he steps in to do the task, you know it will be done correctly. Here's a list of just a few of David's accomplishments: Carpeted the second floor; Remodeled the restroom off the upper lobby; created our 2 stages & often hauls off whatever needs hauling.

Its with great love and respect that we name you the 2020 awardee of the *Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award*. It was a wonderful way to conclude our annual Appreciation Dinner.



Moveable Feast

At 5 o'clock on **Thursday, March 5**, Moveable Feast will be a finger food potluck. This is so you can eat and play a really fun game that gives no advantage to the intellectually superior. If you like games, you'll like it. If you hate games, you'll like it! It starts at 5 on the 5th (in case you forgot).

Forum Starts a New Series



In 1965, Rev. James Reeb was killed in Selma, Alabama. Reeb was a Unitarian Universalist minister, and activist during the Civil rights movement in Washington, D.C. and Boston, MA.. While participating in the Selma to Mont-

gomery marches actions in Selma, Alabama, in 1965, he was murdered by white segregationists, dying of head injuries in the hospital two days after being severely beaten.

Three men were tried for Reeb's murder, but no one was ever convicted. His murder remains unsolved.

Fifty years later, two journalists from Alabama return to the city where it happened, expose the lies that kept the murder from being solved and uncover a story about guilt and memory that says as much about America today as it does about the past.

NPR turned their story into a 7-part podcast that the Adult Forum began listening to on Feb 16th. Discussion follows each episode.

[Listen](#) to the two-minute introduction about the series and scroll through the visuals at the [White Lies](#) website.

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday morning from 10 - 10:50 am in the Barton Parlor. Visitors and newcomers are warmly invited to drop in.

Earth Day Planning

The committee will meet twice in March - Tuesday **March 10** and Tuesday **March 24 at 6:30** in the chapel. Plans are progressing for the 12th annual festival. Rev. Mark Davies will be the keynote speaker. We are cosponsoring a Freecycle event

with Freecycle of Sherman/Denison. We have added an art bicycle event and parade, sponsored by the Austin College student art club. We have located an electronic waste recycler that will take a wider range of materials than we have been able to accept in past years, plus the event is open to businesses and does not impose any limits on quantities. We have a lead on a glass recycler that we hope to firm up this week.

We could use assistance with sales of ads on our shopping bags and in securing more cash sponsors.

Red River UU ~

The Reason Earth Day is in Texoma

Children's Clothing Swap

Saturday, March 14th

Noon - 4 pm

For every article of clothing you bring, you may take home just as many.

We have all youth sizes.

Bring items anytime during the day of the swap.

Shoes, belts, and bibs are also accepted.



Looking for ways to be more involved at church but aren't ready for an ongoing volunteer commitment? How about helping with the Children's Clothing Swap? The setup is Saturday morning. All the clothing left from the previous swap has been carefully sorted and is in separate plastic tubs which makes it easy to put out. CASHIER needed, INTAKE person needed and of course there is always the clean up afterwards. Contact [Adrian](#) for details.

Indivisible Immigration Initiative

The Indivisible Immigration Initiative meets on **Tues, Mar 24 @ 6:30**. Check the wednesdayUPDATE for location, as it hasn't been decided yet.

We get to eat!

Cass Brigham; Dan Althoff; Darlene McKinnell; and Marilyn Anweiler all *volunteered* to join various Good Times teams! Now all 4 teams are full. Did you miss out? You could join the Trash Troop! (Signup on the foyer bulletin board.)

March Birthdays

A busy month for birthdays!

- ★ 12 Jan Fletcher
- ★ 14 Marilyn Alexander
- ★ 14 Faye Shadrick
- ★ 19 Carole Harner
- ★ 21 William Lloyd Fridley
- ★ 22 Elbert Hill
- ★ 23 Andrea Mory
- ★ 25 Lanan Shelton

Were you a March baby but not listed? That's because the church database does not have your birth month and day (no years please ❤️) You can add yours by sending a message to the church via our social media -Facebook, App, Website.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of January, we had total receipts of \$1,520.45. Expenses for the month totaled \$4,428.84, which included \$2,743.11 spent on building improvements and maintenance. The rear entrance and the top floor are now looking great! The result was an excess of expenditures over receipts for the month of January of \$2,908.39. It is worth noting that for the year to date (thru 1/31/2020) we have an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$15,254.36

As of January 31, 2020, we had \$6,935.94 available in checking, a total of \$66,983.22 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,645.47 in Certificates of Deposit.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is working behind the scenes in preparation for the upcoming congregational meeting and elections to the Board of Directors, Committee on Ministry and Nominating Committee. The committee has one suggestion for a minor change in the bylaws. Any current member of the congregation who is interested in becoming more involved in congregational leadership is invited to speak to any member of the committee. The current committee members are Amy Hoffman-Shehan, LD Clark and Kelly Dyer.

Fifth Sunday Potluck



The second 5th Sunday In 4 Lunch potluck is March 29th. Plan on bringing a dish to share and linger following Ron Wallace's morning of Cowboy Poetry. Ron has been with us twice in the past and is always a pleasant experience. Good food, great conversations!

Well Done Ellie

Recently the church received the announcement of the UU – UNO (Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office) annual intergenerational spring seminar. It is Apr 15-18 and held at the United Nations. The theme is *All In for Climate Justice* and Ellie Dyer expressed interest in going. We needed to find an adult sponsor (for legal reasons under 18 can't attend without a sponsor) and working with First Church in Dallas we located a wonderful family who is going, and they agreed to oversee Ellie.

Ellie is no stranger to beyond school activities. OK schools offer several academic curriculum contests and she placed 3rd in American literature and 2nd place in World literature at the Ada location and 1st place in American literature at the Murray location. Next stop: State Finals!

Ellie is a member of the Colbert choir and sings in an ensemble and as a soloist. The ensemble received a perfect score of 1 for their rendition of the African American spiritual *Hold On*. As half of a duet that sang *Ubi Caritas* they received another perfect score of 1 and lastly, Ellie performed a solo singing *The Violet* and received a third perfect score of 1. She, along with the choir, will be advancing to the state choir competition.

Ellie – you have the love and admiration of an entire congregation going with you on your upcoming adventures.

Circles & Interest Groups

Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.

EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE ~ meets Mar 10 & 24. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event are invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Amy Hoffman-Shehan, facilitator

FLEDGLING CHOIR ~ a small group of people who like to sing and are hoping to encourage other singers to join us. When we rehearse, it is Sunday after the assembly. Not singing now - need more voices!

MOVEABLE FEAST ~ a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. The Feasters meet monthly and may gather in someone's home, at a restaurant, or church. Marion and Elbert Hill, facilitators

WEB OF LIFE MONARCH WAYSTATION ~ a new group in the planning stages right now, to tenderly love our monarch waystation and to help spawn more gardens at other locations. Linn Cates, facilitator..

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Lisa Cates, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
David Dyer, *Secretary*
Sabra Jones, *Trustee*
Helen Schulze, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco

Nominating:

Kelly Cofield Dyer, L.D. Clark, Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: Sabra
Aesthetics: Carol, Doug, Joyce
Caring Circle: Kelly
Communications: Doug
Endowment: Carolyn, Dick, Doug
Facilities: Jim (until we find someone)
Finance: Jim, Dick, Doug
Grounds: Marilyn
Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn, Robert, Ronda
Membership: Marion
NTUUC Rep: Marla
RE Team: Tommi
Safe Congregation Panel: Dan
Social Action:
Welcoming Congregation:
Worship: Adrian, Doug, Marla, Dan, Robert

Contact Us

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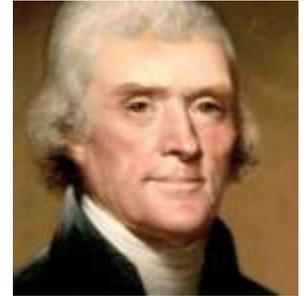
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Heretic of the Week: Thomas Jefferson

In each week's issue of [The Catholic Herald](#) author Charles Coulombe writes a column called Heretic of the Week. His Heretics ~ Our Heroes!

Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826) is a world-renowned figure. Founding Father, author of the Declaration of Independence, ambassador, first secretary of state, third president of the United States, founder of the University of Virginia, inventor, farmer – the list goes on. To this day, his Virginia plantation, Monticello, is a shrine of sorts. But what is less well known (and our current interest) are the religious beliefs of the famed statesman.



On one level, Jefferson was a conventional Anglican/Episcopalian, as was expected in the planter class into which he was born. Baptised, married, and buried with Anglican rites, he never belonged to any other denomination, and was a vestryman of his home parish. He was a regular worshipper at churches of that denomination in Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Philadelphia and Washington.

But that attendance was about as far as his adherence to the Church of England or its American daughter went. His theology was very different from that of either high church or low church in his day or ours.

Jefferson first began to doubt conventional Christianity while a student at Williamsburg's William and Mary College. Deism, with its rejection of Christ's divinity, the Trinity, miracles and indeed any kind of a personal God, was very much in the air.

In time Jefferson came to absorb all of these denials, save the last (to some degree).

He came to believe that most of Christianity was a sort of Platonism grafted on to what he considered the "primitive religion of Jesus" – primarily to benefit the priesthood; for this reason, he conceived a particular hatred of Catholicism and a suspicion of most clerics of any kind. In 1820 he published a Bible of his own, with all the miraculous elements of the Gospels excised, calling himself Unitarian (though he never joined a Unitarian church).

