



Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2007

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
...a home for religious liberals in Southern Oklahoma and North Texas

A Month of Sundays

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August 5

Rev. Jennifer Innis

"The Summer Question: How Do We Live?"

The season of the most growth, the most life, and the most light is starting to come to a close. What shall be the first harvest of the year? Consider this quote from Betty Smith: "Look at everything as though you were seeing it for the first time or the last time. Then your time on earth will be filled with glory."

August 12

Tobin Baird - Marion Hill - John Ockels RRUU 2007 DBLE Graduates

"Pure Hope: The Religion of All Youth"

Since 1999, August 12th has been celebrated by the United Nations as International Youth Day. This year's theme is **BE SEEN, BE HEARD: YOUTH PARTICIPATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**. It is in the spirit of this day that we invite you to come celebrate Pure Hope, the natural religion of the young and of the young at heart -- and the basis for faith.

August 19

The Rev. Christine Tata

Sermon: TBA

Although she has not been in the RRUU pulpit for several years, the Rev. Christine Tata of Dallas has been a good friend to RRUU and one of our most popular speakers in the past. Although she has yet to nail down her sermon topic, with a background that includes theatrical performance and playwriting, ordained parish ministry and teaching literature at the college-level, Christine has never failed to inspire, challenge and, even, entertain, us!

August 26

Ms. Scottie McIntyre-Johnson and Friends

"Water, Water Everywhere"

A N I N T E R - GENERATIONAL WATER COMMUNION SERVICE

It's time for our annual Water Communion service! Come celebrate the end-of-summer and learn a little about the symbolism of water for human beings. The children will remain in the sanctuary for the entire service, which will be slightly shorter than usual. YOU ARE INVITED TO BRING A SMALL SAMPLE OF WATER YOU COLLECTED DURING YOUR VACATION TRAVELS THIS SUMMER OR FROM YOUR HOME TO POUR INTO OUR COMMON BOWL. This water will then serve as our "holy water" to be used in Child Dedication Ceremonies and other services during the coming year.



Worship & Children's Religious Education 11:15am

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Schedule of Events

- Aug 2 -Being Peace afternoon
- Aug.4 -NAACP Banquet
- Aug 5 -Order NTAUUS/RRUU Shirts
- Aug 6 -Being Peace evening
- Aug 8 -Board Meeting
- Aug 9 -Being Peace afternoon
- Aug 12 -Order Deadline For NTAUUS/RRUU Shirts
- Aug 13 -Being Peace evening
- Aug 14 -Evensong
- Aug 16 -Texoma Earth Day Conference
- Aug 16 -Being Peace afternoon
- Aug 17 -Red River Earth Spirit
- Aug 20 -Being Peace evening
- Aug 21 -Green Team
- Aug 23 -Being Peace afternoon
- Aug 24 -A Moveable Feast
- Aug. 26 -Water Communion and End-of-summer Picnic
- Aug 27 -Being Peace evening
- Aug 30 -Being Peace afternoon
- Aug 31 -The Reel Deal

Coming up real soon...

September:

- Sep 9 -Ingathering breakfast and worship service
- Sep 16 -Religious education classes resume
- Sep 23 -Congregational meeting on building process

October:

- Oct 21 -Association Sunday
- Dist. Exec. Rev. Susan Smith speaking
- Congregational workshop led by Rev. Smith

This Month's Worship Leaders

The Rev. Jennifer Innis has served UU congregations in Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Alabama, and South Carolina, both as a pastor and as a religious educator. She is currently serving as Consulting Minister for both RRUU and for the UU Fellowship of Midland, Texas. Jennifer was raised as a Unitarian Universalist, granted a Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School and ordained by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, Massachusetts. She now lives in Plano, Texas, with her spouse, the Rev. Patrick Price, minister of Community Unitarian Universalist Church. In July, Jennifer served as one of the two chaplains for our UU District's High School Youth Camp held at Lake Murray, Oklahoma.

Tobin Baird, Marion Hill and John Ockels were RRUU's 2007 participants in the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, held July 15-20 on the Austin College campus. DBLE is our UU District's intensive adult leadership training program. Areas of Unitarian Universalist leadership explored at DBLE were the Health and Vitality of Congregations, Religious Leadership, UU Faith Development and Worship and Personal Spiritual Growth and Development. Our three 2007 DBLE participants represented RRUU extremely well and made significant contributions to the DBLE community during the week. In their "not-at-church" lives, Tobin teaches at Belden Street Montessori School; Marion is a published author of mystery novels; and John is the director of the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center, which provides training to law enforcement officers on environmental issues.

The Rev. Christine Tata, who is currently working in Human Resources at UT Southwestern Medical Center, has enjoyed several other careers in her life: actor, playwright, proofreader, college professor, and pastor. Ordained in the United Church of Christ, her most recent ministry experience was as associate pastor for worship and spiritual development at Pathways Church, our Unitarian Universalist congregation in Southlake, Texas. She and her husband, Chet, have a grown daughter who manages an art gallery in Austin and a son who is a pitcher for the Detroit Tigers organization. They make their home in Dallas, where Christine enjoys books and Boggle, science fiction and crossword puzzles, Dove chocolate and good strong coffee. Not necessarily in that order.

Scottie McIntyre Johnson is a founding member of RRUU, a past president of the congregation and current coordinator of the RRUU Worship Arts Team. Having retired from a long career in Montessori education, Scottie will soon begin her second year as a student at Perkins School of Theology (SMU), in preparation for the ordained UU ministry. Scottie has been a member of the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference Board of Trustees and has served as the Dean of our UU District's adult leadership school, the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, for six years. She is a recipient of the Alfred von Stille Award for outstanding contributions by a lay leader to promoting the growth of Unitarian Universalism in the Southwestern Conference.

More About August 26!

WATER COMMUNION

AND INTER-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 11:15 A.M.

You are invited to bring a small sample of water from your summer travels or from your home to pour into a common bowl, to represent our coming back together as church community at the end of summer.



END-OF SUMMER INDOOR PICNIC

After worship on August 26

Fried chicken, beverages and ice cream

will be provided. Bring picnic-like side dishes.

PLEASE COME!



Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage...

Recently someone asked about the various religious symbols depicted in the beautiful art work adorning the wall behind our pulpit. The painting features nine different world's faiths. It was created by local artist and former RRUU member Vivian Pitts. Here's a very brief synopsis of each – provided by the Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance.

(www.religioustolerance.org)



Tao (pronounced "Dow") in English means path, or the way. It is basically indefin-able. It has to be experienced. It "refers to a power which envelops, surrounds and flows through all things, living and non-living. The Tao regulates natural processes and nourishes balance in the Universe. It embodies the harmony of opposites so there would be no love without hate, no light without dark.



Hinduism does not have a single founder, a specific theological system, a single system of morality, or a central religious organization. Most forms of Hinduism are henotheistic religions. Hinduism is generally regarded as the world's oldest organized religion and has grown to become the world's third largest religion. Henotheistic and polytheistic religions have traditionally been among the world's most religiously tolerant faiths.



Judaism is an Abrahamic religion -- faiths which recognize Abraham as a Patriarch. Others include Christianity Islam, and the Baha'i Faith. Although Jews comprise only about 0.2% of the human race, Jewish influence on the world has been vast -- far more than their numbers would indicate. For example currently 1/3 of all US Foreign Aid is given to Israel --.001% of the world's population.



Jainism is a syncretistic religion, which contains many elements similar to Hinduism and Buddhism. The world's almost 4 million Jains are almost entirely located in India. Jains believe the universe exists as a series of layers, both heavens and hells. It had no beginning and will have no ending. Everyone is bound within the universe by one's karma (the accumulated good and evil that one has done). They follow 5 principles: Non violence; Truth speaking; No stealing; Monogamy; and Detachment – restricting one's needs, having few material possession, avoiding overindulgence . They are vegetarians.



Unitarian Universalism is an unusual religious organization. Unlike most religions in North America, it does not require its members to adhere to a specific set of beliefs. Its membership includes individuals who identify themselves as Agnostics, Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Humanists, Wiccans, or other religious tradition. Many inter-faith couples find it to be a comfortable religious home. UUs view the main function of the congregation as facilitating the spiritual quest of its members. Their influence on the culture is far beyond what one would expect from their numbers.



Christianity is currently the largest religion in the world (33% of all people) -- a percentage that has remained stable for decades. There is a vast diversity of Christian beliefs: from very conservative to very liberal believers. A "Christian" includes any group or individuals who seriously, devoutly, prayerfully describes themselves as Christian. Under this definition, Christianity includes: Roman Catholics, Southern Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, United Church members, even a small minority of Unitarian Universalists. 75% of Americans identify themselves as Christian.



Sikhism was founded by Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, (1469-1538) who received a vision to preach the way to enlightenment and God. He taught a strict monotheism, the personhood of humanity. He rejected idol worship, and the oppressive Hindu concept of caste. The name of the religion means learner. It is often mispronounced 'seek' Correctly said is 'se-ikh', with the final 'kh' sound like the 'kh' in Mikhail Gorbachev.



Buddhism has the characteristics of what would be expected in a cosmic religion for the future: it transcends a personal God, avoids dogmas and theology; it covers both the natural & spiritual, and it is based on a religious sense arising from the experience of all things from the experience of all things, natural and spiritual, as a meaningful unity. Buddhism was founded in Northern India by the first known Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama in 535 BCE



Islam is a monotheistic, Abrahamic religion. Its central tenant is the belief that "there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger." The four other "Pillars" of Islam are the requirements to perform ritual prayers five times a day, to give alms to the poor, to fast during the month of Ramadan, and to make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in one's life, if possible. Currently the world's second largest religion, Islam may become its most popular by mid-century. As with Christianity, individual Islamic sects and individual Muslims hold varying beliefs ranging from radically conservative to moderate to relatively liberal.

Chalice Circle News

Chalice Circles are small groups of people who meet regularly for the purpose of getting to know one another while learning, discussing, and acting on topics of common interest. You do not have to be a member of RRUU to attend these small groups; Chalice Circles are always open to new participants. If you are interested in attending a particular circle, please contact the Chalice Circle Coordinator, Scottie McIntyre Johnson (903-892-4751; scottieone@cableone.net) who can give you more information and directions to the various meeting places.

BEING PEACE, A Meditation Circle. (Evening Session) Facilitator: Kathy Whisman. Meets every Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. @ the church. NEW MEDITATORS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP.

BEING PEACE, A Meditation Circle (Afternoon Session) Facilitator: Nell Evans. NOTE NEW DAY & TIME: Meets every Thursday afternoon from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. @ the home of Nell Evans in Sherman. NEW MEDITATORS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP.

EVENSONG, A Spiritual Deepening Circle. Facilitator: Scottie McIntyre Johnson. Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. @ various homes. Next meeting: Tues. August 14 @ the home of Kathleen Campbell in Sherman. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, BUT PLEASE CONTACT SCOTTIE FIRST TO FIND OUT THE DISCUSSION TOPIC.

Being Peace Meditation Circles

Two Mindfulness Meditation Circles meet each week: on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 at the church and on Thursday afternoons from 12:15 to 1:15 at the home of Nell Evans. NOTE NEW DAY AND TIME FOR AFTERNOON CIRCLE!

This chalice circle will teach you how to tap into the relaxation response and develop techniques for modifying the running monologue in your mind. You will learn how to bring awareness to your most automatic responses and how to use the breath to control stress in your day-to-day life.

You are advised to wear comfortable clothes. Meditation may be done sitting or lying down. If you want to lie down, you may want to bring a quilt or blanket. We will initially learn several techniques and will practice as a group. There will be some time for discussion of things that may come up as you practice. will require about 20 minutes a day outside of the meeting, although this commitment is not necessary for participating in the meditation circles.

THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator: Linn Cates. Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30. @ the home of Linn Cates in Sherman. Next Meeting: Tues. August 21. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, A Circle of Parents Supporting Parents. Facilitator: Dianna Butler. Next Meeting: TBA. FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ALWAYS WELCOME!

A MOVEABLE FEAST, A Cooking and Eating Circle. Facilitators: Elbert & Marion Hill. Meets at moveable times and moveable places! Next Meeting: Friday, August 24, 6:30 p.m. @ the Metropolitan Café in downtown Sherman. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, BUT CONTACT SCOTTIE TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR THE RESTAURANT.

ONE MORE STEP, A Social Action Circle. Facilitator: David Lawrence. Next project: TBA.

RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitator: Penny Armstrong. Meets at various places on various dates but always on a Friday. Next Meeting: Friday, August 17 @ 7:30 p.m. Lammas Celebration @ the home of Kris Riek in Denison. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

THE REEL DEAL, A Movie Watching Circle. Facilitator: Linda Woytaszyk. Meets the last Friday of the month from 7:20 to 10:00 @ the home of Linda Woytaszyk in Sherman. Next Meeting: August 31. The film will be "Gray Gardens". NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. JUST SHOW UP!

Responsibility

Shed the burdens from your past.

Settle your debts.

I look towards the future.

Travel light.

Carry only what is necessary.

I am ready for the future.

Prepare to learn.

Prepare to grow.

I embrace the future.

Life is continuous change.

Accept the changes.

I accept the future.

Change brings new challenges.

Accepting the challenges brings strength, knowledge, and wisdom.

I work for the future.

Respect those who have not seen the future.

Teach them what you have learned.

The future depends on me.

Jim Murphy—member of Being Peace

President's Letter

August is the time that we, as a congregation and as individual members, re-gather our forces and prepare for the work of the church in the year ahead. I asked in June that you spend some time during the summer thinking about your interests, your skills, and your commitment to the church, and to be prepared to let the board know how you would like to be part of the work of the church during the coming year. The ministry of the church, both to the members of the congregation and in our outreach to the wider community, requires many heads, hands, and hearts. There are many things to do and some key positions that need to be filled. I hope to hear from each of you about how you see your particular talents can be used to advance the ministry of RRUU.

We think of ourselves as a growing church. But we have a tendency to think of growth only in terms of numbers. How many new members do we have? How many people attend worship on Sunday? What strategies can we use to increase those numbers? Or we may think of growth in terms of organization and infrastructure? Are routine jobs being handled well? Do we need more—or fewer—committees? What can we do to improve our physical surroundings?

Loren Mead, in his book *More Than Numbers*, identifies these aspects of growth as numerical and organic, respectively. He also describes two other aspects of church growth. Maturation growth concerns the congregation's ability to support and encourage deepening faith and spiritual growth for its members. Incarnational growth concerns the church's ability and willingness to take its values into the larger world, to work to make the world a better place. Healthy congregations are attentive to all aspects of growth—numerical, organic, maturational, and incarnational; some church experts argue that the first two will grow as the latter two are addressed.

We have not ignored maturational and incarnational growth. Our worship services, meditation circles, and religious education provide opportunities for spiritual growth for members of varied spiritual styles. We have a strong social action program and our efforts, particularly for environmental awareness, have begun to be recognized by the community, a mark of incarnational growth. I'm sure we will continue to find ways to express our values through strong outreach programs.

But this year, we have some special opportunities to recognize and work on our maturational growth. As we prepare for continued growth in size, we need to establish a church covenant. A covenant states our shared values, reminds us of how we agree to behave with each other, and establishes expectations for church membership. Healthy congregations find covenants valuable in working through periods of transition and conflict by providing a reminder to members of the values that brought them together. Developing a covenant will be an opportunity to explore and strengthen the spiritual life of our community. We have asked the Committee on Ministry to design a process for developing our covenant, and our District Executive, Rev. Susan Smith, has agreed to facilitate a workshop with the congregation to help in that process.

We will also be continuing our process of discerning the congregation's vision of our church home. A task force is already working to explore options, and we will be holding a congregational meeting in September to ask the congregation to formally empower their efforts. We are also contacting the UUA about a consultant to assist us in developing a capital campaign. The process of discerning our vision and planning for its realization is another opportunity for maturational growth.

This will be an important year in the life of RRUU. You will be asked many times to step up—both to keep our ministry to ourselves and others alive and well and to bring your best listening and most thoughtful ideas to the table as we work through the challenges ahead. At no time may your commitment to the ministry of this church be more important than it will be this year as we do the work necessary to assure our spiritual health and vitality, support our incarnational growth, and prepare for continued numerical and organizational growth.

Kathleen Campbell

President RRUU Board of Trustees

Caring News

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES TO...

Claudia Anderson who was delighted with the surprise visit from several RRUU folks who ventured to Texoma Specialty Care Center to help her celebrate her 60th birthday on July 1. Claudia was overjoyed with the homemade card and the generosity from everyone.

Christine Davis whose 4th granddaughter, **Addison Davis**, was born on July 24th.

OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS TO ...

Christine Davis whose lung biopsy has been postponed to the end of August.

Doyle Adams' wife who is recuperating from fairly serious surgery and to **Doyle** whose high blood pressure landed him in the emergency room recently.

Kathy Whisman who is recovering at home from emergency surgery on July 24.

Carolyn and Bruce Cameron who are helping Carolyn's parents sort, pack, sell or save everything collected in 66 years in preparation of selling their home and settling into retirement center living. Carolyn's mother has suddenly become more fragile, triggering this major life decision.

Bruce Cameron who is recovering from minor surgery to remove a small skin cancer.

Marion Hill who is doing extremely well after her brown recluse spider bite.

Kris Reik who is making a remarkable recovery from having both knees broken (in two separate accidents). She has left the brace behind and is able to drive again.

Seth Johnson who is recovering nicely from recent surgery to remove a thyroidglossal duct cyst.

John Picot who is recovering from having an Implanted Cardiac-resynchronization Defibrillator placed in his chest just below the collarbone on July 19th. Home less than two days, he was admitted again to Baylor Plano with a gall bladder attack. He is scheduled for surgery to remove his gall bladder on Aug 2nd.

Esther McKenna who had major foot surgery on August 2.

GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK TO ...

Pam Gauthier and Terri Wood who were at church recently when Pam shared her musical gifts with us. After being completely flooded out, Pam and Terri decided to move to Ohio. Chris Butler and Toby Cates helped them get their unsalvageable van hauled off.

Barbara Paulin who leaves us to move to Pensacola to live near her son. Best wishes, Barbara, and thank you for the legacy of the afternoon Meditation Circle, which you leave to RRUU.

Johnny Bertrand 8/2

Helen Schulze 8/9

Caellan House 8/9

Lisa Cates 8/10

Jack Blue 8/14

Jean Roelke 8/16

Kathleen Campbell 8/17

Penny Bertrand 8/18

Dianna Butler 8/20

Alana Butler 8/20

Jim Murphy 8/23

Nell Evans 8/26

John Rawson 8/26

Carolyn Buttner 8/29

Douglas Morgan Strong 8/31



IT'S TIME FOR OUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION!

Bring children's backpacks and/or school supplies to church during the month of August. They will be distributed through the public schools to needy children in our area. We traditionally do this every August.

RRUU SOCIAL ACTION NEWS - "ONE MORE STEP"

RRUU member, **Jeannine Hatt**, and her husband, **Chuck Phelps**, are seeking sponsors for their August 25th Hotter 'N' Hell Bike Ride in Wichita Falls, TX, in support of Grace Children's Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere, and GCH specializes in the treatment of children with tuberculosis, HIV infection, pneumonia, malnutrition, and dehydration. It's easy and secure to sponsor Jeannine and Chuck by going to <http://www.firstgiving.com/jeanninehattchuckphelps>. Even a small amount of money will help!



RRUU was well represented at the Grayson County Disaster Relief "Rally for Hope". This event, which offered free bar-be-que, live music, and children's activities, as well as information about disaster relief resources for victims of this summer's floods, was held on July 21 at Wakefield School in Sherman. RRUU members who helped with children's activities, bussed table and served drinks, and helped in the clean-up were **Shann Schubert, Cynthia Evetts, Tobin Baird and Anabelle Dunn**.

Texoma Earth Day Conference

TCOG and local Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliates have put together the First Texoma Earth Day Conference. Elected Officials and residents of the region are invited to attend the conference. In future years it will be held closer to the official Earth Day. There are three tracks at the conference: Beautification facilitated by Keep Texas Beautiful with speakers on Samartscape, Composting and KTB best practices, the Education track

Time: 8am-4pm

Date: 08/16/07

Grayson County College—Van Alstyne

Cost \$20, includes lunch

dedicated to recycling and featuring school curriculums, city ordinances and county programs, and the Enforcement Track which features Civil and Criminal Response to Illegal Dumping. Before, during and after there will be time to meet with recycling vendors and regional groups involved with the environment, at their booths. At the end of the Conference there will be a panel including Cary Wacker of Sherman and Pippa Couvillion of Frisco to talk about their cities' recycling efforts and tour of a Green Home given by a local contractor.

Grayson County College—Van Alstyne (South Campus)

1401 W. Stephens St
Van Alstyne, TX
75495

Register by Fax: 903-813-3539

Register by e-mail

jburnett@texoma.cog.tx.us

Register by Mail:

James Burnett

TCOG Environmental Planning

1117 Gallagher Drive, Ste 300

Sherman, TX 75090

The cost for the full day conference, including lunch is \$20 per person.

NTAUUS/RRUU T-SHIRTS

The NTAUUS Social Action Network is selling tee shirts. Each shirt will have the new NTAUUS logo on the back and our own RRUU logo on the front. Shirts are \$7 (XXXXL and XXXXL sizes are \$8.50). There will be a sign-up sheet in the church foyer on August 5 and August 12 for those who want to order t-shirts. Cash or checks can be turned in to Kathleen Campbell or David Lawrence and must be received by August 12. Make checks payable to RRUU.

Front: 



Back: 



Press Release from UUA

UUA President Urges Senate to Pass the Matthew Shepard Act

July 16, 2007

Rev. William Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), called on the US Senate to pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (S. 1105), also known as The Matthew Shepard Act.

Sinkford's statement reads as follows:

"The Matthew Shepard Act is about nothing more or less than full equality for all. Every person has inherent worth and dignity, and every person, regardless of ability, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity, deserves equal protection under the law. People of faith have a special reason to back this bill, as we believe our values will be known by how we treat the most vulnerable persons among us. In spite of what some detractors have tried to argue, there is nothing in this legislation that limits religious speech or any other form of expression. I join many religious leaders in calling upon the US Senate to pass the Matthew Shepard Act. Please act now to protect more Americans by recognizing acts of hate-fueled violence as federal crimes and by giving law enforcement officials the tools necessary to keep their communities safe."

The Matthew Shepard Act would update the current hate crimes statute, enacted in 1964, by including more Americans and providing increased protections for those groups already covered under existing law. The new legislation would recognize individuals targeted for violent crimes because of their gender, sexual orientation, or disability.

The Human Rights Campaign, along with a coalition of organizations that include the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Interfaith Alliance, and the Religious Action Center, recently released a letter from 1,385 faith leaders urging the Senate to pass the bill. The clergy represent a broad spectrum of faith groups. In addition to Sinkford, 213 Unitarian Universalist ministers signed the letter. The full text of the clergy letter is online at www.clergyagainsthate.org.

On Thursday, May 3, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives, passed the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 1592), by a strong bipartisan margin of 237 to 180—with more than 20 Republicans voting in support. The identical Senate legislation is expected to be voted on shortly.

The Unitarian Universalist Association is a faith community of more than 1000 self-governing congregations that bring to the world a vision of religious freedom, tolerance and social justice. For more information about the UUA and [Rev. William Sinkford](http://www.uua.org), please explore [UUA.org](http://www.uua.org).

Contact:

Janet Hayes

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Unitarian Universalist Association

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Boston, MA 02108

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jhayes@uua.org

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources...

Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;

Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and struc-

tures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;

Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;

Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;

Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Board of Trustees

RRUU Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, August 8 at 7:00 PM at the church. Meetings are open and anyone may attend. To place an item on the agenda, contact the president, Kathleen Campbell, at 903-892-0576 or

kcampbell@austincollege.edu.

RRUU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathleen Campbell, President

Tom Rawson, Vice-president

Jim Johnson, Treasurer

Trustees At Large:

Dianna Butler, David Lawrence, Mary Larkin-Baker & John Ockels

RRUU Board Meeting Highlights— July 11, 2007

Beginning with this issue of the RRUU newsletter, we will be publishing highlights of each board meeting. We won't bore you with the routine details, approving minutes and treasurer's reports, for example, but try to keep you up-to-date on the issues that are of greatest interest to the congregation.

At the July meeting, the Board approved the recommendation of the nominating committee to appoint Nell Evans and

Cynthia Evetts to the Endowment Committee. Nell will serve for one year, replacing Mike Ellsberry, who has resigned from the committee. Cynthia will serve a full two-year term. (According to the Endowment Committee By-Laws, this appointment does not have to be approved by the congregation.)

The building task force (David Lawrence, Dianna Butler, Nell Evans, Jim Murphy, and Carla Murphy) has reviewed several properties to get a sense of what is available in the area. They strongly recommend going ahead with a consultant to help plan a capital campaign as soon as feasible. Kathleen has sent a request to the UUA and is waiting for a reply. (In September we plan to schedule a congregational meeting to give members a general update on the building issue.) A new lease has been negotiated for the church with a \$25 monthly increase in rent.

The board approved purchasing a \$250 bronze sponsorship for the NAACP Dinner on August 4. Four members covered the cost of the tickets included in the sponsorship and \$150 will come from the social action fund. A number of RRUU members plan to attend this event.

Two committees have begun work on important documents for the church. A committee consisting of John Ockels, Linda Woytaszyk, and Tingey Tracz has

been appointed to develop a safe congregation policy. The committee will present a draft to the board at the August meeting. The Committee on Ministry will begin working on a process by which the congregation can create a behavioral covenant for the church. The plan will probably include a congregational workshop to develop ideas from the members. That committee consists of Elbert Hill, Linda Woytaszyk, and Darrah Dunn.

Several important events for the fall were set: The board will hold a retreat on Saturday, Sept. 8. The following Sunday, Sept. 9, will be our ingathering Sunday, with a breakfast preceding the service. RRUU will participate in the UUA Association Sunday on October 21, 2007. Association Sunday is a way of recognizing our position as part of the UUA. Susan Smith, the District Director, will lead the service and an afternoon workshop with the congregation.

Kathleen bought a number of books for the church at GA to add to our church library. She is setting up a system so that members of the congregation can check books out.

The board scheduled fall meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month: September 13, October 11, November 08, and December 13.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings from the Treasurer. I want to remind everyone that the new budget year began on July 1. Therefore, your pledge contributions made after July 1 will be credited to your 2007-2008 pledges - that is, the pledges you made during our pledge drive last spring.

Regarding the past year's annual report, which I gave to the Board at our July meeting, I can report that our net inflow for the year was \$20,604.48. (Our total income was \$64,384.58 and our total expense was \$43,780.10). That is very good news! Of that income, \$7,500 was from the NTAUUS Grant we received and almost \$4,300 was from Fundraising Income. Also, our pledges brought in \$9,000 more than we budgeted and our plate (non-pledge) collections brought in \$2,150 more than was budgeted. So, due to the generosity of the congregation, we brought in much more than we expected to. We also saved a little money, here and there; this also contributed to our net income. Our Net Worth (i.e. money in the bank) as of 7/11/07 was \$54,750.81. This includes our checking account and our certificates of deposit. All in all, it has been a good year for us financially. A copy of the full report will be available at the church for members to read more closely.

Jim Johnson, Treasurer

Letter from Rev. Jennifer Innis

On the Journey

The Woodstock Music and Art Festival may have been almost 40 years ago, but its spirit was alive and well in Ardmore, Oklahoma at the end of July. Over 120 youth and adults came together in the ideals of freedom, love, peace, and human fellowship on the shores of Lake Murray for the senior high youth camp of the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSD). The youth leaders chose to revisit the best spirit of Woodstock in the theme of Woodstock: A New Revolution. Each day explored a different revolution: a big groovy fun revolution to start the event and get everyone in a good mood for the week; a cultural revolution to be fearless in making connections across cultures; a social revolution to put ideals into practice through an all-camp effort to serve the larger Ardmore community; a revolution of the heart to consider tough questions about social, sexual, and ethical values and how each of us sees ourselves and how we treat one another; a mindful revolution to celebrate the youth who are aging out of

youth camp and entering young adulthood. Finally, the camp closed with the wish to take the revolution with you and continue the kinds of revolution each of us is willing to live as we help heal the world. Of course, the week was full of laughter and dancing, games and drumming, and quite a few trips to cool off in the lake. In many ways, the youth camp was not unlike a certain concert in 1969.

One of the best features of this youth camp was the youth who made it happen. The adults offered support and counsel as needed while the youth took responsibility for the camp's existence: they created the themes, planned everything from special events to food, and made adjustments when days do not go according to schedule. I never ceased to be impressed by the teenagers who work so hard to create special times and places such as youth camp. I was moved by how the youth care for one another whether allowing for special interests or comforting friends and strangers in distress.

In my role as one of the two ministers for the youth camp I had a special chance to get back to my roots – and I am pleasantly surprised to say I was ready for it. As a Unitarian Universalist youth, I learned about conference planning, worship, and taking care of a liberal religious community. Much of my call to ministry came from my experience as a Unitarian Universalist youth and my wish to share the best qualities of that youth community with the larger world. Those same qualities appeared again and again that week at the hands of this generation of youth. Though I lost a great deal of sleep, I gained a renewed hope for the future – both for my calling in service to the spirit of life and for the future now imagined by these youth. I wonder what else might be waiting for another visit?

Namaste,

Jennifer

Where in the (UU)World is Rev. Jennifer?

I am happy to be at the end of most of my travels and to work on plans for the coming year. For this month, I will be in residence at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland for August 10-19. For August 22-29, I will be in Vermont and Massachusetts to conduct the wedding of one of my cousins.

The best ways to find me are by my cell phone: 972-639-7900 and by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net. Whether I am in Midland or at my home office in Plano, I expect to respond to email and voice messages as soon as possible. I am available for emergencies only during my day off on Monday. I will return general calls after my day off is complete.

I look forward to sharing the coming program year with you. I welcome the chance to hear of your hopes, your concerns, and your dreams for the future of the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church and to see what we shall create together.

Bowing to the Light within,

Jennifer

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