



# Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 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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September 2

Scottie McIntyre Johnson

### “Unitarian Universalist Theology: Singing the Living Tradition”

Because Unitarian Universalism is creedless and because its members hold many differing beliefs about God, Jesus, the after-life, and other theological concepts, people often think we share no common theology. Not so! There are numerous points of theology, pneumatology, Christology, theological anthropology, missiology, soteriology, eschatology, ecclesiology and prolegomena that most UUs hold in common. Perhaps nowhere is this illustrated better than in the words to our hymns. Come to church this Sunday to sing a lot and to learn what all those big words I learned in my Introduction to Theology class mean!



September 9

Rev. Jennifer Innis

### “Belonging”

*“This is the time at last when we can come home to each other, to our mutual belonging.” (Sarah Lammert)*

Just why do we get together? What do we seek – and expect from one another? If we wish for growth, we need a deeper and broader understanding of the meaning of being with one another. And we must shape that meaning together.

September 16

Kathleen Campbell

### “What’s a Member to Do?”

We say that becoming a member of RRUU is as simple as signing the membership book. But is that enough? Beyond agreeing on our UU principles, do we have any expectations for how members will participate in congregational life? Since we believe strongly in the importance of putting our beliefs into action, what should a member of RRUU do to be a part of this community? RRUU President Kathleen Campbell has some ideas.

September 23

Scottie McIntyre Johnson

### ”Days of Awe”

A special service of atonement in the spirit of the Jewish high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has become an annual tradition and one of the most meaningful observances of our church year for many people at RRUU. This year, Scottie McIntyre Johnson will lead this solemn and liberating service.

September 30

Fifth Sunday Forum

Speaker To Be Announced

Whenever five Sundays occur within a month, we invite someone from the community to speak during the 11:15 hour, instead of holding a regular worship service. Final plans are still being made for this month's Forum.

**Adult Religious Education resumes September 16th at 10:00am  
Worship & Children’s RE 11:15am**

# September 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						

## Schedule of Events

- Sep 3 Being Peace Evening
- Sep 6 Being Peace Afternoon
- Sep 7 Urban Arts Festival in Dallas
- Sep 8 William Lloyd at the Boiler Room
- Sep 8-9 Wizard of Oz at Kidd Key
- Sep 9 In-gathering Breakfast Hosted by RRUU Board
- Sep 10 Being Peace Evening
- Sep 11 The Green Team
- Sep 13 Being Peace Afternoon
- Sep 13 Board Meeting
- Sep 16 Adult RE Resumes
- Sep 16 Pride Parade in Dallas
- Sep 16 Youth Group Meeting
- Sep 17 Being Peace Evening
- Sep 18 Evensong
- Sep 20 Being Peace Afternoon
- Sep 21-23 Horizon UU Peace Fest
- Sep 21 Red River Earth Spirit
- Sep 22 A Moveable Feast
- Sep 23 Congregational Meeting
- Sep 24 Being Peace Evening
- Sep 27 Being Peace Afternoon
- Sep 28 The Reel Deal
- Sep 30 It Takes a Village
- Oct 21 Association Sunday

## This Month's Worship Leaders

**The Rev. Jennifer Innis** has served UU congregations in Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Alabama, and South Carolina. She is currently serving as Consulting Minister for both RRUU and 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, the settled minister of Community Unitarian Universalist Church.

**Kathleen Campbell** is the current president of our congregation, a member of the RRUU Worship Arts Team and a frequent and popular speaker in our pulpit. She holds BS and MA degrees in Theatre from Northwestern University and Trinity University, respectively, and an MA and PhD in Literature from the University of Dallas. Kathleen has worked as a director, designer, producer, actor, and voice coach for a variety of theatres and educational institutions. Her hobby is gardening with native trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

**Scottie McIntyre Johnson** is a founding member of RRUU, a past president of the congregation and current coordinator of the RRUU Worship Arts Team. She has served as a member of the Southwestern UU Conference Board of Trustees and as Dean of the District's Dwight Brown Leadership Experience. Having recently retired from a long career in Montessori education, Scottie has begun her second year as a student at Perkins School of Theology (SMU), preparing for the UU ministry.

## Social Action News—"One More Step!"

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Now that summer is drawing to a close, vacations are over, and family life is returning to normal, we hope to begin scheduling routine meetings of the Social Action Committee. John Ockels will be facilitating the Adult Religious Education class this year. Since the format will consist of several 6-8 week segments covering chosen topics, John has graciously agreed to allow us to conduct the occasional Social Action Committee meeting on the Sunday between completing and starting a topic. A schedule will be forthcoming.

I would like to encourage anyone with suggestions for Social Action projects to e-mail me at [dnlawrence@aol.com](mailto:dnlawrence@aol.com) or to give me a written suggestion. I will include these in the meeting agendas.

We have received communications from the Bonny Shah Sponsorship Programme in India. RRUU has made a 10-year commitment to sponsor a student through all ten years of his schooling. The program currently supports 287 students at three schools. I have posted photos as well as program and personal information about some of the students on the Social Action bulletin board. Please take a few minutes to see what \$150 can support.

T-shirts with both NTAUUS (North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies) and RRUU logos have been ordered. The NTAUUS Social Action Network will be preparing for the Pride Parade that will be held September 16. NTAUUS will participate in the parade and will sponsor an information table in Lee Park later that day. Information packets about Unitarian Universalism will be provided. Anyone interested in participating can contact me at [dnlawrence@aol.com](mailto:dnlawrence@aol.com) or Daniel Polk at [danieldale@att.net](mailto:danieldale@att.net)

Congratulations to Jeannine Hatt and Chuck Phelps for surviving the Hotter'N Hell Hundred Bike Ride and exceeding their initial fundraising goal. Jeannine and Chuck were riding to raise money to support Grace Children's Hospital (GCH) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which is run by the nonprofit organization International Child Care. GCH specializes in the treatment of children with tuberculosis, HIV infection, and other serious diseases such as malnutrition, pneumonia and dehydration in a country considered the poorest in the western hemisphere. Jeannine and Chuck express many thanks to all RRUU members who sponsored their ride.

RRUU received a Certificate of Appreciation for participating in the "Feed the Hungry" Food Drive for Great Days of Service last summer. Our contributions made up a part of the twenty-nine tons of food that were collected for area food banks. The Food Drive is only one of several charitable programs carried out under the auspices of Great Days of Service, a cooperative effort of Sherman and Denison churches, civic groups, youth groups, corporations and non-profit organizations.

The backpacks and school supplies collected at church during August were given to Jefferson Elementary School in Sherman to be distributed as necessary to needy children enrolled there.

## RRUU Lending Library

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Over the years RRUU has accumulated a useful collection of materials related to Unitarian Universalism. Some focus on UU philosophy and theology, or provide ideas for meditation or worship. Others are aimed at providing guidance for church leaders on various issues such as fund raising, membership, or church organization. Several books deal with personal issues, such as parenting and caring for aging family members. DVD's from the UUA tell the stories of breakthrough congregations and provide ideas about growth and worship. UUA "Drive-time essays" offer short pieces on a variety of topics. This collection of books, DVD's, and CD's is now available for loan; you'll find them on the shelf at the back of the sanctuary. If you see something that interests you, follow the simple instructions posted near the library shelf. More books and other materials will be added as we acquire them. If you have materials you would like to donate, see Kathleen Campbell. We will enter them in our database and get them on the shelf as soon as possible.

## 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet

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Through the efforts of co-sponsors Tom Lantos (D- US House of Representatives), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R- US House of Representatives), Dianne Feinstein (D- US Senate) and Craig Thomas (R- US Senate), the United States Congress will award it's Congressional Gold Medal to the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on October 18, 2007. It is given "... In recognition of his enduring and outstanding contribution to peace, non-violence, human rights, and religious understanding." The Dalai Lama has previously been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He has worked tirelessly for the aide of his people in Tibet and in the pursuit of peace, freedom, safety and happiness for all mankind.

The UUA Bookstore has a book named "Little Big Minds" that features the Dalai Lama and others. The book aims to be a step by step guide to teaching kids to think philosophically. The book is arranged by theme and covers prejudice, compassion and even death.

## Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage...

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William Howard Taft, the 27th President of the United States, is the only person to serve both as President and as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He was a strong advocate of world peace and a strong supporter of the League of Nations.

Born on September 15, 1857, he spent his boyhood in Cincinnati, Ohio, trying to live up to the high expectations of his demanding parents, especially his father, Alphonso Taft. Alphonso Taft was a distinguished Cincinnati attorney and a prominent Republican who served as Secretary of War and then Attorney General under President Grant.

William Taft was also a lifelong and very active Unitarian, even though he was attacked for it during his Presidential campaign. He later told a group of New England Unitarians that they didn't understand how people in other parts of the Republic felt about Unitarianism. He said, "If you want to find out, run for President."

After graduating from Yale, with a degree in law, he was active in the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati's Unity Club – the church's Young Adult group and served as its president. In later life he said that this is where his Presidential aspirations began. He was Vice President of the American Unitarian Association for six years and for ten years he served as President of the General Conference of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Churches. He had a significant role in founding the Unitarian Layman's League. In 1927 he was elected president of the International Congress of Religious Liberals.

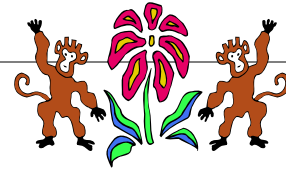
President Taft's life-long dream of reaching the U.S. Supreme Court was satisfied in 1921 with his appointment as chief justice by President Warren Harding. He felt this appointment was his greatest honor. "I don't remember that I ever was President," he once wrote a friend.

During his tenure as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, he attended All Souls Unitarian Church in Washington, DC where he would visit the Religious Education program and talk to the children.

William Howard Taft left a legacy – not as significant as President – but as Chief Justice who brought solid leadership not only to the Court but to his faith as well.



## Horizon Peace Fest



Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church in Carrollton is proud to invite you to the “100th Monkey Peace Festival”

September 21st – 23rd, 2007

According to the parable of the 100th Monkey, wild Japanese monkeys on the island of Koshima had always eaten sweet potatoes covered with sand. Eventually one young monkey washed hers off in a stream. She showed her playmates how to do this, and gradually the young monkeys and some of their parents began washing their sweet potatoes. Most, however, though they saw what the others were doing, continued eating dirty potatoes. Then one day the 100th monkey learned the new trick and provided enough added momentum that the rest of the monkeys began washing their potatoes before eating them. Without physical contact, colonies of monkeys on other islands began washing their sweet potatoes too.

The organizers of Horizon's 100th Monkey Peace Festival urge you to be that monkey.

The 100th monkey story illustrates that all it takes is one person to begin the momentum for change and that everyone who embraces that change helps to create a new world. Practicing acts of peace will help make peace a normal part of our lives. This is why the “monkeys” at Horizon are coming together on September 21-23 for this special event that makes dwelling together in peace the normal and the usual.

Friday evening, September 21st:

Rev. Dennis Hamilton will lead a peace vigil.

Members will read poems & sing songs.

Art Show Opening Reception follows the vigil. Enjoy the images of peace created by members & friends of Horizon.

Horizon's event is registered with the International Day of Peace Vigil [www.idpvigil.com](http://www.idpvigil.com).

Saturday, September 22nd will feature simultaneous programs for adults and children:

Children's program schedule includes: learning peaceful living skills, storytelling, face painting, craft projects and more

Adult activities include: Intergenerational dance for Universal Peace, The Book Club discussion of books on peace

The Buddhist Sangha will meet to meditate on peace.

The movie “What the Bleep Do We Know” will be continuously showing for those who have been meaning to see it.

Special guest Lynn Kutler's presentation on Mind Body Stress Reduction and how peace begins within. Lynn is a nurse earning her PhD and has worked with Jon Kabat-Zinn, author of *Wherever You Go There You Are*, and *Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain and Illness*.

Gary Gene of the North Texas Green Building Council will discuss environmental issues in new construction and remodeling.

Mary Kay Hamilton, LPC, NCC will introduce a way of “doing peace” through Interplay. Interplay offers a series of incremental “forms” including movement, stillness, storytelling, song, ease and amusement - all leading to more peaceful individuals and communities.

Intermingled with more presentations on peace building within one's self, within the community and with the earth will be information booths, musical performances, a raffle, and a room set up for quiet reflection, meditation and rest.

## UUs Rambling in the Community

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**Tom Rawson** is part of the backstage crew and **Scottie McIntyre Johnson** is playing in the orchestra for the upcoming Theatricks' children's theater production of "The Wizard of Oz". The play, complete with flying witches, monkeys and wizard's balloon, will be held on September 8 & 9 in Kidd Key Auditorium in the Sherman Municipal Building. To reserve tickets, call 903-892-8818 now!

**Bill Fridley** and **Carolyn Buttner** will perform Bill's original music at The Boiler Room Coffee House (404 W. Lamar in Sherman) on Saturday, September 8 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. Hear some of his new CD, "William Lloyd--In The Basement: Conjuring", at [williamlloyd@williamlloydcreations.com](mailto:williamlloyd@williamlloydcreations.com)

**Jan and Ken Fletcher's** son and ArtLoveMagic will kick off the Dallas' 2007 Urban Arts Fest on Friday, September 7, from 8 p.m. to midnight at The Janette Kennedy Gallery at South Side on Lamar (1409 S. Lamar, Dallas). ArtLoveMagic brings together artists from different disciplines, including painting, comics, jewelry, poetry, music, photography and more for amazing live experiences. Check it out at [/www.artlovemagic.com](http://www.artlovemagic.com).

**Darrah Dunn** has been cast as Felix in the Sherman Community Players' opening production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple", which opens on October 5 and plays for three weekends.

## William Lloyd Creations

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William Lloyd (aka Bill Fridley) spent many years playing in rock bands in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio, most notably with The Cretins and with Dark Dixie. Dark Dixie released a CD titled The Manson-Nixon Line in 1995. That band disbanded shortly after the release of their CD. William took what amounted to a ten year musical hiatus and pursued his education and career. He still played his guitar, but didn't write any songs and rarely performed in public.

The ten year musical hiatus was broken near the end of 2005. There were several prompts to his return to songwriting and performing. He earned tenure at the university where he taught and had begun a new friendship with his partner Carolyn Q. He was given opportunities to play at Red River Unitarian Universalist Church in Denison and also at the monthly meetings of the North Texas Songwriters Association. Since starting back writing and performing music, he has entertained audiences in thirteen cities spanning six states.

William Lloyd has launched a website called [WilliamLloydCreations.com](http://WilliamLloydCreations.com) and a new CD that is available for purchase on that same site. The CD contains six new songs (7 tracks) that are beautiful. The artist believes them to be authentic expressions of who he is and what he is about. There are future projects already in the making, including a children's song entitled "Dream with Me" that was written at the prompting of author and speaker Dr. Harry Wong.

William Lloyd has released one video on YouTube. The song that he chose for the video was "When You Sound Like That". It is a music video of a song he wrote and performed. It is described as homage of sorts to Bob Dylan. It is also a call to do what you can, where you're at with what you have. That is a call everyone should heed.



## Caring News

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Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

- Leo Buscaglia

As you read the Caring Circle News, imagine you're sitting in the Sanctuary surrounded by kindred spirits and hearing about people in our community who are celebrating life's joys or enduring life's sorrows. Take each name and hold it in your thoughts for a time. It matters not whether the name is known to you, for we all know how bliss and elation lifts a spirit and how grief and sadness can incapacitate and wound us. That said ...

**Linn Cates** and family are excited that **Mildred Cates** (Linn's mother-in-law) will be joining their family soon., adding an elder generation to their home. She is 78 years old, outgoing and friendly, physically mobile and has Alzheimer's

**Claudia Anderson** wants us to know she misses coming to church and appreciates those who come to visit her at Texoma Specialty Care Center

Congratulation to **Jeannine Hatt** and **Chuck Phelps** who hung in there and completed the Hotter 'n Hell Hundred Bike Ride to raise funds on behalf of International Child Care USA.

There are times when tragedy seems to come in waves, **Dianna Nieman-Harris** and **Kris Riek** have been facing the critical illness of a close friend and the sudden critical illness of Dianna's brother Bill.

Several among us are struggling with personal issues ... selling the family home ... in need of employment ... decisions regarding care for elderly relatives ... relationship turmoil ... life changes and we hold them in our prayers and thoughts.

The Caring Circle Team is always available in times of personal need – we can provide rides to the doctor, pick up medications, bring a hot meal, come visit, walk the dog, and give a helping hand when one is wanted. You can reach us via confidential email at [caring@rruu.org](mailto:caring@rruu.org) or phone the Team member on call for September: Doug Strong 972.658.1188.

## September Birthdays!

Judy Donahue 9/4

Eliot Tracz 9/7

Kara Harrelson 9/10

Viki Reeder 9/12

John West 9/16

Sylvia Mitchell 9/17

Gerry Shehan 9/18

Angela Cates 9/20

Tanner House 9/24

L.D. Clark 9/30

Dianna Nieman-Harris 9/30





## What's Up With The Green Team?

### *Prayer for Earth Witness*

*Spirit of Life and of Love.*

*Dear God.*

*We come, first, to confess. Our comforts, our wasteful ways have been purchased at a huge price. We thought that the earth was here for us to use, in any way we wished. The language of dominion over the earth led us astray.*

*We are part of the interconnected web of existence, not apart from it. We are born of the earth and supported by her bounty. She is our mother.*

*We thought she could recover always, never be depleted, forgive even our most violent attacks. Our violation of the earth has amounted to matricide. By insisting that the poor and people of color bear the greatest human cost, we have been committing fratricide. By our headlong rush to use up the earth 'til she is spent, we have been committing suicide.*

*Dear Mother, we are beginning to see what we have done. We promise to do everything in our power to bring the violation to an end.*

*We pray that we will have the wisdom and the will to do this well.*

*We pray we are not too late.*

*Amen.*

*Rev. William Sinkford*

*President, UUA*

*June 23, 2007- Portland, OR*

Driven by commitment and passion and supported by The Seventh Principle of our faith (respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) our church's Green Team has racked up an impressive list of accomplishments.

One of their first projects was to purge the church of single-use paper and plastic products ... which is why we have cloth napkins; real cutlery; and sturdy, colorful dishes for all church functions. Well placed recycling waste baskets are located throughout the building and if you wander "out back" you'll find the church's compost barrel. Because Denison doesn't offer curbside recycling for businesses, members of the Green Team lug all recycled materials to neighborhood recycling centers each month. (Friendly tips: Try recycling your Sunday Order of Worship by dropping it in the recycle basket in the foyer. ... and ... When you receive Red River Ramblings via email, save it to your desktop where you can easily and quickly pull it up for reference throughout the month – rather than printing a hard copy).

When TXU announced plans to construct several coal burning processing plants, the Green Team jumped into action. They spearheaded a series of meetings within the congregation resulting in a special congregational meeting last winter where we passed a Statement of Witness opposing the construction. Beyond our community, the Team joined forces with CORE (Citizens for Responsible Energy) to provide help with their efforts.

The Team watched a screening of Who Killed The Electric Car and decided to help Step It Up (the nation-wide effort to get elected officials in Washington to pledge to reduce by 20% fossil fuel consumption by 2050). Blending their commitment to reduce waste and to support the effort to wean us away from fossil fuel, the Team sponsored a No Trash Picnic Lunch at a North Texas Step It Up rally.

One of the Green Team's next effort is both innovate and potentially significant. Based on training given by Dallas Area Interfaith, the team will hold a series of "listening" house meetings within and beyond our congregation aimed at showing people why grass-root organization is the most effective way to create lasting change.

On average 8-12 Team members meet monthly to celebrate the synergy that comes from sharing strategies, priorities and successes of their work. The Green Team is neither a closed group nor a secret society. Everyone who wishes to join in – whether for a specific project or ongoing work – is warmly invited to call Linn Cates (903.893.5821) to get more details.





## Chalice Circles

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](mailto:scottieone@cableone.net)) who can give you more information and directions.

BEING PEACE, A Meditation Circle (Afternoon Session) Facilitator: Nell Evans. Meets *every* Thursday afternoon from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. @ the home of Nell Evans in Sherman. NEW MEDITATORS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP.

BEING PEACE, A Meditation Circle. (Evening Session) Facilitator: Kathy Whisman. Meets *every* Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. @ the church. NEW MEDITATORS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP.



EVENSONG, A Spiritual Deepening Circle. Facilitator: Scottie McIntyre Johnson. Meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. @ various homes. Next meeting: Tues. Sept. 18 @ the home of Kathleen Campbell in Sherman. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, BUT PLEASE CONTACT SCOTTIE FIRST TO FIND OUT THE DISCUSSION TOPIC.

THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator: Linn Cates. Meets the second Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 9:30. @ the home of Linn Cates in Sherman. Next Meeting: Tues. September 11. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP!

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, A Circle of Parents Supporting Parents. Facilitator: Dianna Butler. Meets the last Sunday of each month, after church @ the church and includes lunch. Next Meeting: September 30. Children and parents will begin the "Evensong for Families" program. 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: Saturday, September 22 @ 5:30 P.M. @ the home of Bruce & Carolyn Cameron. Seating space is limited this month, so please contact Elbert & Marion Hill for details.

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, September 21 @ 7:30 p.m. @ the church to plan Samhain. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME! JUST SHOW UP.

THE REEL DEAL, A Movie Watching Circle. Facilitator: Linda Woytasczyk. Meets the last Friday of the month from 7:20 to 10:00 @ the home of Linda Woytasczyk in Sherman. Next Meeting: September 28. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. JUST SHOW UP!

## Letter from RRUU Board President

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We often think of summer as a time when our church activities slow down. There's no adult RE, some chalice circles take a break, and the schedule just generally seems less crowded. But I still managed to attend fifteen RRUU events during the month. I mention this not to brag about how involved I am in the church, but to point out how many opportunities our church offers for interesting, fulfilling, and fun involvement.

Over half of my events during August were supportive of my spiritual life and/or opportunities for fellowship with other members of our church community. I attended four worship services; each one was different and fulfilling in its own way. Three times I meditated with the Being Peace Circle that meets on Monday evenings; this quiet time has become an important part of my routine. And I went to three different chalice circle meetings—Evensong, A Moveable Feast, and The Reel Deal. I have participated in Evensong since its first meeting; for me it is the most important part of my church life outside of worship. A Moveable Feast provides a very different kind of fellowship, as does our newest chalice circle, The Reel Deal.

These programs, and other like them, are important part of the life of our congregation; they offer opportunities for learning, satisfy our spiritual needs, and build community. I am thankful for all the leaders who make these opportunities possible.

But the other activities I was involved in were also fun and fulfilling. The monthly board meeting is a time for careful thought about our congregational health and growth with leaders who have stepped forward and been selected by the congregation for that purpose. They are focused and productive and offer a sense of accomplishment and the joy of working hard with other dedicated people toward a common goal. Committee meetings, which we often greet with a groan, offer a similar reward. This month I met with the task force developing a safe congregation policy for our church; it was exciting to work with a group doing such important and difficult work with such care and commitment. I also sat in on a meeting of the Committee on Ministry and chaired a meeting of our Communications Committee. The participants in all of these meetings—and others I did

not happen to meet with this month—are performing important work for the church and need our thanks and encouragement.

Finally, I had the opportunity to represent RRUU at the Grayson County NAACP dinner and scholarship presentation. I was proud that our church had helped sponsor this important community event.

My point is that there are many ways to be involved with RRUU. All of the activities I participated in this month—worship, chalice circles, committee meetings, community events—are available to every member of our church. They each have their own rewards—yes, even committee meetings can be fun and fulfilling. You don't have to fill up your calendar with RRUU activities, but I encourage you to find a few that are enjoyable and meaningful for you and to plunge in. You won't regret it.

Kathleen Campbell

President, RRUU Board of Trustees

## Women for Women International

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Women for Women International began from a grant by a UU group in Washington, DC. Women for Women International provides women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies. Their website address is [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org)

Women for Women International envisions a world where no one is abused, poor, illiterate or marginalized; where members of communities have full and equal participation in the processes that ensure their health, well-being and economic independence; and where everyone has the freedom to define the scope of their life, their future and strive to achieve their full potential.

The core values and beliefs of Women for Women International include equality, empowerment, respect, diversity and investment. The group believes that all people are free and equal in dignity and rights: civil, political, social, economic and cultural. It is also believed that the women who are assisted are the leaders in their own lives. Tools are provided for each woman to rebuild her life. The women supported choose their own value system. Options are presented to each woman but she is responsible for her own choice. The women that are assisted are not simply refugees or victims of war but are survivors and individuals. No two women require the same support to heal, and no two societies can be rebuilt in the same way. The communication among women of varied backgrounds, national origins, race, and religion – both those who need assistance and those who offer it – must honor each other's differences.

Women for Women uses a one-on-one approach to deal with macro issues through micro solutions. This is done by strengthening local chapters in an attempt to build and strengthen civil society in the countries where they work.

## Letter from Rev. Jennifer Innis

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### On the Journey

With September comes the start of a new program year and I thought I would take the time to let you know what I am doing as your minister and to talk again about how you and I might build our relationships over the next months. In addition to leading one service per month and meeting with the Board, I am working on a number of projects in the congregation. I am meeting with the Committee on Ministry and the Board to create safe and healthy congregation practices for everyone who comes through the door. I look forward to meeting with the Religious Education Committee to discuss the goals for this year and to begin preparations for long term projects such as offering the comprehensive sexuality education program Our Whole Lives (OWL). The Board and I are following up with consultants and the Unitarian Universalist Association to plan the next steps toward finding (and funding) a new home for the church, keeping you informed and asking for your opinions all along the way. Your leaders and I will have a chance to prioritize these

many wonderful goals with help from facilitator Meryl Gunter at the annual Board retreat on Sept. 8.

The key to our mutual success is communication. More than even a full-time minister, I must rely on you to let me know about your cares and concerns. Though my time with you is limited to about 40-45 hours per month, I serve your congregation and would like to hear from you. Part of our shared efforts will be to continue to shape the direction of professional ministry in this liberal religious community. To that end, I offer some ideas on when to call the minister:

When to call the Minister:

When you don't know me, but would like to.

When you would like to get to know the congregation, but aren't sure where to go first.

When you have problems you would like to discuss... with your job, chil-

dren, partner, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.

When life brings good things and you still need a sympathetic ear.

When you have a joy or a concern about the congregation.

When you are considering joining the congregation.

When you would like to talk about religion.

When you would like to discuss the changes in this congregation and its ministries and your hopes and fears for the future.

The final reason to call the minister is guaranteed to warm the heart of your treasurer and is most relevant to the plans for a new building campaign:

When you are inspired by the vision of the RRUU Church with a home of its own and wish to make a donation.

Namaste,

Jennifer

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

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The best ways to contact me are by my cell phone: 972-639-7900 and by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net. My day off is Monday. I will return general calls or email after my day off is over. In case of emergency, of course, I will respond as soon as possible.

I am also the Minister (1/2 time) for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. My service with them includes 10 days in residence every month. When I am in Midland I may take a little longer to return calls and email due to my responsibilities with that congregation. I ask that you let me know if a matter needs my immediate attention. For this month, I am in Midland during September 14-23. If you do not reach me directly, please let me know how to get in touch with you.

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

## RRUU Board Meeting Highlights--August 08, 2007

President Kathleen Campbell reported that Susan Smith, the Southwest Conference District Director, would lead our Association Sunday service on October 21, 2007. Following the service she will lead a workshop with the congregation that will focus on identifying our most important shared values and exploring how they can be better incorporated into congregational life.

The board discussed the progress on determining our next steps toward a new home as called for by the five-year plan approved by the congregation in the spring of 2006. In the spring the board appointed a task force to study options for a new location.

Dianna Butler reported to the Board that the New Building Task Force had not met formally this past month, but did communicate by e-mail. They are getting an idea about potential costs for an appropriate site. The Board will call a congregational

meeting in September to update the congregation on efforts concerning the building and ask them to endorse the work of the task force. Kathleen also reported that she had filed the intake form requesting a capital campaign consultant with the UUA and we were now waiting to hear from the UUA for the next step.

The Board also discussed purchasing a demographic study that might provide help in planning programming that would attract new members. The UUA has an arrangement with a company to provide such studies at a discount. The board authorized up to \$500 for a study, and Kathleen and Rev. Jennifer Innis were charged with ordering the study.

Because of increases in the number of students in religious education classes, and the need to develop programs for different age groups, the board appointed an RE committee to consist of Linda Woytaszyk, Linn Cates, John Ockels, Jennifer

Innis, and Viki Reeder to coordinate our religious education programs. In the fall we plan to have classes for two age groups and a program for our teen-agers.

The Board will host an in-gathering breakfast before worship on September 09, 2007. Board members will also be attending a board retreat the day before.

The Board recommended that Marion and Elbert Hill to be asked to co-chair the hospitality committee this year. (Marion and Elbert have agreed to accept this responsibility.)

The Board discussed the need to encourage church members to report in-kind contributions so that they can be included in the overall financial picture of the congregation. A system for doing this will be in place this fall.

RRUU Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, September 13 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](mailto:kcampbell@austincollege.edu).

## Association Sunday—October 21

On October 21, Red River Unitarian Universalist Church will participate in Association Sunday. Association Sundays are a request by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. They envision a day—an "Association Sunday"—during which thousands of UUs across the nation are simultaneously celebrating our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

The UUA is asking all of their congregations to schedule a Sunday service and special collection to affirm our connection, and to bring our resources together for greater effect. These Sundays are an opportunity for us to come together to grow our faith and our influence in the world.

Like Ministry Sunday in 1995 (which was a request to support the financial needs of ministers and seminary students) and Mind the Gap Sunday in 2002 (which was focused on supporting Youth and Young Adult Ministries), each Association Sunday will include a worship service based on a particular theme, and congregations will be asked to host a special collection to support the Association of Congregations. Please keep in mind that Association Sunday is different from The Annual Program Fund (APF) and Friends of the UUA; those help to pay for the operating budget of the UUA. Special projects, like national marketing and growth outreach

work, require additional funding, and that's the purpose of Association Sunday.

This is an opportunity for us to support the work that individuals, congregations, and the UUA do to make Unitarian Universalism a haven for those who seek a liberal religious home.

Funds raised this year will support national marketing and growth outreach projects. A portion of the funds will be set aside for grants to congregations who wish to enable their own growth projects.

Four subsequent Association Sundays (one per year) will be devoted to the following themes: growth in diversity, growth in witness, growth in spirit and growth in leadership.

As planning for national marketing and growth outreach projects gets underway, the UUA will be providing congregations with many resources to help welcome newcomers. For example, UUA President Bill Sinkford has tasked his staff with creating a new DVD explaining Unitarian Universalism to newcomers. He expects to have that resource to the congregations before the national marketing campaign begins.

## Religious Education News

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Our religious education program will be expanding this fall to serve our children and adults more effectively. Due to increasing enrollment in our children's program, we plan to create a new class for our older students. We are still working on staffing and space, but once these details are worked out, we will have a class for our younger children (Kindergarten through 2nd grade) and for our older children (3rd-6th grade). RE Children's RE director Linda Woytaszyk has chosen a new curriculum for the older children (see below); curriculum for our younger children will be announced once plans are finalized. Also, Viki Reeder and Roger Gregory-Allen will be organizing a new group for our youth in junior and senior high school; students this age will want to attend the first meeting on Sept. 16 to help plan this new group. Finally, our new Adult RE director John Ockels has an interesting line-up of classes for the fall. As usual, we will also be using the Adult RE time for occasional meetings to discuss social action projects. To help us organize these new initiatives and look for ways to further improve our RE program, the board has appointed a new RE committee, consisting of Linda Woytaszyk, Linn Cates, Viki Reeder, and John Ockels.

Keep reading below for details on RE activities this fall and watch for future announcements about our plans for our youngest UU class.

### Grades 3-6

After a summer of fun arts and craft, our older class will begin a curriculum for the 2007-2008 year called "Spirit of Adventure" by Kate Tweedie. The content of this curriculum teaches UU identity through learning about the lives of well-known UU's who lived a life that exemplified a UU identity. The famous UU's come from sports, medicine and science. Also included are authors and architects. It will be informative and interesting experience. Come join us!

Linda Woytaszyk

### Grades 7-12

Most UU churches have a youth group (usually called Young Religious Unitarian Universalists or YRUU) that provides teenagers in the church a place to talk, think, and have fun together. We know that there are a reasonable number of teenagers at Red River UU and it's time we started a group for them.

What's most important is to be sure we create something that the youth themselves actually want. We'd like to get together for pizza, playing, and a little brainstorming on Sunday, September 16th at Roger Gregory-Allen and Viki Reeder's house. We'll provide pizza and drinks and we can go swimming if the weather is nice enough (or other games if it's not). It would be good if we just spent a few minutes brainstorming about what an RRUU youth group could be like. Here are some features that are pretty common in other YRUU groups.

Youth directed with limited adult guidance

Topic discussions ranging from popular music to world politics

Social action projects

Occasional worship services – either just for themselves or for the whole congregation.

And the list goes on and on...

What do you want it to be? Come help create a place for teenagers at RRUU.

Youth Group Startup Meeting

Red River UU Teenagers

September 16th, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

4510 Vista Lagos, Sherman, TX

(903) 328-0256

Viki Reeder and Roger Gregory-Allen



### Adult Religious Education

All are invited to join us from 10 to 11 each Sunday morning, beginning September 16th, for adult religious education. This year we will have a series of five-week sessions on various topics of interest, beginning with a study of Buddhism led by our very own Claudette Galen. Later short courses will include a study of ethics led by Elbert Hill [based on Building Your Own Theology, Vol. III: Ethics] and other subjects suggested by the participants. Between these short courses will be presentations by the RRUUC Social Action Circle and a new one-week series called "Two Great Unitarian Universalists." The first of these sessions will be a one-sided conversation between those two great UU's Rev. Theodore Parker and our own John West concerning Theo's sermon "The Transient and Permanent in Christianity." You won't want to miss this! Please contact John Ockels at 903/891-3632 or ockels@mac.org for adult religious education matters, and we hope to see you often.

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PO Box 1806  
Denison, Texas 75021  
Phone: 903-463-3399  
E-mail: info@rruu.org

A home for religious liberals in  
Southern Oklahoma and North  
Texas

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.RRUU.ORG](http://WWW.RRUU.ORG)

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## Church Leadership

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### Board of Trustees

Kathleen Campbell, President (2008)  
Tom Rawson, Vice-president (2008)  
Jim Johnson, Treasurer (2008)  
Dianna Butler, Trustee-at-Large (2008)  
David Lawrence, Trustee-at-Large (2008)  
Mary Larkin-Baker, Trustee-at-Large (2009)  
John Ockels, Trustee-at-Large (2009)

### Minister

Reverend Jennifer Innis

### Team Leaders

Worship and Chalice Circles:  
Scottie McIntyre Johnson  
Adult Religious Education:  
John Ockels  
Children's Religious Education:  
Linda Woytasczyk  
Youth Advisors:  
Viki Reeder & Roger Gregory-Allen  
Social Action:  
David Lawrence

Caring:

Carolyn Cameron

Hospitality:

Elbert & Marion Hill

Communications:

Kathleen Campbell

Historian:

Dianna Butler

Newsletter:

Lisa Cates

Website:

Nell Evans