

Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 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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October 7

Rev. Don Fielding

"Did Unitarian Universalism Miss the Opportunity to become a Religion?"

Formerly a self-described religious humanist, the Rev. Don Fielding now prefers to call himself a "religious naturalist", one who finds his sources of meaning within the natural world, where humans are understood to be emergent from and hence a part of nature. His religious quest is informed and guided by the deepening and evolving understandings fostered by scientific inquiry and by the mindful understandings inherent in our human traditions, including art, literature, philosophy, and the religions of the world.

October 14

Claudette Galen & John Ockels

"Breathe In Peace. Breathe Out Love"

As a culmination of the RRUU adult religious education classes on Buddhism that have met during September and October, the teacher for that class, Claudette Galen, and John Ockels, RRUU Adult Education Coordinator, will lead a worship service inspired by Buddhist principles and practices. Come prepared to experience a peaceful hour of respite from the day-to-day hustle and bustle.

October 21

Rev. Susan Smith,

District Executive

Southwestern UU Conference

"Every Day a Starting Point"

Unitarian Universalism grew out of two ancient theological and religious traditions, but the modern incarnation of our faith reflects the subjectivism and narcissism of post-modernity. However, as a young faith with young congregations such as Red River UU Church, we have the potential to remake ourselves as a faith and as beloved communities. The District Executive of our UU conference will be with us to help us celebrate Association Sunday, a day when we acknowledge our connection with other UU congregations through the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

Following the service and a light lunch, Rev. Smith will lead the entire congregation in a workshop focusing on our congregational values. Plan to stay for this important event. Child care will be provided.

October 28

Rebecca Crystal & Red River Earth Spirit Chalice Circle

"Samhain, Halloween and Goblins"

Our UU Principles invite us to draw on "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" for inspiration. Members of our Red River Earth Spirit Chalice Circle honor the changing of the year, celebrate in circles and call Halloween "Samhain". What do they do in their rituals? Why do some neo-pagans not like the civic holiday of Halloween? What do witches on broomsticks have to do with the Easter Bunny? Rebecca Crystal, UU seminarian and a member of CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) will give the sermon.



Adult Religious Education & Young Religious UU 10:00am
Worship & Children's RE 11:15am

October 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			

Caring News

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. Several among us are currently struggling with personal issues and we hold them in our prayers and thoughts. You can reach us via confidential email at caring@rruu.org or phone the Team member on call for October: Doug Strong 972-658-1188. All information is confidential.

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do." - Edward Everett Hale

Schedule of Events

Thursday Afternoons Being Peace

12:15-1pm

Monday Evenings Being Peace

6:30-7:15

- **Oct 5** Church Workday 9am
- **Oct 5-6** Event at First Unitarian Church of Dallas (info on pg5)
- **Oct 9** The Green Team
- **Oct 11** Board of Trustees meeting
- **Oct 16** Evensong
- **Oct 19** The Reel Deal
- **Oct 20** A Moveable Feast
- **Oct 21** "One More Step" during Adult RE
- **Oct 21** Association Sunday & Congregational Workshop
- **Oct 25** November Newsletter Deadline
- **Oct 26** RRUU Board meets with UUA consultant
- **Oct 27** Congregational Workshop with UUA financial consultant
- **Oct 28** "New to UU" (info on pg12)
- **Oct 28** It Takes A Village

October Birthdays!



- Kathy Whisman 10/1
- Marion Hill 10/5
- Allyson Caves 10/5
- Alex Dunn 10/15
- John Ockels 10/23
- Darrah Dunn 10/24
- Carla Murphy 10/26
- Xie Tracz 10/28
- Paige Padgett 10/31

This Month's Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Donald H. Fielding received an MS degree in geology in 1971. After working for 15 years as an exploration geologist, Don returned to school, graduating from the Univ. of Iowa with an MA in religious studies in 1988 and a DMin from Meadville/ Lombard Theological School in Chicago in 1990. He served as the minister of the Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Oak Cliff until his retirement in 2003. In 2005 the Denton congregation named him Minister Emeritus. Since his retirement, Don has contemplated writing books about religion and science; however, so far he is still just contemplating. He and his wife Brenda, a software engineer, live in Plano, and have recently returned from a six-week stay in England. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Dr. Claudette Galen, who has recently joined Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, became a Buddhist at the age of 8 in Japan where she spent her childhood. As an adult, she tried many Christian churches, but today finds herself right back where she started! She is currently teaching a five-week adult religious education series for RRUU on Buddhism. Claudette has been an optometrist for almost 28 years and has recently opened her own office in Paris, Texas. She is a widow whose husband was a former Catholic priest. Claudette says "he was the smart one and the spiritual one," but we suspect she could hold her own with him! Claudette lives out in the country near Hagerman Wildlife Refuge in the company of many animals, both domestic and wild!

Mr. John Ockels is a member of RRUU and currently works as the Director of the Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center. He provides criminal environmental law enforcement training to peace officers throughout Texas. Mr. Ockels holds degrees in several subjects, including a master's degree in theological studies from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He is a multi-generational Texan and lives in Sherman with a small flock of dominating parrots.

Rev. Susan Smith is the current District Executive of Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference, a district of the Unitarian Universalist Association. After graduating magna cum laude from Perkins School of Theology (SMU) and being ordained as a UU minister by All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Shreveport, LA, Susan served congregations in Texas, Michigan and Florida, as a parish minister. She has served as chair of the UUA Commission on Social Witness and as president of two UUMA Chapters. Susan has now returned to SWUUC and Shreveport to make her home there with her husband, Robert, and their two daughters. Susan is a dynamic and prophetic preacher who preaches all her sermons from memory! You will not want to miss hearing her on October 21.

Ms. Rebecca Crystal (MSW, LCSW) is currently a ministerial student enrolled in her second year of the Modified Residency Program at Meadville Lombard Theological School, our UU seminary in Chicago. She is also currently fulfilling her school's Praxis requirement at Community Unitarian Universalist Church in Plano, TX. Rebecca has been a UU for about 20 years and has been involved in CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) for about that long as well. She lives in Denison, TX, with her husband, Kirk Everist, her mother and two cats. Kirk Everist is an Assistant Professor of Communications Studies at Austin College

Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage...

Edward Estlin Cummings was born on October 16, 1894 and brought up on a wooded estate north of the Harvard Yard, in Cambridge, MA. Edward Cummings, the father (Harvard '83), had been an instructor in sociology, but then had become a Unitarian minister, following the Rev. Edward Everett Hale at Boston's South Congregational Society, Unitarian. Young Edward grew up a Unitarian. His life embodied endless conflict between radical individualism and faith in love.

While his poetry and plays are familiar, very few people know anything about his life. Rev. Cummings sent his son to public high school and then to Harvard, but insisted that his son live at home the first three years, which encouraged his bookish habits and also cut him off from college life. Young Edward (not yet called e.e.) was intensely shy which influenced his writings. He graduated, in 1915, magna cum laude with honors in Literature, Greek and English. He was chosen to deliver the commencement address and shocked his classmates (and their parents) by speaking on "The New Art" with examples from Amy Lowell and Gertrude Stein.

At the time he was in full revolt against almost everything—except personal integrity—that Cambridge and his father stood for. Cleanliness, godliness, decorum, public spirit, then chastity went by the board. Cummings developed a taste for low life – which continued for the rest of his life – something that teemed in Boston. One night the Boston police were embarrassed to find his father's car, with its clergy's license plates, parked outside a joint near Scollay Square. Cummings and John Dos Passos, both virgins at the time, were not "upstairs"; they were drinking in the parlor while holding a polite conversation with the madam.

In the autumn after his postgraduate year, Cummings went to New York, where he spent three months at the only office job he was ever to hold. The experiment having failed by reason of pure boredom, he went to work seriously on his drawing and painting (the drawing was often inspired; the paintings were impressionistic and weak in color).

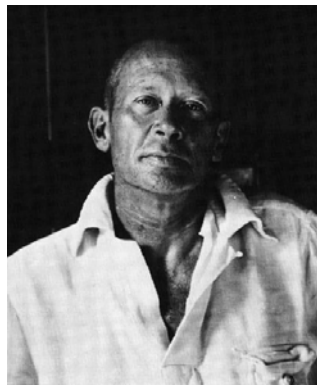
At the outbreak of WWI, Cummings went to France as a volunteer ambulance driver. While there, a friend who the French government accused of being critical of the French war effort was arrested and Cummings, who might have been cleared, felt a sense of personal honor of friendship was also shipped off to a detention barracks and jailed for three months.

In Paris Cummings met the poets Ezra Pound, Hart Crane, and Archibald MacLeish. His friends also included the philosopher A.J. Ayer, who had a short affair with his wife, Marion Morehouse. She was twelve years Cummings's junior, a former Ziegfeld showgirl and one of the leading models of the age. Cummings's friendship with Ayer lasted over twenty-five years. In the 1920s and 1930s Cummings divided his time between Paris, where he studied art, and New York, where he had a child with a friend's wife.

Cummings believed that modern mass society was a threat to individuals. "Progress is a comfortable disease," Cummings once wrote. He was interested in cubism, and jazz, which had not become mass entertainment, and contemporary slang, an unorthodox form of language. In his poems Cummings often expressed his rebellious attitude towards religion, politics, and conformity.

He always had a difficult time finding anyone to publish his poetry. One of his collections of poems was titled No Thanks, because it was rejected by 14 publishers before his mother finally paid to have it printed.

e.e. cummings died in 1962, but for us his poetry is still very much alive



embrace

resisting hate • promoting love • teaching tolerance • confronting oppression

A weekend of activities for all ages

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2007

THE FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS
4015 NORMANDY AT PRESTON ROAD

Keynote Address 7 p.m. Friday evening, October 5th

MORRIS DEES

Southern Poverty Law Center

Teen Lock-In Friday and Workshops on Saturday

LECIA BROOKS & DIANE FLINN

Civil Rights Memorial

Diversity Matters

Children's Activities Friday Night & All Day Saturday

NICK PAGE & LISA SCHREINER

Mystic Chorale

Dallas Children's Theater

Adult Workshops All Day Saturday

LECIA BROOKS & DIANE FLINN

WITH

LAUREL HALLMAN & DANIEL KANTER

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas

\$30 ADULT \$20 TEENS \$75 FAMILY FOR FULL WEEKEND

\$15 FOR MORRIS DEES ONLY

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE FREE COURTESY OF

Nathan Mogbo
BEQUEST

UUs Rambling in the Community



SHERMAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS

Neil Simon's *THE ODD COUPLE*

STARRING RRUU MEMBER, DARRAH DUNN!

Oct. 4, 5, 6, (7-mat.), 11, 12, 13, (14-mat.), 18, 19, 20, (21-mat)

Evenings: 8p.m. - Matinees: 2 p.m.

Box Office Telephone: 903-892-8818 - Ticket Prices \$6 to \$12

Box Office Hours: M-F 10 a.m. to 2p.m. - SAT 10a.m. to 12 noon

500 N. Elm St. - Sherman, TX 75090

The Green Team—Environmental Action Chalice Circle

The RRUU Green Team environmental action chalice circle invites you during the month of October to bring to church and donate one or more fluorescent light bulbs to replace the incandescent lamps in the chandeliers in our sanctuary. They will save energy and save money!

Please bring 14 watt (60 w. Equivalent) warm or soft white globes. (not the squiggly kind!)
Thank you!



Religious Education News

Our religious education program has been expanded this fall to serve our children and adults more effectively. Due to the 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). Children's RE director Linda Woytaszczyk has chosen a new curriculum for the older children called Spirit of Adventure and the curriculum for our younger children is a past favorite, Chalice Children. We are very pleased that Viki Reeder and Roger Gregory-Allen have organized a new group for our youth in junior and senior high school. 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.

Kindergarten-Grade 2

The curriculum chosen for our youngest children is called "Chalice Children". It is based upon a philosophy that a child's spiritual development is related to direct experience, this curriculum helps young children learn what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Using a chalice theme, children learn about their religious community, engage in sharing with others, and explore a sense of belonging. Linn Cates, teacher

Grades 3-6

The curriculum chosen for our older children is called "Spirit of Adventure". It is an active Unitarian Universalist Identity curriculum for children using the themes of sports, medicine, food, science, building, exploring and the web of life as ways to discover the people and values of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Linda Woytaszczyk, Teacher

Grades 7-12

A group of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists or YRUU are now being led by Roger Gregory-Allen and Viki Reeder. The group had a meeting in September and has agreed on a meeting time during the Adult Religious Education hour before the worship service on Sunday mornings. They started off their program year with a viewing and discussion of a classic episode of the Twilight Zone. All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome and encouraged to attend.

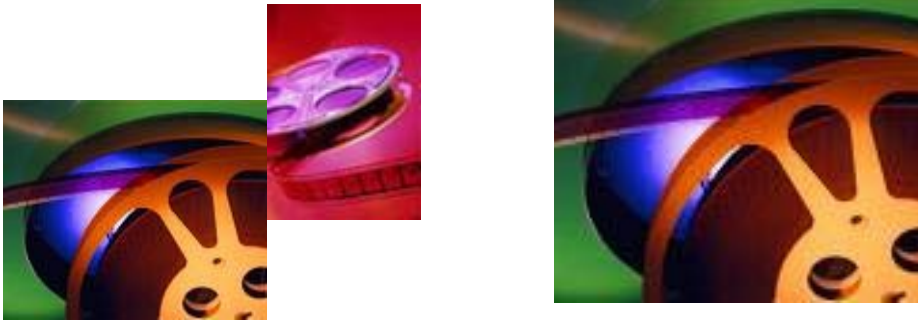
Adult Religious Education

The Buddhism Curriculum, led by Claudette Galen, is underway. The first two classes, Introduction to Buddhism and Buddhism "By the Numbers" were well attended. September 30th, the third installment will be "Zen - The Western Version". October 7 the topic will be "Mindful Living - Why Incorporate Meditation Into Your Life: and the series will conclude on October 14th with an Open Forum, Summary and Parting Words. Adult Religious Education director John Ockels and the leader of this series, Claudette Galen, will lead the worship service on October 14th. After the conclusion of the Buddhism curriculum, short courses will be offered that 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.

John Ockels

What's Up With The Reel Deal?

Chalice Circle Highlight: Each month we're spotlighting a different Chalice Circle. Last month it was The Green Team. This month we focus on "lights, camera and action – The Reel Deal"



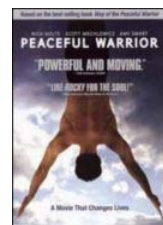
It was at one of the monthly Moveable Feast dinners that the notion popped into Linda Woytasczyk's mind. "I love watching movies, and I also enjoy talking about a movie after seeing it," she explains. "UUs enjoy the arts, good fellowship, and we've never been shy about expressing out perspectives, opinions and views.....a Chalice Circle devoted to the cinematic arts?"

That's how The Reel Deal Chalice Circle was born, and it has been meeting ever since. It is an uncomplicated system – anyone and everyone who enjoys movies gets together one evening a month to watch a movie followed by an informal open conversation. Linda spearheads the group by hosting the Reel Deal one evening a month and even provides the requisite movie goodies: popcorn, Milk Duds and Cokes! The movie (a DVD from Netflix) starts promptly at 7:20 p.m. on the Fourth Friday.

During the last year the group has watched a wide variety of films – documentaries, comedies, dramas, old favorites and new releases. The film runs without intermission and the always interesting open dialogue that follows concludes by 10:30 p.m. Before leaving, those present select next month's film which is then published in the church newsletter. Newcomers are always welcome.

The October Reel Deal, however, comes with a change in the usual date and place. For this month only, Reel Dealers invite those who have been attending the Adult Religious Education classes on Buddhism and others to join with them on Friday, October 19, at 7:20 p.m. at the church to watch the film, *Peaceful Warrior*.

If you are not familiar with this movie ...Peaceful Warrior is an inspirational tale about the remarkable power of the human spirit. A talented college gymnast leads a charmed life until a career-threatening injury and a chance meeting with a mysterious stranger show him how little he truly knows about living. He imparts to the growing young man the wisdom that he needs to leave the past behind and follow the path of destiny and fulfill his transformation into the peaceful warrior.



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) 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.



EVENSING, A Circle for Connecting with Others. 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. Oct. 16 @ the home of Kathleen Campbell in Sherman. Topic: "Poems and Prayers and Promises". Bring a poem, reading, song lyric or any written piece to share with the group. NEW "EVENSINGERS" WELCOME!

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. Oct. 9. ANYONE WHO LOVES OUR PLANET IS WELCOME!

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 a pot luck lunch. Next meeting: Sun. Oct. 28. Children and parents will continue 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, October 20 @ 6:00 P.M. @ the Hill's in Durant. Contact Elbert & Marion Hill for details.

ONE MORE STEP, A Social Action Circle. Facilitator: David Lawrence. Next project: TBA. ANYONE WANTING TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER IS WELCOME!

RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitator: Penny Armstrong. Meets at various places on various dates but usually on a Friday. Next meeting: TBA. NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

THE REEL DEAL, a Movie Watching Circle/ Facilitator: Linda Woytasczyk. Next meeting Friday, October 19, 7:20 p.m. @ the church. Film: *The Peaceful Warrior*. NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME!

RRUU Board Meeting Highlights--September 11, 2007

The board continued to discuss plans for creating new classes for our children's religious education program. Children's RE Director Linda Woytaszyk reported on the first meeting of the new RE committee. Viki Reeder has agreed to chair the committee, which also consists of Linda, Linn Cates, and John Ockels. The committee discussed several issues surrounding our education program and childcare. In addition to finding an additional teacher for the older children's class, we will need to find another child care worker. Linda will develop a job description for helpers. Children will begin the new curriculum once the physical arrangements needed for the second class can be completed.

The board discussed a number of issues related to important events in October. In order to prepare a new classroom for children's RE and to spruce up our worship space for the visit of Susan Smith, our district executive, the board scheduled a workday on Saturday, October 6, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Rev. Smith's visit on October 21 will also be the day RRUU celebrates Association Sunday. (For more about this nationwide event, please see the minister's letter.) After the service, Rev. Smith will lead a workshop with the congregation focusing on congregational values. All members of the congregation will be urged to stay for

RRUU Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday, October 11 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 903-892-057

kcampbell@austincollege.edu.

Congregational Meeting Highlights

On September 23, the congregation met for the purpose of approving the appointment of a New Home task Force to begin research on property and financing options for acquiring a new home for RRUU. The meeting began with a time for questions and comments from members about the status of our process toward finding a new building. President Kathleen Campbell explained that the board had distributed several surveys and held a workshop to discern more clearly what the congregation wants; the survey distributed with the meeting announcement summarizes the major ideas that have come out of that process and asks all members of the congregation to indicate their level of agreement with these key statements. (Members who have not yet turned in these surveys may still do so; please drop them in the box on the nametag table.)

this important event. A light lunch and childcare will be provided.

Also in October will be the first visit from Carole Czujko, the UUA financial consultant who will be working with to assess our current status and readiness for a capital campaign. The Board will meet with Ms Czujko Friday evening, Oct. 26. On Saturday morning, Oct. 27, she will meet with the entire congregation. The board and members involved with finances and fund raising will continue to meet with her on Saturday afternoon after a working lunch.

(For more information on these important events, see the president's letter.)

The board has ordered two demographic studies to help us in our growth planning. One is for the Sherman-Denison area and one is for the expanded area representing the total congregational region. The reports should arrive in mid-October.

Kathleen reported on the recent NTAUUS meeting. NTAUUS has established a DBLE scholarship fund to assist churches sending members to the leadership training school. Funds have also been set aside for a three-year lecture program beginning with Morris Dees at First Church on October 5. (See announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.) NTAUUS will continue to make grants to individual churches, though the funds available will be less than

in previous years. NTAUUS is sponsoring a float and a booth at the annual PRIDE parade in Dallas September 15

Dianna reported that the Green Team: has discussed the possibility of developing a green policy for the church. This would include replacement of incandescent bulbs with compact florescent tubes. They also plan to begin posting a "green tip of the week" on their table in the lobby.

It was proposed and approved that money raised from the NTAUUS T-shirt sale be used to provide assistance for enrollment at various workshops and conferences.

Much of the board meeting was spent in discussion of the most recent draft of a Safe Congregation Policy for RRUU. A committee consisting of John Ockels, Linda Woytaszyk, and Tingey Tracz has been working on the policy, which has been through several drafts. Questions and concerns of board members were discussed at length. The policy was referred back to the committee for further adjustments; the board will look at it again, with any revisions, in October. Once the board is satisfied with the document, an informational meeting will be scheduled to allow for questions and comments from the congregation.

RRUU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kathleen Campbell, President

Tom Rawson, Vice-president

Jim Johnson, Treasurer

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

Linn Cates announced the Green team's intention to speak with members about the possibilities of green building. Several members commented on the need for visibility, but noted that might mean a strong web sight or being better known in our community, not just being located on a major street. After a general discussion, the congregation voted unanimously to endorse the work of the New Home Task Force toward finding a new church location. That committee currently consists of David Lawrence, Dianna Butler, Jim Murphy, Carla Murphy, and Nell Evans. Members are encouraged to share their ideas about building location with the members of the committee and/or the Board of Trustees.

Letter from the RRUU Board President

Wow! October is going to be a busy month!

When you look at our calendar of events each month, it's hard to imagine squeezing in anything else. With Sunday worship services, religious education classes, committee meetings, and chalice circles, we have a lot of opportunities to participate. But in October, we will have several truly special events that will help us probe deeper into our values and our congregational life. I hope all of our members will put these dates on their calendars and plan to attend.

First, we have scheduled a church workday on Saturday, October 6, beginning at 9:00 AM. With our District Executive, Rev. Susan Smith, coming to visit later in the month, we want to spruce up the church so we can put our best foot forward. We'll do a general straightening and cleaning, remove the Velcro from the pews, clean out the flower beds, and touch up paint as needed. We also will put a fresh coat of paint on a room for our children's RE class and do our Keep Dennison Beautiful street clean-up that day. Bring your work gloves and your tools and stay as long as you can.

We're also looking for some odds and ends of furniture—a lockable storage cabinet for the new RE classroom, a nice table for the entryway, another small bookshelf for hymnbooks. If you have something we could use (even if temporarily), please let me know.

On October 21, we will be celebrating Association Sunday and our District Executive will join Jennifer Innis for the service that morning. (For more on Association Sunday, see Jennifer's article on page 13) Rev. Smith will preach the sermon and, after a light lunch provided by the church, will lead the entire congregation in a workshop focusing on our church's values. Those of us who have worked at DBLE the past two years have been impressed with Susan's abilities as a trainer and workshop leader. Don't miss his exciting opportunity to consider our congregational values guided by one of the best!

The next weekend, we will take our deeper awareness of our congregational values into the work we will do with Carole Czujko, a UUA financial consultant. Ms. Czujko will meet with the church board on Friday night, October 26. On Saturday morning, October 27, she will conduct a workshop with the whole congregation. Following that some members most directly concerned with fund-raising will stay for a working lunch and further discussion. After her visit, Ms. Czujko will send us a report assessing our congregation's financial status and readiness for a capital campaign. This is a very important step in our progress toward a new home, and I encourage all members to participate.

Finally, on October 28, especially for new members and those considering membership, Rev. Jennifer Innis and Scottie Johnson will lead a "New to Unitarian Universalism" class. Over a light lunch at my home, Jennifer and Scottie will review UU history and principles. For more information on this class, see the separate announcement on page 12 of the newsletter.

October is going to be a busy and important month for our spiritual and institutional growth at RRUU. Please mark these important dates on your calendars and make plans to make your contribution to these important activities.

Kathleen Campbell

Social Action—"One More Step!"

John Ockels has been kind enough to allow us to schedule a Social Action Committee meeting during the normal RE time of 10:00-11:00 a.m. on October 21st. We're hoping to have a large turnout to help develop the schedule for the coming year. Although we will encourage open discussion, I would welcome anyone with suggestions for Social Action projects to e-mail me at dnlawrence@aol.com or to give me a written suggestion for inclusion on the agenda. One of the major goals will be to establish a 12-month calendar of SA events. This will allow prior planning and

coordination with other community groups.

In additions, John has offered us an opportunity to participate in one of the five-week program series that RE is utilizing this year. We have suggested topics, but would welcome your thoughts. This will also be discussed at the meeting.

The tee shirt sales went well. We still have a few large and extra large shirts for \$7.50.

The NTAUUS Social Action Network, in conjunction with the North Texas UU congregations,

sponsored a float in the recent Pride Parade as well as an information booth. Approximately 150 members from the area churches turned out for the event. A crowd of more than 60,000 spectators lined the parade route.



New to Red River Unitarian Universalist Church?

**PLEASE RSVP
FOR MEETING
OCTOBER 28TH
AFTER CHURCH
AT KATHLEEN
CAMPBELL'S
HOME**

Are you wondering just what our local church does, what Unitarian Universalists nationwide represent and if this is a spiritual community that fits your needs?

Are you a new member at Red River Unitarian Universalist Church and want to get to know other new members? For answers and discussion on these topics plan to attend this introduction to Unitarian Universalism with the Rev. Jennifer Innis after service on October 28. We will meet at Kathleen Campbell's home, 1104 South Travis in Sherman, as soon as possible after service and share a lunch and discussion. A main dish will be provided.

You are invited to bring a salad or a desert for potluck. Contact Kathleen Campbell at kcampbell@austincollege.edu, 903-892-0576, or at church to RSVP or with questions.

UUA Advertising Campaign!

National Advertising Campaign for Unitarian Universalism Starts in October! The Unitarian Universalist Association will be running four ads this fall in Time Magazine, the oldest and most recognized news publication in America. This is our first advertising campaign in over 50 years. The ads will hit newsstands on Oct. 5, Oct.26, Nov. 23, and Dec. 21, and their Cover Dates will be Oct. 15, Nov. 5, Dec. 3, and Dec. 31 (Person of the Year Edition), respectively. Look for the ads and let's be proud to share the good news of our faith with new visitors! The UUA has resources to help our congregation get ready to receive visitors at the UUA website.

Minister's Letter

On the Journey

On September 23, a crowd of members, friends, families and colleagues filled the sanctuary of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church to welcome a new minister into his vocation. It was the members of First Jefferson who chose to ordain the Rev. Phil Douglas as a Unitarian Universalist minister. But Phil and the members did not celebrate that moment alone. The people there represented at least 15 congregations from north Texas, the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference and from as far away as Blacksburg, Virginia. In fact the choir consisted of members from both First Jefferson and Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, the site of Phil's ministerial internship. The moment of ordination and cheering for the new minister is wonderful. At the same time, this gathering is so much more than a celebration for one person. I encourage everyone to attend ordinations of new ministers and installations of ministers with congregations because the ways we are connected are so clear in those times. These moments call us to renew our own liberal spirit and refresh our mission: to trust in the possibility of wholeness rather than assume we are forever broken and to advocate for freedom of the body, mind, and spirit combined with

our stewardship in the world as the best path to care for each other and this life.

However, there are only so many installations and ordinations. Even with all the wonderful links between members of this congregation and events in the region, not all of us take part in the workshops and conferences and rallies. Association Sunday is a chance for all of us to participate, whether by attending the service led by the Rev. Susan Smith on October 21, making a donation for the special collection, learning about this campaign and its goals by going to www.uua.org and looking up Association Sunday, or asking our leaders what our Unitarian Universalist neighbors are doing in the Southwest.

In particular, the special collection on Association Sunday central is different from all other special collections. It provides a unique opportunity to support and strengthen our Association, as no one but us, its members, can. Through Association Sunday, we will connect as a denomination and pool our resources to grow our faith.

The resources we raise through this collection will be distributed by the Unitarian Universalist Association as follows:

50% to support innovative national marketing programs to help grow Uni-

tarian Universalism and its influence.

25% to support congregations and the ministers of color they call

25% directly to our districts for grants in support of individual congregations' growth and outreach projects

These funds are not for a future time – they are for right now. A new advertising campaign begins this month in Time magazine. Look for the announcement of this campaign in this newsletter and for the first ads appearing in Time magazine on October 5. The possibility of those grants includes this congregation as we seek to expand our voice in Texoma. This collection is for growing our relationships today.

Strengthening our relationships with other congregations is not something to save for later either, after we finish our own to do list – increasing those connections is important now. On October 21, we have a chance to work together with congregations all over the country. Now is the time to celebrate and amplify those connections, to remind us of how the world needs our message of hope and to remember how much stronger we are together beyond what any one of us can do alone. Now is the time to grow our faith and help heal the world.

Namaste,
Jennifer

Where in the UU World is Rev Jennifer?

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, I will respond as soon as possible.

When I am working with the Unitarian Universalist church at Midland I may take a little longer to return calls and email due to my responsibilities there. I ask that you let me know if a matter needs my immediate attention. For this month, I am in Midland during October 4-14. If you do not reach me directly, please let me know how to get in touch with you.

Bowing to the light within,

Jennifer

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E-mail: info@rruu.org

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Minister

Reverend Jennifer Innis

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Children's Religious Education:

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