

# Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2008

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

## A Month of Sundays

### Inside this issue:

Calendar 2

Minister's 3  
Letter

President's 4  
Letter

Chalice Circle 5  
News

UU Heritage 6

Earth Day 8  
Celebration

Religious 10  
Education

April 6

Rev. Jennifer Innis

**"We Do Not Stand. We Move."**

At the end of the month I will offer the sermon for the installation of a new minister. Please join me as I offer my vision of what a liberal church can become, inspired by my thoughts when preparing this sermon.

April 13

Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong

**"What Does This Moment Require of Me?"**

Every day it's the same thing. We're pushed, pulled, tugged, nudged, forced, bumped, whacked and walloped this way or that. Every day we face the age-old conundrum about how we negotiate the audacity of hope, the fear of change, the bliss of love, the root of suffering, and the presence of grace amidst the turmoil and bedlam of existence. Do you ever feel in the chaos of living that you've lost yourself? And if you're like me, do you wonder what you can do about it? Join me on April 13, as we look at some serious and humorous ways to sooth our somnolent souls.

APRIL 13 IS "WEAR YOUR WORK CLOTHES TO CHURCH SUNDAY!" WE WILL DO A GENERAL CLEAN UP, FIX-UP OF OUR BUILDING, INSIDE AND OUT, AFTER CHURCH. A LIGHT LUNCH AND CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED. STAY FOR AS LONG AS YOU CAN; LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU MUST. ALL ARE INVITED TO HELP!

April 20

Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones

**"In Covenant"**

This Sunday coincides with Earth Day and with the Jewish holiday of Passover. The idea of covenant is central to Judaism and to our own religious tradition. The word pops up all the time, but what does it mean? The Jews' ancient covenant with God served them well in their time; perhaps, today, we need to make a new covenant with the Earth. Megan Dalby-Jones will explore the history of covenant within the Abrahamic traditions and help connect our current faith to this ancient but still very relevant idea.

April 27

Dr. John Ockels

**"Shall We Dwell at the River?"**

"To dwell means to belong to a given place," but how do we achieve this? Instead of belonging to a place, we often live nomadic lives of "just passing through," far from a sense of being home. This service will explore what religion might have to do with the homecoming many of us seek.



Adult Religious Education & Jr./Sr. High RE 10:00am  
Worship & Children's RE 11:15am

# April 2008

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			

## Mark Your Calendar!

The annual congregational meeting of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church will be held on May 4, 2008 at 12:30 PM at the church. Members will receive an agenda and relevant materials in the mail in mid April. This is the meeting at which we elect officers and board members, approve the budget for the coming fiscal year, and conduct other church business. Mark your calendars now so that you can be sure to attend.

## New To UU?

Come to lunch and a discussion after church in the Fellowship Hall on April 6! Find out more about Unitarian Universalism from the Rev. Jennifer Innis and about Red River Unitarian Universalist Church from Scottie McIntyre Johnson. Lunch and childcare will be provided. (Long time members are welcome, as well!)

## Congratulations!

Mitchell Reid, son of our member Cynthia Evetts, is a graduating senior at Sherman High School this year. We congratulate him for having been accepted as an acting major in the School of Drama at Oklahoma University next fall.

## Schedule of Events

### Monday Evenings 6:30-7:15

Being Peace Meditation Circle

### Thursday Afternoons 12:15-1:00

Being Peace Meditation Circle

**April 3** – Board Meeting 7:30, home of Dianna Butler

**April 4** – UUJam!! 7:00

**April 6** – New to UU Class after church

**April 8** – The Green Team 7:00

**April 10** – A Moveable Feast

**April 13** – Church Work Day after church

**April 15** – Evensong 7:30

**April 18** – Red River Earth Spirit 7:30

**April 20** – May Newsletter Deadline

**April 20** – RRUU Earth Day Celebration (see pg.8)

**April 24** – A Moveable Feast

**April 25** – The Reel Deal 7:20

**April 25-27** – SWUUD Spring Conference (Austin)

**May 4** – Annual Congregational Meeting

## April Birthdays!

Addi Jo Dunn 4/2

Bruce Cameron 4/7

Vivian Weeks 4/10

Chris Wood 4/16

Debi Hester 4/18

Chris House 4/19

Caleb Butler 4/24



## Minister's Letter

### *On the Journey*

I will be the first to admit I like stability. I would rather live in one place for a long time and get to know it very well instead of moving to a new city every couple of years. My father still lives in the house where my brothers and I grew up. People in town and at church know my family and we say hello when I visit. My great grandfather helped write the town zoning laws when it was little more than dairy farms and saw mills. I like knowing what I can count on.

Looking back at my travels in ministry, from Massachusetts to Alabama, to South Carolina and Illinois, and finally to Texas, I realize I like new places too. Living New England is like being part of a live history museum. So too there is deep history all across the country, if one knows how to look. The food is good too. Just the differences in barbeque make the journey worth the trip.

In fact, now that it looks like Patrick and I will serve great congregations

and have the chance to get to know one place for a while, I am beginning to understand I still need to find new places to explore. Make no mistake; Texas and Oklahoma keep me occupied. The difference in wildflowers on either side of the Red River is quite striking in the spring. Politics makes for an enduring source of wonder – as in, I wonder how anything gets done? Certainly Patrick and I are feeling settled enough to stir up excitement of our own and start having children. Our first adventure in parenting begins in earl August. The Board, the Committee on Ministry, and I are working out a plan for my maternity leave in August and September.

None of us are strangers to this desire for stability and this enthusiasm for the new. Both keep us going. Enjoying a quality, predictable situation is great. A known life can be a good life. Yet, discovering what is over the next hill is fine too because it could make life even better. There are reasons why I enjoy Willard Scott's Today Show report on people who reach age

100 and beyond. Most of those people endure because of their zest for life and because of what has kept them going for a century or more. These women and men of 100, 105, or even 110 years lived through the Depression and job losses and death and a century of war. They are no strangers to poverty, injustice, or illness. Yet they wake each day and come across something new for which to live. They seem to find a yet undiscovered land in their very familiar worlds.

As Spring begins, I wonder what awaits each of us. I wonder what may come from within the places where we live, the places we think we know. I wonder what new adventures await us over the next hill if we are willing to look. We don't have to get to 100. We just have to pay attention now.

Namaste,

Jennifer

### Where in the UU World is Rev Jennifer?

Before letting you know where I will be, let me first encourage you to contact me. While most of my time is spent with the Board and other leaders of the congregation and I am available for emergencies, my goal is to serve the entire congregation as best I can. I rely on you to let me know of your joys and concerns or if you just want to talk.

As of this newsletter, I will be in Denison to lead the service and the New to Unitarian Universalism gathering at Kathleen Campbell's house on April 6, participate in the Board meeting on April 10, and attend the to-be-announced meeting of the Committee on the Ministry later in the month. The best ways to find me are by my cell phone: 972-639-7900 and by email: [revjinnis@earthlink.net](mailto:revjinnis@earthlink.net). My day off is Monday. I will return general calls or email after my day off is complete. In case of emergency, I will respond as soon as possible.

In addition to serving the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, I am the Minister (1/2 time) for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. 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 April 11-20.

For April 25-27, I have a special trip to the Unitarian Church in Los Alamos where I will offer the sermon at the installation of their new minister, the Rev. John Cullinan. I hope everyone who attends the Spring Conference of the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference at Austin that same weekend has a great time and will have much to share with the church.

Bowing to the Light within,

Jennifer

## Letter from the RRUU Board President

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As I write this, our 2008 Stewardship Campaign is at the halfway mark in time. The pledges so far have been incredibly generous; a 15% or even 20% increase in our budget remains a possibility. By the time you read this, we will know what goal we have reached and what we can include in our 2008-09 budget. Whatever the final amount of the campaign turns out to be, I am very grateful to each of you who made pledges of financial support for the church for the coming year.

During the campaign I had the opportunity to attend two of the cottage meetings and to listen to the questions, concerns, and ideas of members of the congregation attending. I am especially appreciative of those who attended each of the cottage meetings and who took advantage of the opportunity to talk about our church. I also want to give a special thanks to the members who graciously agreed to host these valuable gatherings. Since we are a small church and can speak to each other and to our elected leaders rather easily, I know some of you may feel the cottage meetings were an unnecessary part of the campaign--just another meeting to go to at a time when we are all busy, both with church activities and with other responsibilities. But the fact is, I and other members of our board don't hear from many of you very often. And it is hard to overestimate the value of sitting together in a relaxed environment, face-to-face, with no agenda other than to listen to each other. In the meetings I attended, comments began slowly, but in each case wonderful ideas began to emerge. Some of these were similar to ideas discussed at the board's retreat (see the Board Highlights article), others were new and exciting. Some can be put into effect fairly quickly, others will take more time and planning. But all of them contributed to my awareness of what's important to our members and strengthened my belief that the members of RRUUC care deeply about our church.

If you were unable to attend a meeting, I encourage you to come forward and share your ideas with me, with any member of the board, or with the chair of the appropriate committee. Sometimes the church leadership hears things second or third hand, and we are glad for the feedback. But negative comments made to others and not to the people directly concerned can be damaging to the congregation. Complaints expressed to others can create small conclaves of dissatisfaction and, if not communicated to those who can do something about the issue, make it unlikely that the concern can be addressed. As for positive comments, all of us, if we are doing something right, can use some positive reinforcement.

If you are not sure where to address a compliment or concern, send it to [president@rruu.org](mailto:president@rruu.org) or call me at 903-892-0576. I will be sure your comment is passed on to the person or persons who need to hear it.

As our church grows larger, you may feel that it is becoming harder to make your voice heard, but I promise you that I, Jennifer, your board, and all your church leaders are eager to here from you. I encourage you to be an active participant in the affairs of this congregation by sharing your concerns, your compliments, and your ideas with those who can respond to them with real and appropriate action.

Kathleen Campbell

## RRUU Board Meeting Highlights--March 6, 2008

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Because of the heavy snowfall in the Texoma area, the March 6 Meeting of the RRUU Board of Trustees was cancelled. Items on the agenda will be considered at the next meeting, April 4, 2008.

On Saturday, March 8, members of the board met with members of the Committee on Ministry and various committee chairs for a discussion of the recommendations in the assessment report submitted by UUA consultant Carole Cjuiko. The group developed some short-term and long-term goals for acting on her recommendations. Short terms projects include refurbishing the interior and exterior of the building, creating additional signage, improving landscaping, and looking into solutions for additional parking. Long-term efforts will include a by-laws review, assessment and revision of our five-year plan, and a new look at our mission and vision statement. After further research on expense and practicality of various solutions, the board will consider the short-term projects at the next meeting and determine which can be implemented immediately. A workday has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 13, after church, to begin to implement these improvements.

## RRUU Chalice Circles—Which Small Group Is Right For You?

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. All members and friends are welcome! If you are interested in attending a particular circle, contact Circle Coordinator, Scottie McIntyre Johnson (903-892-4751; [scottieone@cableone.net](mailto:scottieone@cableone.net)).



**BEING PEACE, A Mindfulness 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.

**BEING PEACE, A Mindfulness Meditation Circle. (Evening Session)** Facilitator: Kathy Whisman. Meets every Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. @ the church.

**NEW MEDITATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT EITHER CIRCLE! JUST SHOW UP.**



**EVENSONG, A Circle for Sharing Our Stories.** Facilitator: Scottie McIntyre Johnson. Meets the third Tuesday of the month @ 7:30 p.m. Next meeting: April. 15 @ the home of Scottie McIntyre Johnson in Sherman. Topic: "I Like This Poem Because..." Bring one or two of your favorite poems to share.

**NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle.** Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan. We will finalize plans for the Earth Day Celebration on April 20 after church.

**ANYONE WHO LOVES OUR PLANET IS ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**IT TAKES A VILLAGE, A Circle of Parents Supporting Parents.** Facilitator: Dianna Butler. We will not have a separate meeting this month but will provide Children's Arts & Crafts activities for the church's Earth Day Celebration on April 20. Contact Dianna Butler for details.

**FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**A MOVEABLE FEAST, A Cooking and Eating Circle.** Facilitators: Elbert & Marion Hill. Meets at moveable times and moveable places! This month: 2 separate groups will be hosted by the Bruce & Carolyn Cameron on April 10 and April 24. Contact Marion or Elbert for details.



**RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle.** Facilitator: Penny Armstrong & Kris Riek. Meets at various places on various dates. Next meeting: Friday, April 18 @ 7:30 p.m. @ the church. Rebecca Crystal, UU seminarian and pagan, will present the program.

**NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**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: Friday, April 25.

**NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



**UUJAM!! A Music-Making Circle.** Facilitator: Jan Fletcher. Meets the first Friday of the month @ 7:00 p.m. @ the home of Jan Fletcher. Next meeting: April 4. Bring your beverage of choice, your musical instruments and songs to sing. Our musical theme this month is country music and Beatles' tunes.

**MUSICIANS AND LISTENERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



## Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage...

Like many Unitarian Universalist ministers, The Reverend Robert Fulghum wrote a column in the church newsletter for the Unitarian Church in Edmonds, Washington. Rumor has it that Fulghum (as he likes to be called) was urged to take some of those articles and put them in a book. He did and the rest is history. *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* (1986), stayed on the New York Times bestseller lists for nearly two years. The fifteenth anniversary edition of the book, reconsidered, revised, and expanded with twenty-five new essays, is now available.

Fulghum was born in 1937, and grew up in Waco, Texas. In his youth he worked as a ditch-digger, newspaper carrier, ranch hand, and singing cowboy.

After college and a short career with IBM, he enrolled at Starr King School for the Ministry to complete a degree in theology. For 22 years he served as a parish minister of Unitarian churches in the Pacific Northwest. During this same period he taught drawing, painting, and philosophy at the Lakeside School in Seattle. Fulghum is an accomplished painter and sculptor. He sings, and plays the guitar and mando-cello. He was a founding member of the authors' collective rock-and-roll band, the Rock-Bottom Remainers.



There are currently more than 16 million copies of his books in print, published in 27 languages in 103 countries. His latest work *What On Earth Have I Done* was published last year.

He has written one novel in three volumes, the first, *Third Wish*, was continued in *Third Wish II, The Rest of the Story, Almost* and completed with the third volume, *Third Wish, Granted*. The novel was recently published in Czech, Slovak, and Hungarian. Negotiations are under way for further publication in Europe in Spanish, Italian, and German. English-language publication is being negotiated.

Robert Fulghum has four children and nine grandchildren. He lives in Seattle, Washington, and on the Greek island of Crete. He returns to UU pulpits and has spoken at General Assemblies as his schedule permit.

Like many Unitarian Universalists, Fulghum has penned a credo which gives a voice to his beliefs:

*I believe that imagination  
is stronger than knowledge  
That myth is more potent than history.  
I believe that dreams are more  
powerful than facts  
That hope always triumphs  
over experience  
That laughter is the only cure  
for grief.  
And I believe that love is  
stronger than death.*

Since the success of his first book, Fulghum has published seven best-selling books. His other collections include:

- *It Was on Fire When I Lay Down on It*
- *Uh-Oh*
- *Maybe (Maybe Not)*
- *From Beginning to End -- The Rituals of Our Lives*
- *True Love*
- *Words I Wish I Wrote*
- *"What On Earth Have I Done"*

## Social Action—"One More Step!"

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April will be a busy month for RRUU community activities. On Sunday, April 6 at 1:30 p.m., we will conduct our annual clean up at Baker Park in Sherman. Last year we had great weather and a great turnout. This is a great project for all age groups. Please feel free to drop by for a few minutes or for the whole afternoon. The cleanup normally lasts about two hours. Help us beat last years trash total.

We'd like to extend an invitation to other civic groups in the area. If anyone has contacts, please drop me a line at [dnlawrence@aol.com](mailto:dnlawrence@aol.com). If you'd like to hand deliver or post a notice on a bulletin board at work, feel free to take one of the extra notices located on the SA bulletin board

On Saturday, April 12, we will be landscaping the recently complete Habitat for Humanity home at 218 E. Hull in Denison. We plan to start at 9:00 a.m. and work until noon or a little later. In addition to the individual volunteers that participate, we'll be joined by the youth group from the Texoma Christian School. Participation with other groups is always a great way to help spread our message of social activism.

At our last SA meeting, we had reconfirmed our commitment to support worthy causes in all areas of Texomaland. As part of that pledge, we will be conducting a drive in support of the Bryan County Youth Center in early May.

The South Central Regional Conference for a U.S. Department of Peace will be held April 25-27 at Southern Methodist University. Those interested in attending may obtain information at [www.TexasDOP.org](http://www.TexasDOP.org).

## Draft Covenant

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INPUT NEEDED ON NEW RRUU COVENANT!!

A New Covenant Task Force, consisting of Elbert Hill, Scottie McIntyre Johnson, Mary Larkin-Baker and Rev. Jennifer Innis, has drafted of a new covenant for RRUU, based on member responses at the January congregational workshop. The covenant will be voted on at the congregation's Annual Meeting on May 4.

Thus far, we have received little input from members on the proposed covenant. Please send your comments and/or suggestions for changes to [scottieone@cableone.net](mailto:scottieone@cableone.net) or give written comments to any member of the Task Force at church. Thank you! Here is the draft covenant:

Love is the spirit of this church and service is our call.

This we promise to one another and to the world:

To treat each other and the earth gently,

To be slow to judge and quick to forgive,

To be kind in disagreement and caring at all times,

To celebrate our differences and cherish our commonalities,

And by working together for justice and the common good,

To grow toward harmony with the mystery of life.

## News from the Green Team

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April 8 Green Team meeting 7:00

Finalize plans for Earth day

Prepare for IEA meeting

Location: Amy's House

April 13 Interfaith Environmental Alliance meeting 4:00 pm

Training on beginning a listening campaign within congregations and beginning steps toward the Breath of Life Campaign.

Location: Grand Ave Presbyterian Church

## April 20 RRUU Earth Day celebration 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Our Earth Day celebration will start during the morning Adult RE time. The adults will be addressing the responsibilities of local governments to enforce pollution laws, and how these powers may be used or avoided by local powers. The sermon during the worship service will be delivered by Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones, a student at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago. She will be drawing correlations between Earth Day and with the Jewish holiday of Passover by exploring the history and idea of covenants. After the worship service, there will be opportunities to purchase earth-friendly and fairly traded items, to get information from members of our community and to enjoy the fellowship of our members and friends. The wildly popular RRUU Green Team shopping bags will be for sale.



12:15 - 1:00 Light Lunch provided by Green Team, featuring local & organic foods. We will also play the DVD "The Story of Stuff" during this time.



1:00 - 2:00 Children's Activities provided by It Takes a Village Chalice Circle



1:00 - 1:30 Terry LaCrosse, owner of No-More-ElectricBills will talk about his Sherman wind generator and solar water heater company



1:30 - 2:00 Linn Cates & Rachel Van Citters will demonstrate the RRUU compost center, accompanied by "The Compost Song" by Scottie McIntyre Johnson





**“Makin’ Compost”**  
 by Ms. Scottie Johnson  
 (Composed 10-16-02)

- (1) Well, you can buy a special barrel  
 Or build a special bin  
 Or dig a little hole, but put the garbage in,  
 And you'll have compost.  
 And then you can boast.  
 Oh, oh, it feels so good to shout,  
 “We don't just throw our garbage out!  
 We're makin' compost!”
- (2) Well, you take your apple peelings  
 And that slick banana skin  
 And the toast left from your breakfast,  
 And you put it in the bin  
 And you'll have compost,  
 And then you can boast  
 That the Cherrios you spill  
 Won't have to go in the landfill.  
 They'll turn to compost!
- (3) Well, you give the stuff you don't eat  
 For your lunch or for your snack.  
 When those little bugs start workin'  
 You'll get something good back.  
 You'll get some compost,  
 And then you can boast  
 That the garbage that you placed  
 In that bin won't just go to waste.  
 It turns to compost!
- Interlude: Grass and leaves, flowers and weeds, wilted vegetable parts.  
 It all goes in that compost bin  
 Then the decomposin' starts. (You just can't stop it!)
- (4) Then you sprinkle it with water  
 And you toss that steamy pile  
 You know that something's happenin'  
 As you wait a little while  
 To get your compost.  
 You see you can boast  
 That you're doin' what you can  
 To be a part of nature's plan.  
 You're makin' compost!
- (5) Soon the stuff that once was garbage  
 Doesn't look that way at all  
 That rich and fertile compost  
 Makes your garden grow tall  
 You made some compost,  
 And you deserve to boast  
 That you did the best you could  
 To do somethin' really good.  
 You made some compost! Compost!

**“Shine a Light into the World”**  
**The 2008 Stewardship Campaign**

This last Sunday, we concluded our 2008 Stewardship Campaign with the annual church birthday party. I hope you all were able to enjoy the cake. As of this writing, we have surpassed last year's pledge total by more than \$3000 and we fully expect that we will get in a few lingering pledges to make for approximately a 10% gain. That takes us to a total of about \$55,000!

Many thanks to everyone for your generosity. It really is what makes this church work and what will keep us getting better and bigger in every way.

Of course, it's never too late to turn in a pledge form! If you haven't done so yet or are new to the congregation, feel free to get a pledge form from one of the Board or Stewardship committee members and fill it out. We will happily take it at any time.

Again, thank you all for a successful 2008 Stewardship campaign!

*The 2008 Stewardship Committee*

Roger Gregory-Allen, Chair

David Lawrence, Dan Althoff, Kathleen Campbell

Rev. Jennifer Innis, Advisor



## Religious Education News

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Religious Education Classes for adults and for students from 7th through 12th grades are held each Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m.. Nursery care for babies, toddlers and younger children is provided during this hour.

Here is the schedule of topics that will be covered in the Adult Education Class for the month of March:

**April 6** - Wicca, the Most Common American Pagan Practice. John Ockels will conclude a brief review of some aspects of paganism and the Earth Religions with a discussion of Wicca.

**April 13** - Hyde Park Sunday. This will be the first occurrence of what we hope will be an annual event. Three speakers will be given a 15 minute block of time to enlighten us on whatever subject they wish. The general model will be a ten minute presentation and five minutes of questions. If you want to be a presenter on this Sunday, please contact [ockels@mac.com](mailto:ockels@mac.com).

**April 20** - Earth Day. The Adult RE class will join with the other activities of the church by addressing environmental issues. Specifically, this year's focus will be on the vast powers that local governments in Texas actually have to stop pollution. John Ockels will be the presenter.

**April 27** - Building Your Own Theology. Elbert Hill will continue leading the group in an exploration of ethics, UUs' favorite subject. This series will continue throughout the month of May, and is something you'll not want to miss.

Religious Education Classes for children in grades K though 6 is held during the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Nursery care is provided for babies and toddlers.

The RRUU Caring Committee wants to know about your joys, sorrows, concerns and needs.

Please contact the Caring Committee Coordinator, Viv Weeks:

[vvnweeks@yahoo.com](mailto:vvnweeks@yahoo.com) or 903-564-3838



## UUJam!!

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"Let It Snow" is a great song to sing during the Holidays, but it is not a welcome song for the first week of March! However, a dozen folks braved the remains of Thursday's 8+ inch snowfall to sing, play and enjoy sharing music for the March 7 meeting of UU-JAM. Thank you to Rachel and Carla for bringing copies of songs and chords to share with the group. I'm building a book of the shared sheets for future sessions. As always, Dan provided much needed keyboard guidance and William brought down the house with a couple of his original songs. Jim and Scottie got everyone singing along on some Beatles hits which we plan to continue at the April meeting. Doyle offered alternative lyrics for a couple of Irish tunes in honor of St. Patrick's Day and Kris and Marla added their voices to the group efforts. Members unable to join us due to road conditions and family illness were greatly missed and we look forward to seeing you at the April songfest.

By the time Friday, April 4 gets here I'm sure we will start the meeting in sunshine! Meeting time is still 7 pm till whenever at our house - 1050 Hazelwood Road -- 9 miles west of Sherman & 1 mile south of 82. Please bring your instruments, songs to share or for spotlight performance, song books or lyrics with chords, your favorite beverage & food to share. Let's try to start as close to 7 as possible in case you need extra time to set up. And don't forget to phone or email me if you are not able to join us. Members wanted to continue sharing favorite Beatles tunes (don't forget to email your selection to Scottie or Jim--my pick is "Norwegian Wood" please) as well as move on to a variety of country singer/songwriter hits and our usual "anything goes"! I'm hoping we will be able to adjust the format a bit with the person leading the song on the initial time through & calling on others to "Jam" a segment another time or two through & finish with the group all joining in, if that suits the performer. I've been on the internet printing lyrics & chords for a selection of classic country since I'm not familiar with any new stuff but I'm eager to learn whatever is brought to share.

If you haven't made it out to a UUJAM, come on out! Musicians and listeners alike are welcome...let me know if you need directions via return email or phone 903-892-8396. See you April 4th -- Jan

## Creating a Politics of Hope & Possibility

2008 South Central Conference for a U.S. Department of Peace April 25-27

Southern Methodist University - Dallas, Texas



Marianne Williamson, Keynote Speaker

7:00 pm - Saturday, April 26

Conference Registration and Individual Tickets available online

Monday, March 17 at [www.TexasDOP.org](http://www.TexasDOP.org)



### RRUU Treasurer's Reports:

Since I was gone in January and did not give you a report on the first half of the fiscal year, I am including in this issue two reports to bring you up to date:

(1) July-December 2007 (the first two quarters of the fiscal year). Income was \$29,616 (\$2441 over the budgeted amount); total expenses were \$22,204 (\$4971 under the budgeted amount). We therefore had a net inflow of \$7,412. Much of this difference was money budgeted but not yet spent; also, the surplus income was helpful. As far as pledges were concerned, we were \$470 short of the budgeted amount, but some people chose to pay their pledges later rather than earlier.

(2) January 2008-March 2008 (third quarter). Income was \$13,270 (\$318 under budget; pledges were \$1,075 under budget). Expenses were \$15,955 (\$2,368 over budget). This resulted in a net outflow for the quarter of \$2,686. We paid some large bills in this quarter, including the 2nd half of our association dues. I expect this to balance out by the end of the year in June. All in all, we are having a good year financially and are paying our bills. Our total financial assets at present are \$56,509. This does not include the Endowment Fund.

I have now updated the pledge payments for the fiscal year. I plan to send those amounts to members over the next couple of weeks. If you would like to receive your information sooner, send me an e-mail ([jjohnson@cableone.net](mailto:jjohnson@cableone.net)) or let me know at church. Thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to RRUU.

Jim Johnson, Treasurer

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A home for religious liberals in  
Southern Oklahoma and North  
Texas

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## Church Leadership

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### Minister

Reverend Jennifer Innis

### 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)

### Committee on Ministry

Darrah Dunn, Elbert Hill, Linda Woytasczyk

### 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

Hospitality:

Elbert & Marion Hill

Communications:

Kathleen Campbell

Historian:

Dianna Butler

Newsletter:

Lisa Cates

Caring:

Viv Weeks

Website:

Nell Evans