

Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2008

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 7

Dr. John Ockels

“The Cambridge Platform: Root of Our Faith”

Although today's Unitarian Universalist churches are homes to members and friends of virtually every known philosophical and religious view, the underlying structure and polity of all our congregations are themselves virtually identical. All of us are rooted in the Cambridge Platform, adopted by the Puritan Congregational churches in 1648. This Mother Document of our faith defines who we are today as much as our love of diversity does. Understanding it and reflecting on the enormous responsibility to which it calls each of us will be the focus of this service.

September 14

Mr. Gary Stuard

“From Plum Village to Transfiguration: The Journey Home”

Gary Stuard is a practicing Buddhist, having spent 4 years as a Buddhist monk studying under Thich Nhat Hanh, as well as a practicing Episcopalian, now an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas. He is also the Executive Director of the Interfaith Environmental Alliance of Texas, a state-wide organization working to unite people of all faiths in an effort to become better stewards of the earth. Gary's service will be Buddhist-inspired with short periods of silent meditation and a Dharma Talk about the environment.

September 21

Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones

“Fall to New Heights”

As we enter the season of autumn, we come to the end of the natural year. We also mark the start of a new school year and a new church year. The Jewish and Christian traditions begin a new liturgical year. In this service, we will explore beginnings and endings in this season of paradox and possibilities.

September 28

UU Jam! Chalice Circle

“CommUUunity!”

An Intergenerational Service of Word and Music

Members of our RRUU Music-Making Chalice Circle will present songs and readings on the theme of community. Part of the service will include creating a large stained-glass piece, which will be hung in the foyer of the church. People of all ages are encouraged to come and participate in this interactive, intergenerational service!

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

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Being Peace 12-1245pm @ home of Nell Evans	4	5 UUJam!! 7pm @ home of Jan Fletcher	6
7 Freethinkers @ church after service TAIEA 6pm @ Grand Ave Presbyterian Church	8	9 The Green Team 730pm @ home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan	10 Being Peace 12-1245pm @ home of Nell Evans	11	12 Red River Earth Spirit 7pm @ Church	13
14 It Takes A Village 2pm @ Finley for <i>Oliver</i>	15	16	17 Being Peace 12-1245pm @ home of Nell Evans	18	19 Book Signing 7pm @ the church for author Marion Moore Hill	20 A Moveable Feast 6pm @ home of William Lloyd/Carolyn Buttner
21	22	23	24 Being Peace 12-1245pm @ home of Nell Evans Agape 7pm @ Church	25	26 The Reel Deal 720 @ home of Linda Woy- tasczyk	27
28	29	30				

Our Principles

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

September Birthdays!

Judy Donahue 9/4

Viki Reeder 9/12

John West 9/16

Sylvia Mitchell 9/17

Gerry Shehan 9/18

Angie Cates 9/20

Tanner House 9/24

Dianna Niemann-Harris 9/30

L.D. Clark 9/30



Minister's Letter

On the Journey

Thank you for your ongoing support during my family leave. I am very happy to report the birth of Nathaniel Patrick Innis Price at 5:48pm on August 12. He weighed 7 lbs. 14 ozs. and was 19 inches long. As of this newsletter, he is hale and hearty and about to outgrow some of his clothes. Patrick and I have our hands full with Nate, and we are savoring the opportunity to take care of his new little life.

My family leave continues through the month of September and I expect to return to Red River for the weekend of October 5. I am in touch with the Board while plans are in progress for the fall calendar. I hope you enjoy the chance to hear Megan Dalby-Jones lead the worship on September 21.

In case of emergency, I am available by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net and by phone (972)639-7900. If you have any questions about my leave or about the church, contact me directly or speak with a member of the Board.

Namaste,
Jennifer

Letter from the RRUU Board President

As I expressed to the Board at our monthly meeting, I was gratified by the ways our church responded to the Knoxville shooting during the week that followed the tragedy. Our youth sent sympathy cards of their own creative design to the Knoxville children who had witnessed the horrible event. Our Adult RE Class engaged in thoughtful discussion of the events at Knoxville. Our ministers here in Denison (Jennifer, who came up to be with us, and Megan Dalby-Jones, our guest minister for that Sunday) conducted a heartfelt service while our own Scottie McIntyre Johnson traveled to Denton to preach to a congregation that had recently been the home church of several of the Knoxville victims. Our church also contributed generously over the next three Sundays to send financial relief to those who suffered in Knoxville. All in all we did well in responding to this crisis!

Jim Johnson

RRUU Board Meeting Highlights—August 5, 2008

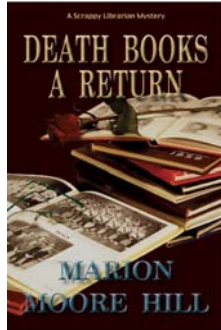
Jim Johnson reported that the Church Web Pages had recently been updated by Nell Evans to reflect changes in the church leadership and to feature our minister, Jennifer, a little more prominently. Also, he announced that NTAUUS was providing free ads for our Church in the Friday editions of the Herald Democrat from Aug. 15 through Sept. 6.

Jim Murphy, Vice President, reported that the new Church Directory had gotten underway with its first planning session completed. Jim also reported on an inspection he had made of the building. He and his building team cohorts (David Lawrence and Roger Gregory-Allen) are working on smaller repair projects such as improvement of the sound system wiring in the sanctuary.

Scottie, as Chalice Circle Coordinator, reported that our Chalice Circles are going well and are the envy of the district. Also, that the Agape UU Christian Circle would be added this month to our set of circles.

In new business, the Board decided to join the Interfaith Environmental Alliance (IEA). Also, the Board approved an increase in the amount paid for visiting clergy mileage; we will now pay the IRS standard rate up to a maximum of \$150. The Board also approved Marion Hill's request to conduct a book signing at the Church on Friday, Sept. 19.

BOOK TALK AND SIGNING



RRUU'S OWN MYSTERY WRITER, MARION MOORE HILL!

Friday, Sept. 19, 7:00 P.M. @ the church

Marion will give a 30-minute talk, take questions and autograph the latest book in her "Scrapy Librarian Series", *Death Books a Return*. Copies of the book will be available for sale, and refreshments will be served. We hope you will come and invite your mystery-loving friends! If you cannot, you may pre-order autographed copies from Hastings Book Store in Sherman by calling 903-892-8070.



RRUU Green Tip of the Month

Fluorescent light bulbs save energy, however improper disposal of the bulbs creates a mercury hazard. Home Depot now recycles compact fluorescent bulbs in all stores. Please recycle responsibly.

TAIEA MEETING

The Texoma Area Interfaith Environmental Alliance will meet on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 6:00 p.m. at Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church. We will view a portion of the DVD, "Renewal" and talk about how to use the video on our congregations. A Pot Luck Supper will precede the meeting. Anyone interested in working together with other people of faith to help the environment is invited to come, and bring a friend!

Adult Religious Education

In September we'll begin an extended period of examination of various facets of Unitarian Universalism. This series of Sundays will provide an excellent overview for new members, friends of the congregation and the curious. This month we'll examine the UU movement in the United States in its international context, making use of the curriculum of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists: *The Garden of Unitarian Universalism*. Coffee and snacks provided. Please join us!

UUJam!!

UUJAM will meet Friday, September 5 at 7 pm at the home of Jan Fletcher, 1050 Hazelwood Road; Sherman. We will be reviewing music and harmony for the upcoming UUJAM All Music Service for Sunday, September 28. There will be at least one additional rehearsal, probably the Saturday before the service at the church. Also during that meeting, we will discuss suggestions of meeting the first Saturday each month as well as rotating location homes for the monthly meetings. Please bring your instruments, drinks and a snack to share. Phone 903-892-8396 or email if you plan to attend as outlined in the Covenant Guidelines. All musicians and listeners are welcome.

Worship Leaders

Dr. John Ockels holds degrees in several subjects, including a master's degree in theological studies from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He currently serves as a Lay Marriage Officiant for RRUU, as a member of the Worship Arts Team, as RRUU's Director of Adult Religious Education, and as a member of our Board of Trustees.

Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones is a Ministerial Candidate, as recognized by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Megan served as the Ministerial Intern at First Unitarian Church of Dallas in 2006-07 and is currently filling the pulpit of a number of churches in the North Texas area as a UU "circuit rider". She and her partner, Kristi, are the parents of a brand-new baby boy named Parker.

Mr. Gary Stuard is the Executive Director of the Interfaith Environmental Alliance of Texas, an organization dedicated to uniting members of various faiths to promote more responsible stewardship of the earth. Now an active member of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas, Gary previously lived as a Buddhist monk for four years in Plum Village, the Buddhist meditation center in southern France founded by Vietnamese monk, Thich Nhat Hanh. He continues to practice Buddhist meditation and studies under Dr. Ruben Habito, Perkins School

Social Action—"One More Step!"

A Social Action Group meeting was held on August 10, 2008. A brief video that demonstrates social empowerment through fair trade and wage for rug producers in Pakistan was shown. The programs for 2007-08 were reviewed and evaluated and additional projects for 2008-09 were proposed. Two potential programs would involve a blood drive and organ donation awareness campaign.

"Second Sunday Share the Plate" contribution beneficiaries for the coming months were established. They are as follows: Local "Back To School" Supplies (Sept), Women's Shelter (Oct), Callies' Clinic (Formerly ARCOT – Aids Resource Center of Texoma) (Nov), Youth Shelter (Dec), Grayson County Shelter -Denison (Jan), UUA Service Committee (Feb). It was the general consensus of those present that we want to concentrate our efforts in the local communities and address local problems. We feel that our special donations should not be used to address national or global issues.

Red River UU had a full table at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet on August 15. The program, held at the Wright Center, Mabee Hall at Austin College was exceptional. The proceeds are used to supply scholarships for members of the NAACP youth group.

As of August 22, we have collected \$554 for the Knoxville UU Churches Relief Fund. Our July Second Sunday Share the Plate collected \$256 for the purchase of fans to help community members in need of assistance. Our August Second Sunday Share the Plate contributed \$340 to Families Feeding Families in Durant.

As part of the back to school drive, please take the opportunity to bring a backpack or related school supplies to church on any Sunday through Sept. 14. On Sept. 14, we will combine the contributed school items and our Second Sunday collection to provide much needed supplies for schools in the Sherman/Denison area.

Upcoming Events

The 2008 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade will be held Sunday, September 21. This will be the 25th anniversary of the Dallas Gay Pride Parade. The theme will be "Remembering Our Past – Celebrating Our Future". The Parade begins at 2:00 pm at the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Douglas Avenue and proceeds down Cedar Springs Road to the Festival at Lee Park. The Festival at Lee Park provides a number of interesting informational booths and exhibits. Last year a large contingent from the North Texas UU churches marched together. A streaming video may be seen at www.oaklawn.tv. In light of the recent tragedy in Tennessee, we must constantly strive to overcome the barriers of hate and prejudice.

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! You do not have to be a member of RRUU or even attend Sunday services in order to participate in a Chalice Circle. If you are interested in attending a particular circle, contact Circle Coordinator, Scottie McIntyre Johnson (903-892-4751; scottieone@cableone.net).



AGAPE, A UU Christian Circle. Facilitator: Drew Wade. Meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Next meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 24 @ 7:00 p.m. @ the church.

ALL LIBERAL CHRISTIANS AND UUs WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY AND THE BIBLE ARE WELCOME!



BEING PEACE, A Mindfulness Meditation Circle. Facilitator: Nell Evans. Meets every WEDNESDAY from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m. @ Nell's home in Sherman.

NEW MEDITATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



EVENSONG, A Circle for Sharing Our Stories. Facilitator: Scottie McIntyre Johnson. WE WILL NOT MEET IN SEPTEMBER but will resume meeting on the third WEDNESDAY of each month @ 7:30 p.m. @ Scottie's home in Sherman on October 15.

NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



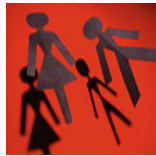
FREETHINKERS, A Humanist Chalice Circle. Facilitator: L.D. Clark. Meets on the first Sunday of each month @ the church after church. Next meeting: Sept. 7. We'll watch and discuss an interview with Sam Harris, author of *The End of Faith* and *Letter to a Christian Nation*. Bring a brown bag lunch.

ALL FREETHINKERS ARE WELCOME!



THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan. Next meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 pm at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan. We will complete our work on environmental policies for RRUU.

ANYONE WHO LOVES OUR PLANET IS WELCOME!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE, A Circle of Parents Supporting Parents. Facilitator: Dianna Butler. Next meeting: We will attend a performance of the Theatrics production of the musical, *Oliver*, on Sunday, Sept. 14 @ 2:00 p.m. @ the Finley Playhouse in Sherman. See Dianna 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! Next meeting: Saturday, Sept. 20 @ 6:00 p.m. @ the home of William Lloyd and Carolyn Buttner in Durant.

ALL ARE WELCOME, BUT YOU MUST RSVP IN ADVANCE TO MARION OR ELBERT HILL.



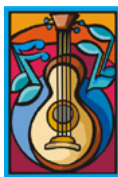
RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitators: Penny Armstrong & Kris Riek. Meets at various places on various dates. Next meeting: Friday, Sept. 12 @ 7:00 @ the church. We will begin planning for the Oct. 26 Samhain Sunday morning service.

NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



THE REEL DEAL, A Movie Watching Circle. Facilitator: Linda Woytaszyk. Meets the last Friday of each month @ 7:20 p.m. @ the home of Linda Woytaszyk in Sherman. Next meeting: Friday, Sept. 26. We will watch the innovative movie musical, *Across the Universe*. Popcorn and other yummy snacks are provided!

ALL MOVIE LOVERS ARE WELCOME!



UUJAM!! A Music-Making Circle. Facilitator: Jan Fletcher. Meets the first Friday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. @ the home of Jan Fletcher in Sherman. Next Meeting: Friday, Sept. 5 @ 7:00 p.m. We will rehearse for the worship service we will offer for the congregation in September with the theme "Community". Bring instruments, sheet music, chords, etc. of songs you would like to perform on this theme.

ALL MUSICIANS AND LISTENERS ARE WELCOME!

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A home for religious liberals in
Southern Oklahoma and North
Texas

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.RRUU.ORG

Church Leadership

Minister

Reverend Jennifer Innis

Board of Trustees

Jim Johnson, President (2010)
Jim Murphy, Vice-president (2010)
Dianna Butler, Treasurer (2010)
Mary Larkin-Baker, Trustee-at-Large (2009)
John Ockels, Trustee-at-Large (2009)
Elbert Hill, Trustee-at-Large (2010)
Sylvia Mitchell, Trustee-at-Large (2010)

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:

Viki Reeder

Youth Advisor:

Roger Gregory-Allen

Social Action:

David Lawrence

Hospitality:

Marla Loturco &

Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Communications:

Kathleen Campbell

Historian:

Marla Loturco

Newsletter:

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Caring:

Viv Weeks

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Nell Evans