

Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 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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October 5

Rev. Jennifer Innis
"The Economy of Abundance"

Amidst the woes of the national financial crisis, the liberal religionist is not immune to feelings of scarcity and guilt. Let us consider the presence of sufficiency and freedom in a time when we may need to do more with less.

October 12

Ms. Scottie McIntyre Johnson
"Days of Awe"

A special service of atonement in the spirit of the Jewish high holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has become an annual tradition and one of the most meaningful observances of our church year at RRUU. This year, this solemn and liberating service will focus especially on asking forgiveness for the times we have not lived up to our Red River Unitarian Universalist Church covenant.

October 19

Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones
"Who Do You Serve?"

We are all called to serve. But what does that mean? This service will explore the meaning of vocation.

October 26

Red River Earth Spirit Chalice Circle
"Samhain – the Beginning of the Dark Time of the Year"

An Intergenerational Service

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 will help us celebrate the end of the harvest season and the beginning of the Celtic New Year, which we celebrate as Halloween. CHILDREN AND ADULTS ARE INVITED TO WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUMES TO CHURCH.



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

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 12:30 All Church Picnic	6	7	8 12:00 Being Peace	9	10	11
12 12:30 Freethinkers	13	14 7:30 Green Team	15 12:00 Being Peace	16	17 7:30 Earth Spirit	18 6:30 Moveable Feast
19 12:30 New to UU 12:30 It Takes a Village	20	21	22 12:00 Being Peace 7:00 Agape	23	24 7:00 Reel Deal	25
26	27	28 7:15 RRUU Board	29 12:00 Being Peace	30	31	

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.

Minister's Letter

On the Journey

First, thank you again for all of your support during my family leave. The Innis/Price home is doing well. Nate provides Patrick and me with many lessons in parenting, and I am making progress on how to combine motherhood and ministry. Nate will have a chance to meet everyone when I lead the service on October 5. I look forward to being with you for worship and for Drew's party after the service.

As part of my return, I thought I would take the time to let you know what I am doing as your minister and to talk about how you and I might build our relationships over the next months. In addition to leading one service per month and meeting with the Board, I am working on a number of projects in the congregation. I am meeting with the Safe Congregation Panel and the Board to implement the Safe Congregation Policy approved by the congregation last year. I expect to have some good conversations about the development of the religious education programs and staffing as well as welcoming so many new members and friends to this great church. The Board and other leadership and I are reviewing these and other topics for the year with a retreat led by the Rev. Mark Walz on October 4.

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

Namaste,
Jennifer

When to Call the Minister:

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

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

When you have problems you would like to discuss... with your job, children, partner, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.

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

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

When you are considering joining the congregation.

When you would like to talk about religion.

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

The final reason to call the minister is guaranteed to warm the heart of our treasurer:

When you have won the lottery and wish to make a donation!

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, of course, I will respond as soon as possible.

I am also the Minister (1/2 time) for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. My schedule with them changes as of this month. Rather than one 10-day period in residence, I will be with them for two trips. For this month, I am in Midland during October 10-14 and 22-26. 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. If you do not reach me directly, please let me know how to get in touch with you.

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

Bowing to the light within,

New to UU?

Come to lunch and a discussion after church in the Fellowship Hall on October 19!

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!)



RRUU Green Tip of the Month



Support your local stores. You'll save time, energy and \$ by purchasing your needs closer to home. The next best choice is online. You'll save gas, \$ and time. The world is at your fingertips

Social Action—"One More Step!"

In addition to the backpacks and school supplies gathered during the past month, the "Share the Plate Sunday" collection was used to purchase additional supplies. The collection of items was split between Denison and Sherman and was delivered on Sept. 23. Although school has been in session for several weeks, I was assured that the schools would find "good homes" for our donations. These will be particularly useful for students that are late transfers and for those that still lack some of the basic supplies. The Share the Plate Contributions exceeded \$240.

THE OCTOBER COLLECTION, TO BE TAKEN ON OCT. 19, WILL BE USED TO BUY CANDY AND SMALL TOYS FOR CHILDREN AT THE GRAYSON COUNTY FOSTER FAMILIES FALL FESTIVAL. Our RRUU children will assemble "goodie bags" for them during their religious education classes.

Habitat for Humanity of Grayson County is currently building a home at 803 N. 8th in Denison. The previous home built in Sherman was cooperatively landscaped by the Grayson County Master Gardeners with contributions for members and local businesses. Although the scheduled completion date for this home is late December, this may be a good opportunity to work with other groups to provide an "early spring" landscape.



Upcoming Events

Lighting a Candle - October 11th is National Coming Out Day. This day celebrates those bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people who have braved fears of discrimination, rejection, hatred, and violence to lead open lives of authenticity.

Three reference DVD's are being added to the library. The 2007 and 2008 UUA National Conference DVD's and Discussion Guides present *Leading Congregations Into A Multiracial, Multicultural Future: Now Is The Time*.

New RRUU Photo Directory

Remember the new member or friend you like talking to but can't call because you don't remember his/her name?

Did you know we have added approximately 20 new members since the last directory was published two years ago?

Starting in October, the Directory Team, will be taking individual and family pictures and checking your contact information. Participation and picture in the actual directory are optional but all members and friends of RRUU are encouraged to add or update their directory information. More details will follow in our Sunday announcements. Your Directory Team: Marla Lo-turco, Kris Riek, Carolyn Cameron, and Jim Murphy

OCTOBER 5!

RRUU will celebrate

***UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION SUNDAY***

Unitarian Universalist churches all across the country will take up a special offering to support two UUA initiatives, which were selected by a vote of all our congregations: (1) support for lay theological development programs, and (2) support for professional leadership development in the form of continuing education for ministers and scholarships for UU seminarians.

Sunday, October 4, will also mark the first time our minister, the Rev. Jennifer Innis, will be back with us following the birth of her new baby boy, Nathaniel Patrick Innis Price (Nate, for short).

**FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON OCT. 5,
THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO A
POT LUCK PICNIC
AT THE LAKE-FRONT HOME OF
DREW WADE.**

*Bring food. Drew will provide beverages.

*College UUs and RRUU visitors - Don't worry about bringing anything.
There is always more than enough food for all, so just bring yourself!

PLEASE PLAN TO COME AND CELEBRATE OUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, OUR OWN RED RIVER CONGREGATION, AND THE BEGINNING OF FALL!

Letter from the RRUU Board President

My wife, Scottie, and I returned this week from the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience (DBLE) Reunion Cruise to Cozumel, Mexico and back. Elbert and Marion Hill were also along as were about 60 other alumni of DBLE. Susan Smith, the SWUUC District Executive, and Gini Corder, the Moderator of the UUA General Assembly, led the program portion of the cruise. It was the program portion (about 2 days worth) that I enjoyed the most. Susan's worship services and Gini's workshops attuned all of us to look for and promote a sense of ecstasy in our worship services and a sense of joy in our church-leadership work. Those are tall orders, but these women are inspiring leaders: it's hard not to want to follow their lead.

The Carnival Cruise itself was nice and comfortable; the food was good and plentiful; even the six hours we got to spend in Cozumel was a kind of respite, but I don't think I'm cut out for this kind of cruise – it was a little too much like Las Vegas; the activity was constant; the entertainment was not the sort I enjoy; there were too many people, including a large wedding party that, along with the bride and groom, were heading for a wedding at our Mexican destination. Still, I'm glad we went; never having been on a cruise before, it is good to be able to say I've done that. But what I treasure the most, apart from the time spent with Scottie and friends, was the opportunity to think about what we are about in our very special congregation on the Red River. I invite each of you, regardless of the level of your participation in the life of our church, to think yourself about what you value in this congregation, what we do well, and what we could do better. I'd be happy to receive your comments by email (jjohnson@cableone.net) or in person.

Best wishes,

Jim Johnson

RRUU Board Meeting Highlights—September 2, 2008

The Board and other Leaders will have a Saturday retreat on October 4 at the church; it will be conducted by the Rev. Mark Walz of Oak Cliff Unitarian Universalist Church.

The Board set Association Sunday for October 5, to be followed by a church dinner at Drew Wade's home on Lake Texoma.

The Board certified Scottie Johnson and Kathleen Campbell as NTAAUS representatives of RRUU; Linda Woytasczyk will serve as an alternate.

The Board continues to explore possible advertising initiatives for our church. Also, a committee was re-formed to continue monitoring opportunities for land acquisition in the area.

Treasurer's Report

The new fiscal year is off and running, and I'm beginning to settle into my new position as Treasurer, with lots of help from Jim Johnson. Jim was a very ethical and competent Treasurer, and I will do my utmost to fill his shoes.

For the first quarter, we had total income of \$14,101.82 and our expenses were \$14,740.56, resulting in a net loss of \$638.74. We collected and disbursed \$1,677.09 in special collections for Community Engagement; this number represents 12% of our total income for the quarter. In addition, we also had \$1,345.01 of documented in-kind gifts and services.

As of September 30, 2008, RRUU has a total of \$52,908.90 in the bank in checking accounts, savings accounts, and CD's. Those funds are dedicated as follows:

6-Month Emergency Reserve	\$30,392.50
Grants Fund - Restricted Assets	\$484.60
New Home Fund - Restricted Assets	\$5,695.00
DBLE Scholarships - Restricted Assets	\$1,000.00
Uncommitted Funds	\$15,336.80

I have configured my accounting software to track pledges, and I update those pledges on a weekly basis. So far, we have collected \$11,021 of the total \$55,500 pledged. If you would like a balance or need a history of your donation transactions, please send me an e-mail anytime (dianna820@hotmail.com) or call (903) 744-0570, and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted by Dianna Butler, RRUU Treasurer

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, Oct. 22 @ 7:00 p.m. @ the church. We will have a Christian-based worship service with Communion.

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 OCTOBER** but will resume meeting on the third WEDNESDAY of each month @ 7:30 p.m. @ Scottie's home in Sherman on November 19.

NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



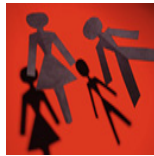
FREETHINKERS, A Humanist Chalice Circle. Facilitator: L.D. Clark. *Usually* meets on the first Sunday of each month @ the church after church, but this month we will meet on October 12. We'll watch and discuss a lecture by Dr. Daniel Dennett, entitled "Breaking the Spell". Bring a brown bag lunch.

ALL FREETHINKERS ARE WELCOME!



THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan. Next meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 14 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: On Sunday, October 19, after church, we will go to the “Pumpkin Patch” in Denison. 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: A Pot Luck Supper on Saturday, October 18 @ 6:30 pm @ the home of Don & Suzanne Durland in Denison. This will be a wedding shower for William Lloyd and Carolyn Buttner.

ALL ARE WELCOME, BUT YOU MUST RSVP IN ADVANCE TO AMY HOFFMAN-SHEHAN.

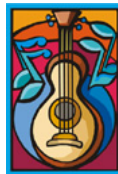


RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitators: Penny Armstrong. Meets at various places on various dates. Next meeting: Friday, October 17 @ 7:30 @ the church to rehearse for the Oct. 26 Samhain Sunday morning service.

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. BUT – THIS MONTH, WE WILL INSTEAD ATTEND A PERFORMANCE OF KATHLEEN CAMPBELL’S PRODUCTION OF *HAMLET* AT AUSTIN COLLEGE ON OCTOBER 24. CURTAIN IS AT 7 PM. See Linda for details.



UUJAM!! A Music-Making Circle. Facilitator: Jan Fletcher. Meets the first Saturday of each month @ 7:00 p.m. @ the homes of various members. Next Meeting: Saturday, October 4 @ the home of Kris Riek in Denison. Bring instruments, sheet music, songs.

ALL MUSICIANS AND LISTENERS ARE WELCOME!

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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

Website:

Nell Evans