



Red River Ramblings

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2009

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

A Month of Sundays

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January 4

Rev. Jennifer Innis

"In Holy Ground"

In Unitarian Universalism, what is the relationship between humans and the mystery that some of us call God? This sermon is the start of a multi-part series expanding on the frame of "Our Theological House". The series begins with the foundation.

January 11

Ms. Scottie McIntyre Johnson

"All Beautiful the March of Days"

It's a new year – 2009. For me it's hard to believe that the first decade of the twenty-first century has almost passed. This service will be about calendars, about time, and about how it is we might approach the next days of our lives.

January 18

Ms. Megan Dalby-Jones

Sermon topic to be announced

Megan Dalby-Jones is a Ministerial Candidate, as recognized by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. A student at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago, one of our two Unitarian Universalist seminaries, Megan originally came down to Texas to serve as Ministerial Intern at First Unitarian Church of Dallas. She currently preaches from the pulpits of a number of north Texas UU churches, including Red River UU Church.

January 25

Ms. Jodi Roberts

"Sacred Sounds of Creation"

Jodi Roberts is a Sound Healing Catalyst, Sacred Sound Concert Musician and recording artist who plays Tibetan singing bowls and wind gongs. She is a cultural anthropologist trained in cross-cultural shamanic ceremony, healing, spiritual counseling, energetic healing, Zen meditation, Tibetan and Holographic Sound Healing. In addition to providing the music for our morning worship service, Jodi will lead a mini-workshop at the church at 1:30 on January 25 and a 2 1/2 hour workshop on January 24 @ the home of Kris Riek in Denison. More details about the workshops can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



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

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:00 PM UUJam!	3
4 11:15 AM Worship: Jennifer Innis	5	6 7:15 PM RRUU Board	7 11:00 AM Being Peace	8	9	10
11 10:00 AM Litter Pick Up 11:15 AM Worship: Scottie McIntyre Johnson 12:45 PM Freethinkers	12	13 7:30 PM Green Team	14 11:00 AM Being Peace	15	16	17 10:30 AM NTAUS
18 11:15 AM Worship: Megan Dalby-Jones 12:45 PM Agape	19 MLK Holiday	20	21 11:00 AM Being Peace	22	23	24 1-3:30 PM Sacred Medicine Wheels Workshop
25 11:15 AM Worship: Jodi Roberts 1:30 PM Sounds of Creation Mini Workshop	26	27	28 11:00 AM Being Peace	29	30 7:20 PM Reel Deal	31 6:00 PM Moveable Feast

Mission & Vision Statement

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church (Adopted March 24, 2002)

We are a diverse liberal religious community that seeks to uphold and promote the Principles and Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our congregation welcomes and accepts all people. We reach out beyond our congregation to serve as a catalyst for social action.

In order to fulfill our mission, we, the members of the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church, envision...

Providing an environment for intellectual stimulation and spiritual growth.

Holding regular Sunday worship services that reflect our diverse beliefs and interests.

Providing a comfortable space in which to conduct our church services that reflects our aesthetic, utilitarian, environmental, and financial concerns.

Providing religious education and social activities for all ages.

Being active in our local, national, and global communities in the areas of social justice, the environment, and human rights, focusing on issues relevant to our communities.

Calling a minister to serve and to represent our congregation and the Unitarian Universalist Association in our communities.

Maintaining a caring environment in which the congregation fosters supportive and meaningful relationships through church activities.

Maintaining an active involvement with the larger Unitarian Universalist community at the cluster, district, regional, national and international levels.

Sacred Sounds of Creation

Sunday, January 25th 1:30-3 pm

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Manifestation Mini-Workshop

Jodi Roberts on Tibetan Bowls, Wind Gongs & Guided Imagery

What are you manifesting for 2009?



Sacred Sound creates reality..... Come vision and vibrate your reality creations for the New Year. Journey to the place of creation and clear intention setting.

Bring your journal and something soft for the floor if you want to lie down.

Bring brown bag for lunch before the workshop if you are coming from the service.

Contact Kris Riek for more information 903-271-8896 or kris_riek@yahoo.com

Jodi Roberts www.sacredinspiration.com 512-788-1236 214-453-1258

Jodi is a Sound Healing Catalyst, Sacred Sound Concert Musician and recording artist. She is a cultural anthropologist trained in cross-cultural shamanic ceremony & healing, spiritual counseling, energetic healing, Zen meditation, Tibetan and Holographic Sound Healing.

Normal workshop price is \$40

Love Offering gratefully accepted

Available for private sound healing sessions-call for information

RRUU Green Tip of the Month



To eliminate the possibility of water contamination, bring your meds back to the pharmacy; never flush or trash them.

Social Action—"One More Step!"

Our Share the Plate donation for December raised \$207 for the North Texas Youth Connection (previously known as Juvenile Alternative). This is a service that provides temporary shelter for children aged 10-17 that have no place to go for food and shelter.

We have a New Year food drive to raise canned goods for local food banks. Please drop off non-perishable goods in the box located in the foyer.

A special thanks to all you bought and wrapped gifts for the clients at Day Star. This is a very special opportunity for those who give and those that receive. We were able to furnish each participant with at least one gift of her choice.



Upcoming Event

January 19 – Martin Luther King Day

At the 2008 General Assembly in Ft. Lauderdale, delegates selected "Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice" as a Congregational Study/Action Issue 2008-2012. Over the next few years, we hope to discuss and explore what we eat, where it comes from, and how the process affects the world.

On a sad note, Mr. Ratilal Shah passed away unexpectedly while on a business trip. As many of you know, Mr. Shah founded the Bonny Shah Sponsorship Program in honor of his late wife. The sponsorship program helps provide tuition to poor and needy children in three locations in India (Sagroki, Pune, and Raigad). It also works to support 8 student in higher education. Two recent graduates have completed courses in nursing. We maintain a \$150/year pledge for 10 years to help educate one child. The children of Mr. Shah have indicated that they will continue to support and operating the program.

RRUU Photo Directory

A new photo-directory of RRUU members and friends is being prepared! After our Sunday services, starting on December 7 and for as many Sundays as it takes, the Directory Team will take individual and family pictures. You may, of course, choose not to have your information and/or photo included in the directory, but all members and friends of RRUU are encouraged to verify their contact information. Thank you!

Your Directory Team: Marla Loturco, Kris Riek, Carolyn Cameron, and Jim Murphy



Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
Budget vs. Actual Income & Expenses
 July through December 2008

	<u>Jul - Dec 08</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Income			
Interest	164.81	317.52	-152.71
Pledges	23,047.00	27,775.00	-4,728.00
Weekly Offering	2,670.65	1,800.00	870.65
Special Collections	2,042.61	500.00	1,542.61
Dedicated Donations	300.00		
In-Kind Donations	2,767.91		
Total Income	<u>30,992.98</u>	<u>30,392.52</u>	<u>600.46</u>
Expense			
Total Minister's Compensation	6,532.41	7,762.50	-1,230.09
RE Director's Compensation	1,759.97	1,800.00	-40.03
Secretary (Newsletter)	1,242.00	1,242.00	0.00
Administration	70.18	595.00	-524.82
Historian Expenses	127.56	100.01	27.55
Community Engagement	2,412.84	1,625.02	787.82
Communications	277.33	1,200.00	-922.67
Denominational Support	3,520.00	2,655.99	864.01
Leadership Development	493.60	440.00	53.60
Facilities	7,254.60	6,950.00	304.60
Child Care	1,155.00	1,680.00	-525.00
Religious Education	20.21	275.00	-254.79
Hospitality	19.39	300.00	-280.61
Worship	2,114.35	3,767.00	-1,652.65
In-Kind Donations	2,767.91		
Total Expense	<u>29,767.35</u>	<u>30,392.52</u>	<u>-625.17</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,225.63</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>1,225.63</u></u>

Minister's Letter

On the Journey...

In my mother's house, there is little quiet today. The laundry is running. The phone is ringing along with the fax machine in a dash to finish that last bit of business before the New Year. The baby wants to be fed – again! Casseroles and quiches need cooking. Ministers need to complete a few thoughts for their respective churches. And the dog wrestles a new squeaker toy with relish.

The news of the world adds to the din. Whether the television and radio are on or off, the anxious reports of financial woes and varied wars linger within this house and this home.

All manner of problems, good ones and ones that are not so good, crowd these walls. How easy it is to live only with what stamps its feet and calls for attention.

Yet the main drama is outside. Inches and inches of soft, clean snow build in the gray woods and on charcoal roads. A charm of goldfinches jostles the feeders. I watch them, all tan and brown mottled against the white flakes. In a few months, the males will magically trade their winter browns for bright yellow coats just in time for mating. The bluebirds make their first appearance, as well as the woodpeckers. Nearby branches let them queue up before swooping in for a portion of seed. With each small poke at the feeders, more kernels fall in random patterns to the yard below, slowly disappearing under a fresh cover of white. How silently, how silently, the world is transformed. It is so easy to ignore such an unfolding of life. How easy it is to miss the wonder that these dramas, those happening indoors and out, and around the globe, are here at all.

In this New Year, may we be ever present to the mystery of life, meeting its infinite expression with the hope that from our attention, we will remember that we, too, are miracles, and that we, too, have a place in the unfolding world.

Namaste,

Jennifer

“Primary Wonder”

*Days pass when I forget the mystery.
Problems insoluble and problems offering
their own ignored solutions
jostle for my attention, they crowd its ante-
chamber
along with a host of diversions, my courti-
ers, wearing
their colored clothes; cap and bells.
And then
once more the quiet mystery
is present to me, the throng's clamor
recedes: the mystery
that there is anything, anything at all,
let alone cosmos, joy, memory, everything,
rather than void: and that, O Lord,
Creator, Hallowed One, You still,
hour by hour sustain it.*

-by Denise Levertov

Where in the UU World is Rev. Jennifer?

Through January 3, I am finishing a New Year's vacation with family in Massachusetts. I expect to be in Sherman/Denison to lead the worship on January 4, to attend the Board meeting on January 6, and to offer the prayer for worship on January 18. The best ways to contact me are by 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. Also, Patrick, Nate, and I will be in Navasota at the annual retreat for the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association on January 26-29.

In addition to serving Red River Church, I am the Minister (1/2 time) for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland. For this month I will be in Midland during January 8-13 and 21-25. 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. More than a full-time minister, I rely on you to let me know how I can support you and how we can nurture this congregation.

Bowing to the light within,

Jennifer

Save The Dates!!

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference is excited to announce that we will be presenting two Young Adult Ministry Leadership Intensives in March of 2009.

These weekend-long events are designed to help your congregation effectively minister to and with young adults (ages 18-35). Here at SWUUC, we are committed to developing vibrant, multi-generational communities of faith, and engaging the young adult community is critical in working toward this goal.

Please save these dates:

March 6-8 2009 at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK.

March 20-22 2009 at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, TX.



Sacred Medicine Wheels

Saturday January 24th 2009 1-3:30pm

4566 Theresa Dr. Denison, Texas 75020

\$50 pre-registered \$60 at the door

Limited scholarships available-contact Kris Riek

A workshop exploring the elements of the sacred circle of our North American continent - called medicine wheels. This experience includes a guided dreamwalk (shamanic journey), building a medicine wheel, and experiencing the energy and power of the wheel. Touch the magic of the world view called the circle of life.

Sacred geometry is a set of beliefs that find value in the fundamental forms of nature - in this case circles and spheres. Most cultures have the concept of sacred circles. The word 'mandala' means circle or completion in Sanskrit. Tibetan Buddhist monks create sand paintings as a circular representation of the cosmos. On our North American continent the sacred circles are called medicine wheels. They are physical and/or metaphorical structures that focus energy and describe a paradigm of life different from the western linear perspective. This workshop introduces you to the ceremonial world of sacred circles as a physical structure, a world view, and to the metaphorical world of imagination through a dreamwalk.

Jodi is a Shamanic Sound Healer and Sacred Sound Concert Musician. She has served as a coach and spiritual guide for clients over the last 20 years. She is a cultural anthropologist trained in cross-cultural shamanic ceremony & healing, spiritual counseling, energetic healing, Zen meditation, Tibetan sound healing, reality creation processes, Holographic Sound Healing, and group dynamic principles. She serves as a catalyst for your transformation.

Prepay workshop at www.sacredinspiration.com events page if you want to use credit card

Cash or checks at the door

More info contact Kris Riek 903-271-8896 or kris_riek@yahoo.com

More Info Jodi Roberts 512-788-1236 or 214-453-1258

jodisacredsound@gmail.com www.sacredinspiration.com

Sacred Circle:

A place to focus energy

A paradigm of belief

A way to describe life

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).



A number of people have expressed an interest in forming a new Chalice Circle around the topic of “Voluntary Simplicity” or “Sustainable Living”. If you are interested in being a part of such a group, especially if you would be willing to facilitate it, please contact Scottie McIntyre Johnson, Chalice Circle Coordinator (scottieone@cableone.net).



AGAPE, A UU Christian Circle. Facilitator: Drew Wade. Beginning this month, AGAPE will meet after the regular worship service on the **THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**. Next meeting: A Worship Service with Communion on Sunday, January 18 @ 1:00 p.m. @ the church. The worship service will be preceded by a light meal.

ALL LIBERAL CHRISTIANS AND UUs WHO WANT TO WORSHIP WITH A CHRISTIAN FOCUS ARE WELCOME!



BEING PEACE, A Mindfulness Meditation Circle. Facilitator: Nell Evans. Meets every **WEDNESDAY** from 11:00 to noon. @ the home of Nell Evans in Sherman.

NEW AND EXPERIENCED MEDITATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME



EVENSONG, A Circle for Sharing Our Stories. Facilitator: TBA. Evensong will not meet in January. We hope to resume again in February with a new facilitator.



FREETHINKERS, A Humanist Chalice Circle. Facilitator: L.D. Clark. Meets on the second Sunday of each month @ the church after church. Next meeting: January 11. Topic: TBA. Bring a brown bag lunch.

ALL FREETHINKERS ARE WELCOME!



THE GREEN TEAM, An Environmental Action Circle. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan. Next meeting: Tuesday, January 13 at 7:30 pm at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan. We will work on Earth Day 2009 and discuss the work done on the carbon footprint audit of the church and continue planning for the 2009 Earth Day Festival.

ANYONE WHO LOVES OUR PLANET IS WELCOME!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE, A Circle of Parents Supporting Parents. Facilitator: Dianna Butler. Usually meets on the fourth Sunday of each month following church, but **WE WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY**. Next meeting: TBA.

ALL FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN ARE WELCOME AT “VILLAGE” ACTIVITIES



A MOVEABLE FEAST, A Cooking and Eating Circle. Facilitators: Elbert & Marion Hill. Meets at moveable times and moveable places! Next meeting: January 31, 6:00 pm. One circle at the home of Marion and Elbert Hill in Durant; one at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan in Sherman. All are welcome, but as seating is limited, you must sign up in advance with Marion and Elbert (mhill@communicomm.com).



Outdoor Activities Circle, Facilitators: Suzanne Durland & Kathleen Campbell. Meets monthly, usually on a Saturday, for a hike or other outdoor activity, but **WE WILL NOT MEET IN JANUARY**. Next meeting will be in February.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, A Nature-Based Spirituality Circle. Facilitators: Penny Bertrand & Kris Reik. Meets at various places on various dates. Next meeting: SACRED MEDICINE WHEELS WORKSHOP, SAT. JAN. 24, 1-3:30 PM @ THE HOME OF KRIS REIK. See Kris for details.

NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!



THE REEL DEAL, A Movie Watching Circle. Facilitator: Linda Woytasczyk. Meets the last Friday of each month @ 7:20 p.m. @ the home of Linda Woytasczyk in Sherman. Next meeting: January 30. The movie will be *Burn After Reading*. Popcorn and 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. Next Meeting: Friday, January 2.

ALL MUSIC MAKERS AND LISTENERS ARE WELCOME!

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

A home for religious liberals in
Southern Oklahoma and North
Texas

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:

Lisa Cates

Caring:

Vacant

Website:

Nell Evans