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December 2016
Volume 14
Issue 6

Grow Your Soul and Serve The World

Sunday, December 4, 2016

It's More Than Just the Lights

Matt Pargeter-Villarreal, *speaking*



Matt Pargeter-Villarreal, a second year seminary student from Brite Divinity School, returns on Sunday. His remarks, "It Is More Than Just The Lights" will focus on the struggle people have in looking beyond the decorations, the music, the ads, and the lights that now dominate our lives in order to focus on the deeper meanings of the upcoming winter holidays.

Refreshments: A, B, D-G

The New to UU discussion is today. If you are intrigued, curious, or even confused and want to know more about Unitarian Universalism and our lay-led church, join the conversation. We meet in the F. Church Library from 12:45-1:30.



Sunday, December 11, 2016

How Does it Feel? The Tricks, Trips, Tics and Tips of Bob Dylan

Dr. William Lloyd Fridley, *speaking*



We'll revisit, review, reveal, and revere the work and life of Bob Dylan. I bought *The Freewheelin Bob Dylan* over forty years ago and have been a fan and student of Dylan ever since. Dr. Fridley is a professor of Education at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is active in the faculty senate and the American Association of University Professors.

SHARE THE PLATE SUNDAY - where all cash contributions will be given to the Texoma Earth Day Festival.

Refreshments H

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Who Is a UU Christian

Bryan Elwood, *speaking (video message)*



The worship team received a suggestion from Angie Cates (age 12) recommending we watch this video message given by the former minister intern at the UU Church in Albuquerque. Angie really liked the sermon and thought everyone should watch it. The worship team agreed. December is a good time for us to look at our UU Christian roots.

Bryan Elwood currently lives in Dallas.

Refreshments: C, I-R

Sunday, December 25, 2016

A Holiday Sharing

Everyone!



It happens every seven years. Christmas on a Sunday. Such times, for many churches, means an extra special extravaganza gathering. Not for us. The last Sunday of the year is our annual Sharing Service when we are each invited to bring a reading, story, song to share. This year's theme is *A Holiday Sharing* - stories and memories about this particular holiday that has dominated humankind for centuries. Today is also Hanukkah, a holiday commemorating an even in Jewish history far older than Christmas. Our call to community for this special day is to be here together. Come listen, come learn, come share.

Refreshments S-Z

Morning Meditation - 9

Adult Forum - 10

Worship - 11:15

Conversations & Calories - 12:15

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison, TX

A sanctuary for religious liberals celebrating compassion, diversity and spiritual growth.

Hello from Helen



Many of us are already making preparations for Christmas; Hobby Lobby has been peddling the accessories for months already! Here at Red River, we will have a special Christmas tree to help us donate needful things to our fellowship.

When the tree is up, please check the items written on the chalice ornaments and pick out one that interests you...it's a nice way of caring for our small congregation.

Since the election, there has been increasing concern about safety issues for small churches. We want to balance our desire to be a welcoming space with the practical need to provide security for those attending our services. We have decided to try out the following: the

board representative and the greeter will share the responsibility of making sure that the back door is locked before the service begins, and that the front door is secured by 11:15. Any latecomers will be invited in by the greeter-we hope to be able to view the front door area in the AV corner. There will be a sign on the front door to explain the new procedure. Let's try this out for a few months and see how we all feel about it. We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

I would also like to remind those of us who pledge, to check if we have given the amount we have promised to give. We all help keep the lights on and the water running.

Also-the annual appreciation dinner will be held on February 23rd; look at your calendars and save the date for an evening of good food and fellowship.

May you all have a peaceful holiday! Helen.

From Resolve to Results

Among our current Annual Congregational Goals is this:

Sharing our Good News: *Schedule three "Bring-A-Friend-To-Church" [now being called "Friendship"] Sundays where the entire congregation strives to identify people they know who would appreciate learning about us and designing worship experiences geared at introducing ourselves to our friends*

No one voted against this goal, so we're all 'on board' about this outreach project. Our first Friendship Sunday is January 22 with Rev. Annie Foerster speaking. Last October, our collective resolve was easy to sanction. Now, months later, we're about to have the rubber meet the road. To help us meet our obligation, here's some information that will make the task easier:

- Most people join our church because they know someone at Red River.
- Nearly all visitors show up because someone invited them.

However, the average Unitarian Universalist only invites a person to church once every 26 years! It begs the question: *Why are we hesitant to invite someone to church?*

Here's a tidbit that will surprise you: The short term goal

of Friendship Sunday is not to increase our membership. It is to enable our friends, neighbors and loved ones to experience the place that has brought us such joy and meaning. In short, the purpose is to spread the good news about Unitarian Universalism.

A true and authentic "ask" comes from your heart and in your own words but if you need crib notes:



On Sunday, January 22nd, my congregation is having a "Friendship Sunday." Our morning assembly will have remarks from a visiting clergy and refreshments afterwards. As you know, this is a community that is very important to me, a place where I feel at home. As someone who is also important to me, I want you to see this place and to meet the people who mean so much to me. Will you accept my invitation?

You are making a straight forward invitation without bargaining, pleading or coercing. You are only asking that they experience something that is important to you, not to convert them to Unitarian Universalism.

Who will you invite?

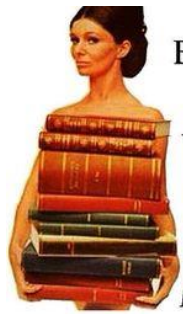
More hints next month!

- Adapted from a blog by Mark Bernstein
UUA growth development consultant

A, B, ■, D, E, F, G..?

Don't you see? There's no C. At least not on the first Sunday of each month. You C, that's because everyone whose last names start with C is no longer bringing refreshments on the first Sunday. That's because the C's are bringing treats on the THIRD Sunday along with I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, and Q. You will see it listed as "C, I-R" in the eNews and Morning Program. See you C's on December 18th.

From Books to Yoga



**BOOKS
ARE
YOGA
FOR
THE
MIND**

Do you want to hear about new authors and interesting books? Our next **book club meeting** is on Friday, December 9, at 1pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere. A snack is provided. The book club meeting is followed by..

Easy Yoga starts about 2:15. You don't have to get down on the

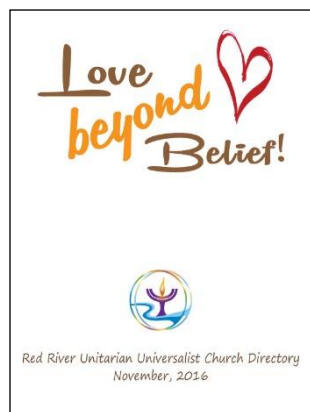
floor, so everyone can do it. If you are planning to do yoga, please wear comfortable clothing that does not restrict your movements.

Come for just the book club or just yoga or both. Everyone is welcome.

Facilitated by Carole Harner,
Yoga Led by Wanda Holmes

New Church Directory

The new Church directories were emailed to everyone who wished to be included. If you didn't get one, or if you found errors in your listing, please email directory (at) rruu.org. Updates for the directory will be email to everyone in January.



The Church App for smart-phones is an easy way to keep up on church activities. Free here:

<https://redriveruuchurch.appsme.com>



The Hanging of the Greens

Some people decorate literally everything in their homes - including the dog and cat. Others think three green balls in a silver bowl on the coffee table is tinging gaudy. Each year, on the first Sunday in December, those who like something in nothing, gather afterwards to decorate the Chapel along with the Barton Parlor and Emerson Room. If such activity brings a warm glow to your heart, please stay and help. Lanan Shelton will oversee the transformation from her wheel chair and the rest of us can be her elves. Together the transformation will inspire us.



Wanted: A Carpet Installer!

Last April during the work Sunday, when we couldn't get back into the chapel, volunteers sawed apart the crate the Sneller Memorial Window was shipped in and created two stage units. We have enough new carpet to cover each stage. We've attempted, in vain, to see if we could hire the guy who laid the carpet to do the job. He kept saying yes, but has never done it. Do you know someone whose skill set includes laying carpet? It would be nice to get the job done before the holidays of December overtake us. If you know someone, tell a board member soon!

Treasurer's Report

In the month of October, we had income of \$3,827.84 from general operations.

After operations expense of \$2,090, we had a net profit of \$1,737.84.

As of October 31, we had \$2911.86 available in checking.

In October, we donated \$91.00 from the Share the Plate program to the Texoma Earth Day Festival.

Expenses include building insurance of \$210, UUA donation of \$118.75, water and waste bill of \$199.58, and electric bill of \$165.97.

Kelly Cofield, Treasurer

A Holiday Moveable Feast

Friday, Dec 16th 2 pm

Some Feasts are more Moveable than others. On December 16, Moveable Feast chalice circle will have a potluck at the church at 2 p.m., with parts of the meal being served and eaten in various parts of the church. We'll begin with Appetizers in two rooms on the third floor, the Susan B. Anthony room and the Forrest Church library. (Climbing those stairs requires we start out fresh.) Then we'll descend (physically, though not in quality of food or fellowship) to the second level, where we'll have the Main Course (entrees, salads, and other sides) in the Clara Barton Parlor and the Emerson Room. Beverages will be in the second-floor lobby (wines, tea, juices) and the Soul Café (coffees and fixin's). Lastly, we'll enjoy Dessert in the Chapel on the first floor.

All are welcome; no need to be an "official" member of Moveable Feast. But anyone planning to attend should let Marion Hill (mhill2015(at)att.net or 580-924-7715) know by December 15 what you'll be bringing. (We need to have enough table space prepared for the various dishes in each category: Appetizer, Main Course, or Dessert.) Also, does anyone want to volunteer to prepare the third-floor and second-floor spaces we'll use? The Chapel will already be decorated for the holiday season.

As part of the festivities, we'll have a gag-gift exchange (items \$1 or less). So when you arrive, please place your gift under the tree in the Chapel and climb the stairs for the Appetizer course. Let's Feast!

UU Women's Conference

The 2017 Southwest UU Women's Conference will be Feb. 10-12 in Dallas. Details are available at the SWUUC women's web site; <http://www.swuuc.org/>

Scholarships are available as well, but the deadline for scholarships is January 1st.



1. Arts & Crafts Room
2. Forrest Church Library
3. Emerson Room
4. Third Floor Hall
5. Really, you don't know!
6. Soul Café
7. Upper Foyer
8. Susan B. Anthony Room
9. Clara Barton Parlor

A Giving Tree for the Church

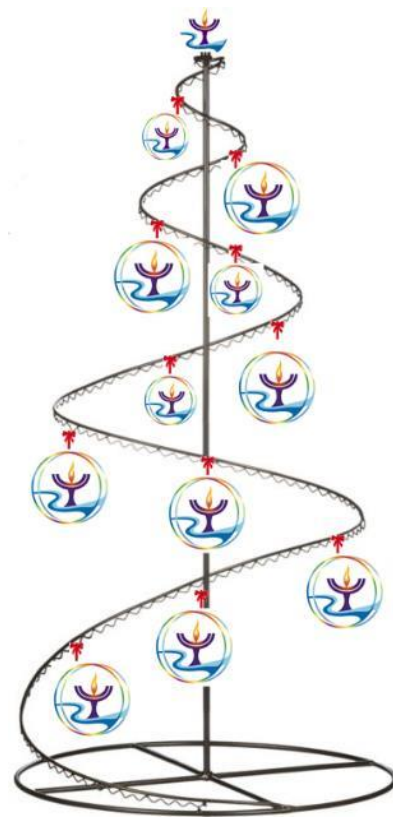
A tradition returns this Holiday season - The Giving Tree for the Church.

During December you are encouraged to stop by the tree, on the side table in the upper foyer.

Take a look on the back of various hanging 'ornaments' and find something you would like to purchase for the church.

Remove the chalice 'ornament' and reference the number sign your name on the clip board on the table.

Make your purchase and place the item in the basket by the tree and cross your name off the list.



TXUUJM Legislative Action Day

On February 15, 2017 UUs from across Texas will meet in Austin to make our voices and values heard. In 2015, more than a hundred UUs from 21 congregations gathered at the Capitol for the first *TXUUJM Legislative Action Day*. 2017 promises to be even more memorable and with the recent election, even more crucial. Register [online](#) today and reserve your seat on the bus from Dallas.



Part of the delegation from 2015

Leaders

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 Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*
 Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
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 Membership: *Marion*
 Nominations: *Elbert, Kat, Lanan*
 NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
 RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*
 Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
 Social Action:
 Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*

If a picture is worth a
 thousand words,

Can you name each
 room?



Answers on Page 4



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 ♦ ♦ ♦

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