



Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 5

September 2017

Sunday September 3, 2017

NO MEDITATION TODAY

NO ADULT FORUM TODAY

What's Happening on Sunday

Labors of Love

A morning to sort, clean, arrange and in general sprucing up the church campus

10:00 - 12:00 - Special Gifts from us to us!

Remember last spring when we wanted to clean out the garages but it was Too Damn Hot? The weather is cool, on Sunday, the weather gurus tell us. So, we're having a party, a work party! We had not held a Sunday work day in several years and given the wonderful weather, it seems like a good time to do it again.

We will start at 10 AM. Come and help for a bit of for two hours. Supplies will be on hand.

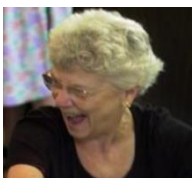
Do come. While it may seem like drudgery, work Sundays actually are a lot of fun *and* the end results bless us all.

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

The Masks We Wear

The Rev. Annie Foerster, speaking



We speak of talking to one another 'face to face,' but which face is it? We present differently to friends than to family; to strangers than to acquaintances. When we look within, we be-

come aware of our many masks. Who are we really?

Refreshments H

Each Sunday

Meditation ~ 9

Adult Forum ~ 10

Sunday, September 17, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Race, Class, and Fingerprinting After the 2016 Election

Michael Phillips, *speaking*

In the wake of the 2016 election, working-class whites for many became the scapegoats for the rise of Donald Trump. Since last November, working class voters have been stereotyped as racists. Phillips will describe how Trump's supporters, to a surprising degree, were financially well-off and relatively well-educated. He will also explore the significance of upper-income white supremacists like Richard Spencer, who grew up in Dallas, in American history and how the reaction of some supposed liberals to Trump's election reveals the modern Democratic Party's discomfort with class politics. He will conclude with some suggestions regarding effective responses to the Trump phenomena.

You can read Michael's bio on the next page.

Refreshments: I-R, plus C

Sunday, September 23, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

A Long and Winding Road, Becoming a human rights lawyer

Bill Holston, *speaking*

Things have been hard for immigrants to our country for many years, but the current era contains some particular challenges. Come hear about Bill's journey as a human rights lawyer and what is happening on the ground now.

You can read Bill's bio on the next page.

Refreshments S-Z

Morning Assembly ~ 11:15

Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

Hello from Helen

Hello to you all, from me and my newly empty nest. We took our youngest son to college the weekend of August 13th, only to hear the news out of Charlottesville. Reading the newspaper these days is an act of courage.

I would like to share with you an excerpt from a Facebook posting by one of my favourite writers, Ann Lamott. This was posted on August 11th, and I found it helpful.

One more question: how do we get to hope in these dark ratty days?

We don't think our way to hope. We take actions, and then the insight follows. The insight is that hope springs from awareness of love, immersion in love, commitment to love. This begins with radical self love: to save the world, make yourself a lovely cup of tea. Put lotion on your jiggly thighs, clean sheets on the bed, the most forgiving pants you own.

Radical self love means you treat yourself the same way you would treat your favorite cousin, or even cranky old mealy-mouthed me. Watch the self-talk. You would probably use a sweeter tone of voice with the cousin or me, than you would with yourself. This will change the world.

Get outside, even just to the front porch, and look up into the sky and into the tree tops, and say the great praise-prayer: WOW. Listen for the sound of birds—or bird. Surely there is one lousy bird somewhere in the vicinity. Close your eyes and really listen. If birdsong was the ONLY proof we have that there is a bigger deeper reality than what transcends what we are seeing on the news, it would be enough for me. Eyes closed, breathe, listen: secret of life.

And lastly, take care of the poor—right now. When I got sober, I was taught that happiness lay in going from big shot to servant. If you want to feel loving feelings, which is hope, do loving things.

May you all take time to care for yourselves.

Hope to see you soon,

Helen.

Our first-time speakers.



Michael Phillips grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and received a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1983. After a seven-year career as a professional reporter, which included a stint at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Phillips earned a master's degree at the University of California- Riverside in 1994 and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002.

His dissertation, *The Fire This Time: The Battle Over Racial, Regional, and Religious Identities in Dallas, Texas, 1860-1990*, won the university's best dissertation prize that year. Phillips' dissertation was published in 2006 as *White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in Dallas, 1841-2001*. That book won the Texas Historical Commission's T.R. Fehrenbach Award for best book on Texas history in 2007.

Since 2007, Phillips has taught American history at Collin College in Plano, Texas. With his wife Betsy Friauf, he is currently writing a trilogy of books on Texas race relations: *The Strange Career of Eugenics in Texas*; *Whitewash: The Civil War and Reconstruction in Texas Memory*; and *God Carved in Night: African Americans and the "Talented Tenth" in Texas*.



Since 2012 **Bill Holston** has been the Executive Director of Human Rights Initiative of North Texas. Prior to that he practiced law with Sullivan and Holston. Since the 1980's Bill has provided pro bono legal representation for political and religious asylum applicants. Over the years he had clients from 21 countries in Immigration Court or before the Houston Asylum office.

In 2012 Bill left his law practice to become the Executive Director of HRI. Bill was a member of the Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas. He is also a member of a the Dallas Bar Association's Pro Bono Activities Committee. Since 2008, he has been an avid mentor to young lawyers in the Dallas Bar Association's Transition to Law Committee.

Bill is a member of the North Texas Chapter of Master Naturalists, guides hikes in the Great Trinity Forest and is an Eagle Scout. He is a commentator for KERA, and writes a column for D Magazine's Front Burner, Law Man Walking.

Bill is married to his best friend Jill, a Dyslexia Specialist for RISD, and they have two grown sons. They attend Greenland Hills United Methodist Church.

Labors of Love Results

Since this issue of *Red River Ramblings* is behind schedule, we have the opportunity of sharing the results of the September 3rd *Labors of Love* Sunday experience.

The list wasn't overwhelming:

- *Clean Garage #4*
- *Organize basement*
- *Clean debris around the basement caged area*
- *Straighten books in Emerson Room*
- *Move large bookcase from Garage 1 to the office*
- *Wash windows by stairway to upper foyer*
- *Clean refrigerator*
- *Wash all counter tops in kitchen*

The results were amazing: Everything done!

A visual fruit of our labors:



There were 22 people who came to work and another two who couldn't make it but sent a large tray of cookies.

Kudos to everyone who came! It was indeed a fun morning - cool weather, cool people, cool place!

Booked for Fun

Do you want to hear about new authors and interesting books? After a summer break, book club is starting up again. Our next meeting is on Friday, September 8th at 1 pm at church Open to book lovers everywhere. A snack is provided.

Facilitated by Carole Harner

Earth Day Planning Comm.

The next meeting of the Earth Day Planning Committee will be Tuesday, September 12th at 6:30 pm at church. Newcomers are warmly invited to drop in to learn it takes to plan the Texoma Earth Day Festival.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of August, we had total receipts of \$2,874.00 from pledges and weekly offerings.

Total disbursements were \$1,759.31, including \$90 contributed to Earth Day for August's Share the Plate collections leaving net income for the month of August of \$1,114.69.

As of August 31, we had \$20,574.78 available in checking.

In the month of August I set up 'autopay' with Cable One (internet), Atmos Energy (gas), Our Energy, LLC (electricity) and the City of Denison (water & trash).

Dick Powell,
Treasurer

The Church Cares



Have you noticed someone missing from church? Do you know someone who might enjoy a call or visit? Maybe you'd like

to be available to give a call, or send a card, or do a friendly visit. If so, tell us. Email "care (at) rruu.org" or leave a message on the church line 903.231.3232.

Kelly Dyer & Megan Hutchison, *co-coordinators*

Introducing Joe Combs

Here is the brief history of Joe Miller Combs, Jr., *our eldest member!*



He was born in 1929 in Cooter Missouri, a tiny town in the southeastern "boot-heel" of Missouri. Their motto: "conveniently located in the middle of nowhere!" We revisited Cooter and his other childhood hometowns a few years ago.. not much has

changed.

At 17 he enlisted in the Navy, serving 2 years at the end of WWII. Using the GI Bill, he spent the next 3 years at Washington University in St Louis, getting a business degree and participating in ROTC. The Army called him back up as a junior officer for 2 years, based in Chicago. He must have done a good job defending us there.. no attacks were made on Chicago during the Korean War!

He married his teenage sweetheart Dottie, and they proceeded to have 4 children: Cindy, Bob, Mike and Chrisy. They moved from St. Louis to San Diego, where he discovered the Unitarian Church. He knew instantly this was his place; he's been a Unitarian ever since!

While in San Diego, he went to work for IBM. That stands for "I've Been Moved." IBM moved us to Los Angeles and then to Dallas. We got here in 1963, and the tragic events of that Fall changed Dallas' reputation forever. After 10 years here (a member at 1st UU of Dallas,) having left IBM, opened a travel agency, and divorced from Dottie, he remembered that he liked the weather better in San Diego. He sold the agency, moved back to CA and opened another one there. He couldn't seem to keep good help, though.. one daughter went off to college, another married "that fella back in Texas," and his two sons had other interests to pursue. So he sold that agency also, and spent the rest of his working years in Real Estate, as a broker and an investor.

Joy Gorian was the church secretary at the First Unitarian Church of San Diego. Marrying her brought much Joy into our family and Joe's life. Her death in a 2014 small-plane crash brought him back to McKinney Texas, to live with his youngest daughter Chrisy. He now lives at the

VA home in nearby Bonham, and comes to church in Denison, where his eldest daughter lives. His two sons both live in New Mexico, and he has 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, scattered from Portland, Oregon to Washington DC. These generations of (mostly) good and interesting people are his great legacy!



The Daily Compass

Produced by the [Church of the Larger Fellowship](#), [The Daily Compass](#) offers words and images to inspire reflection and encourage the creation of a more loving, inclusive, and just world. Stimulate your spiritual expedition! [Sign up](#) for a free subscription.

Pride Events Upcoming



DALLAS

Saturday, September 16 • Festival in Reverchon Park
Sunday, September 17 • 34th Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade

FT. WORTH

Saturday, October 7 • Pride Parade and Street Festival
Sunday, October 8 • Pride Picnic



NTUUC.org

North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations

NTUUC arranges a place in the Freedom Parade for UU's to walk together. When details come to us, they will be in the eNews.

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *President*
Linda Tracy, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
Megan Hutchinson, *Secretary*
Jim Holmes, *Trustee*
Dan Althoff, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Marla Loturco,
Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
Caring Circle: *Kelly and Megan*
Communications: *Doug*
Finance:
Membership: *Marion*
Nominations: *David, Elbert,
Lanan*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action:
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla,
Robert, Tommi*

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E-News: announce (at) rruu.org

Facebook: RedRiverUnitarianUni-
versalistChurch

Our mobile App: free from the
[Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).

CHURCH CALENDAR [here](#)

Board Bits From the Aug 20, 2017 meeting

Dick, Megan, Helen, Jim, Linda,

Guests: Elbert, Marion

In Old business the Board followed up on outreach and other Board business.

We opened the floor to Marion and Elbert Hill to discuss the need for an elevator, as well as the pros and cons of the endeavor. This issue will be brought up at the congregational meeting in October.

Dick Powell, as the new Treasurer, purchased and donated a new version of accounting software to bring the church's finances up to date.

Megan Hutchinson
Board Secretary

Church App has 127 users!



The analytics indicate that 63 people use the app on their Apple devices and 64 on Android devices.

Currently more people read the newsletter and the Wednesday eNews on a phone or tablet than on a computer.

Makes sense since the app always includes

- What's happening next Sunday
- The church calendar
- The current eNews
- Link to our Facebook page
- Link to church web site
- Contact info
- Map to church
- Info on how to shop Amazon and the church gets a small donation.

When you open it, the app will check for updates. If it appears to be outdated, close the app and open it again so it can update. Get in the habit of using it. It is a terrific way to keep up-to-date.