



August 2021 - Vol. 23 Issue 2

# RED RIVER

## *All Ways Intriguing*

# RAMBLINGS

Due to the current surge of COVID-Delta, the board is encouraging everyone to consider wearing a mask on Sundays.

August 1, 2021

### ETHICS AND SCIENCE

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

Science helps ethics know the content of the social and ecological challenges we are facing and provides a method to access knowledge we need to address these challenges. Ethics provides the methods of reflection on choices, values, obligations, and principles that we need to make sure that science is used and applied in moral ways. Ethics and science need one another if we are to be successful in creating and maintaining flourishing human and ecological communities.

August 8, 2021

### NO PLACE FOR APATHY

The Rev. Dr. Mark Y.A. Davies, *leading*

Let's face it. The times are difficult. The suffering is real. Global challenges are not getting any easier. With so many trials and tribulations, it is no wonder we may feel like giving up, but there is just too much at stake to give in to apathy. How can we support one another in the fight to keep hope alive together in these challenging times?

August 15, 2021

### ANNUAL POETRY SUNDAY

With Oklahoma cowboy poet Ron Wallace

Ron returns again to share his wit and wisdom drawn on years of writing poetry. His impressive bio is available on the last page of this newsletter.

August 22, 2021

### A HISTORICAL MARKER FOR GEORGE HUGHES

Melissa Thiel, *speaking*

On May 9, 1930, George Hughes was lynched, the Grayson County Courthouse was burned to the ground, and the black business district on Mulberry Street was destroyed. There is no Texas Historical Marker for this tragic event. Black citizens of Sherman were absolutely terrorized following the lynching of George Hughes. Ignoring history does not make it go away. As a community, we must face our past to prevent repeating history and to heal the harm caused by it. Melissa's bio is on the last page of this newsletter.

August 29, 2021

### FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL WATER COMMUNION SUNDAY

The Worship Team, *leading*

Water Communion is a uniquely Unitarian Universalist tradition, begun at a women's UU convocation in 1980 by Carolyn McDade and Lucille Schuck Longview, to honor women's work locally and to connect that work to a larger whole. In the intervening 41 years, it has become a treasured annual ritual in our congregations with a rich variety of interpretations and meanings. For example, in an era of rapid climate change, we note that the human body and our own planet are both approximately 70% water, a coincidence that many of us do not find especially coincidental. Come join us for this yearly celebration, bringing with you a small sample of precious H<sub>2</sub>O from your home, and a short statement of what that water represents to you. Together we will create our own meaningful font of "holy water" for our congregation.



Water



Communion



is on Sunday



August 29



Bring water



From home



or anywhere



C U then



## Jim's Jabber

One month of being open, it feels good to be back and to see everyone in person. However, now is not the time to let our guard down. With the Covid-D variant on the rise, the board has updated the protocols for being at church. **We are now urging (but not requiring) everyone to wear a mask, even if you've been vaccinated.** Meanwhile, if you come to church and have not been fully vaccinated, please wear your mask.

Now that we are doing live Sundays in church we also have the responsibility to reach out to those friends and members that can't join us. We now Zoom stream our morning assembly, Adult Forum, and coffee and conversations. The sound system that is currently installed in the chapel is setup to give the in-house members the best audio experience that we can afford and for that purpose it does a particularly good job. Unfortunately, it has some issues in sound quality on our recordings and Zoom live stream. Some of the equipment is also getting old and showing its age (like many of us). The AV Team is addressing these issues (with the equipment, not us), and hopefully will be making improvements over the next 30 days.

We are also excited to announce that we received a \$7200 Grant from NTUUC to be used to improve and upgrade our audio, video, and lighting in the chapel and RE rooms. We will be switching our equipment in the chapel from 10-year-old analog to new, modern digital (think old scratchy vinyl record on an old turntable vs a new CD played on a state of the art CD music player). If any of you are interested in learning how to run digital sound equipment with a 2-camera setup please contact me, we could use some additional help on the AV Team.

Many of you use Amazon for various types of purchases. Did you know that you can setup your account so that Amazon donates .5% of your purchases to Red River Unitarian Universalists? It doesn't cost you anything. Use this link to setup your account to support Red River. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1610137>. We also added this link to the bottom of our web page if you misplace this link.

Once you are setup you will see the message: Supporting Red River Unitarian Universalist Church on the Amazon menu. Save the smile link and use it to go to Amazon. If you go to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) directly it will bypass the support connection.

I want to give a big **Thank You** to Ellie Dyer. At our July 18th Sunday morning assembly, we had 6 children in RE and Ellie did (as she always does) a great job with this crowd. I also want to thank David Dyer for taking over as the RE Team Lead position (we all know that Ellie is really in charge). Finally, I want to thank Marilyn Alexander for being the Board Rep RE advisor and helping David and Ellie get everything in RE ready and in supporting their ongoing effort and needs. The RE Team is also in need of more help, especially when more children show up. Please contact David or Marilyn if you are interested or want to know more about how you might help.

Take care, keep safe, and Keep on Truckin'

## Jim *It Starts with Faith*

Session 3: Finding Your Role: Building power in faith organizing

Session 4: Building Organizing Infrastructure: Leadership Development and Identification

Session 5: Facing Conflict: Covenant & Transformation

Session 6: Building for a liberated future: Campaigns and program design

Session 7: Partnerships in a pandemic and recovery

Session 8: Growing your impact: Tools for evaluation and growth

Session 9: Meet the Moment: Tactics for Mobilizing Supporters and Contesting Power

### [Apply Today!](#)

"It Starts With Faith: Organizing School 2021" will support 20-30 teams with the goal of aligning all of our faith organizing to build power and impact in 2022. **The teams will have access to organizing coaches and be invited to participate in national leadership roles in our upcoming Side With Love Action Center.** If you are looking for ways to advance racial justice through your congregation or social justice teams, this year's Organizing School is for you!

Learn from seasoned faith leaders, organizers and facilitators in "It Starts With Faith: Organizing School for Teams".

[The application deadline is Friday, July 30.](#)

Join us to build power towards a world that affirms the worth and dignity of all.

In faith and solidarity,

Nicole Pressley

Field and Programs Director

UUA Organizing Strategy Teams

## News Flash ■ ■ ■



This is a last minute announcement for anyone reading our newsletter who wants to work on the Midterm Elections. The deadline to register is **Friday July 30**. Read the details in this month's sidebar article.

## August Adult Forum

**Humankind's Inhumanity to Itself** is the theme for the five Adult Forums during August. Marilyn Alexander is this month's leader.

- ♦ August 1  
*Rise Again: Tulsa and the Red Summer*  
*American Concentration Camps*
- ♦ August 8  
*America's Great Indian Nation*  
*Minidoka: American Concentration Camp*
- ♦ August 15  
*Sand Creek Massacre*  
*Wounded Knee*  
*Stolen Indian Children*
- ♦ August 22  
*Trail of Tears: National Trails*  
*Trail of Tears: They Knew it was Wrong*
- ♦ August 29  
*Long Walk Tears of the Navajo*

## *It Starts with Faith*

UU The Vote, a non-partisan effort created by the UUA to reach out to voters to make sure they are registered and know how to vote, especially in states where newly restricted laws have been passed in 17 states. Last summer's *It Starts with Faith* school had up to 200 people on the Zoom training each week.

**"It Starts With Faith: Organizing School for Teams" applications are now open! [Submit your application by July 30.](#)**

It Starts With Faith: Organizing School for Teams is a 9-week faith organizing training series designed to build faith-rooted organizing teams that are committed to dismantling white supremacy and taking action in with Side With Love's four intersectionality justice priorities (Climate Justice, LGBTQ+ & Gender Justice, Democracy & Voting Rights, Decriminalization). It is open to people of all experience levels and faith affiliation.

Participants will learn foundational organizing skills to build and support teams in racial justice rooted work and take part in the upcoming [Side With Love Action Center](#)-a distributed organizing and leadership development program launching this fall.

[Apply Today!](#)

**Sessions will take place on Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30pm ET/3:30-5:30pm PT between Aug. 25 and Nov 3.**

Session 1: Orientation

Session 2: Faithful Social Justice: Telling your story

## *Music in the Air*

Hello to my music lovers! Musicians and audience get ready! We have another night of music coming up and hopefully Jim has the bugs out of our "virtual" performer set up. If you are joining us on zoom, you can wait to sign up at about 5:45.

We will be LIVE and lively in the Chapel at Red River UU for those who wish to venture forth for our music circle at the church. Bring your dinner to eat from 5:30 to 6 and we will start the music at 6. The new microphones are in place for a better sound for our great harmonies from Dallas Folk. (Red River Unitarian Universalists; 515 N Burnett Ave; Denison 7521)

There was so much great music last month that I hope we can continue the fun. Any time you try something new there are adjustments. Encourage friends to join us. If you want to pick a theme, we can find ideas in road trips, far away places, summer fun.

Join us **Saturday, August 7** live or on Zoom. TheZoom Meeting ID is 970 4165 1332.

## *Treasurer's Report*

For the twelve months ended June 30, 2021, we had total income of \$53,249.06 which included \$12,825.77 of appreciation in investment funds we now have with the UUA Common Endowment Fund. Total expenses were \$37,395.36, leaving an excess of income over expenses of \$15,853.70.

Adjusting for the market appreciation in our UUACEF funds, our adjusted net income was \$3,027,93, compared to \$2,773.31 for the prior fiscal year.

It is worth noting that the total of Pledges and Unpledged Regular Giving exceeded the budget by \$3,645.00.

As of June 30, 2021, we had \$2,589.31 available in checking, a total of \$19,090.31 in all savings accounts and a total of \$79,605.17 in the UUA Common Endowment Fund.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, Treasurer



# *A New Look in the chapel*



Two additions to the décor in the chapel happened recently. The artwork installed last year now has special lighting which brings out the subtle colors that were difficult to see before. Also new is the colorful quilt which adorns the blank wall behind the pulpit.

And for the many who have yet to return to the church, you've missed seeing the new accent quilt which Marla Loturco and friends created while she was on vacation in Virginia in May. The aesthetics committee worked with Marla who recommended the color palette and waited for her return with the finished quilt. There are a hundred plus separate small squares of fabric using 20 colors to create an inside and outside ribbon illusion, giving the finished design the name Illusion.

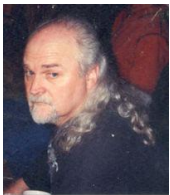
A beautiful addition to the chapel and accepted with great thanks to Marla for creating it. If you did not know, Marla also created the various chancel cloths, four of which portray the four seasons - summer being the one shown in the photograph.

Thank you Marla for creating such a lovely quilts to adorn the church.

## *August Birthdays*

06 - Linda Tracy  
09 - Helen Schulze  
10 - Lisa Cates  
29 - Carolyn Fridley  
31 - Doug Strong

# Speaker Bios



**Ron Wallace** ( August 15) is a Native son of Oklahoma and a national poetry award winner. He is the author of four volumes of poetry published by TJMF Publishing of Clarksville, Indiana. All

four have received critical acclaim and met with success in the poetry world. His first book, *Native Son*, was a finalist in the 2007 Oklahoma Book Awards. *I Come from Cowboys ... and Indians* won the 2009 Oklahoma Writer's Federation "Best Book of Poetry Award" and *Oklahoma Cantos* was again a finalist in the 2011 Oklahoma Book Awards, a finalist in the Western Heritage Book Awards and won the 2011 Oklahoma Writer's Federation "Best Book of Poetry Award".

Wallace's Choctaw, Cherokee, Osage heritage is intertwined with his Scots-Irish roots and often reflected in his writing. He lists James Dickey, Robinson Jeffers, Yusef Komunyakaa and his former Southeastern Oklahoma State University professor and poet, Howard Starks as his major influences.

A former public-school teacher and coach he has been a featured poet at The Abydos Learning Project in Texas three times, a featured poet at the Woody Guthrie Festival in Okemah, Oklahoma for the last four years. He has been a reader at the Tennessee Humanities Festival, a member of the Emerging Poets Southern Tour. His work has won several individual state and national awards and has been published in many journals and anthologies.

Critiques, reviews of his work and more personal biography can be found at [www.RonWallacePoetry.com](http://www.RonWallacePoetry.com).



**Melissa Thiel** (August 22) grew up in Grayson County and graduated high school in Tom Bean. She received an associate degree at Grayson County Jr

College (now Grayson College) and went on to study at Texas Woman's University to complete her bachelor's in history. She received her master's in history with emphasis in Public History in 2019. It was during her studies that she learned about the lynching of George Hughes at the Grayson County Courthouse. Melissa leads the local effort to document the event with a Texas Historical Marker.

## Our Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*  
Marilyn Alexander, *Vice-President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
David Dyer, *Secretary*  
Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Trustee*

### Committee on Ministry:

*Dan Althoff, Elbert Hill, Marla Loturco*

### Nominating:

*Kelly Cofield Dyer, Don Rogers, Amy Hoffman-Shehan,*

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Various members*  
Aesthetics: *Carol, Doug*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Endowment: *Carolyn, Dick, Doug*  
Facilities: *Jim (until we find someone)*  
Finance: *Jim, Dick, Jan, Marilyn*  
Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn, Robert*  
Membership: *Marion*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Ellie, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action:  
Welcoming Congregation: *Adrian, Amy, Lisa, Marla, Thomas*  
Worship: *Dan, Doug, Marla, Robert*

### How to Reach Us

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### How to reach us:

- ♦ 903.231.3232
- ♦ [Mobile App](#)
- ♦ [Email](#)
- ♦ [Website](#)
- ♦ [Facebook](#)

The church calendar is now merged with the EVENTS listing on the church website home page