

Red River Ramblings

OCTOBER 2024 - VOL. 23, NO. 4

Sunday, October 6, 2024 - 11:15 am

A Critique of the Capitalocene

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

A Critique of the Capitalocene - some have referred to our current epoch as the Anthropocene given the vast impact of humanity on the planet, but some recent scholars make the argument that it would be more explanatory to understand the age we live in as the Capitalocene, an epoch shaped by capitalism and its extractive and exploitative systems and practices.

Sunday, October 13, 2024 - 11:15 am

The Heresy Trial of Borden Parker Bowne

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

The Heresy Trial of Borden Parker Bowne - In 1904, the founder of the philosophical school of thought known as Boston Personalism was put on trial for heresy by the Methodist Church. He was unanimously acquitted in what would be a major victory for academic freedom and freedom of thought within Methodism. Bowne's philosophy and theology would go on to have a profound effect on the thought of Martin Luther King Jr. who shared Bowne's views concerning the dignity and value of all persons.

Sunday, October 20, 2024 - 11:15 am

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS TODAY
MEETING DOCX WILL BE SENT OCT 7 - PLS READ

Giving Hope. Making a Difference. Defeating Breast Cancer.

Jenel Marie McGrath, *guest speaker*

This year an estimated 310,720 women and 2,800 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer. Chances

are, you know at least one person who has been personally affected by breast cancer. But there is hope. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%. Advances in [early detection](#) and [treatment](#) methods have significantly increased breast cancer survival rates in recent years, and there are currently over 4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States. We've invited Jenel Marie McGrath - president of the Board at *Women Rock*, a Sherman based non-profit dedicated to defeating breast cancer - to speak about their efforts in giving hope, making an impact in defeating breast cancer. Of her discourse she writes, "*I expect to be informative, low key and delighted to extend my knowledge to all. Questions welcome.*"

Sunday, October 27, 2024 - 11:15 am

A Journey in and out of Religion

Marion Hill, *speaking*

Many people come to a Unitarian church after having been brought up in another denomination but then finding that their original religion didn't "work for them" in adulthood. Today Red River UU member Marion Hill will discuss the sometimes-surprising journey of Frank Schaeffer, whose parents were missionaries to Switzerland and who, in young adulthood, became a leader of the religious right, but then rebelled against that life. In three bestselling books—one of which is titled "Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God"—he details the twists and turns in his thinking that brought him to a position of both belief AND non-belief.

Comparing the evangelical/fundamentalists he knows so well to the New Atheists (Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and others), he finds both of their approaches equally unsatisfactory.

Social Action Update

GET OUT THE VOTE AND SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action partnered with TXUUM in September to Get Out the Vote. Eighteen members and friends of Red River UU gathered September 17 to write 500+ postcards. These postcards went to Florida voters and Denton County and Collin County women of color to encourage voting for this upcoming election. It was a colorful project using multicolored pens to catch their attention and contact information about voting in their respective counties.

Bravo to the volunteers.

Jan Fletcher, chair

Enjoy Gardening?

I'm looking for members who would like to help with the gardens at RedRiverUU, specifically the garden beds at the back of the church between the garage and the playground. This would involve weeding and dead heading about once a month.

Let me know if you'd like to help.

Paula

760.828.7768



05 Marion Hill

16 Angus Zaphod Peterson *

17 James Biasi *

17 Adrian Hinman

17 Tommi Homuth

18 Joyce Peak

26 Carla Murphy

*Denotes a youngster

It Happens in October

EVERY SUNDAY

- **Adult Forum - 10-11 am**
- **Morning Assembly - 11:15-12:15**
- **Conversations & Calories 12:15-1 pm***
*if the kitchen is completed

EVERY WEEK

- **Mondays - Overeaters 6-7 pm**
- **Tuesdays - Spiritual Perspectives 6:30-8 pm**

DURING THE MONTH

- **Oct 13 - The Rainbow Team meeting 1-2 pm**
- **Oct 13 - Board Games 2-5 pm**
- **Oct 20 - Potluck lunch before Cong, Meeting**
- **Oct 20 - Fall Congregational Meeting**
- **Oct 26 - NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - 10 pm**

Money Matters

 by Carole Harner, *treasurer*

The new year started in July 2024 with a very generous donation of \$50,000 from Marilyn Alexander's daughter, Merrilee Kick. A total of \$28,809.44 has been spent on repairs and renovations. That leaves \$21,190.56 remaining in this fund as of August 31.

In the month of August, we had total operating receipts of \$2,682.00. Total operating expenses for the month were \$2,212.68, leaving us with a small net profit for the month of \$469.32. The net profit for the month was primarily due to the timing of worship and insurance expense partly offset by the timing of pledge payments.

We had an operating net profit for the fiscal year-to-date of \$1,136.08. The year-to-date net profit was primarily due to the timing of worship and advertising expense partly offset by the timing of donations.

As of August 31, 2024, we had \$16,897.84 available in checking for general operations. There was also \$9,932.13 available in the bank savings account for general operations plus \$4,871.08 restricted for the Minister Fund and \$5,951.89 held in trust for Kat Walston from the sale of her personal effects prior to moving into assisted living. There is a total of \$66,784.40 invested in the UUA Common Endowment Fund. The congregation voted to use up to \$51,000.00 of the UUA Savings Fund for minister compensation

Family Shelter Meals

Red River UU is returning to providing meals quarterly to Texoma Family Shelter (our neighbors on the corner), with our next meal scheduled for Saturday, December 14. We have a core team already committed to helping but we would love to have more join us. Please contact Paula at (760) 828-7768, via text or phone call.

UUUA President...



The poster features a blue background with a white megaphone icon on the left. The text 'UU THE VOTE' is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, 'Dallas/Fort Worth Activation' is written in a smaller white font. A white outline of the state of Texas is on the right. A circular portrait of Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt is on the left. The event schedule is listed in white text: SAT. 1-4:30pm | Power the Vote in Dallas with Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt; Oct. 5 6-10pm | Rose v Wade with AVOW at Wayward Coffee Co.; SUN. Oct. 6 1-4pm | Power the Vote in Fort Worth. At the bottom, it says 'Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt' and 'RSVP: bit.ly/Oct4Dallas'.

Dear TXUUJM community,

I am thrilled to announce that [the Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, President of our Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#), is coming to Texas this weekend for TXUUJM and UU the Vote's big weekend of democracy work! It means so much to have our denominational president and UU the Vote partners joining us at this crucial moment. We hope you will join us for "Power the Vote" events in Dallas on Saturday and in Ft. Worth on Sunday. Details and [registration here!](#)

This Sunday, I am honored to be co-leading worship with Rev. Dr. Betancourt and the Rev. Dr. Aija Duelm of [Community UU Church in Plano](#), and TXUUJM is also overjoyed to have Side with Love [Democracy Strategist](#) Nora Rasmusen joining TXUUJM Faith in Democracy Organizer Sarah Berel-Harrop at worship at [Westside UU](#) in Ft. Worth on Sunday morning. We hope to see you!

Bending Texas Toward Justice TOGETHER,
Rev. Erin Walter (she/her)
TXUUJM Minister & Executive Director
erin@txuujm.org

Prezzy Speak - October

October Already!

I have barely come to terms with it being September, and here it is October! Sweater weather, colorful foliage, the excitement of the holiday season being nearly upon us? Nope, not in Texas. We are now somewhat less hot than we were in August. We dig through the Christmas decorations at the big box stores to get to what we need to keep our yards and flower beds going. But nightfall is coming earlier and dawn later. It's a time for each of us to pause, look back at the year so far, and consider what we want to finish by the year's end.

It's also a time for us as an institution to pause and look back at the year so far and to take time to reconnect as an active congregation. Our Fall Congregational Meeting is on October 20th, following the service, and the information packets will go out soon. Please attend. Your voice needs to be heard.

Someone pointed out that in our spoken affirmation, agreeing to seek the truth seems to mean there is only one truth and that it makes them uncomfortable, knowing their truth is probably not shared by the people around them. It would be more inclusive to remove "the" as a definite article and simply agree to seek truth. We've used our current spoken affirmation for many years, made some changes for awhile, then returned to the current one. There are many variations of the wording in UU churches

There is power in tradition. It should not be changed willy-nilly. But there can also be stagnation. Times and people change. Our current affirmation is an artifact of our Christian heritage, even though it speaks so well for so many. I think it is important that we think about what we say. Our closing affirmation speaks of truth, not "the" truth. Think about this and have your say (and vote!) at the Fall Congregational Meeting. I think the outcome of the vote is not as important as the thought that goes into it.

Many folk believe that late October is when the spirit world draws closest to us, when the veil between the worlds is at its thinnest. May whatever spirits of any sort you encounter be blessings. Jana Norris, *president*

Our Leaders

Board of Trustees:

Jana Norris, *President*

Amy Hoffman-Shehan, *Vice-President*

Carole Harner, *Treasurer*

Don Rogers, *Secretary*

David Dyer, *Trustee*

Committee on Ministry:

Elbert Hill, Jim Holmes, _____

Nominating:

Liz, Paula, Marilyn

Our Various Teams:

The first name is the team leader

Adult Forum: Marilyn, Jim, Amy, Marion

Aesthetics: Amy, Jana, Adrian

Audio Visual: Jim, Carole, Don, Marla

Caring Circle: David

Choir: Marilyn, Bill, Jan, Byron, Cindy, Doug

Earth Day Planning: Amy, Marla, Jan, Megan, Cristina

Endowment: Doug

Facebook Admin: Amy

Facilities: Jim

Finance: Carole, Jim, Marilyn

Grounds: Marilyn, Paul

Historian:

Long Range Planning: Jim, Marilyn

Membership: Paula, Marla, Doug, Amy, Adrian

Minister Search: Jim, David, Jana, Marilyn, Marla

Monarch Way Station: Lynn, Paula

Moveable Feast: Elbert & Marion

Music:

NTUUC Rep: Marilyn

Publications: Doug

Rainbow Team: Jack, Adrian, Amy, Billie, Cristina, Jana, Olivia, Sherilyn, Thomas

RE Team: Jack

Safe Congregation Panel: Jana

Social Justice: Jan

Web Team: Jim, Hannah, Marla

Worship: Marla, Dan, Jan

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