

Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship



December 2008 Newsletter

Services will be held on the second Sunday of December at 10:30 a.m. in the Laura Chapel of Huntsville Memorial Hospital. Due to the Christmas Holidays, there will not be a service on the fourth Sunday of December. From 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., we gather and have coffee. For more information call (936) 295-3170.

*The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young,
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair
And its soul full of music breaks the air,
~ Phillips Brooks*



Sunday, December 14th, 2008

On Sunday, December 14th, our speaker will be Christina Branum-Martin. Her sermon is entitled "Slowing Down the Holiday Rush."

It seems more and more each year, the holiday season gets busier and the marketing comes earlier. All around us is the machine of consumerism. We can buy happiness and gift-wrap it, right? Lets explore how can we pull the plug on this machine and remain joyful in this busy holiday season.

Christina Branum-Martin grew up in Houston, Texas as a Unitarian Universalist and is currently a member of the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. She is a 7th generation Unitarian. She lives in Houston with her husband and 8 year-old daughter.

As a third year seminary student at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago as a modified residency student, she spends each January in Chicago taking intensive classes in addition to classes in local seminaries throughout the year in preparation for Unitarian Universalist ministry. The Bay Area UUC in Houston is her sponsoring congregation.

Annual Christmas Party

Anne and Kelley Sigler have invited everyone to a potluck lunch at their home after the Dec. 14th service.

The guidelines are:

1. Bring food to share.
2. Have a great time!

That's it!

The Siglers live at 1321 Greenbriar Dr. in the Elkins Lake subdivision.

To get to their house from the south-bound I-45 feeder road, enter on Augusta Dr. and turn left or south on Greenbriar Dr. Their house is on the left after the first cul-de-sac.



Women's Sharing Circle

The Women's Sharing Circle will be having a Christmas luncheon should be on Dec. 18 for all women in the fellowship at 11:00 a.m. This luncheon will either be a salad pitch-in at the home of Gail Phillips' (137 Water's Edge at the 18th in the Elkins Lake subdivision), or at a restaurant. Gail is in the process of remodeling her house and she does not know exactly when it will be finished.

Please RSVP to Gail Phillips so she knows who to notify in the event plans much be changed.





Charitable Giving

At our December 14th service, we will have a collection to buy Christmas groceries for families at the SAAFE house.

At our November 23rd service, we collected a total of \$141.00 to benefit the Senior Center of Walker County. We thank our members and friends for their generous contributions.

Next month we will be collecting money to benefit the Harper Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund.



During the Holiday Season, James Moore will be selling art and craft items made by members of our congregation. Profit from this endeavor will go towards our church's building fund. Not only would this raise money for our new church, but it would also advertise the presence of the UU church in the community and allow us to inform the public of our values and beliefs.

James would like everyone to help by doing the following:

1. Donate materials to be made into art pieces.
2. Create inexpensive homemade craft items and donate them to be sold.
3. Volunteer to sell items and talk to people about our beliefs if they ask for information.

James will be selling items at a table on the SHSU Campus Mall from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2nd, and Tuesday, December 9th. Those who would like to help out should contact him.



Progress on Our New Church

These pictures show the pouring of concrete for the new weir that had to be built for rainwater detention on the property for our new church. This weir consists of a concrete wall built between two sections of the old logging railroad tram roadway that went through the back of the property.

The weir is now completed and fulfills the city requirements for rainwater runoff management on the property.

Furthermore, the underbrush has been cleared out on the actual site of the new church building and parking lot. The mature trees have been left in place for natural beauty.



We encourage everyone to visit the building site to see all the changes that have taken place.

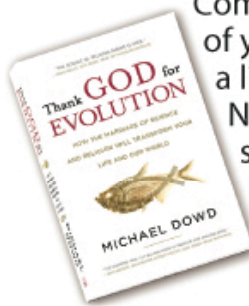


Thank **GOD** for **EVOLUTION**

Michael Dowd LIVE!

America's Evolutionary Evangelist

JOIN THE EVOLUTION!

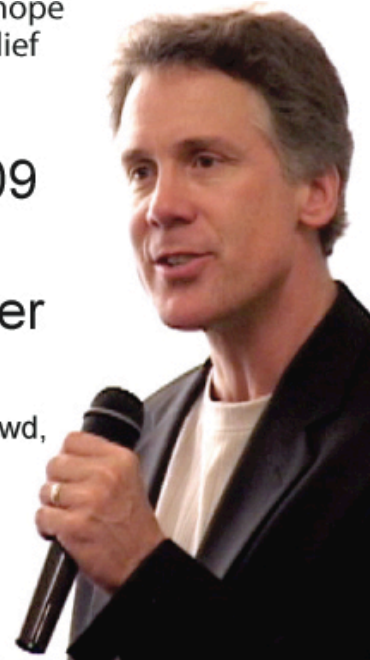


Come hear Reverend Michael Dowd share a gospel that's billions of years old! Find out why Americans everywhere are engaging in a life-changing new conversation about Creation. Endorsed by Nobel Prize winning scientists and religious leaders across the spectrum, Michael's bold new book builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for people of any religion or belief system.

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Walker Education Center

The Huntsville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is excited to announce that the Reverend Michael Dowd, author of *Thank God For Evolution*, will speak in Huntsville. This is a huge opportunity for our UU Fellowship to make a statement and to let people know that UU'S are present in Huntsville! Please tell everyone to attend this event.



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Recommended Books by Ann Staples



Travels with Herodotus by Ryszard Kapuscinski

Ryszard Kapuscinski, who died in 2007, was a foreign correspondent from Poland and the author of several books.

His writing style is wonderful as demonstrated in this translated version. This book is a wonderful travel documentary with a philosophical bend. It gives an excellent concise description of Confucianism, and Taoism and describes his travels in India, China, Senegal, Egypt, Congo, Iran and Ethiopia. Interwoven with his travel experiences are his commentaries on and excerpts from *The Histories* by Herodotus. There are also musings by the author about Herodotus himself. This book is almost equally divided between modern travels and ancient history.

The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism by Andrew J. Bacevich.

The inside cover of the book exclaims :From an acclaimed conservative historian and former military officer, a bracing call for a pragmatic confrontation with the nation's problems." This book, which is dedicated to his son who was killed in action in Iraq in 2007, is part of The American Empire Project. As described by the information in the book "Empire, long considered an offense against America's democratic heritage, now threatens to define the relation ship between our country and the rest of the world. The American Empire Project publishes books that question this development, examine the origins of the U.S. imperial aspirations, analyze their ramifications at home and abroad and discuss alternatives to this dangerous trend." This book is very informative ad readable. It gives the reader an excellent description of how we have arrived at our current situation and philosophy.

Death of a Dutchman by Magdalen Nabb.

Though Magdalen Nabb is now deceased, she lived part of her life in Florence which inspired her to write a series of mystery books set in Italy. The two that I have read (this book and *Death of an Englishman*) have been set in Florence and featured the same detective. These well-crafted books give the reader a lot of information about life in Italy. The reader can just see the scenes and settings as Ms. Nabb describes them. I assume the locations of many things are real and it might be extra fun to read the books with a tourist street map o f Florence.



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