

Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship



January 2009 Newsletter

Services are generally held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Laura Chapel of Huntsville Memorial Hospital. From 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., we gather and have coffee. For more information call (936) 295-3170.

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.

~Andrew Wyeth

Sunday January 25, 2009

Our guest speaker will be David Throop and his topic is "Taking a Bet on Truth". Of his topic Dr. Throop says that "We search for truth, but we're always stuck making a guess."

After receiving a bachelors degree in chemical engineering, Dr. Throop earned a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin in 1991. He currently works with advanced software on space-related problems. His current interests include essential fatty acids in nutrition and men's issues. He is married with four children and lives in Friendswood Texas. He has been a UU for over 30 years.

Sunday January 11, 2009



Our guest speaker will be the Reverend Michael Thompson. His Sermon is entitled "Something to Shout About: Sharing the Good News of Unitarian Universalism" He writes that as we begin a new year, it's time we laid to rest our qualms about "the E-word" (evangelism) so we can "spread the word" about our liberal approach to religion.

Rev. Thompson is a native Texan who grew up in the Piney Woods, and has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for over fifteen years. He first served as a student minister in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, then as an intern minister in Shreveport, Louisiana. For six years he was a parish minister in Beaumont, Texas. He has also served as a part-time contract minister in Houston and Galveston, and as an interim minister in Canoga Park, California. For the past six years, he has been parish minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Ministry is a second career for Rev. Thompson. He came to this calling after fifteen years as a high school teacher of history, government, economics and debate. He earned his undergraduate degree in political science and public address from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1974, and his divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 1993.

In 1999 he helped organize the Beaumont Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). In 2005 he helped organize the Tuscaloosa Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. In 1998 he received the CUUPS Fuller-Thoreau Award "for spirited defense of religious freedom," and in 1999 he received an Anti-Defamation League award "in recognition of outstanding efforts to guard religious liberties for all."

Rev. Thompson and his wife Pamela have been married for 34 years. They are vegetarians who share their home with two feline companions, Swoosie and Xena.

Women's Sharing Circle

On Thursday, January 29th, the Women's Sharing Circle will be meeting Alice Schulman at the Olive Garden in the Woodlands at 11:00 a.m. If there's a good movie showing at that time in that vicinity, we might go to it afterwards.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Gail Phillips house in Elkins Lake to carpool to the Woodlands. The Olive Garden Restaurant is located in Spring on the south-bound I-45 Feeder Rd (26715 I-45). Take exit 76 off I-45 (for Woodlands Pkwy/Robinson Rd)



Chalice Lighter Call:

The Fall 2008 Chalice Lighter Call for the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference has been awarded to the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Baton Rouge is the UU church that led the way following Hurricane Katrina. This is the same UU church that has done so much for so many throughout its history, and it is now Chalice Lighters privilege to help Baton Rouge.



When Hurricane Gustav hit the Gulf Coast on September 1, 2008, it caused about \$35,000 damage to the church and its campus. Two-thirds of the damage was to the church's roof and sanctuary ceiling, with the church campus receiving the remaining damage. To date, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge has collected almost \$13,000 in its "Hurricane Repair Fund". Obviously, Baton Rouge needs Chalice Lighters' assistance!

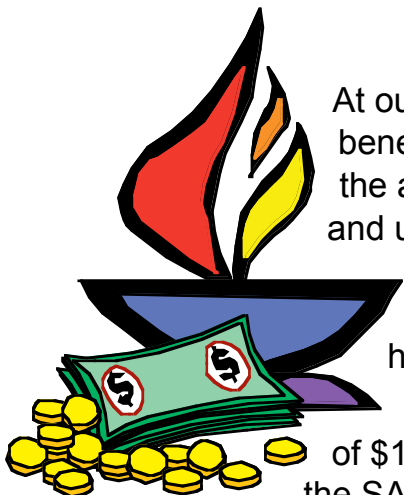
Chalice Lighters is a program of the Southwestern U-U Conference in which members contribute small donations (typically \$10.00 - \$25.00) up to three times a year to help other congregations build or improve their churches and programs. 100% of the money collected goes to help the Chalice Lighter recipient. The Huntsville UU Fellowship urges all their members and friends to join. Please send your check, made out to "SWUUC Chalice Lighters", to:

**Chalice Lighters
SWUUC District Office
6720 Brentwood Stair Road
Fort Worth, Texas 76112**

Or you may also donate via PayPal to "Chalice Lighters" using SWUUC's website: <http://swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/support.php>.

Thank you for your generosity of spirit and resources.

Charitable Giving



At our January 25th service, we will have a collection to benefit the Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter. Not only does the animal shelter provide an adoption program for stray and unwanted animals, but it also provides a free or low-cost spay/neuter program for low-income people. It also acts as FEMA animal shelter during hurricane evacuations of the coast.

At our December 14th service, we collected a total of \$155.00 to help buy Christmas groceries for families at the SAAFE house.

Pledge Cards

This year we have asked the members of our Fellowship to fill out Intention-to-Give pledge cards. This information will enable our congregation to determine how best to budget our resources to help our church operate and grow. These pledge cards will replace any previous pledges that have been made. We urge all members to fill out and return these cards. To all of you who have sent in your pledges, we thank you so much. We ask the others to please fill out the cards and return them to Richard Lane. For those of you that have lost your pledge cards, the reproduction here will serve. Fill out the form below and drop it in the collection plate.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Operating Fund

Year or Month

Pledge 2009 _____/_____

Pledge 2010 _____/_____

Pledge 2011 _____/_____

Pledge 2012 _____/_____

Pledge 2013 _____/_____

One Time Pledge _____

Building Fund

Year or Month

Pledge 2009 _____/_____

Pledge 2010 _____/_____

Pledge 2011 _____/_____

Pledge 2012 _____/_____

Pledge 2013 _____/_____

One Time Pledge _____

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY LEADERSHIP INTENSIVES

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference will be presenting two DBLE Young Adult Ministry Leadership Intensives in March of 2009. These weekend-long events are designed to help congregations effectively minister to and with young adults (ages 18-35). Young adults, ministers, religious educators, church program staff, and lay leaders of all types are invited to these weekends of education, worship, and congregational development.

The Intensives will focus on campus ministry; young adult lay and professional church leadership; maintaining effective outreach through technology; young adult small group ministry; vibrant, challenging worship; and providing a congregational environment that welcomes and integrates people of all ages.

The Intensives will be held on the following dates:
March 6-8, 2009 at All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK.
March 20-22, 2009 at Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston, TX.

If you have any questions about these leadership trainings or suggestions about what resources your congregation could use in this area, please contact the Rev. Aaron White, the Young Adult Minister for the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist district, at aaronscottwhite@gmail.com.

Up-Coming Conferences

Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival 2009

March 26-29, 2009
All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma
<http://www.uuchristian.org/revival/index.html>

Renaissance Module

Lifespan Faith Development - Religious Education Training
April 10 -12, 2009

SWUUC Spring Conference

April 24-26, 2009
First Unitarian Church in Memphis, Tennessee

General Assembly - Unitarian Universalist Annual Conference

June 24-28, 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/>

Dwight Brown Leadership Experience

July 19-24, 2009

South Western Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI)

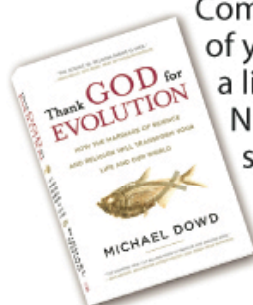
August 2-7, 2009
Western Hills Guest Ranch near Tulsa Oklahoma

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

Michael Dowd LIVE!

America's Evolutionary Evangelist

JOIN THE EVOLUTION!



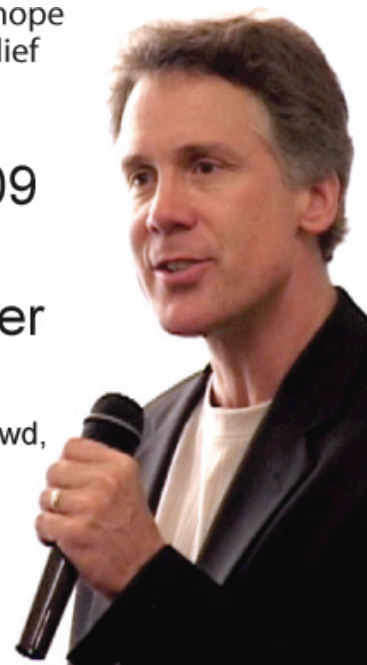
Come hear Reverend Michael Dowd share a gospel that's billions of years old! Find out why Americans everywhere are engaging in a life-changing new conversation about Creation. Endorsed by Nobel Prize winning scientists and religious leaders across the spectrum, Michael's bold new book builds bridges,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



WWW.THANKGODFOREVOLUTION.COM

Recommended Books by Ann Staples



The American Plague: The Untold Story of Yellow Fever, the Epidemic that Shaped Our History by Molly Caldwell Crosby.

This book, which is at the SHSU Newton Grisham Library, was published in 2006 and is an excellent example of the style that is described as narrative nonfiction. The book deals with both the 1878 Yellow Fever outbreak in Memphis (which changed the composition of the city forever) and the research in Cuba in the early 1900's. This engaging and beautifully written book is the young writer's first effort and her scope of research is impressive. In the notes section she describes, in paragraph form, the research for the chapters. Her approach to research makes informative reading and would be helpful for anyone doing research for any article.

The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, and the Redemptive Power of Music by Steve Lopez.

This well-crafted book is about two people: Nathaniel Ayers, a former student at Julliard who is mentally ill and lives and plays the violin in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles and of the author who meets him and tries to help him while writing about him in his column in the Los Angeles Times. This book is also a commentary on our country's mental health policy and on the personal difficulties, strains and rewards incurred in trying to deal with a person who is mentally ill. A must-read book from both a personal and social-commentary viewpoint. The excellent writing in this book is as expected from a journalist with over 30-years of experience who has also authored three novels.

Stradivari's Genius: Five Violins, One Cello and Three Centuries of Enduring Perfection by Toby Faber.

This book, available through interlibrary loan, is enjoyable especially for those who like history, music, working with wood, or just well-written books. The author traces the histories of these six instruments, their creation, their sellers, their players, their buyers and their travels. He also tells the story of Stradivari and his workshop and the history of violin development in general.

The History of the Snowman from the Ice Age to the Flea Market by Bob Eckstein.

This book, available through interlibrary loan, sounded like a fun holiday read and it was. It is a very well researched history of the snowman with lots of illustrations. The author is a cartoonist as well as a columnist.



Peace On Earth

From Elliot, Alex
and Payson Norman

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<http://huntsvillexunitarianfellowship.org>

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