

# Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship

Rev. Tom Capo, Minister



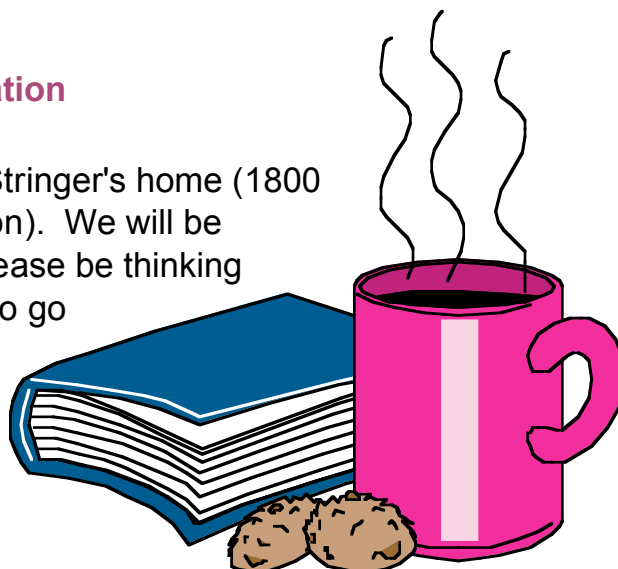
## June 2008 Newsletter

During the summer, Services are generally held on the 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.

Keep your dreams alive. Understand to achieve anything requires faith and belief in yourself, vision, hard work, determination, and dedication. Remember all things are possible for those who believe. ~ *Gail Devers*

### July 13th Coffee and Conversation

At 10:30 A.M. we will be meeting at the Stringer's home (1800 Camelia Dr. in the Elkins Lake Subdivision). We will be discussing our visions for the church. Please be thinking about the direction you want our church to go and how you see our church reaching out and interacting with the community as we grow. Afterwards there will be a potluck lunch; so bring your favorite dish.





**Sunday July 27, 2008**

### **How Do We Decide to Give?**

by Reverend Tom Capo

Have you ever noticed the people begging for money at intersections? Do you give anything to them? How do you know what they will do with the money? Does that matter? Let's consider how and why we decide to give to others.

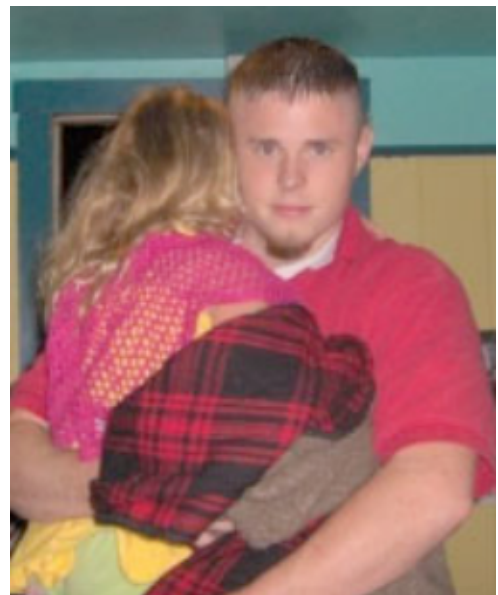


### **Diversity Forum**

The Cultural Diversity Dinner will be held on July 17th. Our church will be in charge of serving drinks. Roberta Krock has graciously consented to be the drink coordinator for the evening. Please contact her if you can help out. Many people will be on vacation that week, and she will need everyone else to give her a hand

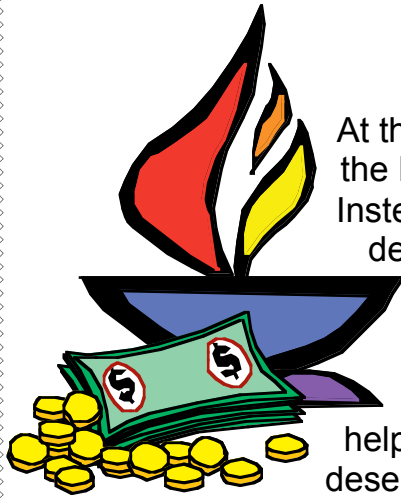
### **Travis Childress Turner**

Travis Childress Turner, 22, passed to a peaceful life on May 27, 2008. He was born March 19, 1986, in Houston, Texas. He spent five years of his childhood in Galveston and 10 years in Alvin before moving to Huntsville. Recently Travis had been attending Montgomery College. He will be remembered for his ready smile, kind and loving nature and great three-point shots. His parents, Roy and Carol Turner, write that "our son will be sorely missed. His smile was wide and his energetic love of life contagious. People loved him and so many have told us he was like a brother to them." In lieu of flowers, tax-deductible



donations may be sent to [bpkids.org](http://bpkids.org) to aid bipolar research, or to a scholarship in his honor in San Miguel de Allende through Jovenes Adelante, A.C., Box 49 A, 220 N. Zapata Highway, 11; Laredo, TX 78043.

## Charitable Giving



At the Annual Business Meeting, it was decided to separate the Fellowship's charitable contribution from the budget. Instead of giving a set amount to each charity, it was decided to pass a second collection basket approximately once a month, just for donations to a local charitable organization.

At our June 22nd service, we collected donations to help fund a scholarship in memory of Travis Turner for a deserving student in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico through Jovenes Adelante. Including a donation from the church, a total of \$772.00 was collected. We thank our members and friends for their generous contributions.

At our July 27th service, we will have a collection for the C.O.M.E. Center. Among its activities, the C.O.M.E (or Community Organization for Missionary Endeavor) provides free clothing and school supplies for low-income residents. It also helps low-income residents apply for grant money towards utility bills. They have just broken ground on their new building that will be located behinds the Walker County Senior Center. If you are donating via check, please make the check out to the Huntsville U-U Fellowship and write "For the COME Center" in the memo space.

The following is a schedule for the charitable collections that we will have for the next fiscal year. This is slightly different from what we discussed at our June 22nd service, so please review it.

July	C.O.M.E. Center
August	Friends of the Library
September	Habitat for Humanity of Walker County
October	Rita B. Huff Humane Society
November	Senior Center of Walker County
December	Sponsor a Family for Christmas
January	Harper Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund
February	SAAFE House
March	Good Shepherd Mission
April	CASA of Walker County
May	Wynne Home Art Center
June	Huntsville Promise



## Living the Questions 2

The Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Huntsville (700 Highway 30E/Riverside Dr.) is hosting a 23-week DVD and curriculum-based study of the Bible called *Living the Questions 2 (LTQ 2)* and our Fellowship has been invited to participate with them. This program is intended for Progressive Christians, and it probes what faith can look like in the 21st century.

Many members of our Huntsville U-U Fellowship have participated in and enjoyed the original *Living the Questions*. *LTQ 2* offers additional study themes, contributors, and a new component called, "Living it Out." It also offers a slightly slower pace allowing study groups

to spend a little more time on each topic.

Starting August 28th, *LTQ 2* will be offered on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Childcare is available and there is a charge of \$15.00 per person for a notebook and printed material. Those interested in attending should contact Laura Young at 295-1327 or [laura@areiospagos.com](mailto:laura@areiospagos.com)

<b>LTQ 2 Schedule</b>	
Aug. 28	Orientation - Note: Orientation does not require the full 2.5 hours
<b>Flight I – Invitation to Journey</b>	
Sept 4	Session 1: Invitation to Journey
Sept 11	Session 2: Taking the Bible Seriously
Sept 18	Session 3: Thinking Theologically
Sept 25	Session 4: Stories of Creation
Oct 2	Session 5: Lives of Jesus
Oct 9	Session 6: A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle
Oct 16	Session 7: Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians
<b>Flight II – Reclaiming the World</b>	
Oct 23	Session 8 Restoring Relationships
Oct 30	Session 9: The Prophetic Jesus
Nov 6	Session 10: Evil, Suffering, and A God of Love
Nov 13	Session 11: The Myth of Redemptive Violence
Nov 20	Session 12: Practicing Resurrection
Dec 11	Session 13: Debunking the Rapture
Dec 18	Session 14: Reclaiming the World
<b>Flight III – Call to Covenant</b>	
Jan 8	Session 15: A Kingdom without Walls
Jan 15	Session 16: Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision
Jan 22	Session 17: Incarnation: Divinely Human
Jan 29	Session 18: Prayer: Intimacy with God
Feb 5	Session 19: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry
Feb 12	Session 20: Creative Transformation
Feb 19	Session 21: Embracing Mystery
Feb 26	Bonus Session: The Contribution of Wesleyan Theology, Wrap up, Dinner

Joan and Lee Stringer will be attending the Southwestern Unitarian-Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) on July 20 - 25, 2008 at Lake Murray State Park near Ardmore, Oklahoma. They would like to invite all interested members of our church to join them in this unique experience. SWUUSI is an annual extended-family gathering sponsored by the Southwestern Unitarian-Universalist Conference. There are opportunities for people of all ages and interests to develop or enrich their Unitarian-Universalist identity. The theme for this year's summer institute is *Thank God for Evolution*, featuring Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow.

For more information as well as registration forms please go to <http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi/>

## **The Southwestern U-U Summer Institute**

## **The Dwight Brown Leadership Experience**

The Dwight Brown Leadership Experience is a challenging, exciting, leadership development experience designed to teach and reinforce skills and abilities for leaders and leaders-to-be in UU congregations. DBLE is offered as each summer as a 6-day, intensive program. This year the DBLE will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, August 10 and end at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, August 15, 2008. Featured Faculty for 2008 are the Rev. Susan Smith, SWUUC District Executive and Connie Goodbread, CRE, and Program Consultant for Mid-South and Florida Districts.

Each UU congregation in the District is encouraged to send two present or potential leaders (lay and/or professional) to DBLE. If you are interest in attending this summer's session, please contact Joan Stringer. The participant fee is \$450.00

The International Convocation of Unitarian-Universalist Women will be from Feb. 26 - March 1, 2009 at the Hilton of the Americas in Houston, Texas. This will be the first time in 15 years that the U-U women has met nationally, and the first time ever that they have met internationally.

Early registration has started with a discount rate of \$299. You can pay by credit card online at <http://www.icuuw.com> or with a check to "Southwest UU Women", 3224 Timmons Lane, #165, Houston, TX 77027. Starting September 1, 2008, the registration fee will increase to \$350.

## **International Convocation of U-U Women**



## HISTORICAL ROMANCE WRITER HAS BOOK SIGNING ON JULY 26



Gail Phillips believes a little escapism in our modern, fast-paced life can be good for the soul. Her new novel, *To Hold Her Head High*, is a historical romance with a feminist twist and offers just that.

Gail is scheduled to do a book signing at Hastings on July 26 from 4-6 p.m. She welcomes the support of her fellow U-Uers. “I hope people will just come by and say hello. Otherwise, it is going to be a long afternoon.”

How did she become interested in 5<sup>th</sup> century Ireland?

Why, through a discussion of Thomas Cahill’s fascinating book, *How The Irish Saved Civilization*, at our church book club, of course.

“The discussion tweaked my curiosity and set me on the road to discover more,” she explains. “I spent nearly three years working on the novel, which is full of tidbits about ancient Irish history.”

She concluded that the 5th century is perhaps the most exciting period in all of Ireland’s history, for it was characterized by a blending of the old Celtic traditions with the new Christian faith being spread by missionary priests such as St. Patrick.

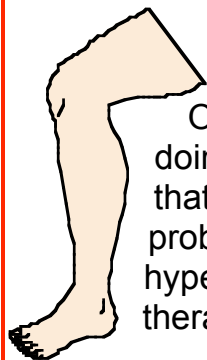
Reconciling the differences between these two cultures is a major theme of the novel, which is told through the eyes of Livia, the heroine. As the daughter of a Celtic mother and a Roman father, she often finds herself caught in the middle of this struggle.

Kidnapped from her home in Britain at the age of eleven, Livia is sold into slavery across the Irish Sea. A precocious child with a strong will, she eventually gains her freedom and begins a series of adventures that take her the length and breadth of fifth-century Ireland.

Skillfully interwoven with the tidbits of Irish history is a triumphant tale of love. As the heroine of a historical romance novel, albeit with a feminine twist, Livia will win her prince.

Does the heroine live “happily ever after?”

Gail laughs at this question and explains that Kathy Payne helped her to see that such an ending was too simplistic for modern readers. She assures us, however, that she is working on the sequel.



### Kelley Sigler's Operation is a Success!

On July 24th after Kelley's surgery, Anne Sigler said that Kelley was doing well. The total knee was replaced and the hinge is in place so that "Kelley will never hyperextend again." She said that the only problem is that the quads are very weak due to the extended period of hyperextension. Kelley's wife also said that he will need long term therapy, but that "he knows what will happen if he doesn't comply."

### Recommended Books by Anne Staples



The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic - and How it Changed Science, Cities and the Modern World by Steven Johnson. Published in 2006, this very readable 256-page book tells the story of the cholera epidemic in 1854. Johnson tells how John Snow and Henry Whitehead investigated the epidemic and how that investigation reverberated through the years. This book also discusses the ramifications of the urbanization of the planet as well as giving interesting information about biology and diseases. This book is available by interlibrary loan.

The Taste of Conquest: The Rise and Fall of the Three Great Cities of Spice by Michael Krondl. This 273-page book focuses on Venice, Lisbon and Amsterdam as it gives a history of the spice trade and cooking trends. This book is available by interlibrary loan.

Supercapitalism by Robert Reich. Robert Reich served in three national administrations and was the Secretary of Labor for the Clinton administration. In this 225-page book, Reich gives an excellent evaluation of the current economic situation, how we got to this situation, and approaches to take to remove ourselves from this situation. The last chapter is entitled "A Citizen's Guide to Supercapitalism."

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