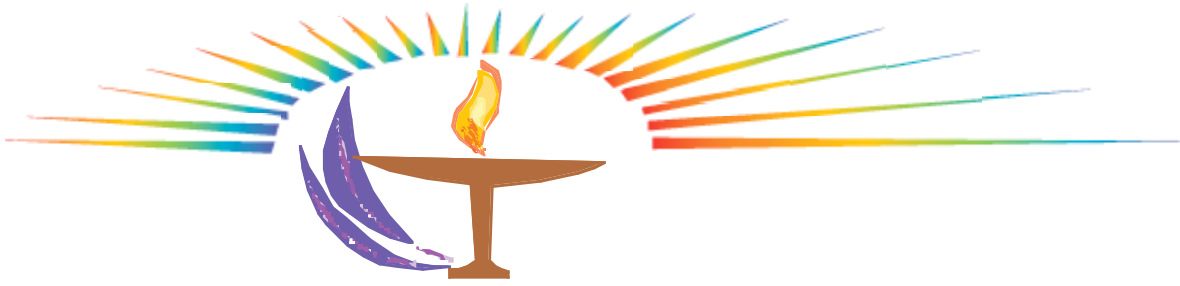


Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship



June 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.

There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.
~ Albert Einstein



June 14th, 2009

lead an ethical life.

Our speaker will be Nigel Bedrock and his talk is entitled "Is Godliness Required for Goodliness?" During his talk, he will touch on the reasons why some religious people think belief is a prerequisite for morality and how this way of thinking has shaped society to this day. He will also cover the discovery of moral nonreligious people. Similar to geographical explorers who traveled the globe, ethical explorers traveled the universality of the 'Golden Rule'. Mr. Bedrock will also mention his personal attempts to

Nigel Bedrock is a 49 year old geologist who born in the UK and moved to Houston in 2001. He became a US citizen in 2005. He is the Vice President of the Humanist Association of Montgomery County and the organizer of the Houston Atheists Meetup Group. Futhermore, he is a Humanist Minister, willing and able to conduct marriage and commitment services for unbelievers. He is married and has two adult daughters.

Sunday, June 28th, 2009

Our speaker on June 28th will be the Dr. Dennis Longmire, a professor in the College of Criminal Justice at SHSU. His talk will be entitled "Reflections On Life." Of his talk, Dr. Longmire writes the following.



"We most often think and talk about the death penalty as a criminal justice matter drawing our attention to relatively narrow concerns about legal and constitutional issues associated with its use. Focusing on the sanction from this perspective often limits us to highly technical legalistic aspects associated with its use. In my brief presentation to the Unitarian fellowship I will identify several concerns about the death penalty that draw from broader moral and ethical concerns associated with its use. This approach places the death penalty into a larger category of concerns drawing attention to several human rights issues calling for a much more critical understanding of the use of lethal sanctions in the name of justice. Throughout my presentation, I will draw from personal experiences I have had while holding vigil at Texas executions over the past 25 years."

Dr. Longmire is a professor of criminal justice at Sam Houston State University's College of Criminal Justice. He received his Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland in 1979 and moved to Huntsville in 1984 after teaching at California State University, Long Beach and The Ohio State University. He is known internationally for his work against the death penalty and has published scholarly articles on a wide variety of criminal justice related issues including the death penalty. Dr. Longmire serves as the Director of the College of Criminal Justice's Survey Research Program where he supervises the completion of regular surveys assessing citizens' attitudes about crime, criminality, and the administration of justice. In this capacity he has authored numerous publications and special reports that have helped inform criminal justice policy makers and legislators about key crime related issues.

**Save
These
Dates**

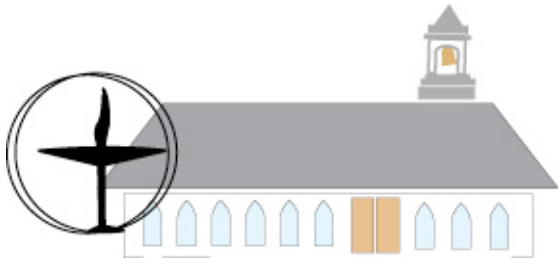
Dwight Brown Leadership Experience

July 19-24, 2009

South Western Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI)

August 2-7, 2009

Western Hills Guest Ranch near Tulsa Oklahoma



Report from the Building Committee

Today the contractor poured the foundation slab! Members have talked for years about having our own building. What is different this time? The difference is that on April 8 you all overwhelmingly voted to quit talking and to take action. That is what we have been doing since that time, taking action. First of all, I want to thank all you members and friends out there whose contributions so generously ran up our available building fund totals to around \$60,000. This generosity made it possible for us to start construction as approved by the membership.

I have not written in a while because I have been busy with work for the building. We rented a backhoe and extracted the stumps and prepared the site for the foundation. We acquired liability insurance to cover workers and volunteers. We updated and finalized bids with the contractors. Most of the things we were doing were things you could not see. Last week that all changed.

On Thursday May 21st the workers set the foundation forms. On Friday the trucks brought the fill dirt. On Saturday the contractor used his tractor to spread the dirt. On Monday the workers dug the beams. On Wednesday the plumber roughed in the underground plumbing, the termite man treated the ground, and the foundation men tied the steel. Finally, today, Thursday, May 28, 2009 the concrete trucks arrived. The finishers spread and finished the concrete. We now have a building foundation! If you have time drive by and take a look. You can now see exactly where the building will be.

Mike Watkins and his framing crew are planning to start the framing on Monday. If all goes according to plan you will have the opportunity to see some dramatic changes on our hill over the next few days and weeks. Thus far it appears we are meeting or beating the building budget. As I have time in the next few days I will be working up a detailed financial report.

Lee Stringer,
Building Committee Chair

Pictures of the recent work are shown throughout this newsletter. The Aesthetics Committee has asked for a congregational meeting on Sunday, June 14th after the service. During this meeting they will be asking the members to decide on window placement, roof shingles, and exterior paint color. Please plan to attend this meeting.

Annual Business Meeting

The Fellowship's annual Business Meeting was on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The following officers were elected.

Officers:

President: Joan Stringer
Vice President/Program Chair: Beth Williamson
Secretary: Pam Maine Johnson
Treasurer: Ralph Phillips

Appointed Positions:

Music Director: Beth Williamson
Organist: Natasha Satterfield
Song Leader: Beth Williamson
Co-Reading Leaders: Anne Sigler and Richard Norman
OOS Editor: Anne True
Growth/Membership Chair: James Moore
Newsletter Editor: Anne True
Co-Publicists: Paul Culp and Ken Krock
Web Site Coordinator: Roberta Krock
Parliamentarian: Rick Norman
Chalice Lighter Coordinator: Anne True

Current Committees:

Building Committee: Chair, Lee Stringer; Anne True; James Moore; and Pam Johnson
Ministerial Search Committee: Chair, Beth Williamson; Gail Phillips, Anne Sigler, and Rick Norman
Aesthetics Committee: Chair, Anne Sigler; Carol Turner; Brenda Barr; and Paul Culp
Religious Education Committee: Chair, Anne True



This is a picture of the cleared site where the church will be built. Special care was taken to keep the surrounding areas forested.

In Memoriam



Dr. Dorothy A. Huskey passed away Sunday, May 17, 2009 in Knoxville Tennessee at the age of 91. Dorothy was a lifelong educator, beginning her career at Sunbright Elementary and retiring from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX. Dorothy began teaching at SHSU in 1969 after earning bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Tennessee, another master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a doctorate from the University of Michigan. Dorothy Huskey was known for her commitment to health education, and her belief that people should be involved in making decisions about their personal health status, as well as the health of the community in which they lived. Her philosophy was one of involvement of both students and educators alike. In 1988, The Texas Society for Public Health honored her for having advanced health education in Texas by establishing an award in her name to be awarded annually for excellence in health education. More recently, Dorothy and Ruth Cady together established a health science scholarship in their names at SHSU.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Walter and Bertha Huskey; brothers, Gene and Ben Huskey; and sisters, Bessie Shipley, Bea Blair and Mildred Wheeler. Survived by 11 nieces and nephews: Walter Shipley, Eugene Huskey, Benny Shipley, Charlie Wheeler, David Huskey, Ronald Palmer, Carolyn Sellers, Ann Weatherly, Patti Wheeler, Chris Hamilton and Katie Williams.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Walter and Bertha B. Huskey Scholarship Fund at the University of Tennessee or to the Building Fund of the Huntsville UU church. Those wishing to sign her online memorial guest book may do so at the following website:

<http://www.legacy.com/gb2/default.aspx?bookid=6343794308978&cid=full>

There will be a memorial gathering for her friends in Huntsville at 3:30 p.m. on May 29 at the Walker Education Center at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum.

Children's Theatre Festival Presents *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*

The SHSU Department of Theatre and Dance & the Huntsville Arts Commission will present *East of the Sun, West of the Moon* by Brian Kral at the Children's Theatre Festival. This fairytale is about the tale of a poor girl who must make a perilous journey to break the spell placed upon her beloved, a prince who has been transformed into a polar bear. The three children of church members Anne True and Rick Norman will be acting in this play. Alex Norman will portray a hag, while Payson and Elliot Norman will be trollish ring bearers and servants. Performances are at 7:00 on June 16 - 18. Tickets are available from Anne True or Rick Norman or at the door.



Charitable Giving

At our June 14th and 28th services, we will have a collection to benefit Huntsville Promise. Huntsville Promise is a local organization that endeavors to promote awareness of family and youth friendly communities, to supporting youth organizations and activities, and to build a healthy community for young people by providing leadership and service opportunities for Huntsville youth.

At our February 22nd service, we collected \$90.00 for the Wynne Home Art Center.

Below is the charitable schedule for the upcoming fiscal year.

July	C.O.M.E. Center
August	Friends of the Library
September	Habitat for Humanity of Walker County
October	UU Association Sunday
November	Senior Center of Walker County
December	Boys and Girls Club of Walker County
January	Rita B. Huff Humane Society
February	SAAFE House
March	Good Shepherd Mission
April	CASA of Walker County
May	Wynne Home Art Center
June	NAMI of Montgomery County



This is a picture of the poured foundation for the church. The worker is standing in the area near the bathrooms. The out-jutting concrete at the bottom left corner is the entranceway to the front door. Framing of the church will start next week. There will be a congregational meeting after service on June 14 for members to decide on window placement, roof shingles and exterior paint color.

Recommended Books by Ann Staples



Fruitless Fall: The Collapse of the Honey Bee and the Coming Agricultural Crisis: by Rowan Jacobsen.

This 250 page book, that is available on interlibrary loan, is a book that everyone needs to read! All of us are affected in many ways by the collapse of honey bee hives. The author gives a wonderful description of how a healthy hive works. , the problems that can occur in a hive, the possible reasons for why a collapsed hive occurs, and the workings of the honey bee pollination agricultural business. There is a section on gardening to attract pollinators.

A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson.

This book on audiotape is one to which I had previously listened, but it definitely worth a second "hear". This is a concise, funny history of "...everything that has transpired from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization. Though the audiotape is an abridged version, the condensation was done extremely well.

A Homemade Life: Stories and Recipes from my Kitchen Table by Molly Wizenberg.

This book consists of a series of short essays on different periods of her life and a pertinent recipe at the end of each essay. The writing is good and all the recipes sound wonderful. At the end of the book she indexes her recipes and she has a blog entitled Orangette at www.orangette.blogspot.com

The SAS Guide to Tracking by Bob Carss.

The book is written in an orderly, concise, but interesting style by a tracker and teacher of tracking..The topics include tracking both people and animals as well as directions for making plaster casts of prints.

African Mythology by Geoffrey Parrinder.

Even though this book has an original copyright of 1967 and the 3rd edition was updated in 1973, the illustrations of art pieces are numerous and wonderful. The myths recounted certainly give a good overview of that aspect of African culture. One wonders how much of this aspect of their culture has been lost in the intervening years. I selected this book because I had little to no knowledge of African mythology and I wanted to learn about it. I was well pleased with this selection.



We are please to welcome Bob Collier, our newest member to our congregation. Bob lives in New Waverly, Texas and he has been a tremendous help to us in the site preparation of our new church building. Welcome Bob!

Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship
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Huntsville UU Website:
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