

# Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship



## November 2008 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.

*"You have to take risks. We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen."*

~ Paulo Coelho

### **Sunday, November 9th, 2008**

Our speaker will be John Pepper, a UU from Houston. He has recently completed his Master of Divinity degree at the Houston Graduate School of Theology while working full time as an engineer with the federal government. John began graduate school several years ago after discovering a passion for theology and religious history. Just last month, John was formally designated as Ministerial Candidate by the UUA, which is simply another step in the overall fellowship process. John plans to perform some form of community ministry after retirement in the near future. His sermon is entitled "The Old is New Again, and Again, and Again..."

*The Old is New Again, and Again, and Again...* - Recently the concepts of Covenant Groups and Covenants in general have been very popular in the UU community. This fact relates to a very old concept and it resurfaces over and over again because of the power of the concept. What exactly are covenants and how could they relate to you? Please join me as I explore the broader idea and some of its implications.

**Sunday, November 23, 2008**

Our speaker will be Nelson Thompson. Of himself, he writes the following: "I was born in Russellville, Alabama, in 1946, the first son of Alice and Johnny Thompson. My mother is still alive in my hometown. At the age of five, I survived polio, a disease that killed or crippled tens of thousands of children each year, until the Salk vaccine was developed -- two years later. I attended the University of Alabama, where I obtained a BS in Physics, and then Mississippi State University where I studied computer science for three years. I worked for Texas Instruments in Dallas for five years, then moved to Houston, where I have worked for six different NASA contractors and the Baylor College of Medicine.

About seven years ago, a number of things happened. I attended my first Unitarian Church at the Bay Area UU Church, and I was much impressed. I signed the book within a month. And I met Gwendolyn, at a coffee shop on Friday nights. We became friends. I invited her to church with me, and she accepted. Soon, we started dating. This was not easy for either of us, given our painful failures at love. We had both given up that we would ever find a loving companion, and so for a long time, we settled for being just friends. Then our lives were put to the test and we found ourselves taking a flying leap of faith.

We were married in June of 2003, and have been deliriously in love ever since."

Nelson Thompson's talk is entitled "Taking a Flying Leap." We aspire to a faith. We practice a faith. We build grand philosophies and moral principles upon our faith. But the day will come, as it always does, when we are faced with the choice to fall hard on our face -- or, set aside the words and the games, and take a flying leap of faith.

The SWUUC Fall Leadership Conference will be held from November 14, 2008 - November 16, 2008 in Glen Rose, TX.

A variety of intensive training tracks will be offered with everyone coming together for multigenerational worship, meals, and socials at Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX (southwest of Ft. Worth). Tracks planned are Worship for All Ages, led by Rev. Elizabeth Strong & Tandi Rogers; Ageing to Sageing, led by Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer; Lay Chaplain Training, led by Elandria Williams; and Non-Violent Communication. For information, contact the SWUUC office.

**SWUUC Fall  
Leadership  
Conference**

## Charitable Giving



At our November 23rd service, we will have a collection to benefit the Senior Center of Walker County. Their mission is to improve the quality of life of Walker County seniors. They serve meals on-site, deliver meals to homebound seniors, and provide transportation and homemaking services.

At our October 26th service, we collected a total of \$486.00 towards our church's building fund. We thank our members and friends for their generous contributions.

Next month we will be collecting funds to sponsor Christmas for a needy family.



## Fall Picnic: November 2nd

To show off the work on the church property, there will be an "old-fashion picnic on the ground" at 11:00 am on November 2nd. This will be a potluck, so everybody, please bring their favorite dish.

Please bring your lawn chairs, a dish to share, your dinnerware, and your own drinks. The

Stringers are going to set up a 4x8 sheet of plywood on horses for the dishes of food. This is primitive, so wear your duds to do a walk about. Arrangements have been made for bathroom facilities if needed.

Please note that November 2nd is the end of daylight savings time, so remember to turn your clock back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night so that you do not show up for the picnic at the wrong time.



## Roy Peyton Turner

Roy Peyton Turner, 73, of Huntsville, Texas, left this earth he loved on Oct. 14, 2008. He was born in Canadian, Texas, in the Panhandle on Nov. 9, 1934. As a depression baby, he enjoyed simple pleasures, being in nature and with his friends. Those from Huntsville High School and Sam Houston University became lifelong friends. He graduated in 1957 with degree in agriculture and went on to receive a masters in botany from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He taught botany, zoology and environmental conversation at the junior high school and college levels, and also was a college administrator. Roy taught in Japan, New Foundland, Roanoke, Va., Fort Worth and Houston. After 27 years, he retired from Alvin Community College in 2000, but was still preparing lessons for homeschoolers last month. He loved teaching and his greatest reward was being told "You are my favorite teacher."

He married Carol Childress in 1982 and they lived in Galveston for eight years, then Alvin for 10, before moving back to Huntsville to the log cabin he helped build. They started with a honeymoon to Africa, and continued through five continents as traveling companions over the years. They enjoyed spending part of each year in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

He returned home to see his son, Travis Childress Turner; and his parents, A.C. and Myree Turner. Remaining with loving memories are his wife, Carol; brother, William and his wife Nilah Turner of Lubbock, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at the Brooke Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 10 a.m. A graveside service will be held in Houston at the Forest Park Lawndale, 6900 Lawndale Ave., at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, with Christina Branum-Martin officiating.

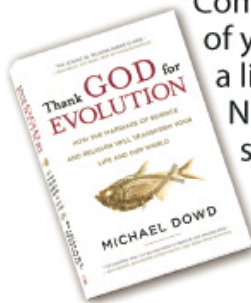
In lieu of flowers, a contribution may be made to the Huntsville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Note that it is for the building fund, in honor of Roy Turner and send to P.O. Box 6751, Huntsville, Texas, 77342. An alternative contribution could be made to the Turner Biology - Environmental Science Endowment and sent to University Advancement, Box 2537, Huntsville, Texas, 77341.

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

## Michael Dowd LIVE!

*America's Evolutionary Evangelist*

**JOIN THE EVOLUTION!**

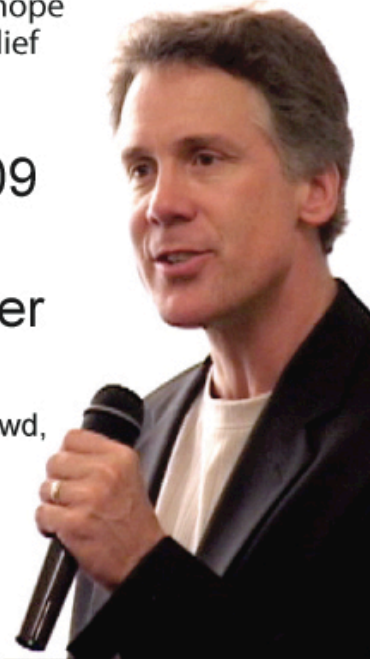


Come hear Reverend Michael Dowd share a gospel that's billions of years old! Find out why Americans everywhere are engaging in a life-changing new conversation about Creation. Endorsed by Nobel Prize winning scientists and religious leaders across the spectrum, Michael's bold new book builds bridges,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

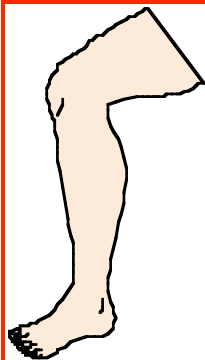
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009  
7:00 p.m.

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**



## Glenn Payne's Operation is a Success!

Glenn Paynes has had knee surgery and after a short stay at Huntsville Memorial Hospital is now back home. He would enjoy getting cards from everyone.

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