

# Huntsville Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship



## March 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.

*It is easier to find a score of men wise enough to discover the truth than to find one intrepid enough, in the face of opposition, to stand up for it.*

~A. A. Hodge



### Sunday, March 8, 2009

Our speaker on Sunday, March 8th, will be Rich Heiland and the title of his talk will be: *The Society of Friends (Quakers): The History and Beliefs*.

Rich Heiland is currently the owner of RHScott Associates, LLC, a management consulting, facilitation and training firm, as well as the Director of the Member Experience - Cleinman Performance Partners. He is also the Publisher and Editor of the Walker Free Press, an on-line newspaper that he established in October 2008. Rich attended Miami University and graduated from Wilmington College, a small Quaker school in Ohio with a triple major in English, History, and Government. This college is in his hometown and his father was the director of theater at the college for forty years. He also earned graduate credit towards a Masters in Urban Affairs and Public Administration from UT Arlington.

Rich has over thirty years of journalism experience and was either a reporter, editor, or publisher with several newspapers in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas (including the Huntsville Item). He was part of the Xenia Daily Gazette reporting team that won a Pulitzer price in 1975 for the coverage of the 1974 Xenia, Ohio tornado. Of his career Rich writes that "When it comes to jobs I have Adult Attention Deficit Disorder - a lot has interested me over the years...." Rich lives in Huntsville with his wife of more than 41 years, Connie, who is an attorney with Moak and Moak, and teaches business law as an adjunct at SHSU.

His on-line newspaper can be found at [www.walkerfreepress.com](http://www.walkerfreepress.com)

### **March 22nd, 2009**

Our speaker on March 22nd will be Nelson Thompson and the title of his sermon will be "Being Right." Of his talk Nelson, writes that "We all want to be right. It has been said that most people would rather be right than be happy. Why is it that humans place such a high importance on being right? And what does it mean to "be right" anyway? What are the benefits and the consequences for our commitment to be right, "at any cost"?"

Of himself, Mr. Thompson 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 I moved to Houston, where I have worked for six different NASA contractors and the Baylor College of Medicine."

Currently Nelson Thompson is a senior risk analyst for the SAIC company, working on a NASA contract dedicated to the design of the next generation of manned rockets and vehicles--Constellation. He lives with his wife, Gwen, and three cats in League City, Texas.

### **Charitable Giving**



At our February 22nd service, we will have a collection to benefit the Good Shepherd Mission. The Mission is the official Walker County Information Hub for human services and their main service is to provide food, clothing, and temporary shelter to indigent locals and transients. The Mission serves two hot meals daily (over 1400 meals monthly), operates the local food bank, indigent shelter and two Thrift stores and offers free counseling. Most clients or users of services are local and under the poverty level of Federal Income Guidelines. One third are elderly, and many are disabled. Please bring at least one can of food for a donation to the food bank.

At our February 22nd service, we collected \$140.00 for the SAAFE House.

## Women's Sharing Circle

A spin-off study group focusing on Eckhart Tolle's *A New Earth* will meet on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 3p.m., beginning March 5 at Gail Phillip's house.

Participants are asked to get the book (this is probably easiest from Amazon. com) and, if possible, to read the first two chapters before that meeting. Please arrive on time, as Thursdays are a busy day for many and we want to make it worthwhile. Coffee and tea will be available, but no snacks, so please have lunch before you come. It's not too late to bring an interested friend.



Regular monthly meetings of the Women's Sharing Circle will continue with the March 19 meeting at 10:30 a.m. at Joan Stringer's house. Women from our fellowship who attended the International Convocation of Unitarian-Universalist Women in Houston will report on the highlights of their experience. They are Pam Johnson, Carol Turner, Anne True, Alice Schulmann, and Gail Phillips.

Our April meeting will be on a special day, Tuesday, April 14. We will go on a Bluebonnet trek, practice staying in the now with nature, and enjoy good fellowship. Would someone volunteer to plan the route so we can connect easily with Alice and Sandy and make a reservation for lunch somewhere along the way? Mark your calendars. It's going to be a great spring!



Victor Hoff has now returned home after bypass surgery. He will not be allowed to drive for another month so he won't be able to attend church. Thoughts, prayers and cards are always appreciated. We hope for a speedy recovery and that we will see him back in church before too long.



Welcome to Our Newest Member!

We would like to welcome our newest member, Jennifer Yepez, to our congregation. Jennifer is a student at SHSU and she will be working with James Moore to help establish a UU campus ministry. Jennifer, we are happy to have you in our church and we know that you will enrich our congregation immensely..



### First Light

The Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Huntsville (700 Highway 30E/Riverside Dr.) is hosting a 12-week DVD and curriculum-based study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. I

Many members of our Huntsville U-U Fellowship have participated in and enjoyed *Living the Questions*, a class previously

offered at the Wesley United Methodist Church. This class promises to be equally as interesting

Starting April 14th, *First Light* will be offered on either Tuesday morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. or Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There is a charge of \$10.00 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)



## Recommended Books by Ann Staples



*Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's most Valuable Stamps.* by Helen Morgan

This book is a wonderful mystery, history, and glimpse into the world of stamp collecting. Included in this volume is a glossary and a biography of each of the 26 Blue Mauritius stamps and one classified as Limbo 1. There is an extensive section on Notes and Sources and a bibliography plus information on the Mauritius Philatelic Society. One of these stamps sold recently, and this prompted me to order the book on inter-library loan.

*Talking Hands: What Sign Language Reveals About the Mind* by Margalit Fox. This book, available through inter-library loan, taught me a great deal about the composition and history of both sign, and spoken languages, particularly English. The book is written in alternating chapters dealing with general topics such as the history of sign language and language in general, and trips to an isolated Bedouin village in Israel where the whole village speaks a unique sign language. This unique sign language arose because many of the children were, and still are, deaf. Questions presented by this treatise include the concepts of what makes a language and how does a person acquire language.

*Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell.

This book, by the author of *The Tipping Point* and *Blink*, is as equally thought provoking as the previous two. This book deals in part with the idea that there are many factors behind the so-called self-made person: family, luck, when and where a person was born, etc. The author also discusses other interwoven topics such as why there are so many, shall I say, revenge shootings in the South. Another topic discusses the reasons many Asian students do better in math than American students due to the differences in educational philosophies.



Our new Music Director is Beth Williamson and she will be in charge of coordinating our music for the services. Natasha Satterfield, our new organist, played beautifully at our last meeting and we are looking forward to listening to her wonderful talent. James Johnson and Jenny Thayer along with special guest Lauren Dickson thrilled us with their performance last month and we hope that they will continue to contribute to our worship experience.

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