

DUUFNews

VOL. 100. JUNE 2009

From our Co-Ministers: "In the Interim"

Revs. Bill Metzger & Diana Heath

Bill and I have been with you at DUUF for two program years, and I will be starting the third and final year of what is an Interim Consulting ministry. What is a "Consulting Ministry," anyway?

- A ministry that is neither settled nor called
- Less than full-time, because that is what the congregation can afford
- A transition ministry as the congregation decides on next steps for a new minister
- It is exploratory, a time for consulting minister and lay leaders to study structures of decision-making and how decisions are carried out. We also examine communication and influence - who decides and how is that informed by DUUF's institutional memory? So a transition year is not place holding, but active.

The other big transition is bricks and mortar. The sanctuary remodeling will begin as the money is forthcoming for that project. Right now, asbestos removal is needed in the sanctuary wing before walls can be expanded. (**See page 3.**)

Upcoming Sunday Services

June 7: "Freedom in Unlikely Places," a Flower Communion Service - Rev. Diana Heath. Potluck returns this week only.

June 14: "Spiritual Bubbles to Save Paradise: Glimpses of the International UU Women's Convocation." UU women explored ways UUs can carry positive messages into our communities and the world. - Gerry Veeder & Jackie Gibbons

June 21: To Be Announced.

June 28: "What Makes A Marriage: The Next Chapter of a 5,000-Year Tradition" - Bruce Jarstfer.

Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship * 1111 Cordell St., Denton, Tx. 76201 *
940-566-1286 * www.dentonuuf.org

Save the date: Upcoming activities

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6:

It's NOT a work day! But dress in your grubbiest clothes and come to a pizza party at the fellowship. Stay for the repairs, painting and yard work around the fellowship. For more information, call Barney Cosimo at 940-380-0481.

11:45 a.m. Sunday, June 7: Potluck makes a return for this Sunday only, after Flower Communion. Bring a dish to share. For more information, e-mail Barb Rodman at barodman@verizon.net.

11:30 to 11:45 a.m. Sunday, June 14: the Covenant of UU Pagans Adopt-A-Spot Sunday. CUUPs cleans Fulton Street from Crescent Street to University Drive. Trash bags and tongs provided by Keep Denton Beautiful. Bring your gloves and sun-screen and join us in cleaning up our corner of the world. For more information, e-mail Bonnie Davidson at bip-pyd@gmail.com.

7 p.m. Saturday, June 20: CUUPs Summer Solstice Circle at the fellowship.

5 p.m. Saturday, July 4: Potluck at the fellowship with grilled meat & veggies, wading pool and carpool caravan to Fouts Field for Denton Fourth of July Jubilee. For more information, e-mail Barb Rodman at barodman@verizon.net.

Please pardon our 'dust...'

Our creative dust, that is. The acting communications team is re-evaluating the design, purpose and recipient list of the Denton UU newsletter. Your newsletter will probably change its "look" more than once over the summer, and we ask for your patience - and your suggestions.

The team is: Kati Trice, acting design editor; Cindy Breeding, acting newsletter editor and Mark Coomes, acting electronic editor.

Who's Who at DUUF

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- Hours: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tues. & Thurs.

- Send address, phone, or email changes

- Schedule event & building use

- Send Order of Service announcements

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“Interim,” continued from the cover

This is being explored, especially through seeking grants -- or even a capital campaign to fund this and additional building needs.

Conversations have sparked the imagination. Some wish that land could be purchased and a new building built. Others would like an even larger sanctuary or rooms built on property nearer the street corner, to avoid the prohibition of building on that portion of land which is on the flood plain.

So far, these are conversations, but soon, there will be opportunities for meetings, and planned discussions, as DUUF enters this third year, which is certainly one where information needs to flow freely, especially as to "who, what, where and when?" Your ongoing board will be making decisions during the transition as to the forums, meetings and all in which all members will be asked to make some pretty big choices.

Transitions will continue after the coming program year. It is good to bring forward all that is treasured and incorporate new members and new directions as well. Have a great summer, and plan to attend services that your worship committee is planning. DUUF is a year 'round religious community.

Where's my newsletter?

Members can get their newsletter in the lobby on the last Sunday of the month, and hardcopies will be mailed out on the first Tuesday of the month.

To discontinue receiving the newsletter by mail or to receive it by e-mail, call Diana Forson in the office at 940-566-1286 or e-mail her at dento-nuuf@gmail.com.

Recognitions

June birthdays

1. Annie Plummer
2. Sandy Swan
9. BJ Levisay
16. Bob Snyder
18. Kirsten Bonham-Woodard
21. Gina Barnes, Michi Harper & Danielle Jacobson
23. Sam Wood
24. Tom Miller, son of Crispin & Turrid
25. Nya Nguyen, wife of Bob Olson
27. Jackie Gibbons & Paul Richards

And welcome to our newest member, C.J. Record, who joined us in May!



Want to know more? Get clicking!

The Unitarian Universalist Association, our international association
www.uua.org.

UU World, the magazine of the UUA,
www.uuworld.org

Southwestern UU Conference, our regional association, www.swuuc.org

North Texas Association of UU Societies, a cluster group for area congregations,
www.ntauus.org

President's Corner

John Beckett

I am honored that DUUF has elected me President for a second time. The first time (in 2005-06) I really had no idea what I was getting into – this time I think I do. And while I'm sure something will come up that no one is expecting right now (not necessarily a bad something, just an unexpected something), I think it's going to be a good year.

We have a lot of work to do, mainly in regards to our journey to become a full-service church with a full-time minister. The past two years have seen some growth and changes. We won't be finished this year, but we will make more progress on the path.

The Board's priorities for the year will be determined through a collaborative process, but I have three and only three:

- 1) **The spiritual growth and maturity of our members.** No matter what spiritual path we follow, we all can do a better job of connecting to our highest principles, whether we call them God, Goddess, or just our better selves. What services, programs, and activities will help us to do that better? What will help us meet the spiritual needs of the folks who walk through our doors each week?
- 2) **The spread of liberal religion throughout Denton and North Texas.** We simply must become more outwardly-focused. There are people out there who need what we offer – how can we reach them, and how can we serve them once they show up?
- 3) **Moving toward becoming a full-service church with a full-time minister.** I think we mostly all agree that we want this – where we differ is on exactly what that means and how we can best accomplish it. Certainly it will involve looking outside our walls more often – as an old boss used to tell me, we don't need to reinvent the wheel. We need to find the best practices of other congregations who have made this journey and learn from their experiences.

Those are good, high-level goals, but what about some down-to-earth action plans? Our most important project this year is the renovation and expansion of Miller Hall. While we have had some nice growth this past year (which speaks well of our co-ministers, our out-going Board and our other lay leaders), we are constrained by the space we have available. In addition to the physical expansion, we must also find a way to pay for it. While we have some funds at our disposal, our generation of Denton UUs must pay our own way and make some tangible investments in the future of DUUF. Expect to see a capital campaign sometime this year.

Where can you best help out? In RE? Helping plan and facilitate morning worship? Greeting folks and helping them find their way around? Working on the building and grounds? Somewhere else?

These are exciting times at DUUF. I encourage everyone to take an active part in our journey.

See you on Sunday morning!

May board meeting minutes

The fellowship board of trustees convened at 7 a.m. May 18

Present: Dolores Nabors, president; Cindy Breeding, past president; Devin Taylor, trustee; Rev. Diana Heath, ex officio; Carol Coulter, trustee; John Beckett, president-elect; Mark Davis, vice president-elect; Barb Rodman, secretary-elect and Gerry Veeder, trustee-elect. **Absent:** Bob Snyder, treasurer & Mark Coomes, vice president.

Reports

- President & Co-minister.
- Treasurer's report was accepted from congregational meeting.

New Business

- Incoming board members received copies of the board covenant
- Discussion of assigned chapter – “Leadership Makes it or Breaks it” -- from *The Almost-Church Revitalized* by Michael Durell. Reading was assigned by Good Offices representative Rev. Burton Carley. Further discussion was tabled for discussion at June meeting.
- Board heard proposal to research UUA green congregation certification program.
- Dwight Brown Leadership Experience will be in July. Board agreed to seek out candidates to attend.
- Incoming board team building meeting set for June 26. Board retreat set for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 29.
- Initial goals for incoming officers: to develop the spirituality of members; grow liberal religion in Denton; continue on the path to become full-service church with a full-time ministry.

Continuing Business

- Food Not Bombs partnership discussion continued. Swine Flu panic slowed progress on conversation with the county health department. Board agreed to contact FNB volunteers with further questions & suggestions.
- Board asked that the communications team discuss acquiring & mounting bulletin boards in the RE wing for RE, fellowship announcements & activities, etc. and for community action/interest. Also discussed rolling kiosks for postings.
- New printer continues to malfunction. Board will contact IKON Office Solutions, a company that leases office equipment with service contracts to non-profits, to make a presentation at June board meeting.

Dolores Nabors moved to adjourn the meeting. Taylor seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Calling all Chalice Lighters!



The SPRING 2009 Chalice Lighter Call for the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference has been awarded to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff in Dallas.

The church is seeking Chalice Lighter support for its Memory and Meditation Garden, which has been designed to meet three separate goals for the community. The garden will provide a space for members to address their end of life concerns and provide a sacred space for survivors to come and reflect. The garden is also intended as a beautiful site for celebration of church events.

In order to be a Chalice Lighter, donors give a minimum of \$10 in response to each call. There are three calls each year. All of your contributions (100%) go to the Chalice Lighter recipient. Please give as generously as you can.

To contribute to the Oak Cliff Congregation's Memory and Meditation Garden plan and send your check, made out to "SWUUC Chalice Lighters" to: Chalice Lighters, SWUUC District Office, 6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. You may also donate to "Chalice Lighters" by using SWUUC's website, where a Paypal feature is provided: <http://www.swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/support.php>.

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Newsletter Policy: A capsule

Policymakers & Keepers: DUUF board & acting communications team.

What we publish: Communications from co-ministers, staff, board & committees. Programs & activities. Announcements. Denominational news when we have room.

What won't get in: Ads. Obscene or vulgar content. Anything that violates our covenants or regional and national denominational associations.

How to submit stuff: E-mail the editor, Cindy Breeding, at duufpresident@gmail.com.

Deadline: By e-mail— 5 p.m. on the third Friday of the Month. Submissions that are either mailed to or dropped off in the office are due before 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month.

JUNE 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Office hours	3 piano lesson	4 Office hours Zen Group	5	6 Non-work day
7 RE & Worship	8 Men's Group	9 Office hours Worship Cmte.	10 piano lesson	11 Office hours Zen Group	12	13
14 RE & Worship	15 Board Mtg.	16 Office hours	17 piano lesson	18 Office hours Zen Group	19	20 CUUPS Summer Solstice
21 RE & Worship	22 Men's Group	23 Office hours	24 piano lesson	25 Office hours Zen Group	26	27
28 RE & Worship	29	30 Office hours				

Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

A Welcoming Congregation

1111 Cordell Street, Denton, Texas 76201

940-566-1286

www.DentonUUF.org

duuf

June 2009 Newsletter

The message here is grace,
not judgment!

The message here is forgiveness,
not condemnation!

The message here is peace,
not war!

The message here is inclusion,
not exclusion!

The message here is love,
not hate!

