

## Sunday Morning Programs

### Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church

### September 2011 Newsletter

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| <b>Street Address:</b><br><br>144 East Mosley Lane<br>Huntsville TX 77340   |
| <b>Mailing Address:</b><br><br>Thoreau Woods Unitarian<br>Universalist Church<br>P. O. Box 6751<br>Huntsville TX 77342-6751   |
| <b>Website:</b><br><a href="http://huntsvilletxunitarianfellowship.org">http://huntsvilletxunitarianfellowship.org</a>  |
| <b>Telephone: (936) 295-3170</b>  |
| <b>Minister:</b><br>John Pepper<br>john.pepper@sbcglobal.net  |
| <b>Sunday Morning Programs:</b><br>9:30 Religious Education<br>10:00 Coffee & Conversation<br>10:30 Worship Service   |
| <b>Potluck:</b> We will have a potluck luncheon on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month following the service. Please bring food to share and take any leftovers home. |
| <i>We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.</i>                                      |



#### September 4, 2011 – Rev. John Pepper

“Got Spirit?” - Spirit is everywhere, or something I like to think of as spirit. Please join with me as I reflect on the possibility of spirit in our midst and how that spirit has positively affected many in the world.



#### September 11, 2011 – Pam Johnson

“Sensory Awareness” Using and improving the senses to enjoy life more fully, reviving our capacity to be more fully in the here-and-now, becoming more awake and alive in what we do, and being more aware of the senses' connection to our thoughts and emotions. Pam has been a member of the church for 17 years, and a lifelong UU. She has a private psychotherapy practice and is married to James Johnson, a music teacher. They have three married daughters and seven grandchildren.



#### September 18, 2011 – Ken Hendrickson

“Science and God’s Space” - The rise and dissemination of scientific knowledge in the West has changed the space God occupies and thus our description and expectations of God. Dr. Hendrickson is on the History faculty at SHSU, having joined the university in 1994. He received both his BA and MA degrees from Texas A&M University and his PhD from the University of Iowa. In addition to his vocation as a historian, he loves farming and the outdoors. He and his wife, Kerrie, raise their seven children near New Waverly.



#### September 25, 2011 – Rev. John Pepper

“The Trouble with Paul” – The Apostle Paul is one of the most revered and despised men in all of Christianity. Some even refer to aspects of Christianity as Pauline Christianity. Unfortunately, much of what we attribute to Paul was probably not written by him and the part not written often contains the most troubling aspects of Pauline doctrine. Please join me as I reflect on Paul and his life and writings in this the third in a series of sermons based on books jointly authored by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg.

**Following the program on September 25, we will have a potluck luncheon. Please bring food to share and take any leftovers home.**



**Message from our Minister**

We are indeed lucky. We have a new church family member – Maryann Jain Moore. She was born on August 19<sup>th</sup> and I'm so happy for her safe and loving arrival. But we are also lucky because we have several other children in our church family. Our future depends on our children and because of them, our future looks bright.

Yes we are lucky, but mostly I'm thankful, thankful for the children and their parents who bring them to church, sharing their beautiful young and vibrant personalities with us each Sunday. I'm also thankful for all our energetic volunteers who not only made this very special place possible, but who also keep it running. And I'm thankful that we are growing and that we are meeting some of the spiritual needs within our own church community, but also the broader community as well.

Yes we are lucky and I am thankful, but we should not be complacent. We will continue to grow only as long as we continue to grow as a community of committed individuals. And we will grow only as long as we all continue to contribute, in whatever ways we can. In order for children to grow, they must receive the proper nourishment, along with healthy mental and physical activities. We too as a religious community will only grow when there is adequate nourishment and healthy activities. So, just as we should all pledge to assist in the healthy development of all the children in our church, we also need to continually rededicate and pledge our support for the healthy development and growth of this our church. Our future depends on it.

Namaste! – Rev. John Pepper



**Message from our President**

Our daughter, Maryann Jain Moore, arrived on Friday, August 19, at 1:21am weighing 7lbs at a length of almost 19 in. Attached are a few photos and I look forward to the day when she will be ready to visit Thoreau Woods in person and have a welcoming ceremony. I'm sure Rev. Pepper will be able to help us out with that. Mother and baby are at home now doing well and bonding nicely. Thank you all for your continuous support of our family. Take care. Peace, James Moore



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**Letter from the Editor**

This is my first month as newsletter editor so any compliments, comments, and suggestions are appreciated. It may look different as I have grouped similar things together in sections.

I would like to have more about what is happening with our members and friends within our church and in our denomination, and I am also interested in hearing more from committee chairs.

Please send anything you would like in the newsletter by the last Sunday of the month. Some are mailed and I want everyone to get it by the first Sunday. I am also the webmaster so let me know if you want it in the newsletter, on the website, or both. (The entire newsletter does go on the website).

Thus do we covenant with one another,  
Pam Johnson  
Pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net

**Officers of the Congregation**

**President**

**James Moore**  
jkm015@shsu.edu

**Vice President**

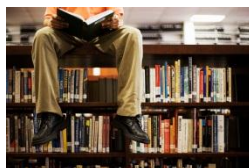
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**THE BOOK SHELF by Ann Staples**

The Wild Life of Our Bodies: Predators, Parasites, and Partners That Shape Who We Are Today

by Rob Dunn (259 pgs.) Quote from inside dust jacket...*"Our modern disconnect from the web of life has resulted in unprecedented effects that immunologists, evolutionary biologists, psychologists, and other scientists are only beginning to understand."* Rob Dunn's style is witty and charming as well as being thorough. This book would be a good companion read to Last Child in the Woods.

The Statues that Walked Unraveling the Mystery of Easter Island by Terry Hunt and Carl Lipo (180 pgs.) This is a wonderful book. Quote from back inside dust jacket "Shattering the conventional wisdom, Hunt and Lipo's ironclad case for a radically different understanding of the story of this most mysterious place is scientific discovery at its very best." There is some very interesting information on how the natives gardened in adverse circumstances.

Stealing Rembrants the Untold Stories of Nororious Art Heists by Anthony M. Amore & Tom Mashberg (203 pgs.). This is delightfully written and a pleasure to read.

*Correction to the August Book Shelf:*  
Dirty Laundry by Paula L. Woods

**SEPTEMBER MUSIC**

September hymn of the month: #157 "Step by Step the Longest March" (in observance of Labor Day)

September 4

#157 "Step by Step the Longest March"  
#86 "Blessed Spirit of My Life"  
#21 "For the Beauty of the Earth"  
*Accompanist: Natasha Satterfield*

September 11

#157 "Step by Step the Longest March"  
#298 Wake Now My Senses  
Special Duet: You Fill Up My Senses (John Denver)  
*Performed by James Johnson & Melissa Templeton*  
#326 Let All the Beauty We Have Known  
*Accompanist: James Johnson*

September 18

#157 "Step by Step the Longest March"  
#344 "A Promise through The Ages Rings"  
#143 "Not in Vain the Distant Beacons"  
*Accompanist: Natasha Satterfield*

September 25, 2011

#157 "Step by Step the Longest March"  
#123 "Spirit of Life"  
#20 "Be Thou My Vision"  
*Accompanist: Karen Peake*

- Pat Henry

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Congregational Covenant

*Firmly grounded in our Unitarian Universalist principles, we join together on the path of spiritual and intellectual growth to promote knowledge and caring for one another, celebrate community, acceptance, and tolerance for a more equitable, peaceful world, preserve and appreciate the natural environment around us, respect others' beliefs while helping one another adhere to our principles and covenant, and work toward the propagation of truth and beauty throughout daily life.*

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### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

9/5 Lee Stringer  
9/10 Bruce Marx  
9/24 Deanna Boddicker

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Our embroidered religious symbols are now beautiful and protected in frames thanks to our talented Nisa Gillespie. Thank you so much, Nisa. AND, thank you again Carol Turner for donating the special embroidery from Transylvania.

Thank you to those who have graciously signed up to help wash dishes and load dishwashers after our services. You are much appreciated. – Carla McAdams

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**Congratulations and thank you** to Linda Parks and Pam Johnson for completing the Dwight Brown Leadership Experience, Class of 2011. **BEST CLASS EVER.**

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Please remember our friend, John Hopkins who was recently transferred from the Walker County Jail to Henderson. He is finding it quite a challenge to survive under the harsh conditions there and tells us letters from his fellow U.U.'s are very uplifting. There is very little we are allowed to send. We can put some money in his account #1719986 at [www.JPAY.com](http://www.JPAY.com), but even then the items in the store are very limited. If you go online at the prison you can see the exact rules. On a positive note, his education is allowing him to tutor 5 days a week. His address is John Hopkins #1719986, P.O. Box 9000, Henderson, TX 75753. – Karen Peake

## EVENTS

### CUUPS

CUUPS group [Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans] will meet the first and third Sundays at 2pm for study groups.

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### CIRCLE DINNERS

Joan Stringer will be on an extended vacation, so we will not have Circle Dinners in September. In lieu of the October dinner, save the date October 22 for a picnic at Bob Collier's house. Details to follow.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The adult religious education class will continue to meet at 9:30 AM. Also meeting at 9:30 AM will be a class for youth junior high or older (current student population is the 3 Norman boys.) Additional students are welcome. Anne True will teach this class and will need a second person to sit in the class with her. We may call on others to teach this class. Curriculum guides will be available. Volunteers who would teach the class once a month are encouraged.

We are required by UUA guidelines to have 2 adults in every class for children or youth and in every child care situation.

The class for the younger children will be held during the Sunday morning service and will include a story and crafts. Beth Williamson will teach this class. We may call on others to teach this class. Curriculum guides will be available. Volunteers who would teach the class once a month are encouraged.

We are working on having child care for children of adults who wish to attend the adult religious education class. We could employ two high school or college students for this task. Or we could use two adult volunteers willing to be present at 9:30.

The adult religious education class will be continuing a series "Faith Like a River: Themes From Unitarian and Universalist History."

- On Sept. 4, the topic is "The Water is Wide: Multiculturalism."
- On Sept. 11, the topic is "Ripples in the Water: The Evangelists."
- On the third Sunday, we will begin a new series: "What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology."
- On Sept. 18, the topic is Hosea Ballou, a Universalist minister.
- On Sept. 25, the topic is William Ellery Channing, a Unitarian minister.

## THOREAU WOODS COFFEEHOUSE

September 17th @ 7 pm, Saturday: Bill Ward with Alex Anderson opening



<http://www.songdogrecords.com/>

Bill has penned over 300 compositions, ranging from folk to jazz, country to classical, and rock to reggae. Bill's 1991 album, ***William is our Name*** is still enjoying airplay in the U.S., Russia, Ireland, The Netherlands, Canada, and on Willie Nelson & friends OUTLAW FOR PEACE show airing worldwide on 'RADIO FOR PEACE INTERNATIONAL'. His songs have been recorded by a host of artists as well as being picked up by Warner-Chappel Music and Phil Collins Hit and Run Music. Although Bill draws inspiration from many styles of music, he is a folk singer/songwriter in the truest sense of the term. His songs illustrate the plight of common folk from every walk of life, whether it's the unending struggles of the American Indian or the unfortunate reality of the drug pusher on your local street corner, his music conveys a message. Like a painter with a brush and canvas, he portrays vivid, haunting pictures of our lives, past, present and future. As you close your eyes and listen, you can feel the Texas Hill Country wind on your face and recall fond childhood dreams of growing up to be a cowboy. Whether it's a slow waltz or a driving rock song, Bill captures the hearts and minds of his listeners time and time again with his dynamic stage presence, gripping prose and unforgettable melodies.

Bill's songs are intelligent, down to earth portraits that capture the very soul of his audience. Each picture he paints is an insight into life, born from his diverse background and keen eye for the triumphs and tragedies that are so much a part of our everyday lives.

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Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse hosts an eclectic blend of acoustic singer-songwriters in a smoke free, family friendly environment. Hot and cold drinks and baked goods are available during each show. Suggested donation is \$10, \$5 students & seniors. Located at Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church, 144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville TX 77340.

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For more information, call Pam Johnson at (936) 661-4313. For future performances, check out our website at <http://huntsvilleunitarianfellowship.web.officelive.com/ThoreauWoodsCoffeehouse.aspx>.

## JUST HELP

**TWUUC Mission Statement:** *Just help.*

There are three interpretations of this mission:

- It is the journey to answer the complex questions "Why am I here?"
- It is help that is just.
- It is to do no harm of any kind against ourselves, others or the environment.

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH

### **Walker County Habitat for Humanity**

From their website: We seek to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. To accomplish these goals, we invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Today, we have helped build over 400,000 decent, affordable houses and served more than 2 million people around the world. They also need volunteers. For more information, call (936) 294-9314.

## FOOD FOR PEACE

The Food for Peace social action project will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items to be donated to those in need, along with information about compassionate communication. We will be distributing food both to those who are homeless, and those who are not. So donations of food that require no cooking are greatly appreciated. (Granola bars, vienna sausages, bottled water, and peanut butter are just a few suggestions.)

## BLOOD DONATIONS

There is a blood drive the 2nd Saturday of each month at Gibbs Elementary (on 19th St.) from 8-4 in the cafeteria. You can give blood in the name of our church. It is under Huntsville Unitarian and the code # is 4130.

## CHALICE LIGHTER

The current Chalice Lighter call for the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference has been awarded to the Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church in Carrollton, Texas. Please make your check out to "SWUUC Chalice Lighters", and put in collection plate or mail to: Chalice Lighters, SWUUC District Office, 6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. You may also donate to "Chalice Lighters" by using TWUUC's website, where a Paypal feature is provided: <http://www.swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/support.php>

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Religious Education

We need numerous volunteers as outlined in the RE section on page 4. Volunteers supervise their play time and may hear the sermon over the loud speaker in the RE room. Please sign up at the name tag table or talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

### Coffeehouse

For every coffeehouse, we need baked goods, help with setup and takedown, and people to collect money for admission and refreshments. Please contact Pam Johnson at (936) 661-4313 or at [pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net) with any questions.

### Grounds

Paul Culp would love to have some help watering the outside plants--IT'S HOT!

## DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Want to take a cruise with other UUs?

YoUU: A worshipping and learning community at sea

Sailing on the Carnival [Triumph](#)

October 6-10, 2011

Unitarian Universalists of all ages

\* Growing our UU souls

\* Deepening our UU faith

\* Making a difference

For more information, go to

"<http://swuuc.org/pages/services/cruise.php>"

### Evangelizing the South - SWUUC Fall Training

November 11-13, 2011, Glen Lakes in Glen

Rose, TX (Topics are UU Identity; Your Mission Field; Worship; The Future of UUism; Stewardship; Community Organizing)

## News From Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village

Dear Friends of the Children's Village,

All of the children are in good health at this time. They are all in school during the summer monsoon season and are waiting for results of their mid-year exams.

In the spring, the children sang as a choir at the Unitarian 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Wing



Conference (photo attached). Our friend Khlur reported that the theme of their musical presentation was gratitude – their gratefulness to God and to their sponsors and well-wishers. They sang to an audience of approximately 1500 people.

The long driveway/ approach road to the Children's Village was paved before the start of the rainy season. There are two photos; the first one shows the work in progress and the second photo shows the completed road with Phromiwell Lyngdoh who is responsible for the construction. Phromiwell is a new member of the local Orphanage Management Committee in Khasi Hills.



The part time Activities Director of the Children's Village who is also a teacher at the primary school resigned due to longer hours at the school. This is a mixed blessing because the school day has been extended for everyone.



Many thanks to the groups that have sent boxes of play clothes for the children – UU Congregation of Wyoming Valley, Wilkes Barre, PA; the Youth Group of Mount Vernon, VA and the Partner Church Circle of Fairfax, VA. All of the boxes have arrived safely!

The playground is being completed with the addition of the see-saw and slide. Hope to have photos for the next update.

Khublei,

Dee