



# THE ORACLE

*"Conscience is an oracle of the Divinity" - William Ellery Channing*

We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.



**Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist  
Church  
Mid February 2015 Newsletter**

**Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30  
AM**

**February 15, 2015**

**R. Keith Armstrong**

**Your God is Too Small**

As our young people transition from high school to college -- particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) -- the God that they knew in Sunday School may seem to be "too small". As young people expand their knowledge of the universe, do they become agnostic, more religious, or a U.U.? U.U. was my choice. R. Keith Armstrong was born in New Castle, Indiana. He received Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1958 (Purdue University). Served in the U.S. Navy Reserve (Civil Engineering Corp.) 1958-1961 in Public Works Administration. City Manager in Lititz, Pennsylvania; Williard, Ohio; and Xenia, Ohio 1961-1971. Treasurer and BOT member (Northwoods U.U.) FY 2012-2013 and FY 2013-2014, Endowment Committee (Northwoods U.U.) 2014-2017.

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**February 22, 2015**

**Trent Hale**

**Queer Theology: Living into Being a Welcoming Congregation**

Trent is the Senior Peer Minister at the SHSU Episcopal Student Center. He will include some remarks of encouragement for TWUUC's involvement in the LGBTQ and Religion Conference March 2 at SHSU.

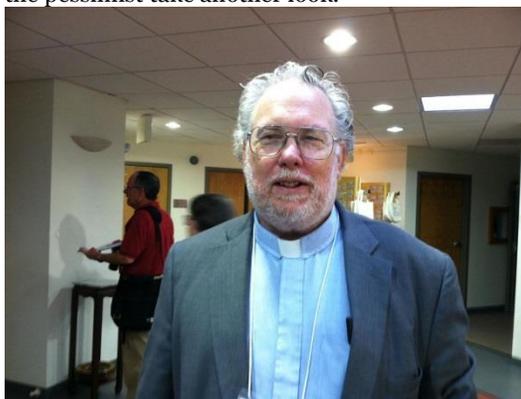
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**March 1, 2015**  
**Caleb Bishop White**  
**Resurrection, It's not Just a**  
**"Jesus" Thing, It's an**  
**"Everyone" Thing**

"As Unitarian Universalists, we harness love's power to stop oppression. Working in interfaith coalitions and partnerships, we affirm and promote the values and principles so important to us: justice, compassion, the worth and dignity of all, and the interdependence of life on earth." – Social Justice Action, UUA

Currently a Masters of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary and a Member in Discernment in care of the Brazos Association of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. The UCC is a mainline liberal denomination formed in 1957 from the merger of the Congregational Church and the German Evangelical and Reformed Church. He graduated from Huntsville High School in 2005, Sam Houston State University in 2010 with a B.S. in Political Science. Caleb is both a Harold Wilke and William Johnson Scholar, has preached in UCC pulpits across North and Central Texas while previously serving as Student Pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Worth. You may also remember Caleb as the previous Walker County Democratic County Chairman.

Did you know the UUA and UCC have a common heritage? Did you know there are currently ongoing talks on how our two churches can work closer together to promote our shared values? Many argue the "Mainline Liberal" church is dying, I suggest the pessimist take another look.



**March 8, 2015**  
**Rev. Ron Robinson**  
**Third Places and**  
**The Future of The Church**

As we move from churched to unchurched culture, and toward what some call a post-congregational culture, how might faith communities respond to increase its impact in the world around it? Rev. Ron Robinson will bring the story of The Welcome Church and its A Third Place Community Foundation, featured as a cover story in the UU World magazine.

Rev. Ron Robinson has served for 12 years as the executive director of the national Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship founded in 1945; he is also an adjunct professor of practical theology and director of

ministerial formation for unitarian universalists at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa; he is the executive director of the A Third Place Community Foundation, a neighborhood renewal nonprofit located in the high poverty low life expectancy area of far north Tulsa that created both a community garden park and orchard and a community center where abandoned buildings were located; the foundation was started by The Welcome Table Church which he planted.

**Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen**  
**The Many Faces of Love**

Love is Loud

Sometimes love is loud. Sometimes love causes us to cry and wail. Sometimes love requires us to hold difficult boundaries and exercise restraint. This is particularly difficult when someone has harmed us or hurt us and all we want to do is rail against the hurt in an unloving way as is possible. Sometimes love causes to raise our voice in opposition and resistance. Sometimes this love needs to be silent to be loud, such as standing in vigil and silent protest against the death penalty or in silent witness in support of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance.

Love is Particular

English is often a very precise language. It has become a world language through empire and political and economic conquest, but the fact remains it can be very precise. There are concepts however where English doesn't get specific enough. Love is such a concept. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the many preachers, pastors, and theologians who have pointed out to us the three words used for "love" in the Greek text of the Christian scriptures. Philo is the love of family and friends. Eros is romantic, erotic, sexual, intimate love. Agape is the all-encompassing love. When we stand on the side of love we stand in agape, as agape is the idea behind universalism itself - that no one needs to be special or perfect to be loved and all deserve love and respect.

Blessings, Rev. Tony

[revtonyuu@gmail.com](mailto:revtonyuu@gmail.com)

508-344-3668

Office Hours

**Tuesdays 10-3**

Please call or email for an appointment if you want to make sure to catch Rev. Tony at the church as he sometimes is at meetings or



appointments in the community as part of his ministry.

*Monday: Minister's Sabbath Day - Rev.*

*Tony is tending to self care - and errands.*

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Hello All, Just a quick note and a thank you. We are officially certified with UUA as of February 3! So a big thanks to those of you who provided the necessary information to complete the report. Rosanne Barker

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## TWUUC EVENTS

The vigil scheduled for February 10th for Lester Bower, Jr. has been cancelled. There are no more executions scheduled for February.



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### Religious Education News

**Every Sunday** - Religious Education for adults and for children will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. During multi-generational worship all children will remain with their parents during the entire service. The younger members of our congregation will be invited to help with parts of the service such as Responsive Reading, Chalice Lighting and Offertory. If a parent is concerned that a child needs a little entertainment during the sermon, coloring books will be provided for use during the sermon only. If a child needs some time alone, the parent and child may retire to the children's R.E. classroom.

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**February 18**, 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, September – June in the sanctuary. A spiritual Deepening Program for Unitarian Universalists. Firewalkers live their lives on fire for Unitarian Universalism. Firewalking is the spiritual formation program that helps people become firewalkers. Over ten months, firewalking will transform you and your spiritual life. As a Firewalking participant you will develop and commit to your own spiritual practice, learn to listen to your own heart and the hearts of others, connect your life and deepest values to Unitarian Universalism. See the detailed explanation of Firewalking in our recent newsletter

and on our website. Registration is required for Firewalking and there is some required reading and viewing (videos). Contact Rev. Tony for more information or see our website for more information. Rev. Tony at [revtonyuu@gmail.com](mailto:revtonyuu@gmail.com).

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### **February 22 - March Newsletter Deadline**

Please submit any items for the newsletter to [pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net).

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### **TWUUC Mission Statement**

#### **JUST HELP.**

There are three interpretations of this mission.

It is the journey to answer the complex question "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.

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### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Order of Service If you are willing to take over the weekly OOS, please let Anne True know.

Religious Education If you would like to help with RE, please talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

Building and Grounds If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at [culp@shsu.edu](mailto:culp@shsu.edu).

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at [pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net) or call 936-661-4313/936-661-4313. We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers.

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### **Good Shepherd Mission**

Please continue to bring food. They are very low right now. Thanks for helping however you can. They also need volunteers.

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### **Charity of the Month**

#### **SAAFE House**

Please make check payable to SAAFE House, and place in the collection basket. Their mission statement is "SAAFE House is committed to empowering abuse victims by providing immediate, free, and confidential services. To our clients, we offer exceptionally trained staff and volunteer resources to help reach each individuals need. SAAFE House strives to educate the community at large to prevent and eliminate the causes of family violence and sexual assault." For more information visit their website

[www.saafefhouse.org](http://www.saafefhouse.org)

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In order for Thoreau Woods UU Church to more adequately respond to the needs of our members and friends, we are now registered on the Lotsa website. Maybe you just need a ride, help when you are ill or just a visit from a friendly face or a chat with Rev. Tony. This site can help us keep track of all that so no one falls through the cracks. If you need help or are willing to help, please go to <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com>.

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## *Joys & Concerns*



With heavy hearts, we inform you of the passing of Stuart Williamson, who as many of you know, has been battling cancer for many months now. Stuart was a founding member of Thoreau Woods and over the years he was a bedrock of consistent leadership for our congregation and its involvement in the greater Huntsville community.



**Please join us for a celebration  
of his life  
Saturday February 14, 2015  
Visitation 10 am, Service 11 am  
Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville TX 77340  
Potluck lunch to follow at TWUUC**

We are asking members to bring cookies for the visitation and a salad, side dish or dessert for the potluck after the service. Meat & cheese trays and

bread will be provided.

Any updates will be posted on the front page of our website at <http://www.twuuc.org/> and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thoreau-Woods-Unitarian-Universalist-Church/124805000868864>.

In faith, Rev. Tony Lorenzen, Minister,  
and  
The Thoreau Woods Executive  
Committee

**Bob Collier** had a bad fall last month. He was in the hospital and is now in Room 221 at Creekside. He will be there for rehab for 2 to 3 months. He will be in therapy much of the time so will be tired at the end of the day. Cards will be appreciated. His address is Creekside of Huntsville, 1433 Veteran's Memorial Parkway Huntsville, TX 77340



**Liam Dexter** has had health problems and has moved into a nursing home.



Wish these members and friends born in February a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

15 *Leda Lupo*  
24 *James Johnson*  
25 *Joan Hinds*

## DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS



February 20-22, 2015 **SW LREDA Mid-Winter Conference**, featuring a keynote address and concert by Nick Page, will be held at U-Bar-U, in Mountain Home, TX, 20-22 February, 2015. For a webflyer, go to [http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/SW\\_LREDA\\_Advertising\\_Flyer\\_Registration\\_2015.02.pdf](http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/images/SW_LREDA_Advertising_Flyer_Registration_2015.02.pdf).

Registration fees are \$165 for early registration by February 4, and \$185 after February 4. The registration fee for the Maiden Program is \$110. Scholarships are available, and may be applied for during the registration process. Your registration fee also includes your SWUUV membership dues of \$25 for the year. For more information, go to

<http://reg.attendeenet.com/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x2528e126&varPage=location>

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### **Johnson Studio House Concerts**

**J. R. Byrd**

**February 22, 2015 (Sunday)**

J.R. Byrd is a singer-songwriter from the humblest of towns, Littleton, Colorado. Shaped heavily by the jazz department at the University of North Texas, J.R.'s songs tend to boast poignant, bluesy melodies over rich, sweeping harmonies. That said, J.R.'s witty lyrics are usually what set off most people's alarms. Byrd's "smart pop" can be most likened to John Mayer, Seal or Sting, but certainly brings its own hops to the dance. *Note: J. R. did a house concert for us in January 2013. You may remember him as the young man that did the fancy stuff with the keyboard.*

For more information, go to

<http://pages.suddenlink.net/johnsonstudio/HouseConcerts.html>

This is a private event and you must RSVP to:  
pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net or 936-294-9751.  
Potluck 5:00 pm (optional), concert 6-8 pm.  
Suggested Donation: \$10-20.

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### **Sam Houston Memorial Museum**

January 13 - February 13

Exhibit: Tropical Impressions: A Gulf Coast Hurricane Perspective  
Exhibit Gallery, Katy and E. Don Walker Sr. Education Center

February 14 10 AM to 2 PM

Woodworking Demonstration  
Guerrant Cabin - Museum Grounds

February 21 10 AM to 2 PM

Kick Wheel Pottery Making Demonstration  
Raven's Pottery Shed, Museum Grounds

March 2

Texas Independence Day and General Sam Houston's Birthday. Several events will be taking place throughout the day around Huntsville.

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### **The Bookshelf by Ann Staples**

Giant George - Life With the World's Biggest Dog by Dave Nasser with Lynne Barrett-Lee, page 255. This is an excellent dog story and family story and a lively read. The dog has a website [www.giantGeorge.com](http://www.giantGeorge.com), Facebook and Twitter. The author has an email address [dave.nasser@yahoo.com](mailto:dave.nasser@yahoo.com).

Lives in Ruins - Archaeologists and the Seductive Lure of Human Rubble by Marilyn Johnson, text page 240. This is a very well-written and interesting book. She has written two other very interesting sounding books that I will probably try to read - The Dead Beat about writers of obituaries, and The Book is Overdue about librarians.

Sous Chef - 24 Hours On The Line by Michael Gibney. large print page 298. The book includes the kitchen floor plan, the kitchen chain of command diagram, and definitions of selected kitchen terminology. This is a compilation of his experiences over different time periods and different restaurants into a management, readable, "day in the life of". My question - How does he really taste all this good food since he smokes? He has a BFA in painting from Pratt

Institute and a MFA in nonfiction writing from Columbia University. This is an interesting background that one would not expect.

[Momma Makes Up Her Mind and Other Dangers of Southern Living](#) by Bailey White page 229 copyright 1993. This is very, very funny. It consists of a series of essays about various family, school, and just living life topics. Bailey White is a first grade teacher and lives with her mother.

LEARN MORE

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**response** SOCIAL  
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