

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of LAWTON

A family of faith valuing diversity, community and religious growth



Volume 11 Issue 06

June 2005

## A Month of Sundays

**June 5th**

**Dr. Vivian  
Thomlinson**

**Some fascinating  
Canonical and Non-  
Canonical Women of the  
Old and New Testaments**

Most of these women are from the Old Testament with some nods to the New Testament females and Pauline pronouncement on the “proper place” of women in the early Church. Dr. Tomlinson is associate professor English at Cameron and has extensive background in teaching English, Literature, writing, and communication, both in the US and abroad. She has traveled extensively with her military husband.

**June 12th**

**Anna Holloway  
M.Div.**

**Juneteenth and  
Greenwood: Race and  
Hope in Oklahoma**

June 19 is often the date designated in Oklahoma and Texas for celebrating the end of slavery. June 1 is the anniversary of the Tulsa riots which destroyed the wealthy African American district of Greenwood in North Tulsa. On a Sunday between the two, we'll look at the fact that, while sadness and grief are easy to find in both stories, hope is in them also.

**Happy Father's Day to all  
you dads, granddads, step-  
dads and foster dads, we  
love you.**

**June 19th**

**Food bank Sunday**

**Nancy Stinson**

**Forgiveness**

Nancy Stinson serves as an adjunct professor at Cameron University, in the psychology and sociology department.

**June 26th**

**Rev. Patrick  
McPherson**

Rev. McPherson is an ordained Methodist minister currently serving as the director of Cameron Campus Ministries, of which our church is a sponsor. We look forward to having him in our pulpit again.

## June Birthdays



- 2 Grace Birdwell
- 8 Dan Morgan
- 10 Marge Williams
- 11 Karen Moreno
- 16 Alan Amelinckx
- 21 Al Williams
- 30 Willa Amelinckx

Makin' Music the first Tues., June 7, at the church from 7 to 9 pm. All welcome! It is not necessary to play an instrument – musicians love an audience.,

### Congrats

#### John Graham

Our friend and frequent speaker, John Graham, received the "Member of the Year" award at First Unitarian Church in Oklahoma City. This award is given in recognition of service to the church over the years.

John helped with the Singles Group in the 1980's, was an adult educator in the later 1980's and early 1990's, has served as a member of the Board of Trustees,

Maintenance Staff volunteer and Maintenance Chairperson. He was also the chair of the Disaster Relief Fund committee that was formed after the Murrah building was bombed. This committee was in charge of paying out the money that was received for disaster victims after the bombing. It was also noted that John speaks at other churches in the area, including Lawton UU..

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Duncan Diners will meet at 7:00 June 9 at the home of Harry and Barbara Jenkins at 38 Victoria St. Wichita Falls Texas for Brats and Beer. Barbara will make her famous German potato salad, Harry will grill the brats and the rest of us will bring the other stuff , soft drinks and beer. There will be maps at the church. Please RSVP to Barbara at [hjenkins@sw.rr.com](mailto:hjenkins@sw.rr.com) or 940 689-0712 so she will know how much potato salad to make.

#### District Exec Resigns

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The Reverend Robert L. Hill, our District Executive for the past seven years, has resigned effective June 30th in order to accompany his wife, Dr.Kristi C.

Heesch, to Brisbane, Australia, where she will begin a research position at the University of Queensland effective. July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reverend Anne Odin Heller has been selected to serve as Interim Director. She is the author of "Churchworks: A Well-Body Book for Congregations", one of the books Bob Hill has been recommending to leadership school attendees and others for years. Anne has served both large and small congregations. She was Associate to the President for Public Affairs at Starr King School for the Ministry. She currently resides in Taos, New Mexico.  
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CHILDREN'S NURSERY: is open every Sunday morning from 9:30am until noon. It is free of charge. It is for children age 0-4 or 5.

### Hospitality

We are going to post a sign-up sheet for Sunday Service Hospitality. I'd like to set forth the ideas I have so far for the sign-up sheet and would appreciate any suggestions for improvement. To wit: 1. The sheet would cover two months. 2. The

signers' responsibilities would be listed at the top of the sheet in the following manner: a. Make sanctuary, kitchen and bathrooms neat and clean before & after service. b. Make coffee, tea & set out treats. c. Treats to be supplied by the signers.

Treats may be as simple or as complex as the set-up person(s) want them to be.

The Hospitality Committee: Lori Frisby, Maggie Scaper, Bill Moreno & whoever else cares to be involved, will meet soon to discuss pertinent issues & prepare a report to bring back to the Board of Trustees. We will announce the date, time & place of the meeting at Sunday Service.

Bill Moreno

**JUNE  
LUNCH BUNCH**



By Al

- 5 Los Tres Amigos
- 12 Golden Corral
- 19 Applebee's
- 26 Golden China

**Sunday's Schedule**

**Religious Education 9:30  
Fellowship 10:15-10:30  
Worship 10:30  
Discussion 11:30-11:45**

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**Mondays  
Meditation Covenant  
Group  
7:00-9:00**

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**June  
Flowers**



- 05 – Patsy Nixon**
- 12 –Maggie Scaper**
- 19–Linda Dempsey**
- 26– Jana Brown**

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**Musical Talent Search  
Still On....**

Chuck Thomas is seeking vocalist to lead hymns, musicians for keyboard, organ or other instruments. If you have any questions,

contact Chuck Thomas at  
357-8428

## ***BENNETT'S BUMBLINGS***

***June, 2005***

It's June? June, June, June! Sixth month of the year on the Gregorian calendar. It's the month named for Juno - both the sister and wife of Jupiter - and the patroness of marriage and the well-being of women. Oh, so that's the reason June is so popular with brides! Can't believe this year is half-gone already.

Speaking of "half-gone", this is the end of "Bennett's Bumbings" for a while. Hard to believe, but in my four, non-consecutive terms as Lawton UU President, I have written about 48 of these artless musings. Beginning July 1st, we're turning this space in the newsletter over to our new President, Kate McClure. Half-jokingly I suggested that Kate call her presidential column "**KATE'S KVETCHINGS**". I hope she does use that title - it kind of catchy.

This parting "Bumbings" is my most personal and heartfelt. As I take my leave from presidential duties, I want to comment on matters of the moment facing our church, namely: whether the membership should make an offer to purchase the old Bavarian House as a site for our church? We have a membership meeting on this issue on Sunday, June 5, 2005. Although I believe there are alternatives to this proposition, I do not here intend to argue the pros and cons. I more interested in the **process** of our decision-making.

First and foremost, let me say that the Lawton UU Church is not about a building. Never has been. Never will be. Sure, we need space for worship and church activities. What our church is really about is building, nurturing and sustaining a "beloved community". A beloved community that uplifts us, cares for us, comforts us and confronts us in spite of the differing viewpoints, opinions and experiences of individual congregants. Together, we have built the beloved community for ten years. And I know to a moral certainty that every man-Jack (and Jane) one of us wants the Lawton UU Church to succeed into the limitless future.

For those who are new to membership, or suffer from short-term memory loss (as I do), this issue is not new.

Six or seven years ago, the church made a feeble attempt to bid on the old Christian Science Church at 7th and E Ave. That was a big mistake (in my opinion), but of course we did not have the membership numbers or the wherewithal we have today. Next, we made written offer to purchase architect Ted Horton's office building at 1010 S.W. C Ave, which was rejected by his widow. Lastly, in last eighteen months we conducted negotiations with the York Rite Masons on the church building at 702 S.W. C Ave. Last year, the Masons rejected our offer and returned our \$1000 good faith deposit.

Governing and decision-making for Unitarian Universalists is difficult. Somewhat akin to herding cats. It is especially tricky when the subject is an expenditure of sacred funds (Sondra Bonnington's bequest) on church site that may engender debate. There is no doubt that our UU principles and church bylaws demand we follow democratic processes, which generally dictate

majority rule. In a decision of this nature, I think pure majority rule is undesirable. Should we proceed with the project if the vote is 51% to 49%? 60% to 40%?

It behooves us to reach a consensus of some sort among the membership. I recognize that we must count votes and add up the yeas and nays. But I advocate that we do more: that we reach some general accord on the right action to take. To me consensus means a collective decision that vast majority consents to even if many might individually disagree with it. It is not unanimity, but at least a significant number of the members do not object.

To me the essence of Unitarian Universalism in a nutshell (well, at least Universalism) is that the things of importance that unite us are so much more important than the petty, transient things that divide us. Said another way, if we agree in love nothing can divide us.

So, on June 5th may everyone have their say and feel they have been heard. May everyone listen and hear what others say. Count the votes, but also weigh the feelings of those who object. Reach consensus. Amen and so be it.

It has been a high honor to serve as your President these last two years. I cherish this church and its people.

Faithfully yours,

Russ Bennett, President