



Pleasant Valley NUUS

Pleasant Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
1215 Main Street ☞ Garland, TX 75040
Telephone: 972.487.8760 ☞ WWW.PVUUC.ORG

Come celebrate the sacred circle of life with us

Vol. 2 No. 1

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

From
the Board of
Directors

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2001-2002

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Activities

Vacant

Facilitators 2001-2002

Full Moon Open Circle

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Pagan Tea Room

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North Texas Pagan Men's Group

David Minesinger
214-766-8339

NTAUS Representatives

David Minesinger

Vacant

Movie Night

Shannon Ader 972-644-7617

Janice Ader 972-231-2607

St. Nick Gnostics

David Blair 972-329-9926

Mystical Earth CUUPs

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The Integrators

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Last Lunches

November	Activities.
December	Worship.
January	R.E.
February	Finance.
March	Communications.

Last Lunch Clean Up

November	Worship.
December	R.E..
January	Finance
February	Communications.
March	Facilities.

Affirmation

Love is the spirit of our Church,
The quest of truth is its
sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humanity in harmony
with the earth. Thus do we
pledge to one another.

Still one nation under God

By Cathy Lynn Grossman and Anthony DeBarros, USA TODAY

Americans are big-time believers in God. In survey after survey, most say religion is important to them and its influence is growing. But whose God? Whose influence? Whose flock is increasing or dying away? Ever since Mary and Joseph trudged to Bethlehem to be counted in a census, people have cared passionately how many fellow believers are in their tent — and how many in someone else's.

The U.S. Census is forbidden to ask about religion, but "it's very human to wonder, 'How big is my tribe?'" says Egon Mayer, one of two lead investigators for a new, comprehensive study that does just that — the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS).

"You can't understand America's national makeup and political decision-making without understanding its religious diversity," says Barry Kosmin, Mayer's partner in the ongoing study conducted by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Kosmin was co-director of the first survey in 1990, which asked 113,723 adults in the continental USA their religious identity. It found two streams diverging from the channels of traditional faith — the trends to solo spirituality and church-shopping consumerism.

Those streams are rivers now.

The 2001 ARIS, based on interviews with 50,281 people, reveals a religious landscape shifting with immigration, interfaith marriage, conversion and the all-American urge to customize everything. A growing number of Americans no longer know — or no longer care — about denominational distinctions, researchers say.

Key findings:

- Protestants and Catholics still dominate, but their share of soul is slipping. Of those surveyed: 52% identify themselves as Protestant or other non-Catholic Christian denominations, down from 60% in 1990, and 24.5% say they're Catholic, down nearly 2%.
- The spirits are restless: 16% of adults say they changed their religion at least once in their lives — or turned away altogether. "More people see religious identity as a recreational option," shifting like skiers to snowboarding, Kosmin says.
- Unbelief is rocketing, up from 8% in 1990 to 14% saying they have no religion or they're atheist, agnostic, humanist or secular.
- Believing does not mean belonging. While 81% claim a religious identity (5% refused to reply to the survey), only 54% say someone in their household is affiliated with a house of worship. Four in 10 "who call themselves religious don't take their faith filtered through the stained glass of a church, synagogue, temple or mosque," Mayer says.
- Families embrace many faiths: 22% say their spouse or domestic partner has a different religion, ranging from Episcopalians (42% are in mixed households) to Mormons (12%). Among these couples, the majority say they will pick one of the parent's faith for their children, but 13% say they will rear their children with no religion or as atheists, says study director Ariela Keysar.

This mix-and-match, come-and-go attitude may be the logical outcome of America's sanctification of individualism and personal autonomy.

This leads to some eyebrow-raising statistics, such as a 1,575% jump in Wiccans, from 8,000 reported in 1990 to 134,000 self-proclaimed witches in 2001. Trailing a long list of familiar denominations are people who call themselves Druids or followers of Santeria, an Afro-Cuban religion.

"The USA is a greenhouse of religion, with the number of options appearing to soar," Kosmin says. "Even if you are cautious about the leap (in rate of growth) because groups like Wiccans are still very small numbers of people, we can still see that people don't feel embarrassed or frightened about saying who they are."

Full article at : <http://www.usatoday.com/life/2001-12-24-religion.htm>

Recurring Events:

Full Moon Circle starting in November through Beltane full moon esbats will be presented by Ivy, High Priestess of the Ivy Spiral, a coven with the American Tradition of the Goddess (aka amtrad). For more info about Amtrad and/or the Ivy Spiral visit www.amtrad.org. These celebratory esbats are open to everyone. Newcomers, solitaires, and people of ALL faiths are welcome. You need not have any prior knowledge of Wicca to attend. All we require is respect for all participants, and that you honor our tradition by abstaining from alcohol prior to ritual. We hope you will join us. Gathering at 7:00 pm, ritual will begin *promptly* at 7:30, at which point you will not be allowed in, to avoid any interruption. For specific questions, please email Ivy directly at sydwitch@hotmail.com.

MYSTICAL EARTH CUUPS: This exciting group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm. Come Join Us! For further information contact David Blair at dblair1258@aol.com

PAGAN :-) TEA :-) ROOM :-)

The Pagan Tea Room is the 1st. Friday of the month. It is a social time for gathering and sharing. PVUUC will provide the tea, cocoa and coffee. Ya'll please come and provide your stories, chants, drumming, games, a snack to share, byob. We have a nursery, play space for youngsters, area for afire, CD player, piano, etc and an open door. I would like to see those interested in Spiral Scouts come share your interest. See you all about 7:30 till we want to go home. For further information contact Janice Ader at 972-231-2607 or Shannon Ader at 972-644-7617.

North Texas Pagan Men's Group: Meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 7:30 pm. If you have any questions contact David Minesinger 469-366-0955.

Family Movie Night: Movie Night is the 3rd Friday of the Month.. As always the evening will be a wonderful way to bond as friends and family. For more information, please contact Shannon Ader at 972-644-7617.

Clean-up day: Is the first Sunday of the month after services. Clean-up Day involves basic housecleaning so that our church looks presentable. If you have any questions contact Patrick Smith the Facilities Chairman.

Want to play a game? Dungeons and Dragons, that is. Or perhaps you would like to play Cyberpunk, or maybe even White Wolf's World of Darkness. Well, join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4:30 pm at Pleasant Valley UU Church to enter the world of the fantastic through Role Playing Games. Hosted by Christopher and Anne House.

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THE INTEGRATORS: The Integrators meet at the church at 7:00 PM on the 2nd Friday of every month. A program dealing with some aspect of the relationship between science and religion is presented. This is followed by friendly discussion and refreshments. The atmosphere is casual and relaxed. Visitors may participate as much or as little as they desire. Everyone is invited. Notices of the meeting are sent by email or regular mail to anyone asking to be placed on the mailing list. For more information contact John Swanson at 972-530-0692.

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Saint Nick's Gnostics: [Saint Nicholas Parish](http://www.saintnicholasparish.com) conducts a Gnostic Vespers service the first Sunday of every month at 7:00pm. It is followed at 7:30pm by a general discussion of gnosticism in both the Christian Tradition and other religious traditions. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information contact David Blair at 972-329-9926 or dblair1258@aol.com

VP's Workdays: I'm opening my Monday workdays to everyone who wants to help. I try to be at the church from 4 PM to 8 or 9 PM every Monday. While I can't always make every Monday, I would like to make 2 Mondays a month the official VP's Workdays, when I *promise* to be there. So if you would like to work off your pledge, please feel free to meet with me on the second and fourth Mondays of the month between 4 and 8 PM.

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January

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 Worship Committee @ 7:30 pm Finance Committee @ 8:00 pm	3 Telecom Corridor Area Pagan Networking Lunch 11 am to 1 pm	4 Pagan Tea Room 7:30 pm	5
6 Clean Up Day Communications Committee 12:30 pm St. Nick's Gnostics 7:00 pm	7 North Texas Pagan Men's Group 7:30 pm	8	9	10	11 Intergrator's	12
13 Pot Luck Lunch PST	14 VP Work Monday's 4 to 7:30 pm BOD 7:30 pm	15	16 Mystical Earth CUUPs 7:30 pm	17	18 Movie Night 7:30 pm	19
20 Newsletter Article's Due	21 North Texas Pagan Men's Group 7:30 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 Potluck Last Lunch Full Moon Ritual 7:00 pm	28	29	30	31		

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