



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. 4 No. 5

June 2004

President's Perceptions

May 17, 2004

Weather-wise, the air conditioner is running, the sun is shining, and we're expecting the temperature outside to approach 90 degrees today. To my realization, summer has already started. I actually mowed the lawn last week. To paraphrase an old country song, "I fought the lawn and the lawn won." We are now moving into a defensive season where we turn on the air conditioners during the day and pretend that we'd rather be outside doing something when it's 110 degrees outside. Personally, I'll pass on that one.

Well, we are experiencing exciting times at church. I am very hopeful that this is the beginning of a new and wonderful experience for all concerned. Our leadership is in place, including officers and committee chairs. I believe we have the basic structure to grow and become a family. Hopefully we are all committed to this.

We had a good discussion and unanimous action at our business meeting yesterday. I was impressed and very happy that all items that came up for vote had the agreement of everyone there.

There was an election yesterday, in which I was re-elected President for the 2004-2005 operational year. As I said yesterday, my job is not to rule, but to provide leadership and overall coordination and focus for the congregation.

We also selected a Vice-President, because we now have enough members to warrant that. Ben Wangler, one of our new young members, whom many of you recognize as Shea's husband and the father of the soon to be delivered baby in our midst, was elected as Vice President. I'm looking forward to working with him.

I've known our new Secretary, Barbara Clary, for several years now. I want to thank her for stepping up to the plate to re-organize and coordinate our record keeping. I'm also looking forward to seeing her neat handwriting on the minutes.

Our returning Treasurer, Shannon Ader, has been around PVUUC for more years than I have. According to what her mother shared yesterday, she joined when she was sixteen and has remained an active member in good standing from then until now, including four years at college in West Texas.

Our final board member, Janice Ader, is continuing to serve out her two-year At-Large term, which ends in May of 2005. She is probably the current member who has been a member the longest.

We have also added several committee chairs in the past month, and expect to add at least one more next month. I think, with all these, we may well have our entire current chair positions filled. What we need now are committee members. We don't need committees of one. That puts a chair in a position of having to do all the work, as well as make decisions without significant input. I can't speak for all our chairs, but I personally have refused to serve as chair where I was to be a committee of one. Please don't ask any of these people to make that decision. The list of committees and their chairs is in the newsletter or any board member will be happy to refer you. Please find one of these chairs and make your services available.

The next major step in our operations is for the Board of Directors to create and present a budget for the 2004-2005 year, which starts in September of this year. The new board will have three (3) months to get this ready for presentation at another Congregational meeting in August. Details of this meeting will be in the August newsletter, which will be out the last of July.

Part of the process is to analyze the monthly expenses. As was reported in the meeting, the current average expenses are about \$527.00 per month. Personally, I think we are pretty much at bare bones now. If you can think of a way to cut expenses further without closing the doors, we're certainly open to any suggestions. Janice Ader, in addition to being a board member at large is Chair of the Facilities committee.

The other part of the budget is to analyze expected income. Right now our primary source of income is pledges from the active members. If you take the expenses and divide them by 20 active members, this comes to about \$27.00 per member per month as a fair share. I would respectfully ask everyone to re-evaluate his or her situation to see if your pledge is what it should be.

We do indeed realize that there are those who simply can't pledge more than they are now. This is part of the reason for the service pledge. However, we still need the cash to pay the bills. Perhaps you can help us come up with some fundraisers, the most effective of which are those that sell product or services to people outside the church.

As I said, the meeting to approve the budget will be held in August. The sooner we can get the information, the more complete and accurate our budget can be.

Again, thanks to all who came to the business meeting, all who are serving and have agreed to serve in the coming year and to all of those who have made this church possible through your membership and support. For my part, I will do my best to see that this church continues in whatever form and way you want it to.

From the desk of.....

The Ride Of Silence

by Opus

I'm sitting at the computer the day after the Ride of Silence trying to compile my feelings for the members of my church, who endorsed the Ride. First, it was a nice ride. Ten miles around White Rock Lake on a clear evening with mild winds and temperatures is always nice. Second, it was a bit spooky. I've ridden group rides before and the total lack of chatter amongst the riders was a little unnerving. Third, it was inspiring. There were over 2500 riders according to Dallas Police, and as a compact group we were over a half mile long. When we got stretched out with a little space between us and no more that 2 abreast, we ran for miles. Imagine 2500 cars in a traffic jam, and you get the idea.

Another thing that was spooky was the number of riders wearing armbands. The protocol for the ride was if you knew someone that was killed while riding you wore a black armband. If you or a person you know was injured while riding you wore a red armband. I lost count of the number of people I saw wearing both. I wore both myself.

At the end of the Ride they tell me there was a prayer and a moment of silence, but I was so far back I couldn't tell. I remember a cheer and applause just before the group started to disperse.

After the Ride we all just hung around and talked for a while, partly to allow the traffic to clear out, and partly because we didn't want it to be over. The fellowship was like being in a warm blanket, or it could have been the body heat developed by the 10 mile ride. Either way it was awesome.

E-bay store of the PVUUC

The PVUUC is opening an e-Bay store! Our plans are to fill this store with donations from our congregation and other sources. If you would like to donate items to the store please contact Chris House. We are also looking for crafters and artists who would like to have the PVUCC display your work on e-bay contact us and we will work out an arrangement.

This endeavor is primarily a fund raiser for the church. The donations do not need to be brought to the church until they are sold on E-bay. This keeps us from have to make room for stuff; however, if you would, fill out the small form below and hand them into Chris House – he’ll post them to eBay for the church store. You will be notified if/when the item is sold and when to bring it to the church for shipping.

That’s it! See - that wasn’t too hard.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Form | |
| Item(s) _____ | ISBN _____ |
| Size _____ Weight _____ | Estimation of value _____ |
| Condition : Poor, Fair, Good, Mint | |
| Your Name _____ | Contact numbers _____ |

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE. Please remember that we not only focus on Earth Centered Spirituality in our beliefs and worship we also follow an Earth Centered behavior in recycling our paper, aluminum, glass, plastic, etc. As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, we can earn money for the church from our paper as well as from our aluminum. Please be careful to separate items that can be recycled from general trash. **REPAIR, REUSE, RECYCLE.** This idea also applies to the items we buy for the church, so please focus on earth friendly products that can be reused and/or recycled. Unfortunately there are no Styrofoam recycling centers (that I am aware of) in our area, so please refrain from purchasing these items. The real renewable resources - both spiritual and material - are within our congregation. However, we would like to let every one know of the Computer Ink Cartage fund raiser. Please bring your old ink cartages to the church – we’ll recycle them into money. As well, we now have a trailer to pick up the recycled paper and deliver it ourselves. This should bring more return to the church than past efforts. If you know of any one who is looking, point them in our direction - the biggest treasure we as a church have is you, the congregation.

Blessings from Facilities and Treasurers Committees:

\$\$\$

We have several ongoing fundraisers for the church: We have UU stickers for your front window/door or car windows (\$1.00). We also participate in several Community Partner programs with Albertsons, Kroger (cards for the church in the entry) and Tom Thumb (have community partner #6594 attached to your Reward Card). Just present the card(s) at checkout (prior to the cashier totaling your bill) and PVUUC gets a percentage of what you have spent. The percentage goes up with the amount spent (all of our purchases combined) and we normally get a check quarterly. Working together we can make things happen. \$\$\$

Our Average Monthly Bills equal \$526.81

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Internet Expenses | \$ 17.42 |
| Insurance | \$ 149.58 |
| Mortgage | \$ 188.26 |
| Phone | \$ 88.76 |
| City of Garland | |
| (Electric/Water/Sewage) | \$ 169.35 |
| TXU Gas | \$ 47.02 |
| Assc Dues | \$ 16.00 |

Official Information

Board of Directors 2004-2005

President

Bob Anderson
president@pvuuc.org

Vice President

Ben Wangler

Secretary

Barbra Clary
972-530-9626
secetary@pvuuc.org

Treasurer

Shannon Ader
972-644-7617

Member at Large

Janice Ader
972-231-2607
groovyone@ev1.net

Committee Chairs 2003-2004

Communications

Chris House Chairman
972-231-2607
housechris@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor :

Chris House

Charles Collins

webmaster@pvuuc.org

Facilities

Janice Ader Chairman
972-231-2607
groovyone@ev1.net

Finance

Shannon Ader
972-644-7617

Membership/Worship

Sam Westbrook Chairman

Worship Coordinator

Shannon Ader
972-644-7617

Religious Education

Anne House Chairman
972-231-2607

Social Activities

John Clary Chairman
972-530-9626

Facilitators 2004-2005

Drum Jam

Janice Ader 972 231 2607
groovyone@ev1.net

Movie Night

Shannon Ader 972-644-7617

North Texas Pagan Men's Group

Alan Walker Facilitator
David Minesinger Contact
214-417-6642
dminesinger@yahoo.com

NTAUUS Representatives

Bob Anderson
jubal12@juno.com

Jessica Longshore
jmorghana@ev1.net

Wolf Grove
Council:

Janice Ader Crone
groovyone@ev1.net
972 231 2607

Sunnett Sage
jubal12@juno.com

OPUS Scribe
opus_the_poet@juno.com
972 530 9626

Full Moon Open Circle
Wolf Grove Council or
Shannon Ader 972-644-7617

Pleasant Valley Unitarian Universalist Church

1215 Main Street
Garland, Texas 75040
972-487-8760
www.pvuuc.org
PVUUC@EV1.NET

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.

.....

Keep up with what
we're doing, join
our message groups
at:

[PVUUC_TX-
subscribe@yahoogrou
ps.com](mailto:PVUUC_TX-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

And
[WolfGrove-
subscribe@yahoogrou
ps.com](mailto:WolfGrove-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Recurring Events:

Full Moon Circle : Wednesday, 6/2 at 7:30

Wolf Grove is facilitating the Full Moon Rituals. All are welcome to join in an open full moon circle. We gather at 7:30, with circle starting around 8 pm, and stay for fellowship after circle is over. If you wish, bring a snack to share. We will have coffee/tea available. The church provides baby-sitting service during the ritual. Please contact Wolf Grove wolfgrove@yahoo.com, Janice 972-231-2607 (groovyone@ev1.net) Sunsett 972-952-9757 (jubal12@juno.com), OPUS 972-530-9629 (opus_the_poet@juno.com) or Worship Coordinator Shannon Ader 972 644 7617

North Texas Pagan Men's Group: Meets the 1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:30 pm.

If you have any questions contact David Minesinger 214-417-6642. This is a time and place to deal with those things you can't talk to family and co-workers about because you're pagan. This is a support group for pagan men and sons in a Christian world. The first Monday of this month the Men's group is conducting full moon circle.

The Game Room: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 12pm to 10 pm

The Facilitator is Chris House 972-231-2607 house_christopher@hotmail.com

The game room is a table-top role-playing event. Game masters are provided although volunteers are welcome. We will have a concession table provided, so no outside food or drinks please. We separate the day into two four hour rounds. 12pm-4pm & 5pm – 9pm with an hour for breaks and run over time. We ask for a \$3 donation per round to cover facility cost and to help the church out as well as the volunteer game masters.

Family Movie Night: 3rd Friday, at 7:30 PM

Shannon will bring 2 or 3 movies to choose from or bring your own favorite to share. Children are welcome. Snacks (usually popcorn) available but feel free to bring something to share. For more information, please contact Shannon Ader at 972-644-7617.

Drum Jam: Last Friday of the month

Begin gathering around 7:45 pm, Drumming starts around 8. Bring your drum (or other musical instruments) and join us. If you don't have any, there may be extras, or you can come to listen and/or dance. Children are welcome but childcare in **not** available. For further information contact Janice Ader at 972-231-2607

WolfGrove Meetings: 1st Sunday & 3rd Wednesday 7:30 pm

Welcome to Wolf Grove! We are a Grove, not a Coven which means that we have an open circle policy. We are a collection of Solitary Practitioners who gather together for Esbats, Sabbats, study, fellowship and fun. We are Universalists in that we do not focus on any one aspect or pantheon of aspects of the Divine. Our doors and circles are open to all of like mind who are genuinely curious about Earth Based religions. We request that all proprieties are to be observed at all times. No illegal substances or activities are permitted.

Why Wolf? The wolf is as close as we could get to a universal symbol of community. Wolves are among Mother Nature's best parents, devoted to the protection and education of the cubs to be responsible and productive members of the pack. We facilitate the Full Moon Rituals (held evenings) and Sabbat Rituals (held on Sunday mornings) at the church. Contact WolfGrove Council for more information: Janice Ader 972 231 2607, Sunsett – (jubal12@juno.com); OPUS 972-530-9626 (opus_the_poet@juno.com).

Community Events:

Betwixt & Between is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community center founded in 1997 to provide a meeting place where people could come together to share, celebrate, rejoice and learn in an atmosphere of understanding, civility and respect. Our mission is to build bridges of understanding between all people regardless of political, religious or cultural affiliation.

Betwixt & Between 4415 Belmont Avenue Dallas, TX 75204
www.betwixt.org

214.821.3340 ~

OCC is a North Texas Pagan Community Center supporting spiritual diversity and dedicated to the principles of respect for the individual and accountability to the community. OCC's mission is to provide a safe, sacred location for fellowship, worship, education and outreach, organized to support those seeking spiritual growth.

Open Circle Spiritual Center 2305 Oak Lane, Suite 4-C 200
Grand Prairie, TX 75051 Toll Free Voice and Fax 866-812-7564
On the web at <http://www.occ-dfw.org>

Contact for Sierra Singles information: Jenny Lehman, (817) 263 1357 or
avidhiker@killerfrogs.com
See the Dallas Sierra Club home page (www.dallassierraclub.org) for
instructions on how to subscribe to the Sierra Singles listserv.

Vegetarian Happenings: Metro 972 988-8687, ext 3104
VegNet: Metro 972 601-9032, ext 3101
<http://dfwnetmall.com/veg/>
vegmaster@dfwnetmall.com

Gloria Dei Nights Coffeehaus is a once a month, first Saturday, outreach program through Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Garland, Texas. Located at 1333 Beltline Road, one block East of the Garland Road intersection. Doors open at 6:30 pm with the shows running from 7 pm to 9:45 pm. NOTICE: REQUESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR IS NOW \$5 with proceeds going towards charitable organizations in and around the Garland area.
gloriadeinights@comcast.net
www.GloriaDeiNights.com/Full fall schedule also available at www.DestinyAcoustics.com

North Texas Traditional Dance Society
Barn/contra dances with live music, No partner or experience
No smoking or Alcohol 1st,3rd,5th, Saturdays,8-11pm 6\$ donation
www.nttds.org info@nttds.org 214-357-8213

Community Wide Solstice Celebration

White Rock Lake: Stone Tables (Buckner Blvd. & Lake Highlands Dr.)
Sunday, June 20th
(4pm -10pm)

In the Tradition of Amy Martin, The North Texas Pagan Community is invited to attend and participate in a Solstice Celebration Sunday June 20, 2004 from 4 PM to 10 PM.

We've got six hours out there:

4pm -5pm: Set Up
5pm -7pm: Meet and Greet
7pm – dark: Main Ceremonies

This year's theme: Our Place Between the Earth and the Sun
A meditative ceremony with audience participation chants.

We also have some wonderful folks from Garland volunteering to do a shamanic drum ceremony to the seven directions; but we are still looking for more – perhaps a temporary labyrinth or other ceremony. Kids activities would be a wonderful addition! Contact Bradley Ellis (214-642-2074, cell)

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BeeGee Books
Brian Ader, Bookseller

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972.231.2607

groovytwo@ev1.net

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grapeape@comcast.net

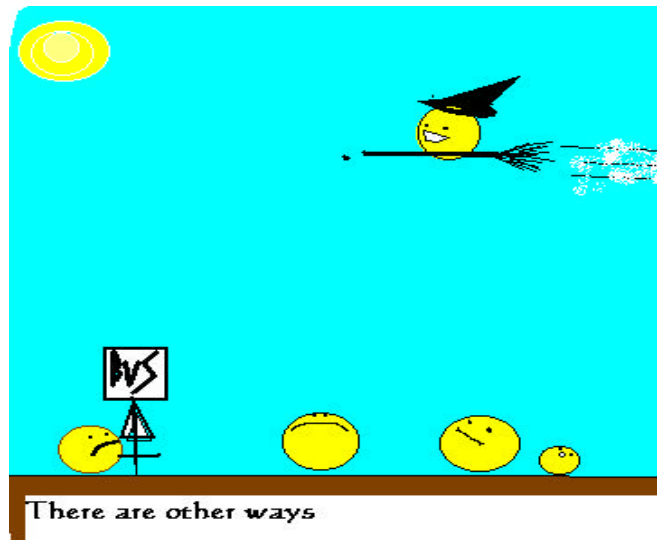
972.644.7617

Swain Wodening Canote – June 27th, 2004 Guest Speaker
Asatru 101

Swain Wodening Canote, author of [Hammer of the Gods: Anglo-Saxon Paganism in Modern Times](#) will be speaking on the historical and present day aspects of the Asatru Faith Path.

Want to Advertise? \$5 per month – contact the Newsletter Editor – housechris@comcast.net

Contact Shannon Ader if you would like to be a part of the Sunday Service - most of the services are actually put on by our own congregation. We have no minister or specific teacher and we all have something to share! If you feel you have a special message some please pull out you chair and share it with all of us. Shannon Ader can help you with the basics if you need. The same for poets and writers: guys its time to let some of you show in our newsletter. Food recipes or art/craft projects, poetry and editorials. Want to hold a class – Great! If you would like to see or be involved in Sunday evening services let our worship coordinator know. We know some of you have too work Sunday morning, and with the heat of summer upon us it could be cooler to get out on an evening service. If you would like to know more or get involved with this possible evening Service again let Shannon know.



Announcing the arrival of Rowan Greywood Wangler
Shae and Ben had a baby on May 11th, 2004 at 1:23 pm Rowan weighed in at
5 lbs 14 oz and was 19 inches long.
This is definitely one way of increasing our congregation!



June

| <i>Sun</i> | <i>Mon</i> | <i>Tue</i> | <i>Wed</i> | <i>Thu</i> | <i>Fri</i> | <i>Sat</i> |
|--|---|---|---|------------|--|---|
| | | 1 | 2 7:30pm Full Moon Ritual | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 10:45 Coffee 11:00 Service 7:30 pm WolfGrove meeting | 7 7:30 pm North Texas Pagan Men's Group | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 12:00PM-10PM Game Room |
| 13 Myth of the Gods JD Conway Potluck After Service | 14 7:30 pm Committee Meetings 8:30 pm Board of Directors | 15 7:30 pm Treasury Committee Work | 16 7:30 pm WolfGrove meeting | 17 | 18 7:30 pm Family Movie Night | 19 7:30 pm Dragon Lair Coven's "open" Ritual |
| 20 Wolf Grove Ritual Fathers Day Newsletter Deadline | 21 7:30 pm North Texas Pagan Men's Group | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 7:30 PM Drum Jam | 26 12:00PM-10PM Game Room |
| 27 10:45 Coffee 11:00 Service Swain Wodening Canote – Guest Speaker <u>Last Lunch</u> (\$5) 12:30 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |
| | | | | | | <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">2004</div> |