

The North Texas Church of Freethought BULLETIN

A Fellowship of Unbelievers

Founded 1994

Vol. XIV No. IV

Sunday, April 6th, 2008

TODAY'S SERVICE

Serious Fun



Today in the April Fool's spirit, we bring you a lighthearted service packed with humor, music, and maybe a little something to feed your mind. Be sure to cheer for our very own "Rock Band," the Lightning Bolts, as they perform for the first time ever at our monthly service. We'll also be treated to our regular "Moment of Science" and "Smell the Roses" segments, which are always crowd-pleasers.

Speaking of April Fools, we can find many foolish statements in the intersection of politics and religion. You know, it is soooooo easy to come up with regular commentary on the subject of religion. For it seems religion-related news is everywhere. Almost always, it raises questions of the most interesting sort. Most recently it has been Democratic Presidential Candidate Barack Obama's 20-year attendance of a Chicago Christian church led by a minister who regularly spewed bigotry, hatred, and anti-American sentiment from the pulpit. Now, perhaps everything has already been said on this subject. The candidate has been widely credited with vindicating himself of 20 years of poor judgment with a good speech. Others have excused the preacher as harboring delusions that are shared by many Americans with African ancestry. But few seem to have asked the obvious: Where was this church's parent body, the United Church of Christ, during the last 20 years? Why did its leadership not take some action over such goings-on in Chicago over all that time? Certainly, one has the feeling, it would have acted had the preacher in question been, say, an openly-practicing homosexual. And then there is this: Would Mr. Obama would have caught less grief if he had been attending the Church of Freethought?

Of course, a service as packed with interesting content as ours is relies primarily on the contributions of our NTCOF members. As members of this valuable organization, it's our responsibility to ensure that it remains the very best source of freethought-related activities in the Metroplex. Freethinkers pride ourselves in being confident and effective communicators of our ideas- after all, as a tiny minority in this area of the Bible Belt, we HAVE to be just to stay afloat in a sea of superstition and supernaturalism. The best way to hone these skills is to present a 5-10 minute talk on any subject you think would be interesting to your fellow free-thinkers. After all, everyone you see presenting today was once sitting in the chair you're in right now. Please see NTCOF Pastoral Director **Tim Gorski** or Executive Director **Zach Moore** at today's Service, or send them an email to explain your idea. You can reach them at:

pastor@churchoffreethought.org
exec-director@churchoffreethought.org

COMING IN MAY

The North Texas Church of Freethought is very proud to be able to bring to the Metroplex Dale McGowan, author of "Parenting Beyond Belief," to speak at our May Service. We've also partnered with the **Freethinkers of UTA** to sponsor a 3 1/2 hour seminar focused on raising good kids without indoctrination in theistic religion. The seminar will take place on Sunday, May 4th, from 2:00 to 5:30 PM, at the University of Texas at Arlington. You can find more information about Dale's book and seminar series at his website:

www.parentingbeyondbelief.com

Folks, you don't want to miss this first-of-its-kind event, so REGISTER TODAY! The fee is only \$40 per person, or \$60 per couple- a SMALL PRICE to pay for something you literally cannot get anywhere else! Feel free to forward this announcement along to ANYONE you know who is struggling to raise GOOD KIDS without theistic indoctrination, thinking about raising secular kids someday, or are trying to instill secular values in their GRANDKIDS! If you don't want this kind of seminar to be a once-in-a-lifetime event, make sure to support our Freethinking community and our Freethinking children by attending!

To register online for the Dallas/Fort Worth seminar please visit:

www.parentingbeyondbelief.com/sem_dfw.htm

DEBATE: IS GOD GOOD?

We recognize that our Freethinking perspective puts us at odds with most traditional religions, and we're usually content to pursue our questions in the company of other Freethinkers. But from time to time, it can be mutually beneficial and educational to interact with those who still hold to superstitions.

To this end, NTCOF Executive Director **Zach Moore** will be debating local Christian apologist **John Ferrer** this coming Thursday, April 10th at 7PM at the University of Texas at Arlington, in room 124 of the Life Sciences Building. The question at issue: "Is God Good?" John will be taking the affirmative, and Zach will be taking the negative position. You may think you know all there is to know about God and morality, but this debate will bring up some crucial issues that you don't want to miss out on. Make a point to be there, and support the side of Freethought!

BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!

It's that time again for us to spill our Freethinker blood to help save the lives of our fellow North Texans, no matter their religious affiliation. Carter BloodCare will be setting up a mobile collection unit at Jason's Deli just after our service- be sure to try to donate! We'll get credit for the attempt **EVEN IF THEY TURN YOU AWAY**. We have a reputation as the most prolific church-based donor group (per capita), so please help us keep it that way! Contact our Outreach Director Cash Foley for more details, and don't miss your chance to do some real, practical good for our community!

NTCOF ADOPTS HIGHWAY!

Regular members will remember the clarion call made by Colin Swards back in November, where he asked "What's The Point" of being Freethinkers if we can't effect positive change in our community as an expression of our commitment to facts and reason over tradition and superstition?

As one step in that direction, **Keith Geissler** has helped the NTCOF to adopt a stretch of highway here in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. And not just any old country road- we've been given the two miles of Northwest Highway between Preston Road and North Central Expressway! This is prime real estate, and gives us the opportunity to really publicize the NTCOF and all the good work we're already doing here in Dallas/Fort Worth, as well as all the good work we're planning to do in the future!

Of course, for a project like this to be successful, we're going to need plenty of cheerful volunteers, who are willing to contribute a few hours to pick up litter and keep our community clean. We really can't pass up the photo opportunities we'll get from picking up trash in front of such megachurches as Park Cities Baptist Church! Contact Keith or Outreach Director **Cash Foley** to be the first volunteer on the list!

FREETHOUGHT IS NOT FREE!
Your generous TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation can be placed in the Rainbow-Colored Box!!
OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT!

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APRIL EVENTS

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and friendly discussion at Jason's Deli in Irving, located just south of I-635 on MacArthur, at 7770 N. MacArthur Blvd., phone (972) 432-0555. Easy driving directions: To reach Jason's from the Holiday Inn: turn RIGHT out of the parking lot onto Esters Blvd., RIGHT onto Freeport Parkway, RIGHT to enter I-635 EAST. Exit I-635 at MacArthur Blvd., then RIGHT onto MacArthur, and RIGHT again just ahead into the Jason's parking lot.

Games Night: The NTCOF Games group meets nearly every Friday night at the smoke-free IHOP at 2310 Stemmons Trail in Dallas. The IHOP is adjacent to the Radisson Hotel along North-west Highway, about a ½ mile east of Loop 12. For the latest details, join the NTCOF Games e-list by sending any e-mail message to:

ntcof_games-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Secular Singles & Food Critics: The Freethinking NTCOF Singles typically meet for lunch and Freethought fellowship on the last Sunday of each month at Mimi's Café in Grapevine, but this month they're joining forces with the new Food Critics group for an exciting Freethought Night Out. You're not going to want to miss this social extravaganza at the **Agave Azul** restaurant in Carrollton. Agave Azul features over 150 "pure blue agave" tequila varieties in their tequila bar, and they also have darn good food, to boot. It's located at 1114 Elm Street, Carrollton, TX 75006, (972) 242-4466. To get up to speed on the NTCOF Secular Singles e-list, just send any email message to:

ntcof_singles-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

And for all your Food Critics questions, contact Social Director **Brad Watson** by email at:

social@churchoffreethought.org

FINANCIAL REPORT

Folks, you hear this over and over, but it's true: Freethought is NOT Free! Our continued growth is only possible through your generous donations and contributions to the church- our success depends on the commitment of ALL our members. We'll be sharing a more detailed financial summary later in the year, but here's a snapshot of our financial activity from last month:

Total Income:	\$1,480.00
Total Expenses:	\$1,185.11
Growth:	+\$294.89