TODAY’S SERVICE

Freethought for the Family

Freethought empowers individuals to embrace facts and reason over superstition and supernaturalism, but it’s not just good for you, it’s good for the whole family! Anyone with any experience with children knows them to be natural scientists, filled with wonder at the world around us, asking questions and trying to figure out how everything works. Encouraging this inquisitive attitude is important, as is providing children with the critical thinking skills that will allow them to make good and ethical decisions as they grow into adulthood.

Joining us today is Dr. Dale McGowan, editor and co-author of the landmark book “Parenting Beyond Belief: Raising Ethical Kids Without Religion.” Dr. McGowan will be speaking to us today about the experiences in his life that led him to research and compile his book, which features contributions from such prominent atheists and freethinkers as Penn Jillette of the illusionist duo “Penn & Teller,” the Saturday Night Live alumna Julia Sweeney, and Dr. Richard Dawkins, author of The God Delusion.

Immediately following today’s service, Dr. McGowan will be conducting a 3 ½ hour seminar hosted by the Freethinkers of UTA, at the University of Texas at Arlington, from 2:00 PM until 5:30 PM in the San Saba and Palo Pinta rooms of the UTA University Center, 300 W. First Street, Arlington, TX 76010. This seminar will be based on the freethinking philosophy of the book, Parenting Beyond Belief, and will offer encouragement and practical solutions for secular parenting in a religious world. The seminar will be registration-only ($40 per person, $60 per couple).

Of course, to keep our services as packed with interesting content as ours are, we rely primarily on the contributions of our NTCOF members. As part of this unique family, it’s our responsibility to ensure that we continue to be the very best source for 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 very seat 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

NTCOF CLEANS UP DALLAS

After we announced our adoption of the two-mile stretch of Northwest Highway between Preston Road and North Central Expressway, Keith Geissler wasted no time in organizing our very first cleanup effort! Since our adopted road is conveniently located next to the North Park Mall, we gathered there at 9:00 AM on Saturday, April 26th, donned bright orange safety vests, and got to work!

For this project to continue to be successful, we’ll be counting on our NTCOF family to cheerfully volunteer no more than four times a year. Our next scheduled cleaning is going to be Saturday, July 26th, so make sure to let Keith or Outreach Director Cash Foley know that they’ll see you there!

From left to right: Colin Sowards, Steve Raatz, Rodrigo Neely, and Jesse Edstrom were just a few of the Freethinkers who showed up on April 26th to clean up Northwest Highway between Preston Road and North Central Expressway.

DEBATE FOLLOW-UP

Thanks to all of the NTCOF family members who were able to come to the debate on April 7th between Executive Director Zach Moore and local Christian apologist John Ferrer at the University of Texas at Arlington. For those who weren’t able to attend, you can find an audio recording of the debate (and coming soon, video) at:

www.drzach.net/debate.htm
We're happy to report that we successfully donated 11 units of blood following the April Service, and with that have saved the lives of 33 individuals in the North Texas area! A hearty congratulations to Outreach Director Cash Foley for organizing the drive, and especially to those of you who donated or tried to donate! For those of you that missed out, we’ll be repeating the drive in August, so you’ll have another chance to do some real, practical good for our community!

BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

MAY 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 Social Luncheon: Sunday, May 25, 1:30 PM. The Freethinking NTCOF Singles meet for lunch and Freethought fellowship on the fourth Sunday each month at Mimi’s Café in Grapevine, located in front of the big Target store along Hwy. 114 just west of Wm. D. Tate; phone 817/410-7270. Join the NTCOF Secular Singles e-list for the latest info. To get on the list, just send any e-mail message to:

ntcof_singles-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Food Critics (tentative): Saturday, May 24th at Babe's Chicken Dinner House in Carrollton, at 5:00 PM. Babe's is a BYOB establishment, so be sure to bring and share some of your favorite adult beverages! Babe's is located at: 1006 West Main Street, Carrollton, Texas 75006; their telephone number is: (972) 245-7773; their website is:  www.babeschicken.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: $1,193.71
- Total Expenses: $1,336.11
- Loss: $142.40

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

The North Texas Church of Freethought
A Fellowship of Unbelievers

Tim Gorski, MD  Pastoral Director
Zachary Moore, PhD Executive Director

Deborah Boak  Youth Director
Cash Foley  Outreach Director
Georgene Harkness  Treasurer
Howard Harkness  Musical Director
Don Lewellyn  Operations Director
Brad Watson  Social Director

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Freethought Night Out: Social Director Brad Watson organized a special combination of the Secular Singles group and the Food Critics Dinner on Saturday, April 26th at Agave Azul in Carrollton. Freethinkers gathered for dinner, drinks (from the fully-stocked tequila bar) and stimulating conversation.