The North Texas Church of Freethought

BULLETIN

A Rational Approach to Religion

Founded 1994

Vol. XIV No. VIII

Sunday, August 3rd, 2008

TODAY’S SERVICE

Turning Freethought Inward

Every month, the North Texas Church of Freethought brings together the largest regular gathering of freethinkers, atheists, agnostics, humanists, secular individuals and families in the state of Texas, and quite possibly the country. Our usual service consists of a mixture of philosophy, history, science, and aesthetics designed to spark your interest and enrich your life. Throughout the month, we provide opportunities to gather socially and make a positive impact in our community. As rewarding this organization is to those who volunteer and support it, the fact that the NTCOF is an organization that requires leadership and logistical considerations is one that we must recognize and, hopefully, use the methods of freethought to address.

Although today’s service will include a few items that are normally carried over from our typical services, we’ll be taking some time to recognize some of the leaders who have stepped in to fill desperately-needed roles in the NTCOF during our recent leadership transition. We’ll also hear from Executive Director Zachary Moore, who will give a short ‘state of the church’ presentation to share information about our finances, attendance, and other items of interest that fall under his management.

With assistance from Operations Director Don Lewellyn, we’ll also be taking a substantial amount of time to go through some feedback sessions that have been specially tailored to include YOU in the possible directions that the NTCOF will take in the future, and give YOU an opportunity to make your opinions, concerns, and suggestions known to the NTCOF’s leadership. Please take a few minutes to think about the following two questions before we engage in discussion, as we feel that getting honest feedback from our NTCOF family members (and visitors!) is the best way to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of freethinkers and other secular individuals and families in the years to come.

What do you think the NTCOF does well?
What do you think the NTCOF could do better?

We’re grateful for your feedback, and are looking forward to making use of your suggestions and comments to further enhance the NTCOF for you as well as future freethinkers such as yourself who will be happy to find an organization dedicated to advancing freethinking values and providing a home for freethinkers in North Texas.

BLOOD DRIVE TODAY!

Outreach Director Cash Foley has organized another crucial blood drive in collaboration with the great people at Carter BloodCare. They'll be meeting us at Jason's Deli immediately after the service, so be sure to make time and come on over to have a sandwich, meet some friends, and save a few strangers' lives. We take great pride in being the (per capita) highest-donating church group partnering with Carter; even if you can't donate, we'll still get credit, so come visit the bus even if it's just to say hello!

NTCOF: BY THE NUMBERS

Through their careful record-keeping, Treasurer Georgene Harkness and Welcome Director Bill Waller have provided data that is presented in the inside two pages. Please take some time to review these figures.

A dedicated group of freethinkers led by Keith Geissler braves the July heat in Dallas to help clean our adopted stretch of freeway.

NTCOF CLEANS UP AGAIN!

On July 26th at 8:30 AM, Keith Geissler organized the second clean-up session for our adopted section of Northwest Highway between Preston Road and North Central Expressway. This is an important community outreach effort in which we are fortunate to be able to take part. Not only are we raising our profile as an organization, but we're taking a proactive approach to help clean up a highly-trafficked public highway. Thanks to Keith and all who were able to participate, and keep in mind that we’ll need more committed volunteers for our third session later this fall.

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WEBSITE: Statistics
June 24th - July 24th

Visits: 756     Visits/Day: 25.2
Page Views: 1945  Pages/Visit: 2.57
Avg. Time: 3:14
New Visits: 64.15%

WEBSITE: Traffic Sources
- Search Engines: 47%
- Direct Traffic: 24%
- Referring Sites: 29%

WEBSITE: Referral Sites
- Google: 37%
- Yahoo: 16%
- Wikipedia: 15%
- RichardDawkins.Net: 4%
- N/A: 28%

WEBSITE: Hits By Page
- Home Page: 71%
- Photos: 6%
- Our Services: 8%
- FAQ: 9%

WEBSITE: Hits By Country
- United States
- Canada
- Australia
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Malaysia
- Germany
- Ecuador
- Japan
- India

WEBSITE: Hits By State
- Texas
- Illinois
- California
- (not set)
- Florida
- North Carolina
- Georgia
- New York
- Virginia
- Massachusetts

WEBSITE: Hits By City
- Dallas
- Addison
- Irving
- Plano
- Coppell
- Garland
- Carrollton
- Texarkana
The North Texas Church of Freethought couldn’t accomplish all that it does without the important volunteer work provided by leaders who serve their fellow freethinkers through a love of freethinking values and a desire to help fulfill our shared mission.

Brad Watson joined the NTCOF family in 1994, and was attracted by its social atmosphere. Through our singles activities, he met the lovely Ginger Campbell, and they were married by Pastoral Director Tim Gorski. An accomplished artist, Brad and Ginger are both 18th-century enthusiasts, as we saw in the July service. Brad volunteered to serve as Social Director of the NTCOF, where he oversees our social activities, and helps to promote friendliness and camaraderie among us all. He also regularly contributes to the monthly service through his “Smell the Roses” segment, which offers an introspective glimpse at the aesthetics of life from a freethought perspective.

August 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@yahooogroups.com

Secular Singles: The Freethinking NTCOF Singles typically meet for lunch and Freethought fellowship on the last Sunday of each month at Mimi’s Café in Grapevine. To get up to speed on the NTCOF Secular Singles please see Jay Campbell, or to subscribe to the e-list, just send any email message to:

ntcof_singles-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

Food Critics: This month, we’ll be at Yao Fuzi in Plano (4757 W. Park Blvd, 214-473-9267, www.yaofuzi.com) on Saturday, August 23rd at 6:00 PM. Invited guests, as long as they are freethinkers, are welcome, but please RSVP for them as well. Also, be sure to bring small bill cash, and smart-casual dress is recommended. Please RSVP by midnight, Sunday August 17th, to Social Director Brad Watson 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: $1,422.02
- Total Expenses: $1,228.09
- Growth: +$193.93