



**Thoreau Woods  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church**

## **THE ORACLE**

*"Conscience is an oracle of the  
Divinity" - William Ellery Channing*

We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

**We now have child care beginning at 9:15 AM until the end of the Sunday morning service.**

**On Sunday, Oct. 23 we will have a congregational meeting as part of Fellowship activities. We will consider some necessary budget modifications. Please be present as we need a quorum. More details are coming before the meeting.**



### Month of October 2016

Sunday, October 2  
Rev. Nell Newton

"Sacred Democracy"

Buried in our 7 Principles is this nugget: "the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society.." Our affirmation of democracy is more than a shared value -- it's rooted in our histories and theologies. But does this mean that we are solely governed by majority rule? No. Not when we're doing our democracy well. In the middle of a particularly spectacular political display, let's take time to reflect on what the democratic process becomes when all voices are heard.



Rev. Nell Newton serves as a community minister through her work with an environmental non-profit. She graduated from Meadville Lombard Theological School and was ordained by the San Marcos UU Fellowship in 2015. She lives in Austin with her husband, a flock of chickens, too many cats, and one sweet dog.

**Sunday, October 9  
Anne True**

**"Sinful Dogma"**

**Anne True is a long-time member of Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church. She lives in Huntsville with her husband and two cats. Her credentials include a B.A. in chemistry from the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Ph.D., also in chemistry from Northwestern University – degrees which in no way shape or form qualify her to speak about religious topics**

**Anne hates cooking, cleaning, sewing and making telephone calls. She enjoys eating, hiking, reading, traveling and nature watching. Currently she is celebrating her empty nest as all three children have headed off to college.**



**In her talk, Anne will be considering the Western Christian concept of Original Sin. During her presentation she will explore not only metaphorical interpretations of Genesis 3, but also how the theology of original sin has affected western culture and philosophy.**

**Sunday, October 16**

**B Sterling**

**"Broken Yet Beautiful"**

**We're broken and often believe that we're unlovable because of it. We hide our shame, issues, and hang-ups and pretend that we've "got it together"; we desperately hope that people won't find us out. Deep down we might hope that even God won't find us out. Can we believe that He loves us...that He sees us as beautiful? Could it be that even at our worst, we can find His love waiting to meet us?**



**B. Sterling is a songwriter who truly draws**

you in with his dynamic vocals and refined, compelling lyrics...not to mention great stage banter. His music pulls from different styles; but, he's always focused on carefully crafted words. A seasoned songwriter and performer, he's toured extensively throughout the country playing large venues, listening rooms, festivals, and house concerts over the past decade. He is also a music educator and has been an orchestra director for over 10 years. However, his first love is still songwriting and he's always eager to hear and share a stirring song or a captivating story.

**Sunday, October 23**

**Fellowship Sunday**

We will have potluck lunch as we usually do on this Sunday. Please bring something to eat and something to share. We will be having a congregational meeting to consider budget modifications. You will receive additional information in advance of the meeting.



**Sunday, October 30**

**Reverend Adam Robinson**

**“When the Veil Is Thinnest”**

Samhain, Halloween, Día De Los Muertos, All Saints Day, All Souls Day. At this time of the year there are many holy days that turn our thoughts to the dead. When reflecting on these celebrations there are some questions that come to mind. When the veil is thinnest it's time to contemplate our mortality and what continues when this life is over.



**\*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday Morning Programs** If you are willing to be the meeting leader, introduce the speaker, read a story or reading (you may provide your own story/reading or read one that has been selected for you), be a greeter, treat the speaker to lunch, please contact Pam Johnson or email [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org). Sign-up is for an individual week.

**Order of Service** If you are willing to take over the weekly OOS, please let Anne True know.

**Worship Committee** If you are willing to be on the Worship Committee, please let Pam Johnson know.

**Religious Education** If you would like to help with RE, please talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

**Building and Grounds** If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at [culp@shsu.edu](mailto:culp@shsu.edu).

**Coffeehouse** If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at [pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net) or call 936-661-4313/936-661-4313. We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers.



**Wish these members and friends born in October a HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**If you have an October birthday, let us know!**

George Roth October 4  
Marcus Gillespie October 5  
Helen Burrow October 6  
Blaine Hinds October 7  
Jeanne Sumrall October 17  
Anne True October 23  
Sunisa Gillespie October 27

DENOMINATIONAL  
EVENTS



EVENTS

The Chamber of Commerce website has an excellent community calendar:  
<http://huntsvilletx.chambermaster.com/events/>.

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**Yes, we are having a COFFEEHOUSE in October!**



## Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse



### **B. Sterling with Sandra Odom opening Saturday, October 15 @ 7 pm, doors open 6:30**

lyrics...not to mention great stage banter. A seasoned songwriter and performer, he's toured extensively throughout the country playing large venues, listening rooms, festivals, and house concerts over the past decade. He's always eager to hear and share a great song and a great story.

- \* 2014 Psalmwriter Competition Winner-1st Place
- \* 2011 and 2013 Kerrville New Folk Finalist
- \* 2013 Texas Songwriter Serenade Finalist

*B. Sterling is my new favorite...his music has made its way into my heart-it's that simple."* -Eliza Gilkyson, *Singer/Songwriter*

For more information, go to <http://bsterlingmusic.com/>.



#### Suggested donation:

\$15, \$10 students/seniors, Coffee & desserts available  
For more information visit website  
[twuuc.org/Coffeehouse.html](http://twuuc.org/Coffeehouse.html)  
or call (936) 661-6332

#### **144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville, TX**

From I-45S: Take exit 112, go north on Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Shortly after you pass Southwood Dr., you will take a right on E. Mosley Lane. From I-45N: Take exit 114, go east on FM 1374 (Montgomery Rd.) to Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Go right. After you pass junction Hwy 19, go .8 mile and take a left on E. Mosley Lane. The church is the last building on the right.

#### Upcoming Concerts

**November 19:** Paper Moon Shiners with Randy Palmer opening

**Book Reviews by Ann Staples**

**The Soul of an Octopus by Sy Montgomery [She wrote The Good, Good Pig.]**

This is a wonderful book about encounters with these exceptional creatures in captivity.

**Alphabetical: How Every Letter Tells a Story by Michael Rosen** An interesting book about each letter of our alphabet.

**Gratitude by Oliver Sacks** This small book is a collection of previously collected essays on end-of-life musings.

**The Lost Book of Moses: the Hunt for the World's Oldest Bible by Chanan Tigay**

A very interesting search for the last fragments that the original owner claimed were genuine. The story is interesting as is the search.

**Hammer Head: the Making of a Carpenter by Nina MacLaughlin** A young woman tires of journalism, answers an ad for a carpenter's assistant, gets the job and writes about her experiences, The carpenter she assisted was a woman.

**The Matthews Men: Seven Brothers and the War Against Hitler's U-Boats by William Geroux.** Well-researched and presented account of the Merchant Marines in WW II, focusing on one small county, most of whose men were in the Merchant Marines as captains or crew members. For a long time, the Merchant Marines were unprotected and the losses were appalling.

**Born of Conviction: White Methodists and Mississippi's Closed Society by Joseph T. Reiff.** A meticulously researched story about the lives of 28 Mississippi white Methodist pastors who signed a statement entitled "Born of Conviction" that was published January 2, 1963

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### **OFFICERS**

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