

## **TRANSITIONS...A message from your President, Linda Ice**

Time marches on, does it not? We are now four months into this time of transition and by all estimations, seem to be doing well! There continues to be an energy and enthusiasm surrounding Westside that will help to see us through this period of change.

There is a lot happening as spring unfolds at Westside!

Mary Noer, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, and her steering committee have an exciting line up of events that will take us through a journey of individual reflection on what we can give back to Westside in the way of our Time, Talent and Treasure. I encourage you to participate in the activities and spend some time thinking about ways you will continue and possibly new opportunities for you to give back to your church community.

The Interim Task Force, led by Chair, Mark McMurry, is just about ready to submit the application packet for our Interim Minister. We feel that Westside is an attractive position with what we have been told is a sound proposed salary and we remain confident that we will be able to secure a qualified accredited interim, trained in the process of moving a church community forward and to the next level! Who knows what the next chapter in Westside's history will bring?

The Interim Task Force has also secured a part time/short term contract minister to provide a visible ministerial presence in our community until our interim minister arrives in late August/early September. We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Reverend Mark Walz to this position! Reverend Walz has been a long-time friend of Westside and was a dear colleague of our Minister Emeritus, Russell Elleven! Reverend Walz is a very compassionate individual interested in promoting the UU faith tradition and lifting up fellow UU churches. He has spoken as a guest speaker at Westside several times through the years and his messages are thought-provoking and have been well received. Reverend Walz continues to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff in a 3/4 time capacity, so will be with us 1/4 time. His time with us, while limited, will be of great service to Westside over the next several months! You will see him in the pulpit on the fourth Sunday of every month beginning in April (he will deliver the Reflection on March 9th as well); he will be available for pastoral care (working in conjunction with our Chaplain Corps) and counseling by appointment; he will be able to perform rites of passage (child dedications, memorial services, marriages, etc); and he will be attending the monthly board meetings and other church events as his schedule allows. Please join me in welcoming Reverend Mark Walz to Westside!