

The Westside Story

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church • 901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, Texas • 11:00 am • www.westsideuu.org

Exploring Westside

If you have been visiting and would like to explore membership at Westside, please plan to attend an informational session on July 21st. The session will begin at 10: 00 a.m. and conclude with lunch. That day we will:

- View a brief video history of Unitarian Universalism
- Hear the history of Westside
- Share your spiritual journey and hear the journeys of others
- Share your expectations of the church
- Hear the expectations the church has of you
- Sign our membership book - if you freely choose
- Eat Pizza! (Let us know if you have special dietary needs)

Please let us know you are coming and if you need childcare by contacting our minister: Dr. Russell Elleven at 817-370-2171 (home) or at doctorelleven@gmail.com

If you are interested in membership but want to join Westside sooner or cannot come to this presentation, please contact Russell.

Save the Date!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2007

Westside's Open House &
Building Dedication

Where's Russell in July?

After traveling about a good bit in June you will see Russell a bit more in July. With the exception of a few days (July 16th – 19th) and one Sunday (July 29th), he should be in town and at church. His office hours are as follows:

- Tuesday, July 3rd - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, July 5th - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 10th - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, July 12th - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 24th - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Thursday, July 26th - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Tuesday, July 31st - 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

At this time we are still working out Russell actually being at the church for office hours. So, for now continue to call him at 817-370-2171. If there is no response, it means he is meeting with another church member and will return your call at the earliest opportunity.

Adult Forum

9:45 AM. – 10:40 AM.

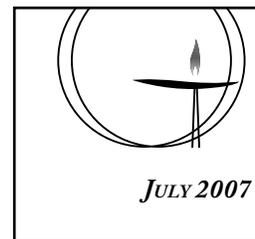
July 1st - "Buddhism, Part I" (Trice)

July 8th - "What is There?" How many different kinds of stuff make up the cosmos? Might everything, in fact, be reducible to one kind of thing? (Furber)

July 15th - "Buddhism, Part II" (Trice)

July 22nd - "The Greek Tragedians on Man's Fate" The ancient philosophers were only part of the rich community of thought and wonder that surrounded the world's first great dramatists and their landmark depth psychologies (Furber)

July 29th - "Jainism" (Trice)



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH MAKES A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR MEMBERS, OUR FAMILIES, AND THE WORLD AT LARGE THROUGH SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS, RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION, AND SOCIAL ACTION.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH WILL GROW AND BECOME A MORE INFLUENTIAL LIBERAL RELIGIOUS PRESENCE THROUGH ACTIVE SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.

Sunday Services

11:00 AM. - 12:00 PM.

July 1st - *Reflections on Freedom* by Linda Jenkins. On this Sunday before July 4th, we will reflect on "freedom" through songs and literature. New Westside member Linda Jenkins draws upon her scholarly background in American studies and women's studies to share with the congregation the thoughts of artists as diverse as Lorraine Hansberry, Leonard Cohen, Azar Nafisi, and Woody Guthrie.

July 8th - *To Be Announced*, David Broiles, ACLU.

July 15th - *My Struggles With Jesus* by Dr. Russell Elleven. In the final installment of his "Struggles" series Russell explores the challenges he has had with Jesus of Nazareth. How does Jesus inform, if at all, your daily life? Russell will explain his viewpoint this Sunday.

July 22nd - *Did Unitarian Universalism Miss an Opportunity To Become A Religion?* by Rev. Don Fielding. According to Loyal Rue, a Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, a religion consists of two ingredients (one of which UUs are sorely lacking). So are we a religion? And if not, what do we need to do to become one - or do we even want to become one? Come and find out.

July 29th - *Gifts from General Assembly*, by Members of Westside UU Church. Those lucky enough to attend GA inevitably return with stories, gifts, newfangled ideas and inspiration. Come see what the 2007 GA offers Westside this year.

*I ALWAYS FEEL THE
DESIRE TO LOOK FOR
THE EXTRAORDINARY
IN ORDINARY THINGS;
TO SUGGEST, NOT TO
IMPOSE, TO LEAVE
ALWAYS A SLIGHT TOUCH
OF MYSTERY IN MY
PAINTINGS.*

- BALTHUS

*CREATIONISTS MAKE
IT SOUND AS THOUGH A
'THEORY' IS SOMETHING
YOU DREAMT UP AFTER
BEING DRUNK ALL
NIGHT.*

- ISAAC ASIMOV

Welcoming Congregation!

The Unitarian Universalist Association has officially recognized Westside as a Welcoming Congregation. You will now notice a rainbow chalice on our website and our listing on the UUA website denotes our status. Once again, congratulations!

Hymnal Cart Donated

Many thanks to Shirley and John Johnson and their daughter, Susie Dycus, for the donation of a book cart to hold the hymnals formerly housed in cardboard boxes. The cart makes the distribution of hymnals each Sunday much easier for the greeters/ushers.

OUR UU COMMUNITY

Report From the Social Justice Committee

The Environmental Defense Fund web site www.environmentaldefense.org has a summer reading list for environmentalists and an opportunity to vote for the book that has been the most influential. The web site also has an update on Global Warming.

The League of Women Voters of the U.S. web site www.lwv.org has some excellent, nonpartisan, objective articles on Immigration.

Closer to home, some of us listened to a very sobering account of conditions at Carswell Federal Prison from Tina Busch-Nema, a School of the Americas protester, who was just released from Carswell after serving a two-month term. Those of you who read the articles on Carswell by Betty Brink in the Fort Worth Weekly will be disheartened to know that nothing has changed. Many very sick women are still not receiving the care they need, the prison is badly in need of repair, and uncaring employees make life very difficult for inmates, some of whom are over 70 years of age.

Darfur: The Unitarian Universalism Service Committee (UUSC) web site, www.uusc.org, urges us to tell Fidelity to divest ALL of its shares from PetroChina Co. and Sinopec Corp. Fidelity Investments divested 91 percent of its New York Stock Exchange holdings in PetroChina and 99 percent of its holdings in Sinopec, two Chinese oil companies that are fueling the genocide in Darfur. However, Fidelity holds the majority of its PetroChina and Sinopec stock on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange where it still owns \$834 million in PetroChina and an estimated \$200 million in Sinopec. Check www.uusc.org for details.

The Social Justice Committee is open to all church members and guests. We are also looking for a new project where we can make a difference in the community. If you have any ideas for such a venture, please contact the Social Justice Chair.

Crafts Supplies Needed

Some friends and I (through Refugee Services of Texas, Inc.) have begun working with a group of Somali refugee women in southeast

Fort Worth. They have expressed an interest in doing crafts while we meet. I think that they could even sell these items to supplement their limited incomes and help their families. Please check to see if you have any of the items listed below that you would be willing to contribute to this project. This effort is through a non-profit so a donation form for tax purposes can be provided if you need one.

- Sandy Myers
817-683-9410

fabric scraps
thread
extra scissors
needles
tape measures
sewing machine (hey, why not ask?)
yarn
knitting needles
crochet hooks
buttons
ribbon
jewelry-making materials
any other usable craft items

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

SWUUSI informational brochures are available on the table outside of sanctuary. This year's institute will be held from July 22nd through July 27th at Lake Murray State Park, Oklahoma.

"A Story Worth Waking up For" is the theme of this year's Summer Institute. Theme speaker and resident artist is Steve Bhaerman. Sunset talks will be by Rev. Valerie Mapstone Ackerman. Numerous workshops are offered, activities for children during the workshops, and many evening activities are also scheduled. This is a family camp sponsored by the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference. The McMahan's (817-294-1363) and the McKeon's (817-455-2536) have been attending SWUUSI since 1967, so you can ask them for additional information. You can also check it out online at: <http://swuuc.org/swussi>

INSIDE WESTSIDE

THE WESTSIDE STORY - JULY 2007

Westside Supports Service Projects

As revealed in the 2007/2008 church year budget and discussed in the congregational meeting May 20, 2007, Westside has eliminated line items for service projects (formerly Westaid and Food Bank) from our budget in favor of designating non-pledge offerings to these service projects. We will begin this practice on July 1st.

The Board has designated Westaid as the recipient of our non-pledge offerings in July. The process for determining future recipients will be finalized in July and published in the August newsletter.

Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to support Westaid by placing cash or checks in the offertory basket when it is passed during worship on Sunday morning. If you usually place cash or checks to fulfill your pledge in the offertory basket, please take extra care to write "pledge" in the memo line on those checks, or to check "pledge" on the outside of the cash envelope available in the offertory basket. All other cash and checks received will be allocated to Westaid. If you place a non-pledge check in the offertory basket in support of Westaid, the Financial Secretary will include that amount in your annual statement of donations. If you place cash in an envelope available in the offertory basket in support of Westaid, write your name on the envelope, and do not check "pledge" on the outside of the envelope, that amount will be included in your annual statement of donations.

Westaid is "an alliance of churches ministering to needs of people on Fort Worth's west side". They serve over 8,000 people annually, and have been in existence for 22 years. Westside has supported Westaid for many years, and Westside member Michael Oglesby represents our church on Westaid's board. The donation Westside makes from the July non-pledge offering will assist Westaid with supporting the increased demand for food while children are home during the summer (rather than eating lunch at school) as well as supporting the needs of families when it comes time for school uniforms and school supplies when children and teens return to school in August. For more information about Westaid and a listing of volunteer opportunities, please see their website at www.westaid.org or call them at 817-737-9338.

*THERE IS NO REASON
THAT THE UNIVERSE
SHOULD BE DESIGNED
FOR OUR CONVENIENCE.*

- JOHN D. BARROW

*THE LURKING SUSPICION
THAT SOMETHING
COULD BE SIMPLIFIED IS
THE WORLD'S RICHEST
SOURCE OF REWARDING
CHALLENGES.*

- EDSEGER DIJKSTRA

New Webmaster Sought

Our existing webmaster will be retiring with the new church year. If you have web skills, would like to learn them (as the current one did), or have a bug to add features the old webmaster has failed to master, this is a golden opportunity. To explore serving the church in this vital function, contact jphuffman@charter.net

Kennedy Fund for the Reduction of Extreme Poverty

Ann Sutherland, chair of the committee to administer the Gino Kennedy Fund, announced the committee will meet for its second session July 5th, 7:00 PM, at Westside UU Church. The group hopes to finalize its choice of an agency to expedite a micro bank program and begin a review of prospective clients. For further information contact Ann Sutherland: ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net

BRIC Report to the Congregation

In July the BRIC will present to the Westside board a draft of the master plan they have been working to develop. In addition to recommendations for building/grounds improvements, the plan will also include recommendations for space allocation. Once the board approves this plan the BRIC will share it with the congregation.

During the month of June the BRIC worked to obtain the congregation's input. Many of you have submitted BRIC forms, and we appreciate your taking the time to follow the process we have implemented. We have also given each Westside committee an opportunity to have a BRIC representative at their monthly meeting so that the committee members' requests could be heard.

We hope this plan serves as our long term "to do" list, but we also think it's important that the plan remains flexible in the event new priorities arise.

In the meantime, further progress has been made with some of our electrical issues, roofing repairs, and other "less glamorous" tasks that need to be addressed.

Finally, the BRIC invited John Huffman to join the committee. John's expertise and his

knowledge of the building is a helpful addition to our group.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday (9/2)

It has been proclaimed from on high (not really, Russell just suggested) that Sunday, September 2nd will be Bring a Friend to Church Sunday. All Westside members are invited to extend the hospitality of our church to their friends on that day. While you are, of course, encouraged to invite your friends to church at any time, September 2nd will be a church-wide effort. Russell knows who he is inviting. Gayle knows who she is inviting. Do you?

Board of Directors Meeting

Please check the church calendar at www.westsideuu.org to find the next meeting date. The incoming Board will establish their regular meeting time this month, and it will be published in the August newsletter.

If you would like to add an agenda item, please contact the church president, Brenda Baldwin, at president@westsideuu.org in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting as an observer, advance notice isn't necessary, but it is appreciated and will provide more effective building access.

If you would like to receive board meeting minutes and/or financial reports, please utilize the links available under "church business" on the church website, or contact Beverly Archibald for minutes and Mark McMurry for financial reports at their phone numbers listed in the church directory or leave a message on the church phone (817-292-3337).

Church Calendar, Contacts & Communication

If you are planning (or canceling) a church event or committee meeting, please send the information to webmaster@westsideuu.org, so the calendar can be updated accordingly. This link to the Webmaster, as well as links to the newsletter editor, committee chairs, the board, and others may be found by clicking on "contact us" near the bottom of the homepage of www.westsideuu.org.

CHANGE HAPPENS BY LISTENING AND THEN STARTING A DIALOGUE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING SOMETHING YOU DON'T BELIEVE IS RIGHT.

- JANE GOODALL

IT IS HORRIFYING THAT WE HAVE TO FIGHT OUR OWN GOVERNMENT TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT.

- ANSEL ADAMS

Announcements of upcoming activities are also included in the insert in each Sunday worship's Order of Service and sent out in the Weekly Web. If you not receiving timely notification of events, please let us know via e-mail or via phone (817-292-3337).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Contemporary Books

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We will next meet AT THE CHURCH on July 22nd. We will discuss House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubus III. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-249-2067 or at Rbilz@earthlink.net.

Dinners for 7 or 9

Dinners for 7 or 9, or Circle Suppers, are a way for people to get together to share a [potluck?] meal and fellowship in order to create and renew friendships and interact with others in the congregation. They will be held 9 times a year on the first weekend of the month. No Dinners will be held in November, December and July.

Here's how it works. Members or friends will sign up for the dinners. You can either sign up as an individual or a couple. If you sign up as a couple, you and your significant other will always be assigned to the same circle. If you sign up as an individual, you are assigned to a group individually. Once signed up, Paul McClellan will contact you two weeks before the Dinner weekend, telling you who are in your group and who is the Host. It is up to the Host to orchestrate when, where, and in what format your dinner together will be. The group make up will be different each time. Sign up sheets are available in the church or on our website.

You can sign up at any time. If you sign up after the two-week contact period, you will be included in the next cycle. If you need to skip a cycle (vacation, too much work, etc.) just let Paul know and he will remove you from the pool of participants for that cycle. For more information contact Paul McClellan at 817-556-9458 or at pclaypool@yahoo.com.

Kimbell Lunch Bunch

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Westsiders and friends gather at the Kimbell for community discussion and a good lunch. Look for a crowded table with familiar faces.

Bridge Night

First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is July 1st. All levels are welcome, and we are always glad to have new players. Please call Ann Sutherland at 817-294-0401 if you wish to attend or to have further information.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

We will have birthday and anniversary celebrations on the first Sunday of each month. Please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The HOFW meets every second Wednesday of each month in our church sanctuary beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending on or before 8:30 pm. The next meeting is July 11th. Westside members Jill Jung and Eric Stevens join Josh Donnoe, recent visitor and a student at TCU, and HOFW member Michael Little in presenting their thoughts as young people on "Matters of Religion, Free-thought, and Life in General." All are invited (especially all us ancients). Many young members of other free-thinking groups in North Texas will also be in attendance. All Humanist meetings are open to visitors, and this particular program should be of interest to all Westside members. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Westside Great Books

Meets the first Sunday of the month at 12:30. The next meeting is July 1st to discuss Bhagavad-Gita, The Song of God. These discussions are held in the sanctuary and newcomers are invited to attend. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Church Camping Trip

Save the Date! October 5th, 6th, & 7th. Bring yourself, tent, sleeping bag and family (kids, dogs, parents, etc) to the annual church camping trip. We will be heading to Cleburne State Park for a great weekend of fun outdoors. Contact Jessica Zinn jzinn@mac.com 817-507-5157 or Bettina Pfeiffenberger Zookittie@gmail.com 817-343-8873 for more details (and more will come as the date gets closer.)

*IF ONE WAY BE BETTER
THAN ANOTHER, THAT
YOU MAY BE SURE IS
NATURE'S WAY.*

- ARISTOTLE

*HE HOPED AND PRAYED
THAT THERE WASN'T
AN AFTERLIFE. THEN
HE REALIZED THERE
WAS A CONTRADICTION
INVOLVED HERE
AND MERELY HOPED
THAT THERE WASN'T AN
AFTERLIFE.*

- DOUGLAS ADAMS

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Board of Directors 2007-2008

President – Brenda Baldwin
Vice-President – Vacant
Secretary – Beverly Archibald
Treasurer – Charles Palmer
Director – Amanda Oglesby
Director – John Nagely
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Audrey Weil

Committee on Ministry

Reed Bilz
Jane Palmer
Maria Schmidt
Mark McMurry
Caroline Nixon

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - Dick Trice 817-446-3840
Building - John Huffman 817-924-9845
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363
Membership - Reed Bilz 817-292-7974
Social Justice - Linda Hanratty 817-924-6629
Religious Education - Jessica Zinn 817-763-0901
Social - Dolores Ruhs 817-249-1829
Worship - Amy Youngblood 817-924-1358

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, May 06, 2007	56	8	64
Sunday, May 13, 2007	73	7	80
Sunday, May 20, 2007	61	12	73
Sunday, May 27, 2007	84	6	90
Monthly Average	68.5	8.3	76.8

The 7 UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
c/o McMahan, 3600 Lawndale Ave.
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by July 20th. Submit announcements for the weekly Order of Service by the Thursday before you want the announcement to appear. Specify where you want your announcement to appear. All submissions should be made to Jane Palmer at Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net or 817-847-9713 or 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131.

Spread the Faith!

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, leave it at the doctor's office, barbershop, wherever it might be read by a potential UU.

Voluntary Simplicity

In September, an eight-week discussion course titled, "Voluntary Simplicity" will be offered at Westside. This program was developed by the Northwest Earth Institute in Portland, Oregon (www.nwei.org). From initial meetings at a handful of Portland-area UU churches in 1994, the idea has spread to over 1,000 study groups in various settings throughout the country.

The course book, about 100 pages, contains a well-chosen, diverse collection of short essays, articles and book excerpts organized around weekly themes. The study group will provide a supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits. Coordinators are Linda McConathy (817-294-5894) and Mary Noer. Please call with any questions.

SESSION THEMES:

- The Meaning of Simplicity • Living More with Less • Your Money or Your Life
- Do You Have the Time? • How Much is Enough? • Swimming Against the Tide
- The Practice of Simplicity

Where: Westside UU Church

When: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1

Cost: \$17 for paperback book "Voluntary Simplicity," includes S&H. All are asked to purchase a copy which is available only from NWEI. A group order will be placed.

DEADLINE for Enrollment: Sunday, August 5th. To enroll, please fill out the form below, or look for the yellow forms on the table outside the sanctuary. Submit form with book payment to Linda or Mary or mail in. There will be a second group if more than 12 enroll as the size will be limited so all will have an opportunity to participate.

An excellent article on this topic, titled "The Best Things in Life Aren't Things": UUs in Search of Simplicity by Bella English, was published in the Sept/Oct 1999 issue of the UU World. It can be read at www.uuworld.org/1999/0999feat2.html

_____ keep top portion _____

Name (s) _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____ E-mail _____

copies of Voluntary Simplicity @ \$17.00 ea _____ Total cost \$ _____

Make checks to: Westside UU Church, note Voluntary Simplicity on Memo line.

Give form & check to Linda McConathy or Mary Noer

OR

Mail to: Linda McConathy, 4340 Wedgworth Ct., Ft. Worth, TX 76133

DEADLINE to ENROLL: August 5th