

The Westside Story

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
901 PAGE AVENUE FORT WORTH, TEXAS • 11:00 AM • WWW.WESTSIDEUU.ORG

SAVE THE DATES!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5TH - 7TH
CHURCH CAMPING TRIP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
KARAOKE NIGHT

OCTOBER 20TH
CHURCH WORKDAY

OCTOBER 27TH
HALLOWEEN PARTY

NOVEMBER 11TH
RE IN THE PARK

MARCH 2ND
CHURCH DEDICATION & OPEN HOUSE

Sunday Services

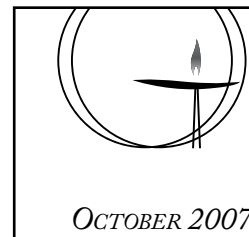
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

October 7th - "Gay Pride at Westside", by Westside Members. As a Welcoming Congregation, Westside celebrates the lives of all people and their ways of expressing their love for each other. Today's service notes the beginning of Tarrant County Gay Pride Week with a service lovingly prepared by our own members.

October 14th - "Now Is the Time! - Association Sunday" by Westside Board Members. "Now Is the Time!" is a campaign to grow Unitarian Universalism. We will join with thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the nation to celebrate our shared commitment on Association Sunday. In this service, we will strengthen the bonds of our common purpose and combine our resources to make Unitarian Universalism a stronger voice for liberal religious values in our country. The Westside Board will be presenting this service, and we look forward to spending it with you in person as well as in spirit with thousands of other UUs across the nation. We are better together.

October 21st - "We Are Family" by Dr. Russell K. Elleven. Did Sister Sledge get it right in what is their most famous song? Are we a family at Westside. Russell will give you his view this Sunday.

October 28th - "The Blessing of the Animals". This popular service that spans the globe and the religions returns to Westside. Plan to bring a photograph and/or memento of your pets and prepare to honor our most cherished companions.



Where's Russell in October?

Office hours for October are each Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Just call him at 817-370-2171 during those hours. Russell will return your call as soon as possible if he is with another church member when you call.

After-Church Lunch Bunch

During the month of October, the lunch bunch will meet at The Covey, 3010 S. Hulen, just north of Charlestons on the west side of the street. Soup or salad is available for \$5.00. Entrees are slightly higher. All are invited.

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 Adult Forum

9:45 AM – 10:40 AM

October 7th, 21st, and 28th - *“The Week That Was”* Forum subjects for these Sundays in October will be open discussions of the important events of the previous week. As world ideas and events get ever more complex and crucial it behooves us to be informed. Come to share, compare and sharpen your thoughts with other knowledgeable Westside UUs.

October 14th - *“Aristotle on the Knowable”* The last in a series of the Great Ideas of Philosophy led by Dr. Ed Furber. Question: If Smith knows that a particular triangle contains 180 degrees because he has measured it, while Jones knows it by definition, do they actually know the same thing?

Building Dedication and Open House

This event has been rescheduled. The new date is Sunday, March 2nd. The early March date will allow us more time to continue refreshing the building and to plan a memorable event as we approach our one year anniversary of ownership. Please block this date on your calendars now so you will be a part of this momentous event in the life of our church.

Karaoke,
y’ all!



Fun and song and frivolity on October 13th at Westside. We are having a Karaoke night for singers and listeners - we really need both. There will be child care for those who sign up before October 7th. There will be wine, lemonade and coffee, and we are asking that you bring a finger food to share. If you want a different beverage, please BYOB. Come at 7:00 pm to

sign up to sing and to socialize; karaoke singing will start at 7:30. We plan for the evening to wind up at about 9:00 p.m. Y’all come, y’hear!

Service Project News for October

Starting this new church year on July 1st, Westside adopted a new approach to funding our service projects. Each month, non-designated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During September, our recipient was Cancer Care of Fort Worth. Member and visitor donations have been generous – thank you!

For the month of October, the board is especially pleased to announce that the UUA’s “Now Is the Time” campaign will be our service project recipient.

In this first year of a five-year campaign to grow our faith, “Now Is the Time” will partner with Time Magazine in print and on the Web with informational advertisements and links that direct readers to their archived articles on current religious and ethical issues and to the UUA web site.

This effort marks the UUA’s first wide-scale campaign to promote Unitarian Universalism via national media in fifty years. Our month long service project supports this marketing effort by expanding upon October 14th’s “Association Sunday” (a day during which thousands of UUs across the nation, including those assembled at Westside, will simultaneously celebrate our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism), making each Sunday in October an “Association Sunday.”

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, treasurer, at charles.palmer@tyson.com, speak to him at church, or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient’s qualifications with two simple criteria: 1) “Do donations to the recipient further our church’s vision and mission?”

and 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?" Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months.

Watch this space for WUU Service Project Successes!

SERVICE PROJECT DONATION RECIPIENTS

JULY 2007
WESTAID

\$853.63 RECEIVED

AUGUST 2007
TARRANT CITY
FOODBANK

\$647.51 RECEIVED

SEPTEMBER 2007
CANCER CARE SERVICES

OCTOBER 2007
UUA "NOW IS THE TIME"
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

NOVEMBER 2007
SOUTH CENTRAL
ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES

DECEMBER 2007
SOMALI-BANTU
EMPOWERING WOMEN
PROGRAM

OUR UU COMMUNITY

Morris Dees to Speak in Dallas

Morris Dees, founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, will speak at The First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy at Preston Road, at 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 5th. This is one part of many lectures, workshops, and activities for all ages planned for this weekend. All are open to the general public with special attention to attracting and engaging members and friends of Unitarian Universalist congregations throughout North Texas.

This is the keynote address for First Church's embRACE conference and the first annual Hardy Sanders Lecture. Tickets start at \$15.00 and can be purchased online. For more information, go to www.dallasuu.org or www.sanderslectures.org.

Food Needed for WestAid

WestAid needs food for its Thanksgiving and Christmas Sacks. Each Sack has everything that is needed to prepare a nice holiday meal for each family that registers. Below is a list of the common items which are needed.

Canned Foods: Green Beans, Corn/Hominy, Other Vegetables, Fruit; Cranberry Relish.

Other items: Flavored Gelatin, Cornbread Mix, Stuffing/Dressing, Instant Potatoes, Chicken Bullion, Cake Mix, Frosting and Ham or Turkey.

If you will bring any items you wish to donate to church in bags, someone will take them to WestAid each week. Leave your bags at the back of the sanctuary to be picked up. WestAid also appreciates cash donations

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*YOU MUST NOT LOSE
FAITH IN HUMAN-
ITY. HUMANITY IS AN
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DROPS OF THE OCEAN
ARE DIRTY, THE OCEAN
DOES NOT BECOME
DIRTY.*

- MOHANDAS GANDHI

(make check to Westside with WestAid in the memo line).

In early November, WestAid will also need extra volunteers to sort and buy any additional items and to prepare the Sacks. If you would like to volunteer, call the WestAid office at 817-737-9338.

Don't forget: Bring food items to church on Sunday, and they will be delivered to WestAid.

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW meets at the church Wednesday, October 10th, at 7:00 pm. The second of a three-part TV documentary, "A Brief History of Disbelief," will be shown and discussed. This is the first-ever historical account of nontheism, proving its existence is not a modern development. Freethink-

FALL CELEBRATION AND AUCTION

FIRST JEFFERSON UU CHURCH
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007
5:30 - 9:00 PM

You are cordially invited to our Fall Celebration and Auction. It's a fun-filled party and auction - both Silent and Live - and we hope to see some of our DFW area UU's in attendance! You will find good food, drinks, music, entertainment, childcare, PLUS many fine goods and services donated by the membership that you can bid on throughout the evening. This year we celebrate together a very significant milestone -- our 60th year in Fort Worth. We'll observe this with a homecoming as we go back to the future.

ALL FESTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE AT:

FIRST JEFFERSON UU CHURCH
1959 SANDY LANE
FORT WORTH, TX 76112

Call the church (817-451-1505) to reserve your tickets in advance.
Advance: \$12 Adult/ \$6 Children 10 and under
At Door: \$15 Adult/ \$8 Children 10 and under

MENU

Lebanese Salad w/ lemon vinaigrette
Talami - Savory round flat bread
Fraraj-Roasted lemon basted chicken
Falafel-Chick pea patties lightly fried (vegetarian)
Baba Ghanoj - Eggplant and tahini dip
Tabouli - Bulgur wheat w/parsley, lemon, tomatoes, green onions

Dessert - Baklava
Ice Tea and Lemonade

Childcare available for children ages birth through age 11. Reservations are needed and can be arranged when you reserve your ticket in advance.

ing has always been with humankind. All WSUUC members, friends and the public are welcome to view the film on our large screen and to all monthly meetings.

Everyone is also invited to the Last Saturday Nite Movie of the Month by HOFW on October 27th. "Born Yesterday" won the Academy and the Golden Globe Awards for best actress (Judy Holliday) in this 1950 film. William Holden and Broderick Crawford also star in this comedy about a corrupt businessman, his uneducated and unsophisticated girl friend, her tutor, and ever present political skullduggery.

The Happy Half-Hour starts at 6:45 in the Fellowship Hall with drinks, cheese and dessert, with the movie beginning promptly at 7:20. Everyone is invited. A donation of \$3.00 is suggested.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Report on Garage Sale

There were many people who contributed to the garage sale. They included Myrtle and Howard McMahan, Brenda Baldwin, Leah Robinson, Beverly Archibald, Mary Alice Cretsinger, Gayle and Russell Elleven, Linda Hanratty, Pennye Lewis, Paul and Joy McClellan, Walt and Linda McConathy, Cathy McConnell, Mark McMurry, John Nagely, Dianne and Charles Nixon, Caroline Nixon, Mary Noer and Bill Terry, Amanda and Mike Oglesby, Bettina Pfeiffenberger, Carl Romano and

Maria Schmidt, Alisha Scott and Kim Paulos, Alan Wilhelm, and Jessica and Paul Zinn.

We earned \$1100.

Thanks to everyone,
- Brenda and Gene McKeon

Board of Directors Report

The Board met with the BRIC on September 4th to discuss priorities for building repair and improvement. The decision was made to move forward, with improvements to the sanctuary as a priority. Our sanctuary will be "under construction" at least three Sundays in October as it is transformed with new paint, new carpet, a few renovations that will provide additional space for seating, and more. Your understanding, as well as your explanations of the "mess" to guests, during this time of transition will be appreciated.

The Board's regular monthly meeting was held September 18th and an additional meeting with the Landscape Architect, the BRIC, Committee on Ministry, and Committee Chairs was held September 19th. We are making good progress with the plan for the outside of our building. Please know there are many people working long hours to support our church in many ways. Your continued support is appreciated and welcome.

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A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN PRACTICE A MORE OUTWARD ORIENTATION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM (*originally published in The Membership Journey*) By Art Brewer, First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto, Canada.



This month, challenge yourself to apply these as you move through your daily life:

1. Tell someone about a provocative thought you heard at church.
2. Wear UU jewelry and clothing
3. Tell return visitors you're glad they came back.

Some key items covered by the Board in September are the following:

- A Search Team to hire a new half-time Director of Religious Education (DRE) is forming. Our former DRE, Brian Dierolf, resigned effective the end of August due to health challenges.
- Efforts to hire a quarter-time administrative assistant are ongoing.
- A discussion of what types of items need to be presented to the Board for approval in advance was held. The items identified include fund-raising activities, monies spent outside of, or over, the budget, representation of the church at events outside of the church, and use of the building for non-church functions and activities outside the normal scope of a committee's activities. For such an item, the Board desires to understand issues related to liability, cost, other resources required, responsible party, the purpose of the function and how it relates to our mission, vision, and Principles and Purposes, and what is needed from the Board to be successful.
- We discussed the church calendar and will be providing Harry Van Dam, our webmaster, some guidelines to assist him with handling calendar requests. All events to be held in the church building must be on the calendar. Church events open to all are to be included on the calendar regardless of location. Church events such as committee meetings held in another location may be on the calendar. No events are to be scheduled on weekdays that will result in groups of people arriving before 6:15 pm without a request for approval being submitted to Russell Elleven, minister, and Brenda Baldwin, president, at least two weeks in advance (normally), and those events should be rare and considered an exception.
- The Board, and specifically Tom Woods, vice-president, is committed

to getting policies, procedures and guidelines updated as soon as possible so they can be made available to members.

Westside has been invited to, and will, join the South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). SCAC serves clients in zip codes 76104, 76109 and 76110. This is an interfaith group, and we look forward to seeing "Unitarian Universalist" on the list of member churches.

As always, members are welcome to attend Board Meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. If you wish to present to the Board, please notify Brenda Baldwin in advance of the meeting. It is also helpful if you will notify Brenda if you are planning to attend as an observer so we can have space at the table for you and watch for your arrival.

BRIC Update

As always, there is much to report as it pertains to the activities of Westside's Building Repair and Improvement Committee (BRIC). Specifically, we would like to use this month's article to acknowledge a few folks outside of the BRIC who have helped us out. We also want to note current projects scheduled for completion and our reasons for selecting these projects in particular.

Acknowledgements

First, we would like to thank Ray Weil for graciously agreeing to refinish our pulpit. We are delighted to have our pulpit back, which had been damaged in the 2005 fire at our McCart location. We appreciate the time and effort Ray put into restoring it -- not only did he accomplish the task, but he completed it months ahead of our scheduled deadline.

We also want to extend our gratitude to Bill Terry who is working to improve our current sound system. We felt improved sound quality has a significant impact on the congregation's worship experience and since we had previously received a grant which, in part, went toward upgrading the

A THING IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE BECAUSE A MAN DIES FOR IT.

-OSCAR WILDE

sound system, we have chosen to make upgrading our sound system a priority. Bill Terry is the PERFECT person to tackle this project – his attention to detail, his engineering background and his patience make him invaluable to the BRIC, and we are very happy to have his assistance!

We would also like to thank Gene McKeon for the numerous contributions he has made in support of the BRIC. In July, Gene agreed to step into the role of chairing the church's Building and Grounds Committee. In August, we asked Gene if he would also act as a liaison between Building and Grounds and the BRIC. Gene agreed and, shortly after accepting this role, had to "pinch hit" for the BRIC and meet with contractors during a time when several projects had been scheduled and BRIC members were unavailable. Thank you Gene for all that you do, both in this role and in the many others you fulfill!

After seven months of existence, the BRIC's project list continues to evolve and it is clear that every bit of progress is a result of the combined efforts of church members and friends. We are grateful for everyone's willingness to contribute and we are excited to see the difference each small detail makes.

And of course, we continue to ask you for more...please don't forget our scheduled workdays. Any help you can offer is of value to us, and will make a difference! Thank you in advance for your help.

Project Updates

As of the writing of this article, the BRIC has scheduled several projects which began on September 17th and are estimated to be complete by mid-October. These projects include:

- **Replace and relocate the HVAC (Heating/Ventilation and Cooling) unit located at the rear of the sanctuary.** We have known all along we needed to replace this unit and, because of the impact it had on the sound quality during the Sunday worship service, we chose to move it to the roof.

- **This project triggered several other projects such as hiring a roofer to cut a hole in the roof for the new unit; bringing in an electrician to address associated electrical issues; and hiring painters to repair the ceiling, torn down in order to complete the HVAC improvements.** HVAC projects of this magnitude typically are not performed in the busy summer months, so we had to wait until September to begin this project. We decided it would be wise to determine what other projects would be logical for us to complete at this time. As a result, the BRIC and the Board chose to do all the others listed below.

- **Complete various electrical projects associated with the HVAC project and while the ceiling is torn down, address any other electrical issues that will enable us to enhance our sound quality.** Since we already had an electrician on site, we thought it would be more cost effective to explore what steps we could take to prepare for sound enhancements, whether we addressed them now or in the future.

- **Hire a sound consultant to help us make wise, long-term decisions and hopefully prevent rework in the future.** The sound professional offered up advice impacting HVAC work, our electrician and even some of other tasks. Bill Terry helped us find the right professional to help us out in this area.

- **Tear down the wall surrounding the old HVAC unit.** We chose to do this because we felt we needed to take every step possible to allow for more seating in our growing congregation.

- **Remove the small, lower stage located at the front of the sanctuary.** This was another step taken to allow for more seating.

- **Remove one set of the double doors entering the rear of the sanctuary, then sheet rock and paint the wall.** This was not part of our original plans,

AFTER YOU HAVE EXHAUSTED WHAT THERE IS IN BUSINESS, POLITICS, CONVIVIALITY, AND SO ON -- HAVE FOUND THAT NONE OF THESE FINALLY SATISFY, OR PERMANENTLY WEAR -- WHAT REMAINS? NATURE REMAINS.

– WALT WHITMAN

but we decided that - since one entry is never used - we would simply cover it up. We also thought this would provide us with a unique space to hang the congregation's nametags, since our current nametag holder is running out of space (another great problem to have!!).

- Patch holes and paint the entire sanctuary. Tearing down the walls, repairing the ceiling (both where the HVAC unit repairs took place and at the front of the sanctuary where the leaks from the roof have occurred in the past), covering up the doors, etc. all result in the need to apply a fresh coat of paint throughout the entire sanctuary.

- Remove and replace the carpet in the sanctuary, hallway, offices and library. Our carpet in the sanctuary is stained and mismatched and the carpet in the hallway/offices is dated and need of repair. We felt replacing the carpet would have a significant impact on the overall appearance of our interior and will provide the finishing touch for this round of interior upgrades!

Choosing to complete all of these interior projects was a difficult decision. There is much to do and only so much money currently available. On September 4, BRIC members met with the board to discuss our overall project list and determine whether we would proceed with all these interior improvements, knowing that we still need to improve things on the building's exterior. After some discussion, it was agreed to do this thorough renovation of the interior rather than selectively completing only a portion of both the interior and exterior improvements. A piecemeal approach would have increased the overall cost to eventually complete all the projects as well as leaving us with incomplete projects on both the interior and exterior.

We are excited about the end-results of this phase of project work, and we hope you are all happy with the improved sound quality and the fresh, clean appearance achieved through these interior projects.

Planning for the exterior projects is ongoing. The Board, BRIC and committee representatives met with our Landscape Architect in September to review the work he has done to date and to give him input before the next phase of his work. When the final plan is in place, the Board will work with us to decide how best to proceed with exterior Repair and Improvements.

RE HAPPENINGS

There is so much excitement and energy among our Religious Education group this year! We've started our new RE year with our new curriculum, and teachers and students alike are revved up. If you haven't checked us out before, don't waste any time. We meet during the latter half of the church service but look for our bulletin board in the hallway with pictures and reviews of events, or just ask any of our students or teachers! Check out some of our future events:

Children's Halloween Party

On October 27th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., please join us at church for one of the best parties of the year. There will be lots of games, contests, prizes, and food - and of course - our spooky piñata. Our youth group will be helping to run the games, and they plan on bringing a dunking machine - careful not to get volunteered for that one!!

RE in the Park

Back by popular demand! On November 11th, our classes will meet at Daggett Park, across the street from the church, at 10:30 am. After being signed in by their parent/guardian, the children and their teachers will have a short worship service, led by our UUYouth, and then separate into their individual classes. Afterward, we will have snacks to share and picnic

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THE OTHERS.*

- MARY FRANCES
KENNEDY

games to play before the adults come back to retrieve their children around 12:30 pm. All are welcome to this favorite event. (There will be child care at the church for nursery age children.)

Westside UU Youth

Our teens are very busy, meeting every Sunday at 12:30 pm at church. They alternate Sundays between discussing our curriculum "UU's according to the Simpsons" and going to do some fun activity.

RE is off to a great start in its new year. On September 9th, seven teens and their leaders watched an episode of the Simpsons and discussed the topic of what is really important in life; what would you do if you only had 24 hours to live? They also shared feelings about the commemoration of September 11th and opinions of where the world is now because of those events. They will meet for another session, using this curriculum, on September 23rd.

On September 30th, the teens will be meeting to plan more upcoming events, things for having fun, for raising money, and for helping out in various ways.

On October 20th, they will be visiting a haunted house and then will be helping to run the games at the children's Halloween Party on October 27th. On November 4th they hope to attend a ropes course for team and leadership building. In December, they hope to be going to play paintball. Of course, all of this takes money – and they have a few ideas about how to raise this money, with your help!

You've Been Flocked!!

To help raise money for the Youth Group activities, the teens would like the congregation to participate in an activity called "Flocking". It works like this: someone will pay the youth group \$20.00 to take 20 or so pink flamingos and place them all over someone else's front yard. The youth will leave a calling card to inform the person that they have just been "flocked" by

the youth group, courtesy of that certain person. They can now pay \$5.00 for the youth to come and "de-flock" the yard (remove the pink flamingos) or choose to pay \$10.00 to flock another member of the church. This other person can be the original instigator or just someone else whom they feel needs the experience. (Dr. Russell Elleven may only be flocked one time, so we may auction off this opportunity!)

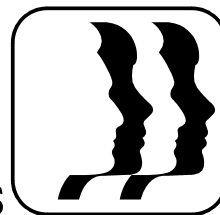
The money will benefit the youth group for its various monthly outings, such as rock climbing, paintball, movies, etc. as we want to be welcoming to all youth, and we don't want expenses to keep anyone from joining us. (This is not a malicious act, nor is it meant to upset anyone. There is always an option of not participating in this event. You can sign up on our "do not flock" list, and you will become off limits.)

We will flock the church first, so ya'll can see the process in action. This is not only important for the Youth to raise money for their outings but it is also a great bonding activity, and it is fun! The youth want to make their own way, not just have adults pay for their activities, and this is a way they can do it.

Thank you for all your support. Look for the flamingos and the sign-up sheets in the hallway, or just talk to any teen. And don't miss the pictures of the homes that have been flocked!

- Alisha Scott
Westside Emerson UU Youth Group

New Faces



Welcome Nancy VanBoskirk
Nancy VanBoskirk, one of our new members, is an accomplished addition to our congregation. The first time Nancy came to Westside, she came to preach a Sunday

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ASPIRATION.*

- SIGMUND FREUD

sermon. Nancy, an ordained Disciples of Christ minister, conducted the funeral service for a hospice patient for whom Linda McConathy was a volunteer. Walt and Linda attended the service and were impressed with Nancy, invited her to Westside, and Nancy, in turn, was impressed with us. She says that one of the things she likes best about Westside is the people.

Born in Guymon, Oklahoma, in the panhandle, Nancy moved to Batavia, New York, when she was fourteen. Her family – parents and two sisters – enjoyed traveling, so the family had many interesting travel experiences together. Nancy says she has seen Niagara Falls from all sides and in all seasons, even when the American side was “turned off” for repairs.

She returned to Oklahoma for college, graduating from Phillips University in Enid. Nancy was married by the time she finished college, and has two daughters, Laura and Amy. Laura lives with her husband in Steamboat Springs, and Amy, whom Nancy calls “a natural healer”, is coming to Fort Worth to live with Nancy while she works on getting her massage therapy license and masters in acupuncture.

Nancy was a sociology major in college, but, coming from a long line of ministers, eventually ended up at Brite Divinity School and became an ordained minister. After being an associate pastor at Hurst Christian Church, she found her ministerial niche as a hospice chaplain, working for VITAS Hospice Care in Fort Worth for eight years.

When asked why she left the ministry, Nancy says that feminism was what precipitated her decision; the patriarchal structure of the church was stifling to her and went against her principles. Also, after an extensive investigation of her own theology/Christology she recognized she could no longer legitimately call herself a Christian.

She and her husband started a TRIO program at Temple College called Student Support Services, a component of which

was financial counseling. This is where Nancy really hit her stride. After working at TCU and North Texas in financial aid and as an academic advisor, she ended in her current job as loan coordinator at the North Texas Health Science Center. And she loves her job!

Nancy has a dog named Droxie, enjoys organic gardening, reading, walking, and singing. She plans to continue immersing herself in the congregation and its doings, adding activities as she has the time and energy. The choir has already made its claim on her.

When asked why she decided to join Westside, Nancy said she felt the need for roots; she wants and needs to be settled and have a church home. We are glad that she chose to settle at Westside.

Nancy VanBoskirk
1869 Rand Street
Fort Worth 96103
Home 817-536-5083, cell 817-565-5083
nancyvbh@yahoo.com

Meet Sally Sloan

Sally Sloan is originally from a small town outside Tulsa, Oklahoma, but has lived in Texas for 19 years. She attended Oklahoma State University and currently works for the owners of Williamson-Dickies. She is divorced and has 2 children, Katie, 26 years old and Chip, 24 years old.

Sally enjoys quilting, gardening and cooking, so we look forward to her additions to potluck! Though a lover of coffee, Sally has never been in a Starbucks - so it can be done!

Though Sally grew up at a First United Methodist Church, she came to Westside UU because of her “inability to reconcile those “traditional” religious beliefs with reality. This is the first church that has made sense to me.” She prefers thought to blind belief.

Sally specifically enjoys the friendliness and acceptance of everyone at the church. She is a welcome addition at Westside!

Alisha Scott & Kimberly Paulos Join Westside

New members Alisha Scott and Kimberly Paulos reside in Azle with their two children, Justin 17 and Caitlin 13. Alisha and Kimberly have been together for seven and one-half years. They had their first commitment ceremony here in Fort Worth six years ago and followed that up with a ceremony last year in Vermont.

They share their home with Abby, the schnauzer; Mikey, the husky, Serena, the cat; and Zena the ferret. Justin plays soccer and enjoys video games and computers. He is learning to play guitar when not hanging out with friends. Caitlin likes talking to her friends online, spending time with friends, reading, writing stories, and anything Japanese. She is even interested in learning to speak Japanese.

Kimberly was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, but moved to Carlsbad, New Mexico, when she was six and remained there through high school. She moved to Texas in 1994. Alisha is a native of Fort Worth, having been born at Carswell Hospital.

Kimberly is employed as a pharmacy technician at Lifecare Hospital in Southwest Fort Worth. She has an associate of arts degree and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology at Columbia College at the Joint Reserve Military Base. Her long-term goal is to be a school counselor. Alisha works in the IT Department at RediMix Concrete and loves her job. She thinks computers are fun. She graduated from Arlington High School and is currently attending Columbia College, working on a bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in education. She wants to eventually become a teacher.

Kimberly enjoys reading, dancing, swimming in their pool, and learning. She dabbles in astrology and psychology with the goal of better understanding how people tick. She loves to travel and plan trips. Alisha likes tinkering with computers, building things, writing, swimming, sports, and camping. She likes to be active

and is told that she is good at organizing events and parties. Given her successful efforts to start the WW Youth Group, I would agree.

Alisha spent seven months in Iraq with the military returning, about 18 months ago. She is in the Navy Seabees reserves. Kimberly's claim to fame is that her birthday is New Year's Eve, the perfect birth date for parents seeking the maximum income tax deduction.

Kimberly was raised in the Church of Christ but attended a nondenominational church as a teenager. Alisha does not have a religious background but is learning. Kimberly and Alisha attended First Jefferson a couple of years ago for a few months, but it didn't click. Kimberly found Westside on the internet. They both realize the importance of community and like Westside because it is a community of people with the same religious ideas. Kimberly enjoys learning about different religions. She also appreciates the friendly, accepting church members. Acceptance is something they struggle with in a religious setting since they are a lesbian family. Alisha likes the friendliness and open-mindedness of the church. She also thinks Russell is a great minister and enjoys his lessons.

They like the energy of the church and are excited about helping to start the UU Youth Group because they think community is important for Justin and Caitlin. Alisha said she joined the church because she felt she belonged here. We agree that the entire family belongs at Westside.

Say Hello to Sandy Olah & Susan Farris

Sandy Olah and Susan Farris started attending Westside in the spring of this year. Sandy is originally from Cocoa, Florida, but moved to Fort Worth in 1985. She got her education at Weatherford College in agriculture business and farm and ranch operations, working for a large chunk of her life on a cattle ranch. She also worked for ten years as a vet tech. She's been working with Russell Feed and Supply as an assistant operations manager since 1991, but her hobbies are build-

THE WESTSIDE STORY
OCTOBER 2007

*GOD GIVES EVERY BIRD
HIS WORM, BUT HE DOES
NOT THROW IT INTO THE
NEST.*

- SWEDISH PROVERB

ing and repairing things. (WOO-HOO – we sure can use her around here!!) She also loves to camp and be on the lake, socializing with family and friends, and trying different beers! Ask her to play her trumpet sometime – sophomore year in high school she was awarded “The Most Outstanding Sophomore of the Year” for her superior rating at the state level for her trumpet solo!

Susan moved around in an Air Force household but has lived most of her life in Fort Worth. She earned degrees in civil construction technology and architectural technology from Tarrant County College and has been designing commercial and residential buildings and spaces since 1989. Susan enjoys working on computers and designing and programming websites, but her current focus is to regain her fitness and find fun ways to shake up her fitness routine! Suggestions anyone?

Sandy and Susan have been together for seven years. They have two dogs, Rowdy and Gizmo, and Saigon, their 10-year-old cat. Sandy says she really likes the friendliness and community at Westside, the freedom to be herself and express her opinions. Susan agrees, adding that she grew up with little to no religious experiences and she enjoys the freedom of thought encouraged here, and feels it is the right place for her to explore the spiritual part of her life.

We are so happy to have these two women as part of our church – we are immensely richer with them in our community! Welcome!

**Dwayne and Patty Blackwell,
New Additions to Westside**
By Elizabeth Campbell

Dwayne and Patty Blackwell wanted to find a church that accepted people from diverse spiritual and intellectual backgrounds. For Dwayne, exploring Buddhism and Judaism were important milestones in his spiritual journey. He described growing up as a Methodist before becoming an Episcopalian. Patty grew up in the Southern Baptist church,

but became an Episcopalian when she married Dwayne. “The Unitarian church not only accepts people from different spiritual backgrounds, but it welcomes different orientations,” Dwayne said. Before joining Westside, Dwayne explored Buddhism, spent time as a disciple of Satchidananda, and taught Hatha yoga. He also attended the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado.

The Blackwells, who are retired teachers from the Northwest Independent School District, moved to Granbury three years ago. Dwayne, a graduate of the University of North Texas, taught a variety of subjects including debate and government. Patty taught English, Lincoln/Douglas debate and journalism classes. She graduated from Pan American University and took graduate level courses at the University of North Texas and the University of Colorado.

The Blackwells learned about Westside on the Internet, and they visited while the congregation met at Temple Beth El. They continued visiting when they found out about Westside’s building. “Russell is very friendly and accepting. We like him as a person, and the people at Westside were very friendly and welcoming, unlike other places that we had been to,” Dwayne said.

The Blackwells have four children and two grandchildren. Dwayne enjoys reading and writing. Patty loves antiques, and she has several booths at an antique mall in Glen Rose. Dwayne said he and Patty look forward to being a part of Westside as the church continues to grow.

Board of Directors Meeting

The standing meeting of the Westside UU Church board is the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Please check the church calendar at www.westsideuu.org to verify the meeting date, as it is sometimes necessary to meet at another and/or an additional time.

*KINDNESS IS LOVING
PEOPLE MORE THAN
THEY DESERVE.*

- JOSEPH JOUBERT

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 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 Charles Palmer 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 calendar@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.

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 are not receiving timely notification of events, please let us know via e-mail or via phone (817-292-3337).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Bridge Night – First Sunday of each month from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the church. The next night is October 7th. 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.

After-Church Potluck Lunch – Third Sunday of each month. The next one will be October 21st. Please join us for food and fellowship. A special table is reserved for visitors and newcomers.

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of each month at 6:30 pm. The next meeting is October 28th to discuss *Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott. We will meet at the home of Ann Sutherland. Call 817-292-7974 for more information.

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

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.

Westside Great Books - First Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. The next meeting is October 7th. The selection is Flannery O'Connor's beguiling and engaging short story "Everything That Rises Must Converge." This fascinating, very short story will make an arresting discussion. Visitors are most welcome to come and sit in. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Annual Church Camping Trip - October 5th, 6th, & 7th. We are heading to Cleburne State Park with dogs, kids, teens, adults, tents, sleeping bags, burgers, fajitas (for omnivores & herbivores), pancakes, breakfast tacos, sandwiches, games, scavenger hunts, rest & relaxation, nature hikes, and lots more. Don't miss it!! Contact Bettina Pfeiffenberger at 817-343-8873 or at Zookittie@gmail.com or Jessica Zinn at 817-507-5157 or at jzinn@mac.com to reserve your spot and to get more information.

Dinners for Nine - For information, contact Dolores Ruhs, Social Chair, at 817-24-1829 or at ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Board of Directors 2007-2008

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

Committee on Ministry

Chair - Caroline Nixon 817-922-9742
Reed Bilz
Jane Palmer
Maria Schmidt
Mark McMurry

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - Vacant
Building - Gene McKeon 817-921-3692
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363
Membership - John Nagely 817-292-3629
Social Justice - David Burlingame 817-294-0401
Religious Education - Jessica Zinn 817-763-0901
Social - Dolores Ruhs 817-249-1829
Worship - Amy Youngblood 817-924-1358



This congregation has taken part in the UUA Welcoming Congregation Program to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by October 19th. 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.

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, August 05, 2007	72	11	83
Sunday, August 12, 2007	71	8	79
Sunday, August 19, 2007	99	5	104
Sunday, August 26, 2007	78	9	87
Monthly Average	80	8.3	88.3

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.

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, share it with a potential UU.