

THE Westside Story

NOVEMBER 2006

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Now holding services at Angel of Hope Church, 901 Page Ave. • 11:30 am • www.westsideuu.org

Welcoming Congregation Series Continues

On November 5th Russell will be leading the second of six Welcoming Congregation educational programs. The session will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the church. The congregational support thus far has been wonderful. Watch your email inbox for specific program specifics.

The Welcoming Congregation session previously scheduled for December 3rd has been postponed to January, and subsequent sessions will be moved out one month. Thus, the final session will be April 8th rather than March 11th.

Where's Russell in November?

Russell will be delivering one reflection in November. That will be the Sunday of November 12th addressing the topic of doubt. The prior Sunday, November 5th, he will offer the second of the six Welcoming Congregation educational sessions. He and Gayle will be out of town Potluck Sunday, November 19th, to celebrate a family birthday in downtown beautiful Beaumont.

Office hours during November will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Just call him at 817-370-2171 during those hours. If there is no response it means he is meeting with another church member.

SUNDAY SERVICES (11:30 am -12:30 pm)

November 5th

Children's Sabbath

Since 1991, people of faith have gathered together on a designated Sunday for Children's Sabbath, a program sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, founded and led by Marian Wright Edelman. Buddhists, Bahá'is, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and we Unitarian Universalists have devoted our worship and, sometimes, worshipped together in interfaith solidarity, solely for the purpose of hearing, seeing and meeting the needs of the children. As Marian Wright Edelman says, "Our children cry for it; our religious teachings demand it."

November 12th

Doubting Thomas!

Dr. Russell Elleven

Many of us are Unitarian Universalists because at some time we have doubted more traditional religious expressions. Is doubt a good thing? Can we doubt too much. Are there dangers when one becomes known as a Doubting Thomas?

Russell will share his thoughts with you this Sunday.

November 19th

The Invitation

Caroline Nixon

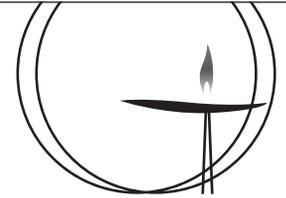
Caroline will read Oriah Mountain Dreamer's well-known poem, "The Invitation" for the congregation. The beloved poem shares a unique message that inspires and challenges individuals to live their lives with true intimacy and joy. Caroline will explain the story behind the poem's popularity and share both Oriah's and her own reflections. Prepare to hear a 'fresh and spirited call to live life more passionately and honestly.'

November 26th

Being Human Religiously

by Davidson Loehr of First UU Church of Austin.

If religion is about living in relation with high ideals, why do it? Why torment ourselves with ideals higher than we can possibly achieve? This sermon delves into the answers to these questions.



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.

OUR UU COMMUNITY

Westside Joins the Crop Walk

Crop Walk is a program sponsored by Church World Service. The concept revolves around the fact that millions of people around the world walk long distances every day - to get water, to find safe shelter, to go to school, to farm distant fields, to take goods and produce to market and to find medical care when illness strikes. Many walk each and every day to bring home food for their families. We Walk because They Walk - the idea is to get a sponsor and participate in the local walk here in Fort Worth. The walk will take place on November 5, 2006, on the TCU campus and will begin with sign-in at 1:30. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m.

We will be meeting at the Dee J. Kelly Center at Cantey and Stadium Drive. If you are interested in participating, please let Louanne Rice know. She can be reached at 817-295-1976 or ricezech@mindspring.com. Local information can also be found at www.fortworthcrop.org.

Community Conversations Continue

The November 21st Community Conversation topic will be *Your Refugee Neighbors in Tarrant County: Where Do They Come From, How Do They Get Here, What is Their Future?* Since the 1970s, large numbers of refugees, asylees and victims of human trafficking have resettled in Tarrant County. The numbers have been down in recent years but for the past five years the statistics are:

2001 - 552	2002 - 366	2003 - 344
2004 - 470	2005 - 507	

You might be surprised to learn that the most famous trafficking case happened in the Fairmount area about four years ago! There is a very large Vietnamese population living in Arlington and the Haltom City area and a significant Bosnian population sprinkled across southwest Fort Worth and a large Somali Bantu community in east Fort Worth. The Kurds live primarily in south Arlington and the Sudanese all over. There are several Congolese churches in HEB and a Sudanese church in the Wedgewood area. The next large group to be resettled by the three Tarrant County resettlement agencies is the ethnic minority Burmese who have spent more than two decades as internally displaced persons in Thailand. What kind of help will these large families need and how will they be doing ten years from now? The presenter will be Kimberly Cooper, Area Director for Refugee Services of Texas, Inc. who has recently returned from Accra, Ghana where she visited refugee camps.

Beth El Sponsors Bone Marrow Drive

Westside has a long-standing relationship with the Beth El Congregation who graciously shared their beautiful facility with us after our church was lost in a fire. Many of us shared a Shabbat service with their congregation earlier this year. They have now shared the following letter with Westsiders who are encouraged to help out with the Beth El Bone Marrow Drive in any way possible.

Dear friends—Brigitte Altman, a longtime member of Beth El Congregation and beloved member of our community, has a daughter-in-law who is in need of a bone marrow transplant. Beth El is sponsoring a bone marrow recruitment drive on Sunday, November 5th, from 9:30—11:30 a.m. at the Temple in hopes of finding a match for Lynn Altman as well as for thousands of others around the country waiting for a transplant.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 60 and in good health, I urge you to participate in this endeavor. The registration process requires that you sign a consent form and give a small blood sample which will be tissue typed. Donor results are then entered into a confidential national registry, which is available only to transplant center coordinators looking for a match. This does not obligate you to proceed with a bone marrow donation.

As Brigitte said, "We are grateful for anyone who helps and we feel good knowing that even if it isn't Lynn for whom a match is found, certainly someone's life will be changed by this drive."

Please help if you can. Beth El is located at 4900 Briarhaven, Fort Worth 76109.

WestAid's Holiday Meal Program

WestAid is preparing for the Holiday Meals that will be given out again this year. Families and individuals can register to receive food for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Thanksgiving sign-up is from November 8-14. Distribution is November 20, 21. Christmas sign-up is from December 6th to the 13th. Distribution will be December 20th and 21st. Families can sign up for one or the other. No charge.

How can you help? Publicize to your church, business, school, service club or other groups the needed food items; volunteer to transport food to WestAid; help sort, stock, sack, and distribute the food orders at WestAid; make cash and food donations.

This program is totally dependent upon intentional giving. The following food items are needed for each holiday meal given away: canned green beans, cornbread mix, canned corn/hominy, stuffing/ dressing, canned vegetables, instant potatoes, canned fruit, chicken bullion, canned cranberry, cake mix, flavored gelatin, cake frosting, and ham or turkey

Michael Oglesby will pick up any check or food donations on Sunday, November 5th, and deliver them to WestAid on behalf of our congregation.

OUR UU COMMUNITY

What Works:

Success Stories in Church Leadership

Someone is doing things right. Lots of folks! Lots of churches! Unitarian Universalism is growing across the Southwest District and the rest of the country at a time when our faith is greatly needed. At the 2006 SWUUC Fall Conference at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge on November 10-12, 2006, we'll gather people with success stories in UU church leadership from around the Southwest District and the UUA. Our theme speaker will be Rev. Michael Schuler, Parish Minister of the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin, one of the largest and most successful UU congregations in the country. Come learn from Rev. Schuler and other UU's to grow your spirit and to help your own congregation prosper. Take time to enjoy the cuisine and music for which Louisiana is famous! An optional Sunday day trip to the storm-ravaged areas of New Orleans and an optional post-conference relief work opportunity are also planned. Conference registration forms are available at your church, at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge website (<http://unitarianchurchbr.com>), or by calling the church at 225-926-2291. Registration is just \$80 if post-marked by October 20.

Oak Cliff UU's Fall Festival and Chili Cook-Off

On Saturday November 4th, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Oak Cliff is having a Fall Festival and Chili Cook-off at the UUCOC in Oak Cliff. The address is 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas, TX 75233

The festival will start at 10:00 a.m., and there will be a concert from about 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. There will be a bounce house for the kids and other activities they can participate in. There will be games and face painters. There will be some things for the adults as well.

If you have any questions please contact Gene Dailey at 214-475-0638 genotc@sbcglobal.net

Oak Cliff Coffee House Welcomes Westsiders

UU Church of Oak Cliff sponsors a monthly coffee house called "The Labyrinth Walk Coffee House" which includes music and other entertainment. The coffee house opens on the fourth Saturday of each month at 3839 W. Kiest Blvd., Dallas TX 75233. The next performance will be Karen Mal, Ken Gaines and Abi Tapia on November 25th. Tickets are \$12.00 at the door and \$10.00 in advance, except for the November performance which is \$3 more. The doors open at 8:00 p.m., but many people come earlier.

This is not a religious service, but members report it has attracted many visitors to the church. For more information, call 214-337-2429.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting

Plan to attend the congregational meeting on Sunday, December 3, 9:30 a.m. at church. Light snacks and drinks will be available. Childcare will be provided.

Agenda:

- 1) Presentation of Financial Information and Committee Activities;
- 2) Discussion of Proposals for Securing a Meeting Place for Westside Church;
- 3) Vote on Plan of Action for Securing a Meeting Place for Westside Church.

More details regarding options for securing a meeting place for Westside will be provided to members in late November for their review prior to the meeting.

Getting to Know You Sunday, November 19 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for a group discussion on a selected topic following a brief reading. This group is intended to strengthen our congregation through time spent sharing our thoughts and listening to others. Both short-time and long-time members and friends are sure to find something to talk about or to learn something new about another participant.

We had our first discussion October 22, and 10 people learned a bit about others' experiences with and thoughts about "approval". The November discussion will begin with the topic "perfection". Please join the group! If the group is too large for everyone to fully participate, we'll break into two groups.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Seekers Class Offered to Newcomers

Another Seekers Class is being offered on December 3rd, starting at 1:00 P.M. The class is designed for visitors who are interested in membership in Westside Church. The schedule follows.

Get acquainted and light lunch: 1:00-2:00
History and organization of Westside: 1:30-2:30
Video on U.U. history: 2:30-3:00
Break: 3:00-3:15
What do I give to Church, what do I get?
A discussion led by Rev. Elleven: 3:15-4:00

Sign up at the visitors' table if you can attend. If childcare is needed, give the number and age of children when you sign up.

Hymnal Sponsorship

Do you ever look at the bookplates on the inside front covers of our hymnals? They represent the lasting love or respect we have for others in our lives, and it is a joy to open a hymnal and read the name of a loved one. A member or friend of Westside sponsored each, and we are again offering this opportunity for the additional new hymnals which have been purchased for our Sunday services.

The bookplates read:

THIS BOOK GIVEN IN HONOR OF

_____ BY _____

THIS BOOK GIVEN IN MEMORY OF

_____ BY _____

Only four remain available. The cost is \$30 per hymnal. Please be looking for a form in the Order of Service in the coming weeks. For more information, call Linda McConathy 817-294-5894.

Reduce Pollution and Raise Funds

One Cartridge at a Time

Thank you to all the donors of empty ink cartridges! The Religious Education Committee is continuing to accept your printer cartridges when they're out of ink. We send them to a company that recycles them, and we receive 50 cents to \$4.00 for each cartridge. They accept most cartridges except Epson and Canon BCI.

We've already made over \$100! The funds are used to purchase new supplies and snacks for the RE program. Place your empty cartridges in a Ziploc or plastic bag, and bring them to church. You can hand deliver them to Caroline Nixon, or leave them in the RE office.

Thanks for your support!

Piano Dedication

On November 12th, during the Sunday morning worship service, we will be dedicating our new piano with the presentation of a plaque. This piano was purchased to replace the one that was burned in the fire in the spring of 2005 while we were meeting on McCart. The original piano was purchased as a memorial to Dick Smith, who, with his wife Ann, was a long time member and avid supporter of Westside UU Church.

Dick Smith was respected and loved by all who knew him. This sounds trite, but it is really true. In talking with people about Dick, he was referred to as "a treasure", "a mediator", "always saw the best in people", "very committed to the church", and "a loving and devoted husband." One person said, "I think every person at church felt Dick viewed them as a friend. He had a special way of accepting people and making them feel special and comfortable with him - that's why he was so loved by all. He had the ability to bring out the best in people." Among Dick's many interests and abilities was music, and he saw to it that music was an integral part of Westside.

Dick was President of the Board of Westside. He took office July 1, 2001, and was tragically killed on July 4, 2001. The outpouring of love and grief took shape in the purchase of a piano, which was dedicated in February of 2002 to the memory of Dick Smith.

After a thorough search coordinated by Charles Palmer, both in Fort Worth and in Dallas, the congregation's pianists and Cathy McConnell reached a consensus. After trying out five different brands, they all agreed to recommend the new Kawai model K3 upright, which the church purchased and which is now being used in our worship services. They all like the touch and the sound of the instrument, and we all enjoy it as well.

Ann Smith, Dick's widow, continued to attend and be active at Westside. She has recently retired and moved to Katie, TX. Ann will be with us on November 12th for the dedication of the piano, and we hope that as many of you as possible will join us for this event, which is meant to formalize Westside's intention to fully recover from the fire.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

of Hope service projects: to make sandwiches at the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Contact Kim Haymon, cell: 817-726-6856. Donations accepted in "Turner Projects" (large plastic jug) on the front left platform of the church.

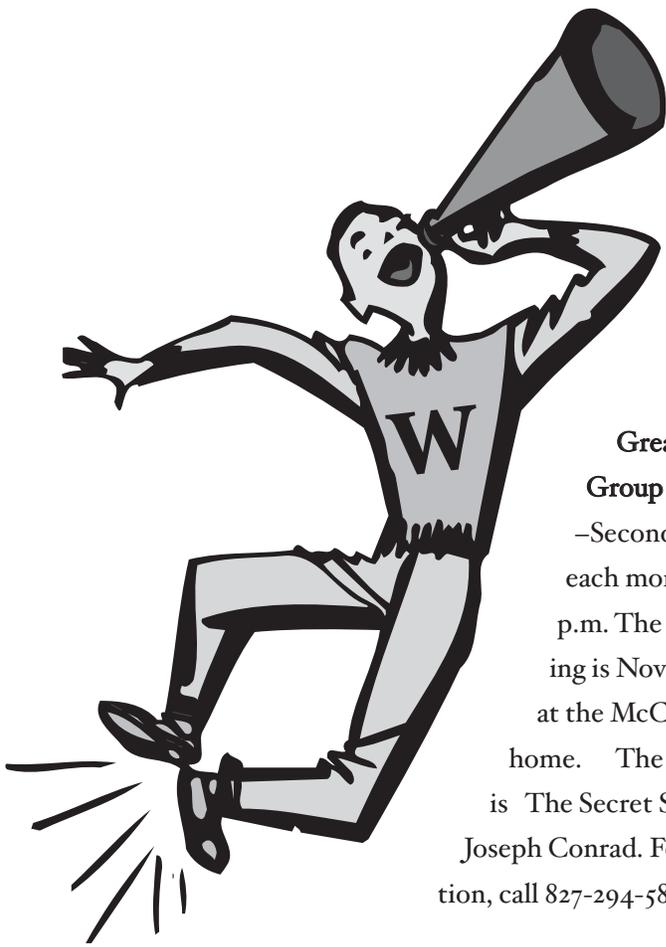
Halloween party!! Oct. 28th, from 2-4pm at the church!

Don't let the kiddos miss this – it is one of the best parties of the year! We'll have games and a craft, a piñata, not to mention a contest or two! Don't forget to wear your costume and bring a friend! Halloween party!! Oct. 28th, from 2-4pm at the church! Don't let the kiddos miss this – it is one of the best parties of the year!

We'll have games and a craft, a piñata, not to mention a contest or two! Don't forget to wear your costume and bring a friend!

Church Fall Camping trip – November 10th-12th. We're going a little later this year with the hopes it will be a little cooler, but not TOO cool! We will be at Mineral Wells State Park. We'll do our planned Saturday meals (a veritable feast for dinner – fajitas, with all the fixin's!), play cards, go hiking, perhaps our scavenger hunt, and hopefully some tie-dying! Join us for either one or two nights, but please let Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or terry-noer@sbcglobal.net) know by November 1st if you plan on going, as space is limited. We have room for about eight more. Cost is \$15/night per site for three sites, but split between all attendees.

Garage Sale to benefit Westside UU Church – location has changed!! – On Friday and Saturday, November 3rd and 4th, Jessica Zinn and Mary Noer will be having a garage sale at Mary's house, 7128 Summerset Dr, Benbrook. All proceeds will go to the church to join the funds the children raised to buy a new church. (If anyone has a couple of things to sell, please let us know. Any unsold items will be donated to charity.) Please plan on stopping by, even just to say Hi, and let your friends know!!



Great Books

Group #1

–Second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is November 12th at the McConathy's home. The selection is *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad. For information, call 827-294-5894.

Great Books Group #2 – Third Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the church. The next meeting is November 19th to discuss *The Secret Sharer* by Joseph Conrad. Discussions are open to all. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is November 26th at Reed's house, (which one tba) 6:30 to discuss *The Professor and the Madman*, by Simon Winchester, a true tale about the making of the Oxford English Dictionary.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The next night is November 5th. All levels of players welcome! For information and the location, contact Ruth or Harry Van Dam at 817-346-7791 or at harryvandam@sbcglobal.net.

Sandwich-Making – Second Monday of every month from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in Angel

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

Spread the Faith! When you have finished reading your *Westside Story*, leave it at the doctor's office, barber shop, wherever it might be read by a potential UU.

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by November 15th. 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 at 817-847-9713 or at 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church Board of Directors 2006-2007

President – Brenda Baldwin

Vice-President – Linda Hanratty

Secretary – Beverly Archibald

Treasurer – Mark McMurry

Directors –

Dianne Nixon

Charles Palmer

Audrey Weil

Committee on Ministry:

Reed Bilz, Chair

John Huffmann • Walt McConathy

Jane Palmer • Maria Schmidt

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education: pending

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

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.

BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Adults	Children	Total
September 03, 2006	51	12	63
September 10, 2006	59	5	64
September 17, 2006	50	7	57
September 24, 2006	59	11	70
Monthly Average	54.7	8.8	63.5

December 2006 Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 • Holiday Bazaar
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congregational Meeting • Seekers' Class • Holiday Bazaar • Bridge Night 	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Books #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angel of Hope Sandwich-making (Presbyterian Night Shelter) 	12	13	14	15	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Books #2 	18	19	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Justice Conversation 	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloween Party • Oak Cliff UU Coffee House
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Books 	25	26	27	28	29	30
	24 31					

November 2006

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 • Kimbell Lunch	2	3 • Garage Sale • TrUue Believers Practice	4 • Garage Sale
5 • Welcoming Congregation Session #2 • Bridge Night • CROP WALK • Beth El Marrow Drive	6 • Election Day	7	8 • Kimbell Lunch	9	10 • Camping Trip Begins	11 • Veterans Day
12 • Great Books #1 • Choir Practice • Camping Trip Ends • Piano Dedication	13 • Angel of Hope Sandwich-Making (Presbyterian Night Shelter)	14	15 • Kimbell Lunch • Newsletter Submissions Deadline	16	17	18
19 • Great Books #2 • After-Church Potluck Lunch • Focused Discussion #2	20	21 • Social Justice Conversation	22 • Kimbell Lunch	23 • Thanksgiving	24	25
26 • Choir Practice • Contemporary Books	27	28	29 • Kimbell Lunch	30		