

The Westside Story

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

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting on

Sunday, December 3 at 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.

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.

Where's Russell in December?

Russell will be delivering two reflections in December (12/3 & 12/17). He will be in the pulpit each Sunday this month assisting with Joys and Concerns. He will be busy preparing for a trip to Hawaii in the early part of January.

Office hours during December 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.

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Welcoming Congregation

The third educational session for the Welcoming Congregation program has been **postponed to January 14**.

This was done to make room for the Congregational Meeting on December 3.

Russell will present a reflection entitled "Gimme a Break!" related to Welcoming Congregation on December 17.

Thank you for your continued support of this program. We will see you for our third session in January.

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Many Events the First Weekend in December

Please see inside for descriptions. You are challenged to participate in as many as possible!

- Friday, December 1 - 6:30 p.m. – World AIDS Day service at Agape MCC
- Saturday, December 2 - 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Alternative Holiday Bazaar at First Jefferson UUC
- 11:00 a.m. – Question and Answer Session at Westside
- 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Westside serving refreshments at Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place
- Sunday, December 3 - 9:30 a.m. – Mid-Year Congregational Meeting at Westside
- 11:30 a.m. – Worship at Westside
- 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Alternative Holiday Bazaar at First Jefferson UUC
- 1:00 – Seekers Class at Westside
- 6:30 p.m. – Bridge Night

Sunday Services

December 3 – “*Where Is Our Holy Church?*” by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister

The title of the sermon reflects one of Russell's favorite Hymns. On this Sunday our congregation will have made some major decisions. It seems appropriate to then reflect on the question, Where is Our Holy Church?

December 10 – “*Global Warming*” presented by the Social Justice Committee

December 17 – “*Gimme a Break!*” by Dr. Russell Elleven, Minister

In the absence of a Welcoming Congregation educational program this month, Russell will reflect on the idea of "Reparative Therapy." His response: Gimme a Break!

December 24 – “*The Light of Life*” presented by the Worship Committee

Spend Christmas Eve morning with your church family in a service that celebrates all the best traditions that make this season special. Be prepared to participate in our own version of a holiday pageant -- and be prepared for some surprises too.

December 31 – “*Welcoming and Letting Go*” presented by the Worship Committee

We at Westside continue our popular service of looking backward and looking forward, and letting go of the old and welcoming the new.



Question and Answer Sessions



The Board of Directors invites you to bring your questions and participate in a discussion of Westside's future.

You have two opportunities to participate prior to the December 3 Congregational Meeting -

Wednesday, November 29 @ 7:00 pm and Saturday, December 2 @ 11:00 am.

Both sessions will be held at the church.



Christmas Eve Tamales Return to Westside

After a one-year hiatus due to our housing situation, Westside's traditional meal of tamales, tortilla soup, taco salad and dessert returns Sunday, December 24, following our morning worship service.

Everyone's invited to stay after church to enjoy the meal. Reservations aren't necessary, but it will help our planning if you will indicate the approximate number of people in your party who will attend.

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the rear doors of the sanctuary.

If you would like to contribute tamales, please contact Dolores Ruhs (ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net or 817-249-1829) by Sunday, December 10. Tamale choices may be found at www.hotdamntamales.com.

Dolores also needs a couple of people to contribute a pot of tortilla soup.



New and Familiar Faces

by Elizabeth Campbell

After living and working in Prague in the Czech Republic for three years, Eric Stevens and Jill Jung now make Fort Worth their home. They came to Fort Worth in 2005 and quickly sought a church with an open-minded, friendly atmosphere. They found what they were looking for at Westside. As Eric says, "The people were so warm and inviting. The atmosphere is casual and genuine. There is an air of sincerity at Westside."

Eric and Jill recently became members and said they are looking forward to making positive, meaningful contributions to the church. Eric said he was exposed to many religions while growing up, and the Unitarian church was "a natural fit." Eric and Jill have many interests and talents.

Eric is a painter who focuses on floral subjects and still-life scenes. His work can be seen at the Dean Day Gallery in Houston, and he also has paintings at the Magnolia Avenue Salon and Stella's Boutique in Fort Worth. Eric also has a web site where people can view his work: www.erickstevens.com. A self-taught artist and designer, Eric worked for both Yahoo and CNN in Atlanta, where he designed websites and created illustrations for the companies. He now paints full-time. Besides his love of art, Eric also enjoys music of all kinds, reading, and spending time outdoors appreciating nature.

Jill, an executive assistant for Radiant Systems, a retail and hospitality technology company with computer systems in 60,000 stores and restaurants in over 100 countries, has held various positions with the firm for the past 11 years. She has two associates' degrees in liberal arts and business. When Jill isn't working, she enjoys running, traveling and cooking. She enjoys learning about and preparing foods from different countries. "Running allows me to eat what I want, and it's a great stress reliever!" Jill said she is excited about her decision to join Westside. "I had many great experiences while attending the UU congregation in Sarnia, Ontario with my mother in the early 90's. I have looked for a similar group in a few different cities since then but never found one. Eric and I think Westside UU is a great fit for us, and we hope we are able to contribute in meaningful ways."

HOLD THIS DATE!

**Saturday
February 24, 2007**

MARDI GRAS PARTY AND SERVICE AUCTION

This evening requires lots of help and is great fun. An early donation is a Gourmet Dinner for 10 and a Gourmet Made Easy cooking class. A list of items that you might consider donating will be out soon.



SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Great Books Group #1

Second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is **December 10**. For information, call 827-294-5894.

After-Church Potluck Lunch

Third Sunday of each month

Our next potluck will be **December 17**.

Please bring a dish to share and stay after church to enjoy food and conversation.

Great Books Group #2

Third Sunday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the church.

The Great Books Group II will not meet the month of December. The reading for **January 21** is a selection from Thorstein Veblen's book, *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. Veblen, an economist and social scientist, won fame in the 1930s for describing the conditions of economics, productivity, and the lives and habits of the wealthy who profit from the capitalist system. He coined the phrases, "conspicuous consumption" and "pecuniary emulation," which are still used today. For information, please contact Dick Trice (817-446-3840 or paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net).

Contemporary Books

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be **December 17** at Reed's new condo in Villa's on the Bluff off Bryant Irvin Road, South of the Tom Thumb shopping center. The address is 6130 Haley Lane - straight in from the gate, on the right. Call 817-292-7974 for the gate code. We will discuss *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards.

Bridge Night

First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The next night is **December 3**. 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.

Newsletter Publisher Needed

Paul Zinn has done a fabulous job of publishing the Westside Story, but due to conflicts with his work schedule, he must give up this position. This month's *Westside Story* was published by someone who wishes to remain anonymous and who obviously shouldn't continue to act as publisher. Jane Palmer assembles the information for the newsletter and acts as editor. The publisher formats the newsletter and gets it ready for publication.

There is also a need for someone to be responsible for printing/copying hard copies for our guests and those who do not have e-mail, and there's a need for someone to mail the hard copies that are distributed via the post office. That person can also be the publisher, or the job can be split.

If you are interested in assuming the job of publisher and/or distribution, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441).

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Seekers Class Offered to Newcomers – December 3 – 1:00 p.m.

A Seekers Class is being offered on December 3, starting at 1:00 p.m. The class is designed for those interested in knowing more about 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 Dr. Elleven	3:15-4:00

Please contact Howard McMahan (mahan34@sbcglobal.net or 817-294-1363) if you'd like to attend.

Getting to Know You - Sunday, December 17 - 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. Please join the group! If the group is too large for everyone to fully participate, we'll break into two groups.

Garage Sale Success!

Brenda McKeon, Jessica Zinn, and Mary Noer held a very successful garage sale in November. We raised \$500 for the church building fund. We still have lots of treasures left for the next sale, even after donating many things to Goodwill and the Women's Shelter. Thanks to the several people who donated a few of their own treasures.

A Cool Camping Trip

We had the most colorful camping trip ever!! Most of the color was due to the tie-dye shirts we made, courtesy of Brenda Baldwin. Look for our colorful shirts when we all wear them to church!! More color was added by the wonderful fall leaves, but the most memorable color was due to our blue lips, fingers and toes as it was very cold! Thank goodness for the great fire!!

New Piano Dedicated

The November 12 Sunday service was a special one for many long-time Westsiders. Ann Smith, the widow of one-time board president Dick Smith, and many former Westsiders joined us for the dedication of our new piano. This piano replaces one lost in the fire on McCart Avenue. The original piano was paid for through donations made by Westsiders and friends in Dick Smith's memory, so that amount of the insurance payout was targeted for a replacement piano.

Nelwyn Schnell performed an extended musical program so that Westsiders could enjoy the full range of the new instrument, and Sue Shamshoian-Sakomoto read the Story for All Ages. Following the congregation's responsive reading of dedication, a plaque dedicating the new Kawai piano in Dick Smith's memory was presented to Ann Smith.

During this same service, Linda McConathy presented the replacement and recently dedicated hymnals to the congregation.

Our U.U. Community

World AIDS Day – December 1

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) continues to ravage communities across the face of this globe. On one day each year, known as “World AIDS Day”, faith communities globally gather in local churches to express our common hope for a better life for those afflicted and those with whom the afflicted share their lives.

This year, the Tarrant County faith community will gather at Agape MCC, located at 4615 E. California Parkway, 76119. Our Westside UU Social Justice committee urges all who are able, and all who are joining our ‘Welcoming Congregation’ dialog, to attend. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, **December 1**.

Alternative Holiday Bazaar – December 2&3

Plan to attend the annual Alternative Holiday Bazaar at First Jefferson UU Church on Saturday, **December 2** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, **December 3** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Westside is hosting a table where Refugee Services of Texas will offer refugee crafts, gifts and jewelry from all over the world. The Vegetarian Society will have food items. What a great place for holiday shopping where your money goes for a great cause.

Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place – December 1-3

This annual tour of homes will take place December 1-3. Please see www.historicryanplace.org for details. On Saturday, **December 2**, from 2-10 p.m., Westside will host a refreshment station at one of the tour homes (2806 5th Avenue). Past years’ attendance have been in excess of 2,000 people. Also, thanks to John Nagely and Dianne Nixon, our church will have a complimentary ad in the tour program. This is an excellent opportunity to present ourselves to the community at large while assisting the neighborhood in which we worship with their efforts to continually improve the neighborhood. If you can bake cookies (dough provided by Dianne Nixon) in advance of December 2, or if you can help serve (we will be located outdoors) between 2 and 10 p.m. on Saturday, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441).

Crop Walk Update

On Sunday, November 12, Westsiders John Huffmann, Linda Hanratty, Sandy Myers, Becky Myers, and Mary Noer joined the 181 walkers in the annual Crop Walk, a program sponsored by Church World Service. Westside donations to the Crop Walk totaled \$420 and contributed toward the \$9,093 raised in total. One-fourth of the money will be distributed to the Tarrant Area Food Bank. The remaining funds will go to Church World Service to alleviate hunger and poverty in 80 countries throughout the world. Thanks to all Westsiders who participated and donated.

Darfur Remembered

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office reminds us that escalating violence in the western part of Sudan has put the conflict in Darfur back in the headlines. The Khartoum government is again arming local militias, known as janjaweed, to help carry out its brutal counterinsurgency campaign. Congress and the Bush Administration must now work with global partners, including the European Union, the Arab League, and the African Union, along with China and Russia, to end the violence and work toward a lasting peace. The U.S. and other members of the international community need to continue to invest considerable diplomatic and financial resources in both immediate and long-term aspects of an ongoing peace process: providing human security, meeting humanitarian needs, and sustaining high-level political engagement.

To send a message to your members of Congress encouraging them to take action for Darfur, go to: Save Darfur Coalition at http://www.savedarfur.org/pages/lobby_congress, where they have created advocacy materials. Other useful sources are the UU-UNO at www.uu-uno.org and the Friends Committee on National Legislation at <http://capwiz.com/fconl/issues/alert/?alertid=9100146&type=CO>. Westsiders interested in discussing this issue, and what we can do about it, are urged to contact Linda Hanratty, Social Justice Committee Chair, at 817-924-6629 or at llswenson@yahoo.com.

Our U.U. Community *(continued)*

Spread the Faith

Here's a suggestion from Beverly Archibald, a fellow Westsider, about something good being done in Iraq, of which we can all be a part (from Bob Ray Sanders' column in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram of Sunday, November 12th).

Scott Baum, a fellow Texan, is a major in the Army Reserves, currently serving in Iraq. He feels strongly that more than just military might is necessary for a victory in Iraq. Scott's unit, the 3rd Iraqi Military Transition Team, has come up with something to help change the minds and hearts of the people of Iraq. From Bob Ray, "The 3rd Division has launched 'Operation School House' to collect supplies for children and teachers in Iraq... You, too, can help with the school effort by sending materials through the U.S. Postal Service and....it is simple to do.

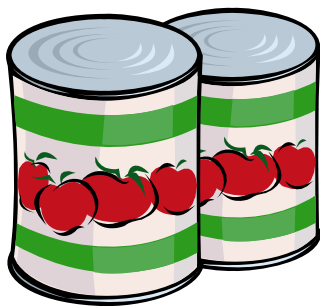
First of all, the post office provides the free shipping box and the customs declaration form, and the maximum price for a shipment is only \$8. The standard student package, according to the division's newsletter, would include: pencils, notepads, a pencil sharpener, color markers, crayons, scissors, an eraser, glue, writing paper, construction paper and coloring book. Students could also use backpacks. The newsletter notes that teacher packets include a larger quantity of supplies such as highlighters, staplers and red pens. Warm coats for women and children are also needed, as it gets very cold in Iraq in the winter.

Such an effort, the soldiers point out, is 'a much more potent weapon against the enemy than dozens of Army patrols'. School supplies for Operation School House may be sent to:

Col. Fred Woener, 3rd Division Headquarters, Al Kisik, Iraq, APO/AE 09334

Food Needed for Westaid

Westside Church is a one of 32 churches supporting Westaid. We include a line item in our budget for donations to Westaid, and we can do more by collecting food throughout the year as well as having special collections for holiday meals and back-to-school needs. From now **until December 10**, we will be collecting cash (please make your check payable to "Westside UU Church", write "Westaid" in the memo line, and deposit it in the offertory basket) and the following items to assist with Christmas holiday meals:



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|--------------------|--------------------|
| 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 |

New Spot for U.U'.s in South Florida!

Due to major renovations, the Southeast UU Winter Institute in Miami (SWIM) will actually be held in the historic West Palm Beach area. SWIM's annual intergenerational retreat for UU's and like-minded people of all ages happens every year from December 26th through January 1st. SWIM offers South Florida sunshine, outdoor adventures (including tours, hikes, paddling), workshops (including spirituality and personal growth), programs for families, singles, youth, teens, and young adults, fantastic food, and a new community of friends from across the continent. Play, laugh, sing, and celebrate New Year's Eve at SWIM! Join UU's from all over North America for a week of fun in the sun! It's a beautiful time of year to be in South Florida. This year's theme: Sacred Space. See more online at www.swimuu.org

SWIM is a member in good standing of CU2C2, the Council of Unitarian Universalist Camps & Conferences, an Independent Affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

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

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
c/o McMahans, 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 December 22. 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.

BY THE NUMBERS

Date	Adults	Children	Total
October 01, 2006	38	5	43
October 08, 2006	54	9	63
October 15, 2006	54	9	63
October 22, 2006	45	6	51
October 29, 2006	61	5	66
AVERAGE	50.4	6.8	57.2

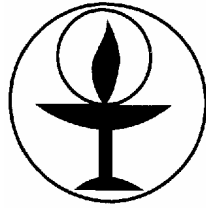
The 7 UU Principles

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.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Nov. 29 Q&A Session		1 World AIDS Day Service at Agape MCC at 6:30 pm	2 Q& A Session — Holiday Bazaar — Christmas in Ryan Place
3 ▶ Cong. Mtg. ▶ Worship ▶ Seekers Class ▶ Holiday Bazaar ▶ Bridge	4	5	6 Lunch at the Kimbell	7	8	9
10 Worship — Great Books #1	11	12	13 Lunch at the Kimbell	14	15	16 <i>Hanukkah Begins</i>
17 Getting to Know You — Worship — POTLUCK — Contemporary Books	18	19	20 Lunch at the Kimbell	21	22 <i>Winter Solstice</i>	23
24 Worship — Tamale Luncheon	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa Begins</i>	27 Lunch at the Kimbell	28	29	30
31 Worship						



DIRECTORY INFORMATION

A new telephone directory is being compiled for Westside Unitarian Universalist Church members and friends. Please complete the following information and return to the church or mail to Myrtle McMahan, 3600 Lawndale, Fort Worth, TX 76133 or e-mail it to mahan34@sbcglobal.net by January 14, 2007. Please include only the information you wish to share.

FAMILY NAME _____

ADULTS IN FAMILY:

Street Address _____

Partner 1 – Full Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Occupation _____

Mailing address if different:

Work Phone _____

Street Address _____

Cell Phone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Work E-mail _____

Home Telephone _____

Birth month & day _____

Family E-Mail _____

Partner 2 – Full Name _____

Family Fax _____

Occupation _____

CHILDREN IN FAMILY (only those attending Westside)

Work Phone _____

Child's Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Birth Date _____

Work E-mail _____

Child's Name _____

Birth month & day _____

Birth Date _____

Do you wish to access your newsletter from the Westside UU Web site?

Yes _____

Child's Name _____

Do you wish to have a printed version of the newsletter?

Yes _____

Birth Date _____