

THE Westside Story

JULY 2006

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Now holding services at Angel of Hope Church, 901 Page St. • 11:15 am • www.westsideuu.org

CHANGES MADE IN SERVICE TIMES

The Sunday service time has been changed from 11:15 to 11:30 a.m. This change is intended to allow for a more fluid transition following the Angel of Hope service. The "Coffee and Fellowship" time that previously followed the service will now precede the service at 11:00 a.m. Adult Forum has temporarily been canceled, until a new chairperson is found. Choir is temporarily cancelled until fall. The monthly potluck lunch will still be on the third Sunday of each month, following the service.

Where's Russell in July?

Russell and Gayle will return from their trip to Italy on July 7th. He will then be in town for about a week before taking off to Chicago for his final class in the Doctor of Ministry program at Meadville/Lombard Theological School. He will then only have the dissertation project to complete before graduating in the summer of 2007. Russell will fly out to Chicago on Sunday the 16th with plans to return early on the 22nd. On July 30th Russell will deliver a reflection from the pulpit.

Office hours for July are as follows:

Tuesday – July 11th – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Friday – July 14th – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday – July 25th – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Thursday – July 27th – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Just call him at 817-370-2171 during those times. If there is no immediate response it means Russell is meeting with another church member at that time and will return your call as soon as possible.

Sunday Services

July 2nd

Toward a Universal Independence Day

Dick Trice

We have squandered our country's great independence and democratic ideals. How can we stop expanding the U.S. Empire and start realizing the immense possibilities of good for humankind the world over?

July 9th

Nothing Is Permanent and Suffering Is Everywhere!

Rev. Eric Posa

The Buddha's Four Noble Truths put forth a worldview that some find negative, even depressing. We'll explore some positive consequences of this seemingly cynical Buddhist perspective. Reverend Posa was a long-time member of the Denton UU Fellowship and earned his master's degree from Brite Divinity School at TCU. He



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.

served an internship at the UU Fellowship of Tyler. He is currently employed as a chaplain at Harris HEB Hospital.

July 16th

A Gift from GA

Amy Youngblood

Remember when you were a kid, and your parents went on vacation, and they promised to bring back something special? Well, feel like a kid again, because Amy Youngblood's going to the UUA's General Assembly in St. Louis June 21-25 and will bring back something special for this service. She promises no boring slides or essays on "What I Did at GA."

July 23rd

What's Happening?

Westside Board of Directors

(Sunday Services continues after Social Activities)

OUR UU COMMUNITY

UUA Responds on Gulf Coast Relief Fund

June 13, 2006

Dear Westside Unitarian Universalist Church,

On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee I would like to thank you and the members of your congregation for your tremendous generosity.

Because of donors like those in your community, we have been able to raise more than three million dollars for the Gulf Coast Relief Fund. Unitarian Universalists and hundreds and hundreds of like-minded individuals from all over the country showed a visionary generosity and real compassion when, within hours of Hurricane Katrina's strike, we opened our homes and hearts and made significant financial donations to survivors of this tragedy.

We received donations from children and youth groups, social groups, and over 600 UU congregations and their members. "I have enclosed," one woman explained, "a \$25 money order directly from my wonderful son's piggy bank. It made him feel good to do this, and it made me proud." Many other donors expressed a version of this man's sentiment: "Thank you for ensuring my small donation will get to those most in need." When we were needed most we stood on the side of hope and love through acts of faith.

So far, your gifts to the Relief Fund have made it possible for us to provide funding to the three UU churches hit hardest by the hurricanes, to help residents of the Gulf Coast access aid and develop a vision of how reconstruction will occur, to help protect immigrant workers in the area, to coordinate human-rights and social justice efforts in the communities and neighborhoods of New Orleans, provide legal support for those in need, and to represent displaced families from the most marginalized and most needy impacted communities. That is just the beginning.

I am excited to be able to bring you and your whole congregation news of this Gulf Coast Relief Fund, and to

announce that the UUA has prepared a report in regard to your contributions and how the funds are being put to use. It is our hope that the Stewardship Report on the UUA UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund will provide you with the information you need in order to know that you have played an important part in this historic moment for Unitarian Universalism and all people of conscience. Please share this exciting information with as many people in your congregation as possible.

This report is part of our ongoing commitment to be transparent and accountable to our donors. We hope to see you and delegates from your church at GA this year, where we hope you will be able to stop by the Stewardship and Development exhibit and pick up a copy. The report is available to read and download on line at <http://www.uua.org/news/gulfcoastrelief/pdf/StewardshipReport2006-06.pdf>. To request a copy, please call us at 1-888-792-5886.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee have been honored to participate in this important relief effort. Thanks to your generosity, the Gulf Coast Relief Fund is making a unique and much-needed contribution to the long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts in the communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

In Faith and Gratitude,

The Rev. Terry Sweetser
Vice President for Stewardship and Development and
Senior Advisor to the President
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Teacher Training Offered

Anyone interested in teaching, or helping teachers, in the Religious Education classes is encouraged to attend a training session on August 12, 2006 at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Ave., Dallas, TX 75205, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

The topic for this session is "Creating Character: Your Role in Encouraging Religious Growth and Learning". A special guest, Dr. Tracy Hurd, will speak on child development, ways to encourage healthy growth, and age-appropriate classroom management strategies. Dr. Hurd is part of the Lifespan Faith Development staff group at the UUA. She holds a PhD. in developmental psychology from Boston College and M.Ed. in child study from Tufts University. Her work, published in various journals and books, focuses on public policy for children and families.

For more information contact Caroline Nixon at CarolineNixon-Garcia@texashealth.org or at 817-922-9742.

WestAid School Supply Drive

WestAid is seeking help for the children of west Fort Worth. It's time to start planning the collection of school supplies for the 2006-2007 school year. The following items are needed by the children: pens, pencils, erasers, red marking pencils, notebook paper, folders, construction paper, glue sticks, writing tablets, protractors, compasses, supply boxes and pouches, washable markers, crayons (16 and 24 count), map pencils, spirals, scissors, manila paper, white liquid glue, rulers, and permanent markers.

WestAid will distribute them when school begins on August 14th, so we ask that you deliver donations to Michael Oglesby, our WestAid board member, at the beginning of August. Donations are always welcome for shoe vouchers. To a monetary donation, make your check payable directly to West Aid and drop it in the plate at church. You may specify "shoe vouchers" on the memo line if you wish to direct your donation that way. For more information, contact Michael Oglesby at dfwhome@charter.net or at 817-249-1736.

OUR UU COMMUNITY

Statement from the Rev. William G. Sinkford on the Failed Federal Marriage Amendment (originally published on June 6th, 2006 at UUA.org)

UUA President William G. Sinkford issued the following statement following a vote in the US Senate which rejected a proposed Federal Marriage Amendment:

“The latest effort to amend the United States constitution to deny loving couples the rights and responsibilities of marriage is a blatant attempt to write discrimination into our democracy’s foundational document. This attack on American couples and families exposes the increasingly cynical efforts by the extreme right to divert the country’s attention from far more vital issues. The resounding failure of this proposed amendment is a testimony to the enduring power of the constitution, which has never been

altered with the express intent to deny equal protection to an entire class of citizens. May it never be used as a weapon against any of “we the people,” but instead be preserved in sacred trust as a guarantee of freedom and liberty for all Americans.

“This amendment was a shameful attempt to divide the American people. I am thankful to the thousands of Unitarian Universalists across the country who have borne witness to our liberal religious values and raised their voices to defeat this amendment and affirm that we are in fact one people.”

Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SWUUSI) is an annual extended family gathering at Lake Texoma State Park and Resort, sponsored by the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference. This year it will be held from July 23rd to July 28th. There are opportunities for peo-

ple of all ages and interests to develop or enrich their Unitarian Universalist identity. Do a lot, or do a little; choose workshops and activities that suit your interests and energy level. Registration forms are available at the church. Information is also available on the SWUUC website.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

“Love & Logic” Parenting Classes Offered

Parents may wish to take advantage of the rare opportunity to attend the Love & Logic Classes now being offered at the church. These classes normally cost hundreds of dollars, but Ashley Ekola has donated her services as an independent trainer. This means that the first four classes will be free and only a nominal fee will be charged in September to cover the costs of workbooks and childcare. There are seven classes total, but they do not have to be attended in order. We plan to continue offering them, so any missed classes can be made up in the future.

The first class was offered on June 11th. The next three classes are scheduled for July 16th, July 30th, and August 27th from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. To reserve your space, contact Caroline Nixon, WUUC Religious Education chair, at 817-922-9742 or at CarolineNixon-Garcia@texashealth.org.

Love & Logic is a philosophy of raising and teaching children which allows adults to be happier, empowered,

and more skilled in the interactions with children. Love allows children to grow through their mistakes. Logic allows children to live with the consequences of their choices. Love & Logic is a way of working with children that puts parents and teachers back in control, teaches children to be responsible, and prepares young people to live in the real world, with its many choices and consequences.

Love & Logic offers adults an alternative way to communicate with children. The Love & Logic techniques produce immediate results because the techniques are simple, practical and easy to learn. The concepts behind Love & Logic place a heavy emphasis on respect and dignity for children and, at the same time, allow parents to grasp simple approaches instead of learning difficult counseling procedures.

Canvass Results Announced

Howard McMahan, chair of the Finance Committee, reports that the annual canvass week resulted in total pledges of \$90,847. Sixty-one "units" made pledge promises for the year ahead, and the average pledge per unit was \$1,489. "We much appreciate the work of the finance committee members," says Howard.

Westside Work Day at Gino's

Ten stalwart Westsiders showed up at Gino's in Stephenville on Saturday, June 17th. They came armed with tools, cleaning supplies, and resolute hearts. Their goal, get Gino's house ready to be put on the market so she can move to Fort Worth. This goal wasn't quite accomplished, [only because so much needed to be done] but it is so much closer!

One crew worked on the front and back yards. They filled about 15 trash bags with pinecones, pine needles and other debris. They staked flowers and generally polished up the grounds.

Inside, the kitchen and bathrooms were decluttered and shined to a new level. Mountains of stuff were boxed up and ready to go to the storage locker. Another 15 or so bags of trash were filled and taken to the curb. A room and its trim were painted. Electrical outlets and fixtures were repaired or replaced. A doorframe was finished off.

The garage and driveway were power washed. Many odd jobs were undertaken and accomplished.

Gino's daughter, newly moved back from California, came and helped too. Last night she kept saying, "Look at this bathroom, Mom!" or "Mom, Look at how attractive the kitchen looks!" She said that if she hadn't participated in the work, she wouldn't have believed that the transformation could have been done in one day!

The Westside angels in alphabetical order were, Gayle and Russell Elleven, John Huffman, Linda and Walt McConathy, Mark McMurry, Charles Palmer, Carl Romano, Maria Schmidt, and Bill Terry. Everyone enjoyed getting to know a fellow Westsider in a new way.

Gino is ecstatic at the change! She is going to now call a realtor and see what other things need doing before she can hope for top dollar on the house.

Westside Committee Fair and Brunch Sunday, July 23, 11:00 (before church at 11:30) Fellowship Hall

Have you ever wondered how things get done at Westside? Do you have some great ideas for activities, programs, etc.? Do you have talents to share? Do you like to eat? Do you enjoy visiting with members and friends of Westside?

If you can answer "yes" to any of the above questions, please come to church early on July 23rd and/or plan to stay for awhile after church to explore further.

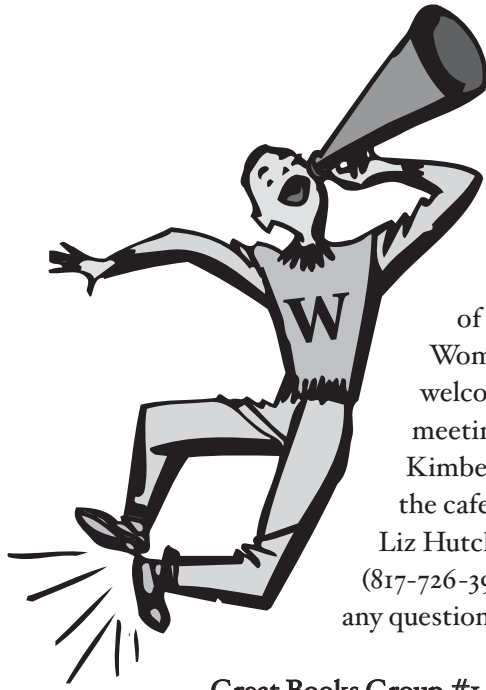
The Board will host a light brunch before church, and the Board and/or Current Committee Chairs will be available both before and after church to tell you about committee work, receive your suggestions, and accept your offers to participate in church activities and committees. You will also have the opportunity to complete a new Time and Talents Survey, similar to the ones you may have completed during past years' canvass. (There will be other opportunities to complete a survey later in the church year, but the survey will debut on July 23rd.)

One of the priorities of the 2006-2007 Board is to create, enhance, and support church programs with a goal of

providing opportunities for our members and friends to share time with one another in social, educational, and other settings that will increase our sense of community. The Board needs your input in the form of suggestions and offers of assistance to accomplish this goal. Your participation on July 23rd will be a great way to support this goal.

If you would like to contact someone regarding church committees or activities and you aren't sure whom to contact, please contact the Board Liaison for the applicable committee(s) or contact Brenda Baldwin, Board President. The liaisons for 2006-2007 are:

Adult Education - Dick Trice
Building - Audrey Weil
Finance - Mark McMurry
Membership - Beverly Archibald
Religious Education - Dianne Nixon
Social - Jeanette Berggren
Social Justice - Linda Hanratty
Worship - Dr. Russell Elleven



UU Women – Come meet for food and fellowship every First Friday of the month.

Women of all ages are welcome. We will be meeting at noon at the Kimbell Art Museum in the cafeteria. Please call Liz Hutchison (817-726-3999) if you have any questions.

Great Books Group #1 – Second Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is Sunday, July 9th, 6:30 p.m. at Walt and Linda McConathy's home. The readings are "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking" by Walt Whitman and "Democracy in America" by Alexis de Tocqueville. For information call 817-294-5894.

Great Books Group #2 – Third Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is July 16th to discuss Walt Whitman's poem, Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking. Discussions are open to all. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Contemporary Books – Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The contemporary book for discussion is *The Constant Gardener* by John Le Carre. We meet at 6:30, July 23 at Reed's house, 6316 Walburn Ct. 817-292-7974, rbilz@earthlink.net

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. All levels of players welcome! For information, contact Ruth or Harry Van Dam at 817-346-7791 or at harrylvandam@sbcglobal.net.

Dinner-Making/Serving – First Saturday of every month from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in Angel of Hope service projects: to make/serve dinner at Samaritan House, for residential adults with HIV/AIDS. Contact Kim Haymon, cell: 817-726-6856. Donation accepted in "Turner Projects" (large plastic jug) on the front left platform of the church.

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

(Sunday Services continues from first page)

It's a new church year as of July 1st. We have extended our lease at Angel of Hope through December of 2006. Choir, Adult Forum, and Thanksgiving Thursdays are suspended for the summer. Great Books, Contemporary Books, Bridge, and Lunch Groups continue to meet. We hold services every Sunday, we have Religious Education every Sunday, and we have Potluck Lunch the third Sunday of each month. Where will we be meeting after December? What must take place between now and then to make that happen? And then what? What else is happening that is not mentioned here? What else do we want to happen? What can happen at Westside to encourage your participation in church activities? What

can happen to discourage your participation in church activities?

In addition to the Committee Fair mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, information will be presented during the service in an attempt to answer the questions above and/or stimulate further discussion.

July 30th

A Minimalist Theology?

Dr. Russell Elleven

We UU's have a wide variety of thoughts, beliefs, and philosophies. This is one of our great strengths as a diverse group. At the same time, is there a minimum amount of something we should believe? We will explore this topic together this Sunday.

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 June 16th. 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 –

Dick Trice • Jeanette Berggren

Audrey Weil • Dianne Nixon

Religious Education 2006-2007

"Peace"

Beginning in September, our children and teenagers will be studying the state of, the freedom associated with, and the harmony created by peace from a global perspective.

All ideas, suggestions, and materials that could be used this curriculum are welcomed. Contact Caroline Nixon at Caroline.Nixon@sbcglobal.net.

ARE YOU A HARRY POTTER FAN?

Then you are needed to help teach our Harry Potter-themed Sunday School this summer! Email Caroline.Nixon@sbcglobal.net for more details.

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
May 07, 2006	44	9	53
May 14, 2006	41	6	47
May 21, 2006	48	7	55
May 28, 2006	49	8	57
Monthly Average	45.5	7.5	53

August 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	• UU Women's Lunch 3		4 • Angel of Hope Dinner-making/ serving (Samaritan House) 5
• Bridge Night 6	7	8	9	10	11	• RE Teacher Training 12
• Great Books #1 13	• Angel of Hope Sandwich-making (Presbyterian Night Shelter) 14	15	16	17	• Newsletter Submissions Deadline 18	19
• Great Books #2 • After-Church Potluck Lunch 20	• Emancipation Day 21 in Texas (Juneteenth)	22	• Summer Solstice 23	24	25	26
• Contemporary Books • Love and Logic Parenting Class 27	28	29	30	31		

July 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 • Angel of Hope Dinner-making/ serving (Samaritan House)
• Bridge Night	3	• Independence Day	5	6	• UU Women's Lunch	8
• Great Books #1	10 • Angel of Hope Sandwich-Making (Presbyterian Night Shelter)	11	12	13	14	15
• Great Books #2 • After-Church Potluck Lunch • Love and Logic Parenting Class	17	18	19	20	• Newsletter Submissions Deadline	22
• Contemporary Books • Committee Fair & Brunch • Love and Logic Parenting Class	24 31	25	26	27	28	29