

THE Westside Story

JANUARY 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

We have moved to Angel of Hope!!!

The contract has been finalized and we are holding our first service at Angel of Hope, 901 Page Ave., on Sunday, January 1st.

Offertory Training

Now that we are in a more permanent space, it's time to update the training of the volunteers, usually our children, who collect the weekly offering. A brief training session will be held shortly after the end of the service on Sunday, January 15th. All children desiring to participate in this part of our service are encouraged to attend. Please meet at the front of the sanctuary. For more information, please contact Brenda Baldwin (817-927-1762 or brendabrew@hotmail.com).

Going Green

The Social Justice Committee is involved in having a "Green Church" at Westside. Currently we are replacing paper napkins, plastic tablecloths, etc., with cloth napkins and tablecloths. A big thanks goes to Don Ruhs for cutting 600 napkins and to Andrea Dorgan, Jean Moulder, Amy Youngblood, Brenda McKeon and Dolores Ruhs for hemming them. The Texas Restaurant Equipment Company has donated 95 coffee cups for the replacement of Styrofoam and paper cups. Thanks to Reed Bilz for saving and cleaning 85 ceramic mugs from the fire. One of the next projects will be to replace the paper cups with 16oz restaurant style plastic drink tumblers.

Sunday Services

January 1

New Year's Day

Gino Kennedy

Gino will share with us factors that will influence choices she will make in 2006.

January 8

The Seven Deadly Sins — Or Not?

Dick Trice

These Sins are famed as a group but how many people can name them? Is their anonymity due to irrelevance or is there a hidden significance worth merit or consideration? Could you possibly be guilty of any?

January 15

Commitment

Dr. Russell Elleven

As we begin to make our way into 2006 how will we handle our commitments? We are often committed to other people, to institutions and organizations, and to ideas and ideals. How are your commitments going thus far this year?

January 22

Beyond Borders

Andrew McKnight

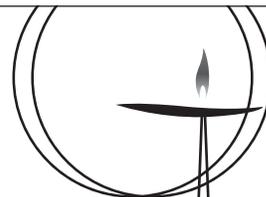
Andrew, a singer/songwriter/guitarist/poet/essayist, will present a special music service focused on the themes of personal growth and challenging our individual "comfort zones". In music, poetry and more, Andrew will lay out a compelling and provocative look at our footsteps and those awaiting the arrival of our feet, often leading us places we never imagined for ourselves.

January 29

Living the Religious Life

Dr. Russell Elleven

You may have heard it before...if you don't believe this or that, how can you truly lead a religious life? We all have our own answers to this question. This Sunday morning Russell will give you his.



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.

NEW AND FAMILIAR FACES

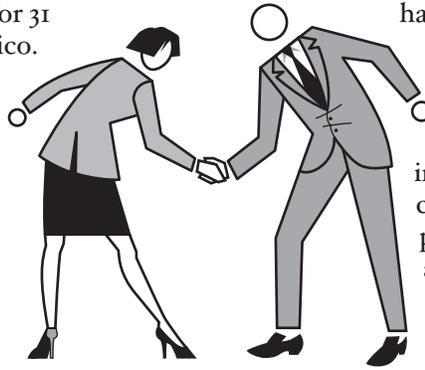
The Palmers, who have been married for 31 years, met at the University of New Mexico. They have two grown sons; Ian, studying computer animation in Albuquerque, and Dylan, studying music performance at UNT in Denton, where he plays the double bass and is a member of the Richardson Symphony.

Although he was born in Fort Worth, Charles grew up in Albuquerque, and Jane, born in Chicago, considers Albuquerque her "home town". They both feel that they have finally found a church home at Westside.

As Jane says, "I visited the UU.org site and Beliefnet.com told me I was 100% UU! It was a big relief to find out I was SOMETHING instead of NOTHING." They like Westside because you don't have to "put your brain aside to participate." And they like being allowed to disagree and to ask questions.

Jane was brought up in the Presbyterian Church, and has called herself Christian, atheist and agnostic – all without changing her beliefs, but having a hard time with the semantics. Jane believes there is some sort of universal order, whatever it is called, and she thinks that science will have the final say. Jane is following string theory with interest, and takes comfort in the writings of Thich Nhat Hanh, Gary Zukav, the Dalai Lama and others. She is definitely more concerned with this life than whatever comes next.

The Church of Christ was Charles early religious home, although he left the church during his late teens. Since then he has not had any particular religious affiliation; he has practiced Kundalini Yoga as instructed by the Sikhs, and has also read some of the works of Ram Das and the Dalai Lama. He says, "While my spiritual leanings have



Charles and Jane Palmer

had an Eastern Orientation, I basically subscribed to the UU seven principles during my life, long before knowing their association.

Charles has been in the food industry in accounting for almost 26 years, and is currently a division controller with five plant offices under his direction. As well as business and accounting, Charles studied musical theory and composition in college, and is still deeply involved with music, most recently playing the trombone with Latin music groups.

He loves classical and jazz idioms, and also enjoys reading, especially John LaCarre spy novels.

Jane calls herself "an unemployed school teacher...certified to teach English and special education". She became an English teacher because of her 11th grade English teacher, Elaine Greenspan. "Whenever she entered the room, a reverential hush would follow. That was the year I wanted to be a Jew. She was an intellectual and a bit of a radical – the first I had ever known."

While Charles cannot point to any particular individual who had such a profound influence on him, he tried to learn from all with whom he interacts. He says, "I am fortunate to have found such a good mate so early in my life, and have been fortunate to have had two sons who have gone on to pursue their own forms of personal expression." And Jane says, "I certainly consider my children to be the ultimate testament to my life and hope they are launched in the right direction."

The Palmers are learning to love Fort Worth. Jane especially likes the Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. Being close to their youngest son and having found a church home also contribute to their feeling of "belonging" here.

Welcome to Westside, Jane and Charles!

WestAid Results

UU members rallied in response to WestAid Food Pantry's recent call for food and cash contributions. UU Treasurer Mark McMurry reports that we collected \$370.00 in checks and \$305.87 in cash, for a total of \$675.87. Along with our budgeted donation of \$100.00 per month, we were able to send WestAid \$775.87 and seven bags of groceries on December 12th.

Our church is a member of the WestAid Food Pantry, which provides food for local citizens in need. UU member Michael Oglesby currently volunteers to sit on the Board of Directors of WestAid.

Cathy is Recovering

As you may know Cathy McConnell had thyroid surgery on Tuesday, December 13th. Russell visited with her right after the surgery and again on December 14th. He reports that she seemed to be doing very well and her spirits were good. She is now recuperating at her parents' home.

Cookbooks for Sale

We still have cookbooks to sell. They make nice gifts for family and friends. They're \$20.00 each or 5 for \$18.00. They will be on sale every Sunday. Each one sold now is pure profit for the church!! Checks are to be made payable to Westside UU with "For cookbooks" noted on the check.

REDUCE POLLUTION

Raise funds for RE one cartridge at a time.

Our RE program has launched a fundraising project with the help of an inkjet recycling company, Empties4Cash. Empty inkjet cartridges can be recycled and remanufactured. We will receive up to \$4.00 for each cartridge turned in. This will directly benefit RE and our children, not to mention that it is great for the environment! Place your empty HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Brother, Dell, Canon, or Apple cartridges in a Ziploc bag and bring them to church. (Note: Epson cartridges cannot be recycled – they don't have a print head.) There will be a special container for collection near the nametags.

Calendar

JANUARY:

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 4 Bridge Night
- 6 UU Women's lunch
- 7 Bike and Breakfast
- 8 Great Books #1
- 16 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 22 Great Books #2 (tentative)
- 22 Contemporary Books
- 22 House Concert
- 27 or 28 Bowling

FEBRUARY:

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 UU Women's lunch
- 4 Bike & Breakfast
- 5 Bridge Night
- 12 Great Books #1
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Newsletter Submissions Due
- 20 President's Day
- 26 Great Books #2 (tentative)
- 26 Contemporary Books

House Concert at Westside UU

Andrew McKnight will be presenting a music service at Westside UU the morning of January 22, and we will be hosting a "house concert" that evening at 6:30 p.m. If you find Andrew's music appealing, or if you are simply one of those good souls who believe in supporting artists pursuing a spiritually rich but financially marginal vocation, please join us Sunday evening. Coffee and desserts will be available at intermission.

House concerts are usually performed in, obviously, a house. Another thing that distinguishes a house concert from other formats is the lack of ticket sales. Listeners are invited to make a donation to the artist and the amount usually suggested is \$10 per adult, but the amount is up to you.

Since permanently leaving his corporate environmental engineering career in 1996, Andrew McKnight's musical journey has traced over a quarter million miles of blue highways and small towns across the country. He has crafted his cinematic vignettes of Americans and their landscapes in music, poetry and prose in between 125 performances each year.

For more information on Andrew and his music, please see his website at www.shenandoahacoustics.com/andrew/ For more information about this concert, please contact Brenda Baldwin (817-927-1762 or brendabrew@hotmail.com).

Where's Russell???

During the month of January, Russell will be out of town on two different occasions. From January 5-10 he will be attending a conference. From January 16-22 he will be at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. In the event that you should need to contact Russell during these absences, please call his home number (817.370.2171) and Gayle will see that your message is delivered.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of the month from 6:30pm to 9pm. All levels of players welcome! Please contact Mary Noer at 817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net for information and location.

Dinners for Nine – Who's interested? We've had several wonderful dinners! This is a wonderful way to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere. Although we will not be planning one for December, all who would like to attend for January should contact Mary Noer, as the plans they are a-making! (817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net)

Family Bowling Day/Night – come join us for a fun afternoon! Jan. 27th or 28th! Place TBA – watch the weekly memo and Order of Service announcements for more information, or contact Mary Noer (817)249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net

Thanksgiving Thursdays??? Many people have expressed their desire to have Thanksgiving Thursdays again, now that we've found a home. While 1 or 2 people have volunteered to help make this happen, more help is needed. We will simplify things, so that no one person is overwhelmed. Perhaps someone would be willing to help fix the dinner for one get-together? Or clean up for one? If you are interested, please contact Mary Noer at 817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net so we can plan for

February and beyond.

Bike and Breakfast – First Saturday of the month. Bike Ride – Meet at 8:30am for an hour and a half fun-filled bike ride, then Breakfast – Meet at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to join the bikers for breakfast! Please contact Rollyn Carlson for location and more info at (817) 731-1422 or feministsrfun@charter.net

Great Books Group #1 – Second Sunday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For information, contact Linda McConathy at mcr123@charter.net.

Great Books Group #2 – Tentatively scheduled for the fourth Sunday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 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. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-292-7974 or at rbilz@earthlink.net.

Westside Talent show is back due to popular demand!

We have so much talent, (many of it from some of our new members), that we just HAVE to have a show so we can all appreciate it!! Our last show was over a year ago, and was an awesome night! You won't want to miss the next one – watch for it, coming this April, and sign up now to display your talent! Singing, dancing, acting, poem reading, skits, piano playing, drum playing, knitting, iron work, and much much more! Contact Brenda Baldwin (817)927-1762 or brendabrew@hotmail.com to sign up to perform or display your talent, or to help out behind the scenes!

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

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

Have an announcement?

Please send your announcements via e-mail to Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com) by Thursday for publication in the following Sunday's insert. Any questions, please call Brenda at 817-551-8551.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church *Board of Directors 2005-2006*

President – Bill Terry
Vice-President – Paul McClellan
Secretary – Virginia (Gino) Kennedy
Treasurer – Mark McMurry
Directors –
Andrea Dorgan • Linda Hanratty
Bettina Pfeiffenberger • Dick Trice

Need to talk?

As a licensed professional and chemical dependency counselor, I can offer individuals, couples, and families a therapeutic and pastoral counseling relationship. This service is free to Westside members. During the period that we do not have our own building we can either meet in your home or mine (by Hulen Mall). These sessions are completely confidential within the limits of Texas state law. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 817-370-2171 or doctorelleven@gmail.com.

Also, please remember that we have a number of Westsiders on the Caring Umbrella Committee. While these folks will not perform counseling or enter into a pastoral relationship with church members, they will offer several helpful services to the congregation in times of need. You may contact Joy McClellan at 817-556-9458 orpadreis@yahoo.com.

We want you to be well at Westside.

In UU faith,
Rev. Dr. Russell K. Elleven
LPC, LCDC

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

by January 20th! Email them to Jane Palmer at Cpalmer263@sbcglobal.net or mail them to 2609 Silver Hill Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76131 or phone them in at 817-847-9713.

A **challenge grant** has been offered by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock to benefit the **UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund**. This challenge grant will deliver another \$1 million in aid (in addition to the \$2 million-plus already raised) to this fund. Beginning with contributions dated Oct. 2, 2005, Shelter Rock will match each dollar given to the fund, up to a total of \$500,000.

Checks should be made out to the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund and sent to: Relief, Department of Development, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-2800 or they can be put into the collection baskets on Sunday.

Three UU churches in the New Orleans area are badly damaged, and at least one is beyond repair. The Gulf Coast Relief Panel and UUSC's Department of Rights in Humanitarian Crises have committed to providing long-term and effective interventions and solutions, by making intentional, judicious grants in order to make the best use of the funds to provide ongoing assistance to those most in need.

-- Deborah J. Weiner, UUA.

By the Numbers:

(These numbers include those at RE in the Park on the 30th and at our service while camping on the 16th.)

Date	Adults	Children	Total
November 06, 2005	58	10	68
November 13, 2005	57	12	69
November 20, 2005	59	10	69
November 27, 2005	57	12	69
Monthly Average	57.8	11	68.8