

THE Westside Story

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

Where's Russell in June?

For June and July Russell will be traveling quite a bit. Russell has been invited to be the Minister in Residence at the Western Unitarian Universalist Life Festival at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Because of this honor, Russell will be out of state from June 4-11. Then Russell and Gayle will depart for vacation on June 23rd for Italy where they will spend 13 days, returning on July 7th. They will visit Theodore Parker's gravesite in Florence.

This means that, for June, Russell will only be in the pulpit on June 18th to deliver a sermon entitled, "Reflections on the WUULF." He will also give the tenth and final installment of "Our American Roots," the UU history curriculum, that same Sunday.

Because of the extensive travel, Russell's office hours for June will be relegated to 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays:

June 13 & 15; June 20 & 22

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 our call as soon as possible.

Adult Forum (10:00 am – 10:45 am):

June 4th - "Energy and Alternative Fuels" - Mike Cykan - Alternative Fuels - E10, E85, B20, B100, ROI, EROI, GHG—a panoply of acronyms. Sugar cane, corn, switch grass, wood, hemp, soybeans, and sunflowers, hydrogen, electricity, energy interdependence, sustainable energy. What does this all mean? How does one put this all together? What makes sense? What is hype? Where is technology?

June 18th - "The Free Pulpit and the Free Pew" - Dr. Russell Elleven - The tenth and last session on Unitarian-Universalist History.

Sunday Services

June 4th

Keep Their Feet To The Fire 'n' Brimstone

Amy Youngblood

Religion and politics don't mix, but they do anyway. That's no news. Religion in current events is here to stay. That's the so-so news. Conservative religious views seem ubiquitous in the headlines and airwaves. That's the good news. Liberal religious views can be spread far and wide too.

That's the best news, and this talk will explain why and how. (A TCU student pursuing a master's degree in journalism, Amy has been studying the news value of religion, using UU principles to maintain fairness and objectivity.)

June 11th

Perpetual War For Perpetual Greed - Dick Trice

For centuries we've believed recurring war is inevitable because it is the nature of humankind. Since aggression is natural for so many, even good people must always be fighting defensive wars. All tommyrot. Wars are fought because they are greed's greatest reward and surest success. Obscene riches have always been guaranteed the powerful by their most dependable and ubiquitous ally,

ignorance. And our country's wars have been no less innocent of purpose than all the others. Such talk of War needs the restorative power of Peace. All the music for this Sunday, including the hymns, will be of peace and performed by our own True Believers' band. The outstanding selection of songs plus the talent and practice invested in this performance will be one you'll remember and talk about for a long time.

June 18th

Reflections on the WUULF - Dr. Russell Elleven

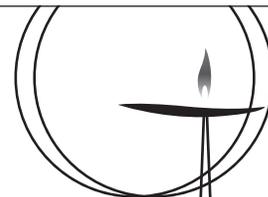
This Sunday Russell will reflect on his experience as the Minister in Residence at the Western Unitarian Universalist Conference held at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

June 25th

Taking Effective Action on Social Justice Issues

Important to UU's - Peter Fears

The Lead Organizer of Allied Community of Tarrant (ACT) and a professional faith-based community organizer will tell us how to direct our energies toward making a difference in our community.



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.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

Annual Meeting

On May 21, 2006, Westside held its annual meeting. With 46 members in attendance, a quorum was easily met, and the church was able to conduct a great deal of business.

To start on a positive note, Dr. Elleven offered some opening words of encouragement. Paul McClellan then presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to Mary Noer.

Members quickly accepted the submitted reports of the president, treasurer, and various committees.

On the topic of the budget, Brenda Baldwin proposed that the church not include plate offerings as part of the operating budget and, instead, target these offerings for social projects throughout the year. The discussion was tabled, but all agreed to revisit the topic before next year's budget is proposed. The budget was then accepted "as written."

Members voted to maintain the required "minimum contribution" for each member of \$80 per year which covers the required donation, on a per member basis, to NTAUUS, the Southwest Conference, the national organization of UUA, and some administrative support expense.

At this point, the members voted the following nominees into office:

Audit Committee: Ann Sutherland, Rollyn Carlson, and Michael Oglesby.

Officers: President Brenda Baldwin, Vice President Linda Hanratty, and Secretary Beverly Archibald. (Mark McMurray will continue serving as treasurer.)

Two-Year Board Members: Jeanette Berggren and Audrey Weil. (Dick Trice will continue in his final year.)

One-Year Board Member: Dianne Nixon.

2006 Nominating Committee: John Huffman, Gino Kennedy, Howard McMahan, Caroline Nixon, and Michael Oglesby.

The bylaws were then amended, generally as proposed. The Seven Principles were incorporated into the "Purpose" section (Article 2); and a Mid-Year Meeting of Members was added, in hopes of reducing the number of specially called meetings (Article 5, Section 5.2). The proposed amendment to the "Denominational Affiliation" section (Article 4) was defeated, as was the proposed amendment to increase the majority vote required to dismiss a minister (Article 8, Section 8.3.)

A lively discussion of the church's "housing situation" closed out the meeting. Members agreed to renew the church's lease with Angel of Hope Church through the end of the calendar year and to provide for further discussion forums on the topic of long-term planning for the church.

Westside Library

Westside has a library that is located behind the sanctuary. Stop by after church (please, not before). Many of the books from prior to the fire were saved. You may check them out. There is a wonderful selection of children's books. Adult books include meditation and prayer, Unitarian Universalist history, and other religious books. There should be a card in each book. Write your name on the card, stamp the date you are checking the book out, and place in the library box. If there is no card, let Myrtle McMahan know. If you would like to make a donation of a religious book, please give it to Myrtle so that she can catalogue it. We are trying to find the catalogue of our books so we can see what was lost. If you would like her to purchase a book for donation, she will be going to General Assembly in June. The UUA Bookstore will be there. We save postage that way.

Caroline Nixon Shares A Laugh

After teaching our children about chalices for a year, I just about fell out of my chair laughing when I read this - my lesson could have been so much simpler!!

Three children were talking about their religions. "I'm a Catholic," said one, "and our symbol is the cross." "I'm Jewish," said the second, "and our symbol is the Star of David." The third child said, "I'm a Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a martini glass!"

Social Justice Committee To Meet

The Social Justice Committee will be meeting after church on Sunday, June 4th. Peter Fears, Lead Organizer of Allied Community of Tarrant (ACT) and a professional faith-based community organizer, will be joining us to discuss the topic for his June 25th sermon on taking action. Please be thinking of a story for all ages, chalice lighting, and readings. If you have any questions, contact Linda Hanratty at llswenson@yahoo.com or at 817-924-6629.

Gino's Moving Day Nears

Mark your calendar for June 17th. One of our long-time members, and current Secretary of our Board, needs our help. Gino Kennedy needs some assistance in getting some things done around the house in order to put it up for sale and move closer to our church family.

As most of you know, Gino lives in Stephenville and will sometimes make the drive to Fort Worth more than once a week in order to attend services, Board meetings, and committee meetings. Gino has devoted a great deal of her time and talent to our church. We now have an opportunity to assist her in a time of need.

This is what religious communities do for one another. If you can help in any way, please contact our minister, Russell Elleven at 817-370-2171 or at doctorelleven@gmail.com.

WestAid Volunteers

WestAid needs more summer volunteers on a substitute basis (fill-in for regulars). Do you have one morning or afternoon a week that you could help out in the WestAid office? The office is located at 4701 Bryant Irvin Rd. N, Ste. 100, in Fort Worth.

The office is open from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday. There are two shifts for volunteers, 9:30 a.m. to noon and from noon-2:30 p.m. Substitutes are needed for when volunteers are unable to come into the office. The substitutes are arranged ahead of time and work at their own convenience. If you or anyone you know can spare 2 1/2 hours per week, please contact Helen Talbot, volunteer coordinator, at West Aid, 817-737-9338, or at home, 817-370-2528.

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 people 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.

Register now for the UUA General Assembly in St. Louis

The UUA's General Assembly will take place from June 21-25 in St. Louis, Missouri, and registration is now open! If you're an active youth, young adult or adult member of a UU congregation, plan now to join us in St. Louis for GA! You'll want to be present for the rousing ingathering program with its banner parade and terrific music, the Ware Lecture delivered by award winning poet Mary Oliver, and the Sunday morning worship service led by the Rev Gail Geisenhainer, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, FL. You'll have the opportunity to attend hundreds of valuable programs and workshops, meet Unitarian Universalists from across the United States, and worship and celebrate together at GA. Registration, hotel, and travel information is available at <http://www.uua.org/ga/>.

Third Annual Civil Rights Journey Set for Historic Southern Cities

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is excited to announce the third annual civil rights journey through several southern cities, offering a chance to learn firsthand about the struggles of the 1960s.

The intergenerational trip will bring people together from around the country to travel by bus to historical sites that were significant during the civil rights movement. The inspirational journey will begin in Atlanta and move to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham, Ala.

The Freedom Summer camp: A civil rights journey is scheduled for July 8-15, 2006. Participants will also hear the stories of people who witnessed historic events firsthand. Civil rights activists will bring to life the struggles of those who risked their lives to register black voters and to demand other rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

It will conclude with a service component assisting our Atlanta-based community partner, Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger.

At the second Freedom Summer camp last year, 65 youths and adults from around the country heard the messages of many civil rights warriors who were on the front lines of the struggles of the 1960s. They said the stories inspired them to become electoral activists last year and to make social justice a part of their everyday lives.

"I think the most powerful experience was walking across the bridge in Selma, knowing what people there had faced, and also meeting the mayor of Selma," said Chris Griesmer of Davis, Calif. "To know that he was a youth back then during the civil rights movement and now he's the mayor of Selma is a pretty inspiring thing."

Participants must be age 14 or older. Participants are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from Atlanta. However, rides provided by UUSC staff to and from airports or train stations can be arranged in advance.

The fee for the camp is \$500, which helps offset the cost of housing, food, and transportation during the program.

You may request an application or receive further information by contacting us by e-mail at justworks@uusc.org or by calling Nguyen at 800.388.3920, ext. 201.

Annual CASA Event

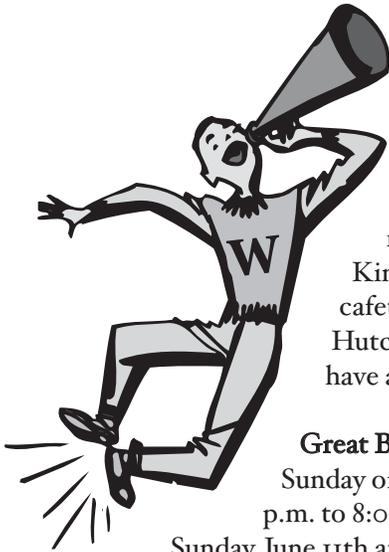
It is time for another home to be built in Progreso Mexico! A group from Westside UU, usually of four to twelve people, joins with other friends and relatives to travel down to Mercedes, Texas. We then cross the border every day to Progreso to build a small, simple house for a family there. We visit with the other families we have built for, and try to bring them clothes, drapes, kitchen sinks, tires, books, shoes (you name it, they need it.)

We need to have several things to be able to build. We need volunteers, people willing to make the drive and pay for their room and board at the ranch house (usually around \$60/person for the week) plus gas to get down there, and then do some building (or support work at the

ranch house for those who are building.) We also need people to donate items to bring down to the families (although we usually have plenty of clothing.) And finally, we need funds! Each home costs around \$1300. Any amount would be greatly appreciated to go towards paying for the home. If you wish, you can make out checks to Westside UU, and put "CASA build" on the memo line.

So please help in whatever way you can. We will be leaving June 3rd and, weather permitting, be driving back on June 7th. (We do try to carpool when possible.) Contact Bill Terry or Mary Noer at 817(249-7341) or at terrynoer@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible. Thank you!!

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.

Great Books Group #1 – Second Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is Sunday, June 11th at the Furbers. The selection is *Self-Reliance* by Ralph Waldo Emerson. For information, call 921-9570. 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 Sunday, June 18th at the church. The selection is *Self-Reliance* by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emerson is perhaps the most famous of all Unitarians even though he left the church when he was 28 to pursue his vision of transcendentalism. His influence on Unitarian thought, however, was immense. The ideas in “*Self-Reliance*” were new, powerful and provocative. All are invited to join what should be a stimulating discussion. 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. On June 25th we will discuss *Midwives* by

Chris Bohjalian (a male) at Reed’s house. This is another Oprah selection. There is good discussion fodder online. For information, contact Reed at 817-292-7974 or at 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! Please contact Mary Noer at 817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net for information.

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. Donations 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.

Think ‘N Talk – Thursday, June 8th – “All About Immigration” – Louanne Rice and Sandy Myers, in conjunction with speakers from the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County and the Humanists of Fort Worth, bring a broad and objective view of the many problems of immigration. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Education Acknowledged

On Sunday, May 21, 2006, the congregation was treated to a youth-led service “Religious Education Sunday”. The young people of the church took over all the traditional adult duties for the day, offering opening and closing words, lighting the chalice, acting out the story for all ages, Zen Shorts, leading us in song, and teaching us about many of the world’s great religions. Alan Wilhelm helped out in the role of Stillwater, the panda. As a grand finale, evil spirits were chased away by a many-legged Chinese

dragon. Dianne Nixon announced that the new focus for Religious Education classes would be on the topic of “Peace” and quoted John F. Kennedy: “War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does.”

Thanks again to Dianne Nixon for all her hard work preparing for “R.E. Sunday” and to all of our Religious Education Teachers for their service over the last year!

Andrea Dorgan • Ashley Ekola • Jud Geiger • John Huffman • Rachel Malone • Brenda McKeon
Myrtle McMahan • Caroline Nixon • Dianne Nixon • Mary Noer • Amanda Oglesby • Michael Oglesby
Bettina Pfeiffenberger • Milena Razack • Jeff Rodriguez • Bill Terry • Alan Wilhelm • Lela Woods
Tom Woods • Amy Youngblood • Jessica Zinn • Paul Zinn

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
c/o McMahan's, 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.

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 |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| April 02, 2006 | 48 | 15 | 63 |
| April 09, 2006 | 39 | 5 | 44 |
| April 16, 2006 | 53 | 7 | 60 |
| April 23, 2006 | 46 | 4 | 50 |
| April 30, 2006 | 45 | 6 | 51 |
| Monthly Average | 46.2 | 7.4 | 53.6 |

June 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge Night • Social Justice Committee | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Books #1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angel of Hope Sandwich-making (Presbyterian Night Shelter) | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 11 | 12 | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father's Day • Great Books #2 • After-Church Potluck Lunch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emancipation Day 19 in Texas (Juneteenth) | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 18 | 19 | | | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contemporary Books | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| 25 | | | | | | |

July 2006 *Westside Unitarian Universalist Church*

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