

The Westside Story

MARCH 2007

The monthly newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Now holding services at Angel of Hope Church, 901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth Texas • 11:00 am • www.westsideuu.org



April Fool's Talent Show

If you attended Westside's Mardi Gras Party and Auction in February, you already know Westside members and friends are a fun group to spend social time with. At the April Fool's Talent Show on March 31st, you not only get to socialize with some of those fine folks again, you also get to see a few of those same folks share their talents. The 2006 show was enjoyed by 75 people. Not a single rotten tomato was thrown, and applause and smiles were plentiful!

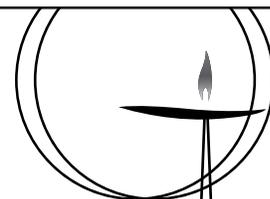
Don't miss your chance to join the fun in 2007. The doors will open at 6:30, so you'll have plenty of time to help yourself to the appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages provided by the Social Committee, and/or pop open another beverage of your choice which you are welcome to bring, and settle into your seat before the show starts promptly at 7:00.

Child-care will be available beginning at 6:30. Advance notification of child-care needs will be appreciated and can be accomplished by contacting Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net). Children are welcome to enjoy the show, but please be aware of the possibility of PG-13+ acts in the second half of the show following intermission. It's not too late to sign-up to perform! Please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) for information and/or to be added to the stellar line-up of performers.

Lunch Bunch

All are invited to meet at Central Market for lunch after church every Sunday (except Potluck Sunday) in March. Indoor and outdoor seating is available, and there is something for every diet and taste – a noodle bar, sandwich grill, salad bar, and hot and cold entrees for vegetarians and carnivores alike. Visitors and newcomers are especially welcomed so that we can get to know you better!

To get to Central Market from church, exit north (left) onto Hemphill, east (right) onto Allen, continue past JPS Hospital and go north (left) onto the I35W frontage, continue across Riverside, enter I35W northbound, take I30 west exit toward Abilene, continue on I30 west to the Hulen exit, left onto Hulen, turn right into Central Market which is at Hulen and I30.



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.

Sunday Services 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

March 4th - Freedom by Nancy Vanboskirk. Some reflections on freedom -- what is it and what is it good for?

March 11th - If You're Happy and You Know it... by Dr. Russell Elleven. Sometimes it is difficult to be happy. There seem to be so many things going wrong, so many people who do bad things, so many travesties that sometimes happiness is elusive. Russell will talk about happiness during his reflection.

March 18th - A MUUSIC Sampler: Contemporary Artists voicing Unitarian Principles. Westside's band, The TrUUe Believers, will discuss and perform the music of several contemporary musicians who have embraced UU principles in both their songs and in their personal lives. Join us for an informative and entertaining Sunday!

March 25th - Living and Dying in America by Dr. Russell Elleven. For many reasons death has been on Russell's mind lately. He will reflect a bit on this Sunday and let you know where his thoughts have personally led him. Perhaps you will agree with his ideas...perhaps not.

Welcoming Congregation

Once again, our Welcoming Congregation educational session in February was well attended. Thank you! Russell will present the fifth of six educational sessions for the program on Sunday, March 11th at 9:30 a.m. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

Where's Russell in March?

Russell will be in town each weekend of March delivering Joys & Concerns during services. On March 4th he will officiate a wedding after church right down the street at the Rose Chapel. He will offer the fifth Welcoming Congregation session on March 11th and deliver reflections on the 11th and 25th. Russell will attend the Texas Storytelling Festival with his father and father-in-law from the evening of the 29th through April 1st. Because of this he will regrettably miss the talent show and Social Justice Sunday:-(

Office Hours for March are as follows:

- Tuesday, March 6th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Thursday, March 8th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Tuesday, March 13th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Thursday, March 15th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Tuesday, March 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Thursday, March 22nd, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Tuesday, March 27th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
- Thursday, March 29th, 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.

Our UU Community

WestAid Trinity Trek

WestAid will hold its Second Annual Trinity Trek Bike-A-Thon, Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 7:00 a.m. The Trinity Trek is a great way to have healthy fun and benefit WestAid at the same time. This is a fun ride not a race.

This year WestAid will again have a 50-kilometer (31 mile) trek along the Trinity River Bike Paths. All friends and families are welcome to participate. WestAid will benefit through pledges for each rider per mile or kilometer completed. Relay teams are accepted especially for group members who do not feel they are capable of the entire distance individually. Each member of the team should participate in the pledge process for his or her individual progress.

Congregations, youth groups and Scout Troops or Packs and schools are needed to participate both with riders and by staffing water stations along the path. Corporate teams or sponsors are encouraged also.

The registration fee is \$15.00. All participants will receive a t-shirt. The starting line is at Memorial Oak Park in Benbrook, off Winscott Rd. near the soapbox derby track. Questions? Call 817-732-3388 or 817-737-9338. Registration forms are available online at www.westaid.org.

Cherry Blossom Festival Weekend in Washington DC

Members of Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church will host visitors from Friday, April 13th to Sunday April 15th for the Cherry Blossom Festival Weekend in Washington, D.C. Hosts will provide breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Transportation to and from the airport and church service on Sunday is also included.

A brief city tour (or a Metro pass), reserved seats at the Annual Cherry Blossom Parade, and a dinner at church on Saturday evening are all part of the festival package. Participants will receive a package of tour materials and recommendations, including Metro maps, to make any touring on your own easy.

All proceeds benefit the church. This event is a service project led by the CLUUC Covenant Group Program. The cost is \$250 per single or \$500 per couple. Registration is due by March 19th, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of 50% of the total cost. Copies of the reservation form are available at www.cedarlane.org/cbfestival.

For more festival information, visit www.nationalcherryblossom-festival.org.

With malice toward none; with charity for all; let us strive on to finish the work

we are in.

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Spiritual Wholeness: Mind, Body, Spirit Friday, March 30 – Sunday, April 1

(originally published in the Southwestern UU newsletter)

A new series of workshops will take place at the UbarU Retreat and Conference Center, located in the heart of the fabled Hill Country. Led by the Reverend Tom Capo and Martha Kirby Capo, the "Spiritual Wholeness: Mind, Body, Spirit" workshop series begins with a weekend retreat on Prayer and Meditation. Specifically designed for Unitarian Universalists, workshops in the series also include "Personal Mission and Vision; Deepening Your Theology; and a couples' workshop, Spiritual Journeys in Partnership.

An ordained UU minister, Rev. Tom has been in private psychotherapy practice for over 25 years. He has led several workshops for NASA and at SWUUSI. Martha Kirby Capo is an award-winning, published poet and lyricist whose work has appeared in The Aureorean, Texas Poetry Calendar 2000 and 2003, Curbside Review and several PoetWorks Press volumes.

The Prayer and Meditation workshop will be held Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 1, 2007. The cost is \$150 per person. To learn more about the "Spiritual Wholeness: Mind, Body, Spirit" workshops or to register, contact Rev. Tom at 281-468-2800 or at tcapo@houston.rr.com.

Spectrum Concerts

John Johnson of First Jefferson UU Church invites all Westsiders to the final two concerts in a chamber music series performed by The Spectrum Chamber Group. The first concert will be Monday, April 23rd, at 7:00 pm at First United Methodist Church (in the acoustically live Leonard Chapel at the northeast corner of the church). The Methodist church is located at 800 W. 5th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102. The second concert will be Monday, April 30th, at 7:30 p.m. at First Jefferson UU Church (where these concerts started 21 years ago). First Jefferson is located at 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112.

Every year, there are three pairs of concerts – all different. Most of the musicians are members of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Dave Hermann, FWSO's associate principal violist, selects music, acquires it, recruits musicians, usually plays in at least one piece, and is the "number-one stagehand par excellence." Wayne Gay, the former Fort Worth Star-Telegram critic, called this series "the best kept musical secret in Fort Worth."

The First Methodist concert is free, being subsidized by the church. The First Jefferson concert suggests an \$8.00 donation; however, John assures says, "We do a whole lot better reception than the Methodists, and we even have more attendance." For more information, contact John at 817-810-9399 or at oldpapa123@charter.net, or contact Dave Hermann directly at hermann785@aol.com. He will put you on the Spectrum's mailing list, and a postcard describing the program will be sent to you about a week before the concert.

Unitarian Universalists Join Anti-War March on Washington

(originally published at UUA.org)

In the wake of President George W. Bush's state of the union address announcing an immediate escalation of U.S. troop presence in Iraq, hundreds of Unitarian Universalists converged on the U.S. capitol on Saturday for an anti-war rally and march organized by United for Peace and Justice and supported by the Win Without War coalition. UU participants joined an estimated five hundred thousand others, united in their opposition to the war in Iraq and their support for bringing our troops home.

Many UU's attended the interfaith service, which was held before the march at the Church of the Reformation on Capitol Hill. The service, organized by the Network of Spiritual Progressives, including a chalice lighting by Rev. Rob Hardies, Senior Minister of All Souls Church, Unitarian in Washington D.C. The All Souls Jubilee Singers led the overflow crowd in songs of peace and justice.

Janice View, a member of All Souls, attended the interfaith service and was inspired: "It was wonderful to have an interfaith grouping of people responding to the war, calling for peace and justice... It was not as multi-cultural as it should have been. But we're working on that too."

The UU Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton, VA, mobilized fifty congregants to participate in the march and rally. Participants ranged in age from one to eighty-three, and the adults spoke of how important they felt their presence was as a way of letting Congress know that they do not support the continued occupation of Iraq nor the escalation of troops and funds to support that occupation. They also expressed their continued support for the troops and their sorrow at the deaths that continue to mount. (This congregation built an Iraq War Memorial Cairn in May 2004 to honor U.S. military deaths alongside Iraqi civilian deaths.) Some Fairfax members expected to visit and send letters to their senators, John Warner and Jim Webb, to thank them for their opposition to the escalation of the war.

After the service UU's gathered on the national mall, hoisting their congregational banners. Participants, all wearing UU stickers, came from Maine, Illinois, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, Iowa, North Carolina, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland, and marched behind a UUA banner.

The rally and march were aimed at telling Congress to fulfill their mandate for change. Over eight hundred of the protesters participated in a lobby day on Monday, January 29, focused on encouraging U.S. elected officials to stop the war's escalation and start bringing the troops home now.

No heart which shuts out truth and love can be the abode of God.
- SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN

Inside Westside

New and Familiar Faces

By Elizabeth Campbell

Dana Crew wanted to find a church where she felt comfortable asking questions. Before joining Westside, Dana attended a Pentecostal church where questions were discouraged. Dana continued searching for a church online and by talking to people about different places where she could worship. She discovered Westside. She recalled being a little nervous about attending. Her nervousness quickly faded after she visited the church. "After I walked in the door though I felt a sense of calm and warmth. This even before I met the first person," she wrote. Dana said she was impressed that the congregation respected people, although some expressed different views.

Dana has a 3-year-old son, Lane, who has made several young friends at the church. "He constantly asks to go to "Church" and asks to put his money in the basket. This is such a wonderful place for him to grow and experience new things and find his own way and his own personal path to follow," she said.

Dana says her full time job is taking care of Lane, but she also has a busy job working as an emergency room secretary at Walls Regional Hospital in Cleburne. She will also become a patient care specialist in June. Dana is also studying nursing at Tarrant County College.



April Fool's Talent Show Saturday, March 31, 2007

Be sure to set this date aside on your calendar so you won't miss a highlight of Westside's social calendar. The audience will be entertained by the high-quality talent of the members and friends of Westside Church while enjoying drinks and snacks with new and old friends. Child-care will be available.

Sign-ups for talent are open NOW. Please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) to reserve a spot in the show. Music, comedy, drama, and more are welcome. All participants will need to attend one technical rehearsal during the week before the show.



Russell & Gayle's Tea Party March 24th, 3 - 6 pm

Come and go as you please during, what may potentially become, an annual event. Both tea/crumpets and wine/cheese will be served. Feel free to bring another beverage of your choice. We are over by Hulen Mall at 6120 Comfort Drive. (817) 370-2171.

Casa 2007

For the past eight years, a group of us, called CASA, have gone down to the Mexico border and built a small house for families that live there. This year's trip down to Progresso, Mexico is scheduled for June 3rd - 6th. We are building one house this year. If you are interested in joining us or want to know more about the project, please contact Bill Terry or Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or email terrynoer@sbcglobal.net). We are also accepting contributions to fund the building materials we use for the project. Any contribution will help and is greatly appreciated. You may contribute through the church. Just write CASA 2007 on the memo line of your check, and place it in the offerings basket.

Westside Minister Needs Help with Divorce

No, Russell and Gayle are not divorcing! Russell is creating a divorce education curriculum. The curriculum is being developed as his final project for the Doctor of Ministry degree at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary. If you have gone through the experience of divorce, you can help Russell by evaluating the program. There will be two sessions that will occur on two consecutive Saturdays - March 3rd and March 10th. The duration of these sessions is anticipated to be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided. If you are willing or able to help, please contact Russell at doctorelleven@gmail.com (preferable) or 817-370-2171.

The surest way to lose truth is to pretend one already wholly possesses it.

- GORDON W. ALLPORT

**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!

Fair Trade Coffee

Every second Sunday, Dolores Ruhs will accept "Fair Trade Coffee" orders. The orders will be faxed Sunday night. The church will get its coffee for \$6.00 a pound. She can also place orders for teas, and chocolate bars. The church will realize a commission on all items sold.

"Fair Trade" is a revolutionary concept in action. It is a program that brings together the producer (the coffee grower) and the consumer (the coffee drinker) in a more equitable and meaningful way. The coffee industry middlemen are by-passed and a more direct bridge is built between the producer and the consumer. Also, any "Fair Trade" products that are purchased will go towards helping our church to become a Greener Church. See Dolores for list and prices of coffee, teas and chocolate bars.

Remember, no one can make you feel inferior without your consent.
- ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

It is not in the still calm of life that great characters are formed.
- ABIGAIL ADAMS

Life is so great a mystery that we need not invent others.
- JOHN BURROUGHS

. . . all you behold, tho' it appears without, it is within.
- WILLIAM BLAKE

Many things are worth dying for, but none worth killing for.
- ALBERT CAMUS

A ship ought not to be held by one anchor, nor life by a single hope.
- EPICTETUS

Social Activities

Choir Practice

March 4th & March 18th at 9:30 am. Everyone is invited to join in. For information, contact Cathy McConnell at 817-734-1822.

Great Books Group I

Second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Sunday, March 11th at the McConathy's home. The selection is The Stages of Life by Carl Jung. For information, call 817-294-5894.

Contemporary Books

Fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is Sunday, March 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Reed Bilz, 6130 Haley Lane. Call 817-292-7974 for gate code.

Bridge Night

First Sunday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is March 4th. All levels are welcome and we are always glad to have new players. Please call Ann Sutherland at 817-294-0401 if you wish to attend or to have further information.

Kimbell Lunch Bunch

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Westsiders and friends gather at the Kimbell for community discussion and a good lunch. Look for a crowded table with familiar faces.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

We will have birthday and anniversary celebrations on the 1st Sunday of each month. Please call Dolores Ruhs, 817-249-1829 or e-mail ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

The Humanists of Fort Worth

(HoFW) group is now meeting in our Fellowship Hall on the second Wednesday of each month, and everyone is invited to attend. The next meeting is March 14th. Topic to be announced. The meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and end by 8:30 or 8:40. Everyone is invited for a good presentation and lively discussion following. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

Great Books II

First Sunday of the month from 12:30 to 2:00 in the sanctuary. The next meeting is March 4th to discuss "Boys and Girls" by Alice Munro. For information, contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840 or at paandmatrice@sbcglobal.net.

March 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

THE WESTSIDE STORY - MARCH 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Choir Practice Great Books #2 Bridge Night | 5 | 6 | 7 Kimbell Lunch | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Daylight Savings Time begins Welcoming Congregation Great Books #1 | 12 | 13 | 14 Kimbell Lunch Humanists of Fort Worth | 15 | 16 Newsletter Deadline | 17 St. Patrick's Day |
| 18 Choir Practice After-Church Potluck Lunch | 19 | 20 | 21 Kimbell Lunch | 22 | 23 | 24 Ellevens' Tea Party |
| 25 Contemporary Books | 26 | 27 | 28 Kimbell Lunch | 29 | 30 | 31 Talent Show |

April 2007

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

THE WESTSIDE STORY - MARCH 2007

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------|--|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| <p>1</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p> <p>Great Books #2</p> <p>Bridge Night</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>First Day of Passover</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Kimbell Lunch</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Good Friday</p> | <p>7</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>Great Books #1</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Kimbell Lunch</p> <p>Humanists of Fort Worth</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>After-Church Potluck Lunch</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Kimbell Lunch</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p>21</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>Contemporary Books</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Kimbell Lunch</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> |
| <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | | | | | |

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Board of Directors 2006-2007

President – Brenda Baldwin
Vice-President – Linda Hanratty
Secretary – Beverly Archibald
Treasurer – Mark McMurry
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Charles Palmer
Director – 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

Have an announcement?

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

Spread the Faith!

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, leave it at the doctor's office, barbershop, wherever it might be read by a potential UU.

By The Numbers

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Number of Adults</i> | <i>Number of Children</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| January 07, 2007 | 61 | 5 | 66 |
| January 14, 2007 | 33 | 4 | 37 |
| January 21, 2007 | 47 | 6 | 53 |
| January 28, 2007 | 60 | 3 | 63 |
| Monthly Average | 50.3 | 4.5 | 54.8 |

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.