

The Westside Story

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
901 PAGE AVENUE FORT WORTH, TEXAS • 11:00 AM • WWW.WESTSIDEUU.ORG

JANUARY 2009

Midyear Congregational Meeting is Called

The Midyear Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2009, following Sunday's service. To say that this will be an important meeting is an understatement. The second half of our fiscal year will have plenty of challenges and lots of excitement. I promise to do all I can to keep the meeting short and to the point. You can help by watching for the Weekly Memos and reviewing information ahead of the meeting. Here is the agenda as of this printing:

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order
Responsive Reading #728
Past President Recognition
Approval of Minutes
Church Name
President's Report
Minister's Report
Financial Report
Stewardship Committee Report
Additions/Revisions to Bylaws
Aesthetics Committee
Green Facility Committee
Sexual Conduct & Safety Committee
Extraordinary Removal of Membership
Old Business
New Business

- Tom Woods

Congregation to Consider Changing By-laws

The congregation will be asked to approve the following revisions and addi-

tions (printed in italics) to the bylaws at the congregational meeting in January:

Under Article 3. Membership—
Section 3.4. Removal or Resignation from Membership revised in a list format and adding (4):

A member's name shall be removed from the Membership Roll in case of: (1) the member's death; (2) written request by the member to the Board; (3) a period of inactivity over one year, pending review of the Board; or (4) removal by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board for actions that threaten the well-being of the Congregation.

Under Article 9. Committees—
Section 9.1. Standing Committees (additions in italics)

The Standing Committees shall be:

Adult Education
Aesthetics and Building Use
Building and Grounds
Finance
Green Sanctuary
Membership
Religious Education
Safe Congregation
Social
Social Justice
Worship

New Committee descriptions (not to be included in the by-laws)

An Aesthetics and Building Use Committee will work with the B&G Committee to create an attractive, informative, and welcoming environment for visitors, friends, and maintain the integrity of our property and the meaningful use of our building. The committee will write an aesthetics plan, review proposals that influence the appearance of the



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.

church's rooms and building such as paint colors, window coverings, furniture, and artwork; develop guidelines for building use, and liaise with other building use stakeholders as needed.

A Green Sanctuary Committee will put our Seventh Principle into practice by assisting the church in being more environmentally friendly with Green Sanctuary accreditation by the UUA as one of its goals.

A Safe Congregation committee will develop policies and procedures to promote respectful relationships among its members and create an environment free of interpersonal violence such as harassment and abuse of a physical, emotional, or sexual nature. This committee will draft provisions to ensure that a good process is in place for removing someone's membership for risk to the congregation.

A New Name for Westside?

On November 30th, the COM stopped collecting nominations for (re)naming the church. There were 14 name submissions and 4 label submissions (Church, Congregation, Fellowship and Society). Here are the name submissions with the nominator's suggested label in brackets:

All Peoples Unitarian Universalist
[Congregation]

All Souls Unitarian Universalist [Church]

Fellowship Unitarian Universalist
[Church] of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Unitarian Universalist
[Congregation]

Freedom Unitarian Universalist
[Fellowship or Society]

Open Arms [a Unitarian Universalist
Congregation]

Open Hearts Unitarian Universalist
[Label]

Rational Quest [Church] of Fort Worth,
a Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Rose Fellowship Unitarian Universalist
[Church] of Fort Worth

The Fellowship Unitarian Universalist
[Church] of Fort Worth

The Rose [Fellowship] – a Unitarian
Universalist Congregation

The Unitarian Universalist [Society]
of Fort Worth

Truth [Church], a Unitarian Universalist
Congregation

Westside Unitarian Universalist [Church]

Members are invited to one or all Name Change Discussion Meetings on January 10th, 11th, and 15th. These meetings will be an opportunity to hear more support for each nomination. Details on how the meetings will be structured are located on the name change page of our website: www.westsideuu.org/name.

Vote #1 will take place at the Winter Congregational Meeting (January 25th) where members will cast ballots for their top three picks from the above list. Vote #2 is scheduled for February and Vote #3 for March - both will be conducted online with follow-up phone calls from COM members to ensure that as many members as possible vote.

The final vote to select our future name will be conducted at the Spring Congregational Meeting. After the selection of a name, the congregation will then select a label.

The COM wishes to thank all individuals that submitted nominations and look forward to the next steps in the process. If you have any questions about this process, please visit the website above where you will find the Board-approved process or contact any COM member: Caroline Nixon, Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry, Dick Trice, and Lin Wells.

*Myths and creeds
are heroic struggles
to comprehend the
truth in the world.*

- Ansel Adams

NTAUUS Presents New Structure

The mission of the North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies (NTAUUS) is to “proclaim and promote our Unitarian Universalist covenant of liberal religion by supporting and serving our member congregations.” In support of that mission, the current NTAUUS Board is putting a new structure in place. The officers for 2008-09 are:

President – Daniel Polk, First Unitarian Church in Dallas

Vice President – David Pollard, Pleasant Valley UU Church (Garland)

Treasurer – Howard McMahan, Westside UU Church (Fort Worth)

Secretary – Anne Smith, Community UU Church (Plano)

Once each quarter, the Board will meet face to face with representatives and other interested members from each congregation to report on progress and get reactions and suggestions. The next meeting will be at First Jefferson UU Church in Fort Worth on Saturday, January 17th beginning at 10:30 am and continuing through lunchtime.

The realization of our mission will be attained and assisted by several committees made up of NTAUUS board members and other congregants who might have some expertise or interest in these areas.

ACTIVITIES & CONNECTIONS – gathering our members together for events where we can celebrate our common UU identity and forming ‘working groups’ connecting congregational leaders, both officers and committee chairs, with their counterparts.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS – keeping us in touch with each other and getting the UU word out to the larger community

EDUCATION – presenting programs for our congregations such as the NATUURES teacher training, and coordinating campus ministry efforts.

HARDY SANDERS LECTURE SERIES – presenting high profile speakers in the fields of social and cultural change.

SOCIAL ACTION - coordinating efforts by our congregational faith in action groups, and developing larger cooperative social action programs.

These next two committees will be comprised solely of NTAUUS board members:

AWARDS – recognizing service by ministers, RE professionals and other church staff, and lay leaders.

FINANCE – planning how much we can spend during the year and keeping tabs on how much has actually been spent.

Mardi Gras Party & Auction

On Saturday evening, February 21, please come to Westside for a few hours of Mardi Gras revelry, Westside-style. The evening will include a Silent Auction during a social time with wine and appetizers in Westside’s own version of Bourbon Street. There will be separate children’s activities, included in the price of a child’s ticket. Following dinner, the crowning of a King or Queen (and a chance to see past King, Carl Romano, dance around in a sequin cape) and an entertaining Live Auction will provide opportunity for laughs and a rousing

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A fool can throw a stone in a pond that 100 wise men can not get out.

– Saul Bellow

good time. Look for tickets to go on sale at church January 11. Please join in, and please bring friends.

proved water efficient toilets, another step forward in Westside's Go Green efforts. Our current "facilities" are not very current and can be testy and inefficient. Please join us in our effort to make Westside's home more resourceful and pleasant experience.

Westside UUC Service Project News

The generosity of our Westside UUC service project program continues to grow. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During the month of December, the undesignated plate offering has gone to support the Samaritan House, near us here in south Fort Worth. Samaritan House provides multiple services for those in transition from life and medical challenges, especially those stricken with AIDS. We were fortunate to have been visited recently by their director who shared with Westside the good work being performed there. More can be learned by visiting www.samaritanhouse.org.

For the month of January 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support our internal need for im-

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, Treasurer, at charles.palmer@tyson.com, speak to him at church, or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications with two simple criteria: 1) "Do donations to the recipient further our church's vision and mission?" and 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?" Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months. Our record of donations and recipient organizations may be seen in the enclosed newsletter table or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either.

- Gore Vidal

We must declare ourselves, become known; allow the world to discover this subterranean life of ours which connects kings and farm boys, artists and clerks. Let them see that the important thing is not the object of love, but the emotion itself.

- Gore Vidal

MONTH	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
November, '08	UU Church of Baton Rouge, LA	\$1,109.56
October, '08	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$704.00
September, '08	Kennedy Micro-Lending Group	\$1,272.12
August, '08	Heifer Fund	\$1,506.69
July, '08	Clinica Esperanza	\$1,149.78
June, '08	Red Cross/Crescent Burma Cyclone Relief	\$1,033.43
May, '08	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$640.25
April, '08	UUA Service Committee - Kenya	\$600.82
March, '08	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$6,058.08
February, '08	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$556.92
January, '08	SWWC Intl. Convocation of UU Women	\$1,000.00
December, '07	Somali-Bantu Empowering Women	\$896.68
November, '07	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$788.59
October, '07	UUA Now is the Time campaign	\$862.00
September, '07	Cancer Care Services	\$1,018.75
August, '07	Tarrant Co Food Bank	\$647.51
July, '07	Westaid	\$853.63

Christmas Angels

Again this year Westside helped South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) provide Christmas gifts for needy families in our neighborhood, through the Angel Tree Project. This year our angels ranged in age from one week to twelve years old, and we had 17 boys and 13 girls. For each child chosen, we purchased an outfit of clothing, a toy and an age appropriate book. In looking at the gifts that came in, many of you went "above and beyond". As they did last year, Suzie and Jay Lotven took the gifts to SCAC and were there to help in the distribution.

That is the end of the story; now for the beginning. Susan Farris (and her elf helper Sandy Olaf) were in charge of the project this year, and it all went off without a hitch. They made the angels and put their sizes and toy wishes on them to put on last year's tree (another example of UUs recycling) which Dianne Nixon made; printed up the list of children and their numbers (SCAC identifies them by number); and supervised distributing the angels to willing Westsiders and collecting the gifts as they came in.

Westsiders participating this year were: Amy Youngblood; Jane Hansen; Janice Williams; Cathy McConnell; Paige, Laney and Sue Testerman; Allen Olsen; Andrea Petty; Dianne Nixon; Myrtle McMahon; Brenda McKeon; Audrey Weil; Julie Tribble; Sara Munoz; Rosemary Rivera; Joy Counts; Paul McClellan; John Huffman; Kathleen Stewart; Shelly Hatten; Diane Jones; Lori Hagstrom; Genie Furber; Sandy Bruno; Cindy Fountain; Jay and Suzie Lotven; Gayle and Russell Elleven; Nancy Van Boskirk; Caroline Nixon; Linda Jenkins; and Charlie Ogilvie.

We took thirty "angel" children this year, having had twenty last year, and from the wonderful response we had, we could easily have taken at least ten more. After the great response to the

Thanksgiving baskets, and then the "over the top" Christmas Angel Project, it makes me realize what a generous, giving group of people we have at Westside. I am proud to be a part of this congregation and to be your representative to SCAC!

- Beverly Archibald

Sunday Services

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 - *Hitting the Reset Button.* Whenever the new year rolls around, we tend to try to make resolutions to do things differently. Shelly Hattan will speak about hitting the reset button and how it can affect you in the long term.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 - *Getting Happy in 2009.* At the beginning of this new year, perhaps we discerned a need to make some different choices in the way we approach life. Now that the holidays are over, maybe we can begin to examine some of these ideas. Russell will offer a couple of suggestions this Sunday.

SUNDAY JANUARY 18 - *Living in the Myth of Things.* Sometimes we believe we are living in the midst of chaos. Sometimes we might feel like we have much of the world figured out. Sometimes we are merely living in the middle of the myth.

SUNDAY JANUARY 25 - *I Don't Feel So Good.* When things don't seem to be going right and everything seems out of balance, we often feel that internally on some level. Is there a way to identify these feelings and do something about them? We'll see this Sunday morning.

Adult Forum - 9:45 am Sunday

CURRENT EVENTS FORUM: Current Events Forum meets the first and third Sundays of January. Come catch up on what's going on around the world and add your own perspective in this lively and informed discussion.

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All universal moral principles are idle fancies.

- Marquis de Sade

Are wars anything but the means whereby a nation is nourished, whereby it is strengthened, whereby it is but-tressed?

- Marquis de Sade

Between understanding and faith immediate connections must subsist.

- Marquis de Sade

Begins promptly at 9:45 and ends at 10:40. Note that's 55 minutes, leaving 20 minutes before Sunday Service begins at 11:00.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4: Current Events Forum

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11: Radical Hospitality Workshop - please see following article in newsletter for more information

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18: Current Events Forum

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25: Radical Hospitality Workshop - please see following article in newsletter for more information.

Each workshop will include readings, group discussion, and small group discussion. Activities will include opportunities to practice radical hospitality with other participants. Everyone who is interested in making connections are Westside is encouraged to participate. Although attendance at multiple sessions will enhance the experience, please do not hesitate to join the group at any point in the series. There is value in each session. We do ask that you be present for the beginning of each session you choose to attend. The workshops will be facilitated by Brenda Baldwin and Lin Wells, and the first one is scheduled January 11 at 9:45 a.m. Please see the Adult Forum schedule in the newsletter for future dates.

IN & AROUND WESTSIDE

Radical Hospitality Workshops

Evidence shows us that thriving churches reach out and offer radical hospitality to those who come through their doors. Churches grow in depth as well as in membership when strangers are welcomed. In this series of workshops, we will explore the concept of welcoming strangers through an open heart, listening, and three states of relating - companionship, intimacy and boundaries.

We will utilize concepts from the book *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love*, by Daniel O. S. B. Homan and Lonni Collins Pratt to question our own beliefs, actions and habits as we work together to find ways to become more welcoming to newcomers, acquaintances and friends. Beyond welcoming, we will also explore understanding. Understanding is harder. Understanding involves us in mutual listening and speaking. It may involve moving out of our comfort zones.

A book is a version of the world. If you do not like it, ignore it; or offer your own version in return.

-Salman Rushdie

I used to say, 'There is a God-shaped hole in me.' For a long time I stressed the absence, the hole. Now I find it is the shape which has become more important.

- Salman Rushdie

Karaoke in January

Fun, song, and frivolity are yours at Westside on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. All singers and appreciative audience members are invited to come out and share the fun. Child care is available if you signed up by December 28. Wine, lemonade, and coffee will be provided, and you are asked to bring a FINGER food (that means no one needs a spoon or fork to eat it) to share. If you prefer a different beverage, please BYOB.

You are invited to gather at 7:00 to socialize and to sign up first-come/first-serve to sing Karaoke. Our host, Scott Paulson, will start the Karaoke by 7:30, and we plan for the evening to end around 9:00. Remember, one song per person (or for at least one person in your group) until everyone's had a chance to sing. Dancing and fun are unlimited!

Please contact Scott Paulson at s.c.paulson@juno.com or 817-292-2558 with any questions, for child-care, or for more information. Look for the poster near the water cooler between the sanctuary and fellowship hall, or near the front door.

Social Justice Committee Puts Principles into Action

As we look to the principles of the Unitarian Universalists, we note the second; "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;" and the seventh "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

In keeping with these and all our principles, the Social Justice committee invites the participation of the congregation and friends in a service project near to our church. Beginning in January 2009, on the fifth Friday of each month (Jan 30th, May 29th, Jul 31st, Oct 30th 2009), we will provide the evening meal to approximately 55 residents of Samaritan House, a non-profit facility that provides housing and life-skill counseling for those in our community afflicted with HIV.

Those who join this effort will provide portions of a pot-luck dinner, and may, with the help of others, serve the meal and clean up the kitchen afterwards. Prepared food should be available by 5pm, and food service usually begins at 5:30pm. We anticipate a sign-up form in the weeks ahead of each event, and would hope to have 6-8 servers, and additional cooks for each event.

If interested, indicate so on the forms that will be available on our bulletin boards. If you would like to discuss the project, feel free to contact John Huffman (817.658.0011) or ustice@westsideuu.org at your convenience. As the event approaches, you will be contacted to determine your participation (if available) for the next WUUC meal at Samaritan House.

The Social Justice Committee will meet Thursday, January 22nd at Ann Sutherland and David Burlingame's house. We will plan for our January 30th lunch at Samaritan House,

review our Kiva projects and discuss recommending a fund to honor Westside's earliest members. For further information please contact Ann Sutherland, ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net.

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Criticize, Compliment or Suggest - COM Wants Feedback!

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is charged with the responsibility for oversight of the health and wellbeing of the ministries within the congregation. To that end, the committee meets monthly with Russell to discuss issues which have arisen. The committee will hear, in confidence, any concerns in this regard which are raised by any congregant, and will seek to address them promptly and thoroughly. Similarly, the committee assists and supports the minister in his role. Feedback is welcome - not just concerns, but compliments as well. The committee, in addition, informs itself on matters of compensation and makes a recommendation to the Board as appropriate. A lesser-known function of the COM is to serve in an Ombudsman capacity when conflicts arise between members of the congregation, and the presence of a neutral third party may be of assistance. The congregation may expect both confidentiality and sensitivity in these matters. The members of the committee are selected jointly by the board and the minister for two year terms. Please feel free to contact any member of the COM: Caroline Nixon (Chair), Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry, Dick Trice, and Lin Wells.

Kennedy Fund Posts First Loss in Funds

Westside's microbank has made loans to 72 individuals and groups across the

A minute of perfection was worth the effort. A moment was the most you could ever expect from perfection.

- Chuck Palahniuk

globe. All but two of which are being paid back on time. But this month our website shows two loans not fully refunded.

“Well,” you might think, “Not surprising given that these loans are made to some of the poorest people in the world.”

On further inspection, it turns out that the money was lost because of the field partners, those agencies in third-world countries responsible for vetting the loans. It wasn't because their judgment was bad, either. Rather, the field partner “padded” the borrowers' request to get more money from Kiva. The field partner then pocketed the extra money, in violation of Kiva rules.

Kiva terminated its relationship with this field partner after sending staff to the host country, Ecuador, to investigate. The Kennedy Fund's loss was \$104. The fund has made \$9,500 in loans, half of which has been repaid and has been lent a second time. We will be lending the remainder of our plate offering in January.

Neighborhood Awareness Committee Holds First Meeting

Sunday, December 14th after Church five members met, and several others sent regrets they couldn't meet at that time, to discuss better interaction and taking advantage of some of the existing dynamics in our immediate neighborhood. After discussing some of the major players or groups that are already there (Ryan Place, Fairmont, Fort Worth South, the 3 Daggett Schools, the Hemphill, Berry, Magnolia, and Rosedale street initiatives and corridors, Arts Fifth Avenue, the Fairmont, the Hospital District), we decided to add police sub station, new fire hall, post office, other churches,

ACT, Southside Area Ministries, Code Blue Crime Watch, neighborhood library, the GLBT Community, Our Lady of Victory, and farmer's markets.

We then discussed what issues are important: public transportation, both existing and proposed, including light rail, street improvements, the Park next to Daggett Elementary, a sense of community, the issues of the above groups, and projecting our image, mission, and vision.

Next we discussed what type of interaction we envisioned. From joining in and supporting existing events, to having our members become more active in some of these groups, or if already involved make us all become more aware of some of these issues. We also envisioned taking small thank you gifts (like cookies) to fire and police and others, having more meetings at the church, attending cultural, fun, and community events as a group from Westside (presence in numbers), utilizing our musicians and neighborhood musicians, and adopting a major cause or project such as helping JPS establish a neighborhood school based clinic in an existing school. We also see this as a two-way street, getting more people from the community and community organizations involved in our church projects such as Greenfest.

We see this as an opportunity for more awareness, more members, and community service.

The best ways to accomplish this include participation in this existing infrastructure, making our presence known, supporting existing events, doing a long term major project. One specific way to accomplish this is to include information and links on our web site to community organizations and events. We may put together a list of restaurants in the area and utilize them after church and possibly with the Wednesday Lunch Bunch. We have plenty of other ideas.

If you are interested in helping make

A work of art has no importance whatever to society. It is only important to the individual.

– Vladimir Nabokov

things like this happen, please attend our next meeting after church January 11th or email your ideas to temporary chair John Nagely at John@Nagely.com

contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com or go to www.rke.cc.

Where's Russell in January?

Russell will be at Westside each and every Sunday in January. He will facilitate Joys and Concerns each of those Sundays and deliver reflections on the 11th, 18th, and 25th. He will be gone most of the last week of January attending the Southwest Ministers Retreat in Navasota. So, January office hours look like this:

Tuesday, Jan 6 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan 8 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan 13 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan 15 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan 20 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Jan 22 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Just give him a call at home during those times (817-370-2171). If no response, you can leave a message or try the church office (817-924-6988). If you can't catch him, it is most likely that he is with another church member. He'll return your call as soon as humanly possible.

"Come Sing a Song..."

with Cathy McConnell and the rest of the Westside choir. The choir sings every other week. Email Cathy at clmcc7@yahoo.com for information.

Explore UU Membership

On Saturday, February 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Westside the following opportunities to explore UU membership will be presented:

View and hear the voices of a liberal faith,
Hear the history of Westside,
Share your spiritual journey and hear the journeys of others,
Share your expectations of Westside,
Hear the expectations Westside has of you,
Sign our membership book – if you freely choose,
and Eat Pizza!

Please let Russell know if you are coming and if you will need childcare. Call Russell at 817-924-MYUU (church) or at 817-370-2171 (home) or email him at relleven@gmail.com.

If you are interested in membership but want to join sooner or cannot come to this presentation, please contact Russell.

RE News

YOUTH SPONSOR PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Saturday evening, December 13 was quite wild and crazy! The youth had 11 kids, with a lot of energy, running

A mighty flame followeth a tiny spark.

- Dante Alighieri

Art, as far as it is able, follows nature, as a pupil imitates his master; thus your art must be, as it were, God's grandchild.

- Dante Alighieri

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12 Step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. For more information

around the fellowship hall. Movies, crafts, and make-your-own pizza were just some of the fun things on the agenda. Thank you to Susan Farris, Kim Paulos, Sue Testerman and Cindy Fountain for supporting the youth in this fundraiser.

MIDWINTER TEACHERS' DINNER

NATUURES will sponsor the Teacher Appreciation Dinner for all of the North Texas area teachers and a guest at First Dallas Unitarian Church on Saturday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. There will be FREE childcare on the premises. Invitations will be sent out before the end of the month, and RSVPs are due by January 11. The speaker will be Rev. Phil Douglas of Corpus Christi UU Church. The menu is Mexican food. Please make plans to attend!

WESTSIDE TEACHER TRAINING

Our midwinter training is on January 21 from 9-2 p.m. We will be getting our CPR training and certification, as well as deciding on next year's curriculum. We will choose from 3 different themes. Please plan to come for good food, good company and to learn lots of good stuff!

ALTERNATIVE BAZAAR

The youth had a booth at the Alternative Bazaar at First Jefferson UU Church on December 6 & 7. They sponsored Heifer Int'l and sold shares of animals and plants. They made over \$600. Way to go!!!

CLASSES CHECK IN

POTTER, 0-2 YEARS

When your infant or toddler comes to the nursery at Westside, they are taken in by a trained volunteer. We strive to keep your child constructively entertained while you are enjoying the service.

Our curriculum this year is "Our Jewish and Christian Roots." With that in mind, we have adorned the walls with symbols from our Jewish, Christian and Unitarian Universalist traditions. We also have puppets: Sheri the sheep who wears a Star of David; Carol the cow who wears a cross necklace; and Peter rabbit who has a chalice on his coveralls. You can rest assured your child will be safely looked after in the nursery at Westside.

BARTON, 3-5 YEARS

Barton class is growing! We are continually seeing new faces every week. In our journey through our Judeo-Christian roots we have arrived in Egypt with the stories of Moses. For a few weeks during the holiday season we are stepping off the path to learn about Hanukkah and Christmas. Then it's back to Egypt and a continuation of our trip through the Bible. During our class time we read stories, play games, do arts and crafts and discuss the stories.

ANTHONY, 6-8 YEARS

Anthony class is staying busy with learning about the Jewish and Christian holidays of the season. We made dreidels and learned about the miracle lamp that burned for eight days. We will be going back to the stories of Moses after the holidays.

YOUNG, 9-13 YEARS

The Whitney Young class has had great time learning about the Old Testament. Lately we have been studying about jealousy and envy, giving and forgiving through the studies of Joseph and his brothers. We have also been learning about dedication and being called through the studies of our own lives and that of Moses. The class loves that a lot of our lessons have crafts involving food!

Who, being loved, is poor?

- Oscar Wilde

A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything but the value of nothing.

- Oscar Wilde

EMERSON, 13 – 18 YEARS

We have been very busy!! In our class we have been working on our beliefs and how they help us find our way in the world.

Social Activities

HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH meet every **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month at 7 p.m. at the church. Those who are curious about humanism, agnosticism, free-thinking of all varieties, or simply want to delve deeper into study of our world and how it ticks, will find much of interest in these meetings. All are welcome. See Dick Trice if you have any questions.

WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS. Please note that there is a **NEW DAY AND TIME** for meeting. The next meetings will be held on the **SECOND Sunday** of each month following the Sunday Service, beginning at 12:30 and ending no later than 2 o'clock. **NEW MEMBERS** are especially invited to attend. The selection for Jan 11 is 25 pages from Jean Jaques Rousseau's "The Social Contract." Please see Dick Trice if you would like to have a copy of the selection and plan to attend. For more information about Great Books search the web for the Great Books Foundation. We are on the **FIRST SERIES** of selections.

CONTEMPORARY BOOK GROUP will meet January 25, 2009 after church,

at the church to discuss "Saving Fish from Drowning" by Amy Tan.

DINNERS FOR 9 will resume this month on the second Friday. If you have questions please feel free to email Paul McClellan, Social Co-Chair, at pclaypool@yahoo.com.

GenUUine New Orleans Mardi Gras !

February 21-25, 2009

First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans

More information: www.firstuuno.org (click Mardi Gras) or contact us at mardigras@firstuuno.org.

A unique opportunity to experience the greatest free party in the world -- Mardi Gras in New Orleans -- for a reasonable cost with guidance from locals who know the ropes!

Choose from a variety of options for housing, transportation, meals, activities, and length of stay. Three and four night packages (housing and breakfast only) starts at \$175 per person.

For more information & reservations, visit www.firstuuno.org. 50% Deposit required to secure reservation. Contact us at mardigras@firstuuno.org.

*It isn't necessary to
imagine the world
ending in fire or ice.
There are two other
possibilities: one is
paperwork, and the
other is nostalgia.*

- Frank Zappa

**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS FOR
NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER TO
JANICE_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET
BY JANUARY 15.**

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

OUR BOARD

President: Tom Woods
Vice President: Sandy Olah
Secretary: Bob Vann
Treasurer: Charles Palmer
Director: Brenda McKeon
Director: John Nagely
Director: Dianne Nixon
Director: Ann Sutherland

BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>Nov. 2</i>	114	24	138
<i>Nov. 9</i>	110	21	131
<i>Nov. 16</i>	78	15	93
<i>Nov. 23</i>	87	7	94
<i>Nov. 30</i>	86	15	101
<i>Averages</i>	95	16.4	111.4



This congregation has taken part in the UUA Welcoming Congregation Program to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

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 & 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.

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Do you feel that our church is doing something right? Should we be doing more or less of something? Should we be doing something different? If so, let the Committee on Ministry (COM) know. The committee also wants to know if you have a criticism, concern, or question. Look for us after the service, call us, or email us at COM@westsideuu.org.

Caroline Nixon (Chair, 817-922-9742), Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry, Jane Palmer, & Maria Schmidt

When you have finished reading your Westside Story, share it with a potential UU.