



the westside story

The monthly Newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, Texas • 11:00 AM • www.WestsideUU.org

Westside is Ordaining Russell!!

On March 8th at 4:00 p.m., Westside Unitarian Universalist church will formally ordain Russell into the wider UU ministry. While UU congregations have the authority to ordain anyone of their choosing, Russell met with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in early December and was given official approval by that credentialing body of the association. While there will be no change in the relationship between Russell and Westside, his ministry will now be formally recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Most area UU clergy will be in attendance and involved in the service. There is a modest concern the seating of our building may be inadequate. Church members are encouraged to arrive early and be seated rather than saving seats for themselves or others. Some seating will be reserved for clergy and Russell's family. The service will begin promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Mardi Gras at Westside!

Party and Auction Saturday, February 21, 6:00

Silent Auction begins at 6:00, accompanied by light appetizers, wine, and conviviality. Dinner begins at 7:00, followed by live auction.

Where better to enjoy the merriment of Mardi Gras in Fort Worth than at Westside? Don the outfit you think fits the occasion (anything goes!), put on a smile, and set your budget if you plan to participate in the auction.

Look for the list of auction items on the church website, or posted at church. It will be updated weekly!

The evening begins at 6 p.m. with meeting and greeting friends, and some spirited bidding on silent auction items. A catered dinner will be presented around 7 p.m. The live auction will follow dinner and promises to be entertaining with a professional auctioneer to keep the bidding competition lively, while generating funds to support Westside.

Friends and family are sure to have a rousing good time, so bring them! Dinner and children's activities tickets may be purchased at church through Sunday, February 15. If you won't make it to church by February 15 and want to purchase dinner tickets, please contact Brenda Baldwin at 817-988-9441. If you want to come only for the auction, you are most welcome, but table seating isn't guaranteed without a dinner ticket.

Dinner Tickets: \$12 through Feb. 15; \$20 after Feb. 15, if space is available. Children's activities, including child's dinner and child care: \$8, through Feb. 15; \$20 after Feb. 15, if space is available (please call Mary Noer at 817-821-9691 by 4 p.m. Feb. 21 to check on availability).

Dinner Menu:

Chicken (or Veggie*) Marsala

Jambalaya*

Oven roasted zucchini with corn and tomatoes*

Optional sauces to heat things up, should you desire some Cajun heat Salad*

Sourdough Rolls

Dessert

*Vegan-friendly

A separate child's dinner menu will be posted at church.

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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.

Westside Forum is Online.

Join the Discussion!

To Join:

Point your browser to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestsideForum>

Click on "Join This Group" button.

You will then see a form to create a Yahoo ID, or to enter your existing Yahoo ID or Yahoo Mail address.

You will then be sent to the "Join This Group" page.

Step 1. Your Contact Information

Check "Yahoo! Profile" to see that your Yahoo Id is correct. Check Email Address to see that your email is correct. You must enter something in the Comments Box, enter your name.

Step 2. Message Delivery

Choose "Individual email" or "daily digest".

Step 3. Message Preference

Choose Fully Featured.

Last Step

Enter anti-spam text. Click Join.

For questions or assistance, lin.wells@yahoo.com

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 January 2009, the undesignated plate offering has gone to support our internal need for improved 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. Member and visitor generosity will help make Westside's home a more resourceful and pleasant experience.

For the month of February 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering

*A time will come
when a politician
who has wilfully
made war and pro-
moted international
dissension will be
as sure of the dock
and much surer of
the noose than a
private homicide.
It is not reason-
able that those who
gamble with men's
lives should not
stake their own.*

- H.G. Wells

*Not that I want
to be a god or a
hero. Just to change
into a tree, grow
for ages, not hurt
anyone.*

- Czesław Miłosz

*Neither genius,
fame, nor love show
the greatness of the
soul. Only kindness
can do that.*

- Jean Baptiste
Henri Lacordaire

Month	Recipient	Amount
December, '08	Samaritan House	\$1,057.54
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

is going once again to support the South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). SCAC is a needs-fulfillment organization made up of South Fort Worth churches, and Westside UUC is one of its newest members. These are the guiding principles of their service philosophy:

Help meet emergency or one-time needs. Continuing assistance for a given client usually not provided.

Emphasis on helping individuals and families past a single difficult situation, with hope that it will result in significant long term improvements in their lives.

Large range of services, but somewhat modest in amount and limited in frequency—in order to serve as many clients as possible

Coordination with internal programs of member churches

Food pantry and clothing room of Southside Church of Christ

Children's closet of University Christian
Other

Coordination with other social services agencies and organizations

Referrals

Minimization of duplication

Further information about South Central Alliance of Churches' members and specific services may be found at their web site <http://www.fwscac.org/default.htm>.

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!

Sunday Services

February 1st - Carl Romano, "Faith and Hope for the Enlightened?" In times of adversity, and even just in times of curiosity about the Universe's mysteries, the religiously faithful turn their thoughts to God. Where does the agnostic or atheist go, what can they do, when they need answers and reason seems insufficient?

February 8th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Could it Be...Satan?" Do you remember Dana Carvey's "Church Lady" from Saturday Night Live? Satan can be a real force in the lives of some people. Maybe we all have demons? Russell will explore this topic this Sunday.

February 15th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Are They Really Right?" Many people in this area are on the other side of the ideological spectrum from our church and members. Do they have anything to teach us? Could they be right about some things? Russell will offer you his perspective.

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The people who burned witches at the stake never for one moment thought of their act as violence; rather they thought of it as an act of divinely mandated righteousness. The same can be said of most of the violence we humans have ever committed.

- Gil Bailie,

To be nobody but myself -- in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else -- means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting.

- E.E. Cummings

The modern conservative is engaged in one of man's oldest exercises in moral philosophy; that is, the search for a superior moral justification for selfishness.

- John Kenneth Galbraith

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February 22nd - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Getting Back Up" Life gets us all down sometimes. There are times when it is hard to get back up. What do you do when you are down? Can you assist others when they are down? Russell believes there are some times when it's all about getting back up.

Adult Forum

9:45 – 10:40 a.m. Sunday Morning

Both Current Events Discussion Group and Radical Hospitality begin at 9:45 and end around 10:40. Current Events Discussion Group meets every 1st and 3rd Sunday mornings for open discussion of the current world events in the east-most classroom. Visitors and newcomers are welcome in either group, although we ask that participants in the Radical Hospitality workshops be present at the beginning of each session they choose to attend.

Feb. 1st - Current Events Discussion Group, and "Radical Hospitality - Hospitality Begins Inside". Hospitality involves giving something of ourselves to others. It's not something you do, as much as it is someone you become. An essence of hospitality is receiving the stranger while letting them remain a stranger. Please join us as we explore these and other ideas about becoming more welcoming and open to others.

Feb. 8th - "Radical Hospitality - Welcoming The Other". The other is the one who is not like me. We tend to surround ourselves with people who are like us, and this can lead to a narrow life. Please join us as we explore how we might broaden our world view while welcoming the other.

Feb. 15th - Current Events Discussion Group

Feb. 22nd - "Radical Hospitality - Cloister, Community and Hospital-

ity". We need time alone, we need time with those closest to us, and we need to open ourselves to those who are not one of us. We need solitude and silence, and we need companionship, both intimate and uncomplicated. Please join us as we explore a balance of cloister, community and hospitality that can give us freedom, ease anxieties, and make room in our lives.

in & around westside

Where's Russell in February?

Russell will not be at Westside on the first Sunday of the month (February 1st). He will also be unavailable February 23rd through March 3rd. On February 8th, 15th, and 22nd, he will facilitate Joys and Concerns and offer reflections. Office hours are as follows for February:

Tuesday, Feb. 3rd, 9 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 5th, 9 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 10th, 9 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 12th, 9 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 17th, 9 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 19th, 9 am – 1:00 pm

During office hours just give him a call at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message then try the church office phone (817-94-4MYUU). If you do not receive an immediate response it means Russell is with another church member at that time. He will return your call as quickly as possible.

Mondays are Russell's days off and he tries to stay away from the computer and telephone on those days. He will always respond to emergencies unless out of town.

*There is only one
difference between
a madman and
me. The madman
thinks he is sane. I
know I am mad.*

- Salvador Dali

*Nature is ever
at work build-
ing and pulling
down, creating and
destroying, keeping
everything whirl-
ing and flowing,
allowing no rest
but in rhythmical
motion, chasing
everything in end-
less song out of one
beautiful form into
another.*

- John Muir

*Memories are
interpreted like
dreams.*

- Leo Longanesi

Social Justice Committee is busy

We did it! Thanks to John Huffman, Myrtle McMahan and their crew for their successful day serving dinner to over 50 residents of Samaritan House on January 30. They will be doing this four times each year, joining several dozen other organizations who band together to provide this service.

Thanks also to all of you who contributed over \$1,000 to Samaritan House through the December plate offering.

We are also excited about the success of our project to alleviate extreme poverty in the world. We have just passed the \$10,000 contribution level and have funded over 80 projects in all.

The Social Justice committee would also like to branch out to strengthen ties with our neighbors, joining with the Membership Committee. Early ideas are to try to get a school-based clinic nearby. It would be operated by JPS Healthnet, and set up through sweat equity provided by us and our neighbors. This project will need a leader. Want to take it on?

We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at David Burlingame and Ann Sutherland's house, 4028 Aragon Drive. You can reach Ann through email at ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net or call her at 817-504-3360.

"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.

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

our wider community

A Letter from UU Association of Congregations

Dear Friends,

I want to wish you a happy and healthy start to a new year, and express my deep appreciation for your generosity, every year.

Here are ten accomplishments of YOUR generosity in 2008.

1. The culmination of Unitarian Universalism's National Marketing Campaign, including full page ads in TIME magazine and a full page ad in the New York Times in the wake of the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee.

2. The UUA's inheritance of the growing Green Sanctuary Program, helping us to bring valuable environmental justice resources to congregations across your Association.

3. The free, accessible online avail-

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I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own -- a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty.

- Albert Einstein

I need someone to protect me from all the measures they take in order to protect me.

- Banksy

War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

- John F. Kennedy

ability of Tapestry of Faith curricula.

4. The appointment of the first ever Emerson UUA Chair of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School.

5. The awarding of over 60 scholarships to support students preparing for Unitarian Universalist ministry.

6. Grants to individual districts for their own innovative growth projects, totaling over \$330,000.

7. The ongoing work of the Washington Office for Advocacy, including the offer of free advocacy resources and opportunities for congregational and individual involvement on national advocacy issues.

8. Direct pastoral care and financial support for the victims of the tragedy in Knoxville.

9. The founding of the New Orleans Rebirth Volunteer Center, to transfer management of the former UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Volunteer Program to local New Orleans congregations, and to support nearly 800 volunteers from 61 congregations in its first year!

10. The implementation of the JUUST Change Consultancy to support a framework for systemic transformation through our commitment to anti-racism, anti-oppression, and building diverse, multicultural welcoming institutions.

Without your dedication and support, none of these actions would be possible. For that, I am profoundly grateful.

Please consider giving today to continue this valuable work. Donate Now.

In faith and gratitude,

Rev. Terry Sweetser

Vice President for Stewardship & Development

A travel opportunity for UUs

Do you dream of inexpensive travel? Travel and stay in homes of people who share your ideals. Learn about hosting people in your home to earn extra money. The UU bed and breakfast directory, UU're Home, offers a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and are happy to open their home to like-minded people. Travel to different cities and stay in reasonably priced accommodations or become a host and enjoy meeting new friends.

For more information, visit www.UUreHome.com or write to info@uurehome.com.

social activities

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW began the new year with a good crowd of 27 that included five visitors and two who joined the same night. The group meets every second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. If you would like to be informed of the programs for each month please contact Dick Trice to have your email address added to our list. Interest in humanism is growing across the country. Come to our meeting February 11 to learn more about it.

Great Books

We welcomed four newcomers to our meeting on Jan 11 and we look forward to two additional non-West-

*Who overcomes by
force hath overcome
but half his foe.*

- John Milton

*Society is like a
stew. If you don't
keep it stirred up
you get a lot of scum
on the top.*

- Edward Abbey

*I have never gone
to sleep with a
grievance against
anyone. And, as far
as I could, I have
never let anyone
go to sleep with a
grievance against
me.*

- Abba Agathon

siders at our February 8th discussion. The selection for that meeting is taken from Charles Darwin's "The Origin of Species and the Descent of Man," pages 471-95. It is entitled "The Moral Sense of Man and the Lower Animals." Discussions are held the second Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the east-most classroom.

Remember "Harvey"? He's back.

This production features Westside's own resident ham, Mike West, in the role of the Judge, at Theater Off The Square in Weatherford. There are nine chances: February 6-8, 13-15, and 20-22, 2009. Elwood P. Dowd is a delightfully pleasant and eccentric bachelor whose best friend is Harvey, a 6-1/2 foot tall white rabbit that apparently only he can see. Elwood (and Harvey) become the catalysts for the mending of a broken family and the unexpected blossoming of romance. Tickets \$10 in advance: (call 817-341-8687 to reserve tickets), \$12 at the door (\$10 for seniors and students), \$9 for everyone at Sunday matinees. Theater Off The

Square (TOTS) is a non-profit community theatre located at 14 N. Denton Road in Weatherford. Website: <http://www.weatherfordtots.org>.

Contemporary Book Group

On February 22 we will meet at the church after the service to discuss *Hardwater* by Steve Sherwood. The author is a friend of Bob Vann's at TCU.

On March 22 we will meet at the church after the service to discuss *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever, the lives, loves and work of Transcendentalists.

Dinners for 9

New members and friends can sign up online from our "Groups and Activities" page, email Paul McClellan at pclaypool@yahoo.com or call 817-556-9458 to sign up or for more information.

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We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it -- and stop there -- lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again, and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one any more.

- Mark Twain

The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.

- Marcel Proust

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

***Please Submit Items for Next
Month's Newsletter to:
janice_williams@charter.net
by FEBRUARY 15.
Thanks!***

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

Date	Adults	Children	Total
Dec. 7	120	14	134
Dec. 14	97	11	108
Dec. 21	123	19	142
Dec. 28	95	7	102
Averages	108.75	12.75	121.5



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.

RE News

Mission Statement: We strive to supply a safe environment that supports developments of an open mind, helping hands and a loving heart in our children and youth.

Mid-winter Teacher Training

We have teacher training on January 31st at Westside. We will be having CPR training and certification, as well as picking out our curriculum for the next school year. We'll have some terrific Italian food and free childcare! What more could you want? We will start at 9:00 with coffee, tea, fruit and pastries. CPR training starts at 10 a.m. to about noon. Then comes lunch and diving into the curriculum choices. We should be done by 2p.m.

NATUURES Sponsors Teacher Appreciation Dinner

What a wonderful evening! Get a room full of RE teachers from a bunch of Unitarian Universalist churches in the North Texas area and you are bound to have a great time! We had a GREAT speaker, Rev. Phil Douglas from Corpus Christi, as the key speaker. We enjoyed wonderful Mexican food, lovely decorations and fun get-to-know-you games. Can't wait until the Fall Training!!



February, 2009

RE Committee

Co-chairs – Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE – Julie Tribble

Committee Members:

*Trisha Bowes Amanda Oglesby
Diane Jones Sandy Olah
Natalie McKeon Jessica Zinn
Caroline Nixon Paul Zinn
Bettina Pfeifferberger*

Southwest UU RE Conference

will be held February 6-8 at Shady Lake Resort in Cleburne, Texas. Our church will be represented by Susan Farris, Jessica Zinn and Julie Tribble. It is very exciting to be attending this conference to learn from other religious educators in workshops and talking one-on-one.

On a more personal note, I want to commend our children and youth at Westside. They truly show the UU spirit of welcome and acceptance to all who enter our building. I work to follow their example every day. If you have noticed, please take the time to let them know how inspirational they are.

Kasserian ingera/How are the Children?

Among the most accomplished and fabled tribes of Africa, no tribe was considered to have warriors more fearsome or more intelligent than the mighty Masai. It is perhaps surprising then to learn the traditional greeting that passed between Masai warriors. "Kasserian ingera" one would always say to another. It means "and how are the children?"

It is still the traditional greeting among the Masai, acknowledging the high value that the Masai always place on their children's well-being. Even warriors with no children of their own would always give the traditional answer, "all the children are well." Meaning, of course, that peace and safety prevail, that the priorities of protecting the young, the powerless, are in place, that Masai society has not forgotten its reasons for being, its proper functions and responsibilities. "All the children are well" means that life is good. It means that the daily struggles of existence do not preclude proper caring for their young. I wonder how it might affect our consciousness of our children's welfare if in our culture we took to greeting each other with this daily question: "and how are the children?" I wonder if we heard that question and passed it along to each other a dozen times a day, if it would begin to make a difference in the reality of how children are thought of or cared for in our own country?

I wonder if every adult among us, parent and non-parent alike, had an equal weight for the daily care and protection of all the children in our community, in our town and state, in our country. I wonder if we could truly say without any hesitation, "the children are well, yes, all the children are well."

What would it be like...if religious leaders began every worship service by answering the question: "and how are the children?" If teachers began every class by answering the question: "and how are the children?" If every town leader had to answer the same question at the beginning of every meeting: "and how are the children? Are they all well?" If every business leader and corporate executive had to answer the same question at the beginning of every workday: "and how are the children? Are they all well?"

Wouldn't it be interesting to hear their answers? What would it be like? I wonder...I wonder... Let's begin here and greet members and friends in our Unitarian Universalist Congregation with – and how are the children? And before we can respond to one another "all the children are well". What actions must we take in this congregation? In our community? In our state? In our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations? In our country? And how are the children? Working together, may all our children be well.

Adapted by Pat Hoerdoerfer from a speech by Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill