

The Westside Story

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

Come Celebrate
Our Success Sunday,
March 2nd

3:00 PM PRE-DEDICATION
4:00 PM BUILDING DEDICATION
CEREMONY
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
CHILDCARE FOR INFANTS TO
AGE 3 FROM 3:30 TO 5:30

We've invited other churches (UU and others), social service agencies we've worked with, past speakers, and others who have supported our church, but the most important people at our Building Dedication will be YOU, the members and friends of Westside UU Church. We are hoping for a full house. Members and friends of Westside have all had a part in creating the "house" we will be dedicating, so please help us fill it by being here and being a part of this important milestone.

Unitarian Universalism draws from many sources. At 3:00, we will honor earth-centered traditions in a pre-dedication ceremony incorporating Tibetan singing bowls, drumming, and smudging. During the 4:00 ceremony, we will honor our Jewish and Christian roots with a blessing from Rabbi Mecklenburger from Temple Beth El and a brief message from Rev. David Barber, First Congregational Church UCC. Our own minister, Dr. Russell Elleven, and our president, Brenda Baldwin, along with the Westside Choir, the TrUUe Believers, a children's bell choir, and Dace Sultanov, will present messages which incorporate teachings from the Humanist tradition, wisdom from world religions, and words of prophetic women and men.

Come. Celebrate. Enjoy.

Easter Brunch Sunday,
March 23rd, after church

Advance tickets (through March 16th): \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids under 12. At the door (on a space-available basis): \$15 per adult, \$10 for kids under 12. The proceeds from this event will benefit Westside's "Go Green" Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to purchase and install an energy efficient dishwasher that can effectively and efficiently handle our use of 100% reusable dishes for church functions, as well as purchase additional dishes to supplement those we already have.

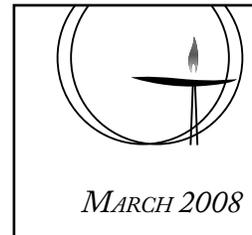
The Menu, created by Chef Dolores Ruhs:

Vegetarian Breakfast Casserole
Asparagus Egg Casserole
Sliced Ham
Hash Browns
Buttered Grits
Assorted Fruits with Whipped Cream
Assorted Breads, Muffins, and Bagels with Cream Cheese, Jellies and Butters
Sweet Rolls
Orange and V8 Juice
Coffee and Hot Tea
Mimosas

Advance tickets may be purchased from Bettina Pfeiffenberger before and after church March 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Westside Story Welcomes
New Editor

Beginning with the April issue, Janice Williams will be taking over as content editor of The Westside Story.



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, reli-
gious exploration,
and social action.*

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church
will grow and be-
come a more influen-
tial liberal religious
presence through
active service to our
community and the
world at large.*

Send your stories and story ideas to her at Janice_williams@charter.net, or call her at 817-236-8364. Forward any items you may receive from other churches, the District, or UUA to her. Eric Stevens will continue his role as layout editor. Welcome aboard, Janice!

Where's Russell in March?

You will see Russell all Sundays in March. On the 9th, 16th, and 23rd, he'll be delivering reflections. On the 2nd and 30th he will be doing only Joys and Concerns and the dates in UU history. The best time to catch him is during his Tuesday and Thursday morning office hours. Try him at home first (817-370-2171) and then at the church (817-92-4MYUU). If you don't catch him at either number, it means he is with another church member and will return your call ASAP. Mondays are Russell's day off. He will not be at church the first Sunday of April.

Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

March 2nd - *The Importance of Women's Stories in Understanding a Community* by Katie Sherrod. Grace & Gumption, Stories of Fort Worth Women is our attempt to pull women's stories out of the private places where most of them reside into the light of public awareness. Our daughters and sons can never fully understand the community in which they live without knowledge of the women who helped shape it. Katie Sherrod is a writer/producer who lives in Fort Worth.

March 9th - *Under the Influence* by Dr. Russell Elleven. The influence that others have on us can be very positive. It must be admitted there are times when that influence can be less so. Russell will talk about being under the influence of another this Sunday morning.

March 16th - *The Effectiveness of Churches* by Dr. Russell Elleven. What do effective churches do? Is Westside an effective church? You'll get one person's perspective today.

March 23rd - *Easter at Westside* by Dr. Russell Elleven. This is the weekend Christians celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. Unlike other church services this day, Russell will be focusing on the death side of the holy day.

March 30th - *The Indians Were Right: Mother Earth is Holy* by the Rev. Marjorie Montgomery. I can hear Mother Earth talking, and is she put out! She is saying "I gave you life...You gave me acid rain, nuclear waste, toxic waste and ozone layer depletion...You gave me destroyed rain forests, mountains and wildlife, and created a greenhouse effect...You gave me polluted oceans, rivers, lakes and streams...COUGH, WHEEZE, COUGH, CHOKE, COUGH... IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT YOUR MOTHER?" The Rev. Marjorie Montgomery was ordained in 1977 and has served several UU churches, including First Jefferson. She was Religious Education Consultant for the Southwest District for 5 years. Today she is retired and lives here in Fort Worth with husband Duane.

*A MAN DOES WHAT HE
MUST - IN SPITE OF PER-
SONAL CONSEQUENCES,
IN SPITE OF OBSTACLES
AND DANGERS AND
PRESSURES - AND THAT
IS THE BASIS OF ALL HU-
MAN MORALITY.*

- JOHN F. KENNEDY

SAVE THE DATES!

MARCH 2ND
CHURCH DEDICATION
& OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 23RD
EASTER BRUNCH

MARCH 29TH
TALENT SHOW

APRIL 12TH
GREEN FEST

APRIL 25TH - APRIL 27TH
CAMPING TRIP

Sunday Adult Forum

9:45 AM – 10:40 AM

March 2nd - *Louisa May Alcott* facilitated by Dr. Russell Elleven and meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Today, we usually think of Louisa May Alcott as the author of *Little Women* and the less-often read *Little Men*. She was, however, an influential member of the circle of people who contributed to the ideas of the leading Transcendentalists.

March 9th - *Margaret Fuller and Rights for Women* facilitated by Tom Woods and meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Margaret Fuller's name became synonymous with several of the main currents of Transcendentalism. She learned Latin and Greek at an early age, served as a teacher in Bronson Alcott's Temple School, as a magazine writer and editor, and also as a foreign correspondent. Her groundbreaking publications included *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*, the major work in which she argues unequivocally for equal rights for women.

March 16th - *The Month That Was* discussion group facilitated by Dick Trice and meeting in the glass-walled classroom.

March 23rd - *Transcendental Women* facilitated by Tom Woods and meeting in

the glass-walled classroom. Men in the Transcendentalist movement supported women, worked side by side with them, and argued for their rights. Women seized the mantle of their own authority and argued strongly for their own causes: religious freedom, abolition of slavery, and women's personal rights to own property, cast votes and control their destiny. This session will present a group of women who had a direct and powerful impact on Transcendentalist ways of thinking, from the three remarkable Peabody Sisters to the less well-known radical abolitionist Lydia Child and the indefatigable activist and author Caroline Dall. Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, while not directly connected to members of the Transcendentalist circle, were inspired by or helped to inspire American Transcendentalism.

March 30th - *Moncure Conway-Southern Transcendentalist* facilitated by Brenda Baldwin and meeting in the Fellowship Hall. A Southerner from a wealthy, aristocratic family, Conway embraced Transcendentalist thinking, and most notably, abolition while attending Harvard's Divinity School. He was an influential lecturer while living and preaching in England, associating with such leading lights as Carlyle, Dickens and Darwin. He evolved toward a very modern liberal humanism and eventually abandoned the organized church altogether.

THE WESTSIDE STORY
MARCH 2008

A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN PRACTICE A MORE OUTWARD ORIENTATION TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM (originally published in *The Membership Journey*) By Art Brewer, First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto, Canada.

This month, challenge yourself to apply these as you move through your daily life:

1. Link your favorite social justice cause to the congregation.
2. Invite a nonmember to a service, small group, or adult program within your congregation.
3. Attend a cluster or district meeting.



A TRULY GOOD BOOK
TEACHES ME BET-
TER THAN TO READ
IT. I MUST SOON LAY
IT DOWN, AND COM-
MENCE LIVING ON ITS
HINT. WHAT I BEGAN BY
READING, I MUST FINISH
BY ACTING.

- HENRY DAVID
THOREAU

OUR UU COMMUNITY

For the Bible Tells Me So Movie Screening at Horizon UU

Horizon UU Church has collaborated with Equality Texas to screen this documentary film at 7:00 p.m. on March 7th in the Horizon Sanctuary. Horizon is located at 1641 Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton, Texas 75010. The movie and light refreshments are free. Donations are welcomed. Panel discussion will follow.

The film deals with the use of religion to repress the spirit and the rights of members of the LGBT community in America. Website: <http://www.forth-bibletellsmeso.org/index2.htm>

"We'd like to make a statement by packing the house in our 240 seat Sanctuary!" says Doug Arvanites, Horizon Social Issues co-chair. You can reach him at 469-693-8913 for additional information.

WestAid Plans Trinity Trek



WestAid's third annual Trinity Trek is set for Saturday, April 5th, 2008. The festivities begin at 7:00 am at Pecan Valley Park. This year there will be a number of events for you to choose from:

The regular 50K bike ride along the river.

A 5K bike ride through the park and back.

A 1 mile "fun walk."

This means that the whole family can find a way to participate in this event, making it a true celebration of community support for WestAid's valuable work. There is a \$20 entrance fee. Participants will be given t-shirts and refreshments on race day.

WestAid is a nonprofit organization on the west side of Fort Worth, and Westside UU is one of its member organizations. Since 1985 WestAid has assisted the poorest of the poor with food, emergency services, transportation, and school supplies. It is supported by 30 member churches and a number of businesses. For more information and registration call 817-737-9338, or visit its website at westaid.org.

Soulforce Seeks Housing

Soulforce, an organization based on the principles of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, speaks out for and takes action for the neglected rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

During the United Methodist General Conference to be held in Fort Worth at the end of April, Soulforce will be present. Some of those who will travel here to participate will need affordable housing especially for the three-day weekend, April 25th-27th, of the primary emphasis.

Mike Herrington, as part of the advance team, is acting as coordinator of that housing. He hopes that some of our own church family will step forth to offer housing. You may contact him at 817-926-2113 or jmh76133@yahoo.com. Westside's contact for information is Sharon Salih, the newsletter editor for PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), who adds, "I appreciate any help you can give me in sharing this request. I know that UU folks like to support participants in social justice organizations. I found just such a welcome in a Virginia UU home when I attended a PFLAG conference in Washington D.C." You can contact Sharon at ransalih@charter.net.

SWUUD Annual Meeting & Spring Conference April 25-27

The news is out about the Southwestern UU District Annual Meeting and Spring Conference, Friday, April 25 - Sunday,

*DO YOU REALLY THINK
IT IS WEAKNESS THAT
YIELDS TO TEMPTA-
TION? I TELL YOU THAT
THERE ARE TERRIBLE
TEMPTATIONS WHICH IT
REQUIRES STRENGTH,
STRENGTH AND COUR-
AGE TO YIELD TO.*

- OSCAR WILDE

April 27, 2008, at First UU Church of Austin. The theme this year is What the World Needs from Religious Liberals and will cover a wide variety of subjects in keynote addresses, workshops, worship, and UU conversations. There are optional opportunities for recreation and for ecumenical choices: a workshop with highlights from the Jesus Seminar, another with exploration of Adult RE work on the Qur'an, UU history, and an invitation to visit Barsana Dham, Austin's Hindu Temple.

The busy schedule begins on Friday, April 25th, with registration starting at 4:00 p.m., continuing with an especially meaningful full day on Saturday. Sunday worship services will include special music from a widely-appreciated choir, led by Music Director Brent Baldwin. Dr. Davidson Loehr, FUUCA's gifted and renowned preacher, will deliver homilies and sermons for worship services.

Don't forget the District Annual Meeting! Delegates will gather on Saturday afternoon for that -- to consider bylaw changes and hold elections. Delegates from all congregations are expected to attend.

Please check out more details in the FUUCA brochure online at www.austinuu.org. Registration forms and fees must be received in the FUUCA office in order to attend any or all of the conference. Early registration is accepted through March 31, 2008; late registration adds to the cost. If you have questions, e-mail conference@austinuu.org.

Invest in Predictable Income and Support Unitarian Universalism

Originally published February 11, 2008 at uua.org

Since the New Year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has fallen over 200 points on seven occasions and has closed below 12,000 points for the first time since November 3, 2006. Those who rely on dividends, interest from invest-

ments, or the sale of securities may have noticed this recent decline in the markets. And while the market is readjusting, those relying on income generated by it are experiencing a financial roller coaster ride potentially resulting in one less trip to the supermarket or to the pharmacy this month.

Fortunately, there are several ways for those 55 years or older to get off of this roller coaster while retaining steady income, claiming an immediate charitable tax deduction, and supporting Unitarian Universalism. Below are two common ways to do this.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES:

The concept of a gift annuity is relatively simple. You, wishing to support the Association, a congregation, or other Unitarian Universalist entity, make a gift to the Association. The UUA then reinvests your assets and agrees to pay out fixed payments to you for your lifetime (and, if desired, for that of another beneficiary). Upon death of the last individual beneficiary, the annuity is terminated and the remaining funds are distributed to the charitable beneficiary (the Association, a congregation, or another Unitarian Universalist entity).

CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUSTS:

Annuity Trusts are a popular option for gifts of over \$100,000 and allow for greater flexibility than Charitable Gift Annuities. With this plan, the trust pays a fixed dollar amount every year for the rest of your life with no investment worries or responsibilities. After your lifetime, the trust remainder becomes available to the Association, a congregation, or other Unitarian Universalist entity of your choosing.

With Annuity Trusts you decide the amount to be paid to you each year from the trust. You may also select other individual beneficiaries, choose an event that triggers the start of annuity payments such as retirement or a birthday, and even set the number of years over which the trust will pay income before terminating.

If you are interested in setting up an annuity, want to learn more about other types of planned gifts, or have any other questions, please contact the Legacy Gifts Office toll-free at (888) 792-5885 or via email at giftplans@uua.org.

*AS LONG AS PEOPLE
BELIEVE IN ABSURDITIES
THEY WILL CONTINUE
TO COMMIT ATROCITIES.*

- VOLTAIRE

Friends Will Call

Friends of the UUA will be conducting a phonathon appeal in support of the Tapestry of Faith Curriculum. Tapestry of Faith is a new series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love. These resources are being developed out of a broad series of conversations that articulated a future direction for Unitarian Universalist religious growth and learning and denomination-wide focus groups which helped shape a program that would offer a variety of resources—downloadable, printed, viewable, interactive, and more—a religious growth and learning program for the twenty-first century. The first Tapestry of Life program is the beta-test version of Spirit of Life, a program about exploring spirituality for adults.

Call the UUA hotline at (617) 948-6525 to request no calls at any time.

SMART Group Meeting at Westside

Through a grant obtained by the Humanists of Fort Worth (www.hofw.org), Westside is hosting Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) meetings. These meetings, facilitated by our minister, are an alternative to 12 Step recovery programs. The SMART program is based upon cognitive behavioral techniques and does not require the participant to believe in a higher power or to deem themselves powerless. The meetings occur each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm and are confidential.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from SMART meetings, please contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com or by phone.

*A MAN CAN'T RIDE YOUR
BACK UNLESS IT'S BENT.*

*- MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.*

Civil Rights Bus Tour: March 22nd - 30th

Join Rev. Dr. Gordon and Judy Gibson as they take you on a tour of significant sites of the Southern Civil Rights Movement, offering a journey of experiential learning where you will encounter the sights, sounds, and especially the people who worked to create change during this revolutionary time in our country's history. The course is offered for credit for seminary students, but non-students are encouraged to audit the course. Enrollment to take the course for credit will be limited to 15. An additional 15 seats on the tour will be available to the general public. Registration is on a first-come basis and is due no later than January 18, 2008. Please note that this year the course runs across Easter weekend. Participation for the entire eight days is required for those seeking academic credit and strongly encouraged for all others. See the link on our home page for more information about this course: www.meadville.edu. This course was offered in 2006 and was a life- and ministry-changing experience for all of the participants. For an account of that trip, please visit the website at www.meadville.edu.

Niagara Falls Opportunity

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 20th through July 23rd. Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls, including some great educational opportunities, while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four--day UU Niagara Experience which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit the web site <http://www.uunex.net/> or Email: uunex@yahoo.com or call 716-745-7149 or 716-791-4453.

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the church. The next meeting is March 12th at 7:00 pm. Dr. Jim Fogleman and Dick Trice will talk about three famous freethinking humanists of the past: psychologists Abraham Maslow and Carl Rogers plus the great agnostic, Robert Ingersoll.

INSIDE WESTSIDE

April Fool's Talent Show A Westside Tradition

It's that time of year again - time for the reportedly world famous April Fool's Talent Show at Westside. This year, it will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. We'll have singers, players, actors, and who knows what else? It's easy to attend. Wine, lemonade, and decaf coffee will be provided. (You are welcome to bring your own beverages if these don't suit you.) Light snacks will be provided. Childcare is available for the entire evening with advance sign-up (and anything beyond a PG-rating will be scheduled after intermission, should children want to attend or participate in part of the show.)

And... most importantly, the entertainment is spectacular. Don't miss it!

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If you would like to participate in this year's April Fool's Talent Show on March 29th, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) by March 18th. Each performer is guaranteed applause and five minutes of fame. More time may be available depending on the number of performers. Music, skits, poetry, dancing, and more are welcome. Members and friends of Westside, and their friends and family, are welcome. If you aren't sure, please call or e-mail to discuss. If you are sure, please call or e-mail as soon as possible. If you don't receive a response within three days, please try again as technology may have failed.

Westside UU and CASA

By *Mary Noer*

In January 2000, James and Ardis Freeman, who are friends of Tom and Lela Woods, came to Westside with an idea. They wanted to know if anyone at our church would be interested in building a home for a family in Progresso, Mexico. Mary Noer and Bill Terry were immediately interested, along with Tom and Lela.

The workers on that first build, March of 2000, were Lela, Phillip, and Tony



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Paula Robbins and Jean Reese, Publishers

*A MAN WHO VIEWS THE
WORLD THE SAME AT
FIFTY AS HE DID AT
TWENTY HAS WASTED
THIRTY YEARS OF HIS
LIFE.*

- MUHAMMAD ALI

Woods, Mary Noer, Bill Terry, James and Ardis Freeman, and Ardis's dad and his wife, Wendell and Janice Tackett. We all agreed to underwrite the project, making sure it would be paid for even if we couldn't raise funds. Luckily, that year and every year after, our families, our friends at Westside UU, and the Hispanic Administrators Association of Fort Worth have donated the funds we've needed to pay for the house. We only pay for our transportation down, our food and our lodging for the trip.

We stay in Mercedes Texas, renting a ranch house there, and drive across the border daily to the build. That first year, Carina Terry (who was one year old) and Marjorie Terry, (Carina's grandma) stayed in Texas, cooking and cleaning for us so we could eat as soon as we got back. Since that time, we've had volunteers join us who specifically go to support the building group by cooking, cleaning, and shopping.

Many members of Westside have supported us in our endeavor, both with money and with volunteers, for the last eight years. We even had enough of both to build two houses one year, although that was much tougher than we thought!

Ardis and James choose the families we build for, making sure they own the land. (This is to ensure that after we build the house, a landlord can't force the family out and charge more for the next family.) Then the Freemans arrange for all of the building supplies to be at the site when we get there (as best as is possible) and also for the foundation to be completed ahead of time. A good friend of theirs, Clemente, lives in Progresso and is our maestro, our foreman, our teacher. He is a very patient teacher and has taught all who want to learn how to lay bricks, reinforce corners, make door and window openings straight, build rafters and put on a roof, put in windows and doors – in short, how to build a house.

The family we are building for also helps as much as they can. The fathers are usually at work, but they help on their days off. The mothers bring us water, sweep up, etc. And there are always plenty of children to keep us entertained!

Bill Terry organizes the volunteers on the US side, making sure someone will be the help we need at the ranch house, accounting for all the money and collecting money from the volunteers. He and Mary publicize, raising funds and communicating with Westside donors afterward, sending thank-you notes and pictures of the build.

Wendell and Janis host before and after meetings for the volunteers. Before the build, we gather so that new volunteers can meet experienced volunteers. Both old and new volunteers watch a movie of a build, so they know what to expect and refresh their memories as to how to do things. After the build, we meet to celebrate and exchange pictures from the build.

We are grateful for all of the support we have received from everyone, especially from Westside UU church. Thank you to all!

For information re this year's CASA project, contact Mary or Bill at: terrynoer@sbcglobal.net.

Green Fest Comes to Westside

SAVE THE DATE – April 12th - for Westside's UU Green Fest, an eco-and-earth-celebrating festival for all ages. Rain or shine, there'll be something for everyone from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

We'll have entertainment, food, games, raffles, and demonstrations of "green" living here on Page Avenue. Admission and parking are free, with cash-only opportunities to contribute to Westside while having fun and maybe learning something new about nourishing our planet.

*I LOVE NOT MAN THE
LESS, BUT NATURE
MORE.*

- LORD BYRON

Plan to attend and bring friends as we honor Earth Day (April 22nd) and Arbor Day (April 26th). And, please volunteer to Linda Jenkins, Diane Jones and Nancy Van Boskirk to help with the activities.

Assistive Listening at Westside

Westside now has assistive listening devices for those who have trouble hearing during our Sunday services. They consist of a battery powered receiver and either ear buds or ear phones. If you would like to try them out, just see Bill Terry before the Sunday service and he will set you up.

WSUU Annual Camping Trip

Pack up the kids, dogs, tents, friends, and family for a fun-filled weekend at Mineral Wells State Park. Join us April 25th, 26th, and 27th for fun, fellowship, and food. Hiking, biking, boating, and relaxing too! There is limited space - so sign up soon to reserve your spot. It is \$30 for adults (13 and over), \$10 for kiddos (12 and under) - that pays for your camping spot and all your food (there will be vegetarian and non-vegetarian options). All you need to bring is yourself, your camping gear (chairs, tents, etc), and your drinks - we supply the rest.

Contact Bettina Pfeiffenberger at 817-343-8873 or Zookittie@gmail.com for more details - or sign up at church when you see her.

Guest at Your Table

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has a special tradition that celebrates the worth and dignity of all people and helps place this UU value into action: the Guest At Your Table

program. The UUSC advances human rights and social justice in this country and around the world. A recent example of their work includes the "Stop Torture Permanently" Campaign. The UUSC initiated STOP in response to the human rights crisis created by the U.S. torture and abuse of detainees in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantánamo Bay.

This year, WUUC raised \$336.15 for the UUSC. Thank you to all the donors: Sharon Salih and Gary Randall, Myrtle and Howard McMahan, Maria Schmidt and Carl Romano, Gayle and Russell Elleven, Barbara and Dick Trice, Beverly Archibald, Carina and Bill Terry and Mary Noer, Cindy Fountain, Isaac García, and Ann Sutherland. All contributions that arrive at UUSC before June 30th are counted toward eligibility for congregational awards, so if you would like to participate, Caroline Nixon (carolinenixon@sbcglobal.net or 817-922-9742) will happily accept and submit your donation.

Upcoming Westside UUC Service Project News

Westside members have been excited about the success of our new plan for service projects. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During February, our recipient was the Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT). ACT is a grass roots community level organization, working for improvement of health care for Tarrant County's residents and for improvement of Fort Worth schools, focusing on attendance, graduation rates and more. For more details, visit the ACT Web site at <http://alliedcommunities.org>.

For the month of March, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to the start-up of Westside UU Church's own "Go Green Campaign." Westside has begun to look inward to discover ways to be more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

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MARCH 2008

*AFTER CLIMBING A
GREAT HILL, ONE ONLY
FINDS THAT THERE ARE
MANY MORE HILLS TO
CLIMB.*

- NELSON MANDELA

One of the most resource-intensive and labor-intensive activities of WUUC is dishwashing after social gatherings. Westside has researched a professional grade washing system that uses self-heated water and no detergents, with an installed cost of about \$5,000. Some additional reusable service ware will be needed to fill out what we already own. Such an investment demonstrates our commitment to our vision, mission, seven UU principles, and fewer wrinkled fingers and hands!

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!

Contract Help Wanted

Westside has a need for someone to come to the building between 6:00 p.m. Friday and very early Sunday morning to prepare

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR WUU SERVICE PROJECT SUCCESSES!

Service Project Donation Recipients

JULY 07 - WESTAID

AUGUST 07 - TARRANT AREA FOODBANK \$853.63 RECEIVED

SEPTEMBER 07 - CANCER CARE SERVICES \$647.51 RECEIVED

OCTOBER 07 - UUA "NOW IS THE TIME" NATIONAL CAMPAIGN \$1,018.75 RECEIVED

NOVEMBER 07 - SOUTH CENTRAL ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES \$862.00 RECEIVED

DECEMBER 07 - SOMALI-BANTU EMPOWERING WOMEN PROGRAM \$788.59 RECEIVED

JANUARY 08 - SWWC INTERNATIONAL CONVOCATION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN \$896.68 RECEIVED

FEBRUARY 08 - ALLIED COMMUNITIES OF TARANT (ACT) \$1,000.00 RECEIVED

MARCH 08 - WESTSIDE UU CHURCH "GO GREEN CAMPAIGN"

the building for our use on Sunday. The tasks may include thoroughly vacuuming the sanctuary and classrooms we use, arranging the chairs in the sanctuary, placing hymnals on the chairs, arranging the chairs and tables in the narthex, arranging the chairs for Adult Forum, arranging the tables and chairs for potluck once per month, arranging the classrooms for Westside Religious Education, and insuring the restrooms and kitchen are clean and properly stocked with paper products.

This person will not be an employee of the church but an independent contractor who will bill the church monthly. He or she will need to be able to pass a criminal background check and provide references. He or she will need to be able to work from written instructions that may change from week to week and must be very reliable and willing to make a weekly call to confirm completion of the task.

If you know of an individual or organization that may be qualified for this position, please contact Brenda Baldwin (817-988-9441 or president@westsideuu.org). Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Youth Happenings

YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN

On Saturday, March 29th, the Westside Youth Group will be attending and performing in the church-wide talent show! Afterwards, they will spend the night at the church, watching movies on the big screen, dancing with the DDR, playing the drums and guitar, and having a good old time in general! In the morning, after cleaning up and setting up for church, the youth will eat breakfast and most will go home to actually sleep, so don't be surprised if you don't see them on Sunday.

YOUTH CLASS SCHEDULE

March 2nd – Youth will be meeting as usual on this Sunday at 12:30p.m.; but,

instead of a hearing a lesson, we will be developing a skit or two for the talent show! Please join us and contribute your talent, whether it be as an actor, writer, or audience member.

March 9th – Youth will meet as usual at 12:30 p.m. for a lesson after warming up first with the DDR.

March 16th – We will be practicing our skit for the talent show. Even if you are not interested in performing, please come and help by giving feedback and making improvements – practice is usually more fun than the performance!

March 22nd – Many youth will be participating in the Elsie's Kid's 5K Run and Trolley Walk at the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center. Please contact Alisha Scott for more information (817-270-2000 or scotta337@charter.net).

March 23rd – Easter Sunday – No youth classes will be held, but the youth are asked to help out with the younger children's Spring Egg Hunt.

March 30th – No youth classes will be held on this Sunday! (They will be too tired out from staying up all night for the lock-in.)

FLOCKING CONTINUES



Our youth are still flocking, but due to time constraints, they are mostly limited to Saturday nights. If you have already signed up for a flocking, don't despair, your turn will come!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE. WWW.WESTSIDEUU.ORG

Our UU Youth have been flocking homes as directed! If you know someone you think deserves to have a flock of flamingos put on his/her lawn on a Saturday night for only \$20, call Alisha at 817-835-4100 or 214-454-3181. Please note that this will be done for several months, as we can only flock one or two houses a week. For more details, see a teen or the flyers out in the hall and on the Religious Education bulletin board.

Westside UU T-Shirts

“WWUUD?” (This stands for “What would a Unitarian Universalist Do?”) They are here! Our Youth have designed our new Westside UU t-shirts. On the front of the t-shirts are the letters “WWUUD?”. On the back are listed our Seven Principles and our church name and website address. The cost is \$15 for an adult size shirt and \$12 for a children’s size.

By buying a t-shirt, you will not only be supporting our youth, you will also be proclaiming to the world our belief in the Seven Principles, and showing others where they might go to find like-minded people! Look for the t-shirts in the fellowship hall, or ask any youth or youth leader for a t-shirt. Don’t forget to get one before the Annual AIDS Walk – we would look great as a group in our shirts!

Board of Directors Meeting

The standing meeting of the Westside UU Church board is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 at the church. Please check the church calendar at www.westsideuu.org to verify the meeting date as it is sometimes necessary to meet at another and/or an additional time.

If you would like to add an agenda item, please contact the church president, Brenda Baldwin, at president@westsideuu.org in advance of the meeting. If you would like to attend a meeting as an observer, advance notice isn’t necessary, but is appreciated and will provide more effective building access.

If you would like to receive board meeting minutes and/or financial reports, please utilize the links available under “church business” on the church website, or contact Beverly Archibald for minutes and Charles Palmer for financial reports at their phone numbers listed in the church directory or leave a message on the church phone (817-292-3337).

Posting Information at Church



We currently have four bulletin boards at church:

The “Religious Education” bulletin board is located near the water fountain between the fellowship hall and rear door of the sanctuary. It is kept up-to-date with news from our RE program, and all are encouraged to use it to stay informed of the latest activities of our children and youth. (Don’t miss the re-use of materials and use of renewable resources in the creation of the display!)

In the hallway just outside of the rear sanctuary entrance, to the right of the pamphlet rack, is the “Westside and UU Happenings” bulletin board. On this board, you’ll find information about upcoming events at Westside and our larger UU community.

In the hallway between the Angel Montessori and Westside offices, just around the corner from the pamphlet rack, are the “BRIC” and “Community News” bulletin boards. The BRIC

board is kept up to date by the Building Repair and Improvement Committee. Look there for the latest information regarding our building repair and improvements. The Community News bulletin board is for posting of events in the community that may be of interest to Westside members and friends.

Tom Woods, Westside Vice-President, is working on a formal policy for the posting of materials. Until this policy is adopted, please contact Tom if you have any questions or comments regarding the posting of materials.

Please do not post materials on the walls or doors of the church without checking with Tom (or Brenda Baldwin, Westside President, if Tom is unavailable). If you have a need to briefly post something, the use of MASKING TAPE will help preserve the “newly painted” condition of our walls and doors as long as possible.

Church Calendar, Contacts & Communication

If you are planning (or canceling) a church event or committee meeting, please send the information to calendar@westsideuu.org, so the calendar can be updated accordingly. This link to the Webmaster, as well as links to the newsletter editor, committee chairs, the board, and others may be found by clicking on “contact us” near the bottom of the homepage of www.westsideuu.org.

Announcements of upcoming activities are also included in the insert in each Sunday worship’s Order of Service and sent out in the Weekly Web. If you are not receiving timely notification of events, please let us know via e-mail or via phone (817-292-3337).

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

After-Church Potluck Lunch – Third Sunday of each month. The next one will be March 16th. Please join us for food and fellowship. A special table is reserved for visitors and newcomers.

Contemporary Books – The next meeting is March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. at Reed’s house to discuss any books by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-735-9559.

Bridge Night – First Sunday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the church. The next night is March 2nd. 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.

The Wednesday Lunch Bunch (formerly known as the Kimbell Lunch Bunch) is now meeting at various restaurants around town. See the Weekly Web for the restaurant of the week, and join the group for food and fellowship. Contact Dick Trice at 817-446-3840.

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

Westside Great Books – The new meeting time is every third Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The next meeting is set for Sunday, March 16th. The subject of the March 16th discussion will come from a new set of selections, the first of which is “Rothschild’s Fiddle” by Anton Chekhov. Newcomers are invited to join the group for discussions of the great ideas and writers of the world. Now is a good time to join, for this will be the first of fifteen selections to be read and discussed, readings selected by the Great Books Foundation, the nonprofit educational corporation supporting reading all over the world for more than 50 years. For additional information, call Dick Trice at 817-446-3840.

Dinners for Nine – For information, contact Dolores Ruhs, Social Chair, at 817-24-1829 or at ruhsdol@sbcglobal.net.

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Board of Directors 2007-2008

President – Brenda Baldwin
Vice-President – Tom Woods
Secretary – Beverly Archibald
Treasurer – Charles Palmer
Director – Amanda Oglesby
Director – John Nagely
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Audrey Weil

Committee Chairs

Adult Education - Vacant
Building - Gene McKeon 817-921-3692
Finance - Howard McMahan 817-294-1363
Membership - John Nagely 817-292-3629
Social Justice - Vacant
Religious Education - Jessica Zinn 817-763-0901
Social - Dolores Ruhs 817-249-1829
Worship - Amy Youngblood 817-924-1358



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

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

Have an announcement?

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by March 21st.
All submissions should be made to Janice Williams at
Janice_williams@charter.net or at 817-236-8364.

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, January 06, 2007	69	11	80
Sunday, January 13, 2007	100	9	109
Sunday, January 20, 2007	100	15	115
Sunday, January 27, 2007	83	9	92
Monthly Average	88	11	99

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.

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