



the westside story

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

March 2009

Private Heartache – Public Battleground

by Audrey Weil

In 2007 China's death penalty executions numbered 470+. In Iran more than 317 died by order of the courts; Saudi Arabia executed over 143, that number followed closely by Pakistan's 135. The fifth highest number of state decreed executions in the world – that's the whole planet – numbered 42 and took place in the United States of America. The State of Texas executed 26 of its citizens, more than all the other 49 states combined. The remaining 16 were spread across nine other states, none of which executed more than three people.

December's newsletter introduced Ken and Lois Robison to the Westside family. Concerned and compassionate, the Robisons found their life mission in an ongoing battle to abolish the death penalty.

In 1982 their mentally ill son, Larry, having been found guilty of murder, was sent to the Ellis I unit in Huntsville, Death Row. Larry was executed by the state on January 21, 2000.

After their son entered prison, Lois and Ken became board members of TX CURE - Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants. They also served as co-directors of the issue chapter HOPE - Help Our Prisoners Exist. They continue to be active with TX CURE, International CURE, the National and Texas coalitions to abolish the death penalty, Amnesty International, MVFR - Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, and MVFHR - Murder Victims Families for Human Rights.

The couple traveled all over the USA, Europe, Scandinavia, and the Philippines with Amnesty International, CADP - Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, speaking about the death penalty. In 2000 Amnesty International and the CADP named them Abolitionists of the Year.

In June, 2005 in Fort Worth, the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association presented Ken and Lois with the Holmes-Weatherly Award for life-long commitment to faith-based Social Justice.

Westside is fortunate to have the Robisons in our family.

Don't Forget Russell's Ordination on March 8

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

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.

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.

Light snacks, wine, lemonade and de-caf coffee will be served. If you prefer another beverage, please bring your own. Child care will be available to those who sign-up by March 22. The sign-up list will be posted at church by March 8.

April Fool's Talent Show

Saturday, April 4, 7 pm, with doors opening at 6:30

After resting up from the Mardi Gras Party and Auction in March, get ready for an entertaining evening at Westside on April 4th! Westside's Talent Show will be evening of outstanding entertainment provided by members and friends of Westside. Watch for a line-up to be posted towards the end of March, but rest assured the talent will be first-rate. You'll laugh; you'll sigh, and maybe even cry!

Your participation as an appreciative audience is sought, as is your talent if you are willing to take the stage. If you are interested in performing, please contact Cathy McConnell at <mailto:clmcc7@yahoo.com> or 817-734-1822) for more details no later than March 22.

Westside UUC Service Project News

The generosity of our Westside UUC service project program continues to grow. Each month, undes-

I am a part of all that I have met.

- Lord Tennyson

I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war.

- Albert Einstein

Here lives a free man. Nobody serves him.

- Albert Camus

Month	Recipient	Amount
January, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" Campaign	\$ 1,231.80
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

ignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During the month of February 2009 the undesignated plate offering has gone 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, ably represented there by Beverly Archibald. SCAC helps serve day-to-day subsistence needs of those in our immediate community. More can be learned about this grass-roots service effort at their web site <http://www.fwscac.org>.

For the month of March 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going once again to support our internal need for improved water efficient toilets, another step forward in Westside's Go Green efforts. Many of you may ask why we are presenting this Go Green initiative so close to our January plate offering. Our congregation was very generous in January by supporting their purchase, but now we actually need to install them! Professional installation is an important part of maintaining a pleasant church experience and a hygienic environment for us and Angel Montessori School. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact any of your church board members.

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

March 1st - Jennifer Scates, *Ethical Culture, Past and Present*. Jennifer Scates, a member of the Ethical Society of Austin, will talk to us about Ethical Culture. Since its founding in 1876, Ethical Culture has evinced a reverence for life and a dedication to its improvement, uniting with others of goodwill in an effort to create a more humane world.

March 8th - Dr. Russell Elleven, *A Big Day*. Today is a big day for Russell's ministry. He's not sure what he will say for his reflection this Sunday, but he hopes you'll join him for both the regular morning service (11:00 am) and the ordination service later that day (4:00 pm).

March 15th - Dr. Russell Elleven, *Happy Birthday?* There was a birthday that may have come and gone without much notice. Russell will reflect on that birthday and what it may mean to us as people of this particular faith.

March 22nd - Dr. Russell Elleven, *Stories for All Ages, Really?* We have wonderful stories each Sun-

The Westside Story
March 2009

Some people with great virtues are disagreeable, while others with great vices are delightful.

- Francois, duc de La Rochefoucauld

Almost all our faults are more pardonable than the methods we resort to to hide them.

- Francois de La Rochefoucauld

There are 10¹¹ stars in the galaxy. That used to be a huge number. But it's only a hundred billion. It's less than the national deficit! We used to call them astronomical numbers. Now we should call them economical numbers.

- Richard Feynman

day for all of the people in the congregation. Some stories, even when thought to be, are not really for all ages. Russell will do his best to explain this Sunday.

March 29th - Ric Hansen, *Haven't Got a Prayer*. The theme is prayer. The concept is that perhaps we might "pray" or meditate" i.e., take a moment each day to remember those who are in need or who are celebrating.

Adult Forum

Both Current Events Discussion Group and Radical Hospitality begin at 9:45 a.m. Sunday morning and end around 10:40 a.m. Visitors and newcomers will be welcomed in either group.

Join the Radical Hospitality group as we review and discuss the following topics from *Radical Hospitality - Benedict's Way of Love* and explore ways to incorporate them into our church community as well as our personal lives. Although each session stands alone, so newcomers are welcome, it is important to be present at the beginning of each session you choose to attend. Please join us!

Current Events Forum will be held as always on the first and third Sundays of the month, March 1st and 15th, beginning at 9:45. We had 19 participants at our last discussion.

March 1st - Current Events Discussion Group, and *Radical Hospitality - "Preparing a Table*. In genuine hospitality we work to make our entire existence a welcoming table, a place prepared for others to be at ease, to receive from us comfort and strength.

March 8th - *Radical Hospitality - Companionship and Intimacy*. Most of us will have intimate relationships, but we make a mistake if we think that intimacy is all we need. We also need companions, we need good fun, we need the brief and tender moments when a stranger stoops to collect the clutter that has dropped to the floor.

March 15th - Current Events Discussion Group.

March 22nd - *Radical Hospitality - Cloister, Community and Hospitality*. 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.

March 29th - *Radical Hospitality - Making Room for Yourself*. Denying what we really and truly need, in some misunderstood notion about being hospitable toward others, or loving with others, is simply bad for you. You need time to yourself. You need respect.

What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another.

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

Patriotism is a kind of religion; it is the egg from which wars are hatched.

- Guy de Maupassant

The fundamental delusion of humanity is to suppose that I am here and you are out there.

- Yasutani Roshi

in & around westside

Where's Russell in March?

Russell will begin the month of March just as he did the end of February - out of town. He will return on March 4th just in time for the ordi-

nation service on March 8th. He will deliver reflections on the 8th, 15th, and 22nd. He will not be at church on the 29th.

March office hours are as follows:

Thursday, March 5th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, March 12th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 17th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, March 19th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 24th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, March 26th – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please remember, to call him at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message, then try the church office phone (817-924-MYUU). 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.

Bring Food for SCAC in April

April is the month that we are asked to bring food items to help supplement the food pantry at South Central Alliance of Churches, of which we are a member. Each member church takes one month to bring food and another month to bring toiletries, to be distributed on a one-time, emergency basis to needy families in our neighborhood. The food items which are desired are:

Oatmeal, Grits, Rice, Beans (dry or canned), Corn, Green Beans, Soup, Noodles, Pancake Mix (add water), Tuna and Tuna helper, Spaghetti and Sauce, Jell-O, Fruit,

Kool-Aid (already sweetened), Mixed Vegetables, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Macaroni, Crystal Light, Crackers and Canned Meat – including Chili, Vienna Sausage, Stew, Chicken, Fish.*

Please check the dates to be sure the food has not expired, is in the original package and has not been opened. No diet foods or products can be accepted.

Sample Menu

Breakfast:

Grits or Oatmeal and Fruit or Pop Tart and Fruit

Lunch:

Noodles or Peanut Butter and Jelly

Dinner:

Tuna Helper or Spaghetti, Corn, Green Beans and Kool-Aid or Crystal Light

Please bring your food donations to church any Sunday in April and put them on the table in the back of the sanctuary. The food will be delivered to the SCAC pantry by Jay and Suzie Lotven.

Thank you for all you do with your generous support of those among us who are much less fortunate than we are.

**Fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, milk, bread and other staples are donated or purchased from other sources*

Experienced Carpenters Needed!

Saturday, March 14 is the day set for installing new doors on RE classrooms. The Building & Grounds Committee needs volun-

*The Westside Story
March 2009*

*He shall mark our
goings, question
whence we came, /
Set his guards about
us, as in Freedom's
name. / He shall
peep and mutter,
and night shall
bring / Watchers
'neath our window,
lest we mock the
King.*

- Rudyard Kipling

*Let us enrich
ourselves with our
mutual differences.*

- Paul Valery

*Conscience is a dog
that does not stop
us from passing but
that we cannot pre-
vent from barking.*

- Nicolas de Chamfort

teers with carpentry expertise and experience to remove old doors and tear out door frames, and install new ones. We'll be replacing the half Dutch doors with solid core doors with windows to provide our RE classes the quiet they need for Sunday school lessons. We'll have a master carpenter on site to instruct and supervise, but we'll need a number of volunteers along with tools for the project. If you can help, please call Gene McKeon at 817-455-2533. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

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.

What sane person could live in this world and not be crazy?

- Ursula Le Guin

Of all plagues with which mankind is cursed, ecclesiastic tyranny's the worst.

- Daniel Defoe

Conscience is the still, small voice which tells a candidate that what he is doing is likely to lose him votes.

- Anonymous

New Faces

Collin Cutler

One of our newest members is Collin Cutler, who was brought up a Baptist, but, as he says, "never regularly attended church". Quitting school at 17 to join the Navy, Collin did nine patrols on three different ballistic missile submarines over the course of eight and a half years. Collin also worked for three years providing physical security at the Nuclear Train-

ing Facility in Charleston, South Carolina.

During those years, Collin "met people from about every walk of life and background and could relate with them all in one way or another."

Collin has one son, Jonathan, who is four years old and around whom Collin's world revolves. Although he has no girlfriend or wife, he does have two identical black cats, Jynx and Ditto. He is a self-described "animal person" having had most every pet imaginable, including alligators. Dogs, however, are not part of his life, as they are just too high maintenance.

Cars are a big interest of Collins - he says "I have probably had 60 cars since I was 15. I'm a shade tree mechanic". He also likes to draw and paint and enjoys just about anything artistic. In his words, "I'm full of useless information; I know a little bit about a lot of stuff, but not a lot about anything in particular."

Collin says that he joined because, "I like it here," and that there is nothing specific about the church which he likes, but that, "I like everything." As to what brought him to Westside, again, his words say it best, "I was looking for a place that accepts the idea of doing what was right and doesn't care how you come to the conclusion to do so. I like being accepted for who I am and not questioned about it."

Please introduce yourself to Collin if you do not already know him; he is an interesting young man.

Contact information:
4701 Whistler Drive
Ft. Worth, TX 76133
817-346-8180 Home
817-877-6309 Cell
Email darthcutler@att.net

Tom and Sue Lewis

by Jane Hansen

Tom and Sue Lewis joined WSUU in spring, 2008. Sue was born in Fort Worth and Tom was born in Memphis, TN, but has been in Fort Worth since 1958. Tom retired from the Fort Worth Fire Department in January of last year after 36 years of service. He was a captain in Fire Prevention and Assistant Fire Marshal, which involved him in overseeing many fire safety changes in Fort Worth. Sue worked in the medical field into the 90s. They have three daughters and three grandchildren. One daughter, Laurie, and her husband, Craig, live in North Richland Hills with two of the grandchildren, Abby, 8 and William, 6. Tyler and her husband, Rob, live in Dallas with the newest grandson, Che, born December 23rd. Megan, the youngest, lives in Baltimore, MD.

The Lewises were involved in animal rescue for 15 years. They ended up keeping 5 dogs which were unadoptable. They are down to one dog now, Taz, a mix-breed with blue eyes and mostly white fur who gets a lot of attention when they walk him around downtown. Tom and Sue live in a loft downtown and really love the activities and being able to walk to restaurants, movies and theaters. They are both vegans and they have found that most restaurants have something they can eat. Their favorite restaurant is, of course, the Spiral Diner, which is completely vegan.

Tom and Sue want to do a lot of traveling now that they are retired and intend to do some regular volunteer work.

Tom was raised a Lutheran and Sue had no church affiliation as a child. Many years ago they attended the Unity church that was once housed where we are today. Last spring they tried WSUU and

felt they had finally found the right fit. They really like the people and the principles of UU.

Contact information:
222 West 4th Street, # 306
Ft Worth, TX 76102
817-348-0714 home
682-551-7108 cell
tlewis5194@yahoo.com

Bob and Debby Rake

by Robert and Debby Rake

Bob and Debby Rake came to Texas from Homestead, Florida, where they moved when they retired. Bob docked his sailboat at the marina there and they found a UU church in South Miami which they really loved.

The Rakes are both originally from Illinois, but raised their family in a conservative town of 5500 in Iowa. Both of them have been UUs for many years. Bob was self-employed as a CPA. He graduated from Illinois State University, and earned an MA from Bellevue University. Debby has two masters' degrees: Political Philosophy in 1970 and Quilt History in 2003. She says, "What is the definition of unemployable?"

The Rakes have been married for forty years; have two grown sons, two daughters-in-law, and two granddaughters, "the most beautiful, smart, cutest, most wonderful girls on earth!" One lives in Iowa and one in Arlington (and that little girl, says Bob, brought them to Texas in 2008). Bob enjoys sailing, scuba diving, golf, is a self-described computer nerd, and "a not-so-good folk guitar player." Debby loves anything to do with cloth or thread, especially quilting – designing and making quilts as well as teaching others to quilt.

The Westside Story
March 2009

*Wealth has never
yet sacrificed itself
on the altar of pa-
triotism.*

- Bob LaFollette

*The only gift is
giving to the poor; /
All else is exchange.*

- Thiruvalluvar

*Language is an
anonymous, col-
lective and uncon-
scious art; the result
of the creativity of
thousands of gen-
erations.*

- Edward Sapir

She also enjoys doing crossword puzzles.

Both of the Rakes like people. Debby describes herself as an absolute extrovert. "I love to work together, eat together, plan together – as long as I get to talk and talk." And they both like the people and the warm welcome they have received at Westside.

If you will look at the new "WELCOME" banner on the visitors' table as you enter the church, you will see some of Debby's handiwork. It is a beautiful quilted sign, and goes perfectly with the large UU quilt on the wall behind the table. Thank you, Debby!

Both Bob and Debby have entered wholeheartedly into the life at Westside, and we are very glad that they found us.

There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be good and kind to other animals as well as humans, it is all a sham.

- Anna Sewell

Civilization is the encouragement of differences.

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

The race of men, while sheep in credulity, are wolves for conformity.

- Carl Van Doren

she answered question #5 – Other interesting things about you. Her answer was "I'm a bore."

Sue is from San Antonio, TX, spent 11 years in Austin, and moved to Fort Worth in 1993. She was not reared in a religious family, but did attend churches with friends. She specifically likes Westside as a counter to fundamentalist beliefs in our area. She was looking for a community of people with similar beliefs. Sue likes the friendly people at Westside, and Russell's sermons are inspiring to her. She became a member for herself and her children to have a church family to belong to.

Although Sue was in the insurance industry for twenty years, she is in her 2nd and final year of a certification program to become a CALT (Certified Academic Language Therapist); she also works in three Keller high schools as a Dyslexia specialist.

Say "Hi" to Sue and her daughters at your next opportunity!

Sue Testerman

by Diane Jones and Jeff Bullock

Sue Testerman wrote her bio in nice legible print. I think she is a considerate person for doing so. After my meeting with her, I am sure of it, since she asked me about myself as I asked her about herself. I like Sue Testerman; and I know you will too.

Sue has been married to James Testerman for 26 years; he visits Westside occasionally. Their two girls, Paige, 17, and Laney, 14, attend regularly with their mother. They are both busy being schooled: Paige at college level and Laney in her last year of middle school, 8th grade. They both have beautiful hair, skin and smiles I'm sure you have admired.

Sue likes to read and her girls think she is good at small talk. She has a sharp wit as well – proven when

Contact information:
682-557-0341
byrdjct@sbcglobal.net

Scott Paulson

Scott Paulson is known to most Westsiders; he has been an active friend of our congregation for more than ten years, making his membership official in 2008. He is a member of our church choir, as well as serving as song leader on alternate Sundays and leading the karaoke nights for the church.

The "alternate Sundays" is because of Scott's second job; he works every other weekend as a facilitator for group therapy at Huguley Me-

morial Hospital's behavioral health unit.

He grew up in a suburb of Chicago, leaving to attend Illinois State University, where he received his degree in psychology. Scott worked as a mental health worker for two years, in addition to waiting tables, gaining experience in his chosen field as well as saving money to attend graduate school.

What brought Scott to Texas? He came to get his MS in social work from UTA for three reasons: the program at UTA was ranked seventh in the US, his sister lives in Dallas, and (surprise here) out-of-state tuition at UTA was cheaper than in-state tuition in Illinois.

After receiving his Masters', he spent over a year in Colorado, encountering a very tough job market and again falling back on waiting tables to supplement his income. When he returned to Texas, he got a full time job as an out-patient therapist with MHMR, where he spent two years. He then went to work at Methodist Medical Center in Dallas, where he spent ten years doing psychiatric and medical social work. From there he returned to MHMR, where he is now a clinical supervisor for the Adult Mental Health division.

Scott, married for four years, has a son, Joel. After his divorce, Scott embraced his homosexuality and looks forward to this next stage of his life.

Joel, now eighteen, is a graduate of the Texas Academy of Math and Science, part of the University of North Texas in Denton. Joel entered UT Austin last fall as a junior, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Scott is a movie buff, and also enjoys singing, especially karaoke, and reading about the Civil War. Since his hero is Ulysses S Grant, he was thrilled that President Obama gave his acceptance speech in Grant Park in Chicago, and that, at the inaugu-

ration, Grant's statue on horseback was visible facing the Lincoln Memorial.

Originally a Lutheran, Scott was raising Joel in the Methodist church when Tom and Lela Woods introduced them to Westside. We welcome Scott as an old friend and a new member of Westside.

Contact information:
6132 Whitman
Fort Worth, TX 76133
817-292-2558

If you have enjoyed reading about our new members, please consider carefully the following call for writers from Beverly Archibald.

Help Wanted

We are experiencing a wonderful "problem" which is we have too many bios to write for our new members, and not enough writers to write them. Could YOU help us out with this? Ideally, you get the bio form which the new member has filled out, use that information to write the bio, email the bio to them for their approval, send it to Beverly Archibald at bevanfw@charter.net), and, voila, it will be published in the next newsletter.

Sometimes it is not quite that easy, and it may take several phone calls and/or emails to get the information you need (and persistence does pay off). We do NOT, of course, force anybody to give us information for their bios if they don't want to do so, but we have found that the write-ups in the newsletter introducing folks are very valuable in helping us to get to know each other.

*The Westside Story
March 2009*

*If you want to
make peace, you
don't talk to your
friends. You talk to
your enemies.*

- Moshe Dayan

*Being rich is hav-
ing money; being
wealthy is having
time.*

- Stephen Swid

*Death tugs at my
ear and says, "Live,
I am coming."*

- Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

*The Westside Story
March 2009*

So... if you are willing to spend a little time getting to know a new member and writing up their information for the newsletter, please let John Nagely or Beverly or anyone on the membership committee know and we will welcome you with open arms.

“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.

Thank you, Debby!

Many thanks go to new member and expert quilter, Debby Rake, who generously designed and created the new small quilt in the foyer hanging on the welcome table.

*Democracy, to me,
is liberty plus economic security.*

- Maury Maverick

our wider community

*A poem begins in
delight and ends in
wisdom.*

- Robert Frost

Join the Great American Meatout

UFETA (UUs for the Ethical Treatment of Animals - www.ufeta.org) is helping spread the word about the Great American Meatout, held every year on March 20. UFETA members are encouraging their friends, families, and neighbors to “kick the meat habit (at least for a day) and explore a wholesome, nonviolent diet of fruits, veg-

*What is philosophy
but a continual
battle against cus-
tom?*

- Thomas Carlyle

etables, legumes and whole grains.” To learn more about Meatout, or to request a free starter kit, visit HYPERLINK “<http://www.meatout.org>” www.meatout.org.

If all people in the U.S. had one meatless day each week, it would result in the same annual carbon savings as taking 19.2 million cars off the road for a year. For more about the diet-climate connection, visit <http://www.meatthetruth.nl>.

“A vegetarian in a Hummer produces fewer carbon emissions than a meat-eater in a Toyota Prius.”

NTAUUS Seeks Volunteers

The Marketing and Communications Committee of NTAUUS, the North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies, is seeking volunteers to assist with the redesign and maintenance of its Web site; the creation of an electronic newsletter, advertising copy, and e-mail marketing campaigns; as well as other innovations to advance Unitarian Universalism in North Texas. The webmaster position must be filled immediately and may offer payment, if desired. Please contact John Kent at johndkent@mac.com or (817) 337-9193.

Horizon UU Church Invites UUs

A 12 week DVD-based study group will be held at Horizon UU Church in Carrollton for those curious about the historical Jesus. Classes begin March 3. To register, email are@horizonuu.org. Call 972-492-4940 for information or to register.

social activities

Humanists of Fort Worth

This group meets every second Wednesday of the month, the 11th this month, 7 p.m. If you would like to be notified of the program, speaker, etc, please provide your email address to trice932@yahoo.com.

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 March 11 to learn more about it.

Westside Great Books

The group will meet as usual on the second Sunday of the month,

March 9, at 12:30, soon after church service. At our last meeting we had four new members; two of whom had never been to our meetings or church.

*The Westside Story
March 2009*

Contemporary Book Group

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. The April book will be Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett, which has been removed from a high school book list in Cleburne. We are all anxious to read it.

Dinners for 9

The March dinner will be on the 14th. 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.

*A coward is a hero
with a wife, kids,
and a mortgage.*

- Marvin Kitman

*The great men in
literature have usually
tried to bring
the written word
into harmony with
the spoken, instead
of encouraging an
exclusive language
to write in.*

- John Erskine

*What can be added
to the happiness of
a man who is in
health, out of debt,
and has a clear
conscience?*

- Adam Smith

***Please Submit Items for Next
Month's Newsletter to:
janice_williams@charter.net
by MARCH 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
Jan. 4	73	11	84
Jan. 11	112	18	130
Jan. 18	117	17	134
Jan. 25	112	27	139
Jan. Average	103.5	18.25	121.75



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, Dick Trice and Lin Wells

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

RE News

March, 2009

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

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 Pfeiffenberger

Children's Bell Choir

We will begin practicing March 1 for a performance at RE Sunday. The choir is open to children 8 and older. We will practice before church starting at 10:00. The parents will have a brief meeting prior to rehearsal to schedule for the remaining practices. This is a commitment; if you choose to participate you will be expected to come to rehearsals. We are excited to be able to provide the music for our service from within the religious education classes.

RE Yard Sale

The RE Committee is hosting a yard sale, with the proceeds going to the RE Special Fund, on March 6 & 7.

It will be held at Bettina's home. If you have items that you would like to donate contact Julie Tribble, Mary Noer, Susan Farris, Jessica Zinn or Bettina Pfeiffenberger. This special fund helps us pay for extra things for our kids that the budget doesn't cover, such as hosting a year-end party, or taking the kids on an outing. It has also paid for teacher training that was not in the budget.

Camping Trip for Teens

The youth have made plans to go camping at Dinosaur Valley State Park over Spring Break on March 21-22.

The discovery of a new dinosaur track and a human footprint has us all excited to go check it out! Sandy Olah, Susan Farris and Paul Zinn have already confirmed they will be chaperones for the trip. If you are interested in helping out, please contact one of them.

RE in the Park

Save the date...March 29. More info will be announced within a few weeks. Look on the bulletin board in the entry foyer.

2009-10 Curriculum

The curriculum theme for this coming year is World Religions. We are very excited! We are going to be starting Spirit Play for our 3-5 year olds this year. It is a Montessori based curriculum that is just marvelous! The teachers are excited and I think the kids will love it too!

Our 6-9 year olds will be using the *What is Religion?* curriculum. It is learning about what defines religion and differences in them.

Our 10-13 year olds class is still working on what curriculum to choose. This is the most energetic group and that makes the class a fun learning environment.

The youth will be using two curricula, *Sacred Threads, about Asian religions* and *World Religions*. The youth will also be offering a once a month class on *Life Issues for Teenagers (LIFT)*. It will meet one Sunday a month after church to discuss and learn about life skills such as changing a car tire or coping with stress. We are thrilled to be offering this course and hope all of our teens will take advantage of it.

Vacation Church School

We are offering a vacation church school this summer in August. The theme is "Parables Jesus Told". We are very enthusiastic about this, and you will be getting lots more information in the months to come! If you are interested in helping out, call Jessica Zinn, Tricia Bowes or Julie Tribble.

Religious Educators Conference

Susan Farris and Julie Tribble went to the RE Conference held at Shady Lakes Resort, just outside of Keene, Texas.

Rev. Meg Barnhouse was the guest speaker for the retreat and she was AWESOME!! A very down-to-earth, funny, creative and talented woman!

The workshops were varied and all appropriate to our calling. Susan took *Youth-led Social Action for the Congregation*, and we both took *Safety Policies*, which we thought appropriate since we had just formed a committee. I took *How to Train & Feed Teachers*, it was inspiring! It was a GREAT weekend and I hope to take some teachers with me next year also. It is a recharging of your soul to be with other religious educators who are as passionate about our religion as you!