



## *Chaplains report on a Caring Community*

The Chaplains Corps, working with Russell, has been contacting various members whom we've missed seeing or hearing from. If you know of anyone that has been sick or in the hospital, or is having a difficult time, please let Russell or a chaplain know. You may contact us at [Chaplain@westsideuu.org](mailto:Chaplain@westsideuu.org).

If you cannot attend church, and want one of your Joys or Concerns mentioned during that portion of the Sunday morning service, let us know, and we will try to get it included.

Max Courtney, husband of member Ginger Courtney had successful surgery on February 10th. Dawn Higgins had surgery on February 11th. We wish them a speedy recovery

Troy Stiles, who is in failing health, would enjoy cards of encouragement.

We have heard from Sophie Hawes. She is in Kentucky, and misses Westside. She found First Unitarian Church in Louisville the night she arrived there. She has found a very supporting community, and has joined the Interweave

group. Sophie can be contacted at her e-mail address, or at Sophie Hawes, 5620-1 Indian Oaks Circle, Louisville, KY 40219.

Congratulations go to Thomas (T.J.) Jennings and John Dickinson on their marriage on February 14th.

We offer our support and condolences to Lisa Tremaine and her husband, Larry Herrick. They have been going through some rough times. Lisa lost her father six days after she lost her job at Amon Carter Museum; and shortly thereafter, she lost her brother in a motorcycle accident. Lisa is now commuting to Dallas at 4:30 a.m. to coach rowing to teenagers.

We also send condolences to Russell and Gail Elleven upon the death of Russell's grandfather.

Those on the Chaplains Corps are Beverly Archibald, Caroline Nixon, Diane Jones, Paul Maginnis, Jane Hansen, and Myrtle McMahan. Please give us a call or e-mail us with any concerns you may have.

## The Westside Story

March 2010

Monthly Newsletter of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, TX  
11:00 AM • [www.WestsideUU.org](http://www.WestsideUU.org)

### **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.

Month	Recipient	Amount
January, '10	UUSC Haitian Relief Fund	\$1751.35
January, '10	Tarrant Area Food Bank Pet Food Division	\$ 763.61
December, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)	\$ 852.53
November, '09	Westside InReach	\$1305.01
October, '09	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$ 766.05
September, '09	Samaritan House Food Account	\$ 876.77
August, '09	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$ 832.35
July, '09	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$635.69
June, '09	Interfaith Environmental Alliance	\$539.85
May, '09	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$1,135.31
April, '09	Community Hospice of Texas	\$1,032.39
March, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$816.75
February, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 847.44
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

*Commandment  
 Number One for  
 any truly civilized  
 society is this: Let  
 people be different.*

*-David Grayson  
 [pen name of Ray  
 Stannard Baker]*

*Man can be the  
 most affectionate  
 and altruistic of  
 creatures, yet he's  
 potentially more  
 vicious than any  
 other. He is the only  
 one who can be  
 persuaded to hate  
 millions of his own  
 kind whom he has  
 never seen and to  
 kill as many as he  
 can lay his hands  
 on in the name of  
 his tribe or his God.*

*-Benjamin Spock*

## *Westside UUC Service Project*

Each month at Westside, our undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. The preceding table lists these organizations and our recent contributions to them.

## *sunday options*

### *Sunday Services*

**March 7** - Marjorie Montgomery, "Beyond the Names of God". In public prayers I begin with "O God of many names, source and force of life beyond all thy names..." Let us think together about just exactly where those many different names come from. It is much more than just mystery or wishful thinking.

**March 14** - Dr. Elleven, "I'm Going Crazy". Have you ever felt like you were losing your mind? Have you wondered what it would be like to just run away from everything? Are there times when you wish you could take a mulligan and start over? Russell will do his best to address these thoughts this Sunday.

**March 21** - Dr. Elleven, "I'll Be Praying for You". You've likely heard this saying before in different contexts. We do a pretty darn good job getting along at Westside. Why is that? Russell will offer his thoughts this Sunday morning.

**March 28** - Dr. Elleven, "The Motivation Factor". Some folks seem highly motivated while others do not. What's the difference? How do some people get a lot done while others seem to barely do anything at all? You may (or may not) hear something about this Sunday morning. It all depends upon Russell's motivation factor.

## FORUM

The Forum's new study of Howard Zinn's book, *A People's History of the U.S.*, seems to have elicited considerable interest. We've had 30 and 32 present at the first two meetings in February. More than a few have obtained the book and are participating in the discussions each week. One or two chapters are covered each Sunday. March Forums will begin either with Chapter 7 or 8. Beginning at 9:45, our discussions fit conveniently between the first and second services each Sunday. Come to Russell's first service at 9:00 and stay for Forum or come first to Forum and stay for the 11 o'clock service. All are welcome.

- Dick Trice

## *How Your Church Family Works*

This interesting book discussion group continues and will next meet on Sunday the 28th at 9:45 a.m. Those participating should read the ninth and tenth chapters prior to the March meeting. The ideas expressed in this book and our discussion of them could play a very large role in the health of Westside as we go into our future together. If you have not been participating, consider reading the book on your own.

## RE News

Don't miss Julie Tribble's RE News. You'll find it in the last two pages of this newsletter (after the page with attendance).

# *in & around westside*

## *The Green Scene*

The Green Sanctuary Committee continues to move forward in its vision of making our building, our congregation, and the greater community, more environmentally friendly. Based upon the recently completed energy audit performed by committee member Hoyt West, we are joining First Jefferson in changing our electric provider to Green Mountain Energy, which will move us away from coal and significantly lower kilowatt-hour cost.

Our Board has also applied to NTAUUS for a grant to cover the cost of refitting our florescent tube lights to more energy efficient LED lights, which will use half the energy, contain no harmful materials, and last twice as long.

We continue to make progress on the Green Sanctuary designation application. The next step in that process will include a congregational survey for use in preparing our Green Sanctuary Action Plan, which will consist of twelve activities and projects covering the following four program elements: at least two activities for worship, spiritual practice, and/or church community celebration; at least two education programs, one for children and one for adults; at least two activities addressing environmental justice issues, one of which is a long term or on-going project involving the congregation, in collaboration with one or more groups in the broader community; at least four activities addressing aspects of sustain-

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*Every one is a moon, and has a dark side which he never shows to anybody.*

-Mark Twain

*Men become civilized, not in proportion to their willingness to believe, but in proportion to their readiness to doubt.*

-H.L. Mencken

*The sorrow which has no vent in tears may make other organs weep.*

-Henry Maudsley

able living, including at least one energy conservation action, and at least two additional activities relating to program elements of your choice. We've been told that we'll likely be able to garner credit for some of the activities we have already completed, but much work will remain. We invite your questions, comments, and especially your suggestions for activities, as work continues on the preparation of our congregational survey.

We already see a fun volunteer opportunity on the horizon: The Interfaith Environmental Alliance (IEA) will have a booth at Prairie Fest April 24 (Earth Day). The two-hour shifts provide an excellent opportunity to attend this community celebration, share information on going green, get to know one of Fort Worth's hidden treasures, Tandy Hills Park, and meet like-minded environmentalists from throughout the community.

If you'd like to help out at Prairie Fest, or have Action Plan suggestions, you can contact Linda Hanratty (llswenson@yahoo.com), or Bob Vann (rimrock42@ymail.com).

*I am not a lover of  
lawns. Rather  
would I see daisies  
in their thousands,  
ground ivy, hawk-  
weed, and even the  
hated plantain  
with tall stems, and  
dandelions with  
splendid flowers  
and fairy down,  
than the too-well-  
tended lawn.*

*-William Henry  
Hudson*

*Great thoughts  
reduced to practice  
become great acts.*

*-William Hazlitt*

Westside means to us, and renew our commitments to each other and to our community!

## *Where's Russell in March?*

Russell will be out of town the first week of March. The specific dates are March 1 through March 8. Because of this he'll miss the first Sunday of the month but will be delivering reflections all other March Sundays.

Office hours for March are as follows:

**Tuesday, Mar. 9th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, Mar. 11th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Mar. 16th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, Mar. 18th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Mar. 23rd - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, Mar. 25th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, Mar. 30th - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Please remember to call him at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message, and then try the church office (817-924-6988). 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 (if you've left a message).

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.

## *Save This Date - MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday Night Sharing Our Light*

Hey, all you wonderful Westsiders, members and friends alike! We will be having a rambunctiously good time at our Sweets and Treats with the Stars. Come enjoy desserts, fellowship, great music, and delight in the play "My Fair Share Lady".

Together we will share how much

## *Valentine Fun*

The Valentine Social at Westside on February 13th was a HUGE success

with some 90 in attendance. The 150 plus decorated cookies were delivered to the Presbyterian Night Shelter (mothers and children quarters) and the All Church Home for Children. We attached a calling card to each box so they would know, "They have a Friend" in Westside Unitarian Universalist Church. Thank you again to all the volunteers--You know who you are and you are loved and appreciated.

## *Board Minutes Available to Westsiders*

Copies of the minutes of all regular Westside Board meetings, from the beginning of FY 2009 to the present, may be found in a binder in the church office. Some attachments, such as reports from church committee meetings, are not yet included, but should be added very soon. Where available, there are also copies of the financial reports provided to the board by Westside's treasurer. Please do not remove the binder or its contents from the office.

Thanks,  
- **Bob Vann, Board Secretary**

## *Are you a new member?*

In order to keep the pictorial directory fairly current, we schedule picture appointments on an on-going basis. Pictures for the directory are taken by Mary Cretsinger, a professional photographer and a member of Westside UU, at no charge to you. For more information and to set a time for your photo contact Mary at 817-292-7766, or marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com

# *opportunities to learn & serve*

## *Click to feed the hungry*

At The Hunger Site ([www.TheHungerSite.com](http://www.TheHungerSite.com)), every click on the big yellow "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button helps fund important aid for those going hungry. To date, more than 300 million visitors have given more than 671 million cups of staple food. But we could do more: just by passing the word about The Hunger Site and encouraging our friends to click.

The staple food funded by clicks at The Hunger Site is paid for by site sponsors and distributed to those in need by Feeding America (which serves more than 200 food banks in the United States), Mercy Corps, and Millennium Promise. 100% of sponsor advertising fees goes to The Hunger Site's charitable partners.

Not only is this help needed as never before in places like Haiti and Darfur, but it also is needed here in the United States. Feeding America recently released a study that found more than 37 million people; one in eight Americans -- including 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors -- receive help each year through the nation's network of food banks and the agencies they serve. The findings represent a frightening and tragic 46 percent increase since the organization's previously released study in 2006.

Whether you blog, post, or tweet, please spread the word today. It's simple, free, and easy to click at [TheHungerSite.com](http://TheHungerSite.com). Want some sample tweets? Just follow

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*We must embrace  
pain and burn it as  
fuel for our journey.*

-Kenji Miyazawa

*Live a good life. If  
there are gods and  
they are just, they  
will not care how  
devout you have  
been, but will  
welcome you based  
on the virtues you  
have lived by. If  
there are gods, but  
unjust, then you  
should not want to  
worship them. If  
there are no gods,  
then you will be  
gone, but will have  
lived a noble life  
that will live on in  
the memories of  
your loved ones.*

-Marcus Aurelius

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us on [Twitter.com/TheHungerSite](https://twitter.com/TheHungerSite). And don't forget to click on the other colorful "Click Here to Give, It's FREE" buttons to help breast cancer, children's health and literacy, the rain forest, and rescue animals.

## *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](mailto:relleven@gmail.com) or go to [www.rke.cc](http://www.rke.cc).

*The vanquished  
know war. They see  
through the empty  
jingoism of those  
who use the ab-  
stract words of  
glory, honor, and  
patriotism to mask  
the cries of the  
wounded, the  
senseless killing,  
war profiteering,  
and chest-pound-  
ing grief.*

-Chris Hedges

*Many demolitions  
are actually reno-  
vations.*

-Jalaluddin Rumi

*You write to  
communicate to the  
hearts and minds of  
others what's  
burning inside you.  
And we edit to let  
the fire show  
through the smoke.*

-Arthur Plotnik

## *Humanists of Fort Worth*

Humanists of Fort Worth will meet at 7 p.m. this March 10 at the church. February's review by Tom Woods of the book, *The Family*, plus the coffee and desserts prepared by Joy Counts brought a good crowd of 30 and a great discussion. Everyone is invited to the March get together. The program will be announced soon.

## *Contemporary Books*

This group will meet at 12:30 at church Sunday, March 28th. Book will be announced later.

## *Ethical Eating Group*

The Ethical Eating group meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the church. In February we watched a DVD about heart disease delivered by Caldwell Esselstyn, MD. This month, we meet on the 18th and will watch Milton Mills, MD address the question, "Are We Carnivores?" Come watch the DVD with us for your health, the planet, and the animals.

## *Poker*

We'll meet Friday, March 26th at 7pm. Contact Paul McClellan at [pclaypool@yahoo.com](mailto:pclaypool@yahoo.com) for more information. *Thanks - Paul McClellan.*

## *our wider community*

### *Bring food for SCAC in April*

April is Westside's month to bring food for the food pantry at South Central Alliance of Churches. Don't forget - this serves the people in our neighborhood and is our way of connecting with and helping those in need who live around us.

Canned meat is always in short supply, and while anything is welcome, let's try to concentrate on replenishing their supply of meats. Watch the sales and pick up canned foods which you can pass on to SCAC. Be sure to check the "sell by" dates, as they are not allowed to give out any food which is past that date.

If you decide to pick up some cans of tuna, buying tuna helper to go with it is a good idea.

The big red cart will be by the church entry each Sunday, and hopefully we can fill it with goodies during April.

SCAC values Westside and really appreciates our help. If you have questions about SCAC and their mission, please contact the Lotvens or Beverly Archibald.

## *Vagina Monologues*

The Vagina Monologues continue in March, a Fort Worth tradition that started right here at Westside in 2003.

On March 5 & 6, TCU presents The Vagina Monologues to cap off a whole V-Week of activities aimed at stopping violence against women and girls. (Westside's own Amy Youngblood snagged a monologue this year!) Performances are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and a 2:30 p.m. Saturday matinee, in the Brown Lupton University Union (the UU!) auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for all performances. Ninety percent of

the proceeds benefit SafeHaven of Tarrant County and the rest benefit the City of Joy project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Also, all are invited to join in V-Day for ALL 2010, on Saturday, March 13 at Firehouse Gallery, 4147 Meadowbrook Drive. Visit the V-vendors all day, join in the 6 p.m. preshow, and then participate in or just listen to a reader's theater of The Vagina Monologues. Some monologues are still available; contact Melodie at [eidolem@wt.net](mailto:eidolem@wt.net) for more information. \$10 entry fee includes refreshments and admission to the Afterglow post-show party.

## *Don't be a Victim!*

Presented by SALT (Seniors And Law enforcement Together), this conference is designed to educate senior citizens on how to avoid becoming victims of crime; however, all ages are welcome to attend. Our goal is to reduce criminal activity and enhance quality of life for all. It will take place at First United Methodist Church Hurst, 521 W Pipeline Road. Registration by telephone only: 817-392-4126. Free breakfast and lunch.

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*Any advertisement in public space that gives you no choice whether you see it or not is yours. It belongs to you. It's yours to take, re-arrange, and re-use. Asking for permission is like asking to keep a rock someone just threw at your head.*

*-Banksy*

*And if there were a God, I think it very unlikely that He would have such an uneasy vanity as to be offended by those who doubt His existence.*

*-Bertrand Russell*

*The deadline for submissions to next month's newsletter is the 15th of the month.*

*Email submissions to our NEW Editor*

*Cindy Fountain at*

*[vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net)*

# Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

## Our Board

President: Sandy Olah

Vice President: Gwen Gipson

Secretary: Bob Vann

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Directors, two- year terms: Reed Bilz, Michael Muñoz, and James Finn. Director, one-year interim term: Nancy Van Boskirk. Directors, continuing: Brenda McKeon and Ann Sutherland

## By The Numbers

January	9am	11am adults	11am kids	Total
Jan 3	-	73	20	93
Jan 10	29	109	29	167
Jan 17	25	127	29	181
Jan 24	24	119	24	167
Jan 31	31	95	28	154
Average	27.25	104.6	26	152.4



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

## The 7 UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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

## How are we doing?

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

## Committee on Ministry

Dick Trice, Chair

Mary Cretsinger

Kay Kubala

Lin Wells

Tom Woods

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



**Mission Statement:** Our RE provides a safe environment that supports development of an open mind, helping hands, and a loving heart in our children and youth.

# RE News

RE Committee: **March 2010**

Co-Chairs: Andrea Petty & Susan Farris

DRE: Julie Tribble

Mary Noer	Natalie McKeon
Brenda McKeon	Sarah Skiles
Tricia Bowes	Jessica Zinn

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Wow! What a great response! We received over \$200 in cash and over 100 cans and boxes of food!! It was all donated to SCAC, and we cannot thank you enough for your generous support! Special thanks to Katey Kirkland and Aidan Tribble for being at the church for the 9 am Service and to Carina Terry, Ethan Mitchell, Douglas and Rowan Zinn, Colin and Chloe Finn, Missy Stockton and Aminda Irgens-Cheney for helping before the 11 am Service.

## OWL Classes for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders

The OWL (Our Whole Lives -sex education) classes will begin on March 7 with an orientation class for parents from 1 - 3 pm at Westside UU Church. Classes will begin on March 21 from 1 - 2. Subsequent classes run on 3/28, 4/ 18 & 25, 5/2, 9, 16 & 23. This is a joint class with Westside and First Jefferson teachers and students. Teachers are Lee Brown, Dianne Nixon, Eric Wennersten and Andrea Petty.

## What in the World is going on in RE?

**Clara Barton class:**

This month we will have a sweet lesson on babies as we celebrate new life. The children can bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal with them and introduce them to the class. We will also learn how people with disabilities persevere and overcome obstacles. In preparation for Easter we will remember what is important from our families heritage and learn global traditions during spring.

**Susan B. Anthony class:**

On March 7, the Susan B. Anthony class will celebrate Islam prophet Muhammed's birthday. On March 14, we'll learn how St. Patrick's Day is about more than just wearing green. March 21 brings our first glimpse into the Baha'i faith, as we observe Nowruz, the Persian New Year. And on March 28, we'll take a look at the Jewish celebration of Passover.

**Whitney Young class:**

The month of March will be filled with many fun lessons, because that is what Mary and Jess do! Next month we will have more detailed lesson plans - life got in the way this month. :)

**Ralph Waldo Emerson class:**

No set lesson plans...unless we get more youth to come to classes. This fall we have a group coming up that will make a great class.

On January 30, 2010, members of the RE Committee, the Board of Directors, Committee chairs, Russell, and myself, met with a District consultant for our DRE Start-up Workshop. We envisioned the ideals we would like to provide our graduates, identified and prioritized RE roles and responsibilities, and daydreamed about our future. Here are a few of the highlights:

### **RE Utopia -Children & Youth get from RE:**

- \* be activists/catalysts for change in the world
- \* ethical/moral - grounded/ principled
- \* rational/ critical thinkers
- \* a sense of wonder/ curiosity & imagination
- \* have communication, problem solving & conflict management skills
- \* pay it forward, give back to the world
- \* will feel that they have been supported by the church
- \* self confident
- \* have friends of different ages, ethnic backgrounds, gender identity, abilities, sexual orientation, & socio-economic status
- \* have a voice
- \* have had experience as leaders
- \* pride in Unitarian Universalism, including historical understanding of the faith
- \* knowledge and respect of other faiths
- \* know that there is a place for them in the congregation
- \* connection to, not only this congregation, but also the larger faith
- \* lifelong UU
- \* invitation to membership ( at age 15)

### **Building Blocks to RE Utopia**

- \* dedicated teachers
- \* defined leadership roles for kids, staff & volunteers
  - \* multi-generational engagement and relationships
  - \* involvement in UU communities in N. Texas, Southwest district, and nationally
  - \* service projects
  - \* more space/ new building

- \* OWL, for all ages
- \* more teachers trained in OWL
- \* Coming of Age classes
- \* YRUU, Middle school groups
- \* summer programs
- \* increased staff (professional & support)

### **Some of our Strengths:**

- \* Strong RE Committee
- \* commitment from congregation
- \* willingness to change
- \* enthusiasm and buy-in to RE importance
- \* commitment from leadership
- \* welcoming friends, members, children of all ages
- \* families and singles working in RE
- \* dedicated/ committed teachers
- \* children participation and responsibilities, ie: offering, welcoming visitors, setting up for potluck.
- \* talented RE "people" - music, cooking, organizing, arts, etc...

### **Growing Edges:**

- \* larger building
- \* willingness to change
- \* communicate expectations within group
- \* communication between groups
- \* communication between RE & parents
- \* need for larger space for children's play
- \* larger pool of trained teachers
- \* direct outreach in community
- \* youth program growing
- \* embracing growth
- \* financial sustainability

### **A Look Toward the Future**

- \* More student lead social action activities
- \* bigger developmental budget
- \* COA/ Boston heritage trip
- \* RE Sunday flip flop - all ages attend RE Classes
- \* more multi-generational engagement
- \* link to college campuses
- \* volunteer award for youth
- \* full-time DRE