



the westside story

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

April 2009

A message from our president

This Old Church

This old church reminds me of my first car, a 1964 Renault Dauphine. It needed care and a lot of fixing-up, but it got me where I wanted to go. And that is how I see the building that houses our congregation: it's been around, but with care and some fixing-up it will take this congregation to where it wants to go. The first thing we did after we bought 901 Page Ave, was to spruce it up a bit. The Building Remodeling & Improvement Committee (BRIC) did a marvelous job of making the sanctuary a comfortable place for services and making the front look inviting. We improved the kitchen, added a dishwasher, replaced the drinking fountain, and have just installed new, environmentally friendly, toilets throughout. And the incipient Aesthetics Committee will soon begin enhancing the décor of our "house."

As with any building, there comes a time when the exterior requires crucial maintenance and restoration: that means a paint-job. The board has solicited a bid from AQ Brothers Painting Service for this project. The bid includes power washing the entire exterior, replacing old/rotten wood, caulking all wood joints, priming any new wood, oil base priming water stains, priming on all brick with 100% acrylic (I'm told that this will make spray paint graffiti easier to remove), and sealing all windows and doors.

This project is not simply one of cosmetic enhancement (although that will certainly be one of the results). It is essential for the protection of our investment and for improving our energy efficiency. This

is not a project that we can postpone to some future date. The condition of our church exterior makes this something that needs to be accomplished within the coming months.

YEAH! YEAH! If you've read this far I can just hear you asking, "HOW MUCH?" Well, the bid is \$11,850. That means we will need to do some serious fundraising. Contributions to this project can be made by putting a check in the collection basket on Sundays with "Paint Project" on the memo line, or by giving your contribution directly to Mary Cretsinger and specifying that it is for the "Paint Project." We will begin the project as soon as we have raised 80% of the cost (about \$9500). Thank you all for your participation. Thank you for any contribution you can make. But most of all, thank you for making this church/community what it is.

Tom Woods, President of the Board

A note from our minister

My Dear Friends!

I just wanted to say "Thank You" for the wonderful ordination service of March 8th. I felt truly honored by the service, by the sculpture, and by the special vegan reception. We are a special community and I appreciate greatly the calling I feel to serve this congregation specifically and Unitarian Universalism generally. Together we continue to do wonderful things and this ordination service you honored me with was truly superb.

Let's see what we can do next!

Appreciatively,
Russell

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church
makes a positive differ-
ence 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.*

We're not small anymore!

Making the Transition Stewardship 2009-2010

Our congregation recently hit a transition point. Our membership has broken the 150 member mark. According to UUA categories, this moves us from being a 'small' congregation to becoming a 'mid-size' congregation. Pretty cool, huh? Thus comes the theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign: Making the Transition. Over the next few weeks, we will be letting you know how our programs are "Making the Transition" and what you can do to help. All of this will culminate on Sunday, May 3rd with a "Commitment Sunday" where we will all come together to make our financial commitment to the church. Following this special service, we will be having lunch and celebrating our success. So mark your calendars now and be sure to join us at church on May 3rd.

When the flag is unfurled, all reason is in the trumpet.

- Ukrainian proverb

Religions are not revealed: they are evolved. If a religion were revealed by God, that religion would be perfect in whole and in part, and would be as perfect at the first moment of its revelation as after ten thousand years of practice. There has never been a religion that which fulfills those conditions.

- Robert Blatchford

Update on naming our church

Approximately 70% of the members of our congregation took part in the church naming vote #2, which narrowed the name options down to the top six:

1. Westside
2. All Souls
3. All Peoples
4. Fort Worth
5. Peace
6. Westside Fort Worth

Vote #3 will be conducted online from April 15th to April 30th. All members should watch for an email with the website to visit in order to cast your ballot. Should a member desire to cast their ballot over the phone instead of the internet,

please leave a voicemail for the COM chair, Caroline Nixon, at 817-922-9742. Vote #3 will narrow the six options down to two and then the final vote between those two options will be conducted at the next Congregational Meeting. After the final vote has concluded, a vote on the label will be conducted – options include church, congregation, fellowship, and society. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Committee on Ministry or email com@westsideuu.org.

Volunteer to help enroll kids in CHIP

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 10-12 a.m.

Here's a chance to do a lot of good over a short time period. The Tarrant County Children's Health Insurance Program Alliance is getting requests from community groups to help parents enroll their children. However, they do not have enough trained people to staff all of these sign-up events.

To help out, our Social Justice Committee is sponsoring a training session for those of us who are willing to assist in enrolling children in CHIP. The session will be at Westside on April 18th from 10-12am.

Can you donate the 2 hours for training and then help at two or three events? After you are trained, you can help enroll children at enrollment events around Tarrant County. You can choose the times convenient to you.

Call or email Ann Sutherland at 817-294-1645 or ann.sutherland@sbc-global.net for further information.

Hope to see you there!

Westside UUC Service Project News

The generosity of our Westside UUC service project program continues to grow. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During the month of March 2009 the undesignated plate offering has gone to support our internal need for improved water-efficient toilets, another step forward in Westside's Go Green efforts. Our congregation was very generous back in January by supporting their purchase, and continued its generosity assisting in their installation during March. Professional installation was an important part of maintaining a pleasant church experience and a hygienic environment for Westside UUC and Angel Montessori School.

For the month of April 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to assist the Community

Hospice of Texas. Community Hospice maintains area inpatient facilities and provides in-home services for terminally ill and illness-limiting comfort and transition. Operating since 1996, Community Hospice is a 503(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that also provides education, programs, and outreach regarding quality of life issues. More information is available at their web site <http://www.chot.org/site/1/home.aspx>.

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

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

- John Milton

*Patriotism is
proud of a coun-
try's virtues and
eager to correct its
deficiencies; it also
acknowledges the
legitimate pa-
triotism of other
countries, with
their own specific
virtues. The pride
of nationalism,
however, trumpets
its country's vir-
tues and denies its
deficiencies, while
it is contemptuous
toward the virtues
of other countries.
It wants to be, and
proclaims itself to
be, "the greatest",
but greatness is
not required of a
country; only good-
ness is.*

- Sydney J. Harris

Month	Recipient	Amount
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
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

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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

April 5th - Lora Brandis, "*Nourishment for the Soul: the Ethics of Eating*". It is difficult to consider that with every bite we take we are having an impact globally. How does a person of faith respond to all of the consumer choices we must face when preparing our next meal? The choices can be so overwhelming that we become paralyzed and fail to act. As we contemplate our place in the interdependent web of all existence, we can listen for an intentional way of being that moves us to right action.

April 12th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*Easter at Westside*". About this time each year, Russell attempts to talk about the Bible in a way that may be different from what you have traditionally heard before. He may be even more different this year. For those who have ears, let them hear.

April 19 - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*A Priestley Story Indeed*". Always examining our religious history, Russell has found a new story. It is a priestly story that you may be interested in learning more about. If so, come be with your community this Sunday.

April 26 - "*Earth Day*." Our gratitude for our earth is heightened by our anxiety for its health as we confront global warming and the perilous changes it brings. This spring as we Unitarian Universalists, descendants of Emerson and Thoreau, celebrate

Earth Day, we will gather on this Sunday to honor the continued seasons of rebirth and renewal we hold dear.

Adult Forum - Sunday Morning

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

Radical Hospitality group reviews and discusses topics from "Radical Hospitality - Benedict's Way of Love" and explores ways to incorporate them into our church community as well as our personal lives. Although each session stands alone, making it perfect for newcomers to the group, it is important to be present at the beginning of each session you choose to attend. Look for us in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday in April except Potluck Sunday. Please join us!

Current Events Discussion Group will experiment with an every-week meeting the month of April. No more first and third Sundays - every Sunday at 9:45 - at least for one month. Your comments and suggestions will be important.

April 5th - Current Events Discussion Group, *Radical Hospitality will discuss "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.

April 12th - Current Events Discussion Group, *Radical Hospitality will discuss "Being a Companion through the Hurt"*. We don't have to have all the answers to companion the hurting. People who try to offer answers are not particularly com-

I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has.

- Abraham Lincoln

There is as much difference between us and ourselves as between us and others.

- Michel de Montaigne

Thank everyone who calls out your faults, your anger, your impatience, your egotism; do this consciously, voluntarily.

- Jean Toomer

forting. Forget answers. Be available. Be available with eyes wide open. Know it is going to interrupt your well-planned life.

April 19th - Current Events Discussion Group.

April 26th - Current Events Discussion Group, "*Radical Hospitality talks about Listening: The Deep Truth of Hospitality*". Listen, the ancient monk St. Benedict tells us, listen. It will break your heart, but it will also give you a heart. And it will give you more – it will give you life. Only love is strong enough to hold all the pain of the world. Love will listen. (This is the last session of the Radical Hospitality program.)

in & around westside

Where's Russell in April?

Russell will be a little scarce in church during the month of April. I guess you ordain the guy and he takes off running to other events! He will be on approved study leave and unavailable from 4/4 to 4/11 but will be in the pulpit the next two Sundays delivering reflections and facilitating Joys and Concerns. He will then be attending the Southwest UU District Spring Conference.

Office Hours for April:

Thursday, April 2nd: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 14th: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, April 16th: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 21st: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, April 28th: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, April 30th: 9:00am - 1:00pm

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

office phone (817-924-6988). 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.

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.

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00pm 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.

Social Justice Committee Broadens Efforts to Include Children's Health

At its February meeting, the Social Justice committee decided to work towards improving opportunities for low-cost health to children in our neighborhood and the surrounding area.

First, we will ask the South Central Alliance of Churches to expand its efforts to include children's health among its goals. Westside will provide a list of schools in our area and begin by presenting information for all students about low-

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The artist brings something into the world that didn't exist before, and he does it without destroying something else.

- John Updike

The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

- George Orwell

The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful.

-E.E. Cummings

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*Laughter and tears
are meant to turn
the wheels of the
same machinery of
sensitivity; one is
wind-power, and
the other water-
power.*

*- Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.*

*And this our life,
exempt from public
haunt, / Finds
tongues in trees,
books in the run-
ning brooks, / Ser-
mons in stones, and
good in everything.*

*- William Shake-
speare*

*No matter that
we may mount on
stilts, we still must
walk on our own
legs. And on the
highest throne in
the world, we still
sit only on our own
bottom.*

*- Michel de
Montaigne*

cost health care provided through the JPS School-Based Clinic program. Visits to these clinics are available for \$5 for individuals without insurance. Eventually we hope to build demand sufficient to convince JPS to put a clinic in our area.

We are also sponsoring a training session to assist people in signing up for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Westside will be collaborating with the League of Women Voters, Allied Communities of Tarrant and the Tarrant County CHIP alliance in these efforts.

In February we made major donations to our Kennedy Fund projects. We have donated over \$11,000 in the past twenty months to 84 projects throughout the world and represent a major part of the Unitarian Universalists lending team. We hope to donate another \$1,000 at our March meeting.

You are welcome to join us or just get meeting reports. The Westside Social Justice committee meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Ann Sutherland and David Burlingame's home at 7pm. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to join our mailing list, just email Ann at ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net.

FOOD FOR SCAC - APRIL is "our" month

Each member church of South Central Alliance of Churches is assigned one month to bring food to supplement the food pantry. This food is distributed to the needy in our neighborhood on an emergency basis. Food must be in original packaging, not outdated, and please, no diet foods.

Especially needed items 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 (pre-sweetened), Crystal Light, Mixed Vegetables, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Macaroni, Crackers and Canned Meat - including Chili, Vienna Sausage, Stew, Chicken, Fish.*

Please bring items to church any Sunday in April and put them on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Jay and Suzie Lotven will deliver the food to SCAC.

Westside has been generous in the past in supporting SCAC through Thanksgiving baskets and the Angel Tree. Let's continue our outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves. *Fresh items and other staples are purchased or donated from other sources.

Choir needs you

"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.

Sound System Helpers Wanted

Bill Terry is looking for three people to help out with managing our sound system during the Sunday service. Qualifications for these helpers are as follows:

1. coming to church on Sunday by 10:15,
2. willing to sit at back of Sanctuary during service, and

3. not being afraid of electronics.

Prior sound system experience is not necessary, only a willingness to learn. Please contact Bill either by phone (817-249-7341) or email at terrynoerbill@sbcglobal.net.

New Faces

The Bagley Family

by Beverly Archibald

The family of Monika and Peter Bagley consists of six members including their three year old daughter, Fiona, two dogs, Iceberg and Sesame, and one cat, Mr. Mee-Meow, aka Big Tex.

Monika, born in Berlin, Germany, is an asset manager in commercial real estate at Deutsche Bank in their Dallas office. She was educated in Germany, and then came to the United States and received her MBA from TCU. Peter, from Oklahoma City, is a lawyer with a small law firm in Arlington, specializing in business litigation and business transactions and probate litigation. He received a journalism degree from Boston University and his law degree from University of Oklahoma.

Peter studied for one year in Nanjing, China, at the Center for Chinese American Studies. In his words, "... used to be a China Scholar in my previous life and had a pretty good command of Chinese." Monika has "lived in worked in a number of countries, including Germany, The UK, Finland, France, Canada, Jordan, UAE and Oman." They are interesting people with a rich cultural background.

Their religious backgrounds are also diverse, with Monika growing up Lutheran and Peter, Catholic. They came to Westside because they were looking for a spiritual com-

munity and found the friendliness, tolerance toward other people and other religions, and "Dr. Elleven's candid reflections on Sundays" to fulfill what they were looking for.

Travel, food, hiking, reading and writing are some of Peter's favorite things. He is also a member of the Great Southwest Rotary Club. Monika, a member of the Junior League of Arlington, is a really talented baker. We look forward to sampling Monika's wares on Potluck Sundays!

Having lived and worked in so many diverse locations, I wondered how and where they had met – and, marvels of modern technology, they met on the internet!

Please welcome the Bagleys to our fellowship.

Monika and Peter Bagley
6401 Wilderness Court
Arlington, TX 76001

817-557-1732 Home
817-975-8331 - Peter's cell
817-996-1893 - Monika's cell

Monika.Bagley@sbcglobal.net
Peter@blumbergslaw.com

our wider community

UUA Stewardship & Development

Now is the Time: A Campaign to Grow Unitarian Universalism – will end on June 30, 2009! And as we move ever closer to that date, we thank you for all you do for our faith.

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*A lawn is nature
under totalitarian
rule.*

- Michael Pollan

*As the pain that
can be told is but
half a pain, so the
pity that questions
has little healing in
its touch.*

- Edith Wharton

*Each morning puts
a man on trial and
each evening passes
judgment.*

- Roy L. Smith

Myth: we have to save the earth. Frankly, the earth doesn't need to be saved. Nature doesn't give a hoot if human beings are here or not. The planet has survived cataclysmic and catastrophic changes for millions upon millions of years. Over that time, it is widely believed, 99 percent of all species have come and gone while the planet has remained. Saving the environment is really about saving our environment - making it safe for ourselves, our children, and the world as we know it. If more people saw the issue as one of saving themselves, we would probably see increased motivation and commitment to actually do so.

*- Robert Lilienfeld
& William Rathje*

Even in this challenging economy we at the UUA are as committed as ever to providing essential services which depend on your generosity. Your gifts will provide the resources needed to help keep your congregations vital in the face of economic challenges in the year ahead. And they will enable your Association to engage in work that will keep the voice of Unitarian Universalism strong at time when our message is needed most.

As of March 3, 2009, 23,985 cash donors have pledged nearly \$20 million. We know that raising just \$300,000 more will put us over our \$20 million cash goal by June 30. We're more than half way there already and every gift counts!

Go to: <http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=6326864&msgid=208542&act=J61B&c=189476&admin=0&destination=https%3A%2F%2Fdnbweb1.blackbaud.com%2FOPXDONATE%2Fdonate.asp%3Fcguid%3D13D450EA%252D1832%252D4F1C%252DB252%252D6B1E259D2D04%26pid%3D3543> to Donate Now. Thank you for your profound generosity.

*UUA Stewardship
& Development Department*

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women

The convocation was held February 26 - March 1, 2009. Attending the conference from Westside were Joyce Beck, Myrtle McMahan, Sharon Solih, Julie Tribble and Amy Youngblood.

The energy at the Convocation was

significant—nearly 600 UU women and women of other progressive faiths came together and affirmed their

commitment to action to improve women's lives. The Convocation connected experts in global women's issues with Unitarian Universalist women and, by extension, to their home congregations.

The Convocation reported that three areas—Education, Health Care and Ending Violence towards Women—are the most important. The ICUUW will continue this work and put these ideas into action.

March 8th was International Women's Day, first sanctioned by the United Nations in 1975. International Women's Day (IWD) is the day globally when women, and all those who respect them as full human beings, honor the collective power of women—past, present and future.

See www.internationalwomensday.com for a listing of hundred of events worldwide each year celebrating International Women's Day.

Yours in faith,

Laura Nagel, Administrator

International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women

<mailto:Admin@icuuw.com>

Phone: 713.524.5608
Toll free: 877-424-5608

Peace Now

The UU faith community is invited to participate in the Dallas Peace Project. For information, go to <http://www.theglobalpeaceproject.com/>

social activities

Annual Camping Trip

Mark your calendars for April 24, 25, & 26, the annual Westside camping trip. We are going to Arc Ridge Ranch, a 200+ acre private ranch in Ben Wheeler (between Tyler and Canton). Kids, parents, dogs, are all welcome. It is \$30 per adult and \$10 per kiddo. That pays for all the food and fun you can have in one weekend. Space is limited, so if you want to go or would like more information, contact Bettina Pfeifferberger, Zookittie@gmail.com, 817-343-8873.

Potluck Sunday

Potluck Sunday is April 12, as always, the third Sunday of the month.

Humanists of Fort Worth

Most polls show that UUs are slightly more than 50% in tune with humanism in the area of theology. This was even more true back in the '60s and '70s. HOFW is not a part of Westside UU but many of its members also belong to the church and Westside has generously made its facilities available to the chapter. If you are interested or curious about its ideas or purpose, you are welcome at any meeting. The

time is 7pm every second Wednesday evening of the month. If you would like to be notified of the program, speaker, etc, please provide your email address to trice932@yahoo.com.

Westside Great Books

These meetings will continue to be held on the second Sunday of each month at 12:30 in the east classroom. The selection for April is from David Hume's "Moral and Political Philosophy," Section 1, "Justice, Whether a Natural or Artificial Virtue." There are only 21 pages but demand a lot of thought. Visitors are welcome.

Contemporary Book Group

The Contemporary book group will take two months to read *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett. We meet on April 26 - discussion topic to be announced. We will meet to discuss *The Pillars of the Earth* on May 31. We will meet after the church service, at the church.

Dinners for 9

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

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*Whatever a man
prays for, he prays
for a miracle. Every
prayer reduces itself
to this: Great God,
grant that twice
two be not four.*

- Ivan Turgenev

*It is not how old
you are, but how
you are old.*

- Jules Renard

*I believe I have no
prejudices whatsoever. All I need to
know is that a man
is a member of the
human race. That's
bad enough for me.*

- Mark Twain

*Please Submit Items for Next
Month's Newsletter to:
janice_williams@charter.net
by APRIL 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
Feb. 1	98	14	112
Feb. 8	125	16	141
Feb. 15	120	30	150
Feb. 22	131	15	146
Feb. Average	118.5	18.75	137.25



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

April, 2009

RE Committee:

Co-chairs - Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE - Julie Tribble

Committee Members -

Trisha Bowes Sandy Olah

Natalie McKeon Brenda McKeon

Jessica Zinn Paul Zinn

Caroline Nixon Andrea Petty

Bettina Pfeiffenberger

RE in the Park

Our RE in the Park is coming up on April 19.

We will have permission sheets available.

Parents need to sign their children in at the table under the awning by 10:45 am. You will get even more information on the RE bulletin board in the foyer. We are planning to have the all church potluck at the park after service; it will be a picnic potluck so plan accordingly.

Youth Retreat

Our youth are going to Lake Palo Pinto for a weekend retreat on March 14-16. We have 11 youth signed up to go, accompanied by 5 adults. We owe a HUGE thanks to Carl Romano & Maria Schmidt for the generous use of their home! The plan is to spend a day at Lake Mineral Wells to take advantage of the canoes, paddle boats and rock climbing facilities. The next field trip the youth are planning is a trip to Scarborough Faire in April. Kudos to the youth for all their hard work in raising the funds for their adventures!

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.

Vacation Church School

We are preparing for our first summer vacation school on August 10-14.

The theme is *Beneath the Storytelling Tree; Parables Jesus Told*. We have lots of fun planned! If you are interested in helping out for a day or two, or the whole week, call Jessica Zinn. We will be scheduling a teacher training in May for the VCS for anyone who is interested.

BELL CHOIR

Mary Noer is directing our children's Bell Choir. I believe that we have room for more children if any are interested. The choir meets Sunday at 10 o'clock before Service. They will perform at RE Sunday on May 17th.

RE Sunday

Save the Date!! May 17th is the day that the Children's Religious Education classes take over the Sunday Service! They will perform the music, light the Chalice, Call to Worship and even 'Today in Unitarian Universalist History'. It will be great fun and you can enjoy hearing what the children have been learning about this year.

"The difference between 'involvement' and 'commitment' is like an eggs-and-ham breakfast: the chicken was 'involved' – the pig was 'committed'."

--Unknown

Young Adults

Calling all young adults (19-35). If you are interested in starting a Young Adults class....so are we!! Get in touch with Natalie McKeon or Julie Tribble so we can make plans to resurrect this group.

AIDS Walk

April 5 is the annual AIDS Walk. We are hoping to make a BIG showing from Westside UU Church this year. You can sign up to walk and/or donate money.

We will have a sign up sheet available on the bulletin board in the hall or you can contact Mary Noer or Julie Tribble.

Whitney Young Class Activity

The plans are being made for a get-together for the Whitney Young class. It will be specifically for the members of the Young class. It will most likely be a swimming party at Colin Finn's grandmother's home. The date is not set yet, but all the information will be available for the students and their parents soon.

Westside Camping Weekend

The camping trip for Westside Campers is set for April 24 - 26. Many of the RE teachers and students will be gone camping so we will have only one class and the Nursery open for that Sunday. There will be crafts or outside play for the children that are at church.

RE Yard Sale

The Religious Education Committee sponsored a yard sale on March 6 & 7 at Bettina Pfeifferberger's home. It was a great success!! We made \$520. which will be added to the RE Special Fund. This fund has been used for many extra activities for the Religious Education Department.

Thanks to all who donated items and worked the long days preparing for, and working the sale. It was fun but hard work!

Hogwarts Summer School

First Jefferson UU Church has asked for our help in putting on a week-long summer camp. It is a Hogwarts themed school and should prove to be a very exciting, educationally fun week.

Our DRE, Julie Tribble is the Co-director with First Jefferson's DRE, Kathy Smith. If you are interested in working for a day, or all week please call Julie. We have many varied subjects available to teach. The dates are July 20-24 and is for children from ages 5 through those entering 6th grade. Older children are welcome to come and work at Hogwarts. The cost of the camp is \$80 unless you work at the camp and then the cost is \$25. for each child. There will be before and after childcare for an additional fee. If you've ever wanted to learn how to play Quidditch or to Defend Against the Dark Arts this camp may be for you!

The purpose of an education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

Malcolm Forbes