

# The Westside Story

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

## It's Here! It's Here! Our Annual Stewardship Campaign is HERE!

How much do you know about our Stewardship Campaign? Take the following quiz to test your knowledge!

### Our Stewardship Campaign is all about:

- Training our children to be stewards and stewardesses on airplanes
- Getting on a ship to campaign for stewards.
- Helping our friends and members take care of and support each other and the mission of Westside.

### What happens in a Stewardship Campaign?

- A canvasser calls each member or friend of Westside to plan a meeting for coffee, or a dessert, or a walk, etc.
- More connections and friendships are made as canvassers meet one on one with each member and share with each other.
- The canvasser asks for a commitment of money from each member or friend to support what is sacred to us -- our community.
- All of the above.

### Why is a Stewardship Campaign important?

- Without having our children learn how to be stewardesses, no one would help us when we are on airplanes or bring us drinks.
- Our commitments of money, as well as time and talents, to the church are how we support the programs and activities we simply MUST have for ourselves and to

further our vision and mission.

- No one is really busy in the spring anyway, so we might as well have a campaign.

### What is our Vision and Mission anyway?

- We at Westside provide birdseed confetti eggs to every person, regardless of age, race, religious belief or hair color.
- We at Westside will have Mimosas on Mother's day, regardless of whether or not a pancake breakfast follows.
- We at Westside make a positive difference in the lives of our members, our families, and the world at large through supportive relationships, religious exploration, and social action, and will grow and become a more influential liberal religious presence.

### How will the Stewardship Campaign start?

- A little birdie will fly to everyone and chirp all the information in song.
- The sky will turn purple and white clouds will spell out "START".
- We get to attend a Kick-Off PARTY, May 3rd, 7pm at the church. We'll learn about the costs of our next year's programs and activities, as well as socialize, eat and drink, building the bonds of friendship that really ARE Westside!

So how'd you do? Know all about it? If you're not sure of some of your answers, just contact me – I'd love to visit with you! Remember, we ARE Westside, and our commitments of money, time and talents are what keep us strong!

See you at Church!

Bill Terry,  
Stewardship Committee Chair



### 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.*

## Kicking Off Our Stewardship Campaign!

LEAPS AND BOUNDS - FUN AND GAMES - Saturday, May 3, at 7 pm.

Westside will be buzzing with activity Saturday evening, May 3, and it's all for FUN. This event will serve as the kick-off for our Stewardship Campaign and promises to be as light-hearted and amusing as the related article in this newsletter.

Adults are invited to gather in the sanctuary for fun-filled games interlaced with information about Westside's financial goals and needs for the coming church-year. Come try your hand at Bingo, Poker, Keno, The Price Is Right, and more! Light snacks, wine, lemonade and de-caf coffee will be available. Casual dress, smiles and laughter are encouraged.

The younger folks are invited to gather in the Fellowship Hall for their own fun-filled games and activities. Light snacks and lemonade will be served.

Please contact Brenda McKeon with any questions about this event.

## Green Fest, A Joyful Day

Westside UU celebrated Earth Day early with its first Green Fest on Saturday, April 12. With tents and canopies in the west parking lot, garden area, and back alley, volunteers and vendors transformed our "campus" into a carnival setting from 11 to 5.

Music by our own troubadours, speeches and demonstrations by local activists and professionals (including Westside members), a lovely environmental film based on Thoreau's "Walking," a joyful spontaneous drumming circle, and an array of activities

for children enlivened 901 Page Avenue as dozens of volunteers generated an Earth-loving day-long party for members and visitors.

Green Fest was designed to celebrate and illustrate the Unitarian Universalist principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence, as well as those spiritual traditions that celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct people to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

In addition to successfully promoting our UU principles, we raised \$2000 towards the \$3800 remaining from the Board's annual pledge by selling food and beverages, raffle tickets for donated eco-friendly basket items, bake walk "chances" on goods made by church members, time in the "bounce house," and vendor spaces. We also earned money through donations of gifts ranging from green tea to live trees as well as for face painting and crafts in the kids' area.

Russell Feed and Supply (Sandy Olah's company) is donating profit from sales that day at their booth, and Green Mountain Energy has pledged to give us \$50 for each person who signed with them during the day at their booth.

One unanticipated outcome of the fest and it might be the most important of all - is that the folks who participated felt we became stronger as a community. We created new friendships, strengthened relationships, brought new people into the congregation, challenged each other to be supportive and proactive in stressful circumstances, and just plain had fun with people we tend to merely see across the room on Sundays.

The event's co-producers, Linda Jenkins and Diane Jones, will assemble a "note-book" of information that can serve the congregation for future festive events that we open to the public as well as for internal communications and planning.

A huge thank you goes to all volunteers who did incredible work to make Green Fest a joyous celebration.

THE DEGREE OF CIVILIZATION IN A SOCIETY  
CAN BE JUDGED BY  
ENTERING ITS PRISONS.

- FYODOR  
DOSTOYEVSKY

# Continuing Our Green Commitment

Beverly Archibald found this information for an easy way to make a difference. Did you know? Each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers.

What's the impact?

Number of trees used – 53 million trees

Weight of paper used – 3.6 million tons of paper

Energy used to produce this volume of paper – 38 trillion BTUs, enough to power 1.2 million homes per year

Contribution to global warming – 5.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, equal to the annual emissions of two million cars

Waste water discharges from this volume of paper – 53 billion gallons of water, enough to fill 81,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools

If you want to put an end to this, it is quick and easy. Gather a bunch of your

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## BASKET RAFFLE WINNERS AT GREEN FEST

### PRIZE

Bird Feeder donated by Wild Birds Unlimited  
 “Cool Green Stuff” donated by Dianne Nixon  
 Word Chase and Number Hunt games donated by Beyond Learning  
 Child’s Wooden Toy Horse donated by A Natural Home  
 Yellow Gerber Daisy donated by Plant Shed/Kennedale  
 Original Art Note Cards donated and created by Mary Alice Cretsinger  
 Cleaning Supplies Market Basket donated by Jessica Zinn’s kids  
 Murray Family Farm Outing  
 Perennial Flowers donated by Plant Shed/Hwy 377  
 Young adult novel “The Heights, the Depths and Everything in Between”  
 donated by author Sally Nemeth  
 Rain Barrel donated by Russell Feed and Supply  
 Nature’s Guide Organics donated by Nature’s Guide and Russell Feed  
 Kira Soaps donated by Rachel Brown  
 Thrift Store Picnic Basket donated by Nancy Van BosKirk  
 Marshall Grain gift certificate and plant  
 Walking Stick/Walking Journal donated by Dianne Nixon  
 Massage/Infrared Sauna donated by Ramona Perez, LMT,  
 Center for the Healing Arts  
 Pet Physical 1 donated by South Meadow Animal Clinic  
 Pet Physical 2 donated by South Meadow Animal Clinic  
 Children’s Books – donated by Dianne Nixon  
 Mixed Perennials - Plant Shed/Kennedale  
 Environmentalist Basket donated by Dianne Nixon  
 “Red Hot” Gerber Daisy donated by Plant Shed/ Kennedale  
 Shasta Daisy donated by Plant Shed/Kennedale  
 Organic Dinner for 4 donated by the Hansens  
 “Green for Green” \$63.00 cash  
 Trumpet vine donated by Plant Shed/Kennedale

### WINNER

Jay Lotven  
 Rachel Brown  
 Linda Jenkins  
 Sarah Munoz  
 Brenda Baldwin  
 Dianne Nixon  
 Caroline Nixon  
 Victor Munoz  
 Alice Walsh  
  
 Caroline Nixon  
 Cindy Fountain  
 John Nagely  
 Jeffrey Bullock  
 Leah Robinson  
 Sandy Olah  
 Linda Jenkins  
  
 Bob Vann  
 Reed Bilz  
 Reed Bilz  
 Claire Coleman  
 Diane Jones  
 Rachel Brown  
 Beverly Archibald  
 Jeffrey Bullock  
 Amy Youngblood  
 Beverly Archibald  
 Jane Hansen

*NOTHING IS MORE  
 HUMBLING THAN TO  
 LOOK WITH A STRONG  
 MAGNIFYING GLASS AT  
 AN INSECT SO TINY THAT  
 THE NAKED EYE SEES  
 ONLY THE BAREST SPECK  
 AND TO DISCOVER THAT  
 NEVERTHELESS IT IS  
 SCULPTED AND ARTICU-  
 LATED AND STRIPED  
 WITH THE SAME CARE  
 AND IMAGINATION AS  
 A ZEBRA. APPARENTLY  
 IT DOES NOT OCCUR  
 TO NATURE WHETHER  
 OR NOT A CREATURE  
 IS WITHIN OUR RANGE  
 OF VISION, AND THE  
 SUSPICION ARISES THAT  
 EVEN THE ZEBRA WAS  
 NOT DESIGNED FOR OUR  
 BENEFIT.*

- RUDOLF ARNHEIM

unwanted catalogs for a month. Go to [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org) fill out the information and check off the ones you don't want sent to your home. It is easier to have the catalogs on hand since you need the exact spelling of your name as they know it. It's that easy! Pass this on to your friends.

*Environmental impact estimates were made using the Environmental Defense paper calculator.*

*Catalog Choice is a sponsored project of the Ecology Center. It is endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation and the Natural Resources Defense Council, and funded by the Overbrook Foundation, the Merck Family Fund, and the Kendeda Fund.*

## Go Green All the Way

*By Marjorie Bixler*

The publication of Jessica Mitford's *American Way of Death* in 1963 exposed the excesses of the funeral industry and inspired the formation of groups interested in reducing the inflated costs of dying.

The Funeral Consumers of North Texas now has a membership of nearly five thousand. Like most such groups, the society has agreements with undertakers in the community who will provide inexpensive services at predetermined costs. Prepaid services are not recommended. When you join, you will receive a prearrangement form that allows you to designate your preference for the disposition of your body—burial, cremation or donation. Having this settled in advance allows peace of mind for survivors during a difficult time.

The society monitors state and federal legislation, advocates for consumer protection in funeral practices and keeps members up-to-date on problems. The lifetime membership fee is \$35 for families or \$25 for individuals. If you move to another state, membership is transferable.

More information is available at the website or from the address below:

Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Southwest  
2875 East Parker Road  
Plano, TX 75074-7503  
972-509-5686  
[www.texasfuneralconsumers.org](http://www.texasfuneralconsumers.org)

## Kennedy Fund

The Westside Microbanking group met April 10th. Five of our loans have been completely paid off and the money returned to our account! We re-loaned these funds to eight projects, focusing mostly on groups of women.

Our loans went to the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Lebanon, Uganda, Peru and Mexico. Some are small shopkeepers, and others involved in agriculture or ranching.

We will meet again on Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the church. Meetings normally last only one hour. Contact Rachel Malone: 817-877-9653 or Ann Sutherland: 817-294-0401.

Latest Micro Loans Given through KIVA by the Westside UU Church's Kennedy Fund. 4/10/08

Hoja de Amistad Group - Beauty Salon, Dominican Republic- Westside UU Contribution- \$200

Nicolás - Livestock, Peru Westside UU Contribution - \$100

LANZA 4 Group - Clothing Sales, Mexico Westside UU Contribution - \$100

Sughran Sardar's Group - Jewelry, Pakistan Westside UU Contribution - \$100

Aida Nabouh - Clothing Sales, Lebanon Westside UU Contribution - \$100

Mujeres Solidarias Group - Retail, Paraguay Westside UU Contribution - \$100

*IT IS BETTER TO SLEEP  
ON THINGS BEFORE-  
HAND THAN LIE AWAKE  
ABOUT THEM AFTER-  
WARDS.*

*- BALTASAR GRACIAN*

Shukufa Isgandarova - Cattle breeding, Azerbaijan - Westside UU Contribution - \$100

Mirembe II(a) Group - Clothes Manufacturing, Uganda Westside UU Contribution - \$200

## UUs Working on Green Commitment to the Earth

UU Ministry for Earth has announced that the Green Sanctuary Program will become an official program managed by the UU Association of Congregations. This will be the first UUA program devoted exclusively to Earth concerns.

The UU Ministry for Earth (formerly the Seventh Principle Project) is an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It has sponsored the congregation based Green Sanctuary Program. A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community.

Since 2002, 59 Unitarian Universalist congregations have been accredited as Green Sanctuaries in recognition of their achievements in ecology-based worship and religious education, environmental justice, and sustainable living.

## Russell Wins Another Grant

Last year the American Humanist Association announced that three grants of \$1000 each would be awarded to the humanist chapters in the U.S. that were planning the most creative and productive programs for the new year. As a

member and first chair of the Humanists of Fort Worth, Dr. Russell Elleven proposed that our chapter establish a SMART program for the North Texas area. SMART is Self Management and Recovery Training, a program to support persons recovering from addictive behaviors of many kinds without relying on a 'higher power' or other 12-step concepts. SMART is recognized by the American Academy of Physicians, the Center for Health Care Evaluation, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the U.S. Dept of HHS, and the American Society of Addictive Medicine. Russell is of course more than qualified for this work.

As a result, HOFW won one of the grants and the money has been used to make his new undertaking known to professionals connected to potential clients and to purchase needed handbooks, postage, fliers, and other materials. As most of you know, Russell began this program in January, meeting with clients one evening each week in our church. Appreciative participants are coming to these meetings from far away as Weatherford and north Dallas.

The AHA announced new grants would be awarded again this year for outstanding chapters and, would you believe it, Russell's proposal for enhancing the SMART program won another grant! In addition to the valuable mental health service he is providing, the public profile, reputation, and ultimate membership of WSUUC will grow as well. Russell's vitality and prolific contributions to the wellbeing of our church and the delight of our members never cease to amaze.

Dick Trice, Chair, HOFW

## A Special Request

As part of our church "going green" we would like to reduce the amount of paper we are using to print the newsletter.

*THE WESTSIDE STORY*  
*MAY 2008*

*WE ARE ALL EQUAL  
BEFORE THE LAW, BUT  
NOT BEFORE THOSE AP-  
POINTED TO APPLY IT.*

- STANISLAW J. LEC

It would also reduce the cost of printing and mailing them.

Presently we mail out over 30 each month, and we know some of you do have e-mails. If you have e-mail, would you be willing to “go green” and read your newsletter on line? If so, please let Myrtle McMahan (mahan34@sbcglobal.net) know so that we can get you off the mailing list and onto the e-mail list. Thanks.

## Westside UUC Service Project News

Westside members have been excited about the success of our new plan for service projects. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During April, our recipient has been the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Kenya Crisis Fund. Our national UU association has established the fund to assist with aid for the citizens of Kenya affected by recent political and social strife. Much human suffering and destruction of property has occurred, including the deaths of two UU field workers assisting there. More information on this challenge to humanity can be found at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/102217.shtml>.

For the month of May, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to the South Central Alliance of Churches. Westside UUC is its newest member and we are pleased to assist again with their outreach to the local community. South Central Alliance of Churches provides services and supplies to members of the local community who find themselves in need – more can be learned about their programs through their web site at <http://www.fwscac.org/default.htm>.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, Treasurer, at [charles.palmer@tyson.com](mailto: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!

## Talent Show Recap

The April Fool’s Talent Show was another spectacular show! Our thanks go out to all the fabulous performers, the appreciative audience, and the clean-up crew.

Alan Wilhelm opened the show with the old favorite Front Porch Swing, in which he debuted on the didgeridoo to the audience’s amusement. He also closed the show with an original song and Annie’s Song. Representing the youth of our church, Douglas Zinn demonstrated his Kung Fu talents, Carina Terry’s talents at the piano were showcased in her solo performances of Pumpkin Boogie and Owl in the Woods, and the Westside Youth Group portrayed our Seven Principles in amusing yet thoughtful skits. The solo vocal performances included Amy Babb’s unique arrangement of Killing Me Softly, Caroline Nixon’s Desperado, Iris Acuff’s Show Me and Goodnight My Someone, Scott Paulson’s I Have to Say I Love You and Holly Holy, and Mary Noer’s Cruella DeVille. Cathy McConnell and Carl Romano teamed up for Apocalypse Lullaby,

*ALL LIVING SOULS WELCOME  
WHATEVER THEY ARE READY TO  
COPE WITH; ALL ELSE THEY  
IGNORE, OR PRONOUNCE  
TO BE MONSTROUS AND  
WRONG, OR DENY TO BE  
POSSIBLE.*

- GEORGE SANTAYANA

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR WUU SERVICE PROJECT SUCCESSES!

## Service Project Donation Recipients

JULY 07 - WESTAID

\$853.63 RECEIVED

AUGUST 07 - TARRANT AREA  
FOODBANK

\$647.51 RECEIVED

SEPTEMBER 07 - CANCER CARE  
SERVICES

\$1,018.75 RECEIVED

OCTOBER 07 - UUA "NOW IS THE TIME"  
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

\$862.00 RECEIVED

NOVEMBER 07 - SOUTH CENTRAL  
ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES

\$788.59 RECEIVED

DECEMBER 07 - SOMALI-BANTU  
EMPOWERING WOMEN PROGRAM

\$896.68 RECEIVED

JANUARY 08 - SWWC INTERNATIONAL  
CONVOCAION OF UNITARIAN UNI-  
VERSALIST WOMEN

\$1,000.00 RECEIVED

FEBRUARY 08 - ALLIED COMMUNITIES  
OF TARANT (ACT)

\$556.92 RECEIVED

MARCH 08 - WESTSIDE UU CHURCH  
"GO GREEN CAMPAIGN"

\$6,058.08 RECEIVED

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And So It Goes and Time After Time. Al Olson gave a rousing dramatic/comedic performance as Smee from the Dungeon in Rumford At The Block (watch out if you see him with a sharp object in his hand at Potluck), and Matt Erickson wowed the audience with a solo piano rendition of Rhapsody in Blue.

The evening was held together seamlessly (even with schedule changes due to the Democratic caucuses) by Master of Ceremonies Rick Hansen, and all performers were appreciated by the enthusiastic audience. The Youth Group took care of clean-up before moving on to their lock-in for the night. Start making your plans to perform and/or enjoy next year's show. They just keep getting better and better!

## Sunday Services

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**May 4** - *"A Life of My Own"* read by Linda Jenkins. The first woman ordained as a minister of an established American church and the first feminist theologian, The Reverend Antoinette "Nettie" Brown Blackwell struggled in the nineteenth century to be true to her own nature as well as to her love for those dear to her. This sermon, read by our own Linda Jenkins, comes from *Glorious Women*, a collection of reflections awarded the Best Sermon prize by the MSUU (Ministerial Sisterhood Unitarian Universalist).

**May 11** - *Mother's Day Flower Communion*. This uniquely UU tradition started in 1923 in Czechoslovakia. By each participant bringing

*MEN ARE IDOLATERS,  
AND WANT SOMETHING  
TO LOOK AT AND KISS  
AND HUG, OR THROW  
THEMSELVES DOWN  
BEFORE; THEY ALWAYS  
DID, THEY ALWAYS WILL;  
AND IF YOU DON'T MAKE  
IT OF WOOD, YOU MUST  
MAKE IT OF WORDS.*

- OLIVER WENDELL  
HOLMES, SR.

and sharing a flower, we show that as no two flowers are alike, so are no two people alike, yet each has a contribution to make. By exchanging flowers, we symbolize our shared celebration in community. Plan to bring a flower and share in this communion, Westside-style.

Russell is in the pulpit the next two Sundays.

**May 18** - *"A Rabbi and a Minister"* No, this is not the beginning of a bad joke. This Sunday come hear about the relationship of two influential men you might never have had the opportunity to know about.

**May 25** - *"Leading With the Heart"* Leadership takes many forms. There are autocratic leaders. There are democratic leaders. There are leaders who just stay out of the way entirely. Is there a different way to lead or is this all we got?

## Sunday Adult Forum

9:45 SUNDAY MORNING

**May 4** - Thoreau, Abolition, and John Brown (DVD and Discussion)

**May 11** - No Adult Forum due to Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

**May 18** - The Month That Was - Current Events Discussion

**May 25** - Frederick Douglass (DVD and Discussion)

## RE Happenings

Kids of all ages won't want to miss our Professional Storyteller, Mr. Ron Tate! Mr. Tate will be joining us on May 4th, during our classes on Sunday. We will leave the church service as usual to go to our classes, but then we will combine all classes so that

all can enjoy the performance in the Fellowship hall, or in the Courtyard, depending on the weather. All parents and teachers are welcome also!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUNDAY** - June 1st our children and youth will lead our regular Sunday worship service and share with all of us some of the lessons they have learned over the past year. We will have special music and a Bridging ceremony for our youth that will be finishing High School this year. The classes have already starting preparing what is sure to be, as always, one of the best services of the year. Please join us and participate in the lives of our present and future UUs!

**WE ARE GROWING** - The teachers and assistant teachers of Westside UU Church are excited that our classes are growing - but this does lead to new challenges. We would like to have another class in the fall, breaking up our age groups into nursery, 3-5 year olds, 6-8 year olds, 9-12 year olds, and teenagers.

If you enjoy working with children and/or youth of ANY age, if you want to find inspiration and fulfillment and enjoyment, and if you can spare just 2 Sundays a month for a 40 minute class, we would love to hear from you! We team teach, so no one is alone and everyone has support in their class and support with ideas. We have a teacher training conference in August that really helps throughout the year. This is the best group of people to work with - come check us out! Please contact Mary Noer (817)249-7341 or Jessica Zinn (817)763-0901.

## SUMMER FUN IS COMING

- This summer the Religious Education classes will be exploring the Heifer Project, learning about their work and raising awareness through games, dances, crafts and other activities. We also hope to raise some money to donate to the Heifer Project. Look for more information in next month's newsletter.

*WE SHOULD TRY TO BE  
THE PARENTS OF OUR  
FUTURE RATHER THAN  
THE OFFSPRING OF OUR  
PAST.*

- MIGUEL  
DE UNAMUNO

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** - Our youth have been very busy this month, flocking houses and going to the Scarborough Fair! Don't forget - everyone needs a Westside UU T-shirt - WWUUD? To buy one, talk to any youth, Kim Paulos or Susan Farris - they are \$15 for adult and \$12 for children's sizes. The small and medium sizes are now available!

**On May 4th** we will be joining the other age groups to enjoy the storytelling of Mr. Ron Tate during the service so we will not be meeting after church at 12:30pm that day.

**On May 11th and 18th** we will be holding our usual classes, after church at 12:30pm and preparing for the RE Sunday service.

**On May 25th** we will again join with the other classes to practice for the RE Sunday, so will not meet after church at 12:30pm

**June 1st** is RE Sunday and the children and youth will be leading the worship service, so no classes will be held.

## AROUND WESTSIDE

### Where's Russell in May

Russell will be giving reflections on May 18th and 25th. He will facilitate Joys and Concerns on those Sundays as well as May 11th. Russell will not be in attendance on May 4th and will be taking a week off from the 19th to the 24th when he will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota. If there is an emergency during that time, please leave a message on his home phone (817-370-.2171) and Gayle will see that he receives the message that evening. He may have limited or no email access during this time away.

## Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

We are pleased to announce our 2nd annual Mother's Day Pancake breakfast in honor of all the mothers, expecting mothers or potential mothers of Westside UU Church. Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 10:30am Sunday May 11th. Bring your wife, mother or the woman who gave you the nurturing you needed and let us pay her this small homage.

There are still plenty of opportunities to help make this event even better than last year. If you wish to volunteer your talents please contact Tom Woods at [tdwrmt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tdwrmt@sbcglobal.net), 817-846-4861.

## Congregational Meeting Agenda

The following is the agenda for the annual meeting of the membership of Westside UU Church scheduled for Sunday June 1, 2008 after services:

Election of new board members,

Adoption of the church budget for fiscal 2008-2009.

## SMART Group Meeting at Westside

Through a grant obtained by the Humanists of Fort Worth ([www.hofw.org](http://www.hofw.org)), Westside is hosting Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART) meetings. These meetings, facilitated by our minister, are

*IF SOMEONE DOES  
SOMETHING WE DISAP-  
PROVE OF, WE REGARD  
HIM AS BAD IF WE  
BELIEVE WE CAN DETER-  
HIM FROM PERSISTING  
IN HIS CONDUCT, BUT  
WE REGARD HIM AS  
MAD IF WE BELIEVE WE  
CANNOT.*

- THOMAS SZASZ

an alternative to 12 Step recovery programs. The SMART program is based upon cognitive behavioral techniques and does not require the participants to believe in a higher power or to deem themselves powerless. The meetings occur each Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm and are confidential.

If you, or someone you know, might benefit from SMART meetings, please contact Russell at [relleven@gmail.com](mailto:relleven@gmail.com) or by phone.

## Relationship Enhancement Group

Gayle and Russell lead a group each month that is focused on improving our couple relationships. Come share your relationship expertise and learn from others who are also committed to making their intimate relationships as good as possible. The group meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday each month at Westside (May 17th). If your committed relationship is a priority for you, or you want it to be, come spend time with other couples who have this same goal.

At this time no childcare is provided. However, please let Russell ([relleven@gmail.com](mailto:relleven@gmail.com)) know if lack of childcare prevents you from attending.

## Baby Welcoming on Mother's Day

Grant Edward Renfro was born on Saturday the 23rd of February. He was 7 lbs, 3 oz. He was 21 inches long. On May 11th (Mother's Day) Westside will formally welcome Grant into our

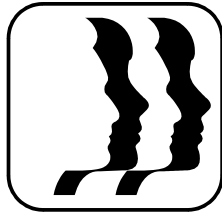
community with a ceremony officiated by Russell. The ceremony will take place immediately following Sunday service. Come, witness, and be part of this very special event!

## Service Project Beneficiaries Wanted

Your board of directors wants and needs your suggestions for recipients of non-designated plate offerings. If you have or know of a cause that could use the financial support of our progressive community, please notify a member of the board or email your recommendation to Charles Palmer at [charles.palmer@tyson.com](mailto:charles.palmer@tyson.com). We only need the name of the organization and a short description of the organization and/or its cause and contact information.

## Exploring Westside Membership Class

Potential new members and friends of Westside are invited to find out more about the membership journey at Westside on Saturday May 3rd from 10:00 am sharp. to 1:00 pm at the church. You will get a brief history of Unitarian Universalism, view the DVD "Voices of a Liberal Faith", and hear a history of Westside. We will share our spiritual journeys as well as discussing what you expect from a church and what Westside expects of its members. This is an informative and fun event with the opportunity to join Westside if you choose to do so. Pizza will be served for lunch to the attendees. Please come and learn more about Unitarian Universalism at Westside. RSVP to Dr. Russell Elleven 817-370-2171 or 817-924-6988. Let him know if you will need child care.



## New Faces

### MATT ERICKSON

by Beverly Archibald

Matt Erikson, whom many of you know through his music, is a transplanted Yankee from Massachusetts. He did move to Phoenix with his family when he was ten years old, but returned to the East to attend Amherst College and the Hartt Conservatory of Music, in Hartford, CT. Matt remained in New England until he came to Texas in 2006. Their loss is our gain!

Music has always been a part of Matt's life, beginning with piano lessons when he was six years old and continuing throughout his youth with choral music both at church and at school.

After graduating from Amherst College with a major in music, Matt taught music and history to 7th graders in a private school in Springfield, MA for two years. He then entered Hartt, where he studied piano. After Hartt, he freelanced as a church organist, choral director, and music critic for the Hartford Courant until 2003, when he accepted a full time position as music critic for the Courant. In August of 2006, Matt came to Texas as music critic for the Star-Telegram. At present he is freelancing as a writer and a musician.

Matt's parents still live in Phoenix, where his father is an engineer and his mother an insurance agent. His only sister also lives in Phoenix, and is expecting her first child the end of April.

Eric Stevens and Jill Jung brought Matt to Westside. As Matt says, "I have been fortunate to be involved

at Westside; it is such a warm and progressive community. It made the transition from New England easier." And he has high praise for Russell. At present, along with Jill Jung, Matt is training to run a marathon in Oklahoma. He has participated in several half marathons, and considers running a very helpful in releasing stress. He also loves to read, especially good science fiction and British novelists.

His tastes in music are diverse. He loves opera, Radiohead, and "music that challenges the ear and the heart". Matt said that a career in music is essential for him; for him music is spiritual, life affirming and a way to connect with people.

When asked if he misses New England, Matt said that he does miss the ocean, snow, and the sharp contrasts in the seasons. But at this time, Matt is happy to make Fort Worth his home and plans to stay here for the foreseeable future. We are glad that he feels this way. Please welcome Matt to our fellowship; you will enjoy getting to know him.

### JOSH DONNOE

by Beverly Archibald

Although Josh is a native Texan, born in Temple, he left when he was three weeks old. He lived in various cities in Michigan until he was sixteen-years-old, when he returned to Texas.

Josh was baptized at birth in the Metropolitan Community Church, a gay-friendly church which he attended for nine years. At one point, his mother sent him to a Catholic school, which Josh feels was an effort to "save" him. He was leaning toward atheism, and his stint in the Catholic school solidified these feelings.

Josh has a colorful and convoluted family background, culminating with his leaving his home with his Mother and coming to live with his dad. As Josh puts it, "I changed parents." He left his Mom's house on Christmas Day, and came to live with his dad, who has received him enthusiastically. Josh has been estranged from his Mom for several years.

After graduating from Paschal High School in 2005, Josh spent over two years studying math and computer science at TCU. He didn't like all the "filler" classes which he was required to take, and left TCU in his junior year. He says he "may or may not" go back.

Presently, Josh is working for Game-Stop, where he has been for about seven months. He likes his job, where he is a shift manager. He enjoys the industry and the company. He particularly likes to be involved in internal audits and loss prevention.

Besides playing video games (which he views as "research" for his job), Josh enjoys walking, biking and scooting – you may have seen the scooter which he sometimes rides to church. He also does an interesting and different form of origami.

Josh came to Westside through the Humanist group which meets at the church. He likes the church because there are familiar rituals and "it is not 'religious' – there's no God!" He considers himself an "illiterate atheist" as he does not read people's thoughts on being an atheist; he came to it more by intuition than by academia.

Being an only child, he says he spent lots of time with adults, and is comfortable being around older people. I am almost sixty years older than Josh, and I also felt very comfortable with him. Please welcome Josh Donnoe, one of our newest members. You will find him an interesting conversationalist.

## OUR COMMUNITY

SCAC is collecting large toiletry items such as toothpaste, shampoo, etc. Westside UU is committed to deodorant, for both men and women. The items can be left at the back of the sanctuary as usual.

### The Wellness Ministry of First Congregational UCC

Our friends at First Congregational have prepared a lineup of mental health programs members of Westside might find helpful or interesting.

They will begin at 6:30. The lecture will be 20 to 30 minutes, followed by some kind of add-on learning experience—questions and answers or perhaps discussion in small groups. They will finish no later than 7:45. Refreshments will be served and First Congregational hospitality will be in abundance!

### Mark your calendars for the following programs

**May 12** - Psychological Dynamics of Domestic Violence and How You Can Help End the Cycle is our topic. Rev. Dr. Zorina Costello will speak from her experience in counseling survivors of domestic violence. Zorina is director of the Pastoral Care Center at Brite Divinity School—[www.brite.tcu.edu/pastoralcare](http://www.brite.tcu.edu/pastoralcare). And Sharon Cox will be here to speak about Ladder Alliance, a non-profit agency providing training in office skills to women coming out of situations of domestic violence— [www.ladderalliance.org](http://www.ladderalliance.org).

**June 16** - Depression in Adolescents and Adults. Lynne Carpenter, a clinical counselor with The Parenting Center in Fort Worth.

**July 14** - The Trauma of Sudden Death: No Time for Goodbyes. Janice Harris Lord is a national consultant and author of "No Time for Goodbyes: Coping with Sorrow, Anger, and Injustice after a Tragic Death." She served for many years as director of victim services for the national office of MADD.

**August 18** - The Biology of Mental Illness. Our own Melissa Gibbons, president of NAMI Tarrant County, is our presenter.

**September 15** - Heart Work: The Intersection of Spirituality and Psychotherapy. Psychologist and noted speaker, Dr. Carol Stalcup. See her website: [www.artnsoulworks.com](http://www.artnsoulworks.com).

**October 13** - How a Healthy Sense of Self Develops. Rev. Dr. Katherine Godby. This topic is part of her further work on "The Authentic Self."

**December 8** - Caring for the Caregiver. Author of several books and noted speaker Martha Kate Downey will be with us. See her website: [www.mkdowney.com](http://www.mkdowney.com).

## First Jefferson Needs a Part-time Church Administrator.

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church is seeking a part-time church administrator with strong organizational and communication skills. Must have a good attitude and be professional, prompt, and reliable. This 21 hour/week position offers competitive compensation, flexible scheduling, and a generous holiday and vacation policy.

### PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Financial record keeping, using QuickBooks Professional,  
Newsletter editing and production,  
Office Management - phones, mail, filing, fax, email, office supplies, and  
Building Management - Maintain schedule for all building use and handle building rentals.

### REQUIREMENTS

Understand the basics of accounting  
Be proficient in Microsoft Office Applications (Outlook, Excel, Word) - Access proficiency would be a plus  
Be able to multitask  
Have excellent phone skills  
Be independent and capable of self-direction

Compensation is in the range of \$15-17/hour and includes a generous pension program after first year.

Please send current resume to [fjuuc@usa.net](mailto:fjuuc@usa.net)

## Social Activities

**AFTER CHURCH BUNCH** will meet at La Playa Maya on Hemphill.

**WEDNESDAY LUNCH BUNCH** will meet at Luby's on 8th Avenue at 11:30.

**POTLUCK AFTER CHURCH** is every third Sunday, right after the 11:00 service.

**BRIDGE.** The Westside Bridge Group will meet Sunday, May 4 from 6:30 to 9 at the home of Reed Bilz, 6130 Haley Lane, Fort Worth. All levels are welcome. Call Ann Sutherland, 817-294-1645 if you are coming or if you need further information

**DINNERS FOR NINE.** The May dinner will be on Saturday the 10th of May. If you are not registered, you may do so on-line at our website ([www.westsideuu.org](http://www.westsideuu.org). then click on Groups/Activities) or email Paul McClellan at [pclaypool@yahoo.com](mailto:pclaypool@yahoo.com).

**GREAT BOOKS.** The Westside UU Great Books discussion group will meet at its regularly scheduled time, the third Sunday evening of the month, May 18, 6:30 p.m. at the church. The selection is Plato's "The Apology." Leading the discussion will be Diane Jones. Newcomers are invited.

**CONTEMPORARY BOOK CLUB** will meet May 25th at Marjorie Bixler's house at 6:30 p.m.. For reading, we have a choice--any novel by Margaret Atwood.

# WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

## **Board of Directors 2007-2008**

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

## **Committee Chairs**

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



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

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

## ***How are we doing?***

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

Caroline Nixon (Chair, 817-922-9742), Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry,  
Jane Palmer, & Maria Schmidt

## ***Have an announcement?***

Submit announcements for the next monthly newsletter by May 16.  
All submissions should be made to Janice Williams at  
[Janice\\_williams@charter.net](mailto:Janice_williams@charter.net) or at 817-236-8364.

## **By The Numbers**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, March 02, 2007	91	9	100
Sunday, March 09, 2007	88	13	101
Sunday, March 16, 2007	92	8	100
Sunday, March 23, 2007	91	11	102
Sunday, March 30, 2007	80	11	91
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>98.8</b>

## ***The 7 UU Principles***

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

- THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON;
- JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS;
- ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS;
- A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING;
- THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE;
- THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL;
- RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART.

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