



the westside story

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

May 2009

Samaritan House Dinner May 29th

It's that time again! We'll gather the afternoon of Friday, May 29th for our second meal preparation for the residents of Samaritan House. John Huffman is in charge and will have sign-up sheets available for you to register. Come join us, whether or not you're part of the Social Justice committee. It's a fun and satisfying activity. Read about Linda Ice's experience below.

It is with great pride that I share with you my experience as part of Westside UU's first Supper Club at the Samaritan House in Fort Worth! On Friday, January 30th we served a potluck style dinner with a delicious Chicken Tetrazzini being the main course, lovingly prepared by Myrtle McMahan and Suzie Lotven. The residents were very excited about all of wonderful selections provided and especially the delicious desserts (including Beverly Archibald's famous Cream Cheese Sopapilla!) It really was quite a "spread"!

Samaritan House provides temporary living accommodations for persons with HIV/AIDS who are unable to care for themselves. Samaritan House is one of Westside's Sunday plate offering recipients.

John Huffman organized and coordinated the event gathering a group of about 15 Westside members who helped by preparing food, serving and

clean up. John was joined by Suzie Lotven, Brenda McKeon, Janet and Alida Cliff, Steve Cook, Jeffrey Bullock, Mary Cretsinger, Gary Randall, Ric and Jane Hansen, Maria Schmidt, and Myron and Linda Ice.

Westside has committed to serving dinner on the 5th Friday of each month for 2009. We are hopeful that we may be able to expand that commitment next year! Please contact John Huffman if you would like to get involved with the May dinner. We would love to have you join us!

More Social Justice

School-based clinic activities

We are continuing to work with other churches to distribute information regarding the clinics to churches who are members of the South Central Alliance of Churches. Interest is growing, and there is even some movement toward establishing a clinic in our area. Wish us luck!

Food for the hungry

Last month was our time to collect food for the SCAC. At press time, we can't give you information on our total donation, but we've made a great start thanks to Jay and Susie Lotven's purchase of a grocery cart.

Kennedy Fund

We've spent almost all our money on entrepreneurs! A first for us. We have donated over \$13,000 to 94 groups.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church
makes a positive
difference in the lives
of our members, our
families, and the
world at large
through supportive
relationships, reli-
gious exploration,
and social action.*

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church
will grow and
become a more
influential liberal
religious presence
through active
service to our com-
munity and the
world at large.*

Spring Clean-up Day - we need your help!

The Building & Grounds Committee is calling for volunteers on Saturday, May 2 for a major spring clean-up of interior and exterior spaces. If you know how to sand and paint, re-pot, or use a drill, broom, mop, scraper, shovel, trowel, sponge, paper towels, or toothbrush, we need YOU to help us put our best face forward.

Join us at 9 a.m. — we'll provide coffee, juice, and breakfast goodies — so we can roll up our sleeves for a flurry of activity. With enough volunteers, we can be done before it gets too hot outside. If you have your own equipment (especially gloves) you can bring, it will be appreciated.

If you will be there, please email Gene McKeon: bamckeon@aol.com or call him at 817-924-8952, so he can organize and prioritize, and know how many to feed.

life's story, talk about his latest book, (lost)Found, as well as HeartStrong, Inc., the non-profit organization he co-founded.

May 17th RE Sunday. Religious Education classes are preparing and will present a unique worship service. You won't want to miss the wonderful music and special reflections that all ages will share.

May 24th "Into the Future, Far as Human Eye Can See" by Daniel Polk. The Christian 'Good News' is often summed up with a simple "John 3:16". What is the Good News of our Unitarian Universalist faith? Come listen and explore.

May 31st "How (and Perhaps Why) Our Church works." by Tom Woods & Russell Elleven. This reflection will explore the way our Church operates and how we manage to accomplish all that we do as a community. The Westside president and minister will team up to bring you a mighty powerful message.

Sunday Services

May 3rd "Commitment Sunday!" by Dr. Russell Elleven. If you come to one church service this year it should be May 3rd! Westside is counting on you and Russell will deliver on his favorite reflection topic by attempting to answer the question, How in the world did we get here?

May 10th "From Fundamentalism to Freedom" by Marc Adams. Marc Adams is a Silver Pen Award recipient for his autobiography, *The Preacher's Son*. *The Preacher's Son* chronicles Marc's life growing up gay as the son of a fundamentalist Baptist minister. He attended, by choice, Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. His book reveals life at Liberty and the struggle to conform. It culminates with his coming to terms with being gay and his coming out to his fundamentalist Baptist Christian family. Marc will share some of his

*The difference in
mind between man
and the higher
animals, great as it
is, certainly is one
of degree and not of
kind.*

- Charles Darwin

*I have always
found that mercy
bears richer fruits
than strict justice.*

- Abraham Lincoln

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 April 2009 the undesignated plate offering has gone to support 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>.

For the month of May 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to assist The Women's Center of Tarrant County. The Women's Center provides an array of services focusing upon rape crisis and victim services, employment solutions, and other counseling services. More information about the activities and volunteer opportunities at The Women's Center of Tarrant County can be obtained through their web site at <http://www.womenscenter.info/programs1.htm#>. The Women's Center of Tarrant County is also one of our new neighbors at 1723 Hemphill near the corner of Allen and Hemphill, (817)927-4006.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please

route them through Charles Palmer, Treasurer, at charles.palmer@tyson.com, speak to him at church, or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications with two simple criteria: 1) "Do donations to the recipient further our church's vision and mission?" and 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?" Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months. Our record of donations and recipient organizations may be seen in the enclosed newsletter table or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

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Month	Recipient	Amount
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
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

*To profess to be
doing God's will is
a form of megalomania.*

- Joseph Prescott

*Faith which does
not doubt is dead
faith.*

- Miguel de Unamuno

*Happiness is not a
goal; it is a by-product.*

*- Eleanor
Roosevelt*

Adult Forum *Sunday Morning*

Current Events Discussion Group will continue each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. in the east classroom. All are welcome. These weekly discussions are vital and enthusiastic.

RE News

Don't miss the RE News that comes after the regular newsletter! It's the last two pages of this document (after the page with attendance and UU principles). You'll learn about our summer Week of Westside (WOW) and what to expect from RE Sunday, plus a lot more...so check us out!

In & Around Westside

*Language is the
amber in which a
thousand precious
and subtle thoughts
have been safely
embedded and
preserved.*

- Richard C.
Trench

*It is one thing to
show a man that he
is in error, and
another to put him
in possession of the
truth.*

- John Locke

*Just praise is only a
debt, but flattery is
a present.*

- Samuel Johnson

Where's Russell in May?

Russell will be in the pulpit delivering reflections on May 3rd and 31st . Additionally, on the 24th he will assist with a Day in UU History and facilitate Joys & Concerns. He will not be in church on the 10th for Mother's Day or 17th when he will be delivering a reflection at Red River UU Church in Denison, TX. He will be taking a week of vacation May 4-11.

Please make note of his May office hours:

No office hours first full week of May
Tuesday, May 12, 9 am - 1 pm
Thursday, May 14, 9 am - 1 pm
Tuesday, May 19, 9 am - 1 pm
Thursday, May 21, 9 am - 1 pm
Tuesday, May 26, 9 am - 1 pm
Thursday, May 28, 9 am - 1 pm

Circle Suppers

The Membership Committee would like to help increase awareness of the "Circle Suppers." We feel this is an incredible opportunity to bring together not only members and friends, but to also give prospective members and guests a "TASTE" of what Westside has to offer. Sign-up forms are now available at the welcome table or online. Pick a form up or enroll online to be a part of this longtime Westside tradition!

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12-step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. For more information contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com or go to www.rke.cc.

Potluck Sunday

On May 17, bring a dish and join other Westsiders for lunch after church. It is always the third Sunday of the month.

Westside Great Books

Our Great Books discussion scheduled for April 12 was postponed to April 26 but May's meeting will be back on track for the second Sun-

day, the 10th. The reading for that day will be a selection from the great sociologist, economist and philosopher George Simmel's book *THE PHILOSOPHY OF MONEY*. The particular selection is called "Individual Freedom." Visitors are welcome.

to HOFW at this meeting and bring the audience up to date on this fine program for people needing assistance in self help recovery from substance abuse that does not require the relinquishment of personal power to a supernatural entity. Visitors are welcome.

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Humanists of Fort Worth Contemporary Books

HOFW will meet as usual on the second Wednesday of the month, May 13, at the church at 7 p.m. About a year ago our group won an American Humanist Association grant to establish a Self Management and Recovery Training program (SMART) for the city of Fort Worth. We won it on the strength of our minister, Dr. Russell Elleven, and his proposal to direct the program. Russell, as you may know, is a licensed chemical dependency counselor and is licensed by the state of Texas as a professional counselor. He currently works with a growing group of clients each Tuesday evening. He will speak

We meet after church at the church on May 31 to discuss Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth*. This book was removed from a high school reading list in Cleburne. Read it to find out why!

Directories Still Available

Printed copies of the Westside UU Photo directory are still available, for \$4. Contact Carl Romano (in person, phone 817-570-9939, or email carlr4@aol.com) if you would like to purchase one.

*It seems like the less
a statesman
amounts to the
more he adores the
flag.*

- Kin Hubbard

*Only the madman
is absolutely sure.*

- Robert Anton
Wilson

*Man is least
himself when he
talks in his own
person. Give him a
mask, and he will
tell you the truth.*

- Oscar Wilde

*Please Submit Items for Next
Month's Newsletter to:
janice_williams@charter.net
by the 15th.
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
Mar. 1	95	20	115
Mar. 8	98	13	111
Mar. 15	120	22	142
Mar. 22	109	28	137
Mar. 29	90	24	114
Mar. Average	102.4	21.4	123.8



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.

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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 Andrea Petty

Bettina Pfeiffenberger

RE Sunday is May 17!

You won't want to miss this Worship service! It will be run by our children and youth and will give you an idea of what they have been learning this year. We also have a portion of the service reserved to recognize the wonderful teachers who make our RE program so great. Please come and show your support.

p.s. It's also potluck Sunday!

Look for your picture

Check the bulletin boards for the pictures from the Easter egg hunt and RE in the Park. I found an egg in a light fixture in the Sanctuary; I'm glad that we hid plastic eggs!

RE in the Park is always such a good time! The memories are something to treasure!

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.

WOW aka Week of Westside

Our weeklong summer program this August 10-14 is being dubbed WOW, and what a fitting name! We have a fun-filled, action packed week planned. We'll have stories, crafts, games, music and lots more. Make sure you write this in your calendar as a not-to-be-missed event!

Training for WOW

If you are interested in joining us to work at the summer camp, call Jessica Zinn and plan to attend a training session on May 31 after church. We would love to have you help out!

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. -- Will Rogers

"Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass... it's about learning how to dance in the rain."-- Unknown

The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.

-Allan K Chalmers

How can I get involved in RE?

Glad you asked! We have many opportunities available. I first want to say that I find working with our kids a joy! They are friendly and work very hard to welcome all the children that come to visit Westside. One way to get involved is to come to a Religious Education Committee meeting. They are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month. We will be announcing WHERE the meeting is in the Order of Service the last week of the month. Our second option is to apply to be a substitute teacher. You can get an idea of what our classes are like before you give a commitment of time. The next option was mentioned earlier in the newsletter...WOW, our Week of Westside summer school. We could use storytellers, craft help, and many others. If you have questions, ask us! Julie Tribble (DRE), Mary Noer & Susan Farris, (RE Committee co-chairs) Jessica Zinn, (Director of WOW) we will work to answer your questions and make a place for you in RE!

Our RE Attendance

March 29 - 30

April 5 - 42

April 11 - 32

Hogwarts in Fort Worth

I have written in other newsletters about the Hogwarts summer camp that Westside and First Jefferson are offering. It is a one week camp that will be held at First Jefferson on July 20 - 24 from 9am -3 pm. The ages are from 5 - 12, but we have places for the youth to come and help out. If anyone is interested in teaching or being an adult guide at the camp we would LOVE to have your help! This is going to be a very exciting camp. I should have brochures and registration available by the end of April. We are going to be giving a discount to the children of our professors or guides, so you may give it some thought. There will also be before and after care available for a small fee. Kathy Smith and Julie Tribble are the co-directors of the Hogwarts camp; we have designed it with the Unitarian Universalist Principles in mind and the fun of the Hogwarts magical atmosphere. If you ever wanted to go to Hogwarts...now is your chance!

OWL Training

There will be OWL training at Bay Area UU Church, near Houston on June 5-7. If you are interested please call Julie.