



The Westside Story

May 2010

Monthly Newsletter of Westside
Unitarian Universalist Church

901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, TX
11:00 AM • www.WestsideUU.org

Chaplains report on a Caring Community

The Chaplains Corps, working with Russell, has been contacting various members whom we've missed seeing or hearing from. If you know of anyone that has been sick or in the hospital, or is having a difficult time, please let Russell or a chaplain know. You may contact us at Chaplain@westsideuu.org. If you cannot attend church, and want one of your Joys or Concerns mentioned during that portion of the Sunday morning service, let us know, and we will try to get it included.

We offer our sympathy to Alisa Tomlinson and her family upon the death of her cousin, who was killed in a hunting accident.

And, we are sad to say goodbye to the Bruno family, but share in

the excitement of their upcoming move.

T.J. and John are in many of our thoughts. They have been absent due to car trouble. We are glad to know they are otherwise fine.

One correction from last month's newsletter is for Apolonia Caraveo. Her new grandbaby is a male and not a female as reported... oops! Also, it has been great to see her back at church to visit with us.

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

Our Mission Statement

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

Our Vision Statement

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

Month	Recipient	Amount
March 2010	Americans for the Separation of Church & State	\$1291.94
February 2010	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$1092.63
January, '10	UUSC Haitian Relief Fund	\$1751.35
January, '10	Tarrant Area Food Bank Pet Food Division	\$ 763.61
December, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)	\$ 852.53
November, '09	Westside InReach	\$1305.01
October, '09	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$ 766.05
September, '09	Samaritan House Food Account	\$ 876.77
August, '09	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$ 832.35
July, '09	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$635.69
June, '09	Interfaith Environmental Alliance	\$539.85
May, '09	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$1,135.31
April, '09	Community Hospice of Texas	\$1,032.39
March, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$816.75
February, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 847.44
January, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" Campaign	\$ 1,231.80
December, '08	Samaritan House	\$ 1,057.54
November, '08	UU Church of Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 1,109.56
October, '08	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$ 704.00
September, '08	Kennedy Micro-Lending Group	\$ 1,272.12
August, '08	Heifer Fund	\$ 1,506.69
July, '08	Clinica Esperanza	\$ 1,149.78

What can be asserted without proof can be dismissed without proof.

-Christopher Hitchens

Insane people are always sure that they are fine. It is only the sane people who are willing to admit that they are crazy.

-Nora Ephron

A beautiful thing is never perfect.

-Egyptian proverb

Westside UUC Service Project

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

sunday options

Sunday Services

May 2 - Commitment Sunday, with Dr. Elleven. Today is a big day in the life of your congregation. Come be with others as we ascertain the financial health of Westside. Whether you are a new member, a founding member, or a guest, come be part of the excitement that is Commitment Sunday!

May 9 - On Hatred, Toleration, and Freedom, with Dr. Ronald Flowers.

The role of religion in public life is complicated and not always nice. Let us think about some categories that might make some sense of this conundrum; and maybe some moral suggestions (imperatives) that could shine some light in the darkness and brighten the light that may already be there.

May 16 - Don't Believe You, with Dr. Elleven. To hear the words, "I don't believe you", can be devastating. At the same time, we have all probably said these words. Russell will offer you another view this morning. It will be up to you whether or not to believe him.

May 23 - RE Sunday with Julie Tribble. 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 30 - Bob Ray Sanders Speaks at Westside. Once again we look forward to having Bob Ray Sanders in our pulpit. Bob Ray, a columnist and editor at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, always

gives a thought-provoking message, delivered in his own inimitable style. If you have not heard him, you are in for a treat.

FORUM

Chapter 13 of A People's History of the U.S. will be discussed the first Sunday of May. The following Sunday, Lin Wells will lead the discussion of Chapter 14. Lin and I will alternate leading discussions of the remaining chapters. Interest in this book and discussions of it have grown considerably. If you have even a slight interest in how little most of us have learned about our country's history as it has been taught and would like to know more, this is an eye-opening opportunity. All are welcome. Beginning at 9:45, our discussions fit conveniently between the first and second services each Sunday. Come to Russell's first service at 9:00 and stay for Forum, or come first to Forum and stay for the 11 o'clock service. All are welcome. - *Dick Trice*

RE News

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

in & around westside

"Stars" of Westside

The Stewardship Committee gives a huge thanks to all the many people who worked so hard to make our gala event, "Sweets and Treats with the Stars" and the production of "My Fair Share Lady" such a resounding success. We discovered that the "Stars" of Westside are the membership who

contribute their time, talent, and treasure to the continuing transformation of this magnificent community.

Our pledge campaign, to date, is well on it's way to success but we still have a ways to go. For the membership and friends who were unable to attend the May 2nd, Commitment Sunday, we have prepared the one-on-one canvass meeting where you will have the opportunity to complete your pledge form.

Our Stewards this year are: Linda Jenkins, Mary Cretsinger, Cindy Fountain, Jeff Bullock, Gwen Gipson, Diane Jones, Tom Woods, Lela Woods, Gene McKeon, Debby Rake, Richard Trice, Caroline Nixon, Linda Hanratty, & John Nagely. One of these stewards will be calling to set an appointment with you to discuss the future of Westside.

Are you a new member?

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

Where's Russell in May?

Of the five Sundays in May, Russell will only be absent for the second one (5/9). He will deliver reflection on two of those Sundays (2nd & 16th). He will be unavailable from 5/3 through 5/11.

Below are office hours for May:

Tuesday, May 4, UNAVAILABLE
Thursday, May 6, UNAVAILABLE
Tuesday, May 11, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday, May 13, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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The animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extension of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren; they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendor and travail of the earth.

-Henry Beston

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Tuesday, May 18, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday, May 20, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday, May 25, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday, May 27, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Please call him at home first (817-370-2171) and leave a message if no answer. You may also want to call the church (817-924-6988). If no answer at either place, it merely means Russell is with another church member and will get back to you as soon 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.

Board Minutes *Available to Westsiders*

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

*Sometimes, exhausted / with toil
and endeavour, / I wish I could sleep /
for ever and ever; / but then this
reflection / my longing allays: / I
shall be doing it / one of these days.*

-Piet Hein

*The great enemy of clear language is
insincerity.*

-George Orwell

opportunities to learn & serve

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will discuss two books on May 23, after church, at the church. The Thirteenth Tale is a hold-over from April, and our next book is Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout.

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.

Ethical Eating

The Ethical Eating group meets monthly on the third Thursday (7:00 p.m.). Last month the group examined how diet likely contributes to cancer. We watched a DVD of Professor Emeritus T. Colin Campbell of Cornell University. This month we will have a cooking class taught by Bridget Rodenwald. She is a member of Pathways UU Church and has been featured in the Fort Worth Star Telegram. For this particular class, please email Russell by May 13th (relleven@gmail.com) so an accurate headcount can be completed for the chef.

Poker

We'll meet Friday, May 15, at 7pm. Contact Paul McClellan at pclaypool@yahoo.com for more information.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The second Wednesday of May (the 12th), HOFW will meet at 7 p.m. and elect new officers for its new year, beginning in June. Many Westsiders are also members of HOFW and more are encouraged to visit and join. Details of the program and speaker will be forth-

coming soon, but the subject is going to deal with just what Humanism is all about. Come, listen, and join in the open discussion that will follow.

our wider community

Deadly Design

Fellow UU, Marion Moore Hill, (member of Red River congregation in Denison, TX) will give a talk at Legacy Books, 7300 Dallas Parkway, Plano, on May 18, 7:00 pm, about her latest mystery novel, DEADLY DESIGN. It is the second in her Deadly Past Mysteries series of contemporary novels that relate to various Founding Fathers. In DESIGN, protagonist Millie Kirchner, a young history buff and single mother from Richardson, TX, solves a mystery about an old house in Virginia purported to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson.

Southwest UU Summer Institute

Information about SWUUSI, the Southwest UU Summer Institute, our district's multi-generational family camp, is available at www.swuuc.org/swuusi. SWUUSI 2010 will be held at Western Hills Guest Ranch, near Tahlequah OK, August 1-6. Come hear the Rev. Susan Smith and Connie Goodbread as they lead us through a deeper exploration of Unitarian Universalism. Sunset talks will be presented by the Rev. Aaron White of First Unitarian Church in Dallas. Artist-in-Residence Nick Page will offer workshops and performances for all. Visit his website, www.nickmusic.org, to hear some of his inspirational music.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses."

- Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UUs of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There is much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails, or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and all proceeds go to our small fellowship. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

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Losing one glove / is certainly painful, / but nothing / compared to the pain, / of losing one, / throwing away the other, / and finding / the first one again.

-Piet Hein

If God exists, I hope he has a good excuse.

-Woody Allen

We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color.

-Maya Angelou

*The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month.
Email submissions to our Editor Cindy Fountain at vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net.*

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Board

President: Sandy Olah
Vice President: Gwen Gipson
Secretary: Bob Vann Treasurer: Bob Rake
Directors, two- year terms: Reed Bilz, Michael Muñoz,
and James Finn
Director, one-year interim term: Nancy Van Boskirk
Directors, continuing: Brenda McKeon and Ann
Sutherland

By The Numbers

March	9am	11am adults	11am kids	Total
Mar 7	12	98	36	146
Mar 14	19	135	30	184
Mar 21	13	112	31	156
Mar 28	14	132	31	177
Average	14.5	119.25	32	165.7



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.

Committee on Ministry

Dick Trice, Chair
Mary Cretsinger
Kay Kubala
Lin Wells
Tom Woods

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



RE News

RE Committee: May, 2010
Chair: Andrea Petty
Treasurer: Susan Farris
DRE: Julie Tribble
Committee: Natalie McKeon
Brenda McKeon Sarah Skiles
Tricia Bowes Jessica Zinn

RE Yard Sale

It's time for the semi-annual yard sale for the RE Special Fund. Come and find those wonderful recycled wonders. It is also Spring and time for cleaning! We have a great place for all those treasures too good to throw away but you don't want to keep. This is the time to get in the Reduce-Recycle-Reuse cycle, and find some goodies to contribute to the sale. The date for the sale is May 7 & 8 at Julie's home in south Fort Worth. The address is 10101 Oak Grove Road, 76140.

So give us a call, (Andrea, Susan or Julie) to make arrangements for collecting your contributions.

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

RE Sunday May 23rd

This is the Service each year that we, the RE Classes, plan and lead. Our kids will be telling/showing us what they have been learning this year. This is also the time that we will be learning the new song that we 'sing out our kids' to. This is a not-to-miss event!!!

What in the World is happening in our World Religion Classes?

Barton Class: Aloha, Hawaiian Lei Day gives us a chance to share flowers and friendship. It is very similar to the Unitarian Universalist observance of Flower Communion, which also involves sharing flowers within the congregation. Families come in all shapes and sizes but they are precious to us all. We will tell stories and draw pictures of our family members. The end of May marks the end of our class year and we'll take a look back at all the fun we've had this year.

Anthony and Young - We will be reviewing our favorite lessons playing our favorite games and practicing parts for the upcoming RE Sunday on May 23, where the kids lead the service.

Summer Session of RE:

This summer our curriculum is from Putamayo. It is called *World Playground*, and is very cool!!! Each child will get a Passport with their picture and other pertinent information in it. As they visit each country and learn its customs, language, games and music - they will get a stamp on their passport. We are dividing the group into 2 classes - one will be 8 years and younger, the other 9 years and older.

Goals for DRE

After the DRE Start-up, we were left with some homework. Russell, Andrea, Susan and I have worked diligently to set priorities and short and long term goals for the DRE.

Short Term Goals:

Parental Communication for each month's events: We will be using the non-profit vertical response that is used by Westside for the Weekly Web, but it will only go to RE parents and teachers.

Sunday Checklist: This will give a sense of continuity to our Sundays whether I am at Church or someone else is the acting DRE.

These will all be implemented before the summer term starts.

Long Term Goals:

OWL expanded for all ages and ultimately as an outreach ministry.

In the fall, we will have a Kindergarten - 1st grade class, and another 4-6th grade class. We will be looking into having an adult class if there is interest.

Promote increased intergenerational opportunities -

examples might be a secret pen pal program between adults and children in the congregation, or a mentoring program.

One on-going Social Action Project -

One possibility is the children could make and maintain a composting barrel or maybe start a square foot garden and grow vegetables to be used for after service snacks. If you have ideas, please share them!

Hogwarts Academy

We are taking registration for the Hogwarts Academy that runs June 14 - 18, at First Jefferson UU Church. This is once again a joint project of Westside and First Jefferson, and will be better than ever!!! Cost is \$100.00 for the week long camp and the campers will be in the same House as last year, with new campers being sorted the first day. It's going to be another great week of camp!!! For more information, talk to Julie or Andrea.