



the westside story

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

June 2009

“Where Everybody Knows Our Name”

There is a debate of sorts on the Yahoo forum group about growing our church, and some of the attendant problems involved. The main drawback, in many peoples' minds, seems to be that we no longer are in a place, like Cheers, “where everybody knows our name”. We feel less comfortable, and yearn for the good old days when we were smaller and knew everybody. Like it or not, the church will hopefully continue to grow. With this in mind, I think we need to explore avenues through which we can meet in small groups and get to know each other better. For me, Circle Suppers fulfills this need. Below is the text of a message I posted on the Yahoo forum on this subject.

One of the wonderful (to me) small groups we have at Westside is the Circle Suppers (formerly called Dinners for Nine). These present each of us with an opportunity to get to know each other better, as well as getting to know people whom we may not have known before. Why are these not more successful? The last Circle Supper (yes, there was only ONE) included eight people - seven members and one nonmember. It was great - we all had a good time, learned more about each other and ate a great meal together. I think these types of groups are crucial in fostering a “small church” feeling as we become larger. Then, when we go to church on Sunday, we don't feel overwhelmed by people we don't know.

My question to all of you is, why are these suppers not more successful? Why don't more people attend? Why don't YOU attend? Is there something wrong with them that I am not seeing? With almost 160 members in the church, why is it that only eight people signed up to attend the last supper (no pun intended). Is there something else we should pursue to get to know each other in small groups?

Circle Suppers are not a lifetime commitment - not even a commitment to attend more than one. Try it out; see if you like it. Email Paul McClellan and put your name on the list as an interested person - NO obligation, but you will be invited to attend the next supper and I urge you to do so if you can.

What else do you suggest we do in order to retain the “small church” flavor while growing our church?

One more thing: do we go up to these strangers among us and introduce ourselves? By making them feel welcome, we will feel more comfortable ourselves the next time we see them.

Thanks for listening and I would appreciate feedback on this in any form you choose - just don't come throw rocks at my house ;-).

Beverly Archibald
bevanfw@charter.net
817-346-3303

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.

One More Time - Spring Cleaning at Westside on June 6!

The Building & Grounds Committee is calling for volunteers on Saturday, June 6 at 9 a.m. for another round of spring cleaning. This Saturday's activities will include cleaning of our pantry, restrooms, and our minister's and administrator's offices.

In May, a great group of volunteers painted doors and door frames, and deep cleaned and organized numerous spaces (kitchen, RE office, library, Beatrix Potter room, hall restroom, and choir/AV room), so other spaces still need our attention. We'll have the coffee on and breakfast goodies ready for you.

Toiletries for SCAC Needed

Our efforts to collect food for distribution by South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) in April were very successful and very much appreciated. Each member church of SCAC is asked to focus on donations of food for one month and toiletries for another. Tiel Jenkins, Program Director for SCAC, stressed at our last Board meeting that the need for toiletries for the clients served is real and often under served. And of course the slump in the economy serves to magnify the need. The items requested are regular size.

Westside's month to bring toiletries is July, so please start thinking about what you can donate. The toiletry packs contain the following:

- 2 Rolls of Toilet Tissue
- 2 Bars of Soap
- 2 Deodorants
- 2 Razors

- 1 Shaving Cream
- 1 Conditioner
- 1 Shampoo
- 1 Tube of Toothpaste

Other Items Needed

- Children's Cold Medicines
- Tylenol
- Motrin
- Feminine Products

The packs are assembled at SCAC - we only need to provide the items needed. Dollar Stores are an excellent place to purchase many of these things.

Please bring your items any Sunday in July and put them in the big red cart (where we collected the food items in April). As usual, Jay and Suzie Lotven will deliver our donations to SCAC.

Westside is a vital member of SCAC and our efforts are very much needed and appreciated.

*Words are the small
change of thought.*

-Jules Renard

*Like cars in amusement
parks, our
direction is often
determined
through collisions.*

-Yahia Lababidi

*I hate war as only a
soldier who has
lived it can, only as
one who has seen
its brutality, its
futility, its stupidity.*

*-Dwight D.
Eisenhower*

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 May 2009 the undesignated plate offering has gone to support 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. 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. 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#>.

For the month of June 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to assist the Interfaith Environmental Alliance. The Alliance represents a gathering of Dallas/Fort Worth faith communities dedicated to the introduction of green principles and processes for congregations, along with broader advocacy of sustainable public policies and ecological justice. Since its inception in 2003, the Alliance proposes and supports a mindfulness of our environment that complements our UU 7th principle of "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." For more information about the Interfaith Environmental Alliance, please visit their web site at <http://www.iea-ntx.org/>. Suggestions from Westside mem-

bers 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!

*The Westside Story
June 2009*

Month	Recipient	Amount
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
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

Conscience is a man's compass, and though the needle sometimes deviates, though one often perceives irregularities when directing one's course by it, one must still try to follow its direction.

-Vincent van Gogh

I live my life in widening circles that reach out across the world. I may not complete this last one but I give myself to it.

-Rainer Maria Rilke

*The Westside Story
June 2009*

Sunday Services

June 7th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*I've Got No Place Else To Go!*". This reflection will be based upon the story of a minister and his search for truth. Perhaps you will be surprised at how different, and similar, his story reflects your own.

June 14th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*Rocks and Religion*". What in the world do rocks and religion have to do with each other? By the newsletter deadline, Russell wasn't sure either. But you can bet he'll have something to say by the 14th of June!

June 21st - Rev. Don Fielding, "*What is Belief?*". This is an examination of what belief is and those factors that underlie it. This reflection provides the background for constructing any belief-system, but especially a naturalistic one. Two often overlooked features of beliefs are given and used to help in the construction of naturalized beliefs.

June 28th - Rev. Don Fielding, "*Believing in Religious Naturalism*". Building on the previous week, and beginning with a new definition of "religion," this reflection provides a description of this new and exciting 21st Century belief system. Just being "naturalistic" isn't enough; a naturalistic belief system must also be - somehow - religious. Resources for learning more about religious naturalism are also provided.

Adult Forum Sunday Morning

Current Events Discussion Group will continue each Sunday in June at 9:45 a.m. in the east classroom. All are welcome. These weekly discussions are vital and enthusiastic. Anyone not on my list of interest-

ed attendees is welcome to send his or her email address in order to be advised of special subjects or programs. Just send address to trice932@yahoo.com.

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 great summer camps and teacher training, plus a lot more...so check us out!

in & around westside

Where's Russell in June?

Russell is well within the summer travel that comes each year. He will offer reflections on the first two of the four Sundays in June. He will be unavailable for half of the month (6/15-6/30). For much of that period he will be attending Ministry Days and the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

Reduced office hours for June will be limited to:

Tuesday, June 2, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, June 4, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, June 9, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Thursday, June 11, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Please remember, to call him at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message, and then try the church office phone (817-924-6988). If you do not receive an immediate response, it means Russell is with

All men -- whether they go by the name of Americans or Russians or Chinese or British or Malayans or Indians or Africans -- have obligations to one another that transcend their obligations to their sovereign societies.

-Norman Cousins

Men have slow reflexes. In general it takes several generations later for them to understand.

-Stanislaw J. Lec

I want to realize brotherhood or identity not merely with the beings called human, but I want to realize identity with all life, even with such things as crawl upon earth.

-Mohandas K. Gandhi

another church member at that time. He will return your call as quickly as possible (if you've left a message).

Mondays are Russell's days off and he tries to stay away from the computer and telephone on those days. He will always respond to emergencies unless out of town.

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.

Volunteers Needed

Paul McClellan will be gone the last week of June for six weeks. He needs volunteers to make coffee, snacks and supervise the kitchen cleanup volunteers. It includes one Sunday that will be a potluck. If you can help, please email him at pclaypool@yahoo.com or see him at church.

Westside Great Books

This group meets every 2nd Sunday of each month at 12:30 after the

service in the east-most classroom. The selection for discussion June 14 is taken from Georg Simmel's book *The Philosophy of Money*. It's a 25-page chapter entitled "Individual Freedom." If you would like to join the fun of serious reading and discussion each month see Dick Trice.

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m., at the church. New officers were elected at our May meeting and the new fiscal year will begin June 10. If you would like to attend one of the meetings see any of these new officials: Dick Trice, Chair; Don Ruhs, Vice Chair; Treasurer, Dolores Ruhs; and Secretary, Suzie Lotven.

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet June 28 after church, at the church. We will discuss novels by David Lodge.

New Faces

Kristin Pitt
by Linda Simmons,
Friend of the Church

Kristin Pitt, one of our newest members, lives in Crowley. She has resided in the Fort Worth area for fourteen years, although she was born "out west" in Amarillo where she attended a Unitarian church as a child. Kristin has worked at John Peter Smith Hospital since 1994, as a physical therapist and also recently started working at

The Westside Story
June 2009

Gold in its native state is but dull, unornamental stuff, and only lowborn metals excite the admiration of the ignorant with an ostentatious glitter. However, like the rest of the world, I still go on underrating men of gold and glorifying men of mica.

-Mark Twain

The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human.

-Aldous Huxley

Huguley Hospital. She is married with two children, a son, 14, and a daughter, 12, and has assisted coaching their basketball teams for the past few years. She enjoys exercising; occasionally performing short triathlons but also loves lazy beach vacations.

Kristin's mom passed away from Alzheimer's last June. Attending our church has helped her; as it does many of us, get through trying times. The Unitarian philosophy is similar to her own spirit and she wishes to make a commitment and contribute to its purpose. Contact information is: 1008 Choke Cherry Lane, Crowley, Tx. 76036; phone number 817-426-1115 and email: Kristin-pitt@charter.net.

Kristin, welcome, and wear your name tag so we can be sure and say hello and get to know you better!

Karen Moore
by Karen Moore

I grew up in Cleburne, Texas. I am an only child and was adopted at birth by my two wonderful parents, Vernon and Mabel Young. I lost them many years ago and miss them still.

At this time, I am a school counselor in Crowley ISD at Dallas Park Elementary. I have a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling, both from Tarleton State University. I taught 3rd grade for 8 years and preschool for 10 years. My counseling career began 12 years ago and has included being a caseworker at Johnson County MHMR, a counselor in a women's shelter, counseling all level special education students, middle school students, primary students, and elementary students.

My fabulous husband Kerry and I will have been married 25 years this coming June. Kerry is a diesel mechanic for Union Pacific Railroad in Fort Worth. We are childless by choice, but have three dogs who are our "children". We have Bonnie and Buster, both Jack Russell terriers, and Beasley, a miniature schnauzer.

My and Kerry's passion is traveling. We have been to nearly every Caribbean island because we love the beach! Snorkeling is our favorite pastime. We've also been to Rio De Janeiro, Germany, Canada, Central America, and Mexico. We are going to Costa Rica for our 25th wedding anniversary. We've also traveled extensively in the United States.

My hobbies are reading, gardening, exercising, and traveling with friends. I have a group of girlfriends that I travel with each summer -- we call ourselves "The Sister-chicks". We have been on cruises together, and we enjoy getting pampered at spas, and shopping, of course!

I came to Westside after a lifetime of searching out different denominations. I was raised in a fundamentalist Southern Baptist church, moved on to a Presbyterian church, and most recently had been attending a Disciples of Christ church. Even as a young child, I realized that I was not a "Christian" in the traditional sense. So, this year, I began to search for a different type of religious experience.

I listened to Russell's reflections on the Internet and was deeply touched by them. Then I visited Westside and was welcomed with open arms by everyone. I felt like I was home at last! I am very happy to be a part of the Westside family!

We welcome Karen and Kerry to the Westside family!

"Faith" is a fine invention

For gentlemen who see

But microscopes are prudent

In an emergency.

-Emily Dickinson

What monstrosities would walk the streets were some people's faces as unfinished as their minds.

-Eric Hoffer

our wider community

The Church of the Larger Fellowship

Their Online Learning Center is an educational facility that provides courses designed to serve a variety of people at varying levels of UU knowledge. There is no cost for their introductory courses ("A Chosen Faith Study Guide" and "The New UU"). Other classes carry a \$40 fee. Check them out at <http://www.uurgl.com/learn/>

Vermont in October!

Fifteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint

towns, and much more. Register by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325 (single bed) and \$525 (double bed). For more information, contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969.

The Westside Story
June 2009

Green News, Good News

The Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental action organization, announced the first-ever winners of their Growing Green Awards. Will Allen, founder and CEO of Growing Power, won in the Food Producer category for his innovative urban farm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that integrates year-round urban aquaculture and vegetable production. Waste from the fish is used to fertilize the plants, which in turn filter the water so it can be returned to the fish – both eliminating the need to add fertilizers or release polluted waste-water. The farm provides fresh fish, produce and jobs to an underserved community, in addition to training and outreach through on-farm classes and lectures.

From: nrdc.org/media/2009/090506.asp

There are two ways of being happy: We may either diminish our wants or augment our means – either will do – the result in the same; and it is for each man to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be the easiest. If you are idle or sick or poor, however hard it may be to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means. If you are active and prosperous or young and in good health, it may be easier for you to augment your means than to diminish your wants. But if you are wise, you will do both at the same time, young or old, rich or poor, sick or well; and if you are very wise you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society.

–Benjamin Franklin

*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
April 5	108	42	150
April 12	103	32	135
April 19	133	33	166
April 26	92	17	109
Average	109	31	140



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

June, 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 was May 17!

We have the brightest and most imaginative children and youth! What a Service!! I am proud of the Religious Education Department at Westside...great kids, awesome teachers and fun, informative curriculum.

SWUU District Summer Camps

The district summer camps are coming up: June 28 - July 3 is for ages 8 - 11, July 5 - 11 is for ages 12 - 14 & July 12 - 18 is for Youth ages 15- 19(if just graduated).

All of the camps are held at UBarU near Kerrville, a Unitarian Universalist owned ranch. Contact Jennifer Nichols at the district office for more information.

Save the Date:

August 22, 2009 is RE Conference and Teacher Training at Westside UU.

Mission Statement: We strive to provide a safe environment that supports development of an open mind, helping hands and a loving heart in our children and youth.

Teacher Recognition

I want to express my deepest respect and appreciation to the folks who have given of their time to teach RE.

The following, by age group, make up our teaching teams:

Nursery- (Beatrix Potter Class)

Cindy Fountain, Diane Jones, Mark McMurry, Berry Bock, Sue Testerman, Sandy Bruno, Alan Wilhelm, Paige Testerman, Jane Palmer, Joy McClellan, Lela Woods, Sue Sakamoto & Joe Bruno

3-5 year olds (Clara Barton class)

Andrea Petty, Michael Munoz, Brenda McKeon, Trisha Bowes

6-8 yr. olds (Susan B. Anthony class)

Amanda Oglesby, Natalie McKeon, Michael Oglesby, Sara Munoz

9-12 year olds (Whitney Young class)

Jessica Zinn, Mary Noer, Bettina Pfeiffenberger

13-18 year olds (Emerson class)

Sandy Olah, Caroline Nixon, Paul Zinn, Susan Farris, Kim Paulos.

We also want to thank the following for their help with RE: Gene McKeon, Myron Ice, Jeff Rodriguez, Dick Trice, Jeff Bullock & Sarah Skiles.

"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first.

-- Frederick B. Wilcox

Week of Westside aka WOW

If you would like to help out at the WOW camp on August 10 - 14 from 2-5pm, we will be having training on May 31 after church from 12:30 - 2:30.

There will be lunch provided.

This will give you the basics of how camp will be run and what you will be doing.

Contact Jessica Zinn for more information.

Registration for WOW will be available online before the end of May.

Brochures and registration forms will be available on the RE bulletin board. The theme of WOW follows up this year's curriculum with "Under the Storytelling Tree: Parables Jesus Told." Can't wait!!

Hogwarts summer camp

Westside and First Jefferson are offering a joint summer camp. 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 would love 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 have registration available online now.

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. Julie Tribble and Kathy Smith 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 for elementary and Jr./Sr. high school at Bay Area UU Church, near Houston on June 5-7. We have a small group going for training and plan to have the 4-6 grade OWL classes in the fall.

Teacher Training by NATUURES (North Area Texas UU Religious Educators)

For the last 4 years, NATUURES has sponsored a Teacher Training in the Fall and a Teacher Appreciation Dinner in the Winter...this year is no different! We will be having the Teacher Training on August 15. We provide breakfast and lunch as well as a great speaker/trainer. I hope you will make plans to come! It has always been loads of fun and you learn a lot too!

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. These but trifles, to be sure; but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable.

-- Joseph Addison

