



the westside story

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

July 2009

DO YOU CLICK?

Audrey Weil clicks. Nathan Day clicks. Beverly Archibald clicks. What is this clicking all about?

It's free, takes less than two minutes per day, and supports some wonderful causes. The advertising sponsors pay for the site, and your click is incredibly beneficial to the charity each site supports. What are those charities?

Hunger – to date, over 300 million people have clicked to donate more than 657 million cups of staple food to feed the hungry around the world.

Breast Cancer – provides free mammograms through the National Breast Cancer foundation. Early detection can save lives. Your daily click pays for part of a mammogram.

Child Health – offers simple and very effective health care treatment for children around the world. Has helped more than 2,161,000 children receive treatment, all from clicks, providing everything from HIV testing, vitamin supplements, various surgeries, and the manufacture and fitting of children's prostheses – all FREE!

Literacy - On average, over 80,000 individuals from around the world visit the site each day. To date, more than 87 million visitors have helped provide more than 1.6 million books to children who need them the most.

Rain Forest - On average, over 35,500 individuals from around the world vis-

it the site each day to click the green "Click Here to Give - it's FREE" button. To date, more than 150 million visitors have preserved more than 40,500 acres of rain forest land.

Animal Rescue - focuses the power of the Internet on a specific need — providing food for some of the 27 million unwanted animals given to shelters in the U.S. every year. Over 10 million animals are put to death every year in the U.S. alone because they are abandoned and unwanted. Animal Rescue Site provides food and care for a rescued animal living in a shelter or sanctuary. Funding for food and care is paid by site sponsors and distributed to animals in need at the Fund for Animals' renowned animal sanctuaries (including Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in California).

So – how do you click? The sites are www.thebreastcancersite (or whichever site you choose to support). For each site, a large colored button saying "Click Here to Give – it's FREE" appears; simply click the button and your gift is registered. There is a list on the left side of each site under "Free ways you can help". One of the items is "Daily Click Reminder" I use this so that I will not forget to click every single day. You only need one reminder, as once you enter the site; all six of the charities are listed across the top of the page. Each site has detailed information about where the money goes, how many people visit the site daily, and other pertinent information. It is FREE to click. It takes only a minute or two

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.

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to click on all six charities. The daily reminder is very helpful.

Join the clickers and, with only a couple of minutes of your time, you can click on all six sites and help make a difference in our world...for FREE!

(The websites are operated by CharityUSA.com, LLC, a for-profit fundraiser. CharityUSA.com, currently registered with the Secretary of State of Washington.)

SWUUSI 2009:

“The Way to Peace is Through UUs”

If “The Way to Peace is Through Us”, then we want to open our hearts, support our friends, and strengthen our spirits. Join UU family and friends from the Southwestern Conference at Oklahoma’s Sequoyah State Park Aug. 2-7, for rest, renewal, and inspiration for peacemaking.

Our UU heritage and ways of understanding life point toward acceptance of difference and cooperation; the interdependent web is a sacred image. Staying true to our beliefs and hopes can seem lonely and useless.

Peacemaking resolve moves us to speak from empathy, solve common problems, and reconcile differences. We can notice collaboration with gratitude and challenge unfairness kindly.

Start here for information: swuuc.org

Registration forms: fd8.formdesk.com/swuuc1/swuusi09

Workshop information: swuuc.org/swuusi/workshops.html

Lodging information: swuuc.org/swuusi/lodging.html

It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society.

-J. Krishnamurti

I once met a man who had forgiven an injury. I hope some day to meet the man who has forgiven an insult.

-Charles Buxton

Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. Absolve you to yourself, and you shall have the suffrage of the world.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

We want YOU in our pictorial directory!

New members and other members, who have somehow missed the past opportunities, please help us recognize you by participating in Westside’s pictorial directory.

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 one of Westside’s members.

She will work with you to set a photography time that fits your schedule. These are professional studio portraits, so plan to dress nicely. The photographer will help you with clothing suggestions.

There is no charge for the photography or the directory image which you choose from several views. Portraits are available for purchase, should you need some for family, friends or as gifts.

Contact: Mary Cretsinger
817-292-7766
marycret@yahoo.com
www.marycret.com

SCAC Needs Toiletries

Each member church of SCAC is asked to focus on donations of food for one month and toiletries for another. Westside’s month to bring toiletries is July, so please start thinking about what you can donate. 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. 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 include children's cold medicines, Tylenol, Motrin and 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.

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 June 2009 the undesignated plate offering has gone to support 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

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*We are all of us
more or less echoes,
repeating involun-
tarily the virtues,
the defects, the
movements, and
the characters of
those among whom
we live.*

-Joseph Joubert

*They are happy
men whose natures
sort with their
vocations.*

-Francis Bacon

*Pride, like lauda-
num and other
poisonous medi-
cines, is beneficial
in small, though
injurious in large,
quantities. No man
who is not pleased
with himself, even
in a personal sense,
can please others.*

*-Frederick Saun-
ders*

Month	Recipient	Amount
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
June, '08	Red Cross/Crescent Burma Cyclone Relief	\$ 1,033.43
May, '08	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 640.25
April, '08	UUA Service Committee - Kenya	\$ 600.82
March, '08	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$ 6,058.08
February, '08	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$ 556.92
January, '08	SWWC Intl. Convocation of UU Women	\$ 1,000.00
December, '07	Somali-Bantu Empowering Women	\$ 896.68
November, '07	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 788.59
October, '07	UUA Now is the Time campaign	\$ 862.00
September, '07	Cancer Care Services	\$ 1,018.75
August, '07	Tarrant Co Food Bank	\$ 647.51
July, '07	Westaid	\$ 853.63

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*Nothing which
does not transport
is poetry. The lyre is
a winged instru-
ment.*

-Joseph Joubert

*There are some who
only employ words
for the purpose of
disguising their
thoughts.*

-Voltaire

*Some men of a
secluded and
studious life have
sent forth from
their closet or their
cloister, rays of
intellectual light
that have agitated
courts and revolu-
tionized kingdoms;
like the moon
which, though far
removed from the
ocean, and shining
upon it with a
serene and sober
light, is the chief
cause of all those
ebbings and
flowings which
incessantly disturb
that restless world
of waters.*

*-Charles Caleb
Colton*

their web site at www.iea-ntx.org/.

For the month of July 2009, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to assist the Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT). ACT is a grass roots community level organization recently instrumental in informing the public about JPS Hospital's positions on health care for undocumented aliens and influencing positive changes in their policies. ACT continues its work to improve health care for Tarrant County's residents by publicizing the recent expansion of access at its member churches. Other goals include improvement of Fort Worth schools, focusing on attendance, graduation rates and more. ACT works within under-represented constituencies to train leaders, facilitate organization, and strengthen their ability to address issues that affect them. For more details, visit the ACT Web site at alliedcommunities.org/.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please share them with any member of your new board of directors, pending designation of a new service project contact. 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!

Sunday Services

July 5 *Lincoln -- A Brief Portrait of Greatness*, by Dick Trice. Twenty-two minutes describing Abraham Lincoln is tantamount to painting the magnificence of the Grand Canyon on a postage stamp. Let's hope that this stamp will at least inspire many to open the envelope that more fully encloses the wonders of our greatest president.

July 12 *Cycling Though Life*, by Dr. Russell Elleven. Sometimes it seems we're just going through the motions, sort of merely cycling through life. Some believe we cycle through this life and then come back in another. Russell will have returned from Salt Lake City and offer another take on this idea this Sunday.

July 19 *The Tracks of My Tears*, by Dr. Russell Elleven. Russell has been known to be an emotional person. He doesn't like it! This Sunday is an earnest attempt to examine emotionality and perhaps how it can affect our relationships with others.

July 26 *Saying the Hard Things*, by Dr. Russell Elleven. Many times in life we are confronted with choices. There are times when we elect not to say anything to people who have hurt us. There are other times when we feel we must. This reflection is in response to Myron and Linda Ice's generous bid at the Westside auction.

Adult Forum

Sunday Morning

Current Events Discussion Group will continue each Sunday in July at 9:45 a.m. in the eastern-most classroom off the foyer. These weekly discussions are vital and enthusiastic. All are welcome.

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 Westside WOW and Hogwarts Academy of Fun, plus a lot more...so check us out!

in & around westside

Where's Russell in July?

Having returned from two weeks away from Westside, Russell will be at Westside each Sunday of July. Three of those Sundays (12th, 19th, 26th) he will facilitate Joys and Concerns and give reflections. On the 5th he will facilitate Joys and Concerns and listen to his good friend, Dick Trice, deliver the reflection. Office Hours return to normal as well. They are as follows:

Thursday, July 2: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, July 7: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, July 9: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, July 14: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, July 16: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, July 21: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, July 23: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, July 28: 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, July 30: 9:00am - 1:00pm

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 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.

Ethical Eating/Animal Lovers?

Last year at General Assembly, delegates voted to examine Ethical Eating as a venue for environmental and economic justice. If you are interested in this issue, please take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/6re2wp> and contact Russell (relleven@gmail.com) to start a new discussion at Westside. There may be opportunities within this group to provide support for one another as we choose to eat in ways that sustain humanity and the planet. We may even gather to use the Westside kitchen to share cook and share ethical recipes.

Social Justice Committee News

The Social Justice Committee served dinner to approximately 35 residents of Samaritan House on May 29th. The food was great, but the fellowship was the best! Our next supper will be in late July. The teenagers from RE will be handling this one.

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A fixed idea is like the iron rod which sculptors put in their statues. It impales and sustains.

-Hippolyte Taine

Ah! what a divine religion might be found out if charity were really made the principle of it instead of faith.

-Percy Bysshe Shelley

In youth we feel richer for every new illusion; in maturer years, for every one we lose.

-Madame Anne Sophie Swetchine

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The Social Justice Committee met on June 25th. We received an update on the school-based clinic and expanded our coverage at Kiva. As of June 12th, there is about \$800 to be expended. We plan to donate our remaining funds to the South Central Alliance's food bank. They desperately need personal products. Jay and Suzie Lotven will purchase them for us.

He says, "I believe in my heart that I was a closet Unitarian but never knew it".

Please welcome TJ to our church community.

Thomas John "TJ" Jennings
225 Pemberton Street
White Settlement, Texas, 76105
Phone – 817-655-3523
tjj76105@yahoo.com

New Faces

Thomas John "TJ" Jennings
by Beverly Archibald

*We have not passed
that subtle line
between childhood
and adulthood
until we move
from the passive
voice to the active
voice - that is, until
we have stopped
saying 'It got lost,'
and say, 'I lost it.'*

-Sydney J. Harris

*Don't tell me the
moon is shining;
show me the glint
of light on broken
glass.*

-Anton Chekhov

*A man should live
with his superiors
as he does with his
fire: not too near,
lest he burn; nor too
far off, lest he
freeze.*

-Diogenes

TJ hails from Long Beach, California, and is one of the newer members of Westside. He tells us that he was born and raised Mormon, and left the Mormon Church for personal reasons. After this, he attended various Christian churches. TJ says that he hates labels, but if pressed, he would have to say he was probably a Baptist.

Although he is on disability now, TJ has held several jobs, from security officer, to certified nurses' aide. He attended college for awhile, and was even ordained on line as a Universalist minister. He says he hopes to be able to go back to work soon.

He is divorced and has four children, three girls and one boy.

TJ's hobbies are cooking, listing to people and enjoying music. He says, "I am a gay ordained minister and I love people. I have a heart for people and I judge people by their heart, not looks, sexual orientation, race or gender."

Tom Woods brought TJ to Westside, and the love and acceptance TJ has found at Westside has made him a real "believer".

Westside Great Books

Please note that our Great Books Discussion Group has been closed due to lack of interest.

Humanists of Fort Worth

HOFW enjoyed a great meeting in June despite a raging thunderstorm. Interest is building in this group and everyone is invited to the next one on July 8. The program will deal with the history of humanism and the first Humanist Manifesto. As a matter of interest, fourteen of the 34 signatories of the first manifesto were Unitarian ministers. All meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the church at 7 p.m.

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet Sunday July 26, at church after church to discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Pell Pie Society, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrow, a story of life on the British island under German occupation during WWII.

our wider community

Westside and SCAC Ask for Clinic

On Friday, June 11th, the South Central Alliance of Churches, of which we are a member, submitted a request to JPS Healthnet for a school-based clinic to be housed at the Southside Church of Christ campus, 1101 Hemp-hill. The clinic would provide immunizations, preventive care, care for sick children and other medical services to children enrolled in the Fort Worth ISD and their siblings. Children without insurance would pay \$5 (though no child is turned away).

We hope for approval in the 2009-10 budget in a few months. The bulk of work will be done by the Southside Church, supplemented by voluntary contributions from individuals and churches. If approved, the Social Justice Committee will request a plate offering be donated for this purpose.

The clinic will bring about \$250,000 in medical services to needy children

in our area. Aside from the Galvan Clinic, JPS school-based clinics are the only reliable source of low-cost medical care for undocumented children in Tarrant County.

Community Garden in Fairmount

Some of us are interested in a community garden. Serena Keeler of the Fairmount Southside Neighborhood Association reports that the Fairmount Neighborhood, Fort Worth South and TCU are currently working together with the city of Fort Worth's Parks Department to create a long term lease agreement for the use of 1504 5th Avenue.

Fairmount would like to turn this vacant lot into a community garden with 10% of its harvest going to the Food Bank. We hope to create a place that brings people together. We also hope to create a lease agreement that is easy for other neighborhoods to follow if they desire a place to grow their own food. In the meantime, there is a makeshift garden at 1712 6th Avenue. If you would like more information you can contact Serena Keeler at serena@bytemap.net.

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*How easy to be
amiable in the midst
of happiness and
success.*

*-Madame Anne
Sophie Swetchine*

*Truth, in matters of
religion, is simply the
opinion that has
survived.*

-Oscar Wilde

*He who knows only
his own side of the
case knows little of
that.*

-John Stuart Mill

*Please Submit Items for Next
Month's Newsletter to:
janice_williams@charter.net
by the 15th.
Thanks!*

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Our New 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

Date	Adults	Children	Total
May 3	100	23	123
May 10	91	24	115
May 17	93	24	117
May 24	86	31	117
May 31	115	22	137
Average	97	24.8	121.8



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.

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

July 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 Pfeifferberger

Training in Houston

Andrea Petty and I spent the weekend of June 5-7 in Houston at the Bay Area UU Church.

Andrea received training in the elementary OWL (Our Whole Lives), a sex education course. I was in a training for religious educators on teacher development. It was long days of sitting, discussions and activities but it was well worth the sore buns! We came back with lots of great plans for next year's programs.

Swim Party for Anthony Class

The swim party is in the planning stages for the 7-9 year olds in the Susan B. Anthony class. Our tentative date is Aug. 28 from 2-4 pm at Chloe Finn's grandparents house in Keller.

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.

Week Of Westside aka WOW

We have some great opportunities to help make the summer camp a big success! On July 12 and August 1, we are having work days. If you have skills with a jigsaw...we could use your help!

If you can paint, or follow lines to cut out a paper tree, or are good at following directions and being a worker bee...we could use you! We will start at 1 pm after church and go until we stop. Hope to see you there! To register for camp, look on our website or check out the table in the foyer.

Young Adult Group

We are trying to get a young adult (18 -25) group going. Their first get together was June 12th at Central Market and more are being planned. Contact Natalie McKeon or Bettina Pfeifferberger for more information.

Summer Classes

This summer the 3-9 year olds are sharing a class on our UU Principles.

Southwest UU District Camps

There are a number of 1 week camps available for our children and youth at U Bar U, a wildlife preserve and ranch owned by our District.

Primary Camp (into 3rd-6th grade) is
June 28-July 3.

Junior Camp (7th-9th grade) is
July 5-11

Senior Camp (9th-12th grade) is
July 12-18

Registration is available on the SWUUC website. This camp has more than doubled in registration from last year, and there is space available in each camp. Check it out!

Hogwarts Academy of Fun

Time is ticking away to the beginning of our magical experience at Hogwarts, nestled in the beautiful building and grounds of First Jefferson UU church. The space is being transformed into an ancient castle, the Floo network has been set up (temporarily) and Diagon Alley is abuzz with business, just waiting for you to come visit. It all starts July 20...hope to see you there! We still have space available...look on Westside's website under the RE tab for the registration form.

SWUUSI - Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

The theme is: The way to Peace is through UUs.

Our District puts on a great family camp each year that offers many wonderful opportunities to form bonds with other UUs, take classes that enrich your life and numerous fun activities for all ages! This camp has something for everyone! The children's classes consist of Spirit Play for the 3-8 year olds, Hogwarts Camp for the 9-12 year olds, Coming of Age for the Junior High and more cool stuff for Senior High and Young Adults! This year the camp is set at Western Hills Resort in eastern Oklahoma from August 2 - 7.

You can find registration forms on the SWUUC website.

Samaritan House Dinner on July 31

Westside has committed to serving dinner at The Samaritan House on the 5th Friday of the month (which happens about 4 times a year), the next Friday is July 31. Our Youth have taken on the task of providing dinner that night, although they would accept and enjoy help. If you are interested in joining us contact John Huffman for information.