

The Westside Story

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

ATTENTION All Westiders: New photo directory! Sign Up to be photographed!

We are planning an exciting new project—a photo-directory of members and friends of Westside UU! This has become even more important lately with our rapid growth. With the new directory in hand, our friendly WUU faces can more easily be matched with names, and vice-versa.

This is how it will work. Photographs will be taken by our own Mary Alice Cretsinger, at church, on several Saturdays and Sundays in August and September (Aug 23, 24; Sept 6,7; Sept 13, 14; dates subject to change). Sign up sheets will be available at church, and you will choose a 15 minute slot. This will be a good opportunity to have a lovely individual or family portrait taken, so dress up nicely --several poses will be shot and the photos will also be available for purchase. Once the directory is assembled digitally, we plan on making it available as a pdf file (available by secure download) or as a printed copy for a nominal fee (to cover the printing expense).

We want everyone to participate in this wonderful project, so please, please sign up.

Sincerely, your photo-directory team,

Mary Alice Cretsinger
Shelly Hattan
John Nagely
Carl Romano

Explore UU Membership

On Saturday, August 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Westside the following opportunities to explore UU membership will be presented:

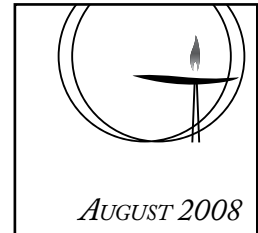
View and hear the voices of
a liberal faith,
Hear the history of Westside,
Share your spiritual journey and
hear the journeys of others,
Share your expectations
of Westside,
Hear the expectations Westside
has of you,
Sign our membership book –
if you freely choose, and
eat pizza!

Please let Russell know if you are coming and if you will need childcare. Call Russell at 817-924-MYUU (church) or at 817-370-2171 (home) or email him at relleven@gmail.com.

If you are interested in membership but want to join sooner or cannot come to this presentation, please contact Russell.

A Life of Service *by Ann Sutherland*

We know Myrtle McMahan as one of our Westside founders as well as a person who is always ready to lend a hand, not only here but with larger UU organizations. She's been married to Howard for 53 years, raised three great children, and attends to 9 grandchildren.



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 be-
come a more influen-
tial liberal religious
presence through
active service to our
community and the
world at large.*

But when I saw her at JPS hospital recently, where she volunteers, she was wearing her JPS Volunteers vest.

“What are those things hanging down your front?” I asked her.

“Those are bars signifying volunteer hours here at JPS,” she replied. “Each one represents one thousand hours.”

I counted them. Twelve bars. Twelve thousand hours, over 16 years. Umm, that’s one eight-hour day, every four days, over a long stretch of her life.

I thought about this awhile. Why did she do this? Her answer? She needed it to pull her through a rough patch in her life. We read about such things but I had never met anyone.

Myrtle had volunteered in the gift shop, but she needed something more personal, where the rewards were immediate, so she started with something very special: rocking high-risk newborn babies in the neonatal care unit.

After a year, she asked if she could start a new program, that of staying with women in labor. She did this for eight and one-half years, seeing about 300 babies into the world.

Then, a few years back, Myrtle was diagnosed with breast cancer, a trial which disrupted their lives and which demanded even more struggle. Taking the lessons she learned, she joined the American Cancer Society’s Reach to Recovery program, visiting newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. Seeing there was no program at JPS, Myrtle convinced JPS staff and the American Cancer Society to establish one.

She also works one day per week as a lay pastoral counselor, which interested me because we don’t typically try to help others with their faiths.

And through it all, through the 16 years, she’s worked in the JPS gift shop. This shop is a serious enterprise, having grown from giving \$32,000 per year to pledging \$1 million towards the new JPS building. The vol-

unteers at the gift shop gave one of the first million-dollar pledges, and they are justly proud of their work.

Myrtle’s contributions are awesome, but also awesome are the changes these efforts have made in her: already a successful wife and mother, she’s taken these gifts beyond our usual domain.

Ingathering Sunday, September 7.

Save this date!

The first Sunday after Labor Day is traditionally Ingathering Sunday for many UU churches. After a summer of travel, kids being out of school and, in some churches, reduced worship and religious education, this Sunday is viewed as a chance to come together as a church community now that many have returned from other activities. Although we don’t see a significant reduction of programs at Westside in the summer, there are many who travel out of town, and families with school-age children definitely see a change in their routine.

To celebrate our coming together again, or just coming together, or just to celebrate our church community (take your pick!), please join with friends and members of Westside for Brunch, beginning at 9:45 Sunday morning, September 7.

In addition, all the standing committees at Westside (Adult Education, Building and Grounds, Finance, Membership, Religious Education, Social, Social Justice, and Worship) will have information and people available to provide you with more information about these areas of our programs and how you can participate in those that interest you and/or to receive your feedback on these areas.

Please come and enjoy a delightful meal to include egg dishes, breakfast meats, bread items, fruits, juice and coffee, enjoy the company of members and friends of Westside, and perhaps learn a bit more about our church.

*NOW THAT I KNOW
WHAT I WANT, I DON'T
HAVE TO HOLD ON TO IT
QUITE SO MUCH.*

- LUCIAN FREUD

Meet the Board of Directors

by *Bob Vann*

Westside has many activities to bring its people together and encourage them to get to know each other. One excellent avenue of promoting our mutual understanding and friendship is to publish short biographies in the Westside Story. Beverly has done wonderfully in preparing these life stories over the past couple of years, and I plan to follow her lead.

I'd like to begin by presenting short bios of some, and I hope eventually all, of the members of your board of directors, beginning with your president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and one of your two new directors.

So let's start off with Tom Woods, your president. Tom Woods has been a member of Westside since June of 1997. He is a licensed massage therapist and massage therapy instructor. He holds a Master of Science of Oriental Medicine degree. Tom and Lela have been married for 22 years. Tom is the proud father of three wonderful sons, the grandfather of a precious (and justly spoiled) granddaughter and a newly born name-sake, Thomas D. Woods, III. Tom was raised in the Roman Catholic tradition but turned to the UU denomination in order to meet spiritual, philosophical and intellectual needs.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges and rewards of the coming fiscal year. The energy and optimism of the congregation is exhilarating and I want to do my part in maintaining that feeling. As president I intend to continue the growth our congregation has enjoyed under the leadership of Brenda Baldwin. I think that communication is vital to an effective board. Not just communication between directors but most especially communication with the congregation. So, I intend to be hanging around in the fellowship hall after services listening to whatever members and friends are talking about. I'm excited and enthusiastic about the future of our congregation."

Sandy Olah is your vice president. Sandy and Susan Farris have been together for 8 years. They have 3 children, Rowdy, a 4 year old heeler, Gizmo, a 3 year old chi-weenie, and Ms. Saigon a 12 year old cat. Sandy and Susan journeyed to

Vermont two years ago, where they had a legal Civil Union.

Sandy started working for Russell Feed and Supply in 2001, as Manager of the Benbrook location. Two years ago, she was promoted to Assistant Operations Manager. One of the great rewards she has from her job is getting to talk to people, and sometimes converting them over to the organic side of life.

Sandy says, "My nieces once asked me why I cared so much about being organic, and why I recycled, and my response to them was... because I care about our planet, and everything I do is not for me, but for your future and your children's future."

"By serving on the board, I hope to help grow what is the Westside way. By bringing community to our congregation, allowing individuals the ability to find spiritual growth, supporting the community outside of our congregation, and helping to create a more peaceful environment for everyone."

Sandy's bio is followed by that of Charles Palmer, beginning his second year as treasurer. And what a wonderful job he's done in managing your money this past year.

Charles says, "I am honored to perform the duties of church treasurer and board member for a final year of service. Jane and I have attended Westside for three years, and have been members for nearly that long. We are happy to be a part of a progressive spiritual community."

"We have been residents of Fort Worth for a little more than four years, living in El Paso and Albuquerque previously. I am a divisional controller for Tyson, and Jane is a teacher for the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Schools. My accounting and management background has lent itself to the treasurer's duties and participation on the church board of directors. We have two talented, grown sons in Santa Fe and Miami Beach."

"Among my goals for this final year of board participation are recruiting and training a successor, re-visiting the strategic action plan with our rapid growth and resulting needs in mind, exploring electronic presentation of services in our fellowship room and over the Web, and helping keep the church on a steady financial course, so

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I DON'T BELIEVE IN ART.
I BELIEVE IN ARTISTS.

- MARCEL DUCHAMP

that we can continue to fulfill our goals internally and in the community and world.”

Bob Vann will serve as your board secretary for the coming two years. Raised as a Methodist in the capital of Mormandom, Bob spent a year working as a Boy Scout in his church to earn the God and Country award. Somewhere in his teens, though, the dogma, the inconsistencies, and the childish stories just ceased to make sense. He became an agnostic as a young man and remains so today. He bumped up against UUism through the years, marrying his former wife, Joyce, in the San Angelo fellowship and attending Arlington and First Jefferson in this area off and on. His three children spent several years in First Jefferson’s RE program, where Joyce also taught.

During his 24-year military career, though, he just never felt very comfortable in a Unitarian Universalist setting. He became acquainted with Westside several years ago, following his retirement from the Texas Guard, mainly through knowing Russell from TCU Toastmasters. After his mother’s death freed him from the joy and the responsibility for her care, he decided in late 2006 to merge his path with Westside. Then came the BRIC, and the merry-go-round really accelerated.

Now, this wonderful congregation has elected him for a 2-year term as board secretary, and he is looking forward to tackling that responsibility, which has been handled so ably by Beverly for the last two years. He will work with those responsible for the church web site, Westside Story, The Weekly Web, and other means, to keep the membership well informed. He also plans to add his voice to the many Westsiders advocating the church’s involvement in the Green Sanctuary program. And he looks forward to a great time ahead for Westside.

Ann Sutherland is one of two new Directors. Steeped in the comfortable dogmas of the Episcopal Church since early childhood, Ann became a UU member only after retirement. She joined the Great Books club, the Bridge club and the Not So Great Books Club (now termed the “Contemporary” book club). In 2007, she asked the Board to honor Gino Kennedy by establishing a new project to help the world’s very poor. The Kennedy Fund is managed by a group of Westside members and currently helps support

about fifty individuals or groups throughout the third world. The funds donated by us are returned and can be re-lent to other deserving individuals.

David Burlingame and she met while working with Allied Communities of Tarrant in their effort to extend charity health care to Tarrant County’s 100,000 undocumented residents. David and Ann continue their efforts on behalf of the medically indigent.

She has three children and ten grandchildren, six of whom live in Fort Worth.

Ann will be chairing the Social Justice Committee in 2008. She plans to encourage and extend existing efforts by Westside members to assist needy people, whether they be members of our church or third world inhabitants.

Ann’s story completes my first installment. I hope that these folks sharing part of their history, as well as their visions for Westside’s future, will further our unity, understanding and friendship.

Westside UU Service Project News

Westside UUC continues to show its generosity through our service project program. Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During July, the undesignated plate offering has gone to support an effort located on our continent in the Central American country of Honduras. Located in the town of Roatan is a health clinic named Clinica Esperanza. The needs of this vital and expanding health clinic came to us from the volunteer service performed there by Max Romano, son of Westside members Maria Schmidt and Carl Romano. The clinic assists more than 150 patients weekly for a wide range of medical needs and is dependent on voluntary doctor participation and the donations of supplies.

For the month of August, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support the hun-

*EVERYONE HAS TALENT
AT TWENTY-FIVE. THE
DIFFICULTY IS TO HAVE
IT AT FIFTY.*

- EDGAR DEGAS

ger relief effort known as the Heifer Project International. The numerous worldwide projects under Heifer's direction alleviate hunger through training and equipping recipients to develop and sustain their own food supply. Heifer has operated for over 60 years in 128 countries, literally reaching millions of families with their mission of giving a source of food rather than just short-term relief. More can be learned about this great cause at www.heifer.org.

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!

Sunday Services

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

August 3 - *Just a Matter of Morals* by Dick Trice. The majority of the people in this country are believers in one religion or another which involves acceptance of, or at least a pretense of, a code or set of principles by which humans should live. The minority of non-believers like me are often asked what principles or morals, if any, we practice. It's time for an answer.

August 10 - *Tell Me a Story* by Russell Elleven. Stories are powerful life tools. This Sunday Russell will talk about stories and how they can be used for both good and ill. Come see what you think.

August 17 - *Why is Clara Barton Important?* by Russell Elleven. You may have heard the name before. One of our religious education classes is named after her. Who is this woman and why is she held in such esteem within our religious movement? Russell will attempt to provide some answers this Sunday.

August 24 - *You Are So Beautiful...To Me!* by Russell Elleven. What is beauty? How does it continue to play a role in our world today? Is this a good thing? These questions (and others) will likely be addressed during Russell's reflection.

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MONTH	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
JUL-07	Westaid	\$853.63
AUG-07	Tarrant Co Food Bank	\$647.51
SEP-07	Cancer Care Services	\$1,018.75
OCT-07	UUA Now is the Time campaign	\$862.00
NOV-07	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$788.59
DEC-07	Somali-Bantu Empowering Women	\$896.68
JAN-08	SWWC Int'l Convocation of UU Women	\$1,000.00
FEB-08	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$556.92
MAR-08	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$6,058.08
APR-08	UUA Service Committee - Kenya	\$600.82
MAY-08	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$640.25
JUNE-08	Red Cross/Crescent Burma Cyclone Relief	\$1,033.43

AS A WELL SPENT DAY
BRINGS HAPPY SLEEP, SO
LIFE WELL USED BRINGS
HAPPY DEATH.

- LEONARDO DA VINCI

August 31 - *Easy to Be Hard* by Jeff Rodriguez. Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world." What she failed to mention is that in the process of improving the world, those thoughtful people usually end up at each others' throats. Westside member Jeff Rodriguez takes a sad, amusing look at some of our nation's greatest infights, with special music provided by our own TrUUe Believers.

Adult Forum

Spirit of Life - Sunday mornings at 9:30 - This series of workshops continues on Sunday mornings in August on all but Potluck Sunday. Three sessions were held in July, and the series will be completed with two sessions in September. Each of the 9 sessions stands alone, so please feel free to join us on any Sunday. However, due to the nature of the workshops, all participants need to be present at the beginning. And, with the amount of material to be covered, it is critical we start promptly at 9:30.

The workshops are both reflective and interactive. Discussion occurs both in the larger group and in small groups. Not only are we learning things about ourselves, we are also building community with other participants. If you are looking for a place to explore, expand and/or clarify your definition of spirituality in a loving community, this series of workshops is an excellent place to do so. For more information, please contact Beverly Archibald (bevanfw@charter.net or 817-346-3303) or Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441), co-facilitators.

August 3 - 9:30 a.m. - *Spirit of Life - Blow in the Wind, Rise in the Sea: Nature and Spirit* - Spirituality is often experienced in nature. In this workshop, we'll reflect on the interdependent web of all existence, identify spiritual experiences we've had in relation to the natural world, and relate our understanding of the natural world and our spirituality.

August 10 - 9:30 a.m. - *Spirit of Life - Move in the Hand: Spirituality in Our Day-to-Day Lives* - Connections to the sacred can be found in everyday living. In this workshop, we'll look at times of the day and actions of the day and how we might make them part of our

spiritual practice as our hands do the work of daily living.

August 17 - 9:45 a.m. - *The Month That Was*: a current events discussion group facilitated by Dick Trice.

August 24 - 9:30 a.m. - *Spirit of Life - Giving Life the Shape of Justice: Loving Your Neighbor and Yourself* - The peace, liberty and justice we want is an expression of our spirituality. Our spiritual lives can support us in being who we want to be in the world. Our lives make a difference in shaping justice and love. In this workshop, we will engage in recalling experiences of interconnectedness with the human community, identify some of the challenges we face in loving our neighbors, and explore ways to align our behavior with our spiritual values.

August 31 - 9:30 a.m. - *Spirit of Life - Roots Hold Me Close: Tradition, Teachers and Spiritual Formation* - Each of our personal spiritualities is shaped by our roots, traditions, and heritage, by our role models, mentors, and teachers. Each one of us has had much life experience. In this workshop, we will identify and reflect on some of our personal spiritual roots.

Children's RE

KISS - A - PIG!!! As a facet of our summer program, we have a KISS-A-PIG fundraiser, whose proceeds will benefit the Heifer Project in ways that the children choose and that respect our 7 principles. The students will be asking the congregation to pay \$1 to put the name of a member or friend on our list to Kiss-A-Pig. That person may then pay \$1 to have their name removed from the list.

On Sept. 7th, the end of our summer program and the start of our new Religious Education year, we will have a pet pig in church. During the Story for All Ages, all those whose name is on the Kiss-A-Pig list will have one more chance to pay \$1 to have their name removed. Otherwise, we will have a line for those who will KISS THE PIG!! This will not only help to socialize the pet pig and raise funds for other people to have a start and learn how to sustain themselves and their communities, it will also help our students learn about others and our world, and what we can do to help.

Please look for Mary Noer or Jessica Zinn to sign up your friend to Kiss A Pig, or to see if you are signed up! We have begun "taking names" and donations in July. All participation is, of course, voluntary and we hope you will join us in the fun service project.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS' CONFERENCE. On August 16th from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., all those who are interested in teaching our children and youth this year are requested to attend our summer conference. We have hired a Montessori-training consultant to come and show us some new ways to help our students on their path of religious exploration! Lunch will be served and our new year will start off with amazing energy! If you are interested in joining our rewarding program, either as a teacher or an assistant of any aged class, please plan on attending this wonderful workshop. Contact Mary Noer (817-249-7341 or terrynoer@sbcglobal.net) or Jessica Zinn (817-349-8902 or jzinn@mac.com) for reservations.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION. Starting on August 23rd, we will begin registering students for our fall classes. The classes will begin September 7th and run through the school year until the end of May. The classes are Beatrice Potter (nursery age), Clara Barton (3-5 year olds), Susan B. Anthony (6-8 years old), Whitney Young (9-12 years old), and Waldo Emerson (teenagers up to 18 years old). We have an exciting curriculum to explore this year, Our Jewish/Christian roots, with many fun activities and crafts that the students will not want to miss. Please look for the registration table or our DRE, Sarah Skiles, on August 23rd and make sure to join the fun!

COLD SODA! COLD SODA FOR SALE! We have several cases of soda left from the street dance that we would like to sell to anyone who drinks Coke or Diet Coke. At potluck, the 20 oz. bottles, cold, will be \$1 each. If you wish to buy cases of 24 of the 20oz bottles, they will cost \$18 each, a true bargain, and all profits go to support the youth activities. Please see Susan Farris (817) 454-6043 or Sandy Olah (817) 988-4714 if interested.

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

Where's Russell in August?

Things begin to return to a bit of normalcy for Russell's schedule in August. He will, however, be at Houston's Emerson UU Church delivering a reflection on August 3rd. He will facilitate Joys & Concerns and deliver reflections at Westside on the 10th, 17th, and 24th.

You can catch him most easily during office hours. For August those times are:

Tuesday the 5th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday the 7th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday the 12th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday the 14th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday the 19th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday the 21st, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday the 26th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Thursday the 28th, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Remember, please call his home first (817.370.2171) and the office second (817.924.MYUU). If there is no answer, it simply means Russell is meeting with another Westsider. Leave a message and he'll call you back as soon as possible.

Choices for Sustainable Living Discussion Group Coming to Westside in September

North West Earth Institute (NWEI) is recognized as a national leader in developing innovative programs that empower individuals and organizations to protect the Earth. These programs emphasize individual responsibility, the importance of a supportive community, and the dual need to walk lightly on and to take action for the earth.

Nationwide, NWEI's courses have been offered by local organizers in more than

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*THE FIRST MAN TO
COMPARE THE CHEEKS
OF A YOUNG WOMAN TO
A ROSE WAS OBVIOUSLY
A POET; THE FIRST TO
REPEAT IT WAS POSSIBLY
AN IDIOT.*

- SALVADOR DALI

900 communities in all 50 states. As of summer of 2007, total enrollment in the discussion courses exceeds 80,000 known participants, with thousands others taking the course with recycled course books. In the fall of 2007, approximately 20 people formed discussion groups at Westside utilizing the "Voluntary Simplicity" course materials.

Beginning in September, and continuing through March or April, discussion groups will be held at Westside on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. Each group consists of 8-12 people, and we have capacity for 2 groups. We will utilize the "Choices for Sustainable Living" course. Details of each session are below.

1. A Call to Sustainability: The goal of a sustainable society is popular, but difficult to define. How does the way our society functions affect the earth, and how can we be "a blessing to the planet?"

2. Ecological Principles: Some argue that the earth is the best teacher of sustainable practices. How can nature's organizing principles be applied in design, production of goods, and everyday living?

3. Sustainable Food: According to one author, our food travels an average of 1300 miles before reaching our plates. How can we lessen our impact on the earth through conscious choices about the way we eat?

4. Sustainable Buying: Daily messages tell us to buy, buy, buy. How can we escape from these cultural pressures, and instead only purchase what we truly need, from the most sustainable sources available?

5. Sustainable Communities: Change does not come without people coming together and taking action. In what ways can your community work towards sustainability? How can you make your community a sustainable one?

6. Sustainable Business and Economy: Is a growing economy equivalent to a healthy economy? What are other ways of measuring success, and how can we encourage

businesses to adopt sustainable practices and perspectives?

7. Visions of Sustainability: Choices we make today are shaping the world of tomorrow. What are the possible outcomes, and how can we create the most sustainable society for ourselves and our children?

Each meeting consists of two parts: an opening and a facilitated discussion. The discussion revolves around a diverse collection of short essays, articles, and book excerpts organized around the session's theme. The readings are found in the study guide, and each participant must have advance access to a study guide to prepare for each session.

Interested, but want more info? Please contact Mary Noer (terrynoer@sbcglobal.net or 817-249-7341) for more information about the course.

We only have room for 22 participants. All those who enroll are encouraged to commit to the entire course.

Ready to enroll? You can secure your spot by enrolling and purchasing a study guide for \$20 (payable to Westside UU Church) or stating you have an agreement to share a study guide with someone else who is purchasing a study guide. If you are unable to purchase a study guide, please contact Brenda Baldwin to arrange for the loan of a study guide. To enroll, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) or sign-up on the bulletin board across from the nametag display at church.

New Hymnals

Thirty new hymnals have already arrived and six more have been ordered thanks to these members and friends of Westside: Beverly Archibald, Debra Aulenbacher, Joyce Beck, Reed Bilz, David Burlingame & Ann Sutherland, Cindy Fountain, Ed & Genie Furber, Laurie & Steven Hagstrom, Linda Hanratty, Jane & Ric Hansen, Maggie Hattan, Allison Herskov-

*WHEN WE SEE MEN OF
WORTH, WE SHOULD
THINK OF EQUALLING
THEM; WHEN WE SEE
MEN OF A CONTRARY
CHARACTER, WE
SHOULD TURN INWARD
AND EXAMINE OUR-
SELVES.*

- GUSTAVE COURBET

itz, Gail & Steve Herskovitz, Myron & Linda Ice, Linda Walsh Jenkins, Tom & Sue Lewis, Suzie & Jay Lotven, Howard & Myrtle McMahan, Caroline Nixon, Dianne Reed Nixon, James Finn & Andrea Petty, Charles Ogilvie, Amanda Oglesby, Don & Dolores Ruhs, Barbara & Dick Trice, Judith Vaughan Moore, and Amy Youngblood. Name plates are now being lettered by Diane Nixon, and as soon as they are finished, we will be dedicating the hymnals during a Worship Service.

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.

Relationship Enhancement Group (REG).

Gayle and Russell facilitate a group each month that is focused on improving our intimate couple relationships. Come share your relationship expertise and learn from others who are also committed to making their intimate relationships as good as possible. The group meets at 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday each month at Westside (August 16th). If your committed relationship is a priority for you, or you want it to be, come spend time with other couples who have this same goal. Look at www.rke.cc for additional information.

At this time no childcare is provided. However, PLEASE let Russell

(relleven@gmail.com) know if lack of childcare prevents you from attending.

Social Justice Committee will meet Thursday, August 7th at 6 p.m. at the church. We are re-grouping, but will be planning activities and re-establishing our activities.

NEW FACES:

NANCY BIRD

by Reed K. Bilz

Most of us have already met Nancy Bird who has been singing in our choir, and filled in for Nelwyn at the piano. This is our formal welcome to her as a new member of Westside.

Nancy was born in Oklahoma City where she was raised in the Methodist Church. She moved to Fort Worth in 1953 and was a member and pianist at First Jefferson until 2003. She is presently employed as a Nanny and housekeeper.

Nancy has five grown children and two grandchildren. Her hobbies include playing the piano, singing, reading and leading an exercise group for seniors.

Nancy especially likes our minister and the welcoming nature and friendliness of our members. She wants to help us grow at Westside, and we hope to take advantage often of her musical abilities as we do so.

Nancy lives at 2208 N. Edgewood Terrace, Fort Worth 76103. She can be contacted at 817-536-9559 or at nancy.bird@sbcglobal.net.

OUR COMMUNITY

Southside Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)

Westside is now an official member of the Southside Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) and is listed on their website. The SCAC provides emergency assistance and

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WORK ISN'T TO MAKE MONEY; YOU WORK TO JUSTIFY LIFE.

— MARC CHAGALL

other social services specifically for ZIP codes 76104, 76109 and 76110 (the areas around Westside). In 2007 they provided these services to 3035 clients. Last Christmas Westside participated in the SCAC Angel Tree program that provided over 400 children in our neighborhood with clothes and toys.

The routine services provided include the following:

- Financial assistance for rent, utilities, medicine, and other items
- Providing hygiene and baby needs, school supplies, gasoline vouchers, and bus passes
- Assistance in obtaining food stamps and documents such as drivers licenses and birth certificates
- Food and clothing (in coordination with the food pantry and clothing room of Southside Church of Christ and the Children's Closet of University Christian Church)
- Special projects such as Thanksgiving baskets and turkeys
- Light counseling and referrals to other agencies for services not provided by the Alliance
- Other services on a case-by-case basis.

Currently their most urgent needs are toilet paper, deodorant, disposable razors, shaving cream, adult toothbrushes, mouth wash, liquid detergent for dishes, paper towels, reading glasses, Q-tips, umbrellas, chap stick, feminine napkins, zip lock bags-gallon/sandwich.

Please put all donations on the tables in the back of the sanctuary and they will be transported to SCAC weekly

Green Tip

Bob Vann and Linda Hanratty have a green tip to share. Recycle Those Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs). Home Depot has just initiated a free recycling program for CFLs at all of their stores. Simply turn in unbroken bulbs at the returns desk near the entrance. They'll take it from there.

BOOK REVIEW

Three Cups of Tea,

by

Greg Mortenson
& David Relin

reviewed by Barbara Trice

Several months ago a relevant point was made that we never seem to have good news to discuss. The comment brought to my mind a book I had found at the library. Its intriguing title was "Three Cups of Tea." The reading of this book, a true story, was a bright spot for me amid all the news of war and suffering. The book is a story of an extraordinary young American who sets out to climb the second highest mountain in the world which happens to be in Afghanistan, but is defeated by circumstances that lead to his exhaustion, getting lost and in danger of dying.

Two Afghani men find him and save his life. Mortenson is so thankful he asks his rescuers how he could repay them and soon learns that a school was undoubtedly the greatest need felt by the people in the little town that nursed him back to health. He returns to the U. S. determined to raise funds and to make good his promise to repay. After writing many letters and talking to people, he finally interests a Silicon Valley executive in funding the Central Asia Institute which was instituted for the purpose of building rural schools in rural Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Thus begins a fascinating story of the details of getting funds, working with village elders and negotiating with Mujahadeen and Taliban leaders while dealing with regional jealousies and greedy local war lords as villages vie for schools. Fifty-five schools were built in Taliban country and the Central Asia Institute is still working to bring peace to the area one school at a time. Mortenson endures hardships and even a brief spell in prison. His real experiences provide much suspense and excitement. The book is available in pa-

THE WESTSIDE STORY
AUGUST 2008

*THE SINCERE FRIENDS
OF THIS WORLD ARE
AS SHIP LIGHTS IN THE
STORMIEST OF NIGHTS.*

- GIOTTO DI BONDONE

perback and at Fort Worth libraries. I highly recommend it for everyone, especially those who believe war is not the way to promote democracy in the world and who really appreciate news of the good things still happening in our world. The title, "Three Cups of Tea" describes the ceremony which is absolutely necessary for all talks and negotiations among the villagers and outsiders.

Help Heal Our World

At UU General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, the Stewardship and Development staff group gave out 2,000 buttons featuring the words Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World, the tag line of Unitarian Universalism's national awareness campaign.

You and your congregation are helping to get this message of our faith out into the world by making it visible to those around you!

Order your Nurture Your Spirit banners, bumper stickers, and postcards online. Or download Nurture Your Spirit graphics for free.

And donate now to bring Unitarian Universalism deeper into the American consciousness through a second phase of national marketing.

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/leaderslibrary/marketing/congregational/101983.shtml>

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

PARENTS NIGHT OUT! AUGUST 23, 2008 5:00 PM - 10:30 PM. Let's have a fun night of dinner and a movie for our kids! The teens and their sponsors are giving the adults a break and letting us out for a couple of hours. The kids will be dining at 6 p.m. on Chicken Nuggets, cheese and crackers, and fruit and veggie sticks. For dessert they will have ice cream sundaes

to decorate! We will be playing games like Duck Duck Goose, Belly Laughing, Pet the Poor Poor Kitty, Floor Puzzles, Parachute games, and more. If your child prefers a more laid back approach, a G rated movie like Herby or James and the Giant Peach will be available.

The cost for this delightful event is \$30.00 for the first child and \$15.00 each for any siblings, with all net profit to go to our Youth Group fund. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Farris at (817) 454-6043.

CONTEMPORARY, "NOT SO GREAT," BOOK GROUP will meet after church at the church Sunday, August 31 to discuss *All the King's Men*, by Robert Penn Warren.

AFTER CHURCH OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH meets immediately after Sunday services every Sunday except potluck Sundays.

HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH will meet at the church on August 13 at 7 p.m. Topic and speaker will be announced later.

WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS will meet August 17 at 6:30 p.m. The selection is from Karl Marx, Early Writings called "Alienated Labor." It's a short reading and newcomers are invited to attend.

DINNERS FOR 9 will not meet in August. The next dinner will be Friday, September 12th. If you are new to Westside and want to know more about the dinners or wish to sign up, please visit our website or email Paul McClellan at pcleypool@yahoo.com.

THE WESTSIDE STORY
AUGUST 2008

*HE WHO WOULD DO
GOOD TO ANOTHER
MUST DO IT IN MINUTE
PARTICULARS: GENERAL
GOOD IS THE PLEA OF
THE SCOUNDREL, HYPO-
CRITE, AND FLATTERER,
FOR ART AND SCIENCE
CANNOT EXIST BUT IN
MINUTELY ORGANIZED
PARTICULARS.*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

*A FOOL SEES NOT THE
SAME TREE THAT A WISE
MAN SEES.*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

*A TRUTH THAT'S TOLD
WITH BAD INTENT BEATS
ALL THE LIES YOU CAN
INVENT.*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

*ALWAYS BE READY TO
SPEAK YOUR MIND, AND
A BASE MAN WILL AVOID
YOU.*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

*IF THE SUN AND MOON
SHOULD EVER DOUBT,
THEY'D IMMEDIATELY
GO OUT.*

- WILLIAM BLAKE

PLEASE SUBMIT
ITEMS FOR AUGUST
NEWSLETTER TO
JANICE_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET
BY AUGUST 18.

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Board of Directors, 2008-2009

President – Tom Woods
Vice-President – Sandy Olah
Secretary – Bob Vann
Treasurer – Charles Palmer
Director – John Nagely
Director – Dianne Nixon
Director – Brenda McKeon
Director – Ann Sutherland

By The Numbers

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Sunday, June 01, 2008	93	16	109
Sunday, June 08, 2008	80	16	96
Sunday, June 15, 2008	88	13	101
Sunday, June 22, 2008	94	13	107
Sunday, June 29, 2008	65	14	79
Monthly Average	84	14.4	98.4

The 7 UU Principles

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

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



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

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

How are we doing?

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

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

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