



# *the* westside story

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

## *Meet Your New Board*

by Bob Vann

Get to know the Board of Directors. These are the folks who represent you in conducting the business side of our church life. Feel free to approach them with problems, suggestions and, hopefully, an occasional “thank-you.” The following are short bios of some of the members of your board. I hope to follow with the rest in next month’s newsletter.

## *Sandy Olah moves from Vice President to President*

Sandy and Susan Farris have been friends for fifteen years, and a couple for over nine. July 3rd, they celebrated the third anniversary of their Vermont civil union. They have four beautiful children, Rowdy, a five-year-old heeler, Gizmo, a three-year-old chi-weenie, Shasta, a one-year-old chi-weenie, and Ms. Saigon, a thirteen-year-old cat. Sandy says that she can’t believe that she used to run a cattle operation here in Fort Worth, but is now a proud vegetarian. “Isn’t it funny how life turns your world upside down and then up right again.” She started working for Russell Feed and Supply in 2001, as manager of the Benbrook

location. Three 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, “I have a hard act to follow behind that of our past president, Tom Woods. But, I look forward to the challenges of the coming year, knowing that I am working for our church, our community and our world. I am in awe of our generosity, love and understanding, and I am honored to serve as president of Westside. I have always felt that you have to make your own family in life, and I have made the members of Westside my family.”

## *Bob Rake, Treasurer*

Bob is a retired CPA, and has very thoughtfully agreed to take on this critically important office for the next two years. Bob and his wife of forty years, Debby, moved to Texas from their previous retirement home in Homestead, Florida, largely to be close to one of their two sons and his family. Bob and Debby have been UUs for many years, and came to Westside from a much-loved South Miami church. Bob enjoys sailing, scuba diving, golf, is a self-described computer nerd, and “a

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## *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.*

not-so-good folk guitar player.” Both of the Rakes like people and have entered wholeheartedly into the life at Westside. We are so fortunate to have them here.

### *James Finn, Director*

James, his wife, Andrea Petty, and their two children, Colin and Chloe, joined our Westside family last year. They are both from Fort Worth, but have lived in many different places, and actually met while on an archaeology dig. James was originally Catholic, but left Catholic school in the second grade. He says he went to church some, and even went skiing with Methodists as a teen, but had never found a place where he felt comfortable before. He has lived in many places, including Vienna and Brazil. While he is now southern regional marketing representative for Paravision, he worked his way through college in restaurants, has built and run a wine bar (and is extremely knowledgeable about wines), and has worked as crew for television commercials and as a part-time stage hand. He enjoys cooking, traveling, wine tasting and education. James came to Westside after Andrea had found us. He said he specifically likes Westside because of the, “lack of dogma and low number of flakes! It is in my comfort zone for what I want from a church and what I am comfortable with for my kids.” Thanks, James, for accepting this important role in our church.

### *Ann Sutherland, Director*

Besides serving on the Board, Ann has been an exceptionally active

chair of the Social Justice Committee, and a strong community voice in pushing John Peter Smith Hospital to meet their obligations to all of the people of this area, and in promoting school-based clinics.

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.

Ann’s husband, 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 is employed at the V.A. Hospital in Dallas, and he and Ann continue their efforts on behalf of the medically indigent.

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

### *Bob Vann, Board Secretary*

Bob is returning for the second of a two-year term. Bob was raised as a Methodist in Salt Lake City, Utah. Somewhere in his teens, the dogma, the inconsistencies, and the childish stories just ceased to make sense. He became an ag-

*One man meets an infamous punishment for that crime which confers a diadem upon another.*

*-Juvenal*

*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 revolutionized 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*

nostic as a young man and remains so today. He bumped up against UUism through the years, attending the San Angelo, Texas, Fellowship, the Arlington Fellowship, and First Jefferson Church, off and on. His three children spent several years in First Jefferson's RE program.

During his 24-year military career, he 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. His mother's death freed him from the joy and the responsibility for her care, and he decided in late 2006 to join. After joining, he had the extraordinarily good fortune to meet long-time Westsider and community activist Lin re, and he looks forward to another great year ahead.

*Nancy Van Boskirk,  
Director (One Year Term)*

Nancy is an ordained Disciples of Christ minister, and has presented reflections at several Westside services. She was an associate pastor at Hurst Christian Church, and then found her ministerial niche for eight years as a hospice chaplain with VITAS Hospice Care in Fort Worth. Born in Guymon, Oklahoma, Nancy moved with her family to Batavia, New York, when she was fourteen. Her family enjoyed many interesting travel experiences together. She returned to Oklahoma for college, graduating from Phillips University in Enid, and then eventually ended up at Brite Divinity School.

Nancy and her former husband started a TRIO program at Temple

College, a component of which was financial counseling. She worked at TCU and North Texas in financial aid and as an academic advisor, and is now loan coordinator at the North Texas Health Science Center. Nancy has two daughters, Laura and Amy. Laura lives with her husband in Steamboat Springs, and Amy was a frequent contributor to Westside life while getting her massage therapy license and masters in acupuncture. Nancy has a dog named Droxie, enjoys organic gardening, reading, walking, and singing. She plans to continue immersing herself in the congregation and its doings, adding activities as she has the time and energy. The choir has already made its claim on her. When asked why she decided to join Westside, Nancy said she felt the need for roots; she wants and needs to be settled and have a church home. We very much appreciate Nancy's willingness to serve in this important capacity on the Board of Westside.

*Delegate Report from  
General Assembly*

*by Amy Youngblood*

The vote wasn't even close: 2062 to 1481. The Rev. Peter Morales won 61 percent of the on-site vote, and 55 percent of the absentee votes to become the eighth president of the UUA.

Campaigners in blue for Hallman or gold for Morales flooded the halls of the Salt Palace, home of the 2009 GA, handing out buttons and flyers, sprigs of mountain laurel (get it?), bandanas and "Peter for President" temporary tattoos. Participants packed the Thursday night candidate forum. Newsletters from each candidate appeared morning and evening, chockfull of endorse-

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*Language is a form  
of human reason,  
which has its  
internal logic of  
which man knows  
nothing.*

*-Claude Levi-Strauss*

*Oh, it is excellent to  
have a giant's  
strength; but it is  
tyrannous to use it  
like a giant.*

*-William Shakespeare*

*When a nation  
gives birth to a  
man who is able to  
produce a great  
thought, another is  
born who is able to  
understand and  
admire it.*

*-Joseph Joubert*

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ments for the candidates. Those entering the exhibits hall somehow had to pass the candidates' double-sized booths, milling campaigners and more flyers.

Oddly, no one had any idea of how the election was progressing. We had no polls to guide us, no TV pundits, nothing but anecdotes, hearsay and optimistic speculation, all of which we had in abundance.

By Saturday afternoon when voting began, non-campaigning participants were trudging to their next workshop, avoiding eye contact or waving off campaigners with a "I've already decided" gesture. And in the end, the election wasn't even close. The Rev. Laurel Hallman conceded gracefully, and the UUA moves on under a new president.

Other outcomes were squeaky close. By narrowly reaching the two-thirds requirement, the Peacemaking Statement of Conscience (SOC) was returned to the Commission on Social Witness for additional study. You can read the draft proposal here: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml>.)

But the vote to change Article II was close – so close in fact that the counters had to try twice, and in the end the changes were rejected by a margin of 13 votes. This hotly debated proposal tampered with the Principles and Purposes section of the UUA bylaws, found in the front pages of our hymnal.

Six Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) were submitted, and all six were accepted. These AIWs, as the name states, cover issues that can't wait for the two-year discernment time of a Statement of Conscience:

**1: Advocate Pending Legislation Toward Clean, Honest, and Fair Elections in the United States.**

**2: Support U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.**

**3: Support America's Red Rock Wilderness Act.**

**4: Support Bolivian UUs Struggling for Justice and Human Rights.**

**5: Call for a Commission of Inquiry of U.S.-Sponsored Torture.**

**6: Oppose Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity-Based Violence in Iraq.**

Check the next UUWorld for more comprehensive coverage of GA's events or, if you can't wait that long, try this online blog: [http://www.uuworld.org/news/ga/2009\\_06\\_01\\_archive.php](http://www.uuworld.org/news/ga/2009_06_01_archive.php)

*Oh, how small a  
portion of earth  
will hold us when  
we are dead, who  
ambitiously seek  
after the whole  
world while we are  
living!*

*-Philip of Macedon*

*Learning without  
thought is labor  
lost; thought  
without learning is  
perilous.*

*-Confucius*

*Oh, would that my  
mind could let fall  
its dead ideas, as  
the tree does its  
withered leaves!*

*-Andre Gide*

## *Thank you, Susan*

A big thank-you to Susan Dycus, Westside member, who generously designed, constructed, and donated the beautiful, new, wooden hymnal carts delivered in June, that are now in the back of the sanctuary.

*- Maria Schmidt, Aesthetics and Building Use Committee.*

## *Susan's story*

I donated the old metal library cart used for the hymnals back when Westside UU purchased the Paige street building. At that time, there was more than enough room on the one cart for all of the hymnals. I have been aware that it was not longer

adequate for some time, but was not inspired until Russell announced his desire to be ordained by Westside in UU ministry. I decided then to build two new hymnal carts in honor of Russell's Ordination.

Since I am still a "baby" woodworker, I sought the help of my mentor, teacher and brother, JEB Johnson, MD, of San Antonio. The carts were built in his workshop and he gets all the credit for the design of the bentwood handles. On my own, the carts would have been only practical and nice pieces of furniture because the bentwood design was way beyond my skill level. I, on the other hand, have the patience for repeatedly sanding and putting more coats of poly on. So I will take the credit for the finish.

These carts are my way of honoring Russell's decision to become ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister.

## *Sunday Services*

**August 2nd** *Guest speaker*

**August 9th** *New Member Sunday, & "Trying to be Reasonable in an Unreasonable Age" by Dr. Russell Elleven. Let us welcome the new members who have been brave enough to join a congregation that is a little bit different. We are a people of reason in an unreasonable time. What can we make of that?*

**August 16th** *Week of Westside* by Julie Tribble. The children and counselors of the WoW camp will be teaching songs and explaining the UU perspective on Jesus' parables that make them still relevant today!

**August 23rd** *"I Didn't See That Coming"* by Dr. Russell Elleven. Have you ever been in a situation where you were blind-sided by some one

or some thing? The way we react in those times may say a great deal about us as individuals. Russell will explore these ideas this Sunday.

**August 30th** *"Our Bodies, Our Weakness"* by Dr. Russell Elleven. Our bodies allow us to continue on this earth. Without them life just wouldn't be possible. But the body can betray us too. Where does that leave us when our bodies break down?

## *Adult Forum*

Current events discussion group will continue each Sunday in August at 9:45 a.m. in the easternmost classroom off the foyer. These weekly discussions are vital and enthusiastic. All are welcome.

## *Choir again!*

"Come Sing a Song..." with Cathy McConnell and the rest of the Westside choir. Choir practice will resume Aug. 23rd @ 9:30am in the sanctuary. We will rehearse and sing in the Worship Service every other week. Email Cathy at [clmcc7@yahoo.com](mailto:clmcc7@yahoo.com) for information.

## *Karaoke Anyone?*

It has been awhile since we had a Karaoke night - and our song leader, Scott Paulson, is ready to put together another song night if there is sufficient interest. This is a fun night, whether you are a singer or a

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*Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?*

*-Epicurus*

*To be patriotic, hate all nations but your own; to be religious, all sects but your own; to be moral, all pretences but your own.*

*-Lionel Strachey*

*Life consists in what a man is thinking of all day.*

*-Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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listener. Ask anyone who has attended one of our fabulous Karaoke nights in the past, and they will tell you (almost guarantee you) that you will have an enjoyable evening. If you are interested, please call or email Scott at 817-292-2558, or s.c.paulson@juno.com or Beverly Archibald at 817-346-3303 or bevanfw@charter.net.

We hope to hear from you soon!

## *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 teacher training opportunities, Westside WoW and Hogwarts Academy of Fun, plus a lot more...so check us out!

*Although a democracy must often fight with one hand tied behind its back, it nonetheless has the upper hand.*

*-Abaron Barak*

*Not thinking critically, I assumed that the "successful" prayers were proof that God answers prayer while the failures were proof that there was something wrong with me.*

*-Dan Barker*

*To fully understand a grand and beautiful thought requires, perhaps, as much time as to conceive it.*

*-Joseph Joubert*

## *in & around westside*

### *Where's Russell in August?*

Well if it's August you can be sure of two things. First, it's HAWT outside. Second, it is time for the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. As you probably know SWUUSI is in Tulsa area this year. Russell will be there with bells on. He will be leaving on Sunday, August 2nd and returning on the 8th in order to offer a reflection on the 9th. He will also be par-

ticipating a little bit with the Week of Westside (WOW!). In addition to the reflection on the 9th he will also be offer reflections on the 23rd and 30th before leaving on a two week vacation.

Office hours for August are as follows:

**Tuesday August 11, 9am - 1pm**  
**Thursday August 13, 9am - 1pm**  
**Tuesday, August 18, 9am - 1pm**  
**Thursday, August 20, 9am - 1pm**  
**Tuesday, August 25, 9am - 1pm**  
**Thursday, August 27, 9am - 1pm**

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](http://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/08-csai> and contact Russell (relleven@gmail.com) to get in on the ground floor of the discussion. The group's first meeting will be September 17th and will continue to meet on the third Thursdays of each month. We are going to bring in a healthy chef who happens to be a local UU featured in the Star Telegram; we will watch informational DVDs; we will exchange ethical recipes; and support one another as we attempt to make better eating choices. There are about 16 Westsiders starting the group and we hope you'll want to learn with us!

## *Social Justice Committee News*

The Social Justice Committee met July 23rd to finish applying for KIVA grants and review activities relating to the Rainbow Lounge incident. Some of us also attended the Dallas Peace Center lecture in July featuring retired CIA agent Ray McGovern.

And on July 31st we worked with RE teen-agers to provide dinner to Samaritan House residents. It was a big success! Thank you, RE teens, for your enthusiasm.

Our Kennedy Fund has now made over 100 loans totaling over \$15,000. In June we made our first loan in the United States, to Maria. Maria borrowed \$7,000 from lenders like us to purchase a software

program which will enable her to expand her business. She does billing to insurance companies for doctors. This loan was reviewed and packaged through Kiva, now working with field partner Accion.

At our July meeting we loaned out another \$600. We are also interested in joining with other Fort Worth area organizations to bring forth a lending presence here for people like Maria, who want to build businesses but who have little experience with small loans.

We will meet again in September.

## *Humanists of Fort Worth*

HOFW will meet as usual on the second Wednesday of this month, August 12, at 7 p.m. at the church. The speaker will be Terry McDonald, chairperson of Metroplex Atheists in the Dallas area. He will be talking about the recent billboard signs promoting free thinking in our area and the growth of non-theist ideas across the nation. Terry is articulate and active in promoting the progress of free thought. All meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the church at 7 p.m. All are invited.

## *New Faces*

**Alex and Wendy Blanton**

*by Linda Simmons*

Alex and Wendy Blanton are new members to Westside and currently reside in historical Mistletoe, a beautiful neighborhood within blocks of our church. They have two

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*We take our colors,  
chameleon-like,  
from each other.*

*-Sebastien-  
Roch-Nicolas de  
Chamfort*

*The eye of the  
understanding is  
like the eye of the  
sense; for as you  
may see great  
objects through  
small crannies or  
holes, so you may  
see great axioms of  
nature through  
small and con-  
temptible instances.*

*-Francis Bacon*

*All high truth is  
poetry. Take the  
results of science:  
they glow with  
beauty, cold and  
hard as are the  
methods of reach-  
ing them.*

*-Charles Buxton*

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daughters, Kate, 8, and Lucy, 4.

Alex calls Arlington his home town, having attended high school there. He received his undergraduate degree from Fort Worth's hometown university, TCU, and his MBA from UT. He recently co-founded a small consulting firm called Peak Franchise Capital, assisting clients on finance-related issues within the retail and restaurant sectors. When not working, Alex spends much time with family, and also enjoys reading, music, biking, and most anything outdoors. Like others in our church family, Alex is serious about his biking; he once rode from Dallas to Jackson, Mississippi in five days.

Wendy is originally from Houston, also attended UT and holds a BS degree in chemical engineering. Now she devotes most of her time to family, being involved in her daughters' school. She too has experience in finance, having met Alex in that very department at Piz-za Hut.

Wendy came to Westside first, having a desire to raise their daughters in a freethinking and friendly environment. Alex, based on Wendy's recommendation, followed, and he too, liked the positive messages and the broad focus on community.

817 926-1792  
alex.blanton@peakfranchisecapital.com  
wendy\_blanton@hotmail.com  
2325 West Magnolia Avenue  
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

## *Contemporary Books*

The Contemporary Book Group will meet Sunday August 23, at church after church to discuss *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David

Relin. The book was recommended by Barbara Trice, who reviewed it for the newsletter in August 2008.

## *New Members, We Want YOU in Our 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, at no charge to you. For more information and to set a time for your photo contact Mary at 817-292-7766, or marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com

## *our wider community*

## *UUA meets goals for "Now is the Time" campaign*

Five years ago, in response to a series of focus groups, surveys, and roundtable discussions, the UUA launched the Now is the Time Campaign to grow our faith in all its many dimensions – in numbers, diversity, witness, leadership, and spirit – now.

Thanks to your exceptional generosity, the "Now is the Time" campaign has raised \$21,084,956 in cash and \$30,410,309 in planned gifts (and counting!), surpassing its \$50 million goal!

*Life's most urgent question is: what are you doing for others?*

*-Martin Luther King, Jr*

*He who sees a need and waits to be asked for help is as unkind as if he had refused it.*

*-Dante Alighieri*

*Who'er excels in what we prize / Appears a hero in our eyes.*

*-Jonathan Swift*

Accomplishments include the following:

**The free, accessible online availability of Tapestry of Faith curricula, a series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love,**

**Scholarships to support students preparing for Unitarian Universalist ministry,**

**Responses to crises like hurricane Katrina and the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee in 2008,**

**National Marketing Campaign including full page ads in TIME magazine and a full page ad in the New York Times,**

**Inheriting the growing Green Sanctuary Program, bring valuable environmental justice resources to congregations,**

**The work of the Freedom to Marry Fund, and others.**

For the rest of the story, go to the following website: <http://www.uua.org/giving/nowis/index.shtml>

## *Invitation from Thanksgiving Square Interfaith*

Come hear a Jewish rabbi, Christian minister and Muslim imam explore their faith connections to Abraham. Find out how Judaism, Christianity and Islam are connected from the Torah, the Bible and the Qur'an. What does this mean to our families, our communities, our country and the world?

Guest Speakers:

**Rabbi Adam Raskin,  
Congregation Beth Torah;**

**Rev. Doug Skinner,  
Northway Christian Church;**

**Imam Muhammad Shakoor,  
Masjid W. D. Mohammed**

Reception follows program.

Sunday, August 16, 3-5 pm

Congregation Beth Torah  
720 W. Lookout Drive  
Richardson, TX 75080  
972-234-1542

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*As long as there are  
slaughterhouses there  
will be battlefields.*

*-Leo Tolstoy*

*Every man thinks  
God is on his side.  
The rich and powerful  
know he is.*

*-Jean Anouilh*

*Perfect valor is to  
behave, without  
witnesses, as one  
would act were all  
the world watching.*

*-Francois, duc de La  
Rochefoucauld*

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

# Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

## Our Board

President: Sandy Olah

Vice President: Gwen Gipson

Secretary: Bob Vann

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Directors, two- year terms: Reed Bilz, Michael Muñoz, and James Finn

Director, one-year interim term: Nancy Van Boskirk

Directors, continuing: Brenda McKeon & Ann Sutherland

## By The Numbers

Date	Adults	Children	Total
June 7	100	23	123
June 14	108	27	135
June 21	93	27	120
June 28	75	16	91
Average	94	23.25	117.25



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](mailto: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

August 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

## NATUURES Teacher Training

The North Texas Area UU Religious Educators are sponsoring a teacher training for all the area churches' teachers on Saturday, August 15. The guest speaker is Kim St. Clair, an education administrator from Phoenix, Arizona. Kim is going to inspire us about the ways our children learn, how they change as they mature, how we can create an atmosphere of mindfulness in our RE programs, and much, much more! Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and we finish at 4:30 p.m.

## Swim Party for Anthony Class

The swim party is on for the 8-10 year olds in the Susan B. Anthony class. Our date is August 28 from 2-4 pm at Chloe Finn's grandparents

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.

house in Keller. Please bring a snack to share and drinks will be provide

## Westside's Teacher Training

Its that time again! A chance to go over the 'nuts and bolts' of religious education and the particulars of this year's curriculum of World Religion. Training is on Saturday, August 21 from 10 a.m. To 2 p.m. with lunch provided. Come ready to inspire each other for a GREAT year!

## Week Of Westside aka WOW

It is getting close!!! August 10 starts our first annual WoW from 2 - 5p.m. We have training on August 1 from 9 a.m. - noon, with a workday to follow to finish off any projects not yet done. We can always use help! If you are interested in helping out, either at the workday or at camp, call Jessica Zinn. Don't forget to come to the Service on August 16 to enjoy some of the great songs and stories we learned about Jesus' Parables and also the mission stories that put the parables into the UU perspective.

## Samaritan House Dinner on July 31

Westside has committed to serving dinner at The Samaritan House on the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Hogwarts Academy

I am in the last hectic days of prep before the beginning of Hogwarts Camp. I am so excited! We have 13 of our Westside kids attending! I am sure that you will hear about the camp from one of our many campers. I am also proud of the fact that we have 5 adults working the camp from Westside. This has truly been a joint and cooperative venture between Westside and First Jefferson, hopefully the first of many! So the next newsletter will be full of reports from all of the summer camps that I am privileged to be involved in (complete with pictures, hopefully!).

"We come to love not by finding a perfect person, but by learning to see an imperfect person perfectly."

--Sam Keen

## What's Inside You? By John Williams Hammond

Perhaps You've wondered  
for many a day,  
if there's a voice in you  
with something to say.  
Well stop all the wondering,  
come and sit down,  
in a place where it's safe  
to get lost and be found.  
Be as still as you can,  
just watch your breath,  
inhale, exhale, take a small rest.  
After awhile  
you might be surprised--  
to hear a small voice,  
deep down inside.  
Then pick up a pencil,  
a crayon or pen,  
to write down the thoughts  
of your new inner friend.  
Or write with a paintbrush,  
add water and paper,  
draw fast or draw slow,  
you be the shaper.  
Trust the voice as it calls,  
move with the flow,  
be patient, be open,  
don't judge as you go.  
When it's done take a look  
at the gift you have made,  
enjoy all the energy there on the page.  
Be playful, be gentle,  
believe what you see,  
those words and those pictures  
let your dreams be free.