



# *the westside story*

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

## *Westside Stewardship Drive*

This report marks the completion of the 2009-2010 stewardship drive that began with Commitment Sunday held on May 3rd, 2009.

Our pledge income goal was \$175,000. As you can see from the table below, we were short of that goal by approximately \$25,000.

The first line on the table below shows the number of pledge units unable to pledge during the pledge drive.

The lines following show total dollars pledged within that pledge range. For example, those who made pledges between \$1 and \$500, pledged a collective total of \$10,430.

That being said, there are many positives that show we have a solid financial base for this coming fiscal year:

- The budget as adopted does not include any fund-raising activity. If necessary, we could use fund-raising to boost our income.
- The budget as adopted does not reflect pledge income from new members that will join this coming year.

- As of the beginning of this fiscal year we have undedicated reserve funds of approximately \$53,000.
- Of the pledges made for fiscal year 2008-2009, 97% of dollars pledged were fulfilled.
- This year's pledge income increased approximately \$22,000 over the previous year.

In conclusion, we need to continue to be fiscally prudent. Should your financial situation change for the better or worse, you may contact our financial secretary, Mary Alice Cretsinger, to make a change to your pledge amount.

Sincerely,  
 2009-2010 Stewardship Committee

**September 2009**

### *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.*

<u>PLEDGE RANGE</u>	<u>\$ PLEDGED</u>	<u>PLEDGE UNITS</u>
\$0	\$0	18
\$1 to \$500	\$10,430	36
\$501 to \$1000	\$17,249	25
\$1001 to \$1500	\$34,687	27
\$1501 to \$2000	\$16,540	9
\$2001 to \$2500	\$12,100	5
\$2501 to \$3000	\$6,000	2
\$3001 to \$3500	\$0	0
\$3501 to \$4000	\$18,640	5
\$4001 to \$4500	\$8,220	2
\$4501 to \$5000	\$9,800	2
\$5001 to \$5500	\$5,500	1
\$5501 to \$6000	\$11,520	2
<b>TOTAL PLEDGED</b>	<b>\$150,686</b>	

## Meet Your Board of Directors – The Rest of the Story

by Bob Vann

Last month's Westside Story introduced you to some of the members of your newly elected Board of Directors. The following Westsiders complete that board. You have chosen Russell as your worship leader, and the board to manage church business. Both need your continued, thoughtful input to ensure that Westside meets your needs as a congregation. Please don't hesitate to make your ideas, suggestions and gripes known to your board, so that we can truly represent you. And now meet the rest of the board:

### GWEN GIPSON, VICE PRESIDENT

Gwen Gipson has been a member of Westside since 2002. In the past, she has been an active member of the worship committee, Westside Toastmasters, the adult education committee, and the social committee. She joined because she wanted to explore spirituality outside the confines of conservative Christian religion. She considers herself as "still searching," theologically speaking. Born in Miami, Florida, to Canadian and British parents, she moved to Texas as a young teenager. She holds multiple degrees in English and computer science from Texas universities: Texas A&M, UT Austin, and the University of North Texas. She currently works as a software developer for a large German corporation. In 2006, she and her husband were fortunate to live and work for a year in Konstanz, Germany. Gwen has five adult stepchildren and three grandchildren (by marriage). Gwen is a member of the Westside worship team - responsible for coordinating Sunday services. She would like to see the open and accepting values of UU and Westside applied to all who come through our doors.

*I used to think that people who regarded everyone benignly were a mite simple or oblivious or just plain lax -- until I tried it myself. Then I realized that they made it only look easy. Even the Berditchever Rebbe, revered as a man who could strike a rock and bring forth a stream, was continually honing his intentions. "Until I remove the thread of hatred from my heart," he said of his daily meditations, "I am, in my own eyes, as if I did not exist."*

-Marc Barasch

### BRENDA MCKEON, DIRECTOR

Brenda is beginning the second year of her two-year stint as a board director. She tells her own story as follows: "I became a UU when I was seven years old. My mom and dad (Howard and Myrtle McMahan) moved to Fort Worth and started attending First UU church for a few months, then moved to First Jefferson. I joined when I was 14, and was serving on the board when I was fifteen. I was elected secretary in my twenties. In the mid-1990's, I came to Westside, when it was first getting started. In 2000 and 2001, I served as president. I hope you will let me know how I can best represent you and bring your ideas to the board." Brenda enjoys reading, knitting and watching TV. She is a very active and vital Westsider and board member.

### MICHAEL MUNOZ, DIRECTOR

Michael was raised in the Catholic Church. As an adult, he was happily godless until his then-fiancée, Sara, stumbled upon Unitarian Universalism while planning their wedding. They joined Arlington UU Church, and its laid-back atmosphere and lively discussion groups really appealed to Michael. Three years later, Michael and Sara—new parents to baby Veronica, the only child at AUUC—realized that the small church was no longer meeting the needs of their growing family. The couple met Shelly Hattan through Metroplex Atheists and the former DFW Ethical Fellowship, and she told them about Westside. It was a tough decision to leave the first church they'd ever called home, but after visiting Westside a few times, they knew they were making the right choice.

Today, it's hard to believe it's only been two years. Michael jumped into the Westside community with both feet. He enjoys the various social and community events, like karaoke night and the Pride Picnic. The biggest events he looks forward to are the camping trips; as a former Eagle Scout, who canoed the portages of the Minnesota-Canada border and hiked the northern New Mexican mountains, Michael loves the outdoors. He has also found the camping trips to be great bonding experiences, and recommends them to any

church member looking to enrich friendships with fellow Westside members. Michael is also looking forward to his second year as an RE teacher, something he never thought he'd wind up doing. But he has very much enjoyed the experience.

Michael and family (which now includes baby Oliver) have recently returned to Arlington after living in Fort Worth for a little over three years. They are happily settling into a home very close to where Michael grew up. Aside from a couple of years in Mexico as a young child, Michael was raised in Arlington. He graduated from Martin High and got a business degree from DeVry. He has since worked in various fields, from sales to substitute teaching, and is currently employed by a drywall company.

## *A Unique Opportunity*

The YWCA Dialogue on Race promotes action through honest dialogue. Join us for a unique opportunity for women and men to speak frankly and safely about racial issues while learning from each other about the repercussions of prejudice and institutional racism. Everyone, regardless of race, national origin, culture, or sexual orientation is encouraged to participate in **Dialogue on Race**.

**Dialogue on Race** meets once a week for four weeks, two hour sessions. Attendance to all sessions is vital to the community of participants as they take part in the dialogue together. Cost is \$40 per person and scholarships are available.

**Dialogue on Race** sessions meet at the YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County located at 512 West 4th Street in downtown Fort Worth. Space is limited – 15 participants per dialogue group.

**Register on-line** at [www.ywca.org/fortworth](http://www.ywca.org/fortworth)

If you have any questions, please give Marcy Paul a call at 817-332-6191. The following session has available spaces:

**Dialogue #30:** 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
Wednesdays: September 2, 16, 23, 30.

## *New Social Group at Westside for 30ish to 50ish*

Are you 30ish to 50ish and wonder what there is for you to do at Westside to get to know others your own age? Well, Sandy Olah and Bettina Pfeiffenberger have started a new social group just for you! We have already had our very first event - bowling at Cityview Lanes. There were 8 bowlers, everyone from long-time members to first time visitors who wanted to get to know other Westside folks. It was definitely a fun environment to get to know people that we see on Sundays!

The next event will take place at the church, on Friday September 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM. Join us as we play all sorts of party games. Ever played Apples to Apples? It is fast becoming a favorite party game. This game consists only of two decks of cards: Things and Descriptions. Each turn, the current referee selects a Description and players try to pick, from the cards in their hands, the Things that best match that Description. The referee (each player gets to be a referee) then chooses the Thing that appeals most to them and awards the card to the player who played it. The unusual combinations of Things and Descriptions are humorous to the extreme, and will quickly have the entire room in an uproar!

Join us to get to know other Westsiders and soon-to-be Westsiders. Bring a snack to share and whatever will quench your thirst as you yell out answers to Pictionary. But please don't bring children since there will be no childcare.

Call or email Bettina Pfeiffenberger 817-343-8873, [zookittie@gmail.com](mailto:zookittie@gmail.com) or Sandy Olah 817-988-4714, [bullhead555@gmail.com](mailto:bullhead555@gmail.com) for more information. Reservations are not necessary. Can't wait to see you there!!

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*Affliction, like the iron-smith, shapes as it smites.*

-Christian Bovee

*Good and evil grow up together and are bound in an equilibrium that cannot be sundered. The most we can do is try to tilt the equilibrium toward the good.*

-Eric Hoffer

*America has been called a melting pot, but it seems better to call it a mosaic, for in it each nation, people or race which has come to its shores has been privileged to keep its individuality, contributing at the same time its share to the unified pattern of a new nation.*

-King Baudouin of Belgium

## Westside UUC Service Project News

The Westside UUC service project program continues to donate generously each month, through undesignated plate offerings, to worthy recipient organizations. This month's offering goes to Safe Haven, a local program to provide a variety of assistance to the victims of domestic violence, and to provide counseling to its perpetrators. More information about the activities and volunteer opportunities of Safe Haven can be found at their web site, [www.safehavenc.org](http://www.safehavenc.org).

For the month of September 2009, the undesignated plate offering will go into a fund to help purchase food for Westside's ongoing program of preparing meals for Samaritan House. Several suggestions are already on the table for

upcoming months, but your Board of Directors would like to hear your ideas of worthy recipients. Email any board member with your proposals. Board members' email addresses are listed on the church web site, [www.westsideuu.org](http://www.westsideuu.org), while their phone numbers are available in the church directory. Please provide as much information about your selection as you can. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications using 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?" Depending on a number of factors, recipients may receive more than one donation in a given year. A record of recent donations may be seen in the accompanying table, or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board.

*In other countries  
poverty is a misfortune -- with us it is  
a crime.*

*-Edward Bulwer-  
Lytton*

*I had rather take  
my chance that  
some traitors will  
escape detection  
than spread abroad  
a spirit of general  
suspicion and  
distrust, which  
accepts rumor and  
gossip in place of  
undismayed and  
unintimidated  
inquiry.*

*-Learned Hand*

*God is usually on  
the side of the big  
squadrons against  
the small.*

*-Comte Roger de  
Bussy-Rabutin*

Month	Recipient	Amount
September, '09	Food Account for Samaritan House Dinners	
August, '09	Safe Haven	
July, '09	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$635.69
June, '09	Interfaith Environmental Alliance	\$539.85
May, '09	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$1,135.31
April, '09	Community Hospice of Texas	\$1,032.39
March, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$816.75
February, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 847.44
January, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" Campaign	\$ 1,231.80
December, '08	Samaritan House	\$ 1,057.54
November, '08	UU Church of Baton Rouge, LA	\$ 1,109.56
October, '08	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$ 704.00
September, '08	Kennedy Micro-Lending Group	\$ 1,272.12
August, '08	Heifer Fund	\$ 1,506.69
July, '08	Clinica Esperanza	\$ 1,149.78
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

## *Sunday Services*

**September 6th** - Amy Youngblood, "Love and Labor" "I thought I wanted a career, but it turned out I only wanted a paycheck." Funny person, that anonymous quipster who came up with this quotation. But plenty of people, including many Westsiders, find themselves astonished at how much more they gain from their jobs, above and beyond the pay and perks. It may be a true calling, or a response to the "still small voice within". Their day jobs may satisfy a deep spiritual need. In honor of Labor Day weekend, this service is devoted to expressing the link between labor and spiritual fulfillment.

**September 13th** - Andrew Fort, "Are the Four Noble Truths Still True?" Andrew Fort, professor of Asian religions at TCU will talk about the Buddha's life and teaching, particularly the Four Noble Truths, and how they are applicable to our lives today.

**September 20th** - Dr. Russell Elleven, "When It All Seems Like Too Much!" Sometimes we understand there is just too much suffering in the world. During those times it often feels like too much to handle. How can we respond? Russell will offer his ideas this Sunday.

**September 27th** - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Changing the Unchangeable?" Are there things we cannot change? Are there things that are unchangeable? Come listen to Russell's ideas this Sunday and decide for yourself.

## *Adult Forum - Sunday Morning*

Current events discussion group will continue each Sunday in September at 9:45 a.m. in the eastern-most 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. We rehearse and sing in the Worship Service every other week. Email Cathy at clmcc7@yahoo.com for information.

## *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). You'll learn about teacher training opportunities, and see how much fun was had in the Hogwarts Academy, plus a lot more... so check us out!

## *in & around westside*

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

Russell will be on vacation the first two weeks of September. He will not be checking email very often. So when he returns to the computer on Tuesday the 15th, it may take him a little while to respond to messages. Much of the time away will be spent in Canada, Toronto specifically, eh.

So, office hours will be limited in September and look like this:

**Tuesday, September 15, 9am - 1pm**  
**Thursday September 17, 9am - 1pm**  
**Tuesday, September 22, 9am - 1pm**  
**Thursday, September 24, 9am - 1pm**  
**Tuesday, September 29, 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

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*A closed mind is like a closed book: just a block of wood.*

-Chinese Proverb

*It is good to rub and polish your mind against that of others.*

-Michel de Montaigne

*Silence is the severest criticism.*

-Charles Buxton

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

*The weakest living creature, by concentrating his powers on a single object, can accomplish something. The strongest, by dispensing his over many, may fail to accomplish anything. The drop, by continually falling, bores its passage through the hardest rock. The hasty torrent rushes over it with hideous uproar, and leaves no trace behind.*

-Thomas Carlyle

*The court is like a palace built of marble; I mean that it is made up of very hard and very polished people.*

-Jean de la Fontaine

*The stateliest building man can raise is the ivy's food at last.*

-Charles Dickens

## *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](mailto:relleven@gmail.com) or go to [www.rke.cc](http://www.rke.cc).

## *Ethical Eating Group Forming at Westside*

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](mailto: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 sixteen Westsiders starting the group and we hope you'll want to learn with us!

## *Westside Shell Gamers are looking for members!*

Not a hunter, but enjoy shooting clay birds? The Westside Shell Gamers hope to meet once a month to rotate shooting trap, skeet, and sporting clays. Our first organizational meeting will be here at Westside on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 am. Contact Steven Hagstrom for more information at 817-923-3900 or [hagstroms2@sbc-global.net](mailto:hagstroms2@sbc-global.net). Everyone welcome! Two of our three founding members are women; so guys AND gals come on out!!!

## *Karaoke Night September 26, 7 pm*

"Comesing a song with me....." Come to listen, come to sing, come for fun and fellowship at the church on Saturday night, September 26 from 7 - 9 pm. Song sign-up begins at 6:45 pm. Our own Scott Paulson (famed singer of Mack the Knife and other oldies) will be the MC. Those of you who have attended our previous Karaoke nights know how much fun we have at these events.

We will provide lemonade, water and light snacks. Those desiring wine or beer, please BYOB. If you will need child care, please contact Jeff Bullcock at 817-308-0463 or [jbull63@gmail.com](mailto:jbull63@gmail.com) with the number and ages of your children.

Friends and relatives are more than welcome - it gives them a chance to socialize with us on an informal basis and get to know what fun folks we are! Don't forget listeners are needed as well as singers.

## *Westside goes Camping*

Save the dates October 16, 17, & 18 so you can join Westside as we go on our annual camping trip. We are headed to Arc Ridge Ranch again. Arc Ridge is 2 hours east of Fort Worth and was home to Charlie Ogilvie for many years and he has now graciously set it up so that our campers can have a great weekend of hiking, playing, resting, relaxing, alligator watching, and fellowship. Everyone that signs the camping covenant is welcome. This is tent camping at its finest with the best company ever. It is only \$30 per adult and \$10 per kiddo 12 and under for the entire weekend of camping and food. Please get in touch with Bettina Pfeifferberger, Zookittie@gmail.com, 817-343-8873 for more details and to hold your spot!

## *Special Request from South Central Alliance of Churches*

SCAC has sent a special request for specific food items to the member churches. Any of these which you would like to supply, please bring to church and put them on the table in the back of the sanctuary or in the red cart by the door. Below is the list as we received it.

Tuna Helper (we have plenty of tuna), Rice, Canned meat (chicken turkey stew, spam, Vienna sausage), spaghetti and sauce, canned carrots, canned potatoes, jelly, Ramen noodles, ravioli, oatmeal, grits, Crystal Light drink mix, and pancake and cornbread mix (the kind you add ONLY water to). Birthday boxes for children are also needed. These contain cake mix, frosting, candles, birthday card, balloons, streamers are good if you can get them. Some people put in plates and napkins and even a pan; it's all up to you.

SCAC appreciates all Westside UU does to help serve the needy in our own neighborhood. Thanks for all you do!

Any questions, call Beverly Archibald 817-346-3303, or the Lotvens, 817-927-7213.

## *Social Justice Committee News*

The Social Justice Committee has changed its meeting time to Thursday, September 3rd to avoid conflicts with other church meetings. The agenda will include

- splitting tasks into two committees to conform with the UU model,
- increasing KIVA contributions (we have over \$1300 to spend!), and
- planning for next Samaritan House dinner on Thursday, September 17th.

## *Humanists of Fort Worth*

HOFW welcomed twelve visitors at its August meeting, many of whom were from our Westside congregation. HOFW meets every second Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm at the church. Dick Trice will be the speaker at the September 9th meeting and his subject will be "Owners of the Public Mind---How the Media have Determined U.S. History." All are welcome. Come and join the lively discussion which will follow the talk.

## *Contemporary Books*

Contemporary Book Group meets Sunday September 27, 12:30 at church. We will discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. The author won the Pulitzer Prize for Year of Wonders.

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*The man's desire is for the woman but the woman's desire is rarely other than for the desire of the man.*

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge

*Faith is a cop-out. If the only way you can accept an assertion is by faith, then you are conceding that it can't be taken on its own merits.*

-Dan Barker

*Solitude has but one disadvantage; it is apt to give one too high an opinion of one's self. In the world we are sure to be often reminded of every known or supposed defect we may have.*

-Lord Byron

## New Faces

### Tom Young

Tom Young came to Westside in the best possible way – he says it was “destiny”! Tom decided to join because he says that he “felt at home”. He especially likes the friendliness of the people.

Tom was born in Lubbock. His father was a doctor with the Coast Guard, so he moved around a lot. He has lived in California, the Great Lakes area, and Alaska, among others places, but he considers Lubbock his home town.

Professionally Tom has been a hair stylist for 22 years, and is also a professional musician. He says he used his occupation as a hair stylist as a means to an end, he “wanted to be a rock star”. Tom plays bass and guitar and sings – and has branched out from rock and now does all different kinds of music. Presently living at Cenikor (if you don’t know about Cenikor, Google it; it is a wonderful organization), Tom does hair for the other residents. As to the music – we eagerly await the next talent night at church!

Tom has two children – a son, Tristan, who is 12, and a daughter, Taylor, who is fifteen.

Besides music, Tom is interested in historical research; American History, and especially the World War II era. Another intense area of interest for Tom is paranormal studies, particularly UFO research. His interest was piqued some years ago when the father of a friend, a military pilot, told of seeing and “flying with” UFOs. Tom has cross-referenced and indexed the various sightings and has some remarkable information, especially comparing photographs from the early years. He is also interested in remote viewing, which you can learn more about by googling “Farsight Institute”.

Tom is a brave, strong young man. Only 10% of the residents who enter Cenikor stay and graduate; Tom is de-

termined to make it, and I’m betting that he will.

Please welcome Tom Young to Westside. He is an interesting and friendly person.

Tom Young  
2209 S. Main  
Fort Worth, 76110  
817-921-2771

### Lynn Weathersby

A Navy Junior, Lynn was born in California, graduated from high school in Rochester, NY, and has “lived everywhere in between”. She settled in the DFW area twenty-five years ago. She says this probably explains, “My high tolerance for diverse peoples – Southern rednecks being the exception”.

Lynn was raised by a Catholic mother and atheist father, and was influenced by many different theologies (Buddhism, Taoism, Kahlil Gibran, and Orwell, among others).

She was in the restaurant business until 1993, when she decided to go back to school, ending with a degree in social science with a minor in secondary education. She is teaching social studies (AP classes) at Azle High School and now is readying herself to take the LSAT in September, hoping that UNT’s public law school opens soon. If not, Lynn plans to attend Texas Wesleyan Law School.

Lynn says that she has no time for hobbies, being a working mom with six-year-old twins, although she is interested in politics and economics. When asked about her talents, Lynn said, “Talent implies that someone does something extraordinary and the fact of the matter is, I’m only extraordinary in being ordinary. I’m OK with that”.

In replying to what brought her to Westside, in her own words: “I felt like I was drowning in a sea

*In my youth I thought of writing a satire on mankind; but now in my age I think I should write an apology for them.*

*-Horace Walpole*

*In the youth of a state arms do flourish; in the middle age of a state, learning; and then both of them together for a time; in the declining age of a state, mechanical arts and merchandise. -Francis Bacon*

*Who breaks the thread, the one who pulls, the one who holds on?*

*-James Richardson*

of loneliness. I needed to feel connected to other people who shared, for the most part, my worldview. Any group that openly accepts atheists, lesbians and transgenders into the fold is the church for me. People are people -- period. Texas has become so radically conservative in so many respects since I first moved here in the mid 1980s that I was silently screaming almost every day of my life. I knew when a staunch conservative Christian made the comment one afternoon during lunch that alcoholics and drug addicts should not be medicated while they detox, they should instead "suffer" because they weren't going to learn anything if it was made "easy" for them. I decided then and there I needed to either move to a "blue" state or find some sane people in this sea of insanity. It was starting to make me feel like I was the crazy person.

Unitarian Universalists don't pretend to have all the answers but acknowledge that the best any-

one can do in the meantime is to 'love thy neighbor as thy self.'

Please welcome Lynn "home" now that she has found us.

Lynn Weathersby  
517 Lake Crest Parkway  
Azle: 682-556-2914  
mlweathersby@yahoo.com

## *New Members, We Want YOU!*

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

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*Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But, conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right.*

*-Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country.*

*-Alexis de Tocqueville*

*If a man would register all his opinions upon love, politics, religion, learning, etc., beginning from his youth and so go on to old age, what a bundle of inconsistencies and contradictions would appear at last!*

*-Jonathan Swift*

*The deadline for  
next month's newsletter is  
always the 15th of the month.  
Please submit items for next  
month's newsletter to  
  
janice\_williams@charter.net.*

# RE News

September 2009

## RE Committee

Co-chairs - Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE - Julie Tribble

Committee Members -

Trisha Bowes            Sandy Olah

Natalie McKeon        Brenda McKeon

Jessica Zinn            Andrea Petty

Bettina Pfeiffenberger

## Westside's Teacher Training

Saturday, August 22 is the teacher training from 10am to 2pm with lunch provided. After covering the nuts and bolts of our religious education program, we will get together in teaching groups to plan schedules.

We will be role playing different classroom scenarios and discovering our own talents in teaching.

## Swim Party for Anthony Class

The swim party is on for the 8-10 year old class is Friday, August 28 from 2-4 pm at Chloe Finn's grandparents' house in Keller. Please bring a snack to share and drinks will be provided.

"If you have time to whine and complain about something then you have the time to do something about it."

-- Anthony J. D'Angelo

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

## First Day of Religious Education

Our first day of RE is August 30. We will have the Ingathering after we leave the service and before we go to our classes. This year our curriculum is World Religions. The curriculum is as follows:

Barton (ages 3-6) - We are Many,

We are One

Anthony (ages 7-9 - Holidays and

Holy Days

Young (ages 10-13) - A Stepping

Stone Year

Emerson (13-18) - World Religion/

Neighboring Faiths

## NATUURES Teacher Training

Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> was the district teacher training event. We are so lucky to have this available to us and should take full advantage of it! Kim St. Clair was phenomenall! We went over the True Colors learning styles and role played scenarios from classes. We are very lucky to have these events in our district and owe a huge thanks to NTAUUS for the grant to NATUURES that allows us to get such wonderful speakers.

# 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

Director, continuing: Brenda McKeon

Director, continuing: Ann Sutherland

## By The Numbers

Date	Adults	Children	Total
July 5	82	17	99
July 12	110	35	145
July 19	85	25	110
July 26	134	20	154
Average	102.75	24.25	127



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.