

# The Westside Story

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

## Westside is growing – you can help!

In case you haven't noticed, there have been a lot of people attending church on Sundays! About two years ago an ad hoc committee was empanelled by the Board to come up with a long range strategic plan with the intent of purchasing the property we now occupy. The plan that was drafted and accepted by the membership is available on our website. You can easily find it by clicking on Church Business, then navigating to the bottom of the page & clicking on Strategic Plan December 2006. If you check it out, you will see that part of our plan was to grow the membership to 125 by 2010. The number "125" represented about a 50% increase in membership over a four year period of time. Everyone on the committee regarded that particular goal to be very ambitious. Well, here we are ten months into 2008 & we currently have a membership of 135 & GROWING!

Due to a growth rate that has been greater than our wildest dreams, we currently face some interesting, wonderful & exciting challenges. With these challenges in mind the Board has determined that our Strategic Plan needs a little revising/updating. To that end the Board is seeking volunteers to serve on a new ad hoc committee to review & revise our Strategic Plan so that we ensure our "Vision" & "Mission" come to fulfillment.

If you are interested please contact any member of the Board.

## New Opportunities

There are new & exciting leadership and participation opportunities. The North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies (NTAUUS), under the leadership of Daniel Polk, the incoming president of the NTAUUS board, is opening up participation in all of the NTAUUS committees (except the Finance Committee) to any member of an Association congregation.

These committees are open to participation:

**Awards** - recognizing service by ministers, RE professionals, and lay leaders,

**Social Action** - coordinating efforts by our congregational groups & developing larger cooperative programs,

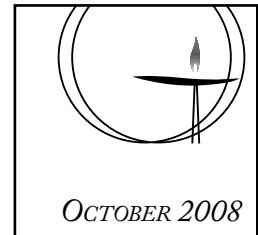
**Education** - presenting programs for our congregations, such as the NTAUUSRES teacher training, the Sanders Lectures, and coordinating campus ministry efforts,

**Communication/Advertising** - keeping us in touch with each other and getting the UU word out to the larger community,

**Activities/Connections** – gathering our members together for events where we can celebrate our UU identity, and

**Denominational Affairs** – sending emerging leaders to GA and SWUUSI, sharing what we've learned with the larger bodies and identifying both resources we can use to grow and potential partners in our efforts.

If you would like to explore the possibility of participating in any of these committees please contact Tom Woods.



### 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.*

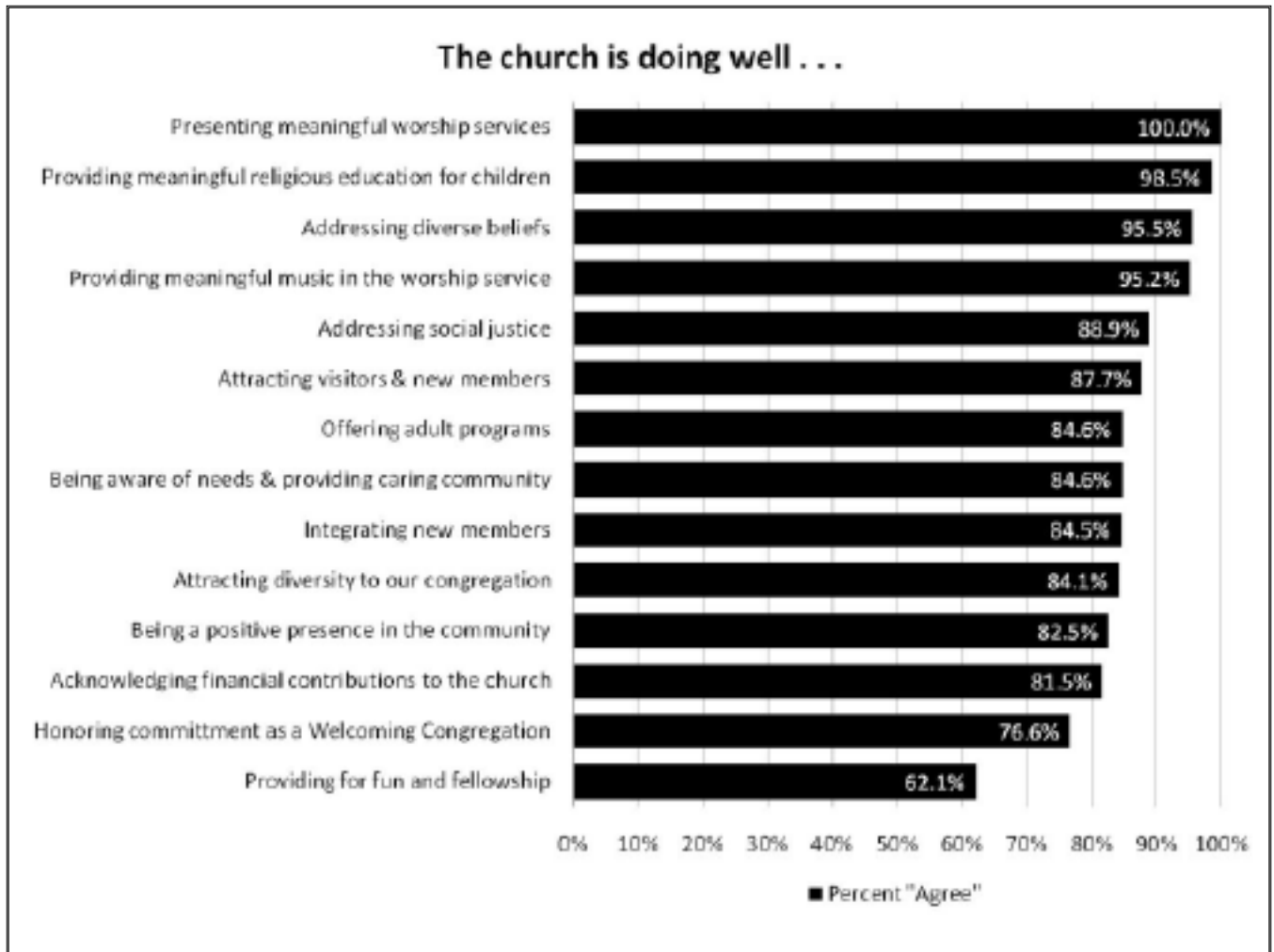
### OUR VISION STATEMENT

*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.*

## 2008 Congregational Survey Results

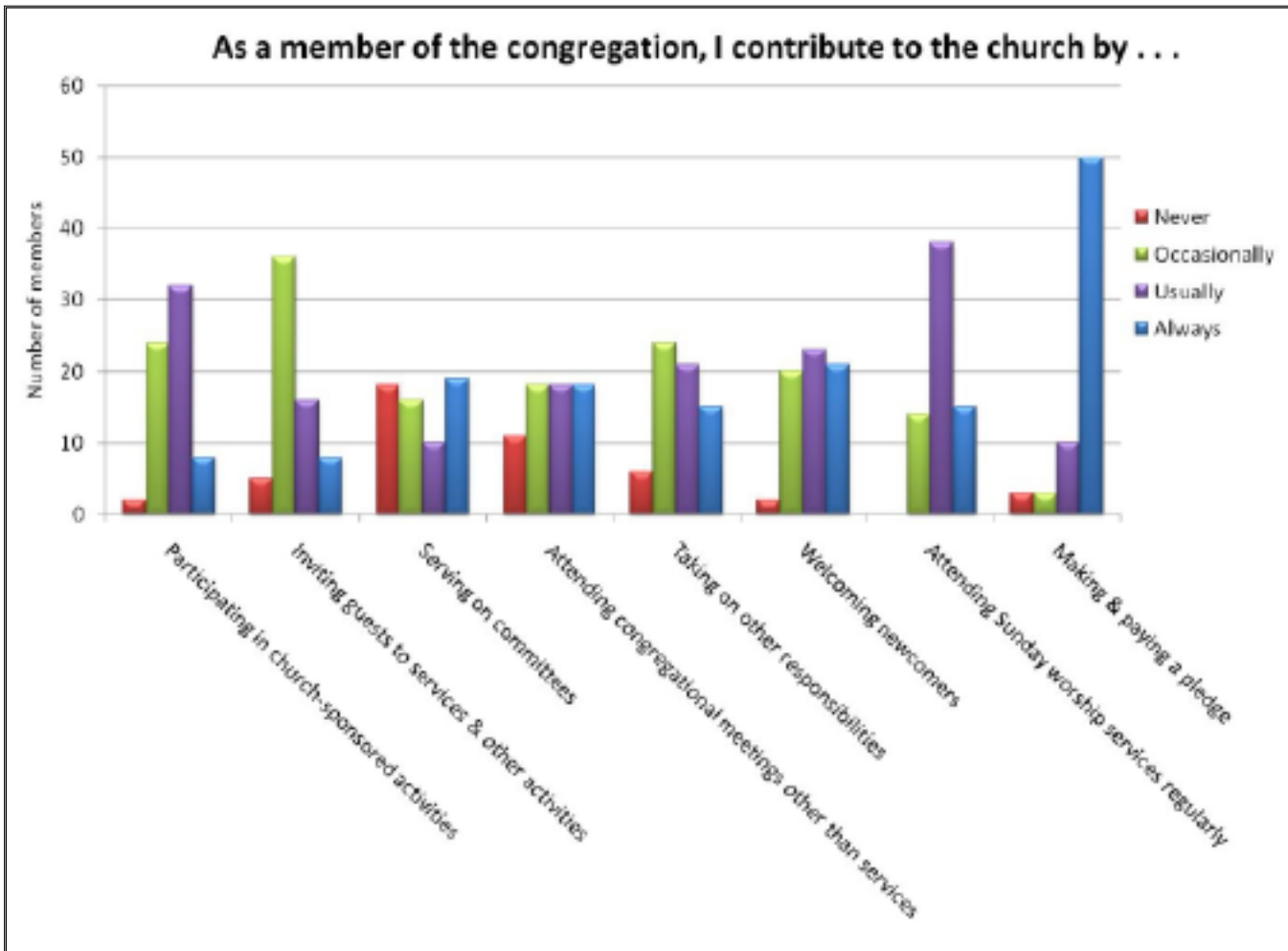
In March 2008, the Committee on Ministry (COM) surveyed members of Westside Unitarian Universalist

Church with regard to how well the church is doing, how well the members are doing, and how well our minister is doing in upholding the vision and goals of the church. Sixty-eight members responded to this year's survey and a brief summary of the survey responses follows.



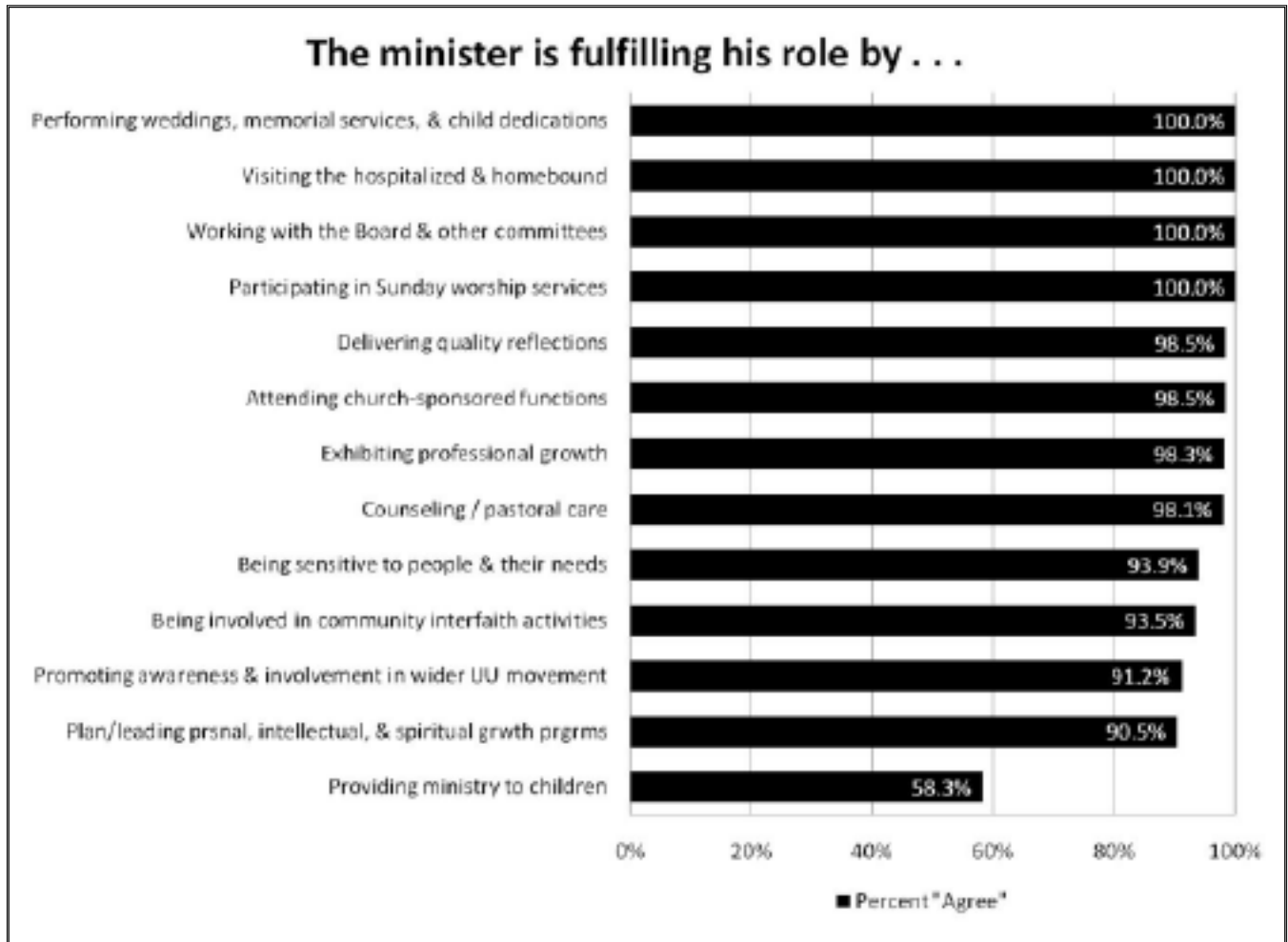
With regard to how well the church is doing, responses were largely positive. "Providing meaningful religious education for children" had the highest number of "agree" responses. A few categories indicated potential concerns for a few members: "Attracting diversity to our congregation", "Acknowledging financial contributions to the church", and "Addressing social justice". With regard to diversity and social justice,

it was the COM's opinion that semantics factored heavily into how members responded to these questions. "Diversity" might be read strictly as racial diversity or more broadly in terms of sexual orientation, age, geography, etc. Similarly "social justice" for some might be limited to a visible level of activism, and others might define it more broadly to include financial support and community service.



With regard to how members rated themselves, there were no obvious areas of concern. Members overwhelmingly rated themselves highest in the category of “Making and paying a pledge”. The

category of “Serving on committees” elicited nearly equal negative and positive responses and members were very positive in the “Welcoming newcomers” category.



*HERE IN AMERICA WE  
ARE DESCENDED IN  
BLOOD AND IN SPIRIT  
FROM REVOLUTIONISTS  
AND REBELS - MEN AND  
WOMEN WHO DARE TO  
DISSENT FROM AC-  
CEPTED DOCTRINE. AS  
THEIR HEIRS, MAY WE  
NEVER CONFUSE HONEST  
DISSENT WITH DISLOYAL  
SUBVERSION.*

- DWIGHT D.  
EISENHOWER

With regard to how well the minister was fulfilling his role, there were no areas of serious concern. In fact, there was only one negative response in two categories: "Delivering quality reflections" and "Being sensitive to people and their needs". Comments in this section were almost universally positive and all but one question item showed improvement from the previous survey. COM considered the results overwhelmingly positive with regard to the minister.

There were multiple opportunities throughout the survey for members to provide comments. A few expressed frustration with the survey's limitations

on responses and indicated the need for a "could improve" category or indicated they were using the "neutral" response to indicate as much. In number, comments were largely positive. Integration of new members was a recurring theme of concern (from new and old members), however many lauded the welcoming nature of the church.

The survey results, in more detail, were shared with the Board of Directors and the COM plans to share specific results with committee chairs as needed. Overall, the COM was very pleased with the results of the survey and wants to thank all who took the time to participate.

# Westiders Join Memory Walk

Westsider Jane Palmer is serving as captain of the Westside Team which is joining in the Fort Worth “Memory Walk”, an annual event which raises money and public awareness on behalf of the Alzheimer’s Association. This will be a 3-mile walk on October 18th. Walkers will meet at 8 a.m. at La Grave Field. Jane is motivated to do this in honor of her mother, now in her tenth year with the disease. She dragged Charles along for the ride. Charlie Ogilvie was next to join the team, having served as his wife’s primary caretaker for the first seven years of her ordeal with Alzheimer’s. John Huffman (walking to honor Robert Huffman and Roy G. Huffman), and Diane Jones soon followed. By publication time, we hope to have other walkers. We are hoping to make this an annual Westside tradition and to see more participants each year.

Many Westside members wished to participate but could not. These people (and all) are encouraged to sponsor any of these walkers by making a donation online. Simply follow these steps:

1. Go online to <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=264237>
2. Click on “Find a Walker”.
3. Enter any walker’s name.
4. Follow instructions to make a donation.

Of course, walkers will happily accept your donations in cash or checks made payable to the Alzheimer’s Association. There is still time to join the team too. Just follow these steps:

1. Go online to <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=264237>
2. Click on “Join a Team”.
3. Enter “Jane Palmer”.
4. Follow instructions from there.

Walkers will be celebrating after the walk at Joe T. Garcia’s on North Main Street.

# Mardi Gras Party and Auction Saturday, February 21

Planning is underway for this highlight of Westside’s church year. At the event, you will have the opportunity to support Westside by your presence and participation in the social aspects of the evening, and/or your purchase of dinner tickets, and/or your participation in the live and/or silent auction. In the next few months, you may contribute to this event by making a personal donation of goods and/or services, and/or by suggesting or soliciting contributions from others in our larger community. Many choices are available, and therefore many options for participation. All suggestions are welcome!

We look forward to sharing this with you all!

Brenda Baldwin and Mary Noer, Auction Co-Chairs.

# Good Food, Good Information, and Good Friends

Westside celebrated our end-of-Summer “gathering together” on September 7 with a before-church brunch and committee fair. The bulk of the outstanding food and exquisite set-up were provided by volunteers Linda Ice, Myron Ice, and Brenda Baldwin. Several other volunteers, too numerous to count or to recognize individually, but most appreciated, helped with food preparation, set-up, and clean-up. The buffet offerings were interwoven with committee displays, and the committees did a great job of providing information as diners made their way through the buffet line. The dining area buzzed with vibrant conversation as folks greeted and connected or reconnected with one another. It was another wonderful day at Westside!

THE WESTSIDE STORY  
OCTOBER 2008

*DO NOT SEPARATE TEXT FROM HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. IF YOU DO, YOU WILL HAVE PERVERTED AND SUBVERTED THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH CAN ONLY END IN A DISTORTED, BASTARDIZED FORM OF ILLEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT.*

– JAMES MADISON

*ALL THAT SEEMS INDISPENSIBLE IN STATING THE ACCOUNT BETWEEN THE DEAD AND THE LIVING, IS TO SEE THAT THE DEBTS AGAINST THE LATTER DO NOT EXCEED THE ADVANCES MADE BY THE FORMER.*

– JAMES MADISON

*ALL MEN HAVING POWER OUGHT TO BE DISTRUSTED TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.*

– JAMES MADISON

## Westside UUC Service Project News

Here is your month in the Westside UUC service project program! Each month, undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. During the month of September, the undesignated plate offering supported our own poverty relief project known as the Kennedy Micro Lending Fund. This fund and its managing group were established in honor of our beloved late member, Gino Kennedy, who expressed a heartfelt desire to make a difference in this world through helping relieve poverty. The fund's original seed money has been distributed and the project has been such a success that the board supports the infusion of September's monthly plate offering for that purpose. The Kennedy Micro Lending Fund partners with KIVA.org as the manager of the loan distribution and collections. More can be learned about KIVA and our group at the web site [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org).

For the month of October, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Now Is the Time" initiative. In this second year of a five-year campaign to grow our faith, "Now Is the Time" will partner with print and Web information channels to inform readers about

UU and current religious & ethical issues. This effort marks the UUA's first wide scale campaign to promote Unitarian Universalism via national media in fifty years. Our month long service project supports this marketing effort by expanding upon October's "Association Sunday" (a day during which thousands of UUs across the nation, including those assembled at Westside, will simultaneously celebrate our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism), making each Sunday in October an "Association Sunday."

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](mailto: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!

*ECONOMIC DEPRESSION  
CANNOT BE CURED BY  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION  
OR EXECUTIVE PRO-  
NOUNCEMENT. ECO-  
NOMIC WOUNDS MUST BE  
HEALED BY THE ACTION  
OF THE CELLS OF THE  
ECONOMIC BODY - THE  
PRODUCERS AND CON-  
SUMERS THEMSELVES.*

*- HERBERT HOOVER*

*BLESSED ARE THE  
YOUNG FOR THEY SHALL  
INHERIT THE NATIONAL  
DEBT.*

*- HERBERT HOOVER*

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
JULY-08	Clinica Esperanza	\$1,149.78

# Sunday Services

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**October 5 - “Freethought Month,” by Shelly Hattan.**

**October 12 - “Now is the Time!” by Dr. Russell Elleven.** Our monthly collection in October goes to the Unitarian Universalist Associations campaign called Now is the Time. Russell will reflect about this campaign and what it means to our movement and to Westside.

**October 19 - “How Evolved Are We?” by Dr. Russell Elleven.** Westsiders are a fairly evolved group of people. We do not typically follow the herd, but go our own way. How is this a blessing for our congregation? How is this a curse? Russell will give his opinion this Sunday and nothing less than the survival of our congregation is at stake!.

**October 26 - “The Punisher” by Dr. Russell Elleven.** We know that religion has the potential to be a powerful force in our lives. It can also be cruel and unusual in its punishment. Have you been punished by religion? Russell will offer his observations.

**If you like coffee and snacks at church, hear this!** Paul McClellan needs help for coffee and snacks the last two weeks of October and first two weeks of November. He already has helpers for two of the Sundays and needs the other two Sundays filled. Please email him at pclaypool@yahoo.com or call 817-556-9458.

## Adult Forum

**October 5 – 9:45 a.m. – “Current Events”** meets in the east room off the vestibule.

**October 12 -- 9:45 a.m. – A DVD of Bill Moyers’ presentation** of the talking heads of rightwing hate and the terrible killings in the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville. Part of the UU

minister’s remarks on the shooting is also included. This show of Moyers was shunted off to midnight on September 12 by KERA and few people watched it. It is 22 minutes in length and there will be lots of time for discussion.

**October 19 – 9:45 a.m. -- “Current Events”.**

**October 26 – 9:45 a.m. – Spirit of Life Discussion Group** - Our summer series of Spirit of Life workshops has ended, but we will continue and expand on some of the material covered in the workshops. Participation in the Spirit of Life workshop series is not a prerequisite for this discussion group. Everyone’s welcome. Please look in your Order of Service insert and the Weekly Web for the topic of discussion and format for October 26, as it had not been chosen at the time of the newsletter deadline.

## Children’s RE

**Teen Ropes Course Event!** Our teenagers will be meeting after church on Oct. 26th to go to Camp Carter YMCA for team building Ropes course activities! This event is a blast that no teen will want to miss! Please contact our DRE Julie Tribble (817-924-MYUU) or WestsideUU.org to let her know you are attending, as we must have reservations. The event will be paid for with the funds the youth have collected from their Parent’s Night Out and T-Shirt sale fundraisers.

## ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Our favorite party of the year is almost here! On October 25 from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the church, we will have the best Halloween party yet! There will be carnival games, group and relay games, music and dancing, “spooky” food, a piñata, and maybe even a haunted house put together by our teens! Don’t forget to wear your costume! All ages are welcome – please come join us! Call Mary Noer (817-249-7341) with any questions or if you are interested in helping out.

*THE WESTSIDE STORY  
OCTOBER 2008*

*CERTAINLY IN THE  
NEXT 50 YEARS WE  
SHALL SEE A WOMAN  
PRESIDENT, PERHAPS  
SOONER THAN YOU  
THINK. A WOMAN CAN  
AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
DO ANY POLITICAL JOB  
THAT A MAN CAN DO.*

*– RICHARD M. NIXON*

*IN THE LONG TERM  
WE CAN HOPE THAT  
RELIGION WILL CHANGE  
THE NATURE OF MAN  
AND REDUCE CONFLICT.  
BUT HISTORY IS NOT  
ENCOURAGING IN THIS  
RESPECT. THE BLOODI-  
EST WARS IN HISTORY  
HAVE BEEN RELIGIOUS  
WARS.*

*– RICHARD M. NIXON*

## UNICEF TRICK OR TREAT!

After our awesome Halloween party, the party-revelers will be hitting the streets in their costumes to raise money for UNICEF. We will go door-to-door in the Ryan Place neighborhood in groups. This is a lot of fun, for a good cause, and also helps our neighbors get to know us! Please come join us on Sat, Oct. 26th at 4:30pm, whether or not you can make it to the Halloween Party.

**PLEASE NOTE:** On Oct. 12th, most of our teachers and students will be absent from church as we will be attending our fall church camping trip. There will still be nursery childcare available, and our DRE Julie Tribble will hold one class for ages 4-12. Our regular classes will continue to meet every Sunday after Oct. 12th.

## IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

### YOUR ELECTED LEADERS

We previously provided short biographies on most of your newly installed Board of Directors. The following will give you a little background on your last two directors, Brenda McKeon and John Nagely.

### BRENDA MCKEON, DIRECTOR

Brenda 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 15. I was elected secretary in my twenties.

I came to Westside in the mid-1990's, when it was first getting started. In 2000 and 2001, I served as president. Now, in 2008, the church has again elected me to the board, and I look forward to serving and to getting to know each of you. I hope you will let me know how I can best represent you and bring your ideas to the board.

*A BUREAUCRAT IS A  
DEMOCRAT WHO HOLDS  
SOME OFFICE THAT A  
REPUBLICAN WANTS.*

- HARRY S. TRUMAN

*IT'S A RECESSION WHEN  
YOUR NEIGHBOR LOSES  
HIS JOB; IT'S A DEPRES-  
SION WHEN YOU LOSE  
YOURS.*

- HARRY S. TRUMAN

### JOHN NAGELY, DIRECTOR

John discovered Unitarian Universalism in 1961, while learning about other religions in his Lutheran Sunday School Class. He attended several UU Churches over the years, finally joining Westside in 1998. John married his wife Lois in 1969, and the Air Force subsequently moved them to Fort Worth. John and Lois have two adult children, both of whom reside in Fort Worth. John took real estate courses at TCU to prepare him for his long time vocation in the field. John says that Westside not only made him feel welcome, but also welcomed his wife Lois, even though she belongs to another church.

John has been active on the Westside Membership Committee for seven years, and believes that "... expansion and growth are the life blood of this church." He has found this a great time to be active in this amazing congregation. John represents the church in several nearby neighborhood organizations, and readily expresses excitement about our great new building and our fantastic minister. He is honored to have been elected to our Board of Directors.

### WESTSIDE STORY LOOKING FOR NEXT DESIGNER/DISTRIBUTOR

ERIC STEVENS WILL BE FINISHING  
OUT TWO YEARS AS THE DESIGNER  
& DISTRIBUTOR OF OUR  
WESTSIDE STORY NEWSLETTER  
AT THE END OF 2008. WE ARE  
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE  
OVER DUTIES STARTING IN  
DECEMBER.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:  
DESIGN & LAYOUT  
EASY PRINTING AT KINKO'S  
STAMPING, LABELING & MAILING

PLEASE CONTACT ERIC AT  
MAIL@ERICKSTEVENS.COM  
OR JANICE THE EDITOR AT  
JANICE\_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET

**2008 ANNUAL CROP WALK FOR HUNGER!** On Oct. 19th, the Church World Service (which is made up of many churches, including UUs) will be holding their annual CROP walk for hunger, to raise money for local and national food banks. Last year our church had 28 walkers show up – the second most of all groups! We also raised close to \$500! Please talk to Mary Noer (817-249-7341) or [terrynoer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:terrynoer@sbcglobal.net) and volunteer to either walk (it is 5K) or sponsor someone who will be walking. Mary will have sign-up sheets at church for both ways to participate. This is a wonderful intergenerational event, and a great way to get to know each other as we walk. **WE WALK BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO!**

### **WORKERS NEEDED!**

There will be a church work day on Saturday October 4, 2008 starting at 9:00 am. During this workday we would like to accomplish some grounds work and “sprucing up” the inside of the church. Everyone with special talents in gardening, cleaning, and painting would be a wonderful help! Breakfast and cold beverages will be provided! All ages are welcomed! If you have any questions contact Gene McKeon (building chair).

## Where’s Russell in October?

Russell will be out of town the week that ends September and begins October. Officially he will be gone September 29th through October 6th. He will facilitate Joys & Concerns all of the remaining Sundays at Westside and will also deliver reflections those days as well (12th, 19th, and 26th). October office hours follow:

Tuesday, October 7, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Thursday, October 9, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, October 14, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Thursday, October 16, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, October 21, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Thursday, October 23 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, October 28, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Thursday, October 30, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Call him at home first (817-370-2171) and then try Westside (817-924-6988). If there is no answer, it merely means he is visiting with another Westsider. Just leave a message and he will return your call as soon as possible.

## “Come Sing a Song...”

“Come Sing a Song...” with Cathy McConnell and the rest of the Westside choir. The choir sings every other week. Email Cathy at [clmcc7@yahoo.com](mailto:clmcc7@yahoo.com) for information.

### **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).

## Relationship Enhancement Group (REG)

Gayle and Russell continue to 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 (October 18th). 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](http://www.rke.cc) for additional information.

*THE WESTSIDE STORY*  
OCTOBER 2008

*GOVERNMENT IS NOT  
REASON; IT IS NOT  
ELOQUENT; IT IS FORCE.  
LIKE FIRE, IT IS A DAN-  
GEROUS SERVANT AND A  
FEARFUL MASTER.*

– GEORGE WASHINGTON

*ARBITRARY POWER IS  
MOST EASILY ESTAB-  
LISHED ON THE RUINS  
OF LIBERTY ABUSED TO  
LICENTIOUSNESS.*

– GEORGE WASHINGTON

*LET US WITH CAUTION  
INDULGE THE SUPPOSI-  
TION THAT MORALITY  
CAN BE MAINTAINED  
WITHOUT RELIGION.  
REASON AND EXPERI-  
ENCE BOTH FORBID US  
TO EXPECT THAT NA-  
TIONAL MORALITY CAN  
PREVAIL IN EXCLUSION  
OF RELIGIOUS PRIN-  
CIPLE.*

– GEORGE WASHINGTON

WE WILL HAVE CHILDCARE in October. However, we must know if your child or children will need care. PLEASE let Russell (relleven@gmail.com) know if you are attending and in need of childcare.

### HELP!

Paid babysitters needed during church functions. Most of the functions are held at night or on Saturdays. If you are interested please call Sandy Olah at 817-988-4714 or email at sansolah@sbcglobal.net

### REMEMBER THIS.

The RE program accepts ink jet cartridges, and now toner cartridges as well as Epson inkjet cartridges, for recycling. We submit them to Empties 4 Cash and in return, we receive funds for RE programming and supplies.

*NOBODY BUT RADICALS  
HAVE EVER ACCOM-  
PLISHED ANYTHING IN A  
GREAT CRISIS.*

- JAMES A. GARFIELD

*WHOEVER CONTROLS  
THE VOLUME OF MONEY  
IN ANY COUNTRY IS AB-  
SOLUTE MASTER OF ALL  
INDUSTRY AND COM-  
MERCE.*

- JAMES A. GARFIELD

*A POUND OF PLUCK IS  
WORTH A TON OF LUCK.*

- JAMES A. GARFIELD

*ALL FREE GOVERN-  
MENTS ARE MANAGED  
BY THE COMBINED  
WISDOM AND FOLLY OF  
THE PEOPLE.*

- JAMES A. GARFIELD

## Wanted: UU Penpals for UU Prisoners

Looking for a social justice project that UUs can do alone or in groups, in their own homes, whenever it's convenient? Over 400 prisoners have joined the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) seeking liberal spiritual support by mail. About half of them are writing to a (non-incarcerated) UU 'penpal' through CLF's "Letter Writing Ministry", but dozens more CLF prisoner-members are still on the waitlist.

All letters are sent through the mail (so UUs without email can still participate), and all letters from prisoners are forwarded through CLF's prison ministry (prisoners are told only their penpal's first name). The CLF's prison ministry staff makes the 'matches' and remains available for advice/support. Individual UUs are welcome to apply, or a group of UUs from the same congregation can apply and ask to be 'matched' all at the same time (if they want to form an ongoing study/support group).

Please visit CLF's website [www.clfuu.org/prisonministry](http://www.clfuu.org/prisonministry) to review the Guidelines for the Letter Writing Ministry and request an info-application packet, or write to the CLF Prison Ministry, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108 [PrisMin@clfuu.org](mailto:PrisMin@clfuu.org)

## New Faces

### DEREK REDING

Derek Reding is about to graduate with a PhD in Aerospace Engineering from Georgia Tech. His thesis is on shock induced chemical reactions in energetic structural materials. He aspires to be a professor with specialization in explosives and shock physics. His father is a mechanical engineer and he knows a lot about computers! Derek's mother is an author and owns her own business. His brother is about to become a Mormon, so sad.

Hobbies include mountain climbing, rock climbing, pipe carving, and making beer. His most impressive talent is surviving his thesis adviser. Also, he can perform full lotus position without using his hands and he can put his legs behind his head.

Derek had a spiritual crisis and decided that he needed to search for a community. After a couple of weeks at the Baptist church, he found that he disagreed with much of what they said. He heard that Unitarians were much different and non-dogmatic. He was amazed with the freedom permitted within the church. Derek found the people at Westside to be highly intelligent and free from the crutches of fear that seem to support most religious communities. Within this freedom, he discovered people who were non-judgmental and eager to help unconditionally.

We have not yet received the material for a biography from Derek's wife, Chiung-Hsia Hung, and look forward to publishing it in a later issue of the newsletter.

Derek Reding  
gtg655n@mail.gatech.edu  
678-662-8020  
3834 Murray Ct.  
Fort Worth, 76107

## **NATHAN DAY**

*by Reed Bilz*

Nathan Day, who is originally from Abilene, came to Westside through our Dinners for 9. His work schedule keeps him from church most Sundays but he comes when he can. He is also interested in helping us form an Interweave at Westside.

The work that keeps Nathan from us is as a PBX operator at Baylor All Saints. He previously has worked in radio and television.

Nathan's family consists of one cat named Molly. He is also a new uncle as of April 8 of this year (so he has family other than the cat).

Friends brought him to Westside and he stayed because of the great people he found there. He decided that the church was a match for him. We feel the same.

Nathan Day  
nday72@gmail.com  
817-602-2081  
1321 Tennis, apt O  
Bedford, 76022

## **JEFF BULLOCK**

Jeff Bullock has been a member here at Westside for less than six months, and he has quickly become a part of the life of the church. He is on the membership committee, and is always willing to help in any way that he can.

Born in Harris Hospital, Jeff has lived in Fort Worth all of his life. He has a loving, caring and supportive mother, a great stepfather, two sisters, one brother, five nieces and two nephews. Jeff's household now includes fourteen-year-old Genevieve, and four-year old Katie – both of whom are cats.

Jeff's interests and hobbies include gardening, photography, computer graphics, and most anything to do with the computer that doesn't involve programming. He loves to travel, and working for American Airlines enables him to go to interesting places near and far. He has been with American Airlines for 22 years, the last 17 in international tariff/rate desk. He finds his job interesting and challenging and always changing.

He is very involved in causes at work and has served on several committees involved in improving the quality of work life. These committees and other forums have given Jeff the opportunity to work one-on-one with different workgroups, top company executives and everyone in between. Jeff says his most memorable experience was the "March on Washington" in June 2005 "where 300 American Airlines employees marched on Washington lobbying pension reform. I represented independent workgroups when I delivered a speech alongside union leaders and the company CEO. I also called on Sen. John Kerry's office to deliver our message."

"My dear friend Diane Jones had been sharing with me for quite some time what she had found in Westside and was eager for me to find out for myself. I must admit I was somewhat skeptical at first but decided to give it a try. I essentially immediately found visiting Westside a very positive experience."

In Jeff's words, the things he likes best about Westside are, "The diversity of beliefs and the fellowship shared together and the wealth of knowledge shared in the process. I do feel my spiritual needs met and uplifted every time I walk in the church doors or meet with a group of members."

When asked why he decided to join, Jeff replied, "Honestly, the new member workshop clinched the deal. This program is truly exceptional and I recommend it to everyone considering church membership. It truly answers all the questions you might have."

*THE WESTSIDE STORY*  
*OCTOBER 2008*

*IT IS NOT STRANGE... TO  
MISTAKE CHANGE FOR  
PROGRESS.*

*- MILLARD FILLMORE*

Westside is fortunate to have Jeff as one of our new members. His enthusiasm and willingness to help wherever he is needed have made him a valued member of our group.

Jeffrey Bullock  
j3ffb@sbcglobal.net  
817-308-0463  
1412 Randol Crossing Lane #509  
Fort Worth, 76120

## JOSEPH AND SANDRA BRUNO

by Beverly Archibald

The Bruno family, Sandy, Joe and daughter Ashley, came to Texas from Connecticut. They had been taking a little vacation from church, and Ashley's encouragement (nagging?) prompted them to search for a church where they would find a fit – and Westside works for them.

They are very pleased with the sermon structure – having the children participate for part of the ceremony and then, having them go off for religious education while the adults remain. Russell's reflections are thought-provoking and very well done. Gayle's welcoming nature especially made a very positive impression!

Both Joe and Sandy were born in New York; Joe was raised Catholic, and Sandy has a Jewish mother and a Catholic father. Joe graduated from State University of New York with a Bachelors Degree in Engineering. Sandy graduated from University of Pennsylvania with both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Nursing.

Years ago, Joe became frustrated with having to commute to work simply to sit in front of a computer. He started advocating the idea of telecommuting, but none of the companies he worked for supported this idea. He decided to take it upon himself to make the change he felt so strongly about. Consequently, he started his own business five years ago, Flight Tooling Systems. He works from home, specializing in design, manufacturing, modification, and support of aerospace products. This year, he added aircraft part fabrication to the list of services he provides. Boeing, Sikorsky,

Northrop Grumman, and GKN Aerospace are some of his clients.

Sandy spent ten years as a clinical specialist/APRN in psychiatric mental health. She has managed a mental health outreach program. She also worked directly with patients--providing therapy, ordering lab tests and medications, doing crisis evaluations, etc. Sandy has authored several journal articles and two university textbook chapters. Additionally, she has conducted numerous presentations and classes. Currently, Sandy, who "absolutely loves being a mom," homeschools Ashley and provides assistance with Joe's business. Sandy keeps trying to get back into running (she ran six full marathons before motherhood). She is also a black belt in karate, although she no longer is active in the martial arts. Sandy's favorite new activity is participating in a wonderful book club.

Ashley turned nine this month and is in fourth grade. She says her favorite subjects are spelling and math. Ashley's passion is definitely ballet; she has been dancing since age three. Last year, she auditioned for and performed in *The Nutcracker* at Bass Hall. Ashley's other interests include Girl Scouts, summer swim team (her favorite competitive stroke is the butterfly), classical music, animals, reading, crafts, and art. She recently won 1st place in her age group in a town art contest. This is the fourth art contest she has entered in the last few years, and she placed in all of them, from 3rd place to Best in Show. Ashley hopes to become a marine biologist and whale trainer one day.

The Bruno family has a big dream. They will build a green home on a large plot of land and enjoy a sustainable lifestyle.

## ANDREA PETTY & JAMES FINN

by Beverly Archibald

Andrea and James, with their children Colin and Chloe Finn, are a recent addition to the Westside church family. They are both from Fort Worth, but have lived in many different places, and actually met while on an archaeology dig.

*THERE NEVER WAS  
A TIME WHEN, IN MY  
OPINION, SOME WAY  
COULD NOT BE FOUND  
TO PREVENT THE DRAW-  
ING OF THE SWORD.*

- ULYSSES S. GRANT

*LEAVE THE MATTER  
OF RELIGION TO THE  
FAMILY ALTAR, THE  
CHURCH, AND THE PRI-  
VATE SCHOOL, SUPPORT-  
ED ENTIRELY BY PRIVATE  
CONTRIBUTIONS. KEEP  
THE CHURCH AND STATE  
FOREVER SEPARATE.*

- ULYSSES S. GRANT

*IT WAS MY FORTUNE,  
OR MISFORTUNE, TO BE  
CALLED TO THE OFFICE  
OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
WITHOUT ANY PREVIOUS  
POLITICAL TRAINING.*

- ULYSSES S. GRANT

Andrea was a Navy Junior, so traveled all over the country with her father. She says that she was “unchurched” her entire life since she never really found a church where she fit in.

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 working in restaurants, has built and run a wine bar, and has worked as crew for commercials as well as being a part time stage hand.

Currently home schooling her children, Andrea has an MA in Museum Science from Texas Tech and spent her working career (before kids) in museum work – at the Kimbell and the 6th Floor Museum, managing audio tour installations. She has been at home since the birth of her children (who, incidentally, were born at home).

Both Andrea and James enjoy cooking and traveling, with James also enjoying wine tasting and education, while Andrea says she likes to “read, read, read!”

A friend recommended Westside to Andrea. When she came, she liked “the warm welcome; relaxed atmosphere; sincerity and the diverse mix of people”. She says, “I felt very comfortable at Westside. I wanted a nurturing place for myself, my husband and my kids.”

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.”

We welcome Andrea and James to Westside.

Andrea Petty and James Finn  
5800 Tourist Drive  
Fort Worth, 76117  
817-838-2007  
finncrowd@charter.net

## Social Activities

### CONTEMPORARY BOOK GROUP

will meet after church on October 26 to discuss the runaway best seller *Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. Everyone is welcome. The November book will be the engaging *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Hanratty or Reed Bilz.

### AFTER CHURCH LUNCH BUNCH

meets immediately after Sunday services every Sunday except potluck Sundays. They will be going to the Luby's on Eighth Avenue for lunch after church until further notice.

### HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH

will meet October 8 at 7 pm at the church. Joel Bailey will talk about and compare two great free-thinkers of our Revolutionary period, Thomas Paine and Ethan Allen.

All are welcome to HOFW meetings.

### WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS

will meet October 8 at 6:30 at the church to discuss Chapters 1 through 23 of Genesis, King James Version. All are welcome to attend Great Books as well.

### DINNERS FOR 9

will be on Saturday October 11th. Anyone who has not signed up should do so by October 5th. It is a great way to meet new members and make new friends. You can sign up on the Westside Web page or by email me at pclaypool@yahoo.com. If you have questions please feel free to email me.

- Paul McClellan, Social Co-Chair

*WE AMERICANS HAVE  
NO COMMISSION FROM  
GOD TO POLICE THE  
WORLD.*

- BENJAMIN HARRISON

*AMERICA IS NOT JUST A  
POWER, IT IS A PROMISE.  
IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR  
OUR COUNTRY TO BE EX-  
TRAORDINARY IN MIGHT;  
IT MUST BE EXEMPLARY  
IN MEANING.*

- NELSON  
ROCKEFELLER

PLEASE SUBMIT  
ITEMS FOR NOVEMBER  
NEWSLETTER TO  
JANICE\_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET  
BY OCTOBER 20.

# 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>
August 3	101	--	111
August 10	115	15	130
August 17	104	12	116
August 24	108	14	122
August 31	116	15	131
<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>122</b>

## *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](mailto: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.