



the westside story

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

Thanksgiving Baskets for our Neighbors

This year, Westside UU Church will again be participating through South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) in providing Thanksgiving dinners to needy people in our neighborhood. SCAC will purchase the turkeys, for which the clients will pay \$5.00 if they are able to do so. In 2008, SCAC provided food to 405 families at Thanksgiving. Families ranged in size from one person — usually elderly — to 10 or 12 — with children!

In 2008, Westside provided 30 bags. This year, we have committed to fill 42 grocery bags. Last year, Brenda Baldwin provided reusable “green” bags for the grocery. Do we have a volunteer who would like to provide the bags this year? Each bag will contain the following items:

- 1 15-16 oz can cranberry sauce
- 1 15-16 oz can chicken broth
- 1 15 oz can corn
- 1 14 oz bag stuffing mix (or 2 4 oz boxes) Pepperidge Farm, StoveTop or equivalent
- 1 15 oz can green beans
- 1 15 oz can yams
- 1 small box tea bags or drink mix
- 1 15 oz can fruit
- 1 box cake mix (for 13” x 9” cake)
- 1 3 or 6 oz pkg jello
- 1 pkg icing for cake (ready to use)

There will be a display on a table in the narthex starting on October 25 from which you will be able to choose the items you would like to provide. These items are due at church by Sunday, November 15. We will also need a small group of volunteers to fill the bags on November 22. Jay and Suzie Lotven have agreed to take the bags to SCAC on November 23.

SCAC has stressed that it is very important that we stick to the sizes requested. Larger families will be given two bags. Also, SCAC is only allowed to give out food in its original packaging. For example, you may not buy a larger box of tea bags and repackage them into smaller units.

So – please, buy only the sizes requested. And be sure your grocery items are not past the “sell by” or “use by” date, as SCAC is not allowed to give out outdated items. Also, please do not leave plastic or paper bags at the church when you bring your items.

Volunteers are needed to interview people to determine who is eligible and who is not for the Thanksgiving baskets – every Tuesday in October and the first Tuesday in November. It will be from 10 am to noon. There is an interview form and I am told it is not hard to do.

Volunteers will be needed at SCAC again on Tuesday, November 24 between 1 and 5 pm to hand out the turkeys and bags to the families. If you want to would like to volunteer, or have

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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.

any questions about this program please call Beverly Archibald at 817-346-3303, or the Lotvens at 817-927-7213.

Your participation in this effort will be very much appreciated. It's a great way for Westside members and friends to fulfill our mission of making "a positive difference in the lives of our members, our families, and the world at large through supportive relationships, religious exploration, and social action".

The SCAC (and Westside's) Christmas project, the Angel Tree, needs volunteers this year on Saturday, October 24, at 9 am for about 3 hours. This is again, to determine eligibility and to get the age and size information on the children as well as their gift wish. Westside must provide two volunteers in order for us to be able to take part in the Angel Tree.

*Today you are You,
that is truer than
true. There is no
one alive who is
Youer than You.*

-Dr. Seuss

*The soundest
argument will
produce no more
conviction in an
empty head than
the most superficial
declamation; as a
feather and a
guinea fall with
equal velocity in a
vacuum.*

-Charles Caleb
Colton

*It is a trick among
the dishonest to
offer sacrifices that
are not needed, or
not possible, to
avoid making those
that are required.*

-Ivan Goncharov

in & around westside

Westside forms new social action committee

At Westside we can take our UU values into the community through social action. We are already participating in the service aspect of this endeavor. Now we are forming a new committee which will address the other four ways of providing social action. Please join the Social Witness Committee.

Five Types of Social Action

1. SERVICE: The purpose of social service is to meet the needs of persons in distress. This is being done by our Social Justice Committee.

2. EDUCATION: The purpose of social education is to inform people about the aspects of the issues and also interpret the issue within the context of liberal religious values by workshops, public meetings, sermons, etc.

3. WITNESS: The purpose of social witness is to make public our UU convictions regarding a particular issue, such as participating in demonstrations, vigils and marches, writing letters to newspapers, etc.

4. ADVOCACY: The purpose of advocacy is to work through the legislative process to impact on public policy by writing letters, visiting elected officials, etc.

5. COMMUNITY ORGANIZING: The purpose of community organizing is to gain strength and power through groups to influence decisions that will change situations. Methods include developing a strong organization, influencing policy and decision-makers, and empowering people so they can achieve self-determination.

To learn more check out the UUA website at www.uua.org/csw.

Sunday Services

October 4th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Association Sunday" In the third and final installment of Association Sunday the Unitarian Universalist Association works with the theme "Growing Our Diversity." Russell will offer his thoughts for the day.

October 11th - Joel Burns, "National Coming Out Day". Joel Burns, our city councilman here in Ryan Place, and the first openly gay Fort Worth city councilman, will be speaking with us for National Coming Out Day.

October 18th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Is There Another Way". Sometimes we are in relationship with others who only see one way to address a situa-

tion. Aren't there bound to be other options? Come to Westside for potluck and to see how Russell responds to this question.

October 25th - David Broiles, TBA. David is a former president of the Fort Worth chapter of the ACLU.

Adult Forum - Sunday Morning

Current events discussion group continues each Sunday 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.

New Opportunity

Are you interested in "How Your Church Family Works", and/or in participating in a discussion group facilitated by our minister? If yes, or just curious, please attend an organizational meeting on Sunday, October 4 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. In that meeting, Dr. Elleven will share his thoughts on how this group is to function. The group will meet on Sunday mornings, probably once per month, or as decided on October 4.

In "How Your Church Family Works", the author, Peter L. Steinke, clearly states the church is not a family. However, there are significant patterns that parallel family dynamics, and in many

metaphoric senses, church communities are meant to be a family. Thus, looking at the emotional dynamics of family units gives some insight. Topics include systems theory, emotional systems, behaviors, change, anxiety, crisis and health.

RE News

Don't miss Julie Tribble's RE News. It comes after the regular newsletter! It's the last two pages of this document (after the page with attendance). You'll learn about Halloween and bake sales and much more, so check it out!

Where's Russell in October?

Russell will be giving reflections at Westside on October 4th and 18th. He will be visiting First Jefferson UU Church on October 11th to deliver a reflection. He will be attending a conference and unavailable from the 20th through the 26th.

Office Hours in October look like this:

Tuesday, October 6th, 9am - 1pm
Thursday, October 8th, 9am - 1pm
Tuesday, October 13th, 9am - 1pm
Thursday, October 15th, 9am - 1pm
Tuesday, October 20th, UNAVAILABLE
Thursday, October 22nd, UNAVAILABLE
Tuesday, October 27th, 9am - 1pm
Thursday, October 29th, 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).

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*If your morals
make you dreary,
depend on it they
are wrong.*

*-Robert Louis
Stevenson*

*Do you wish to
rise? Begin by
descending. You
plan a tower that
will pierce the
clouds? Lay first
the foundation of
humility.*

-St. Augustine

*I have never gone
to sleep with a
grievance against
anyone. And, as far
as I could, I have
never let anyone go
to sleep with a
grievance against
me.*

-Abba Agathon

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)

I find it difficult to feel responsible for the suffering of others. That's why I find war so hard to bear. It's the same with animals: I feel the less harm I do, the lighter my heart. I love a light heart. And when I know I'm causing suffering, I feel the heaviness of it. It's a physical pain. So it's self-interest that I don't want to cause harm.

-Alice Walker

The price we pay for money is paid in liberty.

-Robert Louis Stevenson

He who postpones the hour of living is like the rustic who waits for the river to run out before he crosses.

-Horace

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12-step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. For more information contact Russell at relleven@gmail.com or go to www.rke.cc.

Ethical Eating 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) 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 goes Camping

Remember 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 two hours east of Fort Worth and was home to Charlie Ogilvie for many years. 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 for each child, 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!

Westside Cookbooks for Sale

Westside cookbooks are on sale for \$20 or 5 for \$18 each. They would make wonderful gifts for Christmas, birthdays, bridal showers and weddings. Cookbooks will be on display at entrance of church and in fellowship every Sunday.

Music in the Air

Dace Sultanov is asking for our help with the Fly-In Musicfest to be held on November 7 at Fort Worth Spinks Airport. She is seeking both volunteers and performers. Dace has played for us on many occasions; this gives us an opportunity to help her out in this new venture. It should be a fun day for all involved.

The Fly In Musicfest (www.flying-musicians.org) will start at 8:00 am on Saturday morning, November 7,

2009, and will continue until 6:00 pm at the Fort Worth Spinks Airport. Our own Debbie Aulenbacher will be playing drums with Rae Denton on Native American flute and Paul Warren on guitar. There must be others who would like to be involved in this event -- as performers, vendors, or volunteers.

There will be 2 stages for various types of music groups to perform: country western, blue grass, rock, pop, classical, jazz, etc. Food, crafts, art, jewelry, musical instruments, and many other vendors from all around the area will be there. A variety of aircraft from around the country will be flying in. The local Experimental Aircraft Association chapters will be providing Young Eagle Plane Rides for youngsters, ages 8 to 17.

There will also be opportunities for everyone to fly in warbirds and vintage aircraft, such as, the Pacific Prowler, a B-25 Mitchell Bomber, as well as the C-47 Southern Cross. In the evening there will be spectacular fireworks and airplane flights over downtown Dallas and Fort Worth.

If you know anyone who is interested in volunteering for this event, I will be very happy to assist them with this assignment. They can contact me by email: dace@flyingmusicians.org . We are also in need of sponsors who can provide us with funds to help make this event successful.

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 Books meets October 25 at church after church. We will discuss The Believers by Zoe Heller.

our wider community

Sanders Lecture October 12, 2009

Hardy Sanders was a legendary UU philanthropist both in the metroplex and nationally. He was also passionate about social justice, which is why NTAUUS (North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies) named this lecture after him

The second Sanders Lecture featuring award winning community organizer Ernesto Cortes will be held on Monday, October 12, 2009. Mr. Cortes' presentation "Organizing to Improve Public Schools" will begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Cox Auditorium on the TCU campus, 2820 Stadium Drive, Fort Worth. NTAUUS, a sponsor, cordially invites all the members of Westside UUC to attend this event that is free to the public. The TCU Center for Civic Literacy, Allied Communities of Tarrant, and Fort Worth ISD are also sponsors.

Ernesto Cortes has earned a MacArthur Foundation "Genius" grant for his innovative approaches to community organizing. He has been the

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*Neutrality helps
the oppressor, never
the victim. Silence
encourages the
tormentor, never
the tormented.*

-Elie Wiesel

*Society is composed
of two great classes:
those who have
more dinners than
appetite, and those
who have more
appetite than
dinners.*

*-Sebastien-Roch-
Nicolas de Cham-
fort*

*Is not dread of
thirst when your
well is full, thirst
that is unquench-
able?*

-Khalil Gibran

Southwest regional director of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), the largest and oldest institution for community organizing in the United States (Dahle, 2007). His inspirational discussions of community organizing techniques focus upon core values of his constituents, not just on the hot button issues of the day. Under Cortes' direction, IAF has accomplished over \$1 billion worth of neighborhood improvements in the impoverished areas of San Antonio, TX as well as in border communities along the Rio Grande valley.

Quoting Cortes, "We used to ask whether people were fit for democracy," he explains. "Now we realize that people become fit through democracy. There is an aspect of our humanity that only emerges when we engage those around us in a debate about our own interests. Our organizations have become mini universities for participating in public life." Cortes brings to the Dallas/Fort Worth area this sharp and energetic focus on how we can improve our public schools.

Please join your fellow UUs and concerned citizens in this free NTAUUS sponsored event on October 12, 2009. For information and location of a workshop with Mr. Cortes to be held earlier that day at 8:30 a.m., please call 817-871-2506 to pre-register.

SWUUC 2010 Spring Meeting

Community Unitarian Universalist Church of Plano presents an overview of the spring meeting to be held April 23, 24 and 25.

The theme is "Take a Fresh Look at Your Congregation". The keynote speaker is ANTHONY HEALY, author of *The Post-industrial Promise: Vital Religious Community in the 21st*

Century, published by the Alban Institute. Saturday evening includes a coffeehouse featuring ageless UU troubadour, Lu Mitchell.

Other sessions include

- **Anthony Healy's small group session,**
- **"Reverend X" a Panel of Generation X Ministers,**
- **Planning your Future,**
- **What's Religious about UUism?**
- **What I need in a church home: A panel of young adults, and**
- **A possible trip to the Sixth Floor Museum.**

New Faces

Joseph Villanueva

by Linda Simmons

Joe is one of our newest members. He grew up in Lubbock where he attended high school and then Texas Tech. Similar to many of us, his religious background is varied: born a Catholic, baptized Church of Christ, switched to Unity as time went by, and then...he found Westside. Not too long ago, Russell gave a particular sermon that touched Joe's heart and finalized Joe's decision to become a member. (It was Russell's sermon about his procrastination to write a sermon. Having no motivation or incentive, he was even willing to shovel dog poop in the backyard rather than continue his sermon writing.) Joe currently teaches music at Applied Learning Academy and has raised two daughters and a son.

In addition to the fifteen instruments he plays, Joe entertains children with his puppet show

We all have handicaps. The difference is that some of us must reveal ours, while others must conceal theirs, to be treated with mercy.

-Yahia Lababidi

The door of a bigoted mind opens outwards so that the only result of the pressure of facts upon it is to close it more snugly.

-Ogden Nash

To freely bloom - that is my definition of success.

-Gerry Spence

skirts, and also loves to cook. His backyard greenhouse, where he raises everything from pineapples to avocado plants, contributes nicely to his cooking.

Probably the most unusual of Joe's "interests" is his psychic ability. In 1975 in Lubbock, he solved a murder case by using his rare skill. The case involved a college friend who was murdered on Christmas Eve. When her sister and the girl's ex-boyfriend came by, he sensed foreboding and dread. He told a friend of the feelings he had about the ex-boyfriend. It was forwarded to the police. The ex-boyfriend had bludgeoned her to death in a well house 1/2 block from her home. She was his fiancée.

Joe says that he can usually send energy in his thoughts to someone and wait for them to call him. He "tends to live a few minutes in the future". He says, "Many people are sure they know me from someone, but cannot recall the circumstances."

Joe says he counsels and heals

many people from all walks of life and can communicate with others on the "other side".

Joe lives very close to the church at 3610 Willing Avenue, 76110 and can be reached at 817 343 2732, or by email at joedeprime@yahoo.com.

We welcome you Joe, and certainly look forward to hearing you play your beautiful music with your harp.

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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Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.

-Reinhold Niebuhr

Evil is like a shadow - it has no real substance of its own, it is simply a lack of light. You cannot cause a shadow to disappear by trying to fight it, stamp on it, by railing against it, or any other form of emotional or physical resistance. In order to cause a shadow to disappear, you must shine light on it.

-Shakti Gawain

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.

-Edgar Guest

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.

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 and Ann Sutherland

By The Numbers

Date	Adults	Children	Total
August 2	99	19	118
August 9	137	19	156
August 16	121	40	161
August 23	109	23	132
August 30	134	37	171
Average	120	27.6	147.6



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

The 7 UU Principles

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

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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

How are we doing?

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

Caroline Nixon, Chair (817-922-9742), Reed Bilz, Mark McMurry, Dick Trice and Lin Wells

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

RE News

October 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 Sara Munoz

RE Yard Sale and Bake Sale

The RE Committee's bi-annual yard sale is Friday and Saturday, September 25 & 26 at Bettina's house. It will run from 8am - 2 pm both days. The proceeds of the sale go to the RE Special Fund. This year we are adding the Kid's Bake sale, the proceeds of which will go to pay for the food used in Backpacks for Kids (a program in the schools that sends food home with children for the weekend). This will be an awesome sale!!! We have loads of stuff! Come on by Bettina's yard and do some shopping! If you are interested in helping out, contact Mary Noer, Susan Farris or Andrea Petty.

RE Committee wants You!

We are looking for a few good people to help out with RE, if you like to plan parties, coordinate crafts, if you would like to substitute- we'd love to talk to you! Get with a RE Committee person.

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.

Halloween Party

We are starting to think about the Halloween Party! It will be upon us in no time! This year the date is set for October 24 from 2 pm - 4 pm with Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF afterwards in the neighborhood around the church. If you would care to help out with the party, contact Mary Noer or Susan Farris. If you would like to help with the setup of the haunted house or have ideas for the haunted house...contact Julie Tribble or Sarah Skiles!

RE in the Park

Save the Date! November 1, 2009. We are taking the children and youth to the park for Service and RE classes. We welcome anyone who would like to join us! This is one of the highlights of the year! Our youth lead the service, the classes are shortened so we can spend time playing group games, such as; tug-o-war, sack races and croquet. It is great fun!

Westside Camping Trip

This year the camping trip is Oct. 16-18. We are having regularly scheduled RE classes on the 18th. See you there!

This year I want to start something different to give parents an idea of what their children are learning in class. Each group of teachers will be giving us a synopsis of the next month's lessons. This way the parents can ask questions about specific lessons and what the children learned. We will call this portion;

What's up in your World Curriculum?

Beatrix Potter (Nursery) - There is no set curriculum for the nursery. Our stuffed animals will be wearing different religious symbols, like they did last year. We will also be incorporating world music and stories from other religions as well. Cindy has also made a hide-and-seek board of religious symbols.

Clara Barton (3-6 yr olds)- The curriculum is "We are Many, We are One." The Barton class will be celebrating the Moon Festival (South East Asian Mid-Autumn Festival) and Halloween on the first and fourth Sundays of October. On the second Sunday our class will have the first of a series of lessons involving trees and nature. For this lesson we will choose a special "class tree" that we will observe and photograph throughout the year. On the third Sunday all of the Barton teachers will be at the church camping trip and the classes will be combined for a fun activity.

Susan B. Anthony (7-9 yr. olds)- The curriculum is "Holidays and Holy Days." October kicks off with what has become a student (and teacher!) favorite, St. Francis Day. The children will learn about the famous saint who preached to the animals.

The following week, we'll take on Africa, where masks represent the many traditional beliefs about God.

On the weekend of October 18, many of the students and teachers will be away at the church camping trip, possibly leaving us with smaller classes. For this week, the Anthony class will combine with the Barton class to celebrate United Nations Day. We'll round out the month by welcoming the Goddess Lakshmi, with our session on Divali, a holiday that spans numerous religions.

Whitney Young (10-13 yr. Olds) -Is studying *The Stepping Stone Year*.

October 4 "A Beginning Story from the Maya Indians Of Yucatan: Come and join us to learn what a Popul Vuh is."

October 11 "A Beginning Story from the Haida Indians of British Columbia: How could others identify us by our totem?"

October 18 "The Stories Scientist Tell of the Stars: How can pudding make a great story better?"

October 25 "The Stories Scientist Tell from a Drop of Water: By pulling out a microscope we will take a closer look."

Ralph Waldo Emerson Class (13-18yrs)

The youth are studying world religions using curriculum from 2 sources;

Neighboring Faiths and *World Religions*

Emerson class covered

Zoroastrianism/Mithraism and began a study of Judaism in September. For

October we continue with two more Sundays on Judaism, one Sunday on Catholicism, and begin our study of Protestantism. A field trip to a Jewish temple is being planned.