

The Westside Story

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

NOVEMBER 2008

Give Thanks by giving Thanksgiving Baskets!

This year, Westside UU Church will help provide Thanksgiving dinners to needy people in our neighborhood through South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). SCAC will purchase the turkeys, for which the clients will pay \$5.00 if they are able to do so. We have committed to fill 30 “green” reusable bags with groceries. Each bag will contain the following items:

- 1 15-16oz can cranberry sauce
- 1 14-16 oz can chicken broth
- 1 14-16oz can corn
- 1 14 oz bag stuffing mix (or 2 6ozboxes)
- 1 14.5-16oz can green beans
- Pepperidge Farm/Stove Top or equivalent
- 1 15-29oz can yams
- 1 box tea bags (16 small bags)
- 1 15-16oz can fruit
- 1 box cake mix (for 13” x 9” cake)
- 1 3 or 6oz pkg jello
- 1 can icing for cake (ready to use)

There will be a display near the entrance of the church (to your left as you enter) starting October 26 from which you will be able to choose the items you would like to provide and where you may return the items you are contributing. These items are due at church by Sunday, November 16. Julie Trimble, our RE Director, has volunteered to coordinate the sorting and bagging on Sunday, November 23. Jay and Suzie Lotven have agreed to take the bags to SCAC on November 24.

SCAC stressed it is very important we stick to the sizes requested to avoid discrepancies between recipients. The number of bags distributed to a single family will be determined by the number of people in the

family. 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.

Volunteers will be needed at SCAC (at Southside Church of Christ, 2101 Hemp-hill) on November 25 between 1 and 5 pm to hand out the turkeys and bags to the families. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about this program please call Beverly Archibald at 817-346-3303.

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”.

Westside Mardi Gras – plan for it now! Saturday, February 21

The pleasures of the Mardi Gras Party and Auction extend beyond the conclusion of the evening’s festivities, because of the fabulous auction items donated by members and friends of Westside. Themed dinner parties, wine tastings, weekend getaways, game nights, murder mystery evenings and more provide a chance to socialize with fellow bidders at an event hosted by members and friends of Westside. Services such as massage, leaf raking, home repair, rides to the airport, pet sitting, cooking lessons, child care, and cake baking are extra special when provided by a member or friend of



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.

Westside. Goods made by or gently used by members and friends of Westside can be treasures available nowhere else. The creativity of members and friends is priceless. Donors of all ages are welcome.

In November and December, the Auction Committee will attempt to contact every member and friend of Westside in person, by phone or by e-mail to ask for your help with providing goods and/or services to be auctioned at the Mardi Gras Party and Auction in February. If you don't hear from us, please do not hesitate to contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441) to discuss goods or services you would like to offer.

In addition to any personal contribution you may choose to make, please contact Mary Noer (terrynoer@sbcglobal.net or 817-249-7341) if you know of a business, person or organization in the community at large who may want to participate in the auction by donating goods or services and receive recognition of their donation in the auction catalogue and at the party and auction. Business cards and fliers are welcome at the event.

There is also a display on the church bulletin board across the hallway from the sanctuary doors closest to the Fellowship Hall where you can pick up and deposit forms to document your donation or suggested donor. Together we can have tons of fun, share good times, and perhaps learn something new while contributing to the financial well-being of our church.

The greatest tragedy in mankind's entire history may be the hijacking of morality by religion.

-Arthur C. Clarke

I see that sensible men and conscientious men all over the world were of one religion, - the religion of well-doing and daring, men of sturdy truth, men of integrity and feeling for others.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thanksgiving at Westside on November 30th

The ritual of gathering to share in the eating of special foods is an ancient one - echoed in the Jewish Passover Seder, the Christian Eucharist, and in our American Thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving holiday also evokes the changing of the seasons, the bounty of Nature, and the American ideals of freedom, tolerance, and democracy. Please plan to bring a loaf of bread that represents your ethnic heritage. The bread

will be broken or cut during the service, so don't bother slicing it in advance. Your participation is important to making this communion a meaningful service for all of us.

Thumbs Up to a Greener Fort Worth

by Linda Simmons

Westsider UU members and friends who reside in Fort Worth should be aware that, under certain conditions, the City's forestry program will provide up to two free trees per household. Trees are available for two types of areas under two separate programs:

- the city owned portion of property owner's yard (typically the space between the sidewalk and street, known as the parkway), and
- medians, parks, community centers and other common space.

The City requests that a volunteer from the interested neighborhood work with Forestry throughout the process - all the way from soliciting the orders to delivery day.

I coordinated this program for my neighborhood in late 2006. 104 trees were ultimately planted at 49 homes. It was a great way to meet neighbors I might never had the opportunity of knowing otherwise.

Trees provide more than just beauty. Some sources say they can add up to 30% to the value of a home. They enrich our lives in so many ways, by filtering pollution, adding a cooling effect, and encouraging community gathering places. In essence they can soften the way we see a sometimes harsh world.

Detailed information can be found at: <http://www.fortworthgov.org/fwacsd/forestry/service/freetrees/htm>. Or call 817-871-5738.

Someone once said the best time to plant a tree was ten years ago..... the second best time is now.

Charitable IRA Rollover Information for UUs

Individuals over the age of 70 can make annual tax-free deductions in 2008 and 2009 of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to their congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), or other Unitarian Universalist (UU) entity. This is a limited time opportunity.

Previously, individuals would have had to report any amount taken from an IRA as taxable income before taking a charitable deduction for the gift. The charitable gift deduction is limited to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, which caused some donors to pay more in income taxes than if they didn't make a gift at all.

Fortunately, IRA gifts now can be accomplished simply and without tax complications. Plus, you can make the gift now—while you are living and able to witness the benefits of your generosity.

You may contribute from your IRA if:

- You are age 70 or older.
- The gift is \$100,000 or less each year.
- You make the gift on or before Dec. 31, 2009.
- You transfer funds directly from an IRA or Rollover IRA.
- You transfer the gift outright to the UUA, your congregation or other UU entities of your choosing.

HOW THE ROLLOVER WORKS

Pat, aged 80, has \$450,000 in an IRA and wants to give \$75,000 this year. If Pat transfers \$75,000 from the IRA, she will avoid paying income tax on that amount. She cannot, however, claim a charitable deduction—it is a pure “wash.” Pat has found an easy way to benefit charity without tax complications.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a letter to your IRA custodian requesting a rollover directly from your IRA directly to the organization of your choice (Download a template in PDF or Word versions.) and notify the organization of your intentions.

Please plan ahead! It can up to 2-3 weeks for the transfer to take place.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. I HAVE SEVERAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS, DOES IT MATTER WHICH RETIREMENT ACCOUNT I USE?

A. Yes. Gifts can be made from an IRA or Rollover IRA. Pension, profit sharing and other forms of retirement funds do not fall under the new legislation.

Q. CAN I USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH A LIFE INCOME GIFT SUCH AS A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY?

A. No. The gift made from your IRA must be treated as an outright gift to qualify.

Q. DOES THE GIFT COUNT TOWARDS MY MINIMUM REQUIRED DISTRIBUTION?

A. Yes. Donations made directly from your IRA count towards your minimum required distribution. This is an especially effective way of giving for people who find that they do not need all of the income from their minimum required distribution in 2008 or 2009.

For More Information Please feel free to contact the UUA's Office of Legacy Gifts at 888-359-7558 or giftplans@uua.org for more information about direct contributions of qualified IRA assets or about other planned gifts. As with any substantial gift, we recommend that you consult your tax professionals.

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My kind of loyalty was loyalty to one's country, not to its institutions or its officeholders.

-Mark Twain

We have in fact, two kinds of morality, side by side: one which we preach, but do not practice, and another which we practice, but seldom preach.

-Bertrand Russell

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 October, the undesignated plate offering has gone 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" has developed new initiatives for sustained growth and partnered with print and electronic media 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. The month long service project supported 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, simultaneously celebrated our shared commitment to Unitarian Universalism.

For the month of November 2008, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support the Unitarian Universalist Association's initiative in support of the repair

and re-building of UU churches damaged during Hurricane Ike. Along the Gulf Coast, numerous UU congregations face the challenges of recovery following this recent weather event. Our assistance will help bridge the deductibles and uninsured costs of the recovery by our coastal sister congregations.

Suggestions from Westside members for future recipients of service project plate offerings are encouraged. Please route them through Charles Palmer, Treasurer, at charles.palmer@tyson.com, speak to him at church, or call him at 817-233-5198. Your Board of Directors will review the recipient's qualifications with two simple criteria:

- 1) "Do donations to the recipient further our church's vision and mission?" and
- 2) "Are the recipient's values in sympathy with the seven Unitarian Universalist principles?"

Service project donation recipients may be repeated throughout the year based on need and number of participating recipients. All qualified recipients not chosen one month will continue to be reviewed in the following months. Our record of donations and recipient organizations may be seen in the enclosed newsletter table or on our service projects poster located on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

There are two things to aim at in life; first to get what you want, and after that to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second.

-Logan Pearsall Smith

Let your capital be simplicity and contentment.

-Henry David Thoreau

MONTH	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
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

November 2nd - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*Finding Salvation in Religion*". Religions view salvation in a variety of ways. What does "salvation" mean? Do Unitarian Universalists believe in salvation? You will hear Russell's thoughts this Sunday.

November 9th - Dr. Russell Elleven, "*On My Honor*". The idea of honor is bandied about a great deal. What is honor and how can we show it to ourselves and others? Russell will offer his thoughts of honor this Sunday morning.

November 16th - Gwen Gipson, "I'm a stranger here myself...". Gwen Gipson and her husband returned to the States on Nov. 16, 2006, after living for one year in Germany. Gwen will reflect on her experiences of living abroad, as well as the unexpected need to reacquire herself with her homeland on her return.

November 23rd - Ric Hansen, "*I Believe It or Not*". Ric will offer his thoughts about the power of belief itself.

November 30th - "*Thanksgiving Communion Service*". Please bring bread that represents your ethnic heritage! See details in the article in the front of the newsletter.

Adult Forum

Current Events Forum meets the first and third Sundays of the month from 9:45 to 10:50 in the far east, glass-front classroom. All are invited for open discussions on the increasingly important events around the world.

Spirit of Life Discussion Group meets EVERY Sunday in November at 9:45 for attentive listening and talk about spiritual matters. The group welcomes new faces. Look for signs in the fellowship hall or near the Welcome Table to direct you to the meeting location. For more information or to be added to the weekly e-mail announcing the topic, please contact Brenda Baldwin at brendabrew@hotmail.com.

November 2 at 9:45 a.m.
Current Events Forum
& Spirit of Life Discussion Group

November 9 at 9:45 a.m.
Spirit of Life Discussion Group

November 16 at 9:45 a.m.
Current Events Forums
& Spirit of Life Discussion Group

November 23 at 9:45 a.m.
Spirit of Life Discussion Group

November 30 at 9:45 a.m.
Spirit of Life Discussion Group

Children's RE

See separate attachment.

In and Around Westside

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee has been busy! We are working on expanding our reach with our micro banking fund by establishing a lenders group in Tarrant County. We also joined one just for Unitarians.

Plans are progressing to implement a monthly meal for residents of Samaritan House in January. Please join us! Our regular monthly meeting is the fourth Thursday, but in November we will be meeting the third Thursday at 7 p.m. at Ann Sutherland and David Burlingame's home, 4028 Aragon Drive. Let us know if you would like to be added to our mailing list or if you need directions to our house.

WESTSIDERS WALK FOR ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Westsiders raised \$1495 for the October 18th Fort Worth Memory Walk. Jane Palmer, Charles Palmer, Linda Hanratty,

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I don't trust a man who uses the word evil eighteen times in ten minutes. If you're half evil, nothing soothes you more than to think the person you are opposed to is totally evil.

-Norman Mailer

If the truth doesn't save us, what does that say about us?

-Lois McMaster Bujold

Bob Vann, John Huffmann, and Diane Jones participated in the 3-mile walk along the Trinity River to raise awareness of, and help fund research for, Alzheimer's Disease. Other team members Charlie Ogilvie, Jay Lotven, and Suzie Lotven were sidelined by illness and family emergencies. We hope to make this an annual tradition and to grow our team next year.

PICTURES FOR OUR WEBSITE

The Board is interested in making our website more informative for visitors. They are looking for pictures of things which you especially like about our church. Please send photos (or even just ideas for them!) to us between now and Thanksgiving.

Lots of pictures will be taken during the church service and of the building and grounds. Send your pictures or just your ideas to Ann Sutherland at ann.sutherland@sbcglobal.net, or drop them off in the Social Justice mailbox in the church office. Thanks!

Where's Russell in November?

Russell will deliver reflections on the 2nd and 9th and facilitate Joys and Concerns on those Sundays and the 23rd. He will not be at Westside on 16th and the 30th. He will be unavailable most of the third full week of the month (16th-22nd).

You can catch him most easily in November via email but he will also have these office hours:

Tuesday, November 4 9:00am - 1:00pm
Thursday, November 6 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, November 11 9:00 am - 1:00pm
Thursday, November 13 9:00am - 1:00pm
Tuesday, November 25 9:00am - 1:00pm

Call him at home first (817-370-2171). If no answer at home try the church (817-942-MYUU). If still no answer,

please understand that he is with another church member and 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 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 or go to www.rke.cc.

*True remorse is
never just a regret
over consequences;
it is a regret over
motive.*

*-Mignon
McLaughlin*

*Nothing is illegal if
one hundred busi-
nessmen decide to
do it.*

-Andrew Young

WE ARE LOOKING FOR OUR NEXT DESIGNER

We are looking for
someone to take over
duties as Designer of
Your Westside Story
Newsletter.

Responsibilities consist of
Design & Layout for print.

PLEASE CONTACT ERIC
at Mail@EricKStevens.com
or Janice the Editor at
Janice_Williams@Charter.net.

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 (November 15th). If your committed relationship is a priority for you, or you want it to be, come spend time with other couples who have this same goal. Look at www.rke.cc for additional information.

New Faces

BYRON & JONATHAN BOUNDS

By Diane Jones

Loving couple Byron and Jonathan Bounds are new members of Westside. Their love for each other extends to their cats, Orson and Kisho; as well as their love for life and its gifts found in both dark and light places. As Byron wrote, "...my gypsy-woman of a grandmother...constantly reminded me to squeeze the magic out of every moment, every experience, and every perception no matter how beautiful or vulgar." Byron loves to write, draw, paint, travel, shop, dine, read, learn and engage in spiritual activities. Jonathan is hooked on electronics, photography and loves to garden. They both view nature and the universe as sacred and divine. Both Byron and Jonathan were born here in Texas with Jonathan growing up in Arlington and Irving, and Byron running rampant around Eagle Mountain Lake in Azle. They have been married for 8 years and they are both adherent to their spiritual selves. Aside from the iced banana nut bread, they love the warmth and sense of belonging, the leadership and various programs and location-location-location of Westside. Topics of conversation with Byron and Jonathan include their e-mail address, cats and Byron's significant weight loss (200+ pounds and 23 inches). The Bounds family resides at 108 Shoreline Drive, Azle 76020, phone 817-237-3268 or e-mail at thepwasses@charter.net.

Social Activities

NIGHT AT THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Like evenings with Westside friends? Like community theater? Join in one of three Westside Nights at Theatre Off the Square in Weatherford: Saturday, November 8, Friday, November 14, and Sunday, November 23. Tickets are \$10, but Westside friends and members get a \$1 discount. Westside's own Mike West is making his directing debut with "Phantom of the Opera," a non-musical, community theater version of the classic story. For tickets, directions and information, contact Amy Youngblood at 817-995-3933 or ybwest@sbcglobal.net.

WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS meets the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the church. A 26-page selection from Sigmund Freud's "Civilization and Its Discontents" is the topic for November 16th. This program is open to all members of the church and to the general public.

CONTEMPORARY BOOK GROUP will meet after church - at the church - on Sunday, November 30. We will discuss "Water for Elephants."

HUMANISTS OF FORT WORTH will meet Nov. 12th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. Guest speaker will be David Clifton, the owner of the new progressive radio station in our area, KMNY 1360 am. David will be outlining how he was able to get the progressive station on the air. He will speak and answer questions about his travels and experiences through the show business of radio, the station and his editorial comments. ALL are welcome at HOFW meetings.

DINNERS FOR 9 will not meet in November or December. The next dinner for 9 will be the second Friday of January. If you have questions please email Paul McClellan, Social Co-Chair at pclaypool@yahoo.com.

PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS
FOR THE DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER TO
JANICE_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET
BY NOVEMBER 19.

*One should count
each day a separate
life.*

*-Lucius Annaeus
Seneca*

*Many a long dispute
among divines may
be thus abridged: It is
so. It is not so. It is so.
It is not so.*

-Benjamin Franklin

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>Totals</i>
<i>Sept. 7</i>	104	18	122
<i>Sept. 14</i>	110	16	126
<i>Sept. 21</i>	111	14	125
<i>Sept. 28</i>	103	11	114
<i>Average</i>	107	14.75	121.75



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, Jane Palmer, & Maria Schmidt

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

RE News

by Julie Tribble

HALLOWEEN PARTY & TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF - OCTOBER 25 2-4:30 & 4:30 - 5:30

It is that spooky time of year! Come join us at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 25. Wear your costume, for we have great things planned...games, crafts, a haunted house, food and more! You will not want to miss it!! We will provide the UNICEF boxes for your Trick or Treating pleasure to start at 4:30 in the neighborhoods around the church. Hope to see you there!

RE IN THE PARK NOVEMBER 9, 2008

We will have awnings set up in Daggett Park across from the Episcopal Church and Daggett School. Parents will please bring your children and sign them in at 10:45. We will have release forms to be filled out also.

The Youth are leading our Service and after a short class time we will be playing some group games and enjoying snacks. Please pick up your child after the Service (by 12:20, please) at the Park.

This is a highly anticipated event for the children and teachers. We expect this to be one of the most successful yet!

ROPE COURSE AT CAMP CARTER

Sunday, October 26 from 2-6pm is the trip to Camp Carter for the youth and sponsors. We have reserved the low and high ropes course as well as the Zip line. This is so exciting! I'm looking forward to the challenges that this will present!

Clara Barton (3-5 yr. olds)

Our class is enjoying a study of bible stories. We start each class with a story followed by a lively discussion of the story while sitting around the table working with our hands. Our table time includes arts, crafts and games. Stories we have

explored so far include: Seven Days of Creation, Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, and Noah's Ark. Over the next few weeks, we will delve into the stories of the Tower of Babel, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph and his brothers.

Susan B. Anthony (6-8 yr. olds)

We have had a great time this year studying our Jewish and Christian Roots. We started off by making and decorating our own Chalice. Every student got to add something personal (their name or a drawing) and we always give newcomers a chance to add their own touch. Next we learned the Creation Story, about observing the Sabbath (day of rest). We also studied Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and learned about forgiveness with Yom Kippur. The students even recreated the story of Jonas and the Whale with dough. Finally, we learned about St. Francis, patron saint of birds and animals, we all blessed our pets and the world's endangered species with a special blessing.

Whitney Young (9-12 yr. olds)

Our class has been having a great time exploring the bible stories of Genesis! We've made creatures out of clay just like the Hebrew God was said to have made people out of dust. We've learned songs about Noah and the Ark, and built a Tower of Babel out of cake! The students explore how and why these stories were told and we have discussed their relevance (or lack of) to our lives today.

Emerson (13-18 yr. olds)

Our class has been involved in the Crop Walk for the last few years. We had 27 members of the church walk with us on October 19th and raised \$835.00. We are proud to have so many generous people within our congregation that help us make this a successful venture! Look for the pictures on the RE bulletin board!

Our next adventure is the Ropes Course on October 26th at Camp Carter YMCA camp.

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