



Green Sanctuary Committee Organizes

The Green Sanctuary Committee held an enthusiastic organizational meeting Thursday, October 8th. Members came with a number of ideas and the willingness to really pitch in and start the Green Sanctuary process rolling. By our next meeting, November 19th, we plan to have approved our vision statement, conducted a professional energy audit of the church building, and prepared a draft questionnaire for our church community. This will begin the process of applying for Green Sanctuary candidacy. Then, with the help of our congregation, and with input from UUA and the many other congregations on this journey, we will select twelve program activities in four areas: worship, religious education, sustainable living, and environmental justice. Once UUA has evaluated our selected activities and approved Westside's candidacy, we will begin a fun year of bringing them to fruition. The accreditation process, much like that

for becoming a Welcoming Congregation, will involve every facet of our church community. We envision a greener church, more environmentally friendly practices by church members and friends, and a more environmentally aware community. What we will not be is an environmental police force, badgering our congregation, nor will we be suggesting church upgrades that are economically infeasible.

Westside UU has already made notable strides in sustainability by greatly reducing the use of disposable paper products at snack times, potlucks, and on camping trips. Courses covering Voluntary Simplicity and Sustainability have brought new understanding to many of our members, and last year saw a very successful Green Fest. Our new, and very popular, Ethical Eating Group is also a part of becoming more environmentally aware and modifying old habits.

The Westside Story

November 2009

The monthly Newsletter of
Westside Unitarian Universalist
Church

901 Page Avenue Fort Worth, TX
11:00 AM • www.WestsideUU.org

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.

The Green Sanctuary program will allow Westside to plan, prioritize, and perpetuate our greening process. Committee membership is open to all, and part of the program consists in involving representatives of each of our church activities. If you are interested, but just can't handle another night meeting, email membership is also available. You can learn more by contacting Linda Hanratty, our committee chair. We hope we'll see many of you at our next meeting, Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:00 p.m., at the church.

sunday services

November 1 - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Afflicting the Comfortable". Have you ever learned things that made you uncomfortable? What did you do? Russell has experienced this and will share his uncomfortable journey with you this Sunday morning.

November 8 - Ric Hansen, "Haven't Got a Prayer". Prayer is an essential aspect of nearly every religious community. How does prayer fit into liberal religious belief? Westside's own Ric Hansen will share his thoughts on this topic.

November 15 - Nancy Van Boskirk. TBA. Nancy, a well-known member and popular guest speaker of our Westside community, will be in the pulpit this Sunday. We look forward to hearing from Nancy again!

November 22 - Dr. Russell Elleven, "Being Thankful at Westside". There are a number of things Westside can be thankful for at this time. Russell will discuss just a few these this Sunday and explain how they might affect the future of your congregation.

November 29 - Amy Youngblood, Cornbread and Cider Communion. Our American Thanksgiving is another one of those combined seasonal and historical holidays when it seems appropriate to remember, in a symbolic way, the changing of the seasons, the bounty of nature, and the precious heritage of our American traditions of freedom, tolerance, and democracy. This simple communion, like our church and faith, is open to all friends and family.

Got Feedback?

The Committee on Ministry (COM) is charged with the responsibility for oversight of the health and well-being of the ministries within the congregation. To that end, the committee meets monthly with Russell to discuss issues which have arisen. The committee will hear, in confidence, any concerns in this regard which are raised by any congregant, and will seek to address them promptly and thoroughly. Similarly, the committee assists and supports the minister in his role. Feedback is welcome, not just concerns, but compliments as well. The committee, in addition, informs itself on matters of ministerial compensation and makes a recommendation to the Board as appropriate. A lesser-known function of the COM is to serve in an ombudsman capacity when conflicts arise between members of the congregation, and the presence of a neutral third party may be of assistance. The congregation may expect both confidentiality and sensitivity in these matters.

The members of the committee are selected jointly by the board and the minister for two year terms. Please feel free to contact any member of the COM: Dick Trice (Chair), Mary Alice Cretsinger, Kay Kubala, Lin Wells and Tom Woods.

A belief which leaves no place for doubt is not a belief; it is a superstition.

-Jose Bergamin

No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.

-Isaac Asimov

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

-Reinhold Niebuhr

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.

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 RE in the Park, the children's Food Bank project and much more, so check it out!

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.

in & around westside

Where's Russell in November?

Russell will be giving reflections on the first and fourth Sundays in No-

vember. He will facilitate Joys and Concerns on those two Sundays and the second Sunday when we also welcome our newest Westsiders in a special ceremony. He will be attending a conference the entire second full week of the month (10th-15th). Office hours will look like this:

Tuesday, November 3rd, 9am – 1pm
Thursday, November 5th, 9am – 1pm
Tuesday, November 10th, UNAVAILABLE
Thursday, November 12th, UNAVAILABLE
Tuesday, November 17th, 9am – 1pm
Thursday, November 19th, 9am – 1pm
Tuesday, November 24th, 9am – 1pm
Thursday, November 26th, UNAVAILABLE

Please remember to call him at home (817-370-2171) first. If no answer, leave a message, and then try the church office phone (817-924-6988). If you do not receive an immediate response, it means Russell is with another church member at that time. He will return your call as quickly as possible (if you've left a message). Mondays are Russell's days off and he tries to stay away from the computer and telephone on those days. He will always respond to emergencies unless out of town.

Bring your Thanksgiving basket food by Sunday, November 15th

Westside UU Church is again participating in the effort of South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) in providing Thanksgiving dinners to needy people in our neighborhood. 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! This year, we have committed to fill 42 grocery bags.

SCAC has stressed that it is very

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*A good listener
helps us overhear
ourselves.*

-Yahia Lababidi

*Eminent posts
make great men
greater, and little
men less.*

-Jean de la Bruyere

*A child's education
should begin at
least one hundred
years before he is
born.*

*-Oliver Wendell
Holmes, Sr.*

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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.

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

Christmas Angels

Again this year Westside will be participating in South Central Alliance of Churches' (SCAC) Angel Tree, to provide gifts of toys and clothing to needy children in zip codes 76104, 76110 and 76109. Last year we had thirty angels; this year, we will have forty.

Angels will be available for you to select on Sundays at church, starting November 15. The Angels (green for boys and red for girls) will have information about each child's name, clothing sizes and "toy wishes".

Every sin is an attempt to fly from emptiness.

-Simone Weil

I believe I found the missing link between animal and civilized man. It is us.

-Konrad Lorenz

The best armor is to keep out of gunshot.

-Francis Bacon

You are asked to purchase one outfit for your child, as well as a toy for him or her as well as an age appropriate book. If the toy needs batteries, please include them as well. When you take an angel from the tree, we will record the child's name and number (on the angel) as well as your name and telephone number.

SCAC asks that each child's gifts be unwrapped in a separate bag with a handle, with the angel attached to the bag (like a gift tag).

Please bring all gift bags to church on December 6. Suzie and Jay Lotven have volunteered to take the gifts to SCAC, as well as to help distribute them. If you are interested in helping with this joyous event, please let us know.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to

put our faith to work and help out children right here in our own neighborhood. If you have questions, please call Diane Jones at 817-733-0807.

How Your Church Family Works

- A Discussion

Ever wondered why some churches are in continual flux? Do you hope that Westside can avoid this habit? Then join Russell in discussing Peter Steinke's influential book, "How Your Church Family Works." Buy the book (ISBN# 1566993296) and come to the monthly group which will meet from 9:45 to 10:40 AM on the following Sundays: 11/22, 12/27, 1/24, 2/28, and 3/28. Please let Russell know if you are unable to purchase the book but interested in participating in the discussion. Can't make the dates? Buy the book and become empowered with the role you play at Westside!

opportunities to learn & serve

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.

fellowship on potluck Sunday, third Sunday of every month.

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Ethical Eating Group

The Ethical Eating Group will watch a discussion on human longevity by Dr. John McDougall and John Robbins on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. This will be followed by discussion. There are a wide range of answers to the ethical eating query among this group. Feel free to come and add your opinions into the mix!

Humanists of Fort Worth

Humanists meet the second Wednesday of each month. The special program for November 11 will be a viewing of the latest speech given by the greatest intellectual on the globe today, Noam Chomsky. It was given to another standing-room-only audience of 2000 in Harlem recently. Forum attendees as well as UUs in general will especially appreciate the insight of this great American. Meeting begins at 7:00 pm in the church sanctuary.

Contemporary Books

We'll meet November 22 after church at the church to discuss *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adigo. This is a Booker award winner about modern India.

our wider community

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 6, 7 and 8 at Fort Worth Spinks Airport. She needs volunteers. 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.

*We lie the loudest
when we lie to
ourselves.*

-Eric Hoffer

*An unhurried sense
of time is in itself a
form of wealth.*

-Bonnie Friedman

Potluck Reminder!!!

Please remember to put a little extra in your dish so we can truly welcome everyone to our church for food and

Volunteer areas include:

**Sign-up/Registration/Hospitality/
Green Room - Volunteer Regist/
Org**

**Food Preparation & Snacks - Set-
up/Tear Down**

Environmental Detail/Clean-up -

*The doubts of an
honest man contain
more moral truth
than the profession
of faith of people
under a worldly
yoke.*

-Ximenes Doudan

Jamming Tents

Aircraft Parking - Stage

Safety/Security/Medical - Vendor Org

Parking Cars/Vehicles – Communication

Contact Dace at dace@flyingmusicians.org for information and the volunteer form.

wishes to explore thoughts outside the confines of conservative theology, and especially enjoys Russell's reflections.

John, welcome from all of us, and we hope you will share your musical skills with us one Sunday morning soon.

John Fisher
801 The Heights Drive, Apt. 801M
Fort Worth, Texas. 76112
Phone 817-696-1249.

We are reformers in spring and summer; in autumn and winter we stand by the old -- reformers in the morning, conservatives at night. Reform is affirmative, conservatism is negative; conservatism goes for comfort, reform for truth.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

There will be no Homeland Security until we realize that the entire planet is our homeland. Every sentient being in the world must feel secure.

-John Perkins

What you cannot enforce, do not command.

-Sophocles

New Faces

John M Fisher

by Linda Simmons

John M. Fisher, one of the newest members of the church, is a native of Fort Worth, born and reared on the east side of the city, in Handley/Meadowbrook. He was reared Southern Baptist, but ventured from that faith early on, seeking different ideas ranging from atheism to new age churches. John is a widower, having been married to a lovely woman named Kathy, who passed away in 2006. John's passions include writing and performing songs and playing various types of guitars. He has previously performed with his bass guitar at the praise services at the Handley United Methodist Church. He tells us that he comes from good old-fashioned Texas rural folks and he is proud of such, but admits that his liberal views sometimes get him into trouble with family and friends from his younger days.

John's first knowledge of the UU spirit was on AM radio. He has since come to embrace all seven of our principles, especially the inherent worth of each and every person, including those who are a bit different from the norm. He

Paul E. Sears

Paul Sears is a former member of Westside, and we are very glad to have him back. He moved to Fort Worth from Independence, Missouri, and before that he has lived almost literally "all over the place". Before leaving Missouri for Texas, Paul lived in Alaska, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, South Dakota and Washington.

He currently works at John Peter Smith (JPS) hospital, where he has been for the past sixteen years. After serving as interim manager, Paul is presently in the process of training a new supervisor in the Health Information Management department, where Paul does coding for the hospital.

History and anthropology are two of Paul's passions. He has been researching his family's history, and is currently involved in researching the history of Virginia and West Virginia in the early 1700s.

The UU seven principles are very important to him. He also values the diversity of the people at Westside. Paul says. "I like being around people who think about what they say and say what they think."

Let's all welcome Paul back into our midst!

Paul E. Sears
7105 Avington Way
Fort Worth, Texas, 76133
817-346-7717
searsp@sbcglobal.net

John likes to go out; he likes people; and he has a good heart. Get acquainted with John; you will be glad you did.

John Dickinson
225 Pemberton St.
White Settlement, Texas, 76108
817-773-4627 – cell
JoeFTWorth@yahoo.com

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John Dickinson

One of our newest members, John Dickinson was brought up on the North Side of Fort Worth. He has a Catholic background.

Although he originally came to the church because of his partner, T.J. Jennings, John has found friends and a sense of family in our church. He says that he loves the church and its people.

Besides his pets (one dog and four cats), John enjoys gardening, cooking and singing (choir, take notice). Come to the next karaoke night, John!

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 email her at marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com.

Society cannot exist without inequality of fortunes and the inequality of fortunes could not subsist without religion. Whenever a half-starved person is near another who is gluttoned, it is impossible to reconcile the difference if there is not an authority who tells him to.

-Napoleon Bonaparte

A different language is a different vision of life.

-Federico Fellini

Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart. The really great men must, I think, have great sadness on earth.

-Fyodor Dostoevsky

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
September 6	81	11	92
September 13	100	19	119
September 20	131	33	164
September 27	101	18	119
Average	103.25	20.25	123.5



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.

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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.

Committee on Ministry

Dick Trice, Chair

Mary Cretsinger

Kay Kubala

Lin Wells

Tom Woods

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

RE News

November 2009

RE Committee

Co-chairs - Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE - Julie Tribble

Committee Members -

Trisha Bowes

Sandy Olah

Brenda McKeon

Sara Munoz

Jessica Zinn

Andrea Petty

Bettina Pfeiffenberger

RE in the Park

We look forward to this event all summer! Come join us November 1st for the fall RE in the Park. This is our own time to prepare a worship service, have our RE classes outside and play great games together. If parents would have their children signed in at 10:45 at Daggett park (across the street and down 1 block), we will start our service promptly at 11:00. The classes are immediately after the Service and then it's time for play! We'll have sack races, tug-o-war, and more! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Tarrant County Food Bank Project

The children in the RE have decided to make birthday bags for the Tarrant Co. Food Bank. This project helps children who might not have been able to have *any* birthday celebration, have a birthday cake with candles, get a small gift, paper plates and napkins with

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.

a theme, all in a large gift bag. We are planning to prepare these bags on November 8th after church. If anyone is interested in contributing to this project, we are collecting the following items: cake mixes, cans of icing, cake pans, paper plates (preferably with a boy or girl theme) napkins and large gift bags. The remainder of the items needed will be bought with the money earned at the bake sale the children had in September. This is the charity event that the *children* are doing, They wanted to do something that would benefit other children, and we are very proud of them for undertaking this!

Halloween Party

The Fellowship hall was transformed into a Halloween haven for the October 24th party. With games, wonderful food, lots of craft stations, and a haunted house the fun was contagious! With lots of costumed characters running around, the climax of the afternoon was the pinata breaking! We had one for the under 6 yr group and one for the older kids. After the party, our group went trick-or-treating for UNICEF in the Ryan Place neighborhood around the church. It has become a tradition to collect money for UNICEF after the Halloween party.

What's up in your World Curriculum?

In order to keep parents up to date on what is being covered in the Religious Education classes at Westside, we are now putting a synopsis of our next month's curriculum in the newsletter.

Clara Barton (3-6 yr olds)

Well, unfortunately, we didn't get the synopsis for the Barton class before the deadline for the newsletter. It will be good to go for next month...count on it!

Susan B. Anthony (7-9 yr olds)

Get ready for an exciting November!

November 1st - Mexico's Dia de los Muertos, or "Day of the Dead", a time to honor our loved ones who have passed on.

November 8th - students will enact the classic Hindu story, the Ramayana, with puppets!

November 15th - we will celebrate Sukkot, the Jewish Harvest Festival.

November 22nd - time to learn about Thanksgiving from the Native American Point of view.

November 29th - a Chinese Dragon celebration.

Whitney Young (10-13 yr olds)

This coming month we will be studying some of the Stories Scientists Tell, and the Wonder of Life.

November 1 : "Studies in Rocks and Bones": We will be asking ourselves questions like, "How can we know if change is desirable?" and "Do we have any control over the changes that will take place in our life time?"

November 8 : "Stories of Animals": This might take us outdoors (if weather permits) where we will hear stories like: "The Boy Who Collected Beetles" and discuss what worth the message might have for us.

November 15 : In "Unique and Wonderful You" we want to look at our own potential and how we are all unique, while also exploring our connection with the long chain of evolution.

November 22 : "Jesus' Birth Story and Yours": We will be considering Jesus as a unique person and create our own creche.

November 29 : "Buddha's Birth Story and Yours": Here is another different hero birth story. We will explore what parallels might be between our own and Buddha's births.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (Youth)

On Sunday, October 11, the Emerson class visited the congregation Beth-El. Six teens and three adults received a tour from docent Arthur Charron. One of the most memorable points was the Torah cabinet doors. These heavy metal doors have a burning bush design. Behind the doors are three Torahs. Comments from teens about the field trip: "I love the sanctuary", "It was awesome", "The sanctuary was gorgeous", and "I had an awesome time".

Our curriculum for November includes; RE in the Park on the 1st, finishing Christianity on the 8th, and beginning Islam on the 15th.

