

The Westside Story

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

DECEMBER 2008

Christmas Tradition at Westside – Tamales!

We don't have many traditions in our church, but one we have observed for several years is a tamale and tortilla soup feast near Christmas Eve. This year, we will observe this tradition during Potluck on Sunday, December 21.

This takes a bit of planning, and everyone's invited to help. There are sign-up sheets posted at church for those willing to bring or sponsor a specific item (tamales, tortilla soup, taco salad, kid-friendly items, desserts) and even a category for those who are undecided (where "surprise us", your own Mexican specialty, and non-Mexican food are most welcome). If you aren't a fan of cooking or shopping, we have an option you may want to explore. That is, we need sponsors for the Hot Damn Tamales we will purchase. Hot Damn Tamales combines traditional techniques with fresh, new ingredients to give their tamales a flavor and texture you never knew tamales could have. They use 100% vegetable shortening instead of lard to make a masa that is lighter and moister than most. And because they offer meatless selections, vegetarians can enjoy authentic tamales! (Not to mention the Wild Mushroom and Goat Cheese tamales are quite a hit with the carnivores!)

If you can help by sponsoring tamales, please sign-up and give your money (a dozen tamales range in price from \$12 to \$20) to Paul McClellan by December 14. Paul makes sure we have coffee and more each Sunday, and you can usually find him near the kitchen before and after church. If you have suggestions or questions about the event, please contact Brenda Baldwin (brendabrew@hotmail.com or 817-988-9441).

South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)

Along with other churches, Westside is a participating member of SCAC, which serves needy clients in this area. At the October meeting, the director reported that income for this year is down, as well as in-kind donations.

In spite of this, SCAC served 158 clients in September, with prescription vouchers, gas vouchers, and money for other necessities. The Food Pantry served 496 households in September. On the second Tuesday of October, 132 households received food, which is a record for SCAC. The Tarrant County Food Bank is low on food except for produce, fruit and dairy products. Cenikor has been providing bread for the pantry.

As of the October Board meeting, 258 families had signed up for Thanksgiving baskets, with three more sign-up Tuesdays left. The member churches provide the food for the baskets with the exception of the turkeys, which SCAC purchases. Our church provided food for 30 of the Thanksgiving baskets.

Westside provided our food in green reusable bags. We were asked to include a Thanksgiving prayer (see below) which was printed on cards in both English and Spanish.

For this food, let us be thankful.
For those who made this food possible,
let us be thankful.
For those who share this food with us,
let us be thankful.

Por esta comida, demos las gracias.
Para los que hicieron posible esta comida,
demos las gracias.
A los que comparten esta comida con nosotros,
demos las gracias.



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 Angel Tree project signed up 417 children; the director gave Salvation Army applications to 20 other families and only two families were turned away. The gifts will be brought to SCAC on December 10, and they will be distributed to the families on December 11.

Beverly Archibald represents Westside on the Board of SCAC.

Karaoke in January

Fun, song, and frivolity are yours at Westside on Saturday, January 10 at 7 p.m. All singers and appreciative audience members are invited to come out and share the fun. Child care is available if you sign up by December 28. Wine, lemonade, and coffee will be provided, and you are asked to bring a FINGER food (that means no one needs a spoon or fork to eat it) to share. If you prefer a different beverage, please BYOB.

You are invited to gather at 7:00 to socialize and to sign up first-come/first-serve to sing Karaoke. Our host, Scott Paulson, will start the Karaoke by 7:30, and we plan for the evening to end around 9:00. Remember, one song per person (or for at least one person in your group) until everyone's had a chance to sing. Dancing and fun are unlimited!

Please contact Scott Paulson (s.c.paulson@juno.com or 817-292-2558) with any questions, for child-care, or for more information. Child care sign-up will also be available on the Karaoke poster posted at church beginning December 7. Look for the poster near the water cooler between the sanctuary and fellowship hall, or near the front door after the Angel Tree project is complete.

Westside Mardi Gras – plan on it!

Now's the Time to Contribute Goods and Services! A church service auction provides not only a financial benefit to the church, but a great way for members and friends to share time together and get to know one another better. It is YOU who will make this happen.

A game night, a dinner party, a wine-tasting... These are just some of the group events

offered by members and friends of Westside. What can you offer? More social gatherings? A weekend at your cabin in the Vail? A ride to the airport? Two hours of leaf raking? A ride in a hot-air balloon? A faucet-repair? A hand-knit scarf? How about breakfast-in-bed, delivered??? You never know what our members and friends will come up with. Surprise us all!!

Please look for the donation forms, and forms for suggestion of potential donors, on the table just inside the front door of the church. Or, when you receive a call from someone on the Auction Committee, please say "yes!" Or, click on "church business" on the homepage of www.westsideuu.org and then click on "auction form" to fill one out on-line and save paper.

We'd like to get as many of our internal donations as possible finalized in December so we can concentrate on outside donors in January. The Auction and Party will be held Saturday, February 21. Look for more information about the event in January's Westside Story.

Sunday Services

Sunday, December 7 - *Season of Light.* Please join us as we celebrate the many "lights" that represent joy, peace and goodwill. This will be a time to share and enjoy special music, beautiful readings, and holiday traditions, new and old.

Sunday, December 14 - *I Have A BIG Favor To Ask Of You.* There are times when we can stand alone. But most of the time we need the help of others. Russell has a specific favor to ask of Westside this Sunday. This reflection will likely not be posted on the website.

Sunday December 21 - *My Xmas Reflection.* Christmas is here in a few days. Unitarian Universalists sometimes know what to do with Christmas; other times we do not. Russell will (or will not) offer some holiday cheer this Sunday

Sunday December 28 - *What Will You Do in 2009?* The new year is right around the corner. Perhaps there are a few things to look forward to and a few things to dread. What are you going to do with your 2009? Russell has a couple of suggestions he'll share during this reflection.

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.

-Wilhelm Stekel

The doctrine of the material efficacy of prayer reduces the Creator to a cosmic bellhop of a not very bright or reliable kind.

-Herbert J. Muller

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 November, the undesignated plate offering has gone to support the Unitarian Universalist congregation in Baton Rouge, LA, that sustained structural and property damage from storms this year.

For the month of December 2008, the board is pleased to announce that the undesignated plate offering is going to support the Samaritan House, near us here in south Fort Worth. Samaritan House provides multiple services for those in transition from life and medical challenges, especially those stricken with AIDS. We were fortunate to have been visited recently by their director who shared with Westside the good work being performed there. More can be learned by visiting www.samaritanhouse.org.

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 Direc-

tors 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 newsletter or on the church bulletin board outside the office. Thanks!

Adult Forum

Current Events Forum meets in the glass-walled classroom on the east end of the building (turn left after entering the front door). All are invited for open discussions on the increasingly important events around the world.

Spirit of Life Discussion Group meets in a classroom entered from the far west hallway in the Fellowship Hall. In this group, we practice attentive listening as participants are given the opportunity to check-in with one another about life in general before entering into a time of sharing and listening without cross-conversation on a specific topic. There is sometimes time for sharing and listening with cross-conversation near the end of the time together.

THE WESTSIDE STORY
DECEMBER 2008

The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is, that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error.

-John Stuart Mill

MONTH	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT
October, '08	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$704.00
September, '08	Kennedy Micro-Lending Group	\$1,272.12
August, '08	Heifer Fund	\$1,506.69
July, '08	Clinica Esperanza	\$1,149.78
June, '08	Red Cross/Crescent Burma Cyclone Relief	\$1,033.43
May, '08	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$640.25
April, '08	UUA Service Committee - Kenya	\$600.82
March, '08	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$6,058.08
February, '08	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$556.92
January, '08	SWWC Intl. Convocation of UU Women	\$1,000.00
December, '07	Somali-Bantu Empowering Women	\$896.68
November, '07	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$788.59
October, '07	UUA Now is the Time campaign	\$862.00
September, '07	Cancer Care Services	\$1,018.75
August, '07	Tarrant Co Food Bank	\$647.51
July, '07	Westaid	\$853.63

DECEMBER ADULT FORUM:

Sunday, December 7
Current Events Forum
Spirit of Life Discussion Group

Sunday, December 14
Spirit of Life Discussion Group

Sunday December 21
Current Events Forum

Sunday December 28
Holiday Break – no forum events scheduled

IN & AROUND WESTSIDE

Where's Russell in November?

Russell will be away for most of the first week of December. He'll be in San Francisco. You'll learn more about this during the reflection on the 14th. After being out the first Sunday you'll see him around for the remainder of December. He'll deliver reflections, facilitate joys and concerns, and remind you of our UU history.

Office hours for December are:

Tuesday, Dec 2 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 9 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 11 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 16 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, Dec 18 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 23 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 30 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Just give him a call at home during those times (817-370-2171). If no response, you can leave a message or try the church office (817-924-6988). If you can't catch him, it is most likely that he is with another church member. He'll return your call as soon as humanly possible.

IT'S TIME FOR THE ANGEL TREE

The Angel Tree provides an opportunity for us to help folks in our neighborhood who are less fortunate than we are. South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC) really appreciates the contributions we are making to help minister to the needy in the neighborhood. Our congregation at Westside is filled with generous people, and for this we are very grateful.

Bring your gifts for your "angel" to church on December 7th. The gifts are to be in a bag with a handle with the angel attached to it (like a gift tag). This year our thirty angels range in age from one week to twelve years, with lots in between. As before, we are purchasing an outfit of clothing (some wear school uniforms and some regular clothes), a toy, and an age appropriate book.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE PROMOTES PEACEMAKING

Here's your chance to get involved with area UU churches and further the UU goal of peacemaking all at once! The First Unitarian Church of Dallas is sponsoring a two-hour workshop on the UU Peacemaking Statement of Conscience at Pathways Church on Saturday, December 13th. It will feature Alex Winnett from the UUA Office for Advocacy in Washington DC. The draft statement is available at www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/121606.shtml.

The workshop is being organized by Ian Hunter of First Unitarian, Dallas, a seasoned activist. This is a great opportunity to meet other area UUs who are interested in Social Justice issues. The Social Justice Committee is planning to take a carload of individuals. If you are interested, contact Ann Sutherland at 817-294-1645 or via e-mail.

The Social Justice Committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 18 at the home of David Burlingame and Ann Sutherland. We'll finalize plans to begin serving a monthly meal at Samaritan House and talk about the trip on Peacemaking. We hope to see you there.

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS COMMITTEE FORMING

If you're interested in what's going on in our neighborhood and how the church and its members can be better neighbors, this ad hoc committee may be for you. We're on the fringe of several vibrant groups: Ryan Place Neighborhood Improvement Association, Fairmont Historic District, Daggett Elementary School, Daggett Montessori School, Daggett Middle School, Fort Worth South, Medical District, Arts Fifth Avenue, Magnolia Street, Hemphill Initiative, Berry Street Initiative, Southside Area Ministries and others. We've participated in activities with Ryan Place, Fairmont and Southside Area Ministries.

Martyrdom has always been a proof of the intensity, never of the correctness of a belief.

-Arthur Schnitzler

Whenever two people meet, there are really six people present. There is each man as he sees himself, each man as the other person sees him, and each man as he really is.

-William James

If you are interested in forming better alliances, improving communications, increasing awareness and possibly participating in social action in our neighborhood, meet after church, about 12:15 on December 14th to brainstorm and discuss ways to meet these goals. For more information or to share your thoughts, contact John Nagely at membership_chair@westsideuu.org, phone him or see him in person. Hope to see you at church on the 14th.

“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.

COMING IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY, “RADICAL HOSPITALITY”

Father Daniel Homan, in his book *Radical Hospitality: Benedict's Way of Love*, says, “Hospitality has an inescapable moral dimension to it. It is not a mere social grace; it is a spiritual and ethical issue. It is an issue involving what it means to be human. All our talk about hospitable openness doesn't mean anything as long as some people continue to be tossed aside.... Hospitality puts an end to injustice. But calling hospitality a moral issue does not tell us the whole truth about hospitality either. A moral issue can become bogged down in legalisms, and hospitality is no legalistic ethical issue. It is instead a spiritual practice, a way of becoming more human, and a way of understanding yourself. Hospitality is both the answer to modern alienation and injustice and a path to a deeper spirituality.”

You are invited to join in an exploration of the concept of Radical Hospitality. This is a phrase that is used in many settings, but these sessions will provide an opportunity to exam-

ine how we as individuals practice hospitality and ways to open ourselves to those around us. Sessions are planned January 11 & 25 and February 1, 8 & 22 during Adult Forum on Sunday mornings (9:45-10:40). Each session will be open to newcomers. Please look for more information in the January Westside Story.

New Faces

KAY T. KUBALA

Kay T. Kubala and her four-legged child, Lady Godiva aka “Lady Bug”, a chocolate Labrador Retriever, moved to Fort Worth in the fall of 2006 from far north Dallas after a year in the Texas Hill Country. Kay started attending the First Unitarian Church of Dallas in 1988 and became a member of First Church in 1994. Kay's membership at First Church gave her the opportunity to co-chair several successful service auctions as well as serving on the canvass committee. In addition, she served as chair of the Minister's 20th anniversary celebration reception. Kay also served as a Befriender, a lay ministry, providing a “listening presence” to those experiencing a life transition.

Kay's business degree from UTA has provided successful career experiences with the Xerox Corp, the Container Store, and most recently here in Fort Worth at Renaissance Park Multi Care Center where she was Admissions Coordinator. She is currently in job search for another exciting career opportunity allowing her to use her caring, interpersonal relationship skills of listening, problem solving and customer service and satisfaction to make a difference.

Kay joined us as a member in May '08 and is enjoying her time here with us very much. She looks forward to knowing each of us and to serving in appropriate ways here at Westside. She has many religious, spiritual, political and social interests. She truly loves and embraces life. Kay has shown a willingness to serve in a variety of ways—new member activities, worship services, usher/greeter and/or other ways as the need presents itself here at Westside.

We welcome Kay and look forward to using her many talents to enhance our congregation's outreach—we need to hear more about

I don't know if God exists, but it would be better for His reputation if he didn't.

—Jules Renard

The lame man who keeps the right road outstrips the runner who takes a wrong one. The more active and swift the latter is, the further he will go astray.

—Francis Bacon

the Befriender program for instance. Kay's phone number is 817-207-9646.

KEN AND LOIS ROBISON

Ken was born Dec. 6, 1930, in Wichita, KS, where he lived until he finished high school. Ken performed the usual childhood chores, helping his mother with laundry and housework, and his father with the lawn and a big garden. Ken's dad, a security guard for the local Veteran's Hospital, also had a popcorn concession business – lucky Ken worked the concession stand.

At age 7, Ken became active in the SAL--Sons of the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps. Not a chore at all for him, regular practice allowed the band to march and play for parades, special events, and state contests. Ken won the Kansas State Drum Championship in both his junior and senior year of high school. When he wasn't attending the Church of Christ or playing the drum, Ken enjoyed canoeing on the Arkansas River, playing tennis, and ice-skating. At thirteen, he worked after school as janitor at an elementary school; on weekends he worked at Farha Brothers Supermarket. His favorite classes at East High were Spanish and Printing.

Choosing not to attend Wichita University, his father's choice for him, when Ken left Wichita for Abilene Christian College in 1948, he was on his own. Working fulltime in the ACC print shop allowed him to take two classes tuition free. He received a BA degree in New Testament Greek and Bible, and continued to work at the print shop while taking graduate courses in Spanish and Education.

In 1957 Balmorhea High School hired Ken to teach fulltime; he preached for the local Church of Christ--Sunday morning and evening, and Wednesday evening, plus Sunday afternoon services for braceros, cotton field workers from Mexico. After three years, two children, and a divorce, he returned to the ACC print shop, took more post-grad courses, and cared for his children.

During the years Ken spent in Wichita and Abilene, down in Huntsville, Texas, his true future life's companion, Lois, was born September 4, 1933. Her father worked for sawmills until WWII ended, then worked construction. In 1944 her family moved to Hico, a

small town in Hamilton County. She enjoyed Home Economics, choir, and being a majorette in the band.

After graduating high school in 1950, Lois chose to attend Abilene Christian College. She and Ken were there at the same time, but never met. They often wonder how different their lives would have been had they known each other then. Lois's first husband died of a brain tumor when she was 25 and expecting their fourth child.

A couple of years later, Lois and Ken attended the same church. Their minister, who had known both for years, played cupid. He kept telling Lois what a wonderful, responsible person Ken was. One fateful Sunday in 1961, she sat down by Ken and his son and daughter. After that the children played cupid. After their third date, they took all the children along on their dates, mostly picnics, parks, and drive-in movies, or eating and watching TV at one or the other's home.

Ken and Lois married December 22, 1962, with all six children participating--his two boys and her two boys, and her two girls. They stayed in Abilene for four years. Ken taught Spanish at Cooper High. Their youngest son, Allen, was born in May 1965.

In 1966 they moved to Manhattan, Kansas. Ken attended K-State and worked fulltime for Ag Press as Linotype operator and darkroom tech. After he graduated summa cum laude with an MA in Spanish, they moved to Kansas City, Kansas in 1968. He taught Spanish at Wyandotte High. Lois worked in an insurance office, then at Penney's. Linda Carol was born Jan. 15, 1970.

Back in Texas in 1974, Ken taught English/Spanish at Burleson High and worked part-time as darkroom tech with ABC Press, printer of the Burleson Star. Lois worked as sewing machine specialist for Penney's at Seminary South Mall.

Ken retired after teaching 20 years, then worked as typesetter for five years for The Printing Machine in Ft. Worth. He also taught Spanish night classes at TCC South. Lois graduated from TCC South, then graduated magna cum laude from Texas Wesleyan with a BS in education. For 15 years she taught 3rd grade at Bess Race Elementary in Crowley.

This country will not be a permanently good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a reasonably good place for all of us to live in.

-Theodore Roosevelt

I protect my right to be a Catholic by preserving your right to believe as a Jew, a Protestant, or non-believer, or as anything else you choose. We know that the price of seeking to force our beliefs on others is that they might some day force theirs on us.

-Mario Cuomo

Their spiritual journeys began with both having grown up in the Church of Christ. By 1966 they decided they “were ready to open the windows of our souls and recognize other followers of Jesus.” They joined the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Manhattan, and in 1968, Central Christian Church in Kansas City, KS. In Burlison, they were members of First Baptist Church for four years, then joined the Christian (Disciples) Church again.

In 1990 Lois was invited to speak at First Jefferson UU Church. They soon joined First Jefferson, happy to be with a progressive group, many of whom were considered “heretics like us.” In February of this year, Lois and Ken discovered and joined Westside. They are glad to be with Unitarians and Universalists, who encourage them to enjoy and care for all of nature and the whole human race.

On December 22 Ken and Lois will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary. They reared 8 children, have 18 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Lois says they are still sweethearts and best friends.

Social justice is Lois and Ken’s very special shared passion. Their involvement and amazing accomplishments in this area will be discussed in the January issue of The Westside Story

KENNETH JAMES

Kenneth James, who has been a member of Westside UU since March, moved here from Maryland, where he first found a Universalist Unitarian Church. He was attracted to Westside because, in his words, “It is a Welcoming Congregation”.

Presently employed as a Registered Dietitian by Sodexo, USA, an international management company providing contract services for Food Service, Environmental Services, and other related venues, Ken has an impressive background. He has served in the US Army Medical Specialist Corps, as a college professor, a resources manager, and as a hospital food and nutrition service director. Besides his PhD in Nutrition, he is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian.

Kenneth was raised and educated as a Seventh-day Adventist. He is divorced and has two grown children and three grandchildren.

His son and his wife, the parents of his three grandchildren, are both attorneys and live near Boston, MA. Ken’s daughter lives near Chicago and is also a Registered Dietitian. He says, “... she was a student of mine at East Tennessee State University when I was the Dietetics Program Director there back in the 90s”.

His interests involve writing and sharing on his blog, <http://therefectorymanager.blogspot.com>. Ken says, “These are little stories and vignettes that I just can’t help but write when some flash of inspiration hits. Many times, that flash will be something that happens in a UU service. Frequently, it will have a nuance to it from a gay perspective”.

Westsiders can get to know him better by connecting with him at church, or checking out and interacting with him on his blog. We are happy to welcome Kenneth James to Westside. Kenneth James: kdjamesrd@msn.com. 817-455-5796 cell phone.

Social Activities

POTLUCK SUNDAY will resume in January. This month we will be having a Christmas tamale dinner on the third Sunday. See article for details.

WESTSIDE GREAT BOOKS meets the third Sunday evening of each month at the church from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. This program is open to all.

CONTEMPORARY BOOK GROUP will meet December 14 after church, at the church. We will discuss *Brokeback Mountain* and other short stories by Annie Proux. On January 25, 2009 we will discuss “Saving Fish from Drowning” by Amy Tan.

DINNERS FOR 9 will not meet in December. The next one 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 NEXT MONTH’S
NEWSLETTER TO
JANICE_WILLIAMS@CHARTER.NET
BY DECEMBER 15.

*I wasn't disturbing
the peace, I was
disturbing the war.*

-Ammon Hennacy

*Life is a jest, and all
things show it, / I
thought so once, and
now I know it.*

-John Gay

WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

OUR BOARD

President: Tom Woods
Vice President: Sandy Olah
Secretary: Bob Vann
Treasurer: Charles Palmer
Director: Brenda McKeon
Director: John Nagely
Director: Dianne Nixon
Director: Ann Sutherland

BY THE NUMBERS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Totals</i>
<i>Oct. 5</i>	82	13	95
<i>Oct. 12</i>	70	3	73
<i>Oct. 19</i>	119	18	137
<i>Oct. 26</i>	114	19	133
<i>Averages</i>	96.25	13.25	109.5



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.

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



December, 2008

Mission Statement: We strive to supply a safe environment that supports development of an open mind, helping hands and a loving heart in our children and youth.

RE Committee:

Co-chairs- Mary Noer & Susan Farris

DRE- Julie Tribble

Committee Members-

Trisha Bowes Amanda Oglesby

Diane Jones Sandy Olah

Natalie McKeon Jessica Zinn

Caroline Nixon Paul Zinn

Bettina Pfeiffenberger

RE in the Park

What amazing weather we had for our day in the park! We had 26 students, 18 teachers and 1 dog!

The youth led our service and the singing was loud and exuberant!

We can hardly wait for the Spring RE in the Park. Be sure to check out the RE Bulletin Board for pictures!



Tree Decorating Party!

Lets decorate our tree the old fashioned way! We will make our own decorations and have some hot chocolate and cookies. It will be the best dressed tree in town! So make plans to attend our Tree Decorating Party on November 30, from 1 - 3pm

YOUTH UPDATE

You may have noticed that our Youth are not in the Service except on Potluck Sunday. They have decided to spend the whole time in their RE class. They are excited about having a full hour to study their curriculum!

ALTERNATIVE BAZAAR

The youth have a booth in the Alternative Bazaar at First Jefferson UU Church on December 6 & 7. They are sponsoring Heifer International and will sell shares of animals and plants. Come and do some Holiday shopping and support our Youth! Times are Saturday, Dec.6 from 10a-5p and Sunday, Dec 7 from 1-3p.

Youth to Host Parents Night Out

Do you have shopping to do? Or would you like to go to a grown-up movie? Well, here is your chance...we are offering to watch the kids from 4:30-9:30 on Dec 13. The cost is \$30. for the first child and \$15. for each add'l child. We'll feed them, play lots of games and watch some movies. We could actually call this Kid's Night Out for all the fun they'll have without the parents around! Look for the flyers on the bulletin boards, and sign up for your Night Out, or contact Susan Farris.



Flu Season Is Coming

Taking our cues from the Fort Worth ISD and its criteria for allowing children to come to school when ill, consider the following list of symptoms before bringing your kids to church:

- * Diarrhea
- * Vomiting
- * A rash with fever
- * Persistent coughing or breathing problems
- * Loss of appetite
- * Yellowing of the whites of the eyes or skin
- * Persistent irritability or crying
- * Unusual tiredness
- * Fever of 100 or greater
- * Lice infestation
- * Wounds with seeping fluids

If ever in doubt, it is best to call your child's physician. Otherwise, keep sick children isolated from other people, on bed rest and hydrated.

[Noreen Kimball](#)

The Healing Cup: The Story of the Flaming Chalice

Many Unitarian Universalist churches and fellowships start their worship service on Sunday morning by lighting a flame inside a chalice. This flaming chalice is a symbol for Unitarian Universalists just as the cross and the Star of David are symbols for other religious groups.

The story of how the flaming chalice became our symbol is an interesting one and it begins during the Second World War.

During that war, a lot of people living in Eastern Europe—Unitarians, Jews, and others—were in danger of being put in prison or killed by Nazi soldiers. A group of Unitarians came together in Boston, Massachusetts, to form the Unitarian Service Committee and their plan was to help the people in danger from the Nazis. The director of the Service Committee was the Unitarian minister Charles Joy. Rev. Joy had an office in Portugal so he would be near the people he wanted to help. He was in charge of a whole secret group of agents and messengers who worked hard trying to find safe routes for people to escape.

Rev. Joy and his assistants often needed to ask governments and other organizations for their help to save people who were in danger. They would send messages to anyone in government who might give them money, transportation, or a safe route. Because they were a new organization though, not very many people had heard of them. This made it much harder for Rev. Joy and the people in the Unitarian Service Committee to get the help they needed.

In those days during the war, when danger was everywhere, lots of people were running away from their own countries. Often, people who were escaping and people who wanted to help didn't speak the same language. Rev. Joy decided it would be much better if the Service Committee had an official symbol, or picture, to help identify its members. With a picture or symbol, it wouldn't matter if people couldn't read the language.

It looked like Rev. Joy would need to find an artist. He went to a very talented man named Hans Deutsch for help. Deutsch had escaped from the Nazis in Paris, France, where he was in danger because he drew cartoons showing people how evil the Nazis were. Rev. Joy asked Deutsch to create a symbol to print on Service Committee papers to make them look important. He wanted the symbol to impress governments and police who had the power to help move people to safety.

For his drawing, Deutsch borrowed an old symbol of strength and freedom from Czechoslovakia—a chalice with a flame. Rev. Joy wrote to his friends in Boston that the new symbol seemed to show the real spirit of the Unitarian religion. It showed a chalice, or cup, that was used for giving a healing drink to others. And it showed a flame on top of the chalice because a flame was often used to represent a spirit of helpfulness and sacrifice. And so the flaming chalice became the official symbol of the Unitarian Service Committee.

Many years later, the flaming chalice became the symbol of Unitarian Universalist groups all over the world. By the early 1970s, enough Unitarian Universalists had heard the story of the flaming chalice symbol that they began to light a flaming chalice as part of the worship service in their churches. Over the years, this practice has spread over most of the United States and Canada.

What does it mean to have a symbol like this? Well, one thing it means is that wherever you see a flaming chalice, you know that there are Unitarians and Universalists nearby.

