



Chaplains report on a Caring Community

The Chaplains Corps, working with Russell, has been contacting various members whom we've missed seeing or hearing from. If you know of anyone that has been sick or in the hospital, or is having a difficult time, please let Russell or a chaplain know. You may contact us at chaplain@westsideuu.org. If you cannot attend church, and want one of your Joys or Concerns mentioned during that portion of the Sunday morning service, let us know, and we will try to get it included.

We've missed John and Dortha McVey so much since John became ill with a rare blood disorder. He has had at least 40 blood transfusions. His white blood cells are killing his red blood cells. A bone marrow transplant may be necessary. Dortha has had bronchitis that nearly killed her. She is on oxygen and as Dortha said "We're kinda the blind leading the blind". The chaplain corp will be in close contact with them and will keep you informed. Our wishes for recovery are with them.

Westside member Nancy Van Boskirk misses us! She has accepted a job as a Financial Literacy Consultant. She is traveling to do her work, as well as studying for her necessary accreditation exams. All should be leveled out in February of 2011 when she will be accredited, and her studies will be over. She misses us and will be in our company as time permits. Send some well wishes her way.

Those on the Chaplains Corps are Beverly Archibald, Caroline Nixon, Diane Jones, Paul Maginnis, Jane Hansen, and Myrtle McMahan. Please give us a call or e-mail us with any concerns you may have, chaplain@westsideuu.org.

Sunday Services

December 5 "Hanging of the Greens"

With the holidays come many traditions – including those at Westside UU! We hope you will join us for our third annual "Hanging of the Greens" service where lights, love and logic are celebrated through story and special music!

December 12 Dr. Elleven, "I'm Right, You're Wrong!"

Have you ever known you were right and someone else was wrong? Is the person on the other end of the conversation thinking your arguments are so grand, so elegant, so astounding that you have persuaded that person to your obviously superior position? Not likely. Russell will argue with you this Sunday morning.

December 19 Dr. Elleven, "What an Ass!"

It's in the Bible; Jesus rode in on one. Perhaps, like Russell, you have been called one when someone was angry with you. The minister of Westside sometimes reads some extraordinary books. You may be surprised with what he has been reading lately.

The Westside Story

December 2010

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.

December 26
Dr. Elleven, "What Child is This?"

It is that time of year again when Russell talks a lot about Jesus. Here's hoping the holiday has been good to you and that you find joy in the world.

The schedule for the remaining chapters is:

Dec 5 Chapter 6 *Morals and History*; Chapter 7 *Religion and History*

Dec 12 Chapter 8, *Economics and History*; Chapter 9 *Socialism and History*

Dec 19 Chapter 10 *Government and History*; Chapter 11 *History and War*

Dec 26 Chapter 12 *Growth and History*; Chapter 13 *Is Progress Real?*

Forum – Sundays at 9:45 am

The first five chapters of LESSONS OF HISTORY were discussed on the last two Sundays of November.

This great book contains the distillation of over 10,000 pages of history, written by Will and Ariel Durant over a 50-year period of

Westside UUC Service Project

Each month at Westside, our undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. The following table lists these organizations and our recent contributions to them.

October '10	UUA Association Sunday	\$847.23
October '10	UUA Pakistan Relief	\$528.29
September '10	Samaritan House Dinners meat budget	\$1,229.22
August '10	Planned Parenthood of North Texas	\$1,526.07
June '10	Presbyterian Night Shelter	\$1,006.35
July '10	InReach Fund	\$1,171.60
May '10	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1687.29
April '10	Trinity Habitat for Humanity	\$900.10
April '10	UU Women's Federation	\$276.05
March '10	Americans for the Separation of Church & State	\$1291.94
February '10	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$1092.63
January, '10	UUSC Haitian Relief Fund	\$1751.35
January, '10	Tarrant Area Food Bank Pet Food Division	\$763.61
December, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)	\$852.53
November, '09	Westside InReach	\$1305.01
October, '09	UUA Now is the Time Campaign	\$766.05
September, '09	Samaritan House Food Account	\$876.77
August, '09	Safe Haven of Tarrant County	\$832.35
July, '09	Allied Communities of Tarrant (ACT)	\$635.69
June, '09	Interfaith Environmental Alliance	\$539.85
May, '09	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$1,135.31
April, '09	Community Hospice of Texas	\$1,032.39
March, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" campaign	\$816.75
February, '09	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$ 847.44
January, '09	Westside UU "Go Green" Campaign	\$1,231.80
December, '08	Samaritan House	\$1,057.54
November, '08	UU Church of Baton Rouge, LA	\$1,109.56
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

A word in earnest is as good as a speech.

-Charles Dickens

There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.

-Nelson Mandela

Confusion is a word we have invented for an order which is not understood.

-Henry Miller

study and writing. Here they look back to ask what history has had to say about all the subjects you see above. It is a valuable book which offers us an unusual opportunity to learn from, perhaps, the finest historians ever. Come join in open discussion of a profound original work of history and philosophy. Forum begins at 9:45 am.

RE News

Don't miss Tricia Bowes' RE News. You'll find it in the last two pages of this newsletter (after the page with attendance).

in & around westside

Where's Russell in December?

The end of November and first week of December will find Russell (once again) in downtown beautiful Houston. He will be back in Fort Worth on Tuesday, the 7th. He will offer reflections on the second, third, and fourth Sundays of December.

Appointment Times will look like this:

Tuesday, December 7th: 9 am to 1 pm
Thursday, December 9th: 9 am to 1 pm
Tuesday, December 14th: 9 am to 1 pm
Thursday, December 16th: 9 am to 1 pm
Tuesday, December 21st: 9 am to 1 pm
Thursday, December 23rd: 9 am to 1 pm
Tuesday, December 28th: 9 am to 1 pm
Thursday, December 30th: 9 am to 1 pm

Please feel free to call Russell at home during these hours. (817.370.2171). Do be aware, however, that often these hours are actually close to full with church appointments. Russell uses these times to meet church members and friends at homes, offices, coffee shops or restaurants. Please feel free to email relleven@gmail.com if you would like to set up an appointment.

Meet Meghan Foster

Meghan lives in Haltom City with her six year old black Labrador retriever, Shiva. Meghan moved to Fort Worth eight years ago from Jacksonville, Fl. where she grew up and attended college. (GO JAGS)

Meghan has a bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's in mathematics. She presently works at Texas Wesleyan University. She enjoys tinkering with computers, gaming on her PS3, and watching DVD's of her youthful icons, Xena Warrior Princess and Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

She was a UU Church member in Jacksonville and felt joining a church would be a great way to meet new people who share her values. Meghan loves how welcoming and friendly everyone is at Westside and can't imagine being anywhere else on Sunday morning. She also loved the new visitor bread.

Party by Degrees

Set aside some time Saturday evening, December 18, to stop by the church and celebrate! Westside's own Ric Hansen and Amy Youngblood have FINALLY earned their masters degrees and want to have fun with their church buddies and their new-found freedom. We'll revel in the Fellowship Hall from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., so stop on by and raise a glass.

Green Sanctuary Report -

Discovering a Sense of Place

A Seventh Principle discussion course from the Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI)

"When the American poet Gary Snyder was once asked to discuss at length how individuals could best help resolve the environmental crisis, he responded with two words: 'Stay put.' Only by rediscovering a sense of place, he suggested, a commitment to a particular piece of ground, will we be able to redefine our relationship to the planet."

"All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a

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Boredom is the feeling that everything is a waste of time; serenity, that nothing is.

-Thomas Szasz

Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all others because you were born in it.

-George Bernard Shaw

The lust for comfort murders the passions of the soul.

-Khalil Gibran

community of interdependent parts. His instincts prompt him to compete for his place in that community, but his ethics prompt him also to co-operate (perhaps in order that there may be a place to compete for). The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land.”

“But if every American is several people, and one of them is or would like to be a placed person, another is the opposite, the displaced person, cousin not to Thoreau but to Daniel Boone, dreamer not of Walden Ponds but of far horizons, traveler not in Concord but in wild unsettled places, explorer not inward but outward.”

The Green Sanctuary Committee's recent survey of our congregation provided a number of possible workshops to provide both practical guidance in our day-to-day activities, and spiritual and intellectual growth. A couple of short, practical seminars proved most popular, and are in the planning stage.

In the spirit of Westside's two previous popular and successful NWEI discussion courses, we would also like to offer their workshop on Discovering a Sense of Place. We hope the three excerpts above from the many fine thinkers and writers in the course manual will pique your interest and your intellect. The course is designed for the group to gather once a week for eight weeks, but this could be modified to suit our needs. We would like to begin as early as practical next year, and are looking at possible meeting times.

If you would like to join your fellow Westsiders sharing an interest in Seventh Principle ideas, please email the committee at green@westsideuu.org. You need not be a church member to participate. This is solely to establish a list of interested people, and does not commit you to attend.

Westsiders - Photo Directory

We now have text and photo versions of the Westside UU Member Directory incorporated into one document. (A text only version of the Directory was circulated last week via email. You can refer to this directory from your computer, or print out your own copy.)

We will print and distribute hard copy versions of this photo directory (in color, with a binding) if there is sufficient demand. They will cost about \$7.50 each, because of the length.

So the question is, do you want to purchase one or more copies, at this price? If so, please go to the link below and let me know.

Thanks,
Carl Romano
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/89RM83N>

Christmas Eve at Westside

Friday, December 24

Join us at 6 p.m. for a family-friendly service that celebrates the season, UU style. Afterward, we can enjoy the Four Cs: Coffee, Cider, Cocoa and a Cookie swap. Contact: Amy Youngblood, ybwest@sbcglobal.net

Mid-Year Congregational

Meeting January 30th, 12:30 - 1:30 PM at the church

Tentative Agenda:

- Financial Report
- President's Report
- By-Laws Amendments
- Dick Smith Award

Proposed By-Law Amendments for January 2011 Congregational Meeting:

Add the following text to section titled, “Election of Officers”:

“If an elected Officer should resign from the Board before the end of their term, the President may appoint another member to that position for the remaining part of the fiscal year from a list of nominees provided by the Nominating Committee. The Board will need to confirm the interim appointment with a majority vote.”

Add the following text to section titled, “Election of Directors”:

“If an elected Director should resign

Thank everyone who calls out your faults, your anger, your impatience, your egotism; do this consciously, voluntarily.

-Jean Toomer

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.

-John Ruskin

After the game, the king and pawn go into the same box.

-Italian Proverb

from the Board before the end of their term, the President may appoint another member to that position for the remaining part of the fiscal year from a list of nominees provided by the Nominating Committee. The Board will need to confirm the interim appointment with a majority vote.”

Add the following text to section titled, “Nominating Committee”:

“The President shall call the Nominating Committee for a meeting before January, or sooner if the need arises. At the first meeting, the committee shall appoint a chair from among its members.”

Add the following text to section titled, “Committee on Ministry”:

“The Committee on Ministry (COM) is assigned with the duty of investigating claims of member or friend behaviors that constitute a threat to the security and well being of the congregation and/or church as an organization. Findings from investigations shall be presented to the Board of Directors for a decision process that leads to non-action or actions of remedy.”

Are you a new member?

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 a member of Westside UU, 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

Board Minutes Available

to Westsiders

Copies of the minutes of all regular Westside Board meetings, from the beginning of FY 2009 to the present, may be found in a binder in the church office. Some attachments, such as reports from church committee meetings,

are not yet included, but should be added very soon. Where available, there are also copies of the financial reports provided to the board by Westside's treasurer. Please do not remove the binder or its contents from the office. Thanks. Suzie Lotven, Board Secretary

opportunities to learn & serve

Westside's 2010 Holiday

Angel Tree Program

Once again, Westside will be participating in South Central Alliance of Churches' (SCAC) Angel Tree program, to provide gifts to needy children in zip codes 76104, 76110 and 76109. We can feel the holiday magic in the air already!

Last year we gave gifts to forty young angels; this year, WUUC members will be providing for fifty young people! Angel girl/boy tags will be available for you to select every Sunday morning in the narthex, as you arrive at Westside, beginning the Sunday before Thanksgiving!

These Angel Tags (blue for boys and gold for girls) will have information with each child's name, clothing sizes and “toy wishes”.

You are asked to purchase one outfit for your child, as well as a toy for him or her and an age- appropriate book.

If any toy you buy needs batteries, please include them.

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, email and telephone number.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to put our faith and generosity into action and help needy families here in our own neighborhood.

Watching your budget carefully this year, yet would like to participate? Consider

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*One will rarely err
if extreme actions
be ascribed to
vanity, ordinary
actions to habit,
and mean actions
to fear.*

*-Friedrich Ni-
etzsche*

*It is not necessarily
true that averag-
ing the averages of
different popula-
tions gives the
average of the
combined popula-
tion. (Simpson's
Paradox)*

*-Edward H. Simp-
son*

*Nothing contrib-
utes more to peace
of soul than having
no opinion at all.*

*-Georg Christoph
Lichtenberg*

“sharing” an Angel with another WUUC member or family - you can split the cost, and still share the pleasure in giving!

You can sponsor as many children as you wish-some local families have more than one child in need of gift giving.

We encourage you to choose what fits your time/ budgetary abilities-the more members who participate, the merrier the project gets!!!

It's fun to 'partner up' and enjoy the adventure of shopping for/choosing 'magical things' for a child!

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

Pam Rogers is nutty enough to be heading up the Angel Tree Program again this year. Suzie and Jay Lotven have again volunteered to take the gifts to SCAC, as well as to help distribute them. If you have questions about the program, please feel free to talk with Pam Rogers at 214-923-3330, or by email at pam-rogersartist@gmail.com.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The December meeting of HOFW will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the 8th, with a dinner of barbecue beef, spiral ham, plenty of vegetables, dessert, coffee, and wine of your choice. Jeff Rodriguez and Caroline Nixon, two of the best music makers in the metroplex, are going to provide the season's songs which will include printed lyrics for all to sing and enjoy. On top of that we'll have some of the funniest DVDs ever. A small charge of \$5 buys the dinner and wine is \$1 a glass. A reservation with Joy Counts is a must. RSVP: 817-446-4696, or trice932@yahoo.com

Quilting & Handiwork Group

The Quilting/Handiwork Group meets the second Sunday of every month from 1:00 un-

til 4:00. We are making small quilts for the children of Samaritan House. Or, bring your own project and come for the conversations. All skill levels are welcome--if you don't know we will teach you. Kids are welcome to help; parents please call for information first. We need donations of quilters cotton fabric and yarn or crochet thread for tying. Call Debby Rake 817-473-2414 or email dsrake@gmail.com with any questions.

Contemporary Books

The group will meet at 12:30 at church Sunday, December 5. We will discuss *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery.

Calling All Chalice Lighters!

By Russell Elleven

The Chalice Lighter Program is a wonderful way to support other Unitarian Universalist congregations in the Southwest UU Conference (SWUUC) for as little as \$30 per year. Congregations are able to apply for grants from the Chalice Lighter fund in order to do some pretty impressive things. They buy property to build their first church. They use the grant to make major renovations. They sometimes begin to build a church building from scratch with the grant. The possibilities are endless and some of you will remember that Westside has been a recipient of this grant in the past.

A while back Bettina Pfeifferberger took the lead in getting Westsiders signed up as Chalice Lighters. Well, we are at it again. If you have ever been a chalice lighter or are interested in becoming one, please go to my (Russell's) office, and get one of the forms that will be on the round table. Fill out the form and just leave it there. I'll collect the forms in January, and send them in together as one packet.

Filling out the forms means that you will send at least \$10 to each "call" during the year. There may be up to three calls per year. So, when Gayle and I fill out our form, we are agreeing that two people will send \$10 for each call (10+10=\$20) in order to assist our larger UU family to do the work needing to be done.

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.

-Bertrand Russell

We think caged birds sing, when indeed they cry.

-John Webster

The game of life is the game of boomerangs. Our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later with astounding accuracy.

-Florence Scovel Shinn

Your Westside Board is contemplating the possibility of applying for a grant for your congregation. It is always best for the congregation applying to have a substantial portion of its membership supporting the Chalice Lighter Program. So, even if you are a current Chalice Lighter participant, come to my office, fill out the form, and spread the good news of the faith we all cherish!

Email me with questions, relleven@gmail.com.

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.

our wider community

FJUUC WOMEN'S

ALLIANCE - December

We meet on Tuesday, December 14, at NOON at First Jefferson UUC for a Holiday Potluck. After lunch, our guest speaker will be Rev. Jennifer Innis, speaking on things that are dear to her heart and willing to answer your questions. She looks forward to getting better acquainted with us. All women of FJUUC and Westside UUC are cordially invited. Please bring a dish to share and one wrapped gift, which is a White Elephant, or something edible, or funny, or whatever. We

will draw numbers, and each take a gift home. To help with set-up please come at 11:15 AM. And if you can't help with set-up please plan to stay afterward and help with clean-up. Our hostesses are Diane Feldman and Gail Rowntree, and they will be grateful for your assistance. Questions? Call Karen Burkett at 817-244-4136 or email m.k.burkett@att.net

Jubilee Theatre

God's Trombones will be performed by Jubilee Theatre from November 27 through December 26. If you have not seen it, you are in for a treat. I have seen it twice and will go again this year. It is an original work with the book by the late Rudy Eastman and music and lyrics by Doug Balentine. It is "a musical celebration that will lift your spirits and rock your soul." It is well worth the effort to see it. Go to: www.jubileetheatre.org for more information.

- Beverly Archibald

Women's Alliance In January

On Tuesday, January 11, we are off to the Kimball Museum for an Exhibit of works by Salvator Rosa (1615-1673), a 17th century Italian painter who did landscapes, fanciful portraits, scenes of witchcraft and magic, altarpieces and themes from classical literature. We can also stroll through the permanent collection, which has some exciting new paintings that the Kimball recently purchased. My membership will give us a 10% discount on purchases at the gift shop. FJUUC and WUU members meet at the church parking lot at 9:30 AM to carpool, or come directly to the Kimball at 10 AM (3333 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth, 76107). Lunch at the Kimball Restaurant is 8\$ or more. And the food is great!

From your trip planner, Marjorie Montgomery, 817-885-8372.

*The Westside Story
December 2010*

Your Westside Story Staff:

**Cindy Fountain,
Editor In Chief**

**Eric Stevens,
Designer**

**Lauren Dudley,
Distribution**

"Have a safe and happy Holiday Season and New Year!"

*The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month.
Email submissions to our Editor Cindy Fountain at vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net.*

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Our Board

President: Gwen Gipson

Vice President: Caroline Nixon

Secretary: Suzie Lotven

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Directors, two- year terms: Reed Bilz, Michael Muñoz, James Finn

Directors, continuing: Brenda McKeon, Ann Sutherland

Members at large: Cody Hancock, Diane Jones, Nancy Van Boskirk

By The Numbers

October	9am	11am adults	11am kids	Total
Oct. 3	15	99	33	147
Oct. 10	11	105	29	145
Oct. 17	12	122	42	176
Oct. 24	12	120	26	158
Oct. 31	9	113	29	151
Average	11.8	111.8	31.8	155.4



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.

Committee on Ministry

Mary Cretsinger, Chair

Linda Hanratty

Kay Kubala

Jeff Rodriguez

Tom Woods

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

RE News

December 2010

CRE Chair: Tom Woods

DRE: Tricia Bowes

Board Liaison: Michael Munoz

OWL: Andrea Petty

Curricula/Supplies: Tricia Bowes

RE Parties: Laurie Hagstrom

RE Events: Lauren Keefe

Special Fund Manager: Sara Munoz

RE Publicity: *still available*



"Alice the Chalice ©
2002 UU PLANET. Used
with permission."

Mission Statement: Our RE provides a safe environment that supports development of an open mind, helping hands, and a loving heart in our children and youth.

Ornament Making Party

Our ornament party will be on December 5th, from 12:00-1:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will have all the crafting supplies you need to make your addition to our unique Christmas tree. Music, snacks and crafting- you won't want to miss it.

OWL Our Whole Lives

Let's talk about sex...Parents of students in kindergarten-1st grade OR 4th-6th grade are invited to enroll their children in the Our Whole Lives comprehensive sexuality education program. If you would like your child to attend these 8-week classes there is a mandatory 2 hour parent/child orientation. The classes will be once a week for 8 weeks. See dates below:

K-1 mandatory parent/child orientation: Sunday December 12th at 1pm at the church.

K-1 classes will be from 11-12 on Sunday mornings (instead of regular Sunday School) starting on January 9th and meeting every Sunday morning until February 27th.

4th-6th grade mandatory parent/child orientation: Wednesday December 8th at 6:30pm at Caroline Nixon's house.

3560 Manderly Place, Fort Worth, TX 76109

4th-6th grade classes will be at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings at Caroline's house starting on January 5th and meeting every Wednesday evening until February 23rd.

Season of Doing by Tricia Bowes

This time of year often revolves around buying decorations and gifts for our home and for family members and friends. We can be overrun with shopping and to do lists that we actually forget to enjoy this winter season. Here are a few ideas that have worked in my home to keep the focus on connecting with people and not just collecting *things* from the store.

- Find an opportunity to volunteer in your community. Kids are very generous with giving of their time.
- Donate unwanted toys and clothes before Christmas to a local shelter or other organization.
- Count down the days of December with a doing calendar. This is an annual favorite in our home. We include a slip of paper to open each day. Some of ours include, “Hug someone smaller than you,” “Make a pinecone birdfeeder for outside,” “Learn about Hanukkah,” “Call your grandma.”
- Exchange presents with substance. Look close by and sometimes you’ll find the perfect gift already at your home. An heirloom, necklace, quilt, or old box can mean a lot to your child if they know the history behind it. Write out the story of why it is special in your family, and they can share in the legacy.
- Get crafty. Some of the best gifts are homemade. Baked goods, canned items and simple sewing projects can have your whole family involved in the making. The time you spend together can be your gift too.