



The Westside Story

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.

Jonathan Griffin's grandfather passed away about 2 months ago. Jonathan was able to attend his service and spend a little time with his family in Wyoming.

Berry Bock had a dear friend pass away last month.

Karen Dillman is traveling back and forth to

Florida assisting her elderly aunt and uncle as they endure chemotherapy.

Edward McGuire's step-father, Freddie, passed away in early November.

Karen Moore's father-in-law is experiencing heart problems and has been in the hospital in Midland.

Pam Roger's brother, David Charles Rogers, passed away mid-November.

Lin Wells reports he is healthy and busy in Columbus, Ohio and hopes to return to Westside in February or March.

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

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.

Sunday Services

December 4 – “Hanging of the Greens”

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

December 11 – *Grieving Through the*

Holidays with Dr. Russell Elleven. The holidays are often a wonderful time for family and friends. At other times it is a lonely and distressful way to end the year. Russell will explore some of these ideas this Sunday morning.

December 18 – *Is There A Place For Me?*

with Dr. Russell Elleven. Have you ever walked in some place and wondered if there was a place for you? The feeling of isolation can seem enormous sometimes. Russell will tell you a story this Sunday you may want to hear.

December 25 – *Christmas at Westside* with Dr. Russell Elleven. Should we open the doors of a Unitarian Universalist Church on Christmas? Hell yes! Open your presents, eat a muffin, and see what Russell says about Christmas at Westside.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Forum

Interested in news of the world? In relevant political discussions? In intelligent and objective expressions of ideas? In history of Rome? This and more are available in our Forums each and every Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. During the month of December, current events, a 30-minute dvd on “The Rise of Rome,” and a

*Style is time's fool.
Form is time's
student.*

–Stewart Brand

*When a man is
wrapped up in
himself he makes a
pretty small
package.*

–John Ruskin

*Time has a won-
derful way of
weeding out the
trivial.*

*–Richard Ben
Sapir*

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 '11	Child Study Center	\$643.42
October '11	UUA Association Sunday	\$149.00
September '11	InReach Fund	\$1,071.26
August '11	Free the Slaves	\$1,030.91
July '11	Samaritan House Dinner Fund	\$1,082.64
June '11	Mental Health Mental Retardation Vision	\$819.52
May '11	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,010.67
May '11	Mobile Recreation Summer Day Camp	\$148.00
April '11	UUA/UUSC Japan Relief Fund	\$960.25
April '11	National Transplant Assistance Fund	\$634.41
March '11	PFLAG	\$754.69
February '11	Aids Outreach	\$1213.74
January '11	Southern Poverty Law Center	\$759.29
January '11	Fund for Nelwyn Schnell	\$768.58

presentation re healthcare in the U.S. by Alvin Migdal, a 17-year veteran of Texas health services, are scheduled. Get your name and email address on our list, or read the weekly church forum on the web to learn the dates of each. Or email trice932@yahoo.com for more information. Child care is available if scheduled by the preceding Wednesday. Contact: Diane Jones at 817-733-0807.

New Faces

MEET SHIRLEY MILLER

Shirley was born and raised and taught in her high school alma mater in Graham, Texas.

She retired from teaching to Bellingham, Wa. for three years before moving back to Fort Worth. She has a BA and an MA and was an English teacher in high school and local community college for twenty years. Shirley comes from a Southern Baptist tradition, but she has been marching to her own drummer since 2000. Shirley has two living children and one deceased. Her son, Robert, lives a life close to nature and activism on Lummi Island, Wa. Daughter, Jennifer, is a Fort Worth police officer and has three children. Shirley lives with her daughter. Her youngest child, Jeff, died in 1998, by his own hand. That has been a life changing event for her. Shirley loves literature, politics, good films, gardening, and reading. She visited several UU Churches but found Dr. Elleven was the greatest draw to Westside. She is hopeful of the Adult Forum and Social Justice Committee.

MEET TRICIA BOWES

Tricia is a native to Fort Worth. She grew up on the east side in the Meadowbrook and Polytechnic Heights area and went to Northside High School.

She was raised in the Polytechnic United Methodist Church and worked in all aspects of church work. She has been teaching and volunteering in early childhood education since she was fifteen and taught preschool aged children for ten years. She is back at school this fall to finish her bachelor's degree in University Studies at UTA, and then continue her education to become a speech pathologist. She sings as a professional vocal soloist in many congregations and small choirs in the area.

Tricia is married to Craig, and they have two boys, Joshua, 11 and Reed, 5. Tricia started attending Westside in 2007 and quickly became involved but recently felt like she couldn't really serve to her capacity without membership.

CRE News

CRE Mission and Vision Retreat

On November 5, Westside held a mission and vision retreat for religious education. As often happens with these sorts of gatherings, we didn't reach the place that I had envisioned for the retreat, but maybe we got somewhere better.

We started the day by creating a timeline for religious education at Westside. Many of us in the room had not been with Westside from the beginning, so having a few long time members was wonderful for us. We got to see the progression of our program through from the very beginning. We watched the program take shape through trials and challenges and emerge in the last few years with tremendous growth. I was so touched by the dedication of the men and women who held religious education classes with the children in hallways, foyers and even their cars! They never lost site of the importance of engaging the children in our UU faith.

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*Be the master of
your will and the
slave of your
conscience.*

-Hasidic saying

*Don't be afraid to
take a big step. You
can't cross a chasm
in two small jumps.*

*-David Lloyd
George*

*We're here to put a
dent in the uni-
verse.*

-Steve Jobs,

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*So long as you have
food in your mouth,
you have solved all
questions for the
time being.*

-Franz Kafka

*Zen is not a
particular state but
the normal state:
silent, peaceful,
unagitated. In
Zazen neither
intention, analysis,
specific effort nor
imagination take
place. It's enough
just to be without
hypocrisy, dogma-
tism, arrogance
-- embracing all
opposites.*

*-Taisen Deshi-
maru*

*Misunderstandings
and neglect occa-
sion more mischief
in the world than
even malice and
wickedness.*

*-Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe*

I felt connected to the past in a way that I hadn't before.

Throughout the retreat, much of the conversation veered into other challenges Westside faces in the near future: transition to a bigger church format and the inherent communication struggles that come with that, going to two services, Russell's sabbatical, and our physical space limitations. I started to wonder if we were getting off track. Weren't we here to talk about children's religious education? What has this got to do with what we will teach and what we want for the kids? I hung in there.

When we got to the exercise where we envisioned our RE "utopia," I thought, "finally, this is where we get to the good stuff!" We were asked, "If there were no boundaries or obstacles what would our program look like?" Rather than describing the physical space (beyond having enough) or the kinds of activities or curriculum we would utilize, the conversation centered on integrating the children into the community even more. We talked about a place where the children felt ownership and belonging and stayed with the community even after becoming a young adult. We envisioned a welcoming place where children were among us, yet receiving nourishment for their special needs. I think this might be the point where I realized my expectations were not being met. The imminently practical, organized and goal-focused me felt like I needed specifics, statements, and outcomes. It was clear at this point we were not going to get to a statement of "here is exactly what we envision and here are the steps to get there."

I left the retreat feeling a little overwhelmed and somewhat defeated. But, I thought long and hard about the day. I sat with it, I digested it. I examined my own expectations. I talked to others about

it. An interesting thing started to happen; I got more and more hopeful and excited about what we did that day. I realized it was my expectations that may have been wrong. Instead of creating an environment where we let things happen, I was being impatient to make things happen.

I began to understand more deeply that we have a community which values nurturing life-long members of our church family over a set body of knowledge that kids should learn in our classes. We are deeply concerned for the spiritual and emotional development of our youngest members. We are adamant about their feeling included in our community. We want to foster their sense of social justice and give them opportunities to practice their beliefs in the greater community. We love them. I no longer feel defeated; I feel elated! Despite the challenges ahead we have an environment that is ripe for amazing things to happen for our children and youth. The administrator in me still needs a vision statement and measurable goals, road maps and well planned curriculum, and I will get there. But, now I view this retreat as a great success and as just the beginning of the conversation.

Upcoming Events

DEC. 11 - Ornament Decorating Party

DEC. 25 - No Sunday school Classes/
Nursery

JAN. 7 - Winter Teacher Training

JAN. 8 - K-1 OWL classes start

JAN. 9 - CRE Council Meeting

JAN. 21 - NATUURES Teacher Appreciation Dinner

Join the conversation and get important CRE information at our Google group by going to groups.google.com/group/westsidere and click the link to apply for group membership. If you have any questions you can contact Andrea Petty at dre@westsideuu.org. - *Andrea Petty, DRE*

Where's Russell in December?

As we wind down 2011, I will be at church each Sunday in December. I will deliver reflections on the last three Sundays. Below you will find my appointment times for the month. During appointment times I meet with Westsiders in my church office, in their homes, in a coffee shop, at a restaurant, sometimes in their places of work, or whatever best fits our schedules. In order to set a time to meet during these hours, just shoot me an email at relleven@gmail.com for the quickest response. Otherwise give me a call at home (817.370.2171) and I'll get back to you as soon as my schedule allows.

So, December appointment times will look like this:

Thursday, December 1st, 9 AM - 1 PM
Tuesday, December 6th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Thursday, December 8th, 9 AM - 1 P
Tuesday, December 13th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Thursday, December 15th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Tuesday, December 20th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Thursday, December 22nd, 9 AM - 1 PM
Tuesday, December 27th, 9 AM - 1 PM
Thursday, December 29th, 9 AM - 1 PM

Remember, Mondays are my day off, so emails or calls on those days often receive a slower response. - *Peace! Russell*

Guitar Group and Potluck

Westside is forming a guitar, banjo and other stringed instruments club. Bob Rake,

Ed McGuire, Reed Bilz, John Fisher and others are forming a group to play folk, folk rock, 60's and 70's protest songs and oldies country music. The group will play the music of Joan Baez, Woodie Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Hank Williams and others of that genre. We plan to meet at the church on potluck Sundays, and play in the Glass Classroom. We invite any audience but no booing please. If interested call or email Bob, Ed or Reed. Hope to see you.

READ THIS!!!

If you are reading this, we are probably preaching to the choir. But members are gently reminded of their responsibility to thoroughly read their Westside newsletters and email updates. We are all texting, twittering, and facebooking, and it is tempting to put the newsletter on a back burner, but we count on an informed congregation to keep us moving forward. Word of mouth is simply not enough in a larger congregation.

Highlights from the October Board Meeting

The Board decided/approved the following:

- Decided to apply for a SWUUC Chalice Lighter grant for a new childcare coordinator position.
- Decided to apply for a NTAUUS grant for additional salary for the pianist when we go to 2 full services in the fall of 2012.
- Approved the November plate offering recipient, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) Guest at Your Table.

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Before we set our hearts too much on anything, let us examine how happy are those who already possess it.

-Francois, duc de La Rochefoucauld

A problem well stated is a problem half solved.

-Charles F. Kettering

A cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

-Oscar Wilde

- Approved the December plate offering recipient, South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC).
- Approved the January plate offering recipient, the Multicultural Alliance. Began making preparations for the mid-year congregational meeting.
- Reviewed Strategic Plan goals and our progress towards those goals.

Soon after the October Board meeting, the Director of Religious Education and the Board President compiled our Chalice Lighter grant application and submitted it to SWUUC. We are happy to announce that SWUUC has awarded us a Chalice Lighter grant! Funds will be collected by SWUUC until the Spring Conference. Whatever is collected during that time will be given to Westside to support a new childcare coordinator position.

Approved minutes from the Board meeting, as well as the monthly financial statements, are always available for review in the church office. Finally, members are always welcome to observe Board meetings, which are usually scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
--Gwen Gipson, President of Westside Board of Directors

Update on Sabbatical Planning

As you probably know by now, Russell will be taking a 6-month sabbatical beginning in March of 2012. He will return to the pulpit in early September of 2012. Russell devoted an entire reflection to the sabbatical and what it means for Westside. If you were not at church to hear his reflection, please take time to listen to the podcast recording on our church website.

About two years ago, the church leadership (Board of Directors, Committee on Ministry, and Finance Committee) as well as significant volunteer teams (Worship Team and Chaplain Corps) began planning for this sabbatical. You could even say that planning for Russell's sabbatical began on the day he was hired, since the sabbatical he accrues has been part of his ministerial agreement from the beginning of his time with us.

The planning that has taken place encompasses three areas: finances, Sunday services, and pastoral care. As you know, the church budget for this fiscal year and next fiscal year includes additional funds for speaker honorarium fees.

Russell formed the Worship Team over two years ago in order to develop a consistent structure for worship services. The Worship Team has filled most of the Sunday service speaker slots for the sabbatical period at this time. The team itself has grown to eight members. With the well-established team in place, I feel confident that the team will continue to provide high-quality Sunday services in Russell's absence.

Russell formed the Chaplain Corps two years ago to help him minister to members in bad health, in grief, or other situations where they need special care. No doubt, the Chaplain Corps has helped our growing church in fulfilling one of the most basic needs of its members – reaching out to others when we need them. Much like the Worship Team, the now established Chaplain Corps can continue to fulfill those very important and basic needs in Russell's absence.

During the mid-year congregational meeting, the Board will present information on the sabbatical and hopes to answer any questions you may have about it. If you have any questions you'd like answered, feel

One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other.

-Jane Austen

A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs -- jolted by every pebble in the road.

-Henry Ward Beecher

There are a thousand thoughts lying within a man that he does not know till he takes up a pen to write.

-William Makepeace Thackeray

free to contact the Board president, Gwen Gipson at president@westsideuu.org.

Karaoke and New Year's

Please join us for a New Year's Eve Party, December 31, from 7pm-9:30 for karaoke, dancing, adult beverages and food. Child care is available. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean up. Please contact Sandy Olah at 817-988-4714 or sandy@rus-sellfeedandsupply.com to volunteer or if you need child care.

Mid-Year Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 12:30 – 2:00 PM
The Westside Board of Directors has scheduled the mid-year congregational meeting to be held 30 minutes after the service. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Childcare will also be available.

Agenda:

- 1. Treasurer's Report – financial statements will be emailed to congregation 2 weeks prior to meeting.**
- 2. President's Report**
- 3. Update on Sabbatical Planning**
- 4. Update on 2 Services Planning**
- 5. Proposed By-Laws Amendments – proposed changes will be emailed to congregation at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.**
- 6. Old Business**
- 7. New Business**

Have any questions for the Board?
If you have any questions you would like addressed at the meeting, particularly with regard to the upcoming sabbatical period or the plan to provide two full church services, please submit your questions to the Board president at president@westsideuu.org.
We hope to see you there!

Inclement Weather Policy

1. During the work week, the church will follow the policy of the Fort Worth ISD. Any day the schools are closed due to bad weather, all church meetings and activities will be canceled.
2. During the weekend, the decision about whether to cancel church activities or Sunday services will be made by the Board President. The Board President shall make this decision after consulting with the Sunday speaker, the worship leader, DRE (or designated replacement for the day), and chair/organizer of an activity scheduled that day.
3. Once the decision has been made to cancel services and/or activities, the Board President shall send an email to the membership mailing list announcing the closure and have an announcement posted on the church's web site. The Board President shall also have the church's voicemail message updated. The Board President may delegate other capable individuals to carry out these tasks.
4. In the event that the Board President is out of town or otherwise unavailable, the Vice President shall assume these responsibilities. In the event that the Vice President is unavailable, the Board Secretary shall assume these responsibilities.

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Comedy has to be based on truth. You take the truth and you put a little curlicue at the end.

-Sid Caesar

There are two kinds of truth: the truth that lights the way and the truth that warms the heart. The first of these is science, and the second is art. Neither is independent of the other or more important than the other. Without art science would be as useless as a pair of high forceps in the hands of a plumber. Without science art would become a crude mess of folklore and emotional quackery. The truth of art keeps science from becoming inhuman, and the truth of science keeps art from becoming ridiculous.

-Raymond Thornton Chandler

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5. If there is no cancellation announcement on the web site, sent via email or on the church voice mail, members may conclude that the activities or services will be held.

6. Members should keep in mind that this policy cannot cover every possible scenario. Therefore, members are welcome to use their own judgment as to whether it is safe to be on the roads.

7. The Chaplain Corps will ensure that a poster will be displayed during the winter season by the welcome desk stating our policy. Likewise, the Chaplain Corps will ensure that reminder notices of this policy will be published during the winter season in the OOS announcements, Weekly Web, and newsletter – with language similar to that of the poster.

*When small men
begin to cast big
shadows, it means
that the sun is
about to set.*

-Lin Yutang

*Every man is a
damned fool for at
least five minutes
every day. Wisdom
consists in not ex-
ceeding the limit.*

-Elbert Hubbard

*The path of least
resistance makes
all rivers, and some
men, crooked.*

-Napoleon Hill

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 Cretsingher, 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 marycret.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO
LEARN & SERVE

Kroger Card Fundraiser

Westside just received another check from Kroger for \$303.28. Keep using your Kroger cards. Want to know more about the program? You get a card from Howard

McMahan, and load it with money at any Kroger Service Desk. It spends like cash, and Westside receives 5% of what you spend.

Vegan Potluck Saturday December 24th!

Have you ever wanted to eat in a healthier way but didn't know where to start? Have you ever wanted to eliminate animals and animal products as a way of eating more compassionately? Have you ever wanted to eat lower on the food chain so as to be kinder and gentler to the Earth? Have you ever wanted to hang out with others who want these same things? If you answered "yes" to any of these, please consider joining the Monthly Vegan Potluck group. We will hang out together, eat good food and exchange recipes. Vegan Potlucks will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

You can sign up on our meetup.com website located at: <http://www.meetup.com/Vegan-Potluck-WUUC/>

Here's how the potluck will work:

- Please arrive early (4:30 p.m.) if possible so you can help set up tables and chairs
- Bring a VEGAN dish
- Bring the recipe for your VEGAN dish (or be prepared to email it to others)
- In place of a prayer, we will light a chalice and join in a Responsive
- Reading before the meal
- Eat and enjoy
- Talk with other potluckers
- Look for dishes you like
- Help clean up...
- COME BE WITH US!!

Contact Russell Elleven, Laurie Hagstrom

or Andrea Petty if you have any questions about the Monthly Vegan Potluck!

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet December 4, at church, after church, to discuss *Glory Cloak* by Patricia O'Brien, a historical novel about Louisa May Alcott and Clara Barton (UUs). January 22, we will discuss *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman.

Quilting & Handiwork Group

The Westside quilters group meets the third Sunday of the month. We will be meeting from 1:00 to 4:00 after Potluck. Everyone is invited; no skills are required. Bring a sewing machine and tools if you have them; we are happy to share. You can help make small quilts for the children of Samaritan House or work on your own project. If you have any questions talk to Debby Rake at 817-473-2414 or dsrake@gmail.com.

Green Sanctuary Notes

Choose Compassionate Consumption this Holiday Season

The holidays are upon us. The advertising message is more: more food, more decorations, more gifts. But is this what the holidays really should mean to Unitarian Universalists? Shouldn't we be focusing more on reduce, reuse, restore, and recycle?

Some holiday suggestions along those lines might include serving less food, less meat, and more locally grown food where

available. Use cloth napkins. Decorate thoughtfully. Have fun making decorations, or look at Berry Good Buys or Goodwill for them. Begin shifting to LED lights. Give gifts of time, of pictures, of performances, of activities. Give "presence" rather than presents. Draw names to reduce the gift-giving list. Purchase gifts at alternative gift markets, such as the one December 3-4 at First Jefferson UU Church.

Donate to mutually agreeable charities in the name of a person to whom you would normally provide a gift, especially where that person will receive recognition for the gift. An example would be my granddaughters getting a brick at the Houston Zoo with their names on it, with the proceeds from sale of the brick going to support the zoo. Consider sharing your bounty with folks who find themselves in a financial bind this holiday season.

Begin building new, environmentally friendly, holiday traditions this year. Make this truly a season of (green) peace on earth, goodwill towards men--a season of feeling especially happy in knowing that we have reduced our impact on the "web of all existence, of which we are a part."

Green Sanctuary Committee News

The next Green Sanctuary Committee meeting will be after church on Sunday, December 11. We will be discussing our worship service on air quality, scheduled for March 4, 2012, our program to provide fluorescent light bulbs to participants in SCAC's income assistance programs, and a possible green movie for January. Everyone is invited to attend and bring ideas.

The Committee wants to thank all those that have made our new battery recycling program such a success. Of course, the biggest thanks goes to Beverly Archibald, who suggested this project and continued pressing for it. It would now help to spread the load a bit if a few additional

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*Rivers know this:
there is no hurry.
We shall get there
some day.*

-A. A. Milne

*If Galileo had said
in verse that the
world moved, the
inquisition might
have let him alone.*

-Thomas Hardy

*Besides the noble
art of getting
things done, there
is the noble art of
leaving things un-
done. The wisdom
of life consists in
the elimination of
nonessentials.*

-Lin Yutang

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folks wouldn't mind providing occasional help with collecting, holding, and perhaps transporting batteries to the recycle center. If you could help, and aren't already up to your eyebrows in various church projects, please contact Linda Hanratty or Bob Vann at green@westsideuu.org.

*Eternal suffering
awaits anyone who
questions God's
infinite love.*

-Bill Hicks

*All great truths be-
gin as blasphemies.*

-George Bernard
Shaw

*On two occasions
I have been asked,
"Pray, Mr. Bab-
bage, if you put
into the machine
wrong figures, will
the right answers
come out?" I am not
able rightly to ap-
prehend the kind of
confusion of ideas
that could provoke
such a question.*

-Charles Babbage

Humanists of Fort Worth

We meet on the second Wednesday evening of each month. The next one is December 14, 7:00 pm at the church. Program to be announced. For more information contact Gene Gwin, Chair of HOFW at hofwchair@gmail.com

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

'Tis the Season for Westside's Holiday Angel Tree Program!

Once again, Westside will be participating in SouthCentral Alliance of Churches' (SCAC) Angel Tree program, to provide gifts to needy children in zip codes 76104, 76110 and 76109.

Last year we gave gifts to fifty young angels; this year, we will be providing for fifty-five 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 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 "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).

Sue Spell, Kristin Pitt, Joanne Jackson, Shirley Miller, and Anita and Van Leung have offered to help with the Angel Tree 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 Kristin Pitt at 817-995-0704 or kristinpitt@att.net.

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.

SCAC Thanksgiving Update

Many thanks to everyone who participated in providing food for the Thanksgiving Baskets we donated to the South Central Alliance of Churches. In addition to the 54 baskets, we gave \$125 to assist in buying turkeys. Thanks to the Tysons for providing the bags, to the Lotvens, who delivered the bags, to Jeff Bullock for the beautiful prayer cards, and to the many who helped fill the bags after Potluck.

Also, many thanks to Jay and Suzie Lotven, Reed Bilz, Shirley Miller and Sue Spell for helping sign up people to receive turkeys at Thanksgiving from SCAC. Beverly did not help this year, as last year, in her halting Spanish, she signed up people to receive a

Thanksgiving duck! The clients were very polite, and nobody laughed or said anything, but one of the bilingual workers informed her of her mistake. One wonders if folks were surprised when they got a turkey instead of a duck.

And finally, we want to thank Myrtle McMahan and Brenda McKeon for heading up this project.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2012

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Dave Frey, Co-director
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www.whalecoastak.org

The Westside Story
December 2011

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Editor In Chief

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

Our Board

President: Gwen Gipson

Vice President: Caroline Nixon

Treasurer: Bob Rake

Secretary: Suzie Lotven

Directors: Diane Jones, Bill Russell, Stuart Cheney, Jane Palmer, Jessica Zinn, Don Jackson

October 2011 Attendance

	Adults	Kids	Total
Oct 2	90	22	112
Oct 9	94	21	115
Oct 16 + campers	139	35	174
Oct 23	105	31	136
Oct 30	110	22	132
Average	107.6	26.2	133.8



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 & compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free & responsible search for truth & 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

Jeff Rodriguez, Chair

Linda Hanratty, Joy Counts, Lonnie Goins,
Scott Paulson

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