



The Westside Story

Sunday Services

March 4 - *“Our Beautiful - And not so Beautiful - Air”* with Linda Hanratty. Ever worry about air quality in D/FW? Can you make a difference? Please come and listen to this special service presented by the Green Sanctuary Committee.

March 11 - *“Compassion at Westside: Practicing Compassion”* with Gwen Gipson. As Unitarian Universalists, our first principle speaks of the inherent worth and dignity of every person. The idea of compassion, then, would seem like a no-brainer for us. Compassion (like our principles) is a simple idea, yet one that can be difficult to live or practice fully. Gwen will kick off the new “Compassion at Westside” series by reflecting on steps we can take to live more compassionately.

March 18 - *“Heresies We Know and Love”* with Rev. Marjorie Montgomery. UUs are doubters, askers of hard questions, often heretics. Our very name, Unitarian Universalist, derives from beliefs that are counter to orthodox Christianity. This talk reflects on old, evolving and new heresies which shape our thinking. Be glad for heretics!

March 25 - *“Fast Track to Westside’s Future”* with Charles Palmer. The reflection will focus on short term stewardship, planning Westside’s needs for 2012/2013, and how it will set the stage for a possible new home in the longer term. The future of Westside is ours to envision and fulfill. Time to board the train heading to Westside’s future!

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Forum

Our Church Forum meets every Sunday at 9:30 and concludes at 10:40, allowing 20 minutes for coffee before the morning reflection. Since topics for discussion vary with interest, with current developments, and with availability of material or speakers, it is not always possible to know the subjects for four or five weeks in advance. Instead, each Sunday’s Forum will be announced in the Weekly Memo on Monday mornings. The

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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.

subject will also be e-mailed on Monday to all fans whose e-mail addresses are on my Forum list. To contact me, the address is trice933@att.net (and ignore the name Claude). Childcare is available if reserved by the preceding Wednesday. Contact Diane Jones at 817-733-0807 for childcare.

CRE News

Connect with CRE

Our first ever Westside Teacher Appreciation dinner was a big success. We had about 30 people attend. The children volunteered to decorate, serve dinner and clean up afterwards. They did such a great job that there was very little left for the adults to do by the end of the evening! Our entertainment was provided by the Westside strings band that meets on third Sundays at the church. A big thank you goes to Bob Rake, Reed Bilz, John Fisher and Gary Randall. I think a good time was had by all. This month there will be a fire drill in the CRE classes. The

children will practice leaving their rooms and making their way to the designated meeting spots outside the building. In the event of a real fire, adults would exit the sanctuary through the front doors, and meet your children at the designated meeting areas. Children in the classrooms off of the fellowship hall will meet at the corner of Page Ave. and College Ave. in front of St. John's Episcopal Church. This is next door to Westside on the west. Children in the two classrooms (the "glass classroom" and the "tree room" behind the "glass classroom") at the east end of the building meet in our parking lot to the east of the building. If you have children in each group, we recommend you go to the youngest first. In the event of an actual emergency, children will be released to a parent or guardian only.

Upcoming Events:

- Mar. 2 - Youth Group Meeting 6:30 at church**
- Mar. 4 - Fire Drill**
- Mar. 12 - CRE Council meeting**
- Mar. 16 - Youth Group Meeting 6:30 at church**
- Mar.29 - April 1 - SWUUC Leadership Training**

It is a truism that almost any sect, cult, or religion will legislate its creed into law if it acquires the political power to do so.

-Robert A. Heinlein

There is no exception to the rule that every rule has an exception.

-James Thurber

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.

January '12	Multicultural Alliance	\$807.83
December '11	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,096.25
November '11	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$730.07
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

More Info:

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

IN & AROUND WESTSIDE

Where's Russell?

Westside's minister, the Rev. Dr. Russell Elleven, is currently on sabbatical. He will return on Sunday, September 2, 2012.

Westside to go to Two Services in September

Westside is growing, growing, growing! It's wonderful that more and more people are hearing the good news about Westside as a place where everyone is welcome. But, robust growth can lead to growing pains. The sanctuary is becoming crowded on Sunday mornings, to the point where latecomers sometimes have trouble finding a seat. Your Board and the Worship Team are concerned that newcomers may feel that there is literally no room for them.

We have decided that Westside needs to have an additional service in order to accommodate our continued growth. The Worship Team, under Russell's guidance, spent a great deal of time researching the various options for having two services. Not only did the team read a book on how to start a second service successfully, but we also consulted with other UU churches in the area who have added additional worship services.

We will begin having two services in September, as soon as Russell returns

from his sabbatical. They will be from 10:00 to 11:00, and from 11:30 to 12:30. The children are also included in the new services; there will be two complete Children's Religious Education (CRE) programs. Forum will meet during the first service. We will be changing Potluck as well, but the new time is not yet certain.

We will be providing more information about our new services in upcoming newsletters. In the meantime, if you have questions, please address them to members of the worship committee. They are Gwen Gipson, Shelley Hattan, Linda Ice, Myron Ice, Edward McGuire, Debby Rake, Sean Wildman, and Amy Youngblood.

Heads Up for Camping

Hey Y'all! Save the Date: Spring Camping, April 20-22. Details and sign-up to come later.

-From Laurie and your Camp Team

Highlights from the January 18 Board Meeting

The Board decided/approved the following:

Dianne and Charles Nixon gave the Board a presentation on the building acquisition process, from needs assessment and financial feasibility to property search, capital campaign, and purchase.

The Board discussed the needs assessment questionnaire and decided to have one member fill out the initial questionnaire and have the rest of the Board review and revise it.

Approved funds for a structural engineer's report on our foundation issue.

Approved funds for a professional architect to help put together the needs assessment into a

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Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility.

-James Thurber

Remorse is a violent dyspepsia of the mind.

-Ogden Nash

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unified set of requirements for square footage and space features.

Approved the February plate offering recipient – Presbyterian Night Shelter

Approved the March plate offering recipient: water.org

Approved the April plate offering recipient – South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC)

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,
Westside Board of Directors

Are you a new member?

There is something beautiful about all scars of whatever nature. A scar means the hurt is over, the wound is closed and healed, done with.

-Harry Crews

And the fox said to the little prince: men have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it. You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed.

-Antoine de
Saint-Exupery

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, marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & SERVE

Humanists of Fort Worth

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

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet March 25, at church after church, to discuss *Secret Daughter*, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda. April 22, we will discuss *All the Flowers in Shanghai*, by Duca Jepsen. Join us!

Small Groups Ministry

We must sit down and reason together. Perhaps we should sit in the dark. In the dark we could utter our feelings. In the dark we could propose and describe and suggest. No one would speak less than once, thus saying what we feel and what we want, what we fear for ourselves and each other.

- From *Councils, Councils*, by Marge Piercy

Soon there will be one more time and place for us to sit down and reason together, to get to know each other better, to support one another and the mission of our church, to say "what we feel and what we want, what we fear for ourselves and each other." We are beginning a new program at Westside variously called Small Group Ministry, Covenant Circles or Chalice Groups.

Small groups of people (no more than ten in each group) will have the opportunity to meet once a month with a trained facilitator to discuss suggested topics. According to the job description of the new Small Groups Committee, the purpose of such meetings will be to "provide specific opportunities for members to meet in covenanted groups for the purpose of establishing strong relationships and mutual ministry, engaging in the discussion of meaningful issues, supporting leadership development and inspiring social justice action and spiritual growth."

That's a tall order for just one meeting a month, but experience shows that

participants enjoy all that as well as new friendships and new understandings. We hope to have groups up and running by May. Look for more information as work progresses. If you have any questions before that, contact Amy Youngblood, ybwest@sbcglobal.net, or Annie Foerster, 513-301-4646.

Seventh Principal Notes- Green Sanctuary

Around the Office and at Home: Change Your Settings

Set your printers, copiers, and faxes to allow printing on both sides, which can cut paper costs nearly in half. Also, unplug electronics—or turn them off at a power strip—to eliminate the energy used for standby power. Many electronics continue using energy—20 to 40 watts—even when turned off. (From the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.)

March Green Movie Draws 30 People out on a Cold Winter's Night

Westsidiers and other environmentalists enjoyed an entertaining look at one Manhattan family's quest to have no impact for one year in the documentary film, *No Impact Man*. We learned that limiting your impact on the environment isn't easy, especially foregoing the morning Starbucks, that not everyone thinks it's a good idea to limit carbon emissions, that one family can make a difference, especially if their blog generates enough media buzz to land them on numerous television shows, including the Colbert Report, that publicizes their book and documentary film. Most of us are probably unwilling to give up toilet paper and electricity, but it did make me realize that I should do more than I am currently doing to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Green Movie Night Goes Monthly

Our next free feature, showing Friday, March 30, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, is *The Yes Men Fix the World*. This is a 2009 documentary about a trouble-making duo, Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno, posing as their industrious alter-egos to expose the people profiting from Hurricane Katrina, the faces behind the environmental disaster in Bhopal, and other shocking environmental disasters. The movie is unrated.

On Saturday, April 28, at 7:00 pm, the feature will be *King Corn*, a documentary about two college friends who decide to move to Iowa and run a corn farm. This film is also unrated. Popcorn and water will be available at both film showings. Friends and guests are welcome. There is no charge for Green Movie Night.

The Green Sanctuary Committee will present the church service on Sunday, March 4, the date designated as Justice Sunday by UUA. The title of the reflection will be *Our Beautiful - and not so Beautiful - Air*.

Vegan Potluck Saturday 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 pm.

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

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*I prayed for freedom
for twenty years, but
received no answer
until I prayed with
my legs.*

-Frederick Douglass

*There are two kinds of
light -- the glow that
illuminates, and the
glare that obscures.*

-James Thurber

Here's how the potluck will work:

Please arrive early (4:30 p.m.) if possible so you can to 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 Laurie Hagstrom or Andrea Petty if you have any questions about the Monthly Vegan Potluck!

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

-Elie Wiesel

In a library we are surrounded by many hundreds of dear friends imprisoned by an enchanter in paper and leathern boxes.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Members of the Westside Quilting/Handiwork group made another delivery of small quilts to Samaritan House in February. The staff there thanked us and told us that they use the quilts in several ways. Recently, one resident, who is ill, has been using a wheelchair. They offered him a small quilt for his lap because he gets chilly easily. The quilt had a center panel with a colorful map of the US. The resident told the staff that the quilt was especially meaningful to him because he had been a long-haul truck driver, and he could retrace his routes on the map and remember events from his past. The Quilting/Handiwork Group meets monthly after potluck, March 18. We share skills and equipment, and everyone is welcome. Call Debby Rake at 817-473-2414 or email dsrake@gmail.com if you have questions.

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.

Please send well wishes to Pam Rogers who is undergoing tests and preparing for chemotherapy.

Congrats to Gary Randall for being awarded the PFLAG "Straight for Equality" Award!

We send our condolences to Julie Tribble for the loss of her mother.

Amie Hegeman is now a Certified Financial Planner!

Cathy McConnell is recuperating from an outpatient surgical procedure on her sciatic nerve.

Congrats to Jeff Bullock for being awarded the American Airlines "High Flyer" Award for outstanding employees!

Please send Ruth Van Dam well wishes while she recuperates from a heart attack.

Carina Terry is now officially a teenager! Jim Murphy has been promoted, but that means he and Elizabeth with kids Marianne and James, will be moving to Naples, Florida this summer.

Debby and Bob Rake welcomed a 10 month old terrier to their family named "Buttercup".

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 WIDER COMMUNITY

Bring Food For SCAC in March

March is Westside's month to help replenish the food pantry at South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). The suggested list of goods needed are as follows: Oatmeal, Grits, Rice, Beans (dry or canned), Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Soup, Noodles, Pancake Mix (add water), Pop Tarts, Milk (powdered or shelf life carton), Tuna and Tuna Helper, Spaghetti and Sauce (canned/pkgs - not glass), Jello, Canned Fruit, Kool-Aid (sweetened), Peanut Butter & Jelly, Macaroni, Crystal Light, Crackers and Canned Meat (Chili, Vienna Sausages, Stew, Chicken, Fish).

Please check the sell by dates, and be sure the food is in the unopened original package. The pantry cannot accept any diet foods. You may put your contributions in the red cart which will be by the door as you enter each Sunday. Watch the sales, and pick up food to help the hungry in our neighborhood. If you prefer to make a cash donation, you may put your check in the offering basket on Sunday with SCAC in the memo line at the bottom of your check. SCAC meets the third Monday of each month at 1:30, at Southside Church of Christ, located a few blocks north of Westside, 2101 Hemphill. Anyone who has an interest is always welcome to attend.

Questions? Contact Beverly Archibald, or Jay and Suzie Lotven.

Self Management & 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.

Tuition Subsidies for Lay & Ordained UU Leaders to Enter GreenFaith Fellowship Program

GreenFaith will underwrite 50% of the tuition of 4 UU Fellows for 2012. Friday, June 1, is the annual application deadline for the program, an 18-month, national, interfaith education and training program for religious-environmental leaders. For more information about the program contact Robin Nelson, UUA Environmental Stewardship Manager, at Rnelson@uua.org or Rev. Fletcher Harper, GreenFaith Executive Director, at revfharper@greenfaith.org.

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Your Westside Story Staff:

Cindy Fountain,
Editor In Chief

Eric Stevens,
Designer

Sharon Salih,
Distribution

*So many gods, so
many creeds, So many
paths that wind and
wind, While just the
art of being kind is all
the sad world needs.*

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox

*Life is a tragedy
when seen in close-up,
but a comedy in
long-shot.*

-Charlie Chaplin

*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

January 2012 Attendance

	Adults	Kids	Total
Jan 1	65	7	72
Jan 8	118	26	144
Jan 15	140	41	181
Jan 22	135	32	167
Jan 29	127	31	158
Average	117	27.4	144.4



This congregation has taken part in the UUA Welcoming Congregation Program to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender people.

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

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.**

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