



Sunday Services

April 1 - *The Mission of the Free Church* with Rev. Tony Lorenzen. The liberal church can play a distinct role in the growing missional church movement. How can a free church such as Westside build on its successes to be an even more powerful example of love and justice, not only to the Unitarian Universalist movement, but to the entire community? Rev. Lorenzen, director of the South Central Alliance of Churches, will reflect on this question and more.

April 8 - *The Joyful Path of Compassion* with Kelsang Phunrab. The heart of Buddhism is the gentle and faithful training in Universal Compassion. Every living being benefits from any single being trained in compassion, especially the practitioner. In order to understand Buddhist compassion, you must first unveil some basic Buddhist beliefs. If you like common sense, logic and personal experience as the basis of reasoning, then this teaching is for you.

April 15 - *Living By Theology* with Rev. Annie Foerster. Over my nearly 30 years of being a UU minister, I have gotten the “theology habit.” I find wisdom in many places and use what I find to stitch together the fabric of my faith. Unitarian Universalists aren’t given many answers in church. We are encouraged to “build our own theology.” What materials do you use to build yours?

April 22 - *When Life Gives You Lemons...* with Westside Members. What do you do when faced with challenges in your life? There are choices regarding the way you react and act. Three Westside members: Myron Ice, Myrtle McMahan and Debby Rake will share their own personal challenges and how they “made lemonade” out of these circumstances that they have been handed.

Westside
the
story

April 2012

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.

April 29 - *Music of Hope and Healing* led by Cathy McConnell. Many members of Westside are gifted with being incredibly musically talented. Please come and help celebrate our musical flair in true Westside fashion with our annual Music Service.

emailed to all members on my list. Adult Forum is before church, 9:30 - 10:40 am. Childcare is available if scheduled by the preceding Wednesday. Contact Diane Jones: 817-733-0807.

April 1 Current Events

April 8 Prof. John Harvey - "Social Security Funding" Contrary to popular belief, it is impossible to go bankrupt. Learn how it really works and find out why we should have no problem meeting obligations in the near and even distant future.

April 15 Prof. Don Jackson - Book review "Coming Apart---the State of White America, 1960--2010" by Charles Murray; drawing on five decades of statistics

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Forum

We have a fine line-up of programs for April which should appeal to many of our fans. Should there be any unforeseen problems necessitating changes, notifications will be

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.

February '12	Presbyterian Night Shelter	\$971.72
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
January '11	Southern Poverty Law Center	\$759.29
January '11	Fund for Nelwyn Schnell	\$768.58
December '10	Tarrant County Foster Parents Assn.	\$1437.45
November '10	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1228.86
October '10	UUA Association Sunday	\$847.23
October '10	UUA Pakistan Relief	\$528.29

If you wish to make an apple pie truly from scratch, you must first invent the universe.

-Carl Sagan

In order that people may be happy in their work, these three things are needed: they must be fit for it; they must not do too much of it; and they must have a sense of success in it.

-John Ruskin

and records, Murray demonstrates that a new upper class and a new lower class have diverged so far in core behaviors and values that they barely recognize their underlying American kinship - a divergence that has nothing to do with income inequality and that has grown in good economic times and bad.

April 22 Current Events

April 29 Prof. John Harvey - "Cause of the Financial Crisis and the Great Recession" The greatest economic downturn since the Depression was caused by a combination of unique historical events and the pattern of expansion and recession created by the structure of the market system. Learn what happened, how we can recover and what can be done to avoid this in the future.

CRE News Clips

Connect with CRE

Please welcome Anita and Van Leung and Lane and Erin Smutz as our new Youth Group Advisers. We are excited that this program is taking off! In February, four of our Westside youth participated in the CongrUUity Middle School Social Justice Conference.

This conference was sponsored by the North Texas Area UU Religious Educators (NATUURES). This is a professional group of Directors of Religious Education in the North Texas area. Josh, Alex, Rowan, and Colin traveled with about 25 other middle-schoolers to Community UU Church in Plano for this two-day conference. The youth participated in activities that heightened their awareness of poverty around the world and the struggles people face living in poverty-stricken conditions.

One of the highlights of the conference was the "Hunger Feast." For this activity,

the children were all given a ticket to the feast. Only three got a red ticket; the others got either a blue or green ticket. The red ticket holders were ushered in first and seated at a beautifully set table. They were served a lovely meal of spaghetti, bread, fresh fruit and choices of drinks. The green ticket holders were allowed to enter the dining room next and had chairs to sit on, but were served individual servings of rice, beans and water in small paper cups.

The last group was allowed to enter but were forced to sit on the floor and share one small bowl of rice between the whole group. I think you can see what the message was here. The message was not wasted on these kids! Before the final group even made it into the dining room, they had caught on to what was going on. We almost had a riot! They were chanting and loudly voicing their disapproval of the unfairness of this situation.

Other activities included a drum circle led by a group called "Drums not Guns," a series of art, craft and cooking workshops and lastly, a lock-in cookout with a jumpy house. It was unanimously agreed to have been a fantastic time. Hopefully, the four that participated can convince more youth to attend next year.

Mark your calendars for April 15. This is our annual CRE Spring Fling! There will be spring-themed fun, games and worship at Daggett Park, just west of the church.

Fifth Sundays are reserved for projects in CRE. April is one of the months with five Sundays. On April 29, Debby Rake will be leading a project with kids of all ages.

Upcoming Events:

April 1, 15, 29 Bell choir practice

April 6 Youth Group Meeting

April 9 CRE Council Meeting

April 15 CRE Spring Fling

April 20 Youth Group Meeting

April 29 Fifth Sunday Project in CRE

The Westside Story

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*Mistakes are part of
the dues that one pays
for a full life.*

-Sophia Loren

*The more sand
that has escaped from
the hourglass of our life,
the clearer we should
see through it.*

-Jean-Paul Sartre

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

Mary Alice Cretsinger gave the Board a presentation on the details of adding credit cards as one of the options for members and friends to pay their monthly pledges. It would be similar to the way monthly bank drafts are done, but would give our congregants another option. The Board is considering adding this option for this next fiscal year.

The Board started discussing the budget for next fiscal year.

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 third Wednesday of every month.

- *Gwen Gipson, President*
Westside Board of Directors

IN & AROUND WESTSIDE

Highlights from the February 15 Board Meeting

The Board decided/approved the following:

The Church's financial picture continues to look bright. As of the end of January, the church has taken in about 15% more income than budgeted for the fiscal year to date. Moreover, our expenses to date have been about 8% less than what was originally budgeted for the year so far.

The Board discussed the draft of a new plate offering policy and made suggestions for changes.

The Board discussed the need to follow our own Building Use policy, with regard to non-church events.

The Board discussed possible members to serve on an ad hoc committee for Digital Media (including a Facebook page). The group is charged with investigating how Westside's Facebook page would operate and be administered. The chair of the new committee, Sandy Olah, will present their findings and recommendations at the March Board meeting.

Cheerfulness and contentment are great beautifiers and are famous preservers of youthful looks.

-*Charles Dickens*

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

-*Mohandas K. Gandhi*

Update for Two Services

Westside continues to attract visitors and new members! 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. Your Worship Team, in concert with the Board, has decided that Westside needs to have an additional service in order to accommodate our continued growth. Under Russell's guidance, we spent a great deal of time researching the various options for having two services.

We will begin in September, as soon as Russell returns from his sabbatical. Services will be from 10:00 to 11:00, and from 11:30 to 12:30. The children are also included in the new service; 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.

Annie, our pianist, will play for both services. Choir will perform during the first service, every other Sunday as at present. Rehearsals will begin at 8:45. There may be special music during the second service from time to time.

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.

Where's Russell?

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

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.

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

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OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & SERVE

Westside Blood Drive & Fundraiser Saturday, May 12 9 AM to 1 PM

Westside will be holding a blood drive in partnership with Carter Blood Care. The blood donations collected will be going into an account available for Westsiders who may need blood in the case of an emergency or illness.

In the spirit of including everyone (since not everyone will be able to give blood), we ask that those who cannot give blood themselves consider a cash donation to the In Reach fund.

Seventh Principal Notes - Green Sanctuary

Earth, Our Deep-Home-Place We live in perilous times. The news from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change becomes increasingly dire with every scientific report that it issues. (1) Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is already over

*I shall live badly
if I do not write,
and I shall write badly
if I do not live.*

-Francoise Sagan

*Never cut what you can
untie.*

-Joseph Joubert

385 parts per million (ppm) and rising about 2 ppm per year. In June of 2008, Dr. James Hansen, Director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, predicted that unless global emissions are reduced to 350 ppm soon, we can expect a sea level rise of at least two meters within a century. Millions around the world will be displaced, and increasing numbers of animal and plant species will go extinct. (2) As Claudia Kern, of the UU Ministry for Earth, writes, "If we are to heal our suffering planet and respond justly and compassionately to the inevitable chaos that climate change is bringing, it seems very clear that we need a rapid evolutionary leap in consciousness." (3) Such a leap requires that we rethink our relationship to Earth. We need to develop a sense of gratitude so deep that we are willing to consider our every action – large or small – every day – and make critical positive decisions for the health of our planet... To address these concerns, I would like to suggest that we begin to refer to our planet as "Earth, Our Deep-Home-Place," to mean the unique location in the Universe that is our ancestral home, our current home, and the only home that we will ever have – a place deserving of reverence, gratitude, wonder, love and care.

I excerpted the above from a reflection on the UU Friends of the Earth website. It was written by Judy Moores, UU Church of Davis, California. Her words are particularly important in Texas, where sustainability is considered a UN plot to take our freedom, and the right to pollute is absolute. This mindset must change if we are to survive as a species. We must demand clean air and sustainable development as our moral right and responsibility. Almost nothing could be as important.

Prairie Fest x 3 - This year, the Prairie Fests of the Friends of Tandy Hills Natural Area will be held on three days, March 31, April 28, and May 26. The fests will take place from 4:00 p.m. until dusk. Activities will include guided hikes, a virtual planetarium, and of course, food. If you have not been to this little bit of prairie along I-30, just east

of downtown Fort Worth, you are missing a hidden treasure, especially when the wildflowers are in bloom. Check out their web site at www.tandyhills.org.

Covenant Circles to Start in May

The Adult Religious Education Committee is pleased to announce that Covenant Circles will start meeting in May. Small groups of people (from six to ten) will meet once a month with a trained Facilitator to discuss provocative questions about our relationship to Westside, to each other and to Unitarian Universalism. But they're more than discussion groups. Covenant Circles aim to create close relationships, provide opportunities to do service for the community, train participants in leadership skills and let you have fun.

Sign-up for the Circles will begin Sunday, April 15, after church. If you have questions before that time, or want to take the Facilitator Training, call Annie Foerster, 513-301-4646.

Green Movie Night

Join us for the next Green Movie Night, **Saturday, April 28, 7:00 pm**, when we'll present *King Corn*, a documentary about two best friends from an east coast college who move to the heartland to learn where their food comes from.

With the help of friendly neighbors, genetically modified seeds, and powerful herbicides, they plant and grow a bumper crop of America's most-productive, most-subsidized grain on one acre of Iowa soil. But when they follow their corn into the food system,

*Habit with him was
all the test of truth,
It must be right:
I've done it from
my youth.*

-George Crabbe

*Nothing is so firmly
believed as what is
least known.*

-Michel de Montaigne

what they find raises troubling questions about how we eat—and how we farm.

Do plan to attend, and bring your friends to this thought-provoking movie. As usual, there will be free popcorn. If you have suggestions for future green movie features, please contact Linda Hanratty or Bob Vann. With Torah's departure, we will return to a quarterly green movie schedule.

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Westside quilting and handiwork will meet on April 15, after potluck. Everyone is invited to join us. Bring whatever you would like to work on, or come to help with the quilts. We share our tools and our skills and great conversations. For more information or to be added to our email reminder list, call Debby Rake at 817-473-2414 or dsrake@gmail.com

Vegan Potluck Saturday April 28!

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 site at: meetup.com/Vegan-Potluck-WUUC/

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!

Chaplains Report on a Caring Community

The Chaplains Corps 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 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.

Congratulations to Janice Sims and Bill Russell - winners of the Dick Smith Volunteer Award!

Brenda and Gene McKeon are proud to announce

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I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.

-Edith Cavell

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

-John F. Kennedy

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they will become grandparents this year. Nicole, their oldest daughter and Myrtle & Howard McMahan's granddaughter, is pregnant and due October 1st.

The congregation mourns the loss of member, Jay Urbanski, and continues to express condolences to Torah Bontrager, Jay's fiancée.

Linda and Walt McConathy have moved back to Fort Worth, and it was a joy to see them at church!

Myrtle McMahan is recuperating well from an emergency appendectomy.

Linda Simmons's short story, Rabbit's Foot, has been published, and she is healing from a C-1 vertebrae fracture.

Mark McMurry has been matched with a 13 year old boy from Spring, Texas. We look forward to meeting him!

Lela and Tom Woods mourn the loss of their beloved dog, Ivory.

Happy Birthday to Meghan Slane who turned seven years old.

Last month, Glenda Hood's uncle passed away in Abilene; he was 90 years old.

Rowan Zinn's "Destination Imagination" team won 5th place in a competition against 45 other teams!

Carina Terry won her events in her first track meet ever!

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.

*It is more often from
pride than from
ignorance that we are
so obstinately opposed to
current opinions; we find
the first places taken,
and we do not want
to be the last.*

*-Francois De La
Rochefoucauld*

*If a rabbit defined intel-
ligence the way man does,
then the most intelligent
animal would be a rabbit,
followed by the animal
most willing to obey the
commands of a rabbit.*

-Robert Brault

Humanists of Fort Worth

We meet on the second Wednesday evening of each month. The next one is April 11, 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 April 29, at church after church, to discuss *All the Flowers in Shanghai*, by Duncan Jepson. May 27, we will discuss *Gilead*, or *Home*, or *Housekeeping* (Reader's choice), by Marelynnne Robinson. Join us!

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

SWUUC Spring Conference & Annual Meeting April 27-29

The theme of the 2012 SWUUC Spring Conference and Annual Meeting at Emerson in Houston is "One World – Many Voices," highlighting our need to recognize and adapt to the multicultural country and state that we now live in. Sra. Juana Bordas, author of *Salsa, Soul & Spirit* and our keynote speaker, will examine eight core leadership principles common to Latino, African American and Native American cultures that will enhance our outreach to these communities. An interactive workshop providing practice in the leadership principles she teaches will follow.

Also on the Conference agenda is Organizational Meeting of Texas UU Legislative Ministry. The purpose of the Legislative Ministry is to bring UU principles to bear on issues at the state level. Information about the existing networks can be found at www.uustatenetworks.org. Considering recent events in Texas, there could be no better time to join forces with all UUs across our great state and share our Texas sized UU voices!

A conference brochure outlining the program, schedule and hotel accommodations and on-line registration are available at www.swuuc.org. Early registration of \$100 ends April 1; April 1- April 20, \$120.

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.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay Wine Country Holiday

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the sixth season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There's much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails, or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco by car or ferry.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc. UU ministers will be personally guided by our minister, Rev. Bonnie Dlott.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and all proceeds go to our small fellowship. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

The Westside Story
April 2012

**Your Westside Story
Staff:**

**Cindy Fountain, Editor
In Chief**

**Eric Stevens,
Designer**

**Sharon Salih,
Distribution**

*Every advance in civili-
zation has been denounced
as unnatural while it
was recent.*

-Bertrand Russell

*To read fast is as bad as
to eat in a hurry.*

-Vilhelm Ekelund

*As freely as the firmament
embraces the world, /
or the sun pours forth
impartially his beams, / so
mercy must encircle both
friend and foe.*

*-Johann Christoph
Friedrich von Schiller*

*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

February 2012 Attendance

	Adults	Kids	Total
Feb 5	112	32	144
Feb 12	101	20	121
Feb 19	146	24	170
Feb 26	183	40	223
Average	135.5	29	164.5



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.