



Sunday Services

May 6 - *The Great Home-Brewed Emerging Frontier* with Rev. Tony Lorenzen. Reflections on the trends in American Christianity (surprise-they're more progressive than you may think) and what conversation Unitarian Universalism can and should have with them. What is, can, and should be Unitarian Universalism's relationship to the emergent church, the missional church, new monasticism, and the demise of denominations?

May 13 - *Unconditional Compassion* with Osman Kazan. Be so sympathetic and tolerant that your bosom becomes wide as the ocean. Be inspired with faith, and love the human being. Let there be no troubled souls to whom you do not offer a hand and about whom you remain unconcerned.

May 20 - *CRE Sunday* with Westside's Youth and Children. What can adults learn from children? Come to CRE Sunday on May 20, to hear our Children's Religious Education classes give inspiring answers to this question through live and multi-media presentations, and musical selections!

May 27 - *Are You a Believer?* with Tom Woods. Have you ever wondered why you believe what you believe? I'll attempt to plumb the murky depths of this issue. In the process, maybe we'll be able to improve our ability to analyze our own belief systems, and be more tolerant of the beliefs of others.

Westside
the
story

May 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.

Forum

Our Forum programs for April were well attended as usual. Westside Forum counts some very bright members who enlighten and invigorate every subject under consideration. If you haven't attended, you're missing some interesting and informative learning.

Subjects for May discussions:

May 6 Current Events

May 13 Lecture 21, "The Pax Romana" of The Foundations of Western Civilization by Prof. Thomas F.X. Noble of Notre Dame University; the time from 31 B.C. to A.D. 180, a period marked

by peace, security, prosperity, and fairly good government, a time when Octavian, Augustus, and the "Five Good Emperors ruled," and the time known as Pax Romana, the "Roman Peace."

May 20 Current Events

May 27 Lecture 22, "Rome's Golden and Silver Ages," the same period of Pax Romana, this time stressing the philosophers, poets, historians, satirists, literature and architecture. We shall learn more about Tacitus, Vergil and his "Aenid," Ovid, Horace, and other great Romans.

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. If you would like to receive more information regarding Forum programs via e-mail, send your email address to Dick Trice, trice933@att.net.

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.

March '12	In-Reach Fund	\$1225.38
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

*Love all, trust a few, do
wrong to none.*

-William Shakespeare

*The best way to have a
good idea is to have lots
of ideas.*

-Linus Pauling

CRE News Clips

Connect with CRE

We are pleased to announce that we have hired our new Childcare Coordinator made possible by a generous Chalice Lighter grant. Her name is Amber Shattuck. You should be meeting her soon!

You don't want to miss this year's CRE Sunday on May 20. We are planning an amazing service with contributions by the children. Our theme this year is "what can adults learn from children?" Be there and find out!

We will be having a teacher wrap-up session on May 6, at 1pm. This will be an opportunity for the CRE Committee and the DRE to get valuable feedback from our teachers. Please come and share your thoughts on teaching, the curriculum, the Sunday school format and anything else you want us to know. We will also love suggestions for a successful transition to two services in the fall. We look forward to seeing our teachers there! Snacks and childcare will be provided. For more information, please contact Andrea or Tricia.

CRE Mission Statement

Our mission statement clearly defines what Westside hopes to accomplish among our members and our community. Specifically, we seek to make a difference in people's lives through supportive relationships, religious exploration and social action. Nowhere in the church do all of those things converge more perfectly than in religious education Children's Religious Education supports families through programming such as Our Whole Lives which provides children with life-saving comprehensive sexuality education and parents with the tools to communicate with their children about life issues. Our OWL program will grow to serve kindergarten through adults this year thanks to contributions through your stewardship pledges. Your dollars don't just provide sex education classes. Through these classes, we create the foundation for a sexually healthy congregation that is a haven for LGBT youth and adults.

CRE supports religious exploration through quality Sunday school classes, children's worship experiences and creative activities. Your pledge goes directly to fund the purchase of curricula and supplies for our children's classrooms and ensures highly trained volunteer teaching staff through funds that pay for teachers to attend trainings and

continuing education opportunities. In the words of one of our youth, Westside gives us a place "for the creative expression of our religion."

Social action is a vital part of CRE. We seek to prepare our children and youth to integrate UU values and principles then take them out into the world. Children and Youth in our program are already deeply aware of the injustices and inequities in our society and are eager to make changes. Westside provides the structure and organization kids need to turn their ideas and ideals into reality, as well as a culture that takes them seriously.

For a church to thrive and grow, a vibrant CRE program is essential. Excellent CRE programs bring visitors through our doors. Excellent CRE programs provide our community with the opportunity to raise up the next generation of Westside members and societal game-changers. Your generosity creates a place where a child is nurtured, educated, challenged and inspired all the way through adulthood.

Upcoming Events:

May 4 - Youth Group Meeting

May 6 - Bell choir practice

May 14 - CRE Council Meeting

May 18 - Youth Group Meeting

May 20 - CRE Sunday

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.

The Westside Story
May 2012

*If only I may grow:
firmer, simpler,
-- quieter, warmer.*

-Dag Hammarskjold

*Contempt is the weapon
of the weak and a defense
against one's own despised
and unwanted feelings.*

-Alice Miller

Fast Track to Dinner!

Mark your calendars for the Fast Track to Westside's Future! WUUC members and friends are encouraged to attend the annual stewardship campaign dinner on Saturday, May 5, to be held at our church. Doors open at 6:30 pm for beverages and conversation. Vegan and omnivore friendly dinner catered by Z's will be served at 7:00 pm. A brief stewardship presentation will follow. Childcare will be provided.

Potluck Changes

As has been announced, Westside is going to two services in September. Along with this, other changes are being made. One change is our monthly potluck which will now take place every third Saturday. We will begin with the first one June 16, 4:30 - 7:30. If there are any questions please email Paul McClellan at jmclaypool@yahoo.com

Also, the May Potluck is canceled, but please join us for a champagne/pancake breakfast on Mother's Day, May 13 from 8:30 - 10:00.

Highlights from the March 21 Board Meeting

- Discussed and approved the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The main point of discussion was the introduction of new employee benefits in the budget.
- Approved the revised plate offering policy.
- Decided not to approve the use of the Vanco feature for members to pay their pledges with credit cards. The Vanco service will still be used for the bank draft feature. Mary Alice Cretsinger also demonstrated the ability to use a special and

low-cost application to take credit cards for special events, such as the service auction.

- Discussed possible members of a new ad-hoc committee to organize and execute the Blood Drive on May 12.
- Approved a request from the Social committee to begin the Saturday evening Potluck sometime in the summer.

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

Got Talent? Show it off May 19!

Westside is looking for talented people to perform at our Talent Show on May 19, from 7pm-9pm. All ages are welcome to perform. And, all ages are invited to come and enjoy the show. Childcare, snacks, and adult beverages will be provided. I am also looking for volunteers to help set up and clean up that night. Please contact Sandy Olah at bullhead555@gmail.com or call me at 817-988-4714 if you would like to perform, volunteer or need childcare.

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

We should not write so that it is possible for the reader to understand us, but so that it is impossible for him to misunderstand us.

-Quintilian

When you see a man led to prison say in your heart, "Mayhap he is escaping from a narrower prison." And when you see a man drunken say in your heart, "Mayhap he sought escape from something still more unbeautiful."

-Kahlil Gibran

Westside Blood Drive Saturday, May 12th, 9 AM - 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.

Contact Gene Walker, walker7357@sbcglobal.net

Quilting and Handiwork Group

Westside quilting and handiwork will meet on May 20, after church. 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

Humanists of Fort Worth

The May meeting of the Humanists of Fort Worth will be announced as soon as possible. We are planning to host "Mark Twain". Mr. Twain has made himself available to us through the courtesy of James Doores. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have visited with this great observer of American

culture and idiosyncrasies advise those of you who have NOT to join us for the evening. Invite friends and family. Twain's words are open to all.

Register to join a Covenant Circle

Covenant Circles will start meeting in May. Sign up now so you don't miss a single meeting. Pick up a form on Sunday morning, or simply email the information below to Annie Foerster at redseamriper@gmail.com.

Groups of five to ten people will meet monthly to discuss their personal reactions to a variety of topics, led by a trained facilitator. It's an opportunity to get to know one another at a deep level. Each group will create its own covenant of how they will be together, and each circle will offer some kind of service to the church community. Next April, all the groups will meet together to share and celebrate their journeys. Send your name, phone number and email to register.

Give three days in order of preference for when you'd like to meet from among Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and Saturday afternoon or morning.

You have the option to join a group in which members will bring their children for shared childcare, and we will try to help with transportation to your group if you ask for it.

Adult RE starts in May

Ready for another real Adult RE program at Westside? How about joining in this month? Starting in May and running parallel with the new Covenant Circles will be "Faith Like A River: Themes from Unitarian Universalist History," to be offered twice a month at dates and time to be announced soon.

*The Westside Story
May 2012*

*It is impossible to live
pleasurably without living
prudently, honorably,
and justly; or to live
prudently, honorably, and
justly, without living
pleasurably.*

-Epicurus

*Wars damage the civilian
society as much as they
damage the enemy.
Soldiers never get over it.*

-Paul Fussell

Faith Like a River explores the dynamic course of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist (UU) history—the people, ideas, and movements that have shaped our faith heritage. It invites participants to place themselves into our history and consider its legacies.

Engagement with our history and heritage does more than celebrate our Unitarian Universalist identity. It grounds our faith, our Principles, and our spiritual growth in a wider tradition and offers a context for deepening faith, values, and spirit.

Two more programs start in June -- Grief and Loss, to be facilitated by Annie Foerster, and a program specifically aimed at new UUs. Watch for details for these programs, which are slated to run through the summer.

Then, starting in September, we'll unveil an Adult RE program to run the same time as the second service. The curricula will be drawn from the Tapestry of Faith programs and run year round.

Jeff Bullock, John Fisher, Annie Foerster, Heather Goins, Andrea Petty, Paul Sears and Amy Youngblood are working together to bring the Adult RE program back to life at Westside. Feel free to buttonhole any one of them to talk about these plans!

*Errors like straws upon
the surface flow:
Who would search for
pearls must dive below.*

-John Dryden

*Laugh, and the world
laughs with you;*

*Weep, and you
weep alone.*

*For this brave old earth
must borrow its mirth,*

*But has trouble enough
of its own.*

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet Sunday, May 27, after church, at the church. We will discuss the Pulitzer winning book *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. We will include other books by the same author, *Home*, and *Housekeeping*. In June we will discuss *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, who also wrote *Bel Canto*. We selected *Charity Girl* by Hael Lowenthal for July. This book is about a little known quarantine of suspected “loose” women during WWI. Please join us for any or all of these discussions. We have several new members and welcome more. Questions? Contact Reed Bilz at rbilz@charter.net.

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.

- Looking forward to meeting Amie and Aaron Hegeman's new baby boy - Henry was born after a long labor on March 18, at 7 pounds, 8.5 ounces and 20 inches long - congrats to our new parents!
- Ellen Davis is recuperating well at home after an unexpected surgery.
- Happy Birthday to Sloane Mitchell (4), Ashlyn Oglesby (10), Mary Noer (44), and Linda Hanratty (a “big one”)!
- Sending Al Olson healing thoughts and prayers after an auto accident totaled his car and left him with several broken ribs

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.

Green Movie Night

Our next Green Movie Night at Westside will be Friday, June 29, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any movie suggestions, please contact us at green@westsideuu.org. More later.

Vegan Potluck Saturday, May 26!

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

Seventh Principal Notes - Green Sanctuary

Looking for help in managing your landscaping in a more environmentally friendly way? The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's web site, Taking Care of Texas, has a variety of downloadable landscaping publications, including "How to Build a Rain Barrel," "Mulching and Composting," "Managing 10 Common Texas Yard Pests" (if you have eleven, you're on your own), and "Managing Lawn Problems in Texas." The web site, www.takecareoftexas.org, also has educational materials for children and tips for conserving water. And it is all free.

Smell gas?

If you live in or visit anywhere in the Barnett Shale and encounter an odor you suspect is related to natural gas activity in any way, the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) wants to know about it. TCEQ has stated publicly that they investigate ALL complaints and will dispatch a field inspector to your door within 12 hours of your complaint. Documentation is a critical first step to obtain the essential data. Your report will enable TCEQ to take enforcement action to stop toxic emissions.

Here's all you need to do:

Step 1 Obtain the Odor Log and Nuisance Affidavit by emailing green@westsideuu.org, or find them at www.texassharon.com (the latter is also an excellent website for information about gas drilling in North Texas).

Step 2 Fill out the simple forms, to the best of your recollection, immediately after encountering an odor.

Step 3 Call the toll-free TCEQ Complaint Hotline and register your complaint. 1-888-777-3186

Step 4 When a TCEQ agent arrives, request their ID and hand them the forms. Keep copies for your records.

Step 5 Keep a personal record of your experience with the TCEQ for future reference.

Step 6 Repeat as often as necessary.

The Westside Story
May 2012

Hate is a dead thing. Who of you would be a tomb?

-Kahlil Gibran

A sound mind in a sound body, is a short but full description of a happy state in this world.

-John Locke

Buffalo River Run

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Little Rock invites your members and friends to join us at Buffalo Point to float the Buffalo River on Memorial Day weekend. We have the entire group campground reserved and the pavilion. Please go to our website- uuclr.org to download registration forms and to read about river rules, Saturday and Sunday night potlucks, Sunday worship service under the pines.... UUCLR has been gathering at the river for fellowship and floating for about 30 years.

SCAC News & Opportunities

The South Central Alliance of Churches will work in cooperation with the Tarrant Area Food Bank to offer a summer lunch program from June 11 – August 17, providing lunches for school age children who qualify for free or reduced school lunches. We will run this program Monday – Friday from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. We need VOLUNTEERS to help pass out the bag lunches and assist in supervising activities including arts and crafts, reading stories, games, educational events and speakers and more. Please contact Tony Lorenzen for more information or to volunteer at 817-923-0486 or office@fwscac.org.

The South Central Alliance of Churches is always in need of non-perishable food items for our emergency food pantry. If you can donate food, please contact Tony Lorenzen at 817-923-0486 or office@fwscac.org or drop by our office at 2101 Hemphill St between 9 a.m. -2 p.m. Monday – Thursday.

It is not so much our friends' help that helps us as the confident knowledge that they will help us.

-Epicurus

One unerring mark of the love of truth is not entertaining any proposition with greater assurance than the proofs it is built upon will warrant.

-John Locke

The South Central Alliance of Churches is always in need of the following items for our family hygiene and toiletry kits: toilet paper, boxes of tissue, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors, men's and women's deodorant, shampoo, bars of soap (no trial sizes please). If you can donate any of these items please contact Tony Lorenzen at 817-923-0486 or office@fwscac.org or drop by our office at 2101 Hemphill St between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Monday – Thursday.

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 Paul Maginnis, cheers101@sbcglobal.net, or Carla Hardy, carla555@att.net

Registration Now Open for 2012 Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage

The next Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage is scheduled for October 6-13, 2012, and registration is now open. This unique bus trip is much more than a Civil Rights history tour through Alabama and Mississippi. We will be visiting historic sites

and meeting veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, and will also be spending time together and with guests exploring what racism, white privilege, and barriers to equality look like today in Southern towns we visit--and in our own hometowns.

Beyond experiencing first-hand the civil rights legacy, our goal is to develop commitment, vision and mechanisms within our group to work on issues of race, injustice and inequality that still bedevil our congregations and our society. The Living Legacy Pilgrimage is hosted and organized by the Reverend Gordon Gibson and Judy Gibson; the Reverend Hope Johnson; the Reverend James Hobart; Janice Marie Johnson; Annette Marquis; and Donna Sequeira, and co-sponsored by the Southeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

For more information and to register, please visit www.uulivinglegacy.org. Don't miss your chance to be on the bus! Register early – costs are discounted for those who register before May 15.

NTAAUS Updates *-Save The Dates!*

The NTAUS Leadership Conference
June 9, 2012
Horizon UU Church
Carrollton, TX

Registration opens in early April, \$25
Mid-May, \$35

Toward Effective Governance - The NTAUS
Training for Boards of Trustees
July 14
First Jefferson UU Church
Fort Worth, TX

Registration opens in early May; \$15
includes lunch.

For More Information go to www.northtexasuu.org. The North Texas Association of Unitarian Universalist Societies

The Westside Story
May 2012

Your Westside Story
Staff:

Cindy Fountain, Editor
In Chief

Eric Stevens,
Designer

Sharon Salih,
Distribution

*Talent develops in
tranquility, character in
the full current of
human life.*

*-Johann Wolfgang
von Goethe*

*We are like tenant farmers
chopping down the fence
around our house for fuel
when we should be using
Nature's inexhaustible
sources of energy -- sun,
wind and tide. ... I'd put
my money on the sun
and solar energy. What a
source of power! I hope we
don't have to wait until
oil and coal run out before
we tackle that.*

-Thomas Edison



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

March 2012 Attendance

	Adults	Kids	Total
March 4	111	26	137
March 11	96	12	108
March 18	114	22	136
March 25	105	28	133
Average	106.5	22	128.5



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.