



Sunday Services

DECEMBER 2 - *Rumpelstiltskin: The Advent Story* with The Reverend Annie Foerster. As Unitarian Universalists, we are used to finding wisdom in unexpected places. So, if you think you know or remember what Advent is all about, think again. Open your hearts and minds to the pre-Christmas wisdom to be found in an ancient fairy tale. In addition, this will be a multi-generational service and will feature our annual "Hanging of the Greens" festivities including special music, stories and decorations! A definite "can't miss" Sunday!!!

DECEMBER 9 - *The Doctrine of This Church* with Dr. Russell Elleven. We say it every week in our congregational affirmation. Yet, love can be a difficult emotion. While sometimes more successful than others, Russell will attempt to talk about a form of love to begin our last month of the year.

DECEMBER 16 - *Oops, I Did it Again!* with Dr. Russell Elleven. Have you ever done something you wish you hadn't? Have you ever done that same thing before, and later done it again, and wondered why we do things we wish we wouldn't? Russell may offer some insight this Sunday morning.

DECEMBER 23 - *Christmas at Westside* with Dr. Russell Elleven. Whether we want it to or not, Christmas is here once again. What will Russell say about it this time? When the deadline for newsletter submissions arrived, even he did not

know the answer to that question. We may all be surprised this Sunday morning.

DECEMBER 30 - *Ring out the Old, Ring in the New with Westside*. So says the tradition of the new year, but it is often very difficult when it comes to ourselves. Can we exchange old habits and old fears for something more positive? You never know until you try again, and together we might just surprise ourselves.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education

Religious tolerance, covenants, and communities -- what a list of topics for December's Faith Like A River series! Join in, and learn how Queen Isabella, a "little group of people in Dedham" and the Cambridge Platform of 1648 all tie in with our lives and our faith today. Everyone is welcome, and committed (and lively!) participation enhances the experience for everyone. For more information contact Amy Youngblood at ybwest@sbcglobal.net.

This month childcare will not be available Dec. 2 and Dec. 23.



December 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

Programs for December have not been determined at this time in mid-November. Our growing and enthusiastic participants will be informed directly by email and via our church's Weekly Memo every Monday morning of each coming week's subject. Suggestions and questions are welcomed. Contact: Dick Trice, trice933@att.net. This month childcare will not be available Dec. 2 and Dec. 23.

HANGING OF THE GREENS, DECEMBER 2 - This special, traditional Westside service is for all ages. There will be no CRE classes or Nursery care. The nursery will be open and available for parents to use if they need to step out of the service at any time.

YUULE PARTY, DECEMBER 16 - This is a new churchwide celebration for Westside and will be organized by CRE and feature the children and youth. There will be a Christmas Pageant and other entertainment. Refreshments will be served. Contact Andrea Petty or Tricia Bowes for more information.

Children's Religious Education News Clips

CONNECT WITH CRE

CRE CLASSES STILL SHORT A FEW TEACHERS - We are still having trouble filling all the assistant positions in our Sunday morning classes. Even volunteering once a month is a great help! Contact Andrea Petty if you can help out.

OUR WHOLE LIVES SEXUALITY EDUCATION - Our junior high course will conclude on December 8, with a day-long retreat and celebration. Congratulations to those students who completed the course and a heartfelt thank-you to the teachers who volunteered their time! Kindergarten and 5-6 grade OWL classes will begin on January 13. Details will be coming soon. Contact Andrea Petty for information.

WESTSIDE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT--CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS! - We will be performing a play for our YUULE Celebration this year. The title of this play is "Following Yonder Star". Many of us sing the carol "We Three Kings" at the holidays, but who were the three kings, the magi? This pageant playfully explores the legend of the magi, re-imagining the story to include the wives, who also make the journey to Bethlehem. The story invites listeners to reflect on what calls us forward on our own journeys. Rehearsal for the play will be held on Saturday, December 15, from 2pm to 5pm. The celebration is on Sunday, the 16th, from 6pm to 8pm, and you will need to be there a little early. Please keep this in mind if you are interested in one of the roles. We will also need help with costuming and props. For this play, there are roles for 11 to 16 people. Some of whom will need to attend rehearsal and some of whom don't. Those who need to attend rehearsal are marked with *. Roles: Caspar*, Melchior*, Balthazar*, Azadeh* (Caspar's wife), Lilya*, (Melchior's wife), Tehmina* (Balthazar's wife), Mary, Joseph, Reader, Camel*

Whenever books are
burned men also in the
end are burned.

-Heinrich Heine

The law, in its majestic
equality, forbids the rich
as well as the poor to
sleep under bridges, to
beg in the streets, and to
steal bread.

-Anatole France

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 '12	UUSC & UUA Sunday	\$825.22
September '12	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,587.97
August '12	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$937.52
July '12	Samaritan House Dinners Fund	\$808.66
July '12	Mountain District Wild Fire Relief	\$273.75
June '12	Alliance for Children	\$614.79
May '12	Water.org	\$617.75

(non-speaking role), and Optional: 5 additional Camels *.

INVOLVE TRAINING - January 26, A one day workshop devoted to creating a beloved community for All children Contact Andrea Petty at dre@westsideuu.org, and see the insert in this newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 8 - 7th-9th grade OWL Retreat
9am-2pm (last class)

DECEMBER 16 - YUULE Celebration 6pm-8pm

JANUARY 13 - K/1 and 5th-6th grade, OWL begins

JANUARY 26 - Involve Training

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

Westside Christmas Pageant & YUULE Party

Join us in a new churchwide celebration for Westside. This event will be organized by CRE and feature the children and youth. There will be a Christmas Pageant and other entertainment. Refreshments will be served. The festivities start at 6:00 pm at the church. Contact Andrea Petty or Tricia Bowes for more information.

Christmas Open House

The holidays can be a lonely time for people without family in the area. My solution for the past 20 years has been to hold an open-house

on Christmas Day to help those in the church to which I belong to find a family experience. I moved to Fort Worth to be near family, but since my daughter usually works Christmas Day, I've decided to continue the tradition here. So ...

FIRST ANNUAL WESTSIDE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

WHERE: at the home of Annie Foerster
224 McGee Dr., Fort Worth, 76114

WHEN: Christmas Day, December 25
Cocktails—4pm to whenever
Dinner—6pm or thereabouts

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: I will have a few bottles of wine, red and white and perhaps some beer, plus a nosh or two. I will have a turkey in the oven. You bring whatever you wish to supplement this menu. Whether there are two or twenty of us, holiday cheer will reign.

To Seek Knowledge in Freedom ...

That's part of the Affirmation we say each Sunday morning. Where do you seek knowledge? Probably not in the Westside Church Library. Many new members don't even know we have a library. Most Sundays you can't get into it because of all the equipment stored in its small space. All this is about to change.

"Where do I find out more about this topic?" is the question that ends most Adult Religious Education classes. The answer should be, "In our library," but it isn't. The Adult RE Committee petitioned the board to do something about this and were given the charge to "Renovate and Revitalize" the existing collection of books kept just off the lobby to the left of the greeter's table.

A library sub-committee has been formed, chaired by Meg Wagner, a retired librarian, and staffed by other librarians, book collectors and book lovers. Its mission is *To establish, promote and oversee the purchase, maintenance, display, distribution and inventory of books, audio books and DVDs for the church library, which support the Mission of the Church, and to provide specific opportunities for members to check out, read, recommend and donate books to the church library.*

The Westside Story December 2012

I wish I could have known earlier that you have all the time you'll need right up to the day you die.

-William Wiley

In a world of fugitives, the person taking the opposite direction will appear to run away.

-T.S. Eliot

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Among the committee's responsibilities is to inventory the existing collection, establish guidelines for rounding out the subject matter, set up a borrowing system and make the space an appealing place to seek knowledge.

To accomplish these tasks, it will be necessary to make the library a non-storage zone. If you are currently using this small space to house equipment, tables and miscellany, the committee will be happy to work with you to find other accommodations.

We hope to open the new library some time after the first of the year and will keep you posted on our progress.

- *Annie Foerster, Library Sub-Committee Publicist*

Highlights from the October 19 Board Meeting

The Board approved the Social Committee to host a New Year's Eve Party at the church.

New COM members are Sean Wildman and Sue Spell.

The Board proposed a policy for reacting to protesters at the church by 1) calling the police; 2) not being confrontational; 3) giving the protesters snacks; and 4) forwarding the day's loose plate collection to any organization being protested and advising the protesters of this action.

Andrea was attending a CRE conference; Caroline reported that Andrea is revising our Child Protection Policy with the Safe Congregation Committee.

The Membership Committee has reviewed the Membership and Friends List and removed names of those who are no longer active at Westside or who have moved away. The committee has also prepared a list of members who may still wish to be active along with a letter to send them asking their wishes regarding membership. Caroline will work with Cheri to send the letters.

The Nominating Committee has been asked

to find chairs for Green Sanctuary and Social Committees.

The Board approved the creation of a Library Sub-Committee under the auspices of Adult RE and authorized the expenditure of \$250 for materials out of the Adult RE budget.

Linda Ice will ask committees serving on Table Rotation to provide snacks. Bill Russell will stock the pantry with non-perishable snacks for use if and when tabling committees do not provide them.

Board members will provide kitchen help after the second service on a rotating basis.

We will put a request for a church laptop in the newsletter, Weekly Web and Order of Service.

The Stewardship Leadership Event will be held at Russell Hall on March 22, and the All-Church Event will be held at the church on April 13, 2013.

We will re-negotiate the lease next May with the Angel Montessori School.

Save the date - New Year's Eve!

December 31, is New Year's Eve, and Westside is having a party! We will start the evening with a talent show and conclude the night with karaoke. Please bring a snack to share; beverages (including adult) will be provided. Childcare is available, but please RSVP in advance. The party will begin at 7pm and run till January 1. Anyone wanting to show off their talent, need childcare or want to volunteer to set up or clean up, please contact Sandy Olah at bullhead555@gmail.com or call 817-988-4714.

Highlights from the November 14 Board Meeting

The Board approved applying for a grant of \$10,000 for a Ministerial Intern for 2013-14 or, if not feasible, applying for \$8,000 for a 1/4 time Volunteer Coordinator.

A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where
his influence stops. -

Henry Adams

Who knows what
Columbus would have
discovered if America
hadn't got in the way.

-Stanislaw J. Lec

The Board approved nominating volunteers and staff for NTAUUS awards.

The Board agreed to designate the first Sunday in December to the CERG UU Disaster Relief Fund for victims of Sandy. Caroline reported that the glass door in the sanctuary will be repaired for no more than \$350 as previously approved.

Caroline reported that the membership status letters were sent this week.

Congregational membership in Texas UU Justice Ministry costs \$2 per member. James Finn will make a presentation about this organization at the Congregational Meeting in January. Meanwhile we will distribute the brochures about the Ministry.

Revision of our Mission Statement to include "intellectual" will be on the agenda for a vote at the January Congregational Meeting.

The Board approved Cendera Center on the Weatherford Traffic Circle for the Fall Service Auction as well as the rental cost of \$3,000. The date of the event will be Friday, November 1, 2013.

Concern about scheduling after church lunches will be referred to the Social Committee. (Sandy Olah at this point) The Membership Committee is asked to e-mail those who signed up with an interest in Circle Suppers and seek a coordinator to restart the program.

The Board meets Wednesday December 19, at 7 pm at the church. All members are welcome to attend. Copies of the full minutes and the financial statements are available in notebooks in the church office

- Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

Where's Russell in December?

With December brings more holidays and more places to be and people to see. It can be a delightful time of year for some. For others, it can be a bit stressful. Whether you are stressed or delighted, I hope you will be with your Westside community as often as you can this month.

I will be at Westside on the first, second, third, and fourth, Sundays of December. I will be away from Westside on the 30th (5th Sunday) of the month. I will facilitate Joys and Concerns on each of the dates I'm present, and deliver reflections on the dates of 12/9, 12/16, and 12/23.

Personally, I'm greatly looking forward to the Yule Celebration on December 16, at 6:00 p.m. at the church! I hope you'll come join us in what will be a new experience for us all.

I will likely be out of town the day or two surrounding the Christmas holiday but should be able to intermittently respond to email.

DECEMBER APPOINTMENT TIMES LOOK LIKE THIS:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH, NO OFFICE HOURS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, 9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

During appointment times I meet with Westsiders in my church office, in their homes, in coffee shops, at restaurants, sometimes in their places of work, or whatever best fits our respective 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.

Remember, Mondays are my day off so emails or calls on those days and weekends often receive a slower response.

Peace! Russell

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

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Between truth and the search for truth, I opt for the second.

-Bernard Berenson

We sometimes congratulate ourselves at the moment of waking from a troubled dream; it may be so the moment after death.

-Nathaniel Hawthorne

set a time for your photo contact Mary at 817-292-7766, or marycret@yahoo.com, or www.marycret.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & SERVE

Sound System Helpers Wanted (2nd Service)

Bill Terry is looking for additional people to help out with managing our sound system during the 11:30 am Sunday service.

Qualifications for these helpers are:

WILLING TO RUN SOUND DURING ONE OF THE SERVICES.

WILLING TO SIT AT BACK OF SANCTUARY DURING SERVICE.

NOT AFRAID OF ELECTRONICS.

Prior Sound System experience is not necessary, only a willingness to learn. Please contact Bill either by phone (817-249-7341) or email. (terrynoerbill@sbcglobal.net)

Seventh Principal Notes - Green Sanctuary

Few are the giants of the soul who actually feel that the human race is their family circle.

-Freya Stark

A clay pot sitting in the sun will always be a clay pot. It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain.

-Mildred Witte Stouven

GREEN SANCTUARY HOLIDAY TIPS - The tips this year come from the Environmental Working Group (EWG).

CHOOSE FOOD LOW IN POLLUTANTS AND ADDED CHEMICALS - buy organic when you can. Choose fresh foods rather than packaged or canned. The Green Sanctuary Committee suggests shopping at the Farmer's Market on the Weatherford Traffic Circle for local food. Organic foods may not have more food value, but they also don't have those pesky pesticide residues.

USE NON-TOXIC COOKWARE such as cast iron, stainless steel or oven-safe glass. If you must use non-stick coated cookware, reduce the possibility of toxic fumes by cooking smart with

any non-stick cookware you happen to own: Never heat an empty pan, don't put it in an oven hotter than 500 degrees F and use an exhaust fan over the stove.

STORE AND REHEAT LEFTOVERS SAFELY - avoid plastic food storage containers. The chemical additives in plastic can migrate into food and liquids. Ceramic or glass food containers (such as Pyrex) are safer. Don't microwave food or drinks in plastic containers, even if they claim to be "microwave safe." Heat can release chemicals into your food and drink. Microwave ovens heat unevenly, creating hot spots where the plastic is more likely to break down. If you do use a plastic container, handle it carefully. Use it for cool liquids only; wash plastics by hand or on the top rack of the dishwasher, farther from the heating element; use a paper towel instead of plastic wrap to cover food in the microwave. Also, avoid single-use plastic as much as possible -- reusing it isn't safe (it can harbor bacteria) and tossing it out fills up landfills (and pollutes the environment).

Contemporary Books

The Contemporary Book Group will meet December 2, at the church after the second service to discuss *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* by Deborah Moggach. Back to our regular schedule of 4th Sundays, we will meet January 27, to discuss *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (nonfiction) by Rebecca Skloot. In February, we will read and discuss *The Gathering* by Anne Enright. This book won the Man Booker Prize in 2007. Please join us in the glass classroom even if you haven't read the book. ReedBilz - rbilz@charter.net

Vegan Potluck Saturday, December 22!

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

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 Vegan Potluck!

Quilting/ Handiwork Group

The Westside Quilting & Handiwork group will not be meeting in December. See you again in January! For more information or to be added to our email reminder list, call Debby Rake at 817-473-2414 or dsrake@gmail.com

Usher/Greeters Needed

We are seriously short of Usher/Greeter volunteers. To volunteer, please contact Suzie Lotven at 817-927-7213 or lotven@sbcglobal.net. Each volunteer only works one service every few weeks. There are four Usher/Greeters at each service. It isn't hard, and it doesn't take much time or effort. And, it is an important activity! Please consider helping.

Laptop Needed

The Board and Worship Team are seeking a laptop donation to use for PowerPoint presentations on Sundays - if you have a laptop that might fit this need, please let Caroline know - thanks for your consideration! President@WestsideUU.org

Humanists of Fort Worth

The Humanists group will meet Wednesday, December 12, for our Winter Party - place and time to be determined. Contact: Sam Baker at sambaker@hotmail.com.

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.

Lisa & CJ Crabill shared a concern for Lisa's mother, battling cancer and starting radiation.

Debra & Robert Slane shared a joy that son, Rowson, joined the Navy.

Pam Rogers & Angi Brown eloped in NYC during Super Storm Sandy!!!

Sean Wildman shared the joy that he has a new roommate.

Brenda & Gene McKeon's daughter, Nicole, just endured an appendectomy.

Sharon Salih celebrated a birthday!

Ginger Courtney's daughter-in-law was just

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The skylines lit up at dead of night, the air-conditioning systems cooling empty hotels in the desert and artificial light in the middle of the day all have something both demented and admirable about them. The mindless luxury of a rich civilization, and yet of a civilization perhaps as scared to see the lights go out as was the hunter in his primitive night.

-Jean Baudrillard

Nature never said to me: Do not be poor. Still less did she say: Be rich. Her cry to me was always: Be independent.

-Nicolas de Chamfort

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installed as a Senior Minister to a Des Moines Disciples of Christ Church.

Reed Bilz shared the concern that her ex-husband, Hank, passed away.

Theresa Kaufman shared the concern that her Aunt Rosemary passed away.

Lela & Tom Woods shared a joy that son, Phillip, married Crystal in Judge Gary Richie's court; Judge Richie performed Lela's and Tom's wedding 27 years ago!

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

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Thanksgiving Basket Update

Lots of helping hands filled fifty-four green bags with all of the donated food for the South Central Alliance of Churches, SCAC Thanksgiving Basket program. Suzie and Jay Lotven delivered them to SCAC, and several Westsiders helped distribute the bags and turkeys to the needy in our neighborhood. There was some extra donated money that was given to SCAC to help pay for the turkeys. And, extra food was donated to Samaritan House Many Thanks to all who participated in some way in this community service!!

Angels at Westside

This year Westside will be participating in the Alliance for Children's Angel Tree program. Alliance for Children is dedicated to the protection and healing of child abuse victims. "It is the only Tarrant County non-profit organization involved directly in the protection from child abuse through coordinated and teamed investigations with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, Cook Children's Medical Center, and the District Attorney's Office."

Westside will be providing gifts for thirty-five young people. Angel tags will be available for you to select every Sunday morning in the fellowship

hall, between services, from now until Dec. 9.

The Angel Tags will have each child's name, clothing sizes and "toy wishes". Westside also asks that a book be given to the child. You are asked to purchase one outfit and shoes (if size given) for your child, as well as a toy for him or her and an age-appropriate book. If the toy needs batteries, please include them.

When you take an angel from the tree, we will record the child's name and number, as well as your name, email and telephone number. 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 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 "magical things" for a child! Please bring your child's gifts, unwrapped in a separate bag with a handle, with the Angel Tree tag attached to the bag's handle (like a gift tag). Please deliver to Westside by Dec. 16. Social Justice members are here to help. Please talk with John Huffman, Shirley Miller, John Barnes, Louanne Rice and Amy Hendrix. Or, contact Kristin Pitt, 817-995-0704, kristinpitt@att.net, or Cindy Fountain, 817-526-1375, vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net

North Texas Association of Unitarian Universal- ists Awards Luncheon

Please mark your calendars for the NTAUUS Luncheon: Saturday, January 12, 2013, with a social hour at 12:30 and buffet lunch at 1:00. NTAUUS will present grants to the congregations, and the fourth annual Recognition Awards

The late F.W.H. Myers used to tell how he asked a man at a dinner table what he thought would happen to him when he died. The man tried to ignore the question, but on being pressed, replied: "Oh well, I suppose I shall inherit eternal bliss, but I wish you wouldn't talk about such unpleasant subjects."

-Bertrand Russell

I think that to get under the surface and really appreciate the beauty of a country, one has to go there poor.

-Grace Moore

to some loyal and dedicated individuals. Rev. Tamara Lebak of All Souls Church in Tulsa will deliver the talk, What's Our Net Worth? We will gather at the UU Church of Oak Cliff, and tickets will again be available online.

To maintain a low ticket price, NTAUUS needs sponsors! Would you be willing to underwrite the plaques, the honorees' lunch, a table or two, or the luncheon speaker? Diamond: \$1000 covers most of the meal. Platinum: \$500 covers the cost of the speaker. Gold: \$250 pays for two tables. Silver: \$125 pays for a table. Bronze: \$100 takes care of the honorees' lunch. Please contact Daniel Polk at executive@ntaus.org or 469-682-8870. We could also use help with setting up tables and chairs or arranging flowers.

SWUUV Conference Feb. 22-24

Making Waves on a Sea of Change
Women and Maidens, 13 and older - please join us at the Omni Bayfront Hotel in Corpus Christi, Texas for lovely views of the "sparkling city by the sea" in the Coastal Bend of Texas. The Omni overlooks our beautiful marina and is located near the South Texas Museum of Art. Spend two days prior and two days after the conference, at the conference rate, to take advantage of the long weekend to relax, enjoy excursions and visit the beaches on North Padre Island. The Omni offers free transportation from the airport to the conference, and free parking for hotel registrants. For

more information, contact convener Debbie Cannatella at conference@swuuv.org Online Registration is now open.

Self Management & Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm 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. To learn more, see www.rke.cc/smart

Save the Date February 2, 2013

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: EXPANDING OUR SOCIAL CALLING

A one-day workshop to learn more about the 2012-2016 Congregational Study/Action Item, & how to use UUA resources Information: <http://www.uua.org/reproductive/calling/index.shtml>

Event will take place at First Unitarian Church of Dallas. Stay tuned for details. If you'd like to help organize this event, please contact Daniel Polk at 469-682-8870 or executive@ntaus.org.

The Westside Story December 2012

Your Westside Story Staff:

Cindy Fountain,
Editor In Chief

Eric Stevens,
Designer

Sharon Salih,
Distribution

Email submissions to our Editor
Cindy Fountain at
vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for submissions is
the 15th of the month.

Where the light is
brightest, the shadows
are deepest.

-Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

The worst kind of people
are those who confuse
kindness for weakness.

-Werner Makowski

Our Board

President: Caroline Nixon

Vice President: Linda Ice

Treasurer: Mark McMurry

Secretary: Reed Bilz

Directors: Stuart Cheney, Jane Palmer, Jessica Zinn, Karen Moore, Mary Noer, Joe Tyson

October 2012 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
October 7	61	50	14	19	144
October 14	62	88	16	17	183
October 21	76	66	24	5	171
October 28	53	65	16	18	152
Averages	63	67.25	17.5	14.75	162.5



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 UU 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

Joy Counts - Chair, Lonnie Goins, Scott Paulson,
Sue Spell, Sean Wildman

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

A One-Day **Involve** Training
Radical Hospitality: Creating Beloved Community for All Children
To be held on January 26, 2013 from 9a-1p
Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
901 Page Avenue, Fort Worth, TX
Free for Members and Friends of Westside, \$20 for all others.
For more information and to register, visit:
ntaus.org

The purpose of the **Involve** workshop is to train religious educators, ministers, teachers, and lay leaders to minister to children with different ways of learning, being and knowing and ensure their successful inclusion into the life of our UU congregations. The **Involve** workshop is 4 hours long. This one day workshop will incorporate as much material as possible from the longer training which includes: attitude and sensitivity training, assessment methods, teaching strategies, hands-on training activities, and discussions concerning pastoral and congregational care.

Serving children who have been labeled as disabled or disordered is an immensely complicated process. While our churches are not social service agencies, it is critically important for religious education, pastoral care and social advocates to understand the complexity and enormous challenges and stress families experience with an atypical child. In order to provide an effective and compassionate ministry, congregations need to understand the complex spiritual, ethical and moral concerns that affect how we as a society treat children and youth with labels. **Involve** training will help us build a welcoming ministry for all families that want to attend our churches. Opening our hearts and minds to serving atypical children strengthens our commitment to the Unitarian Universalist principle of affirming the worth and dignity of every person. Ministering to atypical children helps us not only to be more creative about ministry to all our children, but also helps us as adults to reassess or reaffirm our own beliefs. Lessons of compassion, caring and an acceptance of differences benefit all of us, young and old.



Workshop leader Sally Patton, Ed. M. Developmental Psychology has advocated and worked for atypical children for over 35 years. For the past several years, she has written and conducted workshops on ministering to children with labels in faith communities and on spiritual parenting of such children. She also offers private consultations for parents who are interested in exploring the spiritual questions that arise from parenting an atypical child. Sally is the author of *Welcoming Children with Special Needs, a Guidebook for Faith Communities*. Her new book, *Don't Fix Me I'm not Broken; Changing Our Minds about Ourselves and Our Children*,

published by O-Books is available to order in both paperback and eBook formats from amazon.com. Sally conducts Involve Trainings around the country to train religious educators, ministers, and lay leaders to assist and educate faith communities as to the importance of ministering to atypical children. Sally is the mother of two children, one of whom has a special needs label. Her website is: www.embracechildspirit.org. Contact: sally@embracechildspirit.org