



Sunday Services in September

SEPTEMBER 1 - "FOR EVERMORE?" BY DR. RUSSELL ELLEVEN.

There are various ideas about what happens after we die. Some of them seem to make sense while others do not. Russell will offer his ideas this Sunday morning.

SEPTEMBER 8 - "TO TELL THE TRUTH?" BY DR. RUSSELL ELLEVEN.

Is it important to tell the truth? What happens when we lie? Are there implications for community when we elect to offer up non-truths? Russell will offer up a whopper this Sunday for your consideration.

SEPTEMBER 15 - "THE ZOROASTRIANS: ANCIENT WISDOM IN A MODERN WORLD" BY ANAHITA SIDHWA.

Who are the Zoroastrians? What are their beliefs? How did Zoroastrian principles influence major world religions? A tiny community of Zoroastrians is part of today's melting pot of cultures. Anahita is a practicing Zoroastrian who will share her views of this ancient faith and its relevance in the modern world.

SEPTEMBER 22 - "WHY WESTSIDE?" BY DR. RUSSELL ELLEVEN.

Why do we do this? Why do we even bother coming to Westside Unitarian Universalist Church? Russell will offer up his ideas this Sunday morning.

SEPTEMBER 29 - "SLIGHTS OF PASSAGE" BY ANNIE FOERSTER.

We celebrate rites of passage throughout our lives, including birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, dedications, coming of age, and memorial services. But what about those life events that slide by without formal recognition? What kind of human events do we slight by not treating them with celebration and ritual? And what do those slights mean in our assumptions of what's important and what's not?

September 2013

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.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WESTSIDE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

901 Page Avenue
Fort Worth, TX
10:00 & 11:30 AM Sundays
WestsideUU.org

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education

WHAT WE CHOOSE: ETHICS FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS. This month, the Adult RE program will delve into lively discussions into deeply serious issues: How we discern our moral course of action; source(s) of authority – personal experience, community wisdom, conscience, religious texts, the words and deeds of prophetic people, reason, science, God, and how our actions display our most treasured values.

ETHICS FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS contains 10 overlapping sections, jampacked with discussion, debate, education, and community. We will devote a month to each of these sections, with new and interrelated programs each Sunday.

SEPTEMBER: The Locus of Moral Authority, which includes the dilemma of Ralph Waldo Emerson

OCTOBER: Unchanging Truths, including the works of Immanuel Kant

NOVEMBER: The Collective Good, which explores our Fifth Principle using the lens of utilitarianism/teleological ethics

DECEMBER: Cultivating a Virtuous Character, exploring virtue ethics

JANUARY: Natural, Legal, and Human Rights, involving rights-based ethics and how to prioritize conflicting claims

FEBRUARY: The Story of Our Lives: Narrative Ethics, as a lens for exploring ethical issues

MARCH: Relational Ethics, and how they inform personal decisions

APRIL: Understanding Ethics from the Margins, and the social dimension of oppression

MAY: An Ethic of Risk, as a framework for determining moral/ethical action

JUNE: Locus of Moral Authority Revisited and a guide to articulating our ethical values

Ethics for Unitarian Universalists meets during the second service in the glass classroom. As always, everyone is welcome and committed participation enhances the experience for everyone. Childcare is available.

Children's Religious Education News Clips Connect with CRE

THANKS FOR A GREAT SUMMER. What a wonderful response we received during our summer of science. Andrea Petty and Tricia Bowes with help from others, created an engaging curriculum for our classes from Pre-K to High School. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers that stepped into classrooms. You helped our children and youth make discoveries about our universe and about their place in it. If you enjoyed teaching this summer and would like to continue in the future, please contact our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Andrea Petty.

COMING OF AGE IS COMING TO WESTSIDE! COA will be offered at Westside this year. Coming of Age, or COA, is a year-long program traditionally offered in UU churches for Youth in 8th-10th grades (ages 14+). The goal of a COA program is to help youth better appreciate Unitarian Universalism, their own beliefs and values, and how these intersect. It will enable them to grasp what it means to belong to a congregation so that they may become informed members. It will help participants recognize that as they grow and change, there is still a place for them in their faith home: a new place, full of fresh opportunities and responsibilities.

COA programs often culminate in a UU heritage tour of Boston, MA and the surrounding area. It is our desire for the Westside COA participants to take this trip!

We are forming a COA committee now and soon you will be seeing information about the committee and how to participate as well as information about informational sessions and parent orientations.

I begin to see what marriage is for. It's to keep people away from each other. Sometimes I think that two people who love each other can be saved from madness only by the things that come between them: children, duties, visits, bores, relations, the things that protect married people from each other.

-Edith Wharton

Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms you would never see the true beauty of their carvings.

-Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

WAYS TO HELP. Our Children's Religious Education program is so big, there are plenty of ways to help out. The most basic way to help is to show interest and support to our kids on Sunday morning. A simple greeting or conversation reinforces our connection within our congregation. We have volunteer opportunities with differing commitment levels.

Teaching teams are formed for each class to rotate the teaching schedule. Party and special events organizers and workers are always needed. An example of behind the scenes support would be putting out lunch during our trainings or planning an event honoring our teachers and volunteers.

The CRE committee works to expand the program and keep the mission alive and encourage input from the congregation. Do you have a hobby or talent you would like to share? You could be a special guest to a class on Sunday morning or during middle school or high school youth groups.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP. A middle school Youth group is forming and will be having meetings soon. Our YUUMS (Youth-UU Middle Schoolers) group information will be coming soon — be on the lookout if you have a child entering 6th or 7th grade. We are also looking for one more adult volunteer ready for some fun to help with this group.

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

Forum

Our Westside UU Forum meets every Sunday at 10:00 and concludes at 11:00, allowing 30 minutes for coffee and conversation before the second service; childcare is available. Because topics for discussion vary with interest, with current developments and with availability of material or speakers, it is not always possible to know the subjects for four or five weeks in

advance. Instead, each Sunday's Forum will be announced in the Weekly Memo on Monday mornings. The subject will also be e-mailed on Monday to all fans whose e-mail addresses are on my Forum list. If you have questions or comments, or if you wish to be added to the Forum online group, please contact me, John Barnes, at jbarnes107@gmail.com.

TRANSITIONS: A TIME FOR CHANGE & MOVING FORWARD

Dear Voting Members & Friends** of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

I come to you on behalf of your Board of Directors and would like to share some information with you that is relevant to the announcement of Dr. Russell K. Elleven's resignation. Your board has now met and has begun the process of researching and disseminating information from the Transitions Office of the UUA.

This letter will serve as a way of communicating how we are getting started, the proposed Emeritus status for Russell, some plans for continued conversation and communication as well as some key dates of which we want you to be aware. Let me warn you that this is a long letter! There is a lot of information that we wish to share.

So, let me thank you, in advance, for taking the time to read this communication completely. We hope to make everyone aware of the same information. We know that some of you may be feeling a sense of anxiety and/or apprehension. With the following information and further avenues of communication, those feelings may be diminished.

Before getting into the details, I will tell you that while we were all very surprised

**The Westside Story
September 2013**

We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable.

-Alexander Solzhenitsyn

To die for an idea; it is unquestionably noble. But how much nobler it would be if men died for ideas that were true.

-H.L. Mencken

and saddened to hear of Russell and Gayle's departure, we wish them the best in their future endeavors. Your church leadership is working on several ways for the congregation to convey our gratitude and appreciation for the Ellevens' years of dedication and service to Westside.

At the same time, I want to assure you that your church leaders wish to continue to move forward with the vision for Westside. Over the last several months and years, we have experienced an energy and enthusiasm that has been manifested through:

Increased programming for all ages and interests

Seam-bursting participation from our members, friends, and a constant flow of guests representing all age groups

Our recent and wildly successful stewardship campaign which we are beginning to practice as a year-round mission

Record-breaking proceeds from our 2011 auction and plans for even greater success for our auction later this fall

Increased social outreach

All of this is to say, that while our ministerial leadership may look different, our community will remain intact and the mission and vision of our church will be the driving force for our continued participation and growth.

Recognizing the needs of our unique community and diverse congregation, our desire is to carefully and critically move through each phase of this transition. There will be ample opportunities for conversation and communication along the way.

Ultimately, the decision of our next settled minister will be in the hands of the congregation. So, we invite you to join with us as we band together and work even harder to maintain Westside's status as Fort Worth's progressive voice in liberal religion.

Insanity is relative. It depends on who has who locked in what cage.

-Ray Bradbury

The ring always believes that the finger lives for it.

-Malcolm De Chazal

Formats for Conversation & Communication

Over the course of this period of transition, our goal will be to provide relevant information as it becomes available. There are several venues for this communication that we will begin to implement over the next few months. Of course, we will add and modify as necessary.

Beginning on the first Wednesday evening in September we will hold monthly TOWN HALL MEETINGS. These meetings will be open to all members and friends for the purpose of providing an open forum for questions regarding the transitions process. At a future point, these meetings will be a venue for expressing desires and wishes for the future of our community. We plan to hold these monthly meetings for an indefinite period of time. As long as there is interest, your board will be there! The first few meetings will address the specifics of the transition process and the rationale behind our initial decisions. As we move through these transitions, different topics of discussion will obviously come up. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 4th beginning at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Subsequent meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

We also plan to implement a "Transitions" link on our **church website** (westsideuu.org) that will provide updates on the transition process as they change and progress. Additionally, we will utilize other internet based forms of communication – the **weekly web** mailing and **Facebook**. We will also provide the same information in our monthly newsletter, **The Westside Story** and on our **PowerPoint** displays seen in Fellowship Hall and the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.

One final method of providing for input is a **congregational survey** to be implemented in a few months – we have set a tentative goal of having it ready by January for your participation. This survey will be the product of three areas of leadership in the church: the Board of Directors, the Committee on Ministry and the Long Range Planning Committee. We hope to address such areas as providing a profile of the membership, the "health" of the congregation, and

the vision of its members – desires for programming and future projects. We wish to take our time with the development of this survey so that it will be a useful tool from which to base our future decisions. This will be beneficial as our congregation moves into the time with an interim minister when we are challenged to look at our past, present and future.

Ministerial Transitions

At a special, called Board Meeting on Wednesday, August 7th, your board made a few decisions regarding our transition process and how we feel Westside will best be served. After much research and consideration, we have chosen to secure an accredited interim minister whose time with us will better prepare us for the placement of our settled minister. The time frame looks like this:

FALL 2013 – An Interim Task Force will complete the necessary framework to apply for an accredited interim minister

APRIL 2014 – We will select an interim minister

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2014 – Selected interim minister will arrive to begin two year service

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2016 (TENTATIVE) – Selected settled minister will begin service at Westside

We are also exploring the idea of hiring a contract minister to serve in a limited capacity (pastoral care, occasional pulpit supply, etc.) for a short term prior to the arrival of an accredited interim minister. It is not our desire to rush into any decision and we are committed to making choices that will only benefit our community. The new option of a contract minister has just been brought to our attention. Your board will continue discussion on this possibility over the next few weeks.

Rest assured that we will communicate closely with other church leaders and committees that will have input on making our final decision.

Minister Emeritus Recommendation

The Board of Directors wishes to recommend that our community, Westside UU, bestow the status of Minister Emeritus on Dr. Russell K. Elleven. The procedure requires a vote of the congregation to confer this status. With that in mind, we invite Westside voting members to a special business meeting to be held between services on Sunday, September 8th, for said purpose.

The title Minister Emeritus is granted to “honor long and meritorious service to a congregation where the minister has given devoted and competent ministerial leadership.” By conferring this status on Russell, the following characteristics will describe the future relationship between Russell and Westside UU Church:

- 1. Official recognition of Emeritus status with the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association)**
- 2. Delegate credential for all future UUA General Assembly conferences**
- 3. Permanent inclusion on church letterhead, stationery, etc.**
- 4. Invitations to major institutional events such as anniversaries, building dedications, etc.**
- 5. Occasional invitations to appear in the pulpit**

With respect to future visits as described in numbers 4 and 5 above, these situations will only be possible following the creation of a covenant between Dr. Elleven and any future settled ministers addressing these specific situations. If Emeritus status is granted to Dr. Elleven, candidates for settled ministry at Westside will be made aware of that status. There will be more discussion of this proposed status at the first Town Hall meeting on September 4th. Russell will be in attendance to answer questions and explain the parameters of his future relationship with members of Westside as outlined in the UUMA (Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association) Code of Conduct.

The Westside Story
September 2013

Interpretation is the revenge of the intellect upon art.

-Susan Sontag

The arrow has to draw back to fly ahead.

-Proverb

**The Westside Story
September 2013**

We hope that you will make plans to attend the special congregational meeting to be a part of this momentous vote. Again, it will be held at 11:10 on Sunday, September 8th. We expect this to be a very brief meeting with the express purpose of taking a congregational vote.

Mark Your Calendars!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH
TOWN HALL MEETING
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
11:10 AM – 11:20 AM**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
COME & GO RECEPTION TO HONOR THE ELLEVENS
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH
RUSSELL'S FINAL REFLECTION**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
"PROGRESSIVE DINNER" AND AUCTION
6:30 PM – 10:30 PM**

Thank you for taking the time to read this first of, what promises to be many, communications from your church leadership. We do hope to see you at the first Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, September 4th...7:00 pm in the sanctuary. We will begin to share conversation and answer your questions. And, if we don't know the answer, we'll be sure to find it!!! We are in this together and look forward to the next chapter in our church's history!

The more powerful and original a mind, the more it will incline towards the religion of solitude.

-Aldous Huxley

*Linda Ice
President, Board of Directors*

****Section 3.4. Friends (from the Westside UU Church Bylaws) *A Friend is someone who is not a member, but who attends church services and other church activities, gives of their time, talent and treasures, and acknowledges the Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles. A Friend may not chair a committee nor serve as a church officer or board member, and may not vote in official church meetings.***

Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

"New Voices" Sundays

WESTSIDE UU GUEST SPEAKER SUBMISSION

Your Worship Team welcomes your suggestions for guest speakers for those Sundays when Dr. Elleven is not scheduled to be in the pulpit. We would appreciate and expect that you make suggestions of only those speakers that you have personally heard and feel that they would be able to offer a meaningful and valuable Reflection to the members and friends of Westside. There are forms available for your submission on the website. Please fill out this form as completely as possible and the Worship Team will then review and consider your suggestion. Upon completion, place this form in the Worship Team box in the Church Office, or you may give it to any member of the Worship Team. You will be contacted following their review. Thank you for your participation and for your suggestions!

Join a Circle Supper, September 21

For those who have not attended a Circle Supper, it is the opportunity for getting to know members/friends of the church over good food and conversation. These are dinners in small groups of six to eight people, generally, and held at the home of a member/friend of the church. If you would like to host but have limited space, you may partner with someone who has the room but would prefer not to host alone. The dinners are held on the third Saturday of every month. The host will organize the meal and will ask the guests to bring something like a side dish, bread, wine or whatever is needed. Please contact Gail Kilman at gailkilman@mac.com or 817-294-8938.

Our Family Circle Supper works just the same way, but it is not required that you have children to attend. For the Family Circle Supper, please contact Lauren Leising at ellekaye@juno.com or 817-846-8012.

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.

July '13	Samaritan House Dinner Fund	\$1,100.41
June '13	Texas Re-Entry Services	\$982.42
May '13	Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas	\$1,033.22
April '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$801.70
March '13	In-Reach Fund	\$1,448.88
February '13	Fort Worth Day Resource Center	\$1,091.86
January '13	Don't Forget to Feed Me, Tarrant Pet Food Pantry	\$930.61
December '12	Cancer Care Services	\$974.93
December '12	UUA Sandy Storm Relief	\$375.75
November '12	Lighthouse for the Blind	\$931.54
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
April '12	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$863.81
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
October '10	UUA Association Sunday	\$847.23
October '10	UUA Pakistan Relief	\$528.29
September '10	Samaritan House Dinners meat budget	\$1,229.22
August '10	Planned Parenthood of North Texas	\$1,526.07
June '10	Presbyterian Night Shelter	\$1,006.35
July '10	InReach Fund	\$1,171.60
May '10	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1687.29
April '10	Trinity Habitat for Humanity	\$900.10

When people are fanatically dedicated to political or religious faiths or any other kind of dogmas or goals, it's always because these dogmas or goals are in doubt.

-Robert M. Pirsig

Nothing so soothes our vanity as a display of greater vanity in others; it makes us vain, in fact, of our modesty.

-Louis Kronenberger

Highlights from the July 17 Board Meeting

DRE's Report - Andrea is working on a Coming of Age program for our youth with program chair Kim Lowe.

Mortgage Refinancing - a new mortgage would save us approximately \$7,000 but could cost us \$10,000 up front. The Board decided to pursue a better rate than our current 6%.

Long Range Planning Committee - Tom Woods has agreed to serve on this committee. The committee is planning an all member, in-person survey in conjunction with the COM survey.

Endowment Committee - George Seidel has agreed to serve on this committee.

Membership & Volunteer Coordinator Search Committee - The Board approved Annie Foerster, Bill Terry, Jeff Bullock, Linda Tyson, and Caroline Nixon as members of the committee. The committee is asked to present a job description to the Board at our August board meeting.

Linda Ice appointed liaisons for all committees and reviewed their responsibilities.

Adult RE Chair - Amy Youngblood has stepped down as Adult RE Chair. Andrea will be coordinating with the Nominating Committee to find a new chair for the committee.

The Board approved expanding Andrea Petty's role and giving her the title Director of Life Span RE.

Snacks! - We discussed this issue and will discuss this matter further next month.

The Board reviewed our Strategic Plan and Plan of Action, including the list of items not completed or ongoing on our Strategic Plan.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 18, at 7 p.m. 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 September?

I will be at Westside and in Fort Worth all of September. I will deliver reflections on the first (9/1), second (9/8), and fourth (9/22) Sundays but will also be present on the third (9/15) and fifth (9/29) Sundays to facilitate Joys and Concerns. I look forward to seeing you!

So, September appointment times look like this:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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 atrelleven@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 ongoing 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 <http://www.marycret.com/>

You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.

-H.L. Mencken

The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.

-George Orwell

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN & SERVE

Contemporary Book Group

On September 22 we will discuss Henry and Clara by Thomas Mallon. This is a novel about the engaged couple who accompanied the Lincolns and sat in the box with them at the Ford Theater the night Lincoln was assassinated. I, for one, did not know their interesting history.

We have no selections beyond September so please send in some suggestions to reed.bilz@gmail.com and I will forward them to our group.

We meet in the glass classroom after the second service on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please join us even if you have not read the book. We may inspire you to do so.

Building the Greatest Community on Earth!

This is the theme that emerged from the Hullabalooza brainstorming session today. Twenty members and friends grabbed some morning munchies and coffee, then came together to toss out ideas as Westside begins a new, yet continuing, year of stewardship to make its mission in Fort Worth happen.

But, we didn't stop there. Ideas were exchanged on presenting the theme - How about sharing your time, talents, and treasure in a 3-ring-circus? Are you good at juggling resources? Want to write a "Hit & Run" skit? These wonderful, creative ideas were just a few of the thoughts generated today.

Everyone also discussed how Westside can better communicate its budget, financial goals, and ways we can better present and explain "Fair Share Giving."

Two other topics that were brainstormed were Stewardship Moments and the importance of acknowledging those who give of their time, talent, and treasure.

Do you want to join us "under the Big Top"? The Stewardship Committee welcomes your involvement in any way you would care to help.

Our next meeting is coming up in September. Please contact Mary Noer at Mary.noer@att.net or 817.821.9691 if you have an interest.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The HoFW will meet at the church on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. All Freethinkers are welcome to attend. Please check the HoFW Meetup site for further information. <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/>

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Westside quilting and handiwork will meet on September 15, after the second service at church until 4:00. 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

The Westside Story September 2013

In some circumstances, the refusal to be defeated is a refusal to be educated.

-Margaret Halsey

Shots Fired Rapid Response Training September 14

Saturday, September 14, your Safe Congregation Committee and Fort Worth Police Department will present training for church greeters and all other church members who

For blocks are better cleft with wedges,
Than tools of sharp or subtle edges,
And dullest nonsense has been found
By some to be the most profound.

-Samuel Butler

wish to be informed about how to respond to an active shooter situation. Sign-in is at 9:45 a.m. and we should wrap up by noon or shortly thereafter.

The tragedies at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth in 1999 and Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, TN in 2008 make us acutely aware to our need to be informed about good practices for coping with an active shooter situation.

Since active shooter situations evolve quickly and are often over within 10 to 15 minutes, before law enforcement arrives on the scene, individuals must be prepared both mentally and physically to deal with an active shooter situation.

Please contact Dianne Nixon, 817-625-2130 or dreednixon@aol.com, if you plan to attend so that we can set up for the correct number of attendees.

Seventh Principal Notes-- Green Sanctuary

TRASH BASH: It's almost here! Let's have a big turnout of Westsiders wearing our wonderful Westsider tees that show where UU members stand!. It is September 21, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., for the annual Trinity Trash Bash. Food, prizes, and entertainment after the event, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Put this date on your calendar, then email Kim Lucas at devinewoman@msn.com to let her know you will be there!!

Final details will be sent as WUU is assigned its place to pick up trash for the bash!

OUR RECYCLING CART: Here are a few things that simply cannot be recycled in Fort Worth:

Styrofoam, even though it often comes with a recycling code on it, is NOT accepted by any recycling facility in the area. It must be placed in the trash. If you learn of a facility that will accept Styrofoam, please let us know.

Ditto with plastic bags, even though they bear a recycling symbol.

Aluminum foil and aluminum bakeware is not recyclable by Ft Worth, but bakeware is through private commercial firms, and is fairly valuable. We prefer that you not place it in the cart, but if you do we will deal with it.

Clean paper and cardboard is recyclable, including coated cartons. Tissue paper, kleenex, paper towels, sticky labels, drink boxes, and straws are not: Please put those in the trash.

Please do not place any liquids in the cart: Empty bottles and other containers before dropping them in.

Thanks for doing your part.

Green Movie Night

The September Green Movie will be the 2011 American documentary film FORKS OVER KNIVES, which examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting our present menu of animal-based and processed foods.

The major storyline in the film traces the personal journeys of a pair of pioneering, yet under-appreciated researchers, Dr. T. Colin Campbell, a nutritional scientist at Cornell University, and Dr. Caldwell Esselstyn, a top surgeon and head of the Breast Cancer Task Force at the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic.

Plan to attend and discuss this thought-provoking documentary on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. after Vegan Pot Luck. Omnivores are welcome, especially in light of the August 13, 2011, New York Times article entitled "Sugar." If you enjoy Green Movie Night and would like to see more movies, consider volunteering to help. Contact Torah Bontrager, Linda Hanratty, or Bob Vann for more information at green@westsideuu.org

We should have a great many fewer disputes in the world if words were taken for what they are, the signs of our ideas, and not for things themselves.

-John Locke

Laws too gentle are seldom obeyed; too severe, seldom executed.

-Benjamin Franklin

2013 "Progressive Dinner" and Auction

Plans are coming right along for this exciting event in the life of our church! If you have not done so, mark your calendars for Friday, November 1, at 6:30 p.m., at The Cendera Center in Fort Worth.

Committee Chairs and committees are coming together nicely: Kim Lucas and Linda McDonnell are chairing the Acquisitions Committee; Reed Bilz the Auction Outreach Committee; and Gail Kilman will be handling ticket sales! There are many ways for everyone to be involved. Let us know if you would like more information!

Now, it's time for every Westside member and friend to begin submitting your auction donations – services, decorative items, gift baskets, gift cards, dinners, trips, etc!!! Be creative! You just never know what someone might bid on and bring in a little money for our church. Donation forms are available on Sunday mornings and by contacting Kim Lucas (devinewoman@msn.com), Linda McDonnell (flamingogoddess@gmail.com), or Linda and Myron Ice (Landmice@gmail.com).

If you know of someone who does not attend Westside, but supports our mission and vision in the community and the world, be sure to invite them! Contact Reed Bilz (reed.bilz@gmail.com) for information about printed invitations and some information to share with your guests!

We have received an amazing response to our request for Auction Underwriters and we are well on our way to having every potential expense covered by these generous donations! If you would like to contribute in this way to the auction, to ensure that all proceeds collected the night of the auction will be 100% profit for Westside, please contact Linda and Myron Ice at Landmice@gmail.com.

Tickets will go on sale mid to late September... Watch for more information on the weekly web and the Order of Service insert! Looking forward to having a huge turnout that evening and to the opportunity for this to truly be a church wide project!

Vegan Potluck Saturday, September 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.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 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 Andrea Petty if you have any questions about the Monthly Vegan Potluck at dre@westsideuu.org

Chaplains Report on a Caring Community

The Chaplains Corps has been contacting various members whom we've missed

The Westside Story
September 2013

There is no man so good, who, were he to submit all his thoughts and actions to the laws, would not deserve hanging ten times in his life.

-Michel de Montaigne

The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it; but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.

-Madame De Stael

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.

Linda McDonnell and Westside mourns the loss of her daughter and member, Christy Smith.

By the time this newsletter is published, the Baker Family will be welcoming their second child, a boy, appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Andrea Petty and James Finn mourn the loss of James' brother who passed away suddenly of a heart attack.

Debra McCawley and Paul Corbett have closed on a new house and look forward to moving in and furnishing it over the next month.

Reed Bowes turned seven years old!

Amy Youngblood and Mike West celebrated 30 years of marriage!

Jeff Bullock lost a dear father-figure, Bill, last month.

Amy Youngblood, Carl Romano, and Van Pineda celebrated birthdays!

Henry Hegeman had a successful ear surgery and is now walking!

Linda and Walt McConathy celebrated 47 years of marriage!

Trish Gabe's husband, Bradley, started medical school last month!

Those on the Chaplains Corps are Beverly Archibald, Caroline Nixon, Diane Jones, Myrtle McMahan, Tom Woods, Sandy Lord and John Gilbert.

Please give us a call or e-mail us with any concerns you may have.

Lower your voice
and strengthen your
argument.

-Lebanese proverb

Vocations which we
wanted to pursue, but
didn't, bleed, like colors,
on the whole of our
existence.

-Honore de Balzac

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Day Resource Center

John Barnes is requesting pint-sized bottled water and travel-sized toiletries for the Day Resource Center for the Homeless. Contributions can be stacked by the front entrance door. He will take them to the DRC every Sunday after church. If you have questions or would like additional information, contact John Barnes at jbarnes107@gmail.com

Brother ChiSing Meditation Workshop

14 SEPT AT HARMONY CHURCH, 1-5 PM

824 PENNSYLVANIA, FORT WORTH, TX

**\$30-50 SUGGESTED OFFERING
(NO ONE TURNED AWAY)**

Br. ChiSing, Unitarian/Interfaith Buddhist minister, will share details on sitting, listening, and eating meditations and mindful breathing, thought, and movement.

Br ChiSing's vision for ministry is to encourage Buddhist, Christian, and other faith communities to practice Mindful Spirituality in an Interfaith, compassionate, Earth-based way, with emphasis on creativity, music, and arts. www.awakening-heart.org and www.harmonyfellowshipofft-worth.org.

Run For Life Suicide Awareness 5k/1k Fun Run

Come join Mental Health America on Saturday, September 7, for the second

annual Run for Life! The 1K race will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the 5K at 8:30 a.m. at the Trinity Park Arts Pavilion (2401 University Dr. 76107). Whether registering to volunteer or registering to run, it's a guaranteed good time while raising suicide awareness!

Come put the fun in our run!

For more information contact us at: Mental Health America of Greater Tarrant County 817-335-5405 mhatic.org

to have you come for an hour or two.

The creative efforts and hard work of Jay Dodds, Dick Dodds, and John Gilbert can be seen in Westside's new Chalice that can be used on a float or at other events. If you want to be one of the first to see it, come to the parade!

Please contact Cindy Fountain at 817-526-1375 or vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net if you would like to be part of this stewardship to our community, or come by the Social Justice Committee Table, September 1, for more information.

**The Westside Story
September 2013**

Gay Pride Parade/Picnic

The 2013 Pride Parade is Saturday, October 5, in downtown Ft. Worth. The picnic is Sunday, October 6, at Trinity Park. Westside will have a table at the picnic and will also be in the parade. Both events start at noon.

Mary Noer will be braiding hair at the Westside picnic table. Kim Lucas will be there, too. Plans are afoot to make this a fundraiser for a youth LGBT organization. Anyone is welcome to join and share a talent, such as face painting, or "people" the table to represent Westside. ARE YOU A TALENTED HAIR BRAIDER? We would love

Self Management and Recovery Training (SMART)

These confidential meetings are held each week at Westside on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who want or need to discuss strategies for confronting addictive behaviors. The group is sponsored by the Humanists of Fort Worth as an alternative to traditional 12-step meetings requiring belief in a higher power. To learn more, see www.rke.cc/smart

*Email submissions to our Editor
Janice Sims at janicesims@tx.rr.com.
Deadline for submissions is the
15th of the month.*

Don't judge men's wealth
or godliness by their
Sunday appearance.

-Benjamin Franklin

There is a field beyond
all notions of right and
wrong. Come, meet me
there.

-Rumi

Our Board

President: Linda Ice

Vice President: Cindy Fountain

Treasurer: Lane Smutz

Secretary: Reed Bilz

**Directors: Karen Moore, Mary Noer, Alvin Migdal,
Tricia Bowes, Ric Hansen, Sally Johnson**

July 2013 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
July 7	56	81	20	13	170
July 14	58	86	18	34	196
July 21	96	94	14	31	235
July 28	54	100	11	27	192
Averages	66	90.25	15.75	26.25	198.25



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

Sue Spell, Sean Wildman Chair, Myron Ice, Linda McConathy, Shirley Miller

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