



# *October 2014*



**The Westside Story**

**Westside Unitarian  
Universalist Church**

901 Page Avenue  
Fort Worth, Texas  
76110

10:00 & 11:30 AM  
Sundays

[www.WestsideUU.org](http://www.WestsideUU.org)

**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.

## Sunday Services

**October 5** – “*We Gather In Reverence*” by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning we explore another of the Six Sources that nourish and nurture the Seven Principles. Reverence arises from the First Source “direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder...which moves us to a renewal of the spirit.”

**October 12** – “*Healing the Heart of Democracy*” by Theresa Kauffman. The left calls the right Fascists. The right calls the left Marxists. The Texas militia is ready to shoot children immigrating to America. Healing the Heart of Democracy is Parker Palmer’s latest book drawing on his Quaker background to heal the broken-heartedness of American politics. In this reflection, stories about his proposed “Habits of the Heart” are a way to return to civil discourse.

**October 19** – “*The ‘S’ Words: An Occasional Series*” by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning we will explore another “S” word that comes to us from ancient Jewish culture.

**October 26** – “*The Pagan in All of Us at Halloween*” by Reverend Alex Holt. Why does Halloween still fascinate us whether we enjoy it or not? What ancient roots from the Source of earth-centered traditions give it meaning? Today will be costume day for Westside and anyone is welcome to wear a costume. There may even be a contest to see who wears the most creative one.

### SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

## Adult Religious Education Class

11:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

The less justified a man is in claiming excellence for his own self, the more ready he is to claim all excellence for his nation, his religion, his race, or his holy cause. A man is likely to mind his own business when it is worth minding. When it is not, he takes his mind off his own meaningless affairs by minding other people’s business.

-Eric Hoffer

So I accept these awards on behalf of the cake bakers and all of those other women who can do some things quite as important, if not more important, than flying, as well as in the name of women flying today.

-Amelia Earhart

**Who Are We Unitarian Universalists?** This is the theme this fall and winter. Beginning in October we will draw from several Tapestry of Faith workshops and another UUA document called “Engaging Our Theological Diversity”. There will also be several different facilitators that will rotate in leading the discussions. You can look forward to a new year in Adult Religious Education! All are welcome and child care is provided. For more information, contact Morris Meador at meadormorris1@gmail.com.

## Religious Odysseys, October 26

Once a month at 11:30 – 12:30, instead of the regular Adult Religious Education class we will share Religious Odysseys. There will be a 20 minute period for a church member to tell of his/her life story focused on how their beliefs and life views developed. After this the remaining time will consist of a dialogue between the one who has shared and those in attendance. The emphasis is not on debating positions but sharing in a very intimate setting a person’s life story. Come and get to know persons you may not know or know much better persons you think you have known for a long time. Our greatest learning happens when we share ourselves with each other. John Gilbert will share his Odyssey in October. Send suggestions for others to share their Odyssey to Morris Meador (meadormorris1@gmail.com) or see me at church.

## Children’s Religious Education News Clips

Connect with CRE

**Something Nuuw at Westside UU - For the Young and Young at Heart: Chalice Children** CRE is very excited to introduce something new to our children’s Sunday morning program. Chalice Children will now be offered from 10:00 to 11:00 for all children participating in Pre-K – through 5th grade RE. After the Story for All Ages, children will return to the RE wing for a short lesson involving Art, Science,

Literature, or any other great ideas brought by facilitators. Youth that participate and are in Middle or High School are welcome to come and earn Service hours by helping the adult facilitators. Chalice Children will allow the children to participate in supervised activities during both services without repetition of programming, while parents participate in offered programming and attend services. Chalice Children also offers the opportunity for parents and other adults to contribute to the RE program without long-term commitment. Volunteers can provide their own lesson or the Chalice Children coordinator can have one prepared for you.\*

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**Building Bridges for Tomorrow - Coming of Age** A strange phenomenon has occurred at Westside. The children of long time members have all grown up to be healthy, curious teenagers. In order to satisfy their craving for knowledge and help them find a place in our greater UU community, CRE will be introducing new programming for our Middle and High School Youth. One such program is Coming of Age. This is a wonderful program that many UU churches offer for their youth. It offers youth the opportunity to explore the values of Unitarian Universalism and apply those values to their own lives and spiritual beliefs. High School youth that wish to participate will spend a large portion of the school year investigating each principal in depth while applying them to their own belief systems. Youth will also be paired with mentors who will share their own experiences as a Unitarian Universalist. At the conclusion of the program the youth are offered the opportunity to sign the book to become members of Westside and there is a trip to Boston to visit historic sites tied to UUism. All of the new programming for youth will be an investment for our entire church. For successful programs it will take a village of adults to facilitate committees, guide programs, mentor, and even travel with our youth. Our first need is to form a committee for the Coming of Age program. The duties of the COA Committee are to recruit all necessary adult participants: Guides, Mentors and other adults, create a calendar for workshops, and oversee the implementation of workshops, coordinate mentor activities, organize, plan, and oversee any fundraising for the Boston trip. Anyone is welcome to join the committee and offer their expertise.\*

*\*Any adult interested in working with our youth must complete and pass a criminal background check.*

**More Info** Join the conversation and get important CRE information at our Google group by going to [groups.google.com/group/westsidere](https://groups.google.com/group/westsidere) and click the link to apply for group membership. If you have any questions you can contact Leann Maxwell or Rachel Reed at [re@westsideuu.org](mailto:re@westsideuu.org).

## Forum – 10 to 11 am

The best way to get Adult Forum topics is to email John Barnes, the Adult Forum moderator. The Adult Forum strives to be timely in its topics, and sometimes they change at the last moment to address some major event that has just occurred. Email John at [jbarnes107@gmail.com](mailto:jbarnes107@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the Forum roster.

To keep your marriage  
brimming, With love in  
the loving cup, Whenever  
you're wrong, admit it;  
Whenever you're right,  
shut up.

-Ogden Nash

## IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

### The Traveling Minister's Road Show

*[Each of us]...constructs a life that is...a central metaphor for thinking about the world...mostly, they look like ongoing improvisations, quite ordinary sequences of day-to-day events."*

These words above are from scientist and author Mary Catherine Bateson in her book "Composing a Life". The theme of the book is about five strong women who compose their lives through determination, luck, and faith.

We are social creatures to  
the inmost centre of our  
being. The notion that one  
can begin anything at all  
from scratch, free from  
the past, or unindebted  
to others, could not  
conceivably be more  
wrong.

-Karl Popper

Interim ministry is often a time of improvisation and creative experimentation. The Five Focus Points (as an aside I really dislike that term and prefer the older "Five Developmental Tasks") give an

outline of the themes of transitions work: coming to terms with the congregational past, leadership development, relations with the association/denomination, identity, and commitment to the future.

Those tasks are road signs rather than destinations. Much of the work of discernment and experimentation is left up to a partnership of the church, its leadership and the interim minister. Simply put: there are no magical answers or guaranteed outcomes in transitions work.

I have found over the years that approaching the challenge and opportunities in change can be very stressful. Every congregation going through transition has some measure of stress and anxiety. If it didn't then it would be a congregation no longer interested in active, creative living. I would invite us to jump into this time of improvisation and experimentation with the gift of our curiosity at work. "What might happen if we try this approach?" is an excellent question to explore in many facets of church life.

Here are a couple of examples from our time together so far.

I purchased a small temple bell from an Asian antiques gallery in Portland, Oregon and had it sent here. I wanted to replace the small bell that you folks had used until this fall. The chime you used was beautiful but its sound didn't carry very far. I am a strong believer in symbolism in religious rituals. A tiny chalice flame or a very soft and small chime sound say "we're small and nearly invisible" to me. It would likely have the same impression on visitors. My solution was to increase the sound and power of ringing the bell to give it authority and presence. Many of you have said you like its sound in the sanctuary. That's one improvisation I did based on my experience here so far. The sound of the bell is 'quite ordinary' for us but it changes the tone of how you do services just a bit. That's improvisation at work.

Another improvisation is really more up to you as a church. What will you do about your renter? You have a number of options and likely you all know about them: you could continue to have the relationship you have now for the indefinite future; you could find a new location. Or you can decide to fully own your building and use it for its key purpose – a haven for liberal religion for ALL ages in Fort Worth as well as a launching point for the spread of Unitarian Universalism. All those options have positives and negatives. That's the great thing about improvisation. You get to explore different options in theory and in practice before you have to make a final choice. So here I invite you to have mighty dreams to make into vision. Can you imagine what the building would look like if the Montessori school wasn't present? Can you consider what your exclusive ownership would mean to you and future generations? Can you consider the school's growth and their future needs? Will they need more room and outgrow Westside UU?

Finally, many of you know we have made some changes to Sunday services. Those changes will continue and in part because it's time to experiment. Joys and concerns will go out in a special email to the congregation each Monday. Anyone who fills out a form and doesn't want to have the joy/sorrow go out can check off a request to not have it in the email. Other changes will be explored by the Worship team and I in coming months.

Stay tuned...it's going to be an exciting journey!

It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends.

-J.K. Rowling

## **A Word From Your President!**

The man who is denied the opportunity of taking decisions of importance begins to regard as important the decisions he is allowed to take.

Sunday, September 7, was a day of covenants at Westside. During the service, Reverend Alex Holt spoke to us about covenants while the Children's RE classes created covenants that they will use over the course of their religious education classes this year. I participated in a Covenant Circle two years ago where we developed a covenant before proceeding through our sessions. The first order of business for an incoming Board of Directors and Officers is to review its covenant. On Saturday, September 6, our church leaders came together and did just that, formed a covenant – how we will be together throughout this interim ministry.

-C. Northcote Parkinson

And, of course, every Sunday at Westside we affirm our covenant to one another. Do you know this

covenant? It begins with, "Love is the doctrine of this church..." and ends with, "...thus do we covenant with one another." This, as Rev. Alex stated, is our "promise to one another about how we will behave with each other."

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Our covenant with the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) is found in our hymnals. Not only is this our covenant among all of the member congregations, it is for many Unitarian Universalists, their personal guide for living and being in the universe. I am of course speaking of our Seven Principles.

"Covenant is a foundational part of Congregational Polity and the Free Church. Where creeds or doctrines hold other faiths together, we are held together by our promises to one another." This sentence reflects the reason why Unitarian Universalism has formed covenantal relationships. (Read more at <http://www.uua.org/governance/covenant/index.shtml>; here you will also find the history leading back to the Cambridge Platform of 1648, which is the basis of UU church governance. I have a copy which I am happy to lend.)

Everywhere Westsiders join in community, whether in person or online, we should remain in covenant with one another. It is our responsibility to each other and our faith. During times of stress or upset, it may be advisable for us to take a deep breath, think about one of our covenants, take another deep breath, and remember that we always have the choice to present our best selves.

*In Westside and UU love,  
Cindy*

## Westside Library

The Library thanks all those who supported Westside's first Book Fair! We'll have the tallies for next month's newsletter.

*Coming Out in Faith: Voices of LGBTQ Unitarian Universalists*  
Susan A. Gore and Keith Kron, Editors

This book is a collection of heartfelt personal stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Unitarian Universalists. It is arranged by ages of the writers, from oldest to youngest, so it offers a spectrum of experiences over a period of decades. Each of the accounts highlights their personal faith journeys within their lived experiences. The earliest stories are reflective while the youngest writer demonstrates the first steps of the faith journey. They are each insightful and inspiring.

*Sharon Salih, for the Library Committee*

## Did You Know This?

Each month, members of the Westside Adult Religious Education Committee will share with you some tidbit from their Sunday lessons or from books available in the Westside Library. Most of us know little of our history and its wonderful stories. We think you'll better appreciate what we have the more you know about your ancestry.

From *Engaging our Theological Diversity*, the 2005 report by the Commission on Appraisal. The full document can be read at the UUA website (UUA.org): Did you know that we come from two separate Christian denominations—the Unitarians and the Universalists—which "emerged and evolved separately during the formative years of the American Republic. Universalism centered on the doctrine of universal salvation . . . while what came to be called Unitarianism (because of their non-Trinitarian leanings) was more concerned with the "Doctrine of Man" than the Doctrine of God." The two groups shared many common beliefs, but their approach to religious thinking was so different, they never really got together until 1961 when a merger was negotiated following years of study on the matter.

Our sincerest laughter  
With some pain is fraught;  
Our sweetest songs are  
those that tell of saddest  
thought.

-Percy Bysshe Shelley

Of all the preposterous  
assumptions of humanity  
over humanity, nothing  
exceeds most of the  
criticisms made on the  
habits of the poor by  
the well-housed, well-  
warmed, and well-fed.

-Herman Melville

While the merger settled on a single way to operate as a new denomination, nothing was done to try to clarify a singular 'theology.' The Commission's report concludes: "Our theology, far from being mature in any evolutionary or historical sense, is in fact in its early stages. Actually we are doing something that seldom if ever has been done before. We are attempting to live out our destiny as a democratic religion. We have set for ourselves the high task of achieving by illumination and discipline the power to transcend frustration, confusion and Lotus-eater temptation. Thus far we have come to agreement on such general theological affirmations as the humanity of Jesus, individual freedom of belief, congregational polity and the human origins of the Bible."

## Transition Start Up Meetings

Westside got its Interim Ministry off and running with two Start Up meetings, September 5 & 6. The Friday meeting invited all members and friends to join in the discussion. Rev. Susan Smith, our Southern Region UUA Representative, announced that the purpose of the meeting is to learn "Where we have been and where we are going." She began by asking us to recount our history.

So it began, with several charter members and long time members who had kept records from early February, 1994, when Jerry Rossing gathered people who were seeking a new church on the west side of Fort Worth. The nucleus of the seekers were from First Jefferson UU. They had left for various reasons including the location and dissatisfaction with the minister. The group would meet in homes

### 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.

You can't do anything  
with anybody's body to  
make it dirty to me. Six  
people, eight people, one  
person -- you can do only  
one thing to make it dirty:  
kill it. Hiroshima was dirty.

-Lenny Bruce

Patriotism is a kind of  
religion; it is the egg from  
which wars are hatched.

-Guy de Maupassant

No amount of belief  
makes something a fact.

-James Randi

August '14	Day Resource Center, Fort Worth	<b>\$827.28</b>
August '14	The Unaccompanied Children from Central America	<b>\$941.96</b>
July '14	James L. West Special Care Center	<b>\$854.16</b>
June '14	Planned Parenthood of Tarrant County	<b>\$619.00</b>
May '14	Sickle Cell Anemia Assn. of Tarrant County	<b>\$692.76</b>
April '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$675.73</b>
March '14	InReach Fund	<b>\$934.38</b>
February '14	Long Way Home	<b>\$504.00</b>
January '14	Gill Children's Services	<b>\$777.82</b>
December '13	Downwinders at Risk	<b>\$583.82</b>
November '13	Meals on Wheels	<b>\$1,269.18</b>
October '13	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	<b>\$587.68</b>
September '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$1,151.33</b>
August '13	Mental Health & Mental Retardation of Tarrant	<b>\$842.58</b>
July '13	Co, Samaritan House Dinner Fund	<b>\$1,100.41</b>
June '13	Texas Re-Entry Services	<b>\$982.42</b>
May '13	Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas	<b>\$1,033.22</b>
April '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	<b>\$801.70</b>
March '13	In-Reach Fund	<b>\$1,448.88</b>
February '13	Fort Worth Day Resource Center	<b>\$1,091.86</b>
January '13	Don't Forget to Feed Me, Tarrant Pet Food Pantry	<b>\$930.61</b>
December '12	Cancer Care Services	<b>\$974.93</b>

and restaurants, but eventually found a place at Orchestra Hall on Trail Lake Dr. where they held evening services and religious education classes.

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Various members and friends told what they remembered about Westside's beginnings on this side of town from first ministers to the untimely death of President-Elect Dick Smith and to the fire at the McCart site which ultimately led to our current location.

The time line continued on through August, 2013, with Russell's announcement that spouse, Gayle, had accepted a job offer which she couldn't turn down. And, in October they moved to Chicago.

After town meetings and wise counsel, the Westside Board voted to hire an Interim Minister. Rev. Alex Holt joined us just a few months ago and will lead us through this two year transition.

The Saturday meeting brought many lay leaders and staff together to list what we heard on Friday, learn about how different sized churches function and list priorities for the next two years. Those were narrowed down to three for the beginning of this interim. They are 1) Our behavioral covenants and policies, 2) Different configurations of worship services and 3) Wrestling/clarifying our Mission and Vision.

Those in attendance also established a covenant of how we will be with one another to succeed in this transition.

The minutes of these two meetings, along with the covenant, will be placed on the Westside website, westsideuu.org. Click on Church Business; on the drop down menu, click on Ministerial Transition.

Many thanks to all who provided their input and insight at these meetings! And a very special thanks to Reed Bilz for a job well done on the minutes!!

## Summary of the August 20 Board Meeting

**Project Idea** Janell Broyles (full report in minutes book) proposes a monthly music and performance arts café at Westside on Saturday evening starting in January. The Board approved the proposal and appointed Janell chair of the Neighborhood Awareness committee to plan the events.

**Consent Agenda** (reports and minutes in the minutes book):

A. Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 2014

B. Committee Reports

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Library              | f. LRPC                   |
| b. ABUC                 | g. Stewardship            |
| c. Membership           | h. Worship                |
| d. Social Justice       | i. Digital Communications |
| e. Building and Grounds |                           |

**Minister's Report** (full report in the minutes book) Rev. Alex noted that start-up for the interim period, which will include grieving, is critical. He will be away from August 27 until August 31. He suggests that we start a closed Facebook page in addition to the one for the public.

**Financial Statements and Report** (full report in the minutes book) Lane reported that he cut a check for \$37.93 to Myrtle McMahan to put in her KIVA account.

**The audit of the 2013-1014 books will be due by the October Board meeting.**

**We have hired Cameron Young** a lifetime UU, who has a varied background with children and a music company. He will begin September 8. Alex will lead an Installation Service for the new DLRE and the RE teachers after his arrival.

The true civilization is  
where every man gives  
to every other every right  
that he claims for himself.

-Robert Green Ingersoll

Pick a flower on earth and  
you move the farthest  
star.

-Paul Dirac

**Westside as a Beta Tester for UUA** The topic is Growing UUism in the 21st Century. Westside will sign up and ask for volunteer participants.

**Proposed Blood Drive** (full report in the minutes book): Gene Walker has suggested a blood drive co-sponsored with SCAC. He will attend the next SCAC Board meeting with the Lotvens to propose it.

**Stewardship Idea** Linda Ice reported that the stewardship event will be combined with a celebration of Westside's 20th Anniversary, which will be led by Myrtle McMahan. The proposed date is April 19, 2015, and requests for pledges will be completed before that date.

**Cindy Fountain and Alex met with a representative from the Montessori school** to discuss the installation of a door with a window for the Tree classroom. This will be at the school's expense. They also wish to hire a professional cleaning team, the hours for which will be worked out with Gene McKeon. The school will also free up some space in the Narthex where our area has been decreased.

**Building and Grounds/ABUC** (full report in the minutes book): The Board discussed the need for building sign repair. A permanent solution will cost approximately \$1,000.

Major plumbing repairs will cost more than \$2,000.

We have \$3,300 available from the auction for Classroom Doors construction but this will not cover the expense.

The balance of the gutters still need to be replaced and repairs made to the fascia.

The Board agreed by consensus to seek a NTUUC Grant for the above items. The application deadline is November 1.

**Gene reported that we need to replenish a locking tool box.** Ric Hansen will work with Gene to accomplish this by asking for specific donations from the congregation.

**The following committee appointments/approvals were made by consensus:**

1. Endowment - Joanne Jackson
2. Neighborhood Awareness - Janell Broyles
3. Building and Grounds - Gene McKeon
4. Plate Offering September – SCAC

The next meeting will be October 15 at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend. Notebooks containing copies of the full minutes and financial statements are available in the church office.

Drama is life with the dull  
bits cut out.

-Alfred Hitchcock

It has always seemed  
strange to me that in  
our endless discussions  
about education so little  
stress is laid on the  
pleasure of becoming  
an educated person, the  
enormous interest it adds  
to life. To be able to be  
caught up into the world  
of thought -- that is to be  
educated.

-Edith Hamilton

*Reed K. Bilz,  
Secretary*

## Temple Bell

Our new Temple Bell, which will now be used in the Sunday service to start and end our moment of quiet following Joys and Concerns, was the generous gift to our congregation from our interim minister, the Rev. Alex Holt. It came originally from a Zen monastery in Japan, found its way to an Asian antique gift store in Portland, OR, and from there to Westside. Our Temple Bell was hand hammered approximately 150 years ago; each bell is different, so each has a different tone. Thank you, Alex, for our temple bell with the lovely, vibrant tone. We look forward to using it in Sunday services as well as for other ceremonial events. - Article by Beverly Archibald

## Join a Circle Supper, October 18!

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.

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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.

## Got Tools Handy?

Over the years Westside's Toolbox has become somewhat bare of needed tools. Tools get borrowed, passed around, don't get put back, or get put someplace other than the toolbox, and like socks in the dryer, just up and disappear.

Gene McKeon has an idea on how we can address this. It is likely that some of us have an oversupply of tools in our garages, shed and junk drawers. So, we can help out by donating to Westside's Toolbox. Here is a list of what is most needed:

- Tape measure 25 ft.
- Set of screwdrivers flat and Phillips head of five - ten each
- Pliers different types, adjustable, etc.
- Hammer
- Crescent wrench
- Assorted wrenches
- Two vise grips large and small

Please, please contact Gene before you make your donation. He may have already received what was needed from another generous person. You can email him at eugenemckeon@gmail.com, or call or text him at 817-455-2533, or give him a holler at church. THANKS!

## Westside Giving Tips

Tax year 2014 is ending in just a few short months; here are some tips to save on taxes and benefit Westside at the same time. Act now as these strategies take some time to implement:

**Do you have Real Estate or Personal Property that you would like to donate to benefit Westside?** Property can be donated to the church and written off your income taxes with some limitations. Additionally, real estate can be donated via a Charitable Remainder Trust, where the donors can live in the property for their lives and still qualify for a current year partial tax deduction.

**Would you like to give money to Westside and still receive the income from that money throughout your retirement?** The UUA offers programs to benefit donors and Westside by setting up Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Trusts. This allows the donor to receive an income stream for life while still receiving a current year partial tax deduction. The annuities and trusts are administered and backed by the UUA.

**Do you have appreciated stocks; are you updating your estate plans, or reviewing your beneficiaries?** Check out more tips in November and December to see how you can benefit Westside or contact us.

Remember, giving to the Endowment is in addition to your annual pledge. Your annual pledge keeps our day to day operations funded and Westside serving our community. If you would like more information on any of these topics, contact us at Endowment@WestsideUU.org.

The beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy.

-John Galsworthy

The willow which bends to the tempest, often escapes better than the oak which resists it; and so in great calamities, it sometimes happens that light and frivolous spirits recover their elasticity and presence of mind sooner than those of a loftier character.

-Walter Scott

## Casino Night November 8!

Westside is hosting a Casino Night on November 8 to raise money for the general fund. Bring some friends and enjoy an exciting evening playing Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, and Poker from 6:30 to 9:30. Along with the games, there will be Karaoke (what happens in Karaoke stays in Karaoke – you hope) from 7 to 9 plus a bake sale. We will also be serving finger foods and wine (donations appreciated). If you would like to volunteer to help, please email Paul McClellan at [jmclaypool@yahoo.com](mailto:jmclaypool@yahoo.com) or Debra Slane at [debraslane@hotmail.com](mailto:debraslane@hotmail.com).

### OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE

## Fall Clean Up, October 11 - Be a Part of It!

Westside's semi-annual church cleaning day is Saturday, Oct. 11. Join us between 8:30 and Noon. Your helping hands are much needed and much appreciated! There will be inside and outside work available. Coffee, breakfast goodies, and fun fellowship will be provided. Please rsvp Gene McKeon your willingness. Let him know if you want inside or outside, and if you can provide a truck for hauling tree limbs, etc; [eugenemckeon@gmail.com](mailto:eugenemckeon@gmail.com); 817- 455-2533. Thanks!!

## Nominating & Leadership Development Committee

Your Nominating & Leadership Development Committee is researching committee job descriptions from other UU churches and is interested in pursuing many of the following functions:

**Gathering information on the interests, abilities and talents of all members** and making this information available to standing and elected committees of the congregation as needs arise.

**Publicizing opportunities for greater involvement in congregational life** including information on open positions on the Board of Directors and other elected committees, and soliciting applications from among voting members.

**Identifying and maintaining an ongoing and updated list of members** of the congregation who have indicated interest in serving in volunteer or elected committees.

If interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact [CarolineNixon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CarolineNixon@sbcglobal.net) . Thanks for your interest!

There is only one way to achieve happiness on this terrestrial ball, and that is to have either a clear conscience or none at all.

-Ogden Nash

The pages are still blank, but there is a miraculous feeling of the words being there, written in invisible ink and clamoring to become visible.

-Vladimir Nabokov

## Contemporary Book Group

On October 26 the Book Group will discuss *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes. From Goodreads:

Tony Webster and his clique first met Adrian Finn at school. Sex-hungry and book-hungry, they would navigate the girl-less sixth form together, trading in affectations, in-jokes, rumour and wit. Maybe Adrian was a little more serious than the others, certainly more intelligent, but they all swore to stay friends for life.

Now Tony is in middle age. He's had a career and a single marriage, a calm divorce. He's certainly never tried to hurt anybody. Memory, though, is imperfect. It can always throw up surprises, as a lawyer's letter is about to prove.

In early December we will discuss *Red Water* by Judith Freeman. From *Goodreads*: In 1857, at a place called Mountain Meadows in southern Utah, a band of Mormons and Indians massacred 120 emigrants. Twenty years later, the slaughter was blamed on one man named John D. Lee, previously a member of Brigham Young's inner circle. *Red Water* imagines Lee's extraordinary frontier life through the eyes of three of his nineteen wives. Emma is a vigorous and capable Englishwoman who loves her husband unconditionally. Ann, a bride at thirteen years old, is an independent adventurer. Rachel is exceedingly devout and married Lee to be with her sister, his first wife. These spirited women describe their struggle to survive Utah's punishing landscape and the poisonous rivalries within their polygamous family, led by a magnetic, industrious, and considerate husband, who was also unafraid of using his faith to justify desire and ambition.

We meet in the glass classroom after the second service on the 4th Sunday of each month (except November). Please join us even if you have not read the book. We may inspire you to do so. We also need help in choosing future selections. Contact: Reed Bilz – reed.bilz@gmail.com.

## UU Common Read

Each year, the UUA selects a book from those suggested as a "common read" for the year and produces a discussion guide. The "Common Read can build community ... by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations".<sup>1</sup> This year the common read is titled "*Reclaiming Prophetic Witness*" and is written by UU theologian Paul Rasor, the director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom.

I wouldn't be surprised if that title produced a strong reaction in you, even with your knowing it is written by a religious liberal. However, before you judge a book by its cover, read these quotes I pulled from the text:

"The dominant religious voices... have come from the religious right, and they have been important allies for conservative political and social agendas. Religious liberals... seem to have moved into the background of public life or disappeared altogether."

*and,*

"Religious liberalism has always understood itself as a prophetic tradition oriented toward social justice. Yet... in recent years religious liberals have been far less likely than members of other religious groups to support any form of activism or speaking out on public issues by the clergy... and they have been less likely to engage in most forms of political participation."

*followed by:*

"The near-disappearance of religious liberals from American public life places this long tradition of liberal religious activism at risk. This book explores a series of dilemmas that affects liberal religious social justice work, or what I call liberal prophetic practice or prophetic liberalism."

I had several more wonderful excerpts marked, but then perhaps I would be giving too much of the book away. I think this book will stir within us more discussion than just how gut-wrenching "prophetic witness" is. What can we do to be heard? How do we speak to carry forth our vision for society? How can we make change through our "liberal religious social justice work"? Will you join us in this discussion?

Our first discussion group is set to meet on October 18. If there is interest (and slower readers) we will set other dates over the coming months. I'd love to join a conversation with you about the topics this book presents.

Email either [adult\\_ed@westsideuu.org](mailto:adult_ed@westsideuu.org) for more information or to express interest in joining a

Creative minds are uneven, and the best of fabrics have their dull spots.

-HP Lovecraft

Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there some day.

-AA Milne

discussion group or [library@westsideuu.org](mailto:library@westsideuu.org) for information on obtaining a copy of this book.

1 from the UUA website at <http://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/read/>

## **Buddhist Meditation Group on Thursdays**

Rev. Alex will continue to lead the weekly Buddhist meditation group every Thursday at the church from 7 to 8:15 or so in the sanctuary. All are welcome and no special experience in meditation practice is required. Please arrive a few minutes early if you want basic meditation instruction. Usually we sit in chairs (though you can bring a bench or cushion if you wish) and do a 25 minute sitting period followed by refreshments, a conversation about practice and dharma teachings. We then end with metta practice each week. Please check in with Alex at [revalexholt@gmail.com](mailto:revalexholt@gmail.com) if you have questions or concerns.

## **Humanist Book Club**

Fourth Saturday  
3:00 -- 4:30

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside UU Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. A book is chosen by the group and the next month it will be discussed together. The new book for September will be *THE GOD ARGUMENT: The Case Against Religion and for Humanism* by A. C. Grayling. We will look at Part 2 of the book - "For Humanism" this month. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, [meadormorris1@gmail.com](mailto:meadormorris1@gmail.com).

## **Potluck Sunday**

Our Potluck on October 19 will coincide with RE in the park. It will start at noon and people are encouraged to bring picnic type foods. This is a great way to meet new members. For additional information, contact Paul McClellan at ([jmclaypool@yahoo.com](mailto:jmclaypool@yahoo.com)) or Debra Slane at ([debraslane@hotmail.com](mailto:debraslane@hotmail.com)).

Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be uninvented. But they can be taken out of the gun.

-Martin Amis

The television, that insidious beast, that Medusa which freezes a billion people to stone every night, staring fixedly, that Siren which called and sang and promised so much and gave, after all, so little.

-Ray Bradbury

## **A Few Seventh Principle Notes**

Linda & I have been vacationing, driving through some of America's most spectacular scenery- the redrock country of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. These are a few observations: The atmosphere, even in these remote regions, is pretty smog-laden and hazy. We were told that this derives in large part from the increased number of wildfires in the region this year. But driving north from Farmington, New Mexico, we observed two large coal-fired power plants, whose visible pollution plumes spread for miles over the Navajo and Ute reservations, adding a veil of haze to the massive Shiprock. And Zion's primary pair of endangered California Condors died this year from ingesting lead from carrion shot with lead bullets. On the bright side, Bryce and Zion National Parks no longer sell single-use plastic water bottles, have provided multiple water refill stations, and are actively promoting use of refillable bottles. Use of propane powered shuttles in Zion, a very active recycling program, and passive and active solar and energy efficient building design in the parks is also very encouraging.

Our Green Sanctuary Committee has a number of fine green movies in the lineup over the next few months. Keep your eye on the Sunday bulletin, the online forum, the weekly web, facebook, bulletin boards, and future issues of the Westside Story for details.

## Humanists of Fort Worth

The Westside Story  
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The HoFW will meet at its regular time at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, October 8. All Freethinkers are welcome to attend. Please check the HoFW Meetup site for further information at <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/>

## Quilting/Handiwork Group October 19

The Westside Quilting Group will meet 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](mailto:dsrake@gmail.com).

## Vegan Potluck Saturday, October 25!

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: [meetup.com/Vegan-Potluck-WUUC/](http://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!!**

If you have any questions about the Monthly Vegan Potluck, contact Rachel Reed at [rachelreereed@yahoo.com](mailto:rachelreereed@yahoo.com) or James Finn at [finncrowd@hotmail.com](mailto:finncrowd@hotmail.com).

Nothing great in the world  
has been accomplished  
without passion.

-Georg Wilhelm Friedrich  
Hegel

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

## Annual Gay Pride Parade/Picnic – Join Us October 4 and 5!

On Saturday, October 4, in downtown Fort Worth, First Jefferson UU is taking the lead on organizing the float and NTUUC, as always, is the sponsor. You are invited to join up and show Fort Worth that Westside is proud to support the LGBTQ Community. Participating in this event is one way for Westside to carry out its vision through active service in our community. As the date gets closer, time and meet up place will be published. Questions, contact Cindy Fountain, 817-526-1375, [vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vanessa4907@sbcglobal.net).

No matter that patriotism  
is too often the refuge  
of scoundrels. Dissent,  
rebellion, and all-around  
hell-raising remain the  
true duty of patriots.

-Barbara Ehrenreich

**The Westside Story  
October 2014**

On Sunday, October 5, from Noon to 6:00 p.m. at Trinity Park, Mary Noer and Carina Terry will be hosting a table for Westside and NTUUC at the picnic this year. We will be putting braids and beads in hair for a donation. The donation will support School GSA efforts. Please come see us – talk, keep us company, and enjoy the picnic!!

The annual Pride Picnic is the largest GLBT family friendly event held in Tarrant County. Located in the heart of Trinity Park, the picnic overlooks the river and features a DJ and live entertainment, group activities and friendly competitions. A FREE Pride Kids Zone for the kids is a big hit and Community Booths representing organizations will educate and encourage support. Beer, beverages and good picnic food are served by local GLBT organizations and volunteers.

Bring the family, bring a chair and stay for the day!

## **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, please contact Carolyn Glenn at carolynyg@gmail.com.

## **Fall Harvest Leadership Training, November 7--9**

Join us at “Fall Training 2014: Oh! The Places You’ll Go!” at Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose, TX, to explore the dynamic nature of congregations and their leaders, and gain tools for navigating these often choppy waters. Where will your congregation go next? We have tracks on advanced conflict training, leadership as a spiritual practice, stewardship, young adults and allies, the march to Selma, children’s EvoluUtion camp, and a renaissance module on youth ministry. Learn more at: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/fallharvest2014.html>.

## **Thanksgiving Baskets for our Neighbors**

Westside UU Church will again be participating, through South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC), in providing Thanksgiving dinners to needy people in our neighborhood.

SCAC will purchase the turkeys, for which the clients will pay \$5.00 if they are able to do so. In 2013 SCAC provided food to over 400 families at Thanksgiving.

The actions of men are  
the best interpreters of  
their thoughts.

-John Locke

We will have a poster with items on it starting October 19, that people will select and fill, and then bring back to the church by November 16. Remember, the items must be the sizes requested, and must be well before the “sell by” date - SCAC cannot distribute food past that date by law. Sunday, November 23, we will fill the bags with each item required. On Monday, Jay and Suzie Lotven will deliver them to SCAC. In 2013, Westside provided 54 bags. This year, we have committed to that same number. Please let Jay, Suzie, or Kim Lucas know if you would like to donate bags for the groceries, paper or cloth. Each bag will contain the following items:

For many years, I thought  
a poem was a whisper  
overheard, not an aria  
heard.

-Rita Dove

- 1 15-16 oz can cranberry sauce
- 1 15-16 oz can chicken broth
- 1 15 oz can corn
- 1 14 oz bag stuffing mix (or 2,4 oz boxes) Pepperidge Farm, StoveTop or equivalent
- 1 15 oz can green beans
- 1 15 oz can yams

1 small box tea bags or drink mix like Crystal Light  
1 15 oz can fruit  
1 box cake mix for 13" x 9" cake  
1 can icing for cake (ready to use)  
1 3oz or 6 oz pkg jello

If you would rather make a financial contribution, place a check in the offering basket with memo marked "Thanksgiving Baskets". Volunteers from Social Justice will be happy to shop for you.

**The Westside Story**  
**October 2014**

**Westside Story Staff:**  
Janice Sims, Editor  
Eric Stevens, Designer  
Sharon Salih, Distribution



*Email submissions to our Editor*  
*Janice Sims at [janicesims1617@att.net](mailto:janicesims1617@att.net).*  
*The deadline for submissions is*  
*the 15th of each month.*



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

-Edith Cavell

Every burned book or house enlightens the world; every suppressed or expunged word reverberates through the earth from side to side.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Our Board

**President: Cindy Fountain**

**Vice-President: Dianne Nixon**

**Secretary: Reed Bilz**

**Treasurer: Lane Smutz**

**Directors: Tricia Bowes, Ginger Courtney,**

**Ric Hansen, Don Jackson, Ken Leising**

## August 2014 Attendance

	<b>10AM Adults</b>	<b>11:30 Adults</b>	<b>10AM Kids</b>	<b>11:30 Kids</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Aug 3</b>	52	68	9	21	150
<b>Aug 10</b>	66	91	11	27	195
<b>Aug 17</b>	46	74	10	20	150
<b>Aug 24</b>	59	82	10	22	173
<b>Aug 31</b>	53	78	8	11	150
<b>Averages</b>	55.2	78.6	9.6	20.2	163.6



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

## 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 Transition Team know. The Transition Team also wants to know if you have a criticism, concern, or question. Look for us after the service, call us, or email us at [TransitionTeam@westsideuu.org](mailto:TransitionTeam@westsideuu.org).

### Transition Team

Sara Munoz, Chair. Myrtle McMahan, Suzie Lotven,  
Tanner Trask

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

## 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.