



The Westside Story

**Westside Unitarian
Universalist Church**

901 Page Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas
76110

10:00 & 11:30 AM
Sundays

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 & intellectual 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

December 7 – *“Hanging of the Greens”* led by Linda Ice. With the holidays come many traditions – including those at Westside UU! We hope you will join us for our annual “Hanging of the Greens” service where lights, love and logic are celebrated through story and special music!

December 14 – *“Reverence of Irreverence”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This service is the final reflection on the topic of reverence as an important religious word to savor. How can humor, joy and laughter be important when we come to church? Is it ok to laugh in a service? Of course it is and this service will be all about laughter and joy.

December 21 – *“The Turning of the Year: A Solstice Celebration”* by Reverend Alex Holt. As the darkest time of the year comes to us in the northern hemisphere we don’t spend time fearful of the dark. We put on some more lights or find comfort in the blazing electric lights of the Metroplex around us. Our ancestors were fearful, however, and so every effort was made to turn the cold and dark of winter back to the promise of light. How can we Unitarian Universalists do the same?

December 28 – *“Atonement and Resolution”* by Reverend Alex Holt. These services will be strictly informal without any music, offerings, orders of service, or other normal features of a Westside Sunday morning. All you will be invited to do is to offer up in silence your wishes to let go of those things that have held you back or that you have regretted in this year. You will use flash paper to write down your ‘letting go’ messages and then place them in the flame of the chalice to burn up and disappear. You will then be welcome to take a pebble from a dish and make a silent (or spoken aloud) resolution for the coming year. Children and adults are all welcome to take part. We will do two services as usual but only childcare will be available that Sunday.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

WHO ARE WE AS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS? This is the theme this fall and winter. Beginning in October we drew 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. Come and join in lively discussion as we explore our UU history and how we fit in at Westside! For more information, contact Morris Meador at meadormorris1@gmail.com.

Religious Odysseys - There will be no Religious Odyssey in December.

Children’s Religious Education

Winter is here! That means that CRE will be hosting its second annual YUULE Ball. It will be held in the sanctuary from 6-9 pm on Saturday December 20th. All children and youth in the community are invited to this wonderful event which was an enormous success last year. YRUU and YUUMS will be assisting with decorating. If you would like to volunteer, please see DLRE Cameron Young, Rachel Reed, or Kimberly Lowe.

The Angel Montessori School holiday pageant will be taking place on Friday December 19th, and therefore YUUMS and YRUU will not meet that evening. Instead, both groups will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday December 20th and part of that time will be used for the youth to help with preparation for YUULE Ball.

Men are often capable of greater things than they perform. They are sent into the world with bills of credit, and seldom draw to their full extent.

-Horace Walpole

On Saturday December 13th, the Coming of Age Youth will be providing “donation-only” childcare for a parents’ “Santa Shopping Day.” While parents can enjoy a childless day out for Christmas shopping or mere leisure, the youth, with adult supervision, will provide holiday activities all day for children. This event will be a fundraiser for the Coming of Age program’s heritage trip to Boston.

**The Westside Story
December 2014**

The Youth of Unitarian Universalism in Middle School (YUUMS) – All middle schoolers in grades 6, 7, and 8 are invited to attend the bi-monthly junior high youth group meetings held at Westside UU Church. In November, the youth made birthday pinatas that will be donated to families with children at the food bank.

In December, the YUUMS meetings will be held on the following dates:

Friday, December 5, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 20, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The youth are also invited to attend the second annual YUULE Ball (winter dance) which will be held on Saturday, December 20th, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., at Westside UU church. Please contact Amanda Oglesby (dfwplace@gmail.com) or Mary Noer (mary.noer@att.net) for additional information.

Forum

10 to 11 a.m.

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 and ask to be put on the Forum roster.

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister’s Road Show

“Gratitude in the time of madness”

Some of you may recognize the statement above as a paraphrase of the famous book title “Love in the Time of Cholera” by the late famed Columbian author Gabriel García Márquez.

I use this paraphrase at this time of Thanksgiving in America to remind myself (and hopefully you, dear reader) that gratitude is always alive and well among us even when the times are filled with madness and rage. We hear and see evidence of the latter all the time. The terrorist group ISIS beheads and tortures those it doesn’t like to provide an example to those under its control. People here in America complain about ‘the system’ but feel powerless to do anything to change it. Young men (all too often) grab guns from their parents’ homes and then act out their rage at schools all too often killing and injuring the innocent as well as themselves.

Through it all, however, the underlying and oftentimes hidden stream of compassion flows through the world of madness and despair. People stop at a roadside accident to help the stranger without asking first “are you a liberal or a conservative” or “are you a theist or atheist?” Those labels become unimportant when the call of love moves us to help others.

So we come to Thanksgiving when the temptation is to eat more than we can manage, watch games and movies until we pass out from sheer dietary and entertainment overload, and then we launch ourselves into the frenzy of Black Friday and holiday shopping.

Nonetheless gratitude gently reminds us that family and friends are so important to our mental and emotional health. We invite people to join us for Thanksgiving because eating together becomes a

No battle is ever won, he said. They are not even fought. The field only reveals to man his own folly and despair, and victory is an illusion of philosophers and fools.

-William Faulkner

sacred rite of passage to begin the holiday season. We hold the door open for a fellow shopper even though we are in a desperate hurry to find the last remaining X-box version of a computer game. I am personally grateful for all the gifts I have received this year and in particular the opportunity to serve you at Westside UU as your interim minister.

One way I hope to use this gift of gratitude is to pass it on. Recently I began to include in weekly joys and concerns a 'final joy' to recognize someone (or someones) who make Westside UU work but who seldom get thanked. A couple of weeks ago I started this practice during the services by asking those who had been at Westside for at least the last ten years to stand up so they could be thanked. Many of them have worked long and invisibly to prepare the Sunday services or to get the refreshments and food ready after the services. So very often the many unsung heroes of Westside don't get thanked for their labors.

My small effort to thank people often by surprise can of course be embarrassing to them. That's not my intention though it's understandable. So much of what you do for Westside is quiet and steady work and you don't wish to be commended in public for it. Nonetheless gratitude is important to express in this time of madness in our world.

Gratitude is part of compassion and compassion is part of undemanding love for others and self. It is the fuel that keeps our emotional gas tanks filled even when we are weary or wish that we could go one Sunday without a bunch of tasks to do at church.

I will continue the gratitude project at church and as often as I can mention someone (or someones) who out of love and caring make Westside UU a better place to love and enjoy.

You can help in this project. If you know of anyone who is a quiet and unsung hero of Westside, please let me know so I can include them on a Sunday. Just email or talk to me and give me some details about how they make Westside become a joyful place to be. I promise not to mention you but I will be delighted to express gratitude in public for whomever you believe should be appreciated.

Gratitude in the time of madness cannot cure the world but it can serve to heal a life or to make a difficult day just a bit better.

May this Thanksgiving and holiday season be a time when gratitude is shared not just with food and gifts but also by our voices raised to say those magic words "thank you for all you have done."

– Alex

A Word From Your President

December Greetings, Westside!

I would like to share some additional information on the Settled Minister process. Previously, I mentioned the roles of the three UUA personnel involved and a little bit about the commitment needed from the Search Committee. Since then the Board has established some dates and taken other search process steps.

Beginning January 28, our Ministerial Settlement Representative (MSR), Rev. Jennifer Innis, will guide the Board, Transition Team and Nominating/Leadership Development Committee through the search process. Then, on February 1, Rev. Innis will assist the congregation on the recommended search process. This will be followed by an open forum to address questions and other topics.

To assist the leaders tasked with the job of gathering a Search Committee slate of nominees, "cottage meetings" will be held in February or March with as many church members as possible. This decision was based on the guidance and recommendations of Rev. Innis and Rev. Alex. All members of the church are potential candidates for the Search Committee, so you are "highly encouraged" to take part in these meetings. More details and dates will come later.

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

-T.S. Eliot

As a reminder, the nominee slate should consist of 10 members of which 5 will be elected. The Board of Directors has concluded that getting this team filled sooner, rather than later, would be more beneficial for the Search Committee and Westside. To accomplish this, a short congregational meeting will be held in May specifically to elect the Search Committee.

Per the UUA handbook, "The Search Committee needs a budget to work effectively." (http://www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transitions/settlement_handbook.pdf). This will cover the cost for conducting a thorough search that will result in Westside hiring a minister who becomes a positive force for the congregation, the community and his/her own ministerial journey.

The recommended budget by the UUA for the search process has been sent to the Finance Committee. It is a significant cost, but the Board, with the help of the Finance Committee, the Search Committee and the District Compensation Consultant will work at making it a fiscally responsible search. Please keep in mind that this endeavor is extremely important for Westside, and supporting the Search Committee process is vital to this beloved community!

*In UU and Westside love,
Cindy*

Inclement Weather Policy

During the work week, the church will follow the policy of the Fort Worth ISD. Any day the schools are closed due to bad weather, all church meetings and activities will be canceled.

During the weekend, the decision about whether to cancel church activities or Sunday services will be made by the Board President. The Board President shall make this decision after consulting with the Sunday speaker, the worship leader, DRE (or designated replacement for the day), and chair/organizer of an activity scheduled that day.

Once the decision has been made to cancel services and/or activities, the Board President shall send an email to the membership mailing list announcing the closure and have an announcement posted on the church's web site. The Board President shall also have the church's voice mail message updated. The Board President may delegate other capable individuals to carry out these tasks.

In the event that the Board President is out of town or otherwise unavailable, the Vice President shall assume these responsibilities. In the event that the Vice President is unavailable, the Board Secretary shall assume these responsibilities.

If there is no cancellation announcement on the web site, sent via email, or on the church voice mail, members may conclude that the activities or services will be held.

Members should keep in mind that this policy cannot cover every possible scenario. Therefore, members are welcome to use their own judgment as to whether it is safe to be on the roads.

The Chaplain Corps will ensure that a poster will be displayed during the winter season by the welcome desk stating our policy. Likewise, the Chaplain Corps will ensure that reminder notices of this policy will be published during the winter season in the OOS announcements, Weekly Web, and newsletter— with language similar to that of the poster.

Join a Circle Supper!

Circle Suppers and Family Circle Suppers are going on holiday hiatus in December and will resume their normal third Saturday schedule in January.

There are two possible outcomes: If the result confirms the hypothesis, then you've made a measurement. If the result is contrary to the hypothesis, then you've made a discovery.

-Enrico Fermi



Young Adults Group

Please welcome Westside's first ever Young Adults Group! The group met for the first time last month for "Pints and Ponderings." The topic was "What would a young adults group at Westside look like?" Included in this discussion were service project ideas to align ourselves with a local hospice in Ft. Worth, social justice work with "Standing on the Side of Love," and answering the question of "How can we be political assertive without becoming polarizing?" Stay tuned for publication of future events. If you would like to be included in the Young Adults Newsletter, please email dre@westsideuu.org.

Westside UUC Service Project

Each month at Westside, our undesignated plate offerings are donated to a worthy recipient organization. The following table lists these organizations and our recent contributions to them.

October '14	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$454.00
October '14	Friends of the UUA.	\$140.00
September '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$876.59
August '14	Day Resource Center, Fort Worth	\$827.28
August '14	The Unaccompanied Children from Central America	\$941.96
July '14	James L. West Special Care Center	\$854.16
June '14	Planned Parenthood of Tarrant County	\$619.00
May '14	Sickle Cell Anemia Assn. of Tarrant County	\$692.76
April '14	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$675.73
March '14	InReach Fund	\$934.38
February '14	Long Way Home	\$504.00
January '14	Gill Children's Services	\$777.82
December '13	Downwinders at Risk	\$583.82
November '13	Meals on Wheels	\$1,269.18
October '13	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$587.68
September '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,151.33
August '13	Mental Health & Mental Retardation of Tarrant	\$842.58
July '13	Co, Samaritan House Dinner Fund	\$1,100.41

Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

-Elie Wiesel

Message from the Director of Lifespan Religious Education

The Westside Story
December 2014

Dear Westside,

December begins my fourth month working here at the church and I can honestly say there is no place I'd rather be. I'm at a point where I feel right at home here, and look forward to each Sunday I get to spend with you, as each week provides me with joy, fulfillment, and inspiration.

Throughout my first few months, I've encountered many people who have asked me "So what exactly do you do here?" It's been hard to describe this to people in conversation without considerably boring them, so I thought it might be ideal to go ahead and post my job description here for clarification. Here are my "duties and responsibilities" per my contract with the church:

Supervision

- The DRE will be under the direct supervision of the Minister and will maintain open communications with the minister via regular meetings; will keep the minister apprised of events, RE requirements and interpersonal situations that may occur within the RE program via email or written memoranda and may perform other duties as assigned by the minister
- The DRE will work closely with and attend monthly meetings of the various RE Committees and will attend Board of Directors meeting when possible or communicate via the RE liaison

Administration

- Direct the enrollment of children in the RE program · Ensure the proper use and disposal of "Safety Policy" forms
- Maintain and properly secure records and files of enrolled children and teachers
- Direct the procurement of materials required by the RE program within budgetary bounds
- Solicit and recruit volunteers, with the assistance of the various RE Committees, required for the proper function of all RE programs and events
- Train and support teachers, facilitators and leaders for RE programs
- Develop and maintain back up plan for absent teachers
- Supervise Child Care Coordinator and Nursery Care Workers
- Collaborate with RE committees, Minister, Board of Directors and Safe Congregations Committee to establish, maintain and/or update program mission, vision and policies as needed
- Ensure current policies and procedures pertaining to RE are followed

Programming

- Maintain an ongoing 12 month all inclusive calendar of RE classes and events
- Maintain an inventory of curricula owned by Westside UU Church
- Through collaboration with the various RE Committees identify potential curricula, class offerings, and special programs
- Where necessary and effective, borrow or trade curricula
- Direct and facilitate evaluation of curricula and class offerings in concert with the RE Committees and teachers; communicate such evaluations to the Minister and the Board of Directors
- Work with Minister and appropriate committees in a varied program of offerings for adults to deepen their spiritual and intellectual experience at Westside
- Communicate with the congregation to determine interest in types of programs to be offered
- Sunday Program, RE Events and Congregational Interaction
- Develop and direct a plan for Sunday RE procedures in order to ensure: children's safety and participation; a welcome for visitors commensurate with the culture of Westside UU Church; proper record keeping, including an accurate attendance record for children's RE
- Collaborate with the various RE Committees in planning special event.
- Maintain open communications with the congregation by: attendance of at least three Sunday services per month; monthly articles in the church newsletter; email and social media postings; maintaining RE brochures as needed

War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other's children.

-Jimmy Carter

**The Westside Story
December 2014**

Budget

- With the various RE Committees, develop a detailed yearly budget to be submitted to the Finance Committee in a timely manner
- Maintain accurate records of expenditure and provide expense reports as requested by the Board of Directors
- Report to the Treasurer any donations-in-kind

Professional Development

- Devise and pursue a program leading to self-improvement and professional growth
- Join and participate in professional religious educational organizations such as North Texas UU Religious Educators (NATUURES) and Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA)
- Attend and participate in conferences or other programs as directed by Minister of Westside UU Church
- Keep abreast of current curriculum materials, learning theories, teaching techniques, and group process skills

I hope this provides to be insightful for those inquirers!

*Warm Regards,
- Cameron Young*

“Aren’t We Going to Have Some Kind of Music Café Thing?”

An Update on Evenings at Westside

It’s been a crazy few months since the Board agreed to let me start a performing arts and music cafe here at Westside. We’ve had some meetings and made some important decisions since then, and I’m getting lots of questions, so it seems like a good time to give everyone an update.

When does it start? We have a tentative date of Saturday, March 14. I’m looking at artist booking options right now. And if you would like help by taking tickets, doing setup and teardown, or assisting with crowd control, please contact us!

What are your biggest needs? People! Pulling off a high-quality event that reflects well on our church is not a one- or two-person job. This will be the first exposure some of the attendees will have to our church or even to UUs in general; we want to make a good impression! Volunteers willing to show up, help out, and ensure things come off smoothly is by far our biggest need.

How do I join/volunteer? Contact us at eaw@westsideuu.org and we will add you to the email list. We don’t need to have a lot of meetings, but do have occasional voluntary field trips to check out what other local cafes are doing. Once things get rolling, we may meet occasionally to deal with any issues that come up or celebrate our successes, but mostly, team members will just be needed to run the actual event. And of course, if you volunteer, you get to see the performance for free. Everyone else pays at the door. Even Alex!

What about logos and marketing? We nearly have a logo design completed; local artist Jen Schultes has come up with some great ideas and we are in the process of narrowing those down. It will go on the programs, on a sign at the back of the stage, and on our website. We also plan to have a small portable light-up sign outside.

How will we pay for it? We are submitting a grant request to NTUUC which we hope will let us update our mics and audio equipment and buy us a few other things we need; we’ll also be putting in a budget request this month so that the sponsoring committee (Neighborhood Awareness) can acquire some funds. Fingers crossed!

Seven blunders of
the world that lead to
violence: wealth without
work, pleasure without
conscience, knowledge
without character,
commerce without
morality, science without
humanity, worship without
sacrifice, politics without
principle.

-Mahatma Gandhi

What about a website? We have purchased the www.eveningsatwestside.com URL but no actual site has yet been built. If you would like to assist with that, please contact us!

The Westside Story
December 2014

What about the food? The youth have graciously agreed to provide and sell baked goods, which will double as a fundraiser for youth activities and trips. Donations of bottled juices, tea, or other drinks would be welcome also.

What about the coffee? Part of our budget request will be funds for some premium coffees of various flavors. I personally don't drink/know nothing about coffee, so someone knowledgeable in this area and willing to supervise the brewing would be a welcome addition to our team. We are also in the process of acquiring enough standard-sized, appropriate mugs.

How do I contact the Evenings at Westside committee? At our new official email (eaw@westsideuu.org).

Thanks to all of those who have helped us; we are really excited at how so many things have already come together. This is going to be an amazing new thing for our church to do. Hope to see you there, Westside! - article by Janell Broyles

Summary of the October 15 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

A. Board Meeting Minutes September 17, 2014

B. Ratification of E-Mail approval of Robert Slane as member of Transition Team

C. Committee Reports

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Endowment | g. Green Sanctuary |
| b. CRE | h. Stewardship |
| c. LRPC | i. Worship |
| d. Membership | j. ABUC |
| e. Aledo High School Project | k. Building & Grounds |
| f. Digital Communications | |

Minister's Report (full report in the minutes book) - At Alex's suggestion, the Board approved changing Cherri Mayberry's title to the Office Administrator.

DLRE Report - CRE has requested an additional budget amount of \$400 for Coming of Age (COA) program. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

Financial Statements (full report in the minutes book) - The financial reports will be filed for review. Lane noted that Wells Fargo is providing payroll services which include liability for any errors in tax payments.

Audit Committee (full report in the minutes book) - The Board approved the report on the 2013-2014 books.

Appointments - The Board approved the appointment of Bill Russell to serve on the Board.

Grant Requests - We are applying for the following NTUUC Grants: Flooring repairs needed for classroom doors, New outside signage, and start-up funds for Evenings at Westside.

Search Committee for Settled Minister - Rev. Jennifer Innis, our Settlement Representative, will present the sermon on February 1, 2015 and she will meet with church leaders the previous week. We will also hold cottage meetings in February and March to ask specific questions of members to help identify nominees for the Search Committee. The election of 5 members from 10 nominees will be held in May.

As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action: you liberate a city by destroying it. Words are to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests.

-Gore Vidal

Mijos Fusion Fundraiser for COA Boston Trip - The restaurant will provide 500 vouchers, and COA will receive a portion of each sale.

NTUUC Award Nominations - Nominees for the NTUUC Volunteer awards may be submitted by anyone. Information regarding this will be in the November newsletter, and in the OOS.

The next meeting will be December 17, 2014. All members are welcome to attend. Notebooks containing copies of the full minutes, reports, and financial statements are available in the church office.

- Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

Westside Library 2014 Book Fair

Thank you to all who purchased and/or donated books to the Library during the 2014 Book Fair. We have acquired 48 new titles:

Books donated to the Westside Library:

Be the Change
Bless the Imperfect
Chaos, Wonder and the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting
Children of the Same God
Fluent in Faith
God vs. Gay?
Harmony
House for Hope
Jewish Voices in Unitarian Universalism
Kindness
Listening Against the Stone
Muhammad
Reaching for the Sun
Reclaiming Prophetic Witness
Reclaiming Prophetic Witness
Sacred Ground
Selma Awakening
The Generosity Path
Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal
While Still There is Light
Writing the Sacred Journey

Donated by:

Lauren & Ken Leising
Leann Maxwell
Anita Snyder
Amie Hegeman
Annie Foerster
John Huffman
Bill Terry
Jane Hardwick
Sharon Salih
Bill Terry
Ginger Courtney
Sharon Salih
Carolyn Glenn
Reed Bilz
Sue Spell
Isaiah Maldonad
Morris Meador
Tricia Bowes
Cindy Fountain
Janice Sims
Annie Foerster

Books purchased by the Westside Library:

A History of Religion in 5 1/2 Objects
Acts of Faith
Being Both
Blue Iris: Poems and Essays
Buddhist Voices in UU
Child's Book of Animal Poems and Blessings
Creating Justice Together
Falling into the Sky
Family Pride
From Zip Lines to Hosaphones
Gift of Faith
Growing a Beloved Community
Heart to Heart
Not for Ourselves Alone

People So Bold
Reclaiming Prophetic Witness
Rejoice Together
Seasoned Soul
Serving with Grace
Simply Pray
Sons of Abraham
Soul to Soul
Sources of our Faith
Swan
Voices from the Margins
What if Nobody Forgave?
Where Two Worlds Touch
Worship that Works

I have always imagined
that paradise will be a
kind of library.

-Jorge Luis Borges

Be sure to check these and other titles out! Our searchable catalog is located at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/WestsideUU> . Once you have found your book on the shelf, sign the card in the front cover and place in the black index card box. The library has a generous 4-week check out period. Happy Reading!

**The Westside Story
December 2014**

Westside Giving Tips

Happy Holidays! 2014 tax year is coming to a close; act now to save on taxes and benefit Westside at the same time:

- This is your last chance for 2014 to donate appreciated stocks and avoid paying capital gains tax.
- It is the end of the year, so it's time to review and update the beneficiaries of all your accounts! Accounts such as bank accounts, stocks, life insurance, etc. are transferred upon death to your designated beneficiaries not by your will so it is very important to review and update those beneficiaries annually. Please consider making Westside a beneficiary to your accounts as this will remove the value of the account from your estate and help Westside grow in the future. Revocable beneficiaries can be changed at any time by the account owner. However if you name Westside as an irrevocable beneficiary to a life insurance policy, you will also qualify for a current year tax deduction.
- Are you updating your estate plans? You can add Westside to your Will by adding the following language: I give _____ [\$ amount, description of property, or % of estate] to Westside Unitarian Universalist Church, a Texas charitable corporation located at 901 Page Avenue in Fort Worth, Texas, restricted to the [Perpetual Fund, Building and Land Fund, or Flexible Fund] within Westside UU's Endowment Fund.
- Do you have unneeded real estate, property or life insurance? Are you updating your retirement plans and are looking for income streams in retirement while still benefiting Westside? Contact us!

Some of these strategies can also be used to fulfill your annual pledge. 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE

A.R.E. Announces Exciting Winter Semester of U-Cubed Classes!!

Would you like to start a new hobby or learn a new skill in 2015? If the answer is yes, then you are invited to participate in a fabulous class being offered during our winter semester of Unitarian Universalist University, also known as U-Cubed. Samplings of classes being taught by our very own qualified members are: Introduction to Power Point 2013; Cooking Made Easy; Beginning Guitar; Beginning Bridge; The Ascent of Man; and Gentle Yoga. In January A.R.E. will have a table in the fellowship hall where you can sign up for a class (or two!) of your choice. Classes begin on January 17th and will take place every Saturday until March 7th. Stay tuned for more details as the New Year approaches!

It's surprising how much memory is built around things unnoticed at the time.

"Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square" by Paul Rasor is the current UUA "Common Read" book. It asserts that conservative Christianity is not the only valid religious voice

-Barbara Kingsolver

in our national social policy. The 2014-15 Common Read invites Unitarian Universalists to explore and claim our contribution, as religious liberals, to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our contemporary world. At Westside we will have a discussion of this book, facilitated by Cameron Young in January. Be sure to obtain the book and read it during the month of December so we can have a lively discussion at that time. For questions, contact Morris Meador (meadormorris1@gmail.com).

Contemporary Book Group

On December 7 (not our usual 4th Sunday) the Book Group 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. 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.

7th Principle Notes from Your Green Sanctuary Committee

Solar Photovoltaics (PV): Is This the Time for You? Linda and I have attended a couple of excellent informational meetings recently, as well as receiving input from committee member Sven Waddell (who has just installed solar), which have led us to believe that now is the time for us to get really serious about exploring installation of solar power on our house. Could it be right for you too?

On November 5th, the FW Humanists promoted a program by the Arlington Conservation Council entitled “The Solar Option: Obstacles and Opportunities.” Speakers included a homeowner with solar installed, an advocate and installer, the Oncor Program Manager for Energy Efficiency, and the environmental manager from the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

Why now? Well, the median cost of installing solar has dropped precipitously, about 44% in the past four years. While the decline is expected to continue, other factors would appear to make installation now a good idea: In 2014, Oncor, the electrical distributor for this region, had a rebate on installation of \$1.09/DC watt (2014 funds have all been used). For a 1KW installation (1000 watts), which currently costs in the neighborhood of \$3500, Oncor would pay a rebate of \$1900. The 2015 window for rebates opens in January, the rebate rate will be lower than this year, and the money is expected to go quickly. There is also a federal tax credit of up to 30%, which ends December 31, 2016. Considering the strong affinity of the newly elected congress for the fossil fuel industry, and the anti-renewable energy initiatives being promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), now would seem the time to move on solar, if you ever intend to do so.

There are lease programs for solar panels requiring little or no money up front. A home owner would normally pay a monthly rental charge for perhaps twenty years. Federal and other rebates and tax incentives would go to the lessor, but he would also handle maintenance and upkeep.

You become writer by writing. It is a yoga.

-R.K. Narayan

Current recommendations are that home owners install sufficient panels to provide 1/3 to 1/2 of

their total energy consumption over time. For now, Texas retail electric providers are not required to buy unused power generated by rooftop solar, although three companies currently do so. Most installations today have no storage capability, so during those periods when excess energy is generated, it is simply being donated back to the supplier with no benefit to the home owner. Ergo, you don't want to install more panels than recommended.

If you believe solar might be for you, visit Oncor's www.takealoadofftexas.com site for additional information and a listing of roughly 53 local installers. A good installer should handle the entire process for you, planning, paperwork, permits and all.

"Earth, Wind & Fire Energy Summit" PowerPoint slides can be viewed at www.earthwindfiresummit.org.

Green Movie Nites: Due to the holidays, there will be no movie in December.

December Committee Meeting: The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet again December 14 at 12:45 p.m. in the Glass Classroom. Whether you're interested in membership, or just want to sit-in, you will be very welcome.

And from all the members of your Green Sanctuary Committee, have the happiest of holidays.

Humanist Book Club

There will be no meeting in December. Our book for January will be "Good Without God" by Greg M. Epstein. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com

Vegan Potluck Saturday, December 27!

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 p.m.

You can sign up on our meetup.com site: www.meetup.com/Vegan-Potluck-WUUC/

Here's how the potluck will work:

Please arrive early (4:30 p.m.) if possible so you can help set up tables and chairs

Bring a VEGAN dish

Bring the recipe for your VEGAN dish (or be prepared to email it to others)

In place of a prayer, we will light a chalice and join in a Responsive Reading before the meal

Eat and enjoy

Talk with other potluckers

Look for dishes you like

Help clean up

COME BE WITH US!!

If you have any questions about the Monthly Vegan Potluck, contact Rachel Reed at rachelreenered@yahoo.com or James Finn at finncrowd@hotmail.com.

Life is just a short walk
from the cradle to
the grave and it sure
behooves us to be kind
to one another along the
way.

-Alice Childress

Potluck Sunday

Our Potluck Sunday will be held on December 14 from 10:45 to 11:45. Please bring a dish to share with others and join us in the Fellowship Hall for fun, lively discussions, and delicious food. For additional information, contact Paul McClellan at jmclaypool@yahoo.com.

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Westside Quilters will not meet in December. Have a wonderful holiday and we will see you in 2015.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Humanists of Fort Worth

The December 10 meeting is our Annual HoFW Winter Party at Macaluso's in Fort Worth. Please RSVP in the near future so we can finalize catering arrangements. Tickets are \$14.95 and cover a meal, gratuities, and water or iced tea. A cash bar also will be available. Dessert can be purchased at the event separately. Dress is casual. To RSVP or obtain additional information, see <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/events/21864333/>

Call for Nominations for the 2015 NTUUC Recognition Awards

Please submit your nominations by December 8.

The goal of these awards is to recognize and honor those who contribute to the cause of the Unitarian Universalist religion and congregations in North Texas. Nominations may be submitted by individuals or congregations, and there are no requirements of age or length of membership of nominees.

There will three categories of awards, for service by ministers, lay staff members, and volunteers. The Robert Raible Award honors the twenty-two year ministry at First Unitarian by the beloved 'Daddy Bob,' the Ruth Clark Award recognizes the many years of dedicated service by the first paid DRE in the Southwest Conference, and the Marty Robinson Award commemorates the decades of wide-ranging contributions of this treasured volunteer and member.

See more at: <http://www.ntuuc.org/awards.shtml#sthash.TEuCSVHj.dpuf>

Angels at Westside

He who fights with
monsters might take care
lest he thereby become a
monster. And if you gaze
for long into an abyss,
the abyss gazes also into
you.

-Friedrich Nietzsche

Westside will once again be participating in the Alliance for Children's Angel Tree program.

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

Westside will be providing gifts for 40 young people. Angel tags will be available for you to select every Sunday morning before and between services through December 7. The Angel Tags will have

information with each child's name, clothing sizes and "toy wishes". Westside also asks that a book be given to your child.

The Westside Story
December 2014

You are asked to purchase one outfit and shoes (if size is given) for your child, as well as a toy and an age appropriate book. If you purchase a toy that needs batteries please include them. Please make sure to let us record your information before you take the angel as this helps us keep our records accurate.

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

For those of you who are watching your budget but would still like to participate please consider "sharing" an angel with another Westside member. This will allow you to share the cost and share the joy of giving!

Please bring your child's gifts, unwrapped in a separate bag with a handle, with the Angel Tree tag attached to the bag's handle (like a gift tag). Please deliver to Westside by December 14. If you would rather make a financial contribution, place a check in the offering basket with memo marked "Angels at Westside." Contact: Kim Lucas at devinewoman@msn.com or and Kristin Pitt at kristinpitt@att.net

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.



Email submissions to our Editor
Janice Sims at janicesims1617@att.net.
The deadline for submissions is
the 15th of each month.



Don't be seduced into thinking that that which does not make a profit is without value.

-Arthur Miller

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, Bill Russell

October 2014 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Oct. 5	43	78	6	22	149
Oct. 12	46	72	5	21	144
Oct. 19	49	72	11	23	155
Oct. 26	50	73	12	27	162
Averages	47	73.75	8.5	23.25	152.5



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

Westside 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.

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.