



February 2015



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

February 1 – *“Called by Choice”* by Reverend Jennifer Innis. Big decisions come into our lives whether planned or by surprise. What is the nature of choosing a path? Rev. Innis offers a way to face deep changes in one’s personal life. After services she will share how the congregation can take up its search for a new settled minister.

February 8 – *“The 4 Great Questions: What Is My Gift to the Family of the Earth?”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning we will continue to explore the meaning (and possible answers) of this last great question posed by Wayne Muller in his book *“How, Then, Shall We Live?”* What do we give as a gift to the world? Does it have to be large or fancy or perhaps simply a passing gesture that can change a life? Can it be Westside UU?

February 15 – *“Reefer Sanity: Bringing Marijuana Out of the Shadows”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning Rev. Alex will explore the continuing angst about pot in America from a personal perspective. What stories have been hysteria and what lessons have been learned as marijuana slowly becomes more accepted? Why is this a topic not mentioned in our faith community? Why does our fear persist?

February 22 – *“The Six Sources: What About Evil?”* by Reverend Alex Holt. We continue our exploration of the Six Sources of UU Principles and values. The second Source speaks to ‘the words and deeds of prophetic women and men’ whose examples help us confront evil. What is ‘evil’ and does it exist in human affairs? Given the recent terrible events in France we might consider evil to be present in the human story. Is this a valid statement?

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

We are a landscape of all
we have seen.

-Isamu Naguchi

Who Are We as Unitarian Universalists? This is the theme this fall and winter. 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. 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 (meadormorris1@gmail.com).

Don’t judge each day by
the harvest you reap, but
by the seeds you plant.

-Robert Louis Stevenson

Religious Odysseys – February 22 Once a month from 11:30 to 12:30 (usually the fourth Sunday) 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 there will be discussion. The emphasis is not on debating positions but sharing in a very intimate setting a person’s life story. This month Annie Foerster will share! Come and get to know persons you may not know or know much better persons you think you have known for a long time. Contact Morris Meador (meadormorris1@gmail.com).

If you don’t love me, it
does not matter, anyway I
can love for both of us.

-Stendhal (Marie-Henri
Beyle)

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 (jbarnes107@gmail.com) and ask to be put on the Forum roster.

Children's Religious Education

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CongrUUity Updates Many parents have asked about CongrUUity, the social justice lock-in for middle schoolers in the NTUUC region. As of right now, it is scheduled February 27-28, but there are several intangibles that could potentially postpone. Stay tuned for updates. Parents will be contacted once plans are finalized.

Coming of Age Updates The Faithify page for fundraising the Coming of Age Boston Heritage trip has been an enormous success! Thank you to all who have donated thus far. To donate, visit <http://www.faithify.org/projects/youth-uu-heritage-pilgrimage/> or see DLRE Cameron Young or parent coordinator Kim Lowe.



The Coming of Age Lock-in will be held at Westside on Friday evening February 27th through Saturday morning the 28th.

Support our Children and Youth; Change a life! As always, we are in need of volunteers for CRE. You could be a great asset and role model to our middle school and/or high school program, as we are in need of teachers both Sunday mornings and advisors for our Friday night youth group sessions. If you're looking for something that's not as frequent of a commitment, consider signing up to lead Children's Chapel on a Sunday.

For additional information, please contact Cameron Young at re@westsideuu.org.

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

2015 has arrived. I am sure some of us wonder how fast the time goes by as the years move on. Our sense of time changes as we grow older and burdened with more experience and the emotional ups and downs of life.

I've seen comments from many people who reminisce about their lives. They say they remember summers as being long and seemingly without end. The days would stretch on and on with play, some work, a lack of homework, and lots of adventure. Where did such relaxed and carefree days go?

I have noticed in recent years a tendency on my part to reminisce about 'the old days' when I had limitless days to play games, climb trees, ride my bike on the lower road near the farm, and to read anything at all I wanted. Yes, work on the farm was hard and unfortunately sometimes very unpleasant.

The unhappy events of childhood and youth are still distant memories hovering near the age horizon but they are faint in the bright sunlight of nostalgia. I suspect it's true what American writer Franklin Pierce Adams once noted. He said that "Nothing is more responsible for the good old days than a bad memory."

No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed, and love of power.

-P.J. O'Rourke

I've seen similar comments at various congregations over the years – oftentimes it's based on memories of how the congregation used to be when it was smaller and more intimate – where everyone knew your name as the old Cheers slogan went. The difficult times, budget challenges, disagreements and conflicts seem less important in the collective memory of a church.

Often when a church has grown rapidly as has Westside there's normally a nostalgia for the good old days. Change caused by growth has felt breathtaking and left people breathless.

Westside is at a normal plateau stage right now. A beloved minister left over a year ago and there's been a time of reassessment and taking a bit of a breather. An important part of the interim time is to use this plateau time to explore what you want to be in five or so years. There's an excellent Long Range Planning team at work. Much of that group's work will involve what growth will require – leadership development is a major element. Other areas of planning will have to wait until you make a final decision about your future address.

The Transition Team will also be working with you to look at your vision and mission statements. Are they still applicable to who you are and will become? Does the wording of each statement accurately reflect what 'vision' and 'mission' mean? Those of you who have joined in recent years will want to have your input into that discussion. Your vision of Westside is crucial as you are the next generation of church-goers and leaders here.

2015 has indeed arrived and this will be a very busy year for us all. We'll celebrate your 20th anniversary in April. My deepest hope is that we can turn our attention to the future possibilities as you become more visible and influential in Fort Worth and beyond.

In another 20 years people will be celebrating your 40th anniversary. I hope they will look back at our work together with good memories and how much we helped them find a leading role in liberal religious community in Texas.

- Happy New Year and happy 20th anniversary, WUUC!

A Word From Your President

Every man is guilty of all
the good he didn't do.

-Voltaire

Hello Westsiders,

You may have noticed the blurb in the Jan. 12, Weekly that Brenda McKeon and Lela Woods (and Sharon Salih) are looking for other women to join them at the Southwest UU Women's Conference, Mar. 6 – 8. The conference, "Our Sacred Springs" (<http://www.swuuw.org/>) takes place in San Marcos, and is just one of many events in our NTUUC cluster and UUA region.

The truth isn't always
beauty, but the hunger
for it is.

-Nadine Gordimer

I have attended events from trainings, to conferences, to workshops. Engaging with other UUs from outside of Westside is enriching and educational, and is always my favorite part of these experiences.

I encourage you to check out some of these upcoming activities. Some of them have scholarships available, and Westside has funding to cover some registration/training. These are not just for officers or leaders. However, if you see that leadership potential in yourself, or you want to learn and fellowship among other UUs, these are the activities for you.

You cannot shake hands
with a clenched fist.

-Indira Gandhi

TXUJ Action Day – NTUUC sponsoring a bus, Feb.17 to Austin (ntuuc.org)

SWUUC– Mar. 6-8 in San Marcos (open to all women)

SWUUC Annual Assembly – April 17-19 in New Orleans (uasouthernregion.org)

UUA General Assembly – June 24-28 in Portland, Oregon (uua.org)

UUA Living Legacy Pilgrimage – Selma, AL (uasouthernregion.org)

DBLE – Aug. 9-14 in Denton (For Lay Leaders)
SWUUC Fall Harvest Conference – Nov. 6-8 in Glen Rose

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Wondering what all the initials mean? Get with me, Carol Cappa, Annie Foerster and others who can clue you in. Visit the websites listed for more information about events and Unitarian Universalism.

*-In UU Faith and Love,
Cindy*

Settled Ministry Service & Meeting

February 1 – Meeting, 1:15 – 2:30

Please take note that Rev. Jennifer Innis will present the worship service in regards to the Settled Ministry process on this Sunday. It will be followed, after the second service and lunch, by a meeting where more information can be given and questions addressed. The fundraiser lunch will be for the Coming of Age group. Childcare will also be available. Join us for this very important meeting in regards to Westside's vibrant future.



Plan to Come See Some Great Local Acts at Evenings at Westside

December and January have been crazy busy for us! We've acquired a logo (as you can see) from local artist Jen Schultes. Our Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/eveningsatwestside>; go "Like" us! Most importantly, we've snagged some amazing local talent to play our first season. (All events are Saturday nights, 7-9 pm)

March 14: Reinventing Jude Recently featured on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and currently recording their next album, acclaimed Dallas-based Reinventing Jude is a band formed around singer/songwriter Jude Gonzalez. Classified as "Ballroom Rock," Reinventing Jude blends big

vocal sounds with swinging blues rhythms, incorporating gritty jazz riffs tinged with bluegrass. Check them out at <http://www.reinventingjude.com/>

April 11: Jacob Furr Fort Worth-based musician Jacob Furr has received a lot of attention for his recent work dealing with the tragic loss of his wife, but has been a fixture of the local music scene for a few years. His most recent album, "Trails & Traces," has been hailed as a "tight, imagistic collection of folk-rock tunes that skirt morbidity and embrace the full beauty and harshness of life with gentle enthusiasm." Check his music out at: <http://jacobfurr.bandcamp.com/>

May 9: Bethan Dallas-based "supergroup" Bethan is made up of members from several other acclaimed bands, but has built a sound uniquely their own. Featuring guitar, Mellotron, keyboards, violin and bass, Bethan performs songs that are a restrained, lyrical combination of moods ranging from ominous to whimsical, sometimes called "alternative noir." Recent performances have included House of Blues, the Kessler and Club Dada. Check out their latest album, "Time Gone By," here: <http://velvetbluemusic.com/shop/bethan-time-gone-by/>

July 11: A Night of Spoken Word Fort Worth Poetry Slams, run by Mike Guinn, has become a gathering point for a diverse and talented group of local poets who create powerful, award-winning works.

There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

-Elie Wiesel

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.

December '14	Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County.	\$805.00
November '14	Catholic Charities of Fort Worth	\$923.86
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
June '13	Texas Re-Entry Services	\$982.42
May '13	Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas	\$1,033.22
April '13	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$801.70
March '13	In-Reach Fund	\$1,448.88
February '13	Fort Worth Day Resource Center	\$1,091.86
January '13	Don't Forget to Feed Me, Tarrant Pet Food Pantry	\$930.61
December '12	Cancer Care Services	\$974.93
December '12	UUA Sandy Storm Relief	\$375.75
November '12	Lighthouse for the Blind	\$931.54
October '12	UUSC & UUA Sunday	\$825.22
September '12	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,587.97
August '12	Women's Center of Tarrant County	\$937.52
July '12	Samaritan House Dinners Fund	\$808.66
July '12	Mountain District Wild Fire Relief	\$273.75
June '12	Alliance for Children	\$614.79
May '12	Water.org	\$617.75
April '12	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$863.81
March '12	In-Reach Fund	\$1225.38
February '12	Presbyterian Night Shelter	\$971.72
January '12	Multicultural Alliance	\$807.83
December '11	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,096.25
November '11	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$730.07
October '11	Child Study Center	\$643.42
October '11	UUA Association Sunday	\$149.00
September '11	InReach Fund	\$1,071.26
August '11	Free the Slaves	\$1,030.91
July '11	Samaritan House Dinner Fund	\$1,082.64

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

In July, they will bring their talents to Westside for a night of spoken word. In the meantime, you can catch some of them performing in a competitive “slam” format on Tuesday nights. If you are interested in performing yourself, they also feature periodic open mics. “Like” the group at <https://www.facebook.com/FortWorthPoetrySlams> for updates on upcoming performances and locations.

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Want to Help? To be part of the E@W Crew, email eaw@westsideuu.org and ask to be added to our list. Or contact Janell Broyles at janell.broyles@gmail.com or 682-622-6916. Here’s the type of help we need:

- Door/taking tickets
- Crowd management
- Coffee (brewing, serving, selling)
- Busing tables/washing dishes
- Helping with sound and lights
- Taking event photos and helping post them online
- Setup and teardown

How Can Youth Help? Our youth have already volunteered to run the non-coffee concessions, to raise money for causes like Coming of Age. If you are a youth or a parent who wants to help or just donate baked goods and cold drinks, contact Kimberly Lowe at klowe@aledo.k12.tx.us

CRE Volunteer Spotlight

- Rachel Reed

As CRE committee co-chair and teacher in the Emerson class, Rachel exemplifies proactive volunteering in Children’s Religious Education. Her bright smile and personality are easily recognizable at Westside and she is well-liked by both the youth she teaches and her volunteer colleagues. As a committee chair, she organizes meetings, advises on vision for CRE, and represents CRE well in the congregation. As a teacher, she is very talented at connecting with her students. Thanks for your dedication Rae!

- Cameron Young, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?

-Robert Redford

I took a speed reading course and read War and Peace in twenty minutes. It involves Russia.

-Woody Allen

20 Years and Growing Strong

We hope that you have your calendars marked for Sunday, April 19...a very special day in the life of our faith community. This is the day that we will celebrate the 20 year history of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church – 20 years of providing a liberal presence in Fort Worth, Texas! Where else would you wish to be? The “call” is going out to founding members, former ministers, members who have moved from the area, and of course to you – our active members and friends.

A body of clay, a mind full of play, a moment’s life -- that’s me.

-Harivansh Rai Bachchan

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We will be holding ONE service of worship and celebration for ALL people and ALL ages. This service will be followed by a catered meal provided by the Stewardship Committee as well as generous stewardship and anniversary celebration underwriters. It will truly be a day you will not want to miss.

If you have any pictures or church mementos that you think would be of interest to the Anniversary Committee, start gathering those and turn them in to Jay Dodds or Trudy Sena or digitally to esena6236@yahoo.com. Please label original copies of photos and documents so that they may be returned. There will also be a box to collect these items on Sunday mornings just outside the sanctuary doors. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

You may be wondering why we are combining the efforts of stewardship and the 20th Anniversary. Actually, it is very logical! We would not be where we are today if it were not for the support, financial and otherwise, of those 22 founding members and of the 400+ who have walked through our doors and committed themselves to the life of this church since Westside Unitarian Universalist Church was chartered in June of 1995. It takes all three: time, talent and treasure. Now is the time to start thinking about your financial treasure and what you will be able to commit to share with Westside not just for the coming year, but the next five years, the next ten or even the next twenty! Many of you, and I hope I, will be around to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church. We all must dig deep and come together to make our vision a reality.

I ran across an article written by Lou Bartolomucci, the current Stewardship Chair from the UU Church of the North Hills in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I liked what he said and thought they would be good words for us to hear as well:

“Stewardship is not giving to pay the electric bill. That is managing the budget. Stewardship is keeping and preserving a living, growing Faith Community of Liberal Religion in the North Hills.

Stewardship is not fund raising. Stewardship is living our beliefs and accepting the responsibility for keeping our home, which others before us have made a reality.

Let’s walk together in a spirit of Generosity. It is our heritage. Thank you for your trust and confidence.”

I challenge each of us to preserve this faith community – this liberal voice in Fort Worth, Texas, for another twenty years!

A belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness.

-Joseph Conrad

To see a world in a grain of sand,
/ And a heaven in a wild flower,
/ Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
/ And eternity in an hour.

-William Blake

Summary of the December 17, 2014, Board Meeting

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Social Justice | d. CRE |
| b. Stewardship | e. NTUUC |
| c. LRPC | f. Board meeting minutes |

Minister’s Report (full report in the minutes book) - Rev. Alex noted that The Relational Covenant Task Force will be appointed after a Search Committee is elected.

DLRE Report (full report in the minutes book) - Cameron noted that the age limit for the nursery on Sundays is 5 years and under.

Financial Statements (full report in the minutes book) - Lane will move the \$230 in the Pam Rogers fund to the COA fund and close out the Rogers fund. He will research ways to get a

better return on our funds in the UBS Money Market account.

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Utility Contract We have renewed our Electricity Contract with Green Mountain for 36 months at \$.0599 per kWh.

Digital Communications The committee members are reviewing a proposed policy which will be brought to the Board in January for approval Classroom Doors Phase 1 demolition and prep should begin the week after Christmas.

Building Key Policy The Board approved a policy that will require payment of re-keying the building by a party whose outside contractor loses a key. Gutter Repair will require replacement of damaged wood and the estimated cost is \$2,500.

Employee Benefits The Board discussed benefits that will be necessary in future budgets. The Finance Committee will determine the costs using UUA guidelines, and we will discuss this matter further at the January Board meeting.

January Plate Offering was approved for Texas ReEntry Services.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18. 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

Join a Circle Supper, February 21!

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



Can anything be sadder
than work left unfinished?
Yes, work never begun.

-Christina Rossetti

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.

Conscience is thoroughly
well-bred and soon leaves
off talking to those who
do not wish to hear it.

-Samuel Butler

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.

Who overcomes by force
hath overcome but half
his foe.

-John Milton

The real index of civiliza-
tion is when people are
kinder than they need
to be.

-Louis de Bernieres



The Common Read at Westside – February 21

Rugged individualism. Personal Theology. Freedom to disagree. That's what Unitarian Universalism is all about, right? Well, not exactly. It's also about community. But sometimes it's difficult to blend the two. That's the idea behind the UUA's program, "The Common Read." Every year congregations and individuals are invited to submit recommendations for that year's "common read." A committee is selected to choose the best book of the year for reading and discussion, based on the following criteria:

Does it offer an engaging, accessible read? Is it relevant to UUs at this particular time? Will engagement with the book strengthen Unitarian Universalist identity and practice? Will it deepen and develop our faith?

The Common Read book for 2014-2015 is Paul Razor's "Reclaiming Prophetic Witness" (Skinner House Books, 2013). It asserts that conservative Christianity is not the only valid religious voice in our national social policy. It asks that we explore and claim our unique contribution, as religious liberals, to the pressing moral and ethical debates of our contemporary world.

Copies of this book were on sale at the recent book fair or can be borrowed from the Westside Library. Our DLRE Cameron Young will be leading a discussion as part of U-Cubed on February 21. Get your copy and be ready to participate. What says individualism better than each of us deciding to join the good fight?

Humanists of Fort Worth

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

Westside Library Book Review

"Muhammad: The Story of Prophet and Reformer"

by Sarah Conover

This biography of the Prophet Muhammad, a new addition to the Westside library, was originally conceived for a young adult audience, but it evolved into a history accessible to anyone who is looking for a basic understanding of the Prophet's history and the beginnings of Islam. The author made every effort to write a biography that is in harmony with the writings and teachings of Islam. Her drafts were submitted to experts whose suggested changes were adopted. This book provides a window into Muhammad's life and the environment that nurtured his spiritual development. A succinct retelling of the early developments of faith and insights accompanies the events that led to the establishment of the community of believers. It ends with Muhammad's entry into Medina and the establishment of the beginning of the Islamic calendar. The last ten years of his life and the return to Mecca followed that period. Brief, helpful background information, resources and notes complete the biography.

-Sharon Salih, for the Library Committee

"Faith" is a fine invention
/ For gentlemen who see
-- / But microscopes
are prudent / In an
emergency.

-Emily Dickinson

Humanist Book Club

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside UU Church on the fourth Saturday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 pm. A book is chosen by the group and the next month it will be discussed together. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com.

Potluck Sunday

Our Potluck Sunday will be held on February 8 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 Debra Slane (debraslane@hotmail.com).



Vegan Potluck Saturday, February 28!

Have you ever wanted to eat in a healthier way but didn't know where to start? Have you ever wanted to eliminate animals and animal products as a way of eating more compassionately? Have you ever wanted to eat lower on the food chain so as to be kinder and gentler to the earth? Have you ever wanted to hang out with others who want these same things? If you answered "yes" to any of these, please consider joining the Monthly Vegan Potluck group. We will hang out together, eat good food, and exchange recipes. Vegan Potlucks will take place on the fourth Saturday of each month at 5 p.m.

You can sign up on our meetup.com website <http://www.meetup.com/Vegan-Potluck-WUUC/>

Here's how the potluck will work:

- **Please arrive early (4:30 p.m.) if possible so you can help set up tables and chairs**
- **Bring a VEGAN dish**
- **Bring the recipe for your VEGAN dish (or be prepared to email it to others)**
- **In place of a prayer, we will light a chalice and join in a Responsive Reading before the meal**
- **Eat and enjoy**
- **Talk with other potluckers**
- **Look for dishes you like**
- **Help clean up**
- **COME BE WITH US!!**

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

I believe that life can go on forever. It takes a million years to evolve a new species, ten million for a new genus, one hundred million for a class, a billion for a phylum -- and that's usually as far as your imagination goes. In a billion years, it seems, intelligent life might be as different from humans as humans are from insects. But what would happen in another ten billion years? It's utterly impossible to conceive of ourselves changing as drastically as that, over and over again. All you can say is, on that kind of time scale the material form that life would take is completely open. To change from a human being to a cloud may seem a big order, but it's the kind of change you'd expect over billions of years.

-Freeman Dyson

Adult Religious Education Committee Offers a Variety of Classes this Winter

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U-Cubed classes began January 17, but many of them are still open for new participants. Check the schedule on the bulletin board outside the secretary's office.

Evening classes began on January 27 with Rev. Alex leading a discussion on Marcus Borg's book "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time." Classes start at 7 p.m. and are held in the Fellowship Hall. Please enter through the back door off the parking lot, as SMART will be using the other end of the building.

A new class coming up beginning March 10, also led by Alex, is "Mindful Eating," an attempt to reclaim a joyful and healthy relationship with food and eating. Based on a book by Jan Chozen Bays, the class will explore mindful eating as a spiritual practice as well as a healthy habit. Classes will be held every Tuesday at 7pm Through April 7.

And now for something completely different. "Arts and Crafts and Great Wizardry" is less a class and more of a social gathering for members and friends of Westside who want to gather to exchange tips and tricks with regards to hand crafts you already do or want to learn more about. Quilters, painters, beaders, knitters and crocheters are invited to come, enjoy and share. This get together begins Monday, February 9 and will meet as long as there is interest. Hosts will be Gail Lockwood and Annie Foerster. Look for more information in the Weekly Memo.

Your Green Sanctuary Committee promotes not just our Seventh Principle, but our work touches on all of them. Happy February, Westside.

Why Become a Green Sanctuary? Most of us are aware of the enormous environmental challenges our world faces today. Global climate change, resource depletion, pollution, and species extinction are just a few of the concerns that trouble us, both as individuals and as Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. We may feel overwhelmed by the enormity of these problems, which are so difficult to understand, let alone solve.

Yet none of us is called to solve the world's problems on our own. We are called simply to do our part, through small steps carried out consistently, with faith in their power to make a difference. Religious leaders from most of the world's faith traditions have claimed that these environmental crises may be the greatest moral challenge facing humankind in the twenty-first century. Some suggest that religions may be the only human institutions still able to respond to the challenge.

The Green Sanctuary program offers a way to join our efforts, both symbolically and explicitly, with thousands of other Unitarian Universalists in congregations across the country. Green Sanctuary is designed to help congregations like ours develop and work toward a vision of a healthier, more sustainable future. (copied from the UUA Green Sanctuary web site)

February Committee Meeting We will meet February 8 at 12:45 p.m. in the Glass Classroom. All are welcome.

The Green Movie for February will be "Who Killed the Electric Car," courtesy of Bob Rake. It will show in the Fellowship Hall at 6:45 p.m. on the 28th, right after Vegan Potluck. It is free and everyone is welcome. This movie runs 92 minutes and is rated PG.

To delight in war is a
merit in the soldier, a
dangerous quality in the
captain, and a positive
crime in the statesman.

-George Santayana

The luck of having talent
is not enough; one must
also have a talent for luck.

-Hector Berlioz

**The Westside Story
February 2015**

Contemporary Book Group

On February 22 we will discuss a recent bestseller, “Gone Girl” by Gillian Flynn. Excerpted from Goodreads: It is Nick and Amy Dunne’s fifth wedding anniversary when Nick’s clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi River. Passages from Amy’s diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media--as well as Amy’s fiercely doting parents--Nick, the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behavior. As the cops close in, every couple in town is soon wondering how well they know the one that they love. With his twin sister, Margo, at his side, Nick stands by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn’t do it, where is that beautiful wife? And what was in that silvery gift box hidden in the back of her bedroom closet?

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 suggestions for future books. Contact: Reed Bilz – reed.bilz@gmail.com.

Quilting/Handiwork Group – February 15

The Westside Quilting Group will meet after the second service at church until 4 p.m. 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, contact Debby Rake (dsrake@gmail.com).

Art should be like a holiday: something to give a man the opportunity to see things differently and to change his point of view.

-Paul Klee

For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, “It might have been.”

-John Greenleaf Whittier



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 (carolynyg@gmail.com).

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



The great secret of success is to go through life as a man who never gets used up. That is possible for him who never argues and strives with men and facts, but in all experience retires upon himself, and looks for the ultimate cause of things in himself.

-Albert Schweitzer

To move freely you must be deeply rooted.

-Bella Lewitsky



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



And the evil is done in hopes that evil surrenders / But the deeds of the devil are burned too deep in the embers / And a world of hunger in vengeance will always remember.

-Phil Ochs

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

December 2014 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Dec. 7	54	81	8	16	159
Dec. 14	44	66	5	10	125
Dec. 21	40	60	5	10	115
Dec. 28	31	33	0	0	64
Averages	42.25	60	4.5	9	115.75



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, Robert Slane

The 7 UU Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity & compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free & responsible search for truth & meaning;
- The right of conscience & the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

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