



March 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

March 1 – *“Where Does Wisdom Live?”* by Reverend Alex Holt. This morning we continue our exploration of the Six Sources of UU principles, values and faith. This Source speaks to “wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.” How is wisdom gained from the world’s religions?

March 8 – *“What DO real Ministers Do?”* by Reverend Alex Holt. Westside will begin the long process of selecting a long term minister to begin after July 2016. What are the tasks, challenges and reasons for ministry in a liberal religious tradition such as ours?

March 15 – *“Dignity, Respect, and Personal Freedom for All? Sexual Orientation and the Right to Marry Under our U.S. Constitution”* by Don Jackson. This important equality issue will be argued before the Supreme Court of the United States in the last week of April, and the Court’s decision will be announced in June 2015.

March 22 – *“The ‘S’ Words: An Occasional Series”* by Reverend Alex Holt. What might this “S” word be? Could it be the title of a song or book? Might it have something to do with Westside’s future dreams? Or could it be part of old religious language we don’t especially appreciate? Come and find out!

March 29 – *“The Zen of Messy Enlightenment”* by Brother ChiSing. We are all creating and evolving together, and all human and other beings are diverse manifestations of One Universal Buddha Nature. This is one of the meanings of “interdependent co-arising”. WE are Divine, and WE are the Creator of the Universe, which is manifesting and evolving in every moment, according our collective choices, intentions, thoughts, words and actions. Brother ChiSing will be sharing about his personal experiences and insights from Interfaith Buddhist practice, especially as he has been healing through cancer in the past year. With humor, he has unofficially subtitled his topic as “Enlightenment is not all it’s cracked up to be!”

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

Who are the 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).

Religious Odysseys – March 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 Cameron Young 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).

It may sound trite, but
using the weapons of the
enemy, no matter how
good one’s intentions,
makes one the enemy.

-Charles de Lint

Children's Religious Education Updates

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First Jefferson UU will be offering OWL training in April! Adult and K-1 will be training April 12-14th and 4-6 and 7-12 from April 24-26th.



Speaking of OWL, Westside WILL be offering Elementary and Middle School OWL next school year. Stay tuned for more updates.

The Coming of Age kids have just over two weeks to raise the rest of the funds for their Boston heritage trip! To donate, visit <http://www.faithify.org/projects/youthuu-heritage-pilgrimage/> or see DLRE Cameron Young or parent coordinator Kim Lowe.

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

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

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

"The Vision Thing..."

Some of us may recall President George Bush (the elder) and his struggle to define a vision. His bio page on the US Senate website says this: "Bush...suffered from his lack of what he called 'the vision thing,' a clarity of ideas and principles that could shape public opinion and influence Congress. 'He does not say why he wants to be there,' complained columnist George Will, 'so the public does not know why it should care if he gets his way.'"

Whether we agree with George Will or not we ought to appreciate the value of a vision. We Unitarian Universalists probably would prefer to say we love (or at least appreciate) "the vision thing." Westside UU does have a well-developed and thought out vision statement:

"Westside Unitarian Universalist Church will continue to grow and continue to become a more influential liberal religious presence through active service to our community and the world at large."

Often a mission statement accompanies a vision statement. Westside has that as well:

"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 and intellectual exploration, and social action."

Some years ago the UUA put out a document to help congregations create vision and mission statements. These were helpful because many times congregations were trying to figure out what major priorities they ought to adapt for the future. That document was called "Vision, Mission, and Covenant: Creating a Future Together." Here are the concise definitions of Vision and Mission statements from that document:

Every noon as the clock hands arrive at twelve, I want to tie the two arms together, and walk out of the bank carrying time in bags.

-Robert Bly

“Vision: A carefully defined picture of where the congregation wants to be in five or more years. It is the dream of what the congregation can become.

Mission: A concise statement of what the congregation wants to be known for, or known as, within the wider world; what the congregation wants to mean to the community.”

Generally such statements are reviewed and revised every six years or so in churches. The rationale is that new members and friends have new ideas and perspectives on what the future of the church might be. Their involvement in a vision and mission exercise ensures that their values and priorities are taken into account for the future.

The Board of Directors has asked the Transition Team (Sara Munoz, Chair; Robert Shane, James Trask, Suzie Lotven, Myrtle McMahan, and board liaison Don Jackson) to work with the church to do such a review. The team will be meeting with small groups of church members and friends in coming months (probably starting in April). Over the summer we will create a small ad hoc working group to take the current vision and mission statements and revise them in accordance with the themes, goals, hopes, worries and dreams you have for Westside UU.

My guess is that you don't suffer from the same challenge that President Bush (the elder) had with “the vision thing.” What will be important is to bring your ideas together into a brief vision statement of no more than 20 words. The same is true for the mission statement. It may not be easy to do given how much we love words. However, it will encourage Westside to really consider what the compelling priorities are for the future.

We may discover that you like most of the words of your current statements. The question then will be how to make them come true.

My hope as your interim minister is that you'll be able to flesh out what the compelling vision and mission for Westside and be able to speak them from memory. The long range plan, the decisions about your building, and the type of minister you want will all be driven from those few words that will also be mighty dreams.

- Alex

A Word From Your President

Happy March to You, Westside!

Wow! How exciting that Westside has just received almost \$10,000 in grants from NTUUC (North Texas UU Congregations)!! If you hadn't heard, through the work of the Board and other Westsiders, three separate grants were applied for in December. At the Awards Luncheon in January, where our own Linda Ice was awarded the Marty Robinson Volunteer Award, we also learned of the grant awards. It was an “ear to ear” grinning moment

The first grant is \$6,738 for our classroom doors project. This project was first conceived in 2011/12. From the 2013 auction proceeds, \$3,300 was committed to it. However, a good amount more was needed to make it a reality. It has been a long time coming, but Westside now has contractors set up to get this job accomplished. If you are a teacher or a parent, then you know how much this is needed and how ready Westside is for it.

The second grant is \$750 to go towards a permanent fix for our building sign. Along with that grant, Linda Tyson has generously donated Joe's memorial fund to the building reserves which should complete the cost. Although the sign looks very nice, the individual letters tend to fall off the building. Some have even broken. Of course, this is an ongoing expense to Westside. The plan is to have the current letters bolted into a base that will be attached to the building. Not only will this prevent letters from falling, it will make an easily portable sign if there comes a time that our current location changes.

If you pray for rain long enough, it eventually does fall. If you pray for floodwaters to abate, they eventually do. The same happens in the absence of prayers.

-Steve Allen

Finally, \$2,500 was awarded for the church's newest project, "Evenings at Westside." This new venture opens up possibilities for Westside to show what it has to offer to our local community, that we can provide a venue for our local and diverse talent, whether it be singing or drama. And, it can put Westside "on the map."

Why would NTUUC invest in all of these projects? Because it sees the potential that Westside has to continue to nurture its own congregants in our liberal religion and to bring Unitarian Universalism out into the open in Fort Worth, Texas.

It is my plan, and it is my hope that you will join me in this investment to Westside's future. I will be stepping up my pledge at Westside this year because I am excited about these projects, our 20 year anniversary and our coming 20 years.

*In UU Faith and Love,
- Cindy*

Evenings at Westside Kicks Off This Month!

After months of preparation, Evenings at Westside will finally launch this month on the 14th, with a performance by the band Reinventing Jude. You can learn more about her and find links to her music on our new website, www.eveningsatwestside.org.



Thanks to a generous grant from NTUUC, we have been able to buy sound equipment and other supplies, making our launch go much more smoothly and allowing us to create a higher-quality performance experience. As we head to the premiere, this is a good time to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this happen.

And if you're someone who would like to join the EaW Crew for March or any future performances, come find me at church or email eaw@westsideuu.org. After the March performance, we will still need people once a month through November. We are having a tech run-through on March 7 at 7 p.m.; if you think you'll want to help any time this year, the run-through would be a great thing to attend.

Thanks to Cindy Fountain (and to the rest of the board), for her encouragement and for helping me put together the NTUUC grant.

Thanks to Michael Wright for being one of the first people to get involved, even before she was a member, and for providing lots of insight into other local music cafes.

Thanks to Paul Corbett, who not only volunteered to be our sound and lights person, but set up the website, put up with my many confused questions about sound and light equipment, and who has been incredibly generous with his time.

Thanks to Bill Terry, who has been the other person helping us get our website up and also answering my many technical questions.

Thanks to Mary Alice Cretsinger, who is walking us through the financial details of ticketing.

Thanks to Carol Cappa, who has volunteered to be the Coffee Czar, which is especially valuable since I don't drink coffee and wouldn't know a good cup from a bad one.

Thanks to Kimberly Lowe, who is coordinating the youth fundraiser donations of food and juice/sodas. And thanks to the parents letting their kids participate.

The love of one's country
is a splendid thing. But
why should love stop at
the border.

-Pablo Casals

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.

January '15	Texas ReEntry Service	\$833.20
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

In religion, faith is a virtue.
In science, faith is a vice.

-Jerry Coyne

Thanks to Dianne Nixon, who has been very helpful in answering questions about building aesthetics and who has provided some of our new coffee cups, as well as aprons.

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Thanks also to the rest of the EaW Crew, the folks that have signed up for the EaW volunteers' mailing list: J.T. Trask, David Burlingame, Matt Sacks, Deborah Rake, Stan Yoder, Debra McCawley, Debra Slane, Spencer and Leann Maxwell, Stuart Cheney and Andrea Petty.

And even though he never reads the newsletter, thanks to my husband Matthew who has been incredibly patient, supportive and helpful through this whole process. I'm sure I've left some people out. You know who you are! Thanks to all of you and see you there the 14th!

- Janell Broyles

Young Adults Group

Towards the end of January, Westside hosted over a dozen Young Adults from around the metroplex for "A Forum on Oppression." The event was a huge success and the discussion was magnificent. Stay tuned for similar programming to come.



The only way human beings can win a war is to prevent it.

-George Marshall

Summary of the January 21 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

- A. Board Meeting Minutes December 17, 2014**
- B. Committee Reports (attached)**
 - a. Social Justice**
 - b. Membership**
 - c. LRPC**
- C. Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Minutes**
- D. February Loose Plate Offering TXUUJM**
- E. Angel Montessori Meeting Notes**

Minister's Report - (full report in the minutes book)

DLRE Report - (full report in the minutes book)

Financial Statements (full report in the minutes book) - Linda Tyson has released the \$625 Joe Tyson restricted fund to the building reserve fund.

Endowment Committee - The Board approved the revised policy for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Digital Communications - The Board approved the new policy which will be added to our website.

Gutter Repair - We have \$1,625 to go toward this expense. We will get two bids on the repairs needed.

Employee Benefits - The Board will discuss this issue after the Finance Committee completes its review.

Auction - The Board approved holding the auction on November 6, 2015 at the Stampede Room at Stockyards Station; purchasing EasyAuction software; and payment of a deposit on the contract for the venue.

Interim Ministry Appraisal - Board members are working on the appraisal which is due February 15.

Budget Meeting - A meeting to discuss the budget with the board and committee chairs will be held at 7 p.m. February 25 at the church.

The next meeting will be March 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*

20 Years and Growing Strong

The months of March and April are vitally important ones in the life of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church and each one of us plays an important role. Over the next several weeks, members and friends of Westside will be asked to make their financial commitment to Westside for the next fiscal year: July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. As our theme says, Westside is "20 Years and Growing Strong." There is no doubt that we are celebrating our 20th Anniversary – we were chartered by the UUA in June of 1995. And while we find ourselves in a time of transition, we also find ourselves in a time of growth.

Familiarity is a magician
that is cruel to beauty but
kind to ugliness.

-Ouida

The potential for our faith community is so strong. Programming is at an all-time high at Westside – there are opportunities for growth through our Adult and Children’s Religious Education programs, Coming of Age, Adult Forum, Young Adult events, U-Cubed classes, Evenings at Westside, just to name a few. We have an active core of members and friends who are enthusiastically involved in areas of Social Action – Green Sanctuary, Samaritan House, SCAC, AIDS Walk, again, to name a few. And we have ample opportunity for connectedness within our own community through worship services, monthly Potlucks, Vegan Potlucks, Circle Suppers, Movie Nights, our Progressive Dinner and Auction, and Casino Nights.

As you determine what your financial commitment will be for the coming year, we ask you to think about what Westside Unitarian Universalist Church means to you. What value do you place on it being here for you and for others like you? We would ask you to consider the following statements and then hopefully utilize the “fair share giving guide” developed by the UUA as a basis for your commitment:

As a “contributor,” I consider the church to be a significant part of my life as it promotes the Seven Principles.

As a “supporter,” I consider the church to be central to my identity, and I am committed to supporting our programs.

As a “sustainer,” I am committed to both the present and the future growth of my church.

As a “visionary,” I designate 10% of my income to the church as a way to live out the Seven Principles.

By mid-March, each of you will receive a digital copy of the Fair Share Giving Guide along with the other printed materials pertaining to the coming year’s proposed budget. We humbly request that you take time to peruse and thoughtfully consider this information. Members of the Stewardship Committee will be making appearances at committee and interest group meetings to provide you an opportunity to ask questions regarding the materials that you will receive. We will also offer a couple of brief (10 – 15 minute) meetings between services on Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, April 12 for those who miss us at a committee meeting! If prepared, we will receive your financial commitments at any of these meetings. Sunday, April 19 is our goal date to receive all financial commitments for the coming year. We will appreciate your help with meeting this goal.

Speaking of April 19...we hope that you have your calendars marked for this very special day! 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. 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.

CRE Volunteer Spotlight – Amanda Oglesby

Amanda currently serves double duty, teaching the Young Class on Sunday mornings and helping lead the Friday night YUUMS group. She also serves on the CRE committee. Amanda brings to CRE a very cheerful spirit that radiates to the kids she teaches (who love her). She is dedicated and super fun. Thanks Amanda!

- Cameron Young, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

Never let your sense of morals get in the way of doing what’s right.

-Isaac Asimov

Join a Circle Supper, March 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 Trudy Sena at esena6236@yahoo.com. 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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE

Westside Library – Book Review

“Making Terrorism History” by Scilla Elworthy and Gabrielle Rifkin Published in 2006, this little book remains hauntingly current for we are once again faced with the possibility of going to war in the Middle East in response to the rising tide of terrorism. The authors present a very clear picture of the alternative to a militaristic response to the spread of terror.

The alternative is to address the issues that breed hopelessness and terrorism, recognizing the conditions that give rise to terrorism. A militaristic response to terrorism accomplishes the goal of the attackers– demonstrating the West’s hostility to Islam and its adherents reinforcing a siege mentality. Terrorism will never be defeated by force, only defused by pragmatic, humanitarian, non-violent actions to address the real problems on the ground such as are detailed by the authors. The Nonviolent Peaceforce was being formed to further such goals at the time this book was written, and its current work is detailed on the website <http://www.nonviolent-peaceforce.org/>

Westsidiers can search the online library catalog at librarything.com/catalog/Westsideuu

-Sharon Salih, for the Library Committee

The Common Read at Westside

“Reclaiming Prophetic Witness” by Paul Razor. Our Westside discussion of this book will be on March 7 from 2:15 to 4:15. It will be led by Cammeron Young, our DLRE. The book 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.

Fear prophets and those prepared to die for the truth, for as a rule they make many others die with them, often before them, at times instead of them.

-Umberto Eco

Contemporary Book Group

On March 22 we will discuss *“The Rosie Project”* by Graeme Simsion. From Goodreads: An international sensation, this hilarious, feel-good novel is narrated by an oddly charming and

socially challenged genetics professor on an unusual quest: to find out if he is capable of true love, *The Wife Project*. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which he approaches all things, Don sets out to find the perfect partner. He meets Rosie and an unlikely relationship blooms, forcing the scientifically minded geneticist to confront this spontaneous whirlwind—and the realization that love is not always what looks good on paper.

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“The Rosie Project” is a moving and hilarious novel for anyone who has ever tenaciously gone after life or love in the face of overwhelming challenges. 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.

Humanists of Fort Worth

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

Humanist Book Club

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside on the fourth Saturday of the month from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. A book is chosen by the group and the next month it will be discussed together. In March the book is “A Singular Woman: the Untold Story of Barack Obama’s Mother” by Janny Scott. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com.

Buddhist Meditation Group Meets on Thursdays

Rev. Alex and a small band of dedicated meditators meet regularly on Thursdays at church in the sanctuary to sit together. We do 25 minutes of silent sitting followed by tea, occasional dark chocolate, a talk, and then finishing with metta or other prayers for all beings. You’re always welcome to come by to sit with us. Please check in with Alex if you have questions or want more information.



Potluck Sunday

Our Potluck Sunday will be held on March 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).

Seventh Principle Notes from your Green Sanctuary Committee

Obtaining nutritious, safe food has always been paramount to sustaining life. For humans and most other animal life, the vast majority of that food is other living things. A few humans, where the opportunity avails itself, prefer to eat further down the food chain. These people call themselves vegetarians or vegans, depending on where they draw the line on what they will consume to sustain themselves. The living things they eat are plants, rather than other animals.

He who listens to truth
is not less than he who
utters truth.

-Kahlil Gibran

For those humans who prefer to--or must--remain omnivores, the waters of the earth--especially the oceans--supply a sizable percentage of our food. Millions of the world's poor depend on the seas for their continued survival. But a study published in January in the journal Science adds to those by the United Nations and other scientific organizations in portending a possible near term mass extinction of marine fauna due to overfishing, bottom trawling, increasing ocean acidization, large scale poaching, deep water drilling and mining, military noise and genetic manipulation.

We can all help forestall this catastrophe--which will dramatically affect humanity--by exercising care in our fish purchases (use the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch guide, for example); supporting strong international fishing regulations, with serious penalties for violators; and working towards a major reduction in acidic emissions from fossil fuel production, as well as reducing the plastic trash which is befouling ocean areas larger than the state of Texas.

Let's use our skills to avert a near term mass extinction and begin restoring the 70% of the earth's surface that is covered in water to vibrant health so that it can return to supporting the multitudes of species--sea and land--which depend on it for their very survival.

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

The Green Movie for March will be "Who Killed the Electric Car," courtesy of Bob Rake. It will show in the Fellowship Hall at 6:45 pm on the 28th, right after Vegan Potluck. It is free and everyone is welcome. This movie runs 92 minutes and is rated PG. We had scheduled this movie for February, but had to reschedule due to technical problems.

Quilting/Handiwork Group

The Westside quilting group is going on hiatus until September. We will not be meeting on Sunday afternoons until then. If you have any questions call Debby Rake at 817-473-2414.

Vegan Potluck Saturday, March 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!!**

There are years that ask questions and years that answer.

-Zora Neale Hurston

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

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OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Bring Food For SCAC in March

March is Westside's month to help replenish the food pantry at South Central Alliance of Churches (SCAC). The suggested list of goods needed are as follows: Oatmeal, Grits, Rice, Beans (dry or canned), Corn, Green Beans, Mixed Vegetables, Soup, Noodles, Pancake Mix (add water), Pop Tarts, Milk (powdered or shelf life carton), Tuna and Tuna Helper, Spaghetti and Sauce (canned/pkgs - not glass), Jello, Canned Fruit, Kool-Aid (sweetened), Peanut Butter & Jelly, Macaroni, Crystal Light, Crackers and Canned Meat (Chili, Vienna Sausages, Stew, Chicken, Fish).

Please check the sell by dates, and be sure the food is in the unopened original package. The pantry cannot accept any diet foods. You may put your contributions in the red cart which will be by the door as you enter each Sunday. Watch the sales, and pick up food to help the hungry in our neighborhood. If you prefer to make a cash donation, you may put your check in the offering basket on Sunday with SCAC in the memo line at the bottom of your check. SCAC meets the third Monday of each month at 1:30, at Southside Church of Christ, located a few blocks north of Westside, 2101 Hemphill. Anyone who has an interest is always welcome to attend. Questions? Contact Jay or Suzie Lotven.

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



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



'Respect for religion' has become a code phrase meaning 'fear of religion'. Religions, like all other ideas, deserve criticism, satire, and, yes, our fearless disrespect.

-Salman Rushdie

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

January 2015 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Jan. 4	50	54	12	8	124
Jan. 11	50	53	11	21	135
Jan. 18	32	81	7	28	148
Jan. 25	48	57	6	23	134
Averages	45	61.25	9	20	135.25



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.**