



October 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

October 4: “*The Spirit of Curiosity*” by Reverend Alex Holt. How can we use curiosity to expand our understanding (or our puzzlement) of the meaning of life or how to make good bread? Can our curiosity renew our minds as we move through challenging stages of life?

October 11: “*The Three Great Virtues: Faith*” by Reverend Alex Holt. Classical and religious traditions have often spoken about three Great Virtues: faith, hope and love. How might we Unitarian Universalists define these virtues in our 21st century values?

October 18: “*Discovering Climate Justice*” by Aly Tharp. Representing the Unitarian Universalists Young Adults for Climate Justice (UUYACJ), Aly Tharp will be with us as a part of their campaign to get young adults speaking out to congregations with their own storytelling and message regarding climate justice. The UUYACJ is hoping to reach 100 churches throughout North America. Their motivation is to inspire a broad base of UUs to see the intersectionalities between climate change and other forms of justice-work, and to support the growing movement for climate justice.

October 25: “*The Three Great Virtues: Hope*” by Reverend Alex Holt. What does hope mean to us as religious liberals and seekers of a better way? Can hope be more than a political slogan or a wish upon a star? How do we translate hope into actions?

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

In October we will continue to explore and discuss the Transcendentalist movement and how it played a role in the cultural, religious, and philosophical history of our nation and Unitarianism. On the first Sundays of October, November, and December, because our congregation is in the process of searching for a settled minister, we will embark on a study of our possible personal and/or congregational biases when it comes to choosing a new pastor. We will use UUA’s “Beyond Categorical Thinking” Case Studies to examine varied issues that have occurred in other UU congregations when deciding on a minister. We will discuss fears and concerns related to age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, and other subjects that may affect our decision making. Come join us in purposeful and enlightening dialogue as we explore these topics once a month and continue our lessons on Transcendentalism. For more information, contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Odysseys

October 25, 11:30—12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

On the fourth Sunday of each month, a Westside member graciously shares his/her Religious Odyssey. There is a 20-30 minute period allowed for the church member to tell his/her life story focusing on how his/her beliefs and life views developed. After this there is time for discussion and questions. The emphasis is on sharing in a very intimate setting a person’s life story. Come and get to know persons you may not know or know much better persons you think you have known for a long time! Greg Kauffman shared his odyssey in August; Cheryl Osborn shared her story in September; and Theresa Kauffman will share her life journey on October 25. If you have not attended Adult RE to hear these amazing and inspirational odysseys, you are missing out on one of the BEST things happening at Westside! Luckily, Gary Randall records each odyssey on a CD so that they are

The habit of reading is
the only enjoyment in
which there is no alloy;
it lasts when all other
pleasures fade.

-Anthony Trollope

available for check out from our church library. Thank you, Gary! So check one out and listen at home at your convenience---or better yet, come to Adult RE every 4th Sunday and hear a Religious Odyssey LIVE and in person! To volunteer to share your Odyssey, or for more information, contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

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Forum:

10 - 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.

Children's Religious Education News

Saturday, October 31, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., will be CRE's Halloween Party. Come join us for tasty treats and SPOOKY FUN!

O.W.L. Classes have begun for 4th-6th graders and 6th-8th graders. Westside is once again offering the best sexuality education out in the country, and is the perfect alternative to Texas's abstinence-only approach. The program is of such quality that parents from outside of the church have enrolled their children.

For more information, email Cameron Young at DLRE@westsideuu.org

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

Several people at Westside have asked me in recent months why I almost always say 'you' in meetings and services rather than 'us'? The concern expressed was that as minister I ought to be more in partnership as an 'us' or 'we' while we move through the transition time.

Those are excellent concerns and I'd like to address them as we begin this second and final interim year.

First – and probably most importantly – I am a temporary employee. We interim ministers half-jokingly call ourselves 'pre-fired' and it's because we know we have a limited timespan to help congregations get through the transition period. Two years has become the norm in most congregations because the period after a minister has left is a good time to address the past, the identity of the church, leadership development, the relationship with the larger denominational organization, and finally a commitment to the future. That's a lot of work and generally creates disagreement and occasionally conflict. I mentioned a few weeks ago that 'yes, indeed' I was arrogant, autocratic and more in the first year. I needed to see what Westside UU viscerally understands as its shared values and identity. Pushing a church by saying 'why this and not that?' over and over can understandably make people upset. When the pushing back starts to happen that's a good sign because then the church is identifying its core values and then defending them. All those strategies are useful but they really can't be done in a long term 'settled' ministry. As temporary employees we can do so.

There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance - that principle is contempt prior to investigation.

-Herbert Spencer

Second, it's not helpful for the interim to get too close to the people in the congregation. I find that especially true every time I move to a new church. I'll think fondly of those I have left behind but all contact is severed so you and the new minister can develop a long-term partnership. I know myself well and if I get too emotionally close to people in a congregation it will be harder for me to move on. It's also important to the church to see me as a specialist who is here to do a certain job and then move on without regrets. So one rule of transitions ministry for me is that everyone in any congregation is equally my friend and equally at the same distance as everyone else.

Third, from the day I arrive I have to keep my successor in mind. They will ideally begin a long term ministry with you in full partnership. The interim minister should set a standard the new minister can exceed in their very first months of called ministry. Transitions ministry means that a lot of experimental ways of doing worship, looking at bylaws, committee structures, leadership development and much more will happen now.

When the new minister arrives, he/she will experience a church that has tried some new approaches and either likes them or not. Here's an example: most UU ministers are comfortable with a wide variety of religious terms. You have become accustomed to the term 'reflection' rather than the more common 'sermon.' That's fine, but it tosses out a word that has important historical and cognitive meanings. Why one and not the other? Do past unpleasant experiences in churches still have power over us if we turn away from words we don't like?

I arrived at Westside just over a year ago and I knew I'd fall in love with you just as I have with nearly every other church I've served. Trouble is that I then have to leave and move on. So 'you' becomes a norm as I remind myself (and you as well) that I'm passing through as the title of my newsletter column says. The Traveling Minister's Road Show continues to unfold and we go our separate ways hopefully remembering one another in good ways.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. I am always happy to make an appointment for coffee, tea, or a meal together.

-Alex

Parents, Youth, Children and Other Members of our Westside Village, We Need Your Help!

Over the last few months, many toys and play equipment on the back patio have been damaged or destroyed. These damaged items belonged to our tenant and not to Westside.

Westside leases a large amount of our building and grounds to Angel Montessori Preschool, which is a state-licensed childcare center. Some of our shared space includes our back patio that serves as their state-required playground. They have equipped it with toys and other items to meet Texas licensing requirements for children under age three.

Angel Montessori has begun cordoning off as many of their toys as possible to prevent further damage when their center is not open; however, some of their toys have been found out in the play area after our church services. The half-dozen riding toys belonging to Westside are left out for our preschool children's use and are clearly marked with a "W" for Westside.

A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.

-Jerry Seinfeld

All toys and equipment on the patio are, and must be by state requirement, safe for children under age three while Angel Montessori leases from us. This means that most of these toys will not stand up to the hard play or weight of older children. Parents, please talk to your children to ensure they understand they may not play with toys unless they are marked with a "W." If anyone sees a child or youth playing with toys not marked for Westside, request they put them back immediately and explain that those toys are not ours.

Westside does not have a staff member or volunteer to provide monitoring of children on the patio unless a Sunday school teacher takes children or youth out there during Sunday school class time. This space is not intended to be an alternative for restless children during the church service while their parents stay in the building. The first part of our church service is designed for children to be present, with the nursery being open during this time for particularly restless wee ones who would otherwise disrupt the service.

The old African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," calls on all of us to step in when necessary to teach our Westside children to respect the property of others. It may become necessary for us to write a policy on use of the patio/playground. Most people would like to see it be the least-restrictive possible. Future damage or care of items on our patio will no doubt guide policy-makers.

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.

| | | |
|---------------|---|-------------------|
| August '15 | Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County | \$1,135.52 |
| July '15 | ACH Child & Family Services | \$722.87 |
| June '15 | School Based Health Centers | \$745.36 |
| May '15 | Planned Parenthood of North Texas | \$990.23 |
| May '15 | First Unitarian Church of Southhold, New York | \$296.75 |
| April '15 | South Central Alliance of Churches | \$1,218.46 |
| March '15 | Westside's InReach Fund | \$997.83 |
| February '15 | Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry | \$801.00 |
| 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 | \$941.96 |
| August '14 | The Unaccompanied Children from Central America | \$827.28 |
| 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 Co, | \$842.58 |
| July '13 | Samaritan House Dinner Fund | \$1,100.41 |
| June '13 | Texas Re-Entry Services | \$982.42 |
| May '13 | Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas | \$1,033.22 |
| April '13 | South Central Alliance of Churches | \$801.70 |
| March '13 | In-Reach Fund | \$1,448.88 |

Content thyself to be
obscurely good. When
vice prevails, and
impious men bear sway,
the post of honor is a
private station.

-Joseph Addison

Young Adults Group

Join the Young Adults on the 3rd Sunday of every month for “Magnolia Meanderings.” Meet us in the Fellowship Hall after the second service and come have brunch with us! For more information, email Cameron Young at DLRE@westsideuu.org

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Report



Your MSC continues to meet almost weekly as we progress toward the calling of a settled minister for Westside, that goal being the end of April. (Keep your calendars open.)

In the meantime, you, Members and Friends, have made the cottage meetings a great success! The MSC has learned valuable information to use in the congregational and ministerial profiles. This time with everyone has turned out to be one of community building.

What have we learned about Westside, what a minister needs to know, and what a successful new ministry will look like? We are open, welcoming, family oriented, and diverse in some ways – in sexuality and theology. We are inclusive and want to play a bigger part in our wider community. A successful ministry will see growth in our membership, shared goals and inclusiveness, engaging reflections and more involvement in social action.

A survey was also sent out to all members and friends August 26. It is another tool the MSC has used to hear the voices of Westside in compiling the important information needed to conduct the search process. Thanks for your participation!

The MSC has quite a few people and groups to thank already, as we cannot do this work alone. Caroline Nixon was instrumental in various aspects of our retreat, and she has also helped record cottage meeting responses. Dianne Nixon has contributed to our budget. Lela Woods has provided valuable history information; Linda Ice took care of some technical issues. Most of our Chairs and other leaders have provided committee information. Cathy Spitzenberger will be editing and proofing some packet work. Finally, the Digital Communications Committee will be creating a website packet for prospective ministers and the congregation. Thank you, All!

Keep up with your MSC by clicking on the button, Ministerial Search Update, on the church website, www.westsideuu.org. Follow the timeline by going to the Settlement Handbook here: http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/documents/mpl/transitions/settlement_handbook.pdf

A teacher who is attempting to teach, without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn, is hammering on a cold iron.

-Horace Mann



Evenings @ Westside

By Janell Broyles

Murder. Mayhem. Goat men. Lost souls. Missing travelers. Forbidden histories.

It's our biggest event of the year, it's our fundraiser, and it's going to be amazing. **STORIES IN THE DARK** will be a night of chilling original tales, haunting music, and highly entertaining weirdness.

Five Westsiders are going to serve as our storytellers, a specially-selected band of local musicians will play instruments and found objects, and the Emcee will tie it all together. If you haven't come to any other Evenings at Westside, this is the one to come to; and bring your friends!

If you can't come but still want to support Evenings at Westside, you can find our Square ticket page at <https://squareup.com/market/westside-unitarian-universalist-church/stories-in-the-dark> or, you can buy them from Janell or another EaW volunteer on Sundays at church. Or you can just choose to donate any amount.

If you'd like to volunteer for stage crew or crowd management, Janell and the EaW Crew can sign you up as well. You see the show for free and get a commemorative pin!

Do You Have a Business You'd Like to Promote? We Have a Deal for You!

For just \$25.00, have your business promoted on the Southside Pirate and all EaW social media. Support local music and promote your business; win-win!

2015 Evenings at Westside Calendar

- **OCTOBER 17: Stories in the Dark**
- **NOVEMBER 14: Lilies**

When you sell a man
a book you don't sell
him just twelve ounces
of paper and ink and
glue--you sell him a
whole new life.

-Christopher Morley

Join a Circle Supper – October 17!

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.

Summary of the August 19 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

A. Board Meeting Minutes July 15, 2015 (attached)

B. Committee and Task Force Reports (attached)

a. Building & Grounds

b. Finance

c. Membership

d. Ministerial Search

e. Children's RE

f. Endowment

g. Facilities

C. Approval of Lords' Anniversary Celebration Dec. 5 with alcohol

DBLE Report - (attached) Bob Vann shared with us what those who attended learned.

Minister's Report - (full report in the minutes book) The Board will ask the Chaplain Corp to re-visit the In-Reach policy.

DLRE Report - (full report in the minutes book) Cameron noted this is a busy time for him with school starting.

Financial Statements - (full report in the minutes book) The Board will ask the Finance Committee to investigate the possibility of hiring a bookkeeper.

Equipment Sale - Cindy Fountain will list Jeff Bullock's Equipment on Craig's List.

Plate Offering Recipients - September, SCAC; October, UU Service Committee; November, LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.; December, Community Hospice; January, TBD; February, TxUUJM. March TBD; April, SCAC.

Membership List Update Letters to Inactive Members - (list attached) Dianne Nixon will re-write the letter with the Membership Committee and send it when approved.

Memorials Task Force - The Board appointed Joanne Jackson to the Task Force.

Common Ground Street Choir - Westside will host a "Let's Sing" on September 24, 7-8:30 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 21, at 7:00. All members are welcome to attend. Notebooks containing copies of the full minutes, reports, and financial statements are available in the church office.

The first human who
hurled an insult instead
of a stone was the
founder of civilization.

-Sigmund Freud

-Reed K. Bilz, Secretary

The New Hymnals Are Here!

The Westside Story
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We now have enough copies of the teal hymnal, “Singing the Journey,” to allow us to use them as part of our Sunday morning worship. These are newer, more modern pieces than are in our traditional hymnal and should greatly expand our worship experience.

We were able to buy these hymnals through the Westside Library and the Adult RE Committee when they went on sale this summer because of a generous offer by Gary Randall and Sharon Salih to provide us with the seed money. We planned to ask you to fund this unbudgeted item by buying the rights to commemorate someone on the inside front cover. For only \$20 you can dedicate a teal hymnal to a loved one or friend. After they arrived, Gary and Sharon said that if we recovered only half the cost (about \$550) they would donate the rest.

With so much going on this summer, we have delayed the unveiling of the hymnals and your generous funding of them until November 8 when they will be used for the first time at Westside for congregational singing. Mark this date on your calendar and decide how many you want to fund and to whom they will be dedicated.

—Annie Foerster for the Adult RE Committee

Endowment Committee Update

The best kept secret at Westside is our Endowment Fund, where you can give and see the money grow. The Endowment Fund has three sub-funds: the perpetual fund, whose income over inflation is available for special projects; the building fund, devoted to projects involving a new or existing church building (including, of course, our current building); and the flexible fund for special projects.

All projects must be approved by the Board and the Congregation prior to any expenditure, an assurance that the funds will be used wisely. To date no funds have been disbursed.

As of August 31, 2015, the latest figures available, the balance in the Endowment Fund was \$34,128.57. This is down from the fund’s peak when the S&P 500 was also higher, but the returns still reflect solid growth for a conservative portfolio whose volatility is mitigated by its balanced stock and bond holdings.

The Endowment Committee is working on an informational booklet on giving that should be available at our Committee Table on October 25th. Stop by the table to learn more about the Endowment Fund and how your contribution to it, however modest, can make a difference to Westside, and perhaps to your tax bill as well. And if you haven’t yet made a church contribution in honor of our departed church leaders, Dick Trice and Dolores Ruhs, consider making a such a donation to the Endowment Fund as a lasting memorial for all their contributions to Westside.

Let Your Voice Be Heard

The Transition Team is renewing the Westside Mission and Vision Statements. Our goal is to help Westside find its focus in its ministry to others – to ask the questions that will reveal our mission and to inspire both the minister and the congregation in the fulfillment of our goals.



The sparrow is sorry
for the peacock at the
burden of his tail.

—Rabindranath Tagore

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The Team is now asking what vision and mission you - our members and friends - see for us here at Westside. How can we listen to and serve each other? How can we reach out to the wider community with compassion, drive, energy, and acceptance in order to bend that moral arc of the universe towards justice?

How can you help? Take our online Mission/Vision poll at <http://goo.gl/forms/B11V0UJRyj>.

We plan to write succinct, memorable and inspiring statements – so our poll is also short and sweet! The poll will close 10/5/15. After the statements are drafted, we will have an open comment period from 10/9 to 10/18, so look for the statements at church on Sundays the 11th and the 18th.

Take this chance to have your voice be heard: <http://goo.gl/forms/B11V0UJRyj>.

Thank you,
–*The Transition Team*

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE

Fall Clean-Up, October 3!

Westside's semi-annual church cleaning day is Saturday, October 3. Join us between 8:00 and Noon. Your helping hands are much needed and much appreciated! There will be inside and outside work available. Coffee, breakfast goodies, and fun fellowship will be provided. Please RSVP Gene McKeon your willingness. Let him know if you want inside or outside, and if you can provide a truck for hauling tree limbs, etc; eugenemckeon@gmail.com; 817- 455-2533. Thanks!!

Westside Library

The Westside Library is looking for a few good UUs to join us as librarians – to hold that sacred position of protection of free thought and dissemination of ideas. Contact any librarian (find them by that orange button) or email library@westsideuu.org.

If you are looking for a book, you can search the online library catalog at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/WestsideUU> or visit the library on Sunday mornings. Check out is old school – sign your name on the library card inside the front cover of the book and put the card in the black box. We also have hundreds of children's books that we have not yet entered into the online catalog.

–*Anita Snyder, for the Westside UU Library*

Life Crisis Support Group

Rev. Alex is exploring the idea of a support group to help people going through major life changes. It would meet one Wednesday each month in the church office and have simple rules: confidentiality is crucial, no cross-talk until everyone who wishes to speak has spoken, and finally that no life crisis is out of bounds to share. Please let Alex know if you are interested in this group. It will be an open group and likely meet first in early November probably on a Wednesday. More information will be in the weekly email.

**No two persons ever
read the same book.**

–Edmund Wilson



BUUTS & BLING!

**Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
Progressive Dinner & Auction**

Friday, November 6...Stampede Room Stockyards Station
6:30 - 10:30 **\$30 per person**

Silent Auction - Live Auction - Raffle
Appetizers - Open Bar - Buffet Dinner - Dessert



...and a helluva good time

Child Care Available by Reservation

For questions or additional information, please contact Chairpersons:
Landmice@gmail.com OR Linda Ice (817-681-5423) Myron Ice (817-681-6423)

Buddhist Meditation Group

Rev. Alex and a group of dedicated meditators meet every Thursday at 7 p.m. usually in the sanctuary of the church. We sit together for 25 minutes followed by tea and conversation about Buddhist teachings. All are welcome no matter what your experience level (or none!) with meditation. Please check with Alex if you're interested or have questions.

Women of Westside Group – October 17

Women of Westside meets on the third Saturday. There will be a notice in the weekly memo for the program. Last month the meeting fell before the deadline for the newsletter, so I reported on the August meeting and the September meeting in the same issue. Contact: Debbie Rake (dsrake@gmail.com).

Quilting/Handiwork Group – October 18

We will be meeting on the third Sunday after Church every month except December. So, we hope to see many quilters, quilters to-be, and folks who would just like to help on Sunday, October 18 in the Sanctuary. We will be making small quilts to be donated to the children of Samaritan House. We will also be looking at some new projects and we have lots of gorgeous new fabric. Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. For information call Debby Rake 817-473-2414 or email dsrake@gmail.com.

Humanist Book Club

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside UU Church on the fourth Saturday of the month 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Each month a book is chosen by the group and discussed the following month. On October 24 we will discuss "Reason and Reverence: Religious Humanism for the 21st Century" by William R. Murry. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com.

Humanists of Fort Worth

The HoFW will meet at its regular time at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14 at Westside. All Freethinkers are welcome to attend. Please check the HoFW Meetup site for further information at <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/>

Contemporary Book Group

On October 25 we will discuss "The Boys in the Boat," a nonfiction book by Daniel James. "The Boys in the Boat" is an irresistible story about a crew from Seattle beating the odds and finding hope in the most desperate of times—the improbable, intimate story of nine working-class boys from the American west who, in the depths of the Great Depression, showed the world what true grit really meant.

A change from our usual date for the holidays, December 6 we will discuss "The Bishop's Man" by Linden MacIntyre. Known to fellow priests as the "Exorcist" because of his special role as clean-up man for the Bishop of Antigonish, Duncan has a talent for coolly reassigning deviant priests while ensuring minimal fuss from victims and their families. All this changes when lawyers

It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong.

-Richard Feynman

and a policeman snoop too close for the bishop's comfort. Duncan is assigned a parish in the remote Cape Breton community of Creignish and told to wait it out.

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Back to our regular date, the fourth Sunday in January, we will discuss "Sex Wars" by a UU poet, Marge Piercy. The title is misleading. Set in Post-Civil War New York City, this is the story of Freydeh, a spirited young Jewish immigrant, and some of the epoch's most notorious figures: Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Susan B. Anthony; sexual freedom activist Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run for president; and Anthony Comstock, founder of the Society for the Suppression of Vice, whose censorship laws are still on the books.

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 are also open to suggestions for books to read. Contact: Reed Bilz – reed.bilz@gmail.com.

Seventh Principle Notes from your Green Sanctuary Committee

Have you killed an Orangutan lately? Are you sure? How about a Sumatran Tiger or Asian Elephant?

Let's take it from a different angle: Have you purchased laundry soap, or chocolate, or donuts, or cookies, or cosmetics, or ...? Then there's a pretty good chance you're doing your part to exterminate the above species and more. And it gets even better, 'cause we're also wiping out a whole lot of people in the process. And throwing an unbelievable amount of CO2 into the air while we're at it.

If you are among those who watched the Showtime series "Years of Living Dangerously" a while back, you may have an idea by now where I'm coming from. The most productive source of edible oil is the fruit of the palm tree, 80% of which comes from Indonesia and Malaysia. Ancient forests rooted in deep peat bogs--both of which sequester vast amounts of carbon--are being cut and burned to make way for giant palm plantations. The forests were habitat for the above species and for indigenous peoples, and the dense, lethal smoke from the fires lays over the countryside and cities of the region, bringing lung disease and cancer to the inhabitants.

Giant corporations like Cargill, Unilever, Kraft, General Mills, Nestle, and Burger King exploit those lands and their people and make countless products using the oil. But palm oil can be produced sustainably, and there is a small but growing movement to provide oil without the burning and destruction.

You and I can do our part to help by spreading the word, putting pressure on manufacturers to source sustainable palm oil or to not use it at all, asking our supermarkets about their policy on palm oil, asking for laws requiring clear labeling of palm oil products, and trying to buy products or buy from companies certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSOP).

Green Movie Nites

We hope to return to green movies in the near future.

October Committee Meeting

The Green Sanctuary Committee will meet again October 11 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.

**Neither genius, fame,
nor love show the
greatness of the soul.
Only kindness can do
that.**

**-Jean Baptiste Henri
Lacordaire**

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Fall Conference 2015: Into the FUUTURE!

Where: Glen Lakes Camp and Conference Center

When: November 13-15

Our congregation has been charged with an important task: to boldly go where no UU community has gone before! Join us at "Fall Conference 2015: Into the FUUTURE!" to gain tools and resources for charging ahead into the next year, ten years, or ten decades. Each track is designed to help leaders effect real cultural change toward growing a vital, healthy, effective UU community that helps its members achieve our vision of a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

There are workshops for all ages along with opportunities to meet people for our region which stretches from Texas to Florida to Virginia.

Every fall the Southern Region of the UUA offers excellent leadership and training workshops in a fabulous setting at the Glen Lakes campgrounds in Glen Rose, Texas. Just a little over an hour drive west of here, you will have the opportunity to relax and learn with other UUs who come to our region as far as Florida and Virginia.

Last year Carol Cappa attended a Stewardship track that was offered and had a wonderful time meeting people from Virginia, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee! Look over the tracks for this year and be sure to register by October 26. A limited number of scholarships are available. See Westside President, Dianne Nixon.

Are We There Yet? Planning As Spiritual Practice with Rev. Susan M. Smith
Compassionate Communication: An Introduction with Rev. Carlton Elliott Smith and Carrie Stewart
Facilitating Cultural Change with Kathy McGowan and Lewis Morris
Youth Ministry for the 21st Century
Covenant, Conflict, Community with Connie Goodbread
Young Adult Convocation with Montana Steele

Registration: <http://fd8.formdesk.com/UUASR/FC2015>

Ages 14-adult: \$225 until 26 October, \$275 for late registration.

The registration link has info about lodging.

Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) Project

Below is a plea to help the Faithify effort for TXUUJM. The Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry. It is a group Westside helped start and is just beginning to feel it's oats as a liberal religious voice in our state. Please see letter from board chair below:

The Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM) is using the Unitarian Universalist (UU) crowdfunding site, Faithify, to help support the important work of TXUUJM through the end of 2015. It is important that we reach our fundraising goal, since this project will only be funded if at least \$7,500 is pledged by October 14, 2015, 27 days away. Our Faithify project is designed to appeal to UUs and non-UUs all over the country and the world. But if we are going to be successful, we need our Texas UUs to step up to the challenge and proudly support TXUUJM.

Our TXUUJM Faithify campaign is designed to help us identify our base supporters and will help us launch a campaign to challenge 1,000 of our brave Texas UUs commit to \$10 per month to sustain an Executive Director full time. Currently our Executive Director, Rev. Chuck Freeman, is only paid a part-time salary.

How simple life
becomes when
things like mirrors are
forgotten.

-Daphne du Maurier

Please log onto the faithify site at <http://www.faithify.org/projects/bending-texas-towards-justice/>, enjoy the short film and and other information about TXUUJM. Please share as widely as you can with others. We need our campaign to go viral! Please be generous and help us meet our goal.

-Mike Phillips, TXUUJM Board Chair

**The Westside Story
October 2015**

Westside Story Staff:

Janice Sims, Editor

Eric Stevens, Designer

Sharon Salih, Distribution



Free Workshop on Death and Dying at Horizon UU – October 10

Talking about death doesn't come easy for most people. If the topic of death and dying makes you feel a bit uneasy, you're not alone. At this workshop, guest speakers will address family issues and dynamics, emotional and practical support for caregivers, end of life care, required legal documentation, and traditional and alternative ceremonies to memorialize the deceased. The workshop is free and lunch will be provided if you preregister.

**Authoring Life's Final Chapter:
Preparing for End of Life Transitions
Saturday, October 10, 2015
10am-3:30pm
Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church
1641 W. Hebron Pkwy. Carrollton, TX 75010**

For more information, visit: <http://www.ntuuc.org/events/current-events/end-of-life-workshop>. Register by Wednesday, October 8 by clicking on this link or cutting and pasting it into your browser: <http://goo.gl/forms/MXEoOJunCn>

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 Jeff@vireomarketing.com or Ericasmartrecovery@gmail.com.

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

Knowing trees, I
understand the meaning
of patience. Knowing
grass, I can appreciate
persistence.

-Hal Borland

Our Board

President: Dianne Nixon

Vice-President: James Finn

Secretary: Reed Bilz

Treasurer: David Burlingame

**Directors: Randy Gregory, Ginger Courtney,
Debby Rake, Don Jackson, Ken Leising,
Bob Vann**

August 2015 Attendance

| | 10AM Adults | 11:30 Adults | 10AM Kids | 11:30 Kids | Total |
|-----------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------|
| August 2 | 53 | 58 | 12 | 22 | 145 |
| August 9 | 36 | 48 | 4 | 14 | 102 |
| August 16 | 43 | 67 | 3 | 20 | 133 |
| August 23 | 65 | 64 | 20 | 35 | 184 |
| August 30 | 52 | 72 | 17 | 27 | 168 |
| Averages | 49.8 | 61.8 | 11.2 | 23.6 | 146.4 |



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

The 7 UU Principles

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

The Six Sources

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

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

Tanner Trask, Chair. Myrtle McMahan, Suzie Lotven,
Robert Slane, Anita Snyder

Ministerial Search Committee

Cindy Fountain, Chair. Carol Cappa, Sara Munoz, Jane Hardwick, Morris Meador, Jeff Rodriguez, Tom Woods

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