

*December
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

December 6: *“Hanging of the Greens.”* With the holidays come many traditions – including those at Westside UU! We hope you will join us for our eighth annual “Hanging of the Greens” service where lights, love and logic are celebrated through story and special music!

December 13: *“How Unitarian Universalists Saved Christmas”* by Reverend Alex Holt. Unitarian and Universalist ancestors all enjoyed Christmas for different reasons. As we enter into a new winter theme of services on Heritage we might consider how some of our religious ancestors subversively “saved” Christmas in America.

December 20: *“To Shine One Corner of the World”* by Reverend Alex Holt. The service title is from a talk given by a great Zen master in 1960’s San Francisco. He said that lighting the whole world was too much but lighting our corner of it was powerful. We will celebrate the winter solstice with a reflection on the power of light and all it can bring in dark days.

December 24 at 7 p.m.: *“Jesus as Avatar”* by Reverend Alex Holt. I wrote about this service last month. It will be quiet and a time to reflect on who and what the character of Jesus means to us in the 21st century. There will be a chance to sing and a chance to have quiet as we take in the sounds and sights of the season. Childcare will be available IF REQUESTED in advance.

December 27: *“Atonement Service”* by Reverend Alex Holt. Some of you may remember the service we did last year. You are welcome to bring any atonements with you for unskillful or regretful words and deeds. Write them on flash paper and they’ll go into the purifying fire to be dissolved. Then we will take pebbles I brought from Bailey Island in Maine to use as New Year’s Resolution reminders. Childcare will be available but no Religious Education or Forum is planned. Please see Rev. Alex if you have questions.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

In December 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 Sunday of December, we will have our final discussion about 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. Come join us in purposeful and enlightening dialogue. For more information, contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Odysseys

January 24, 2016, 11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

There will be no Religious Odyssey in December, but in January we will continue with this wonderful tradition in Adult R.E. 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. 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 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.

War is merely the continuation of policy by other means.

-Carl von Clausewitz

Forum: 10 - 11 am

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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 Updates

YRUU meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month in the Sanctuary (December 4 and 18) from 6:30-8:30.

December 19: YUULE Ball (Sanctuary) 6:30-9 p.m.

December 27, January 4: Winter Holiday; No CRE Classes

The Halloween Party was a spookily, smashing success thanks to the efforts of Layne Craig and the CRE Committee, and also to the youth group and their advisers for their hard work on the haunted house.

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

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

"Where'd the time go?"

This morning at church someone asked where I'd be in a year from now. My response was "I don't have the slightest idea but it will be someplace new." Their response was one I have heard a lot this time of year – "where'd the time go?"

The years seem to go by faster as one moves from childhood to adulthood and beyond. The endless summers of childhood that were so well defined in the cartoon Calvin and Hobbes give way to more homework, summer assignments, summer jobs, and then on to college. When college is done we hopefully have jobs and then families with children to keep us occupied.

More time goes by and then we find ourselves in a fleeting whirlwind of years until (perhaps) retirement when the stages of life reverse themselves. We again have time on our hands to ponder the universe and sometimes drive our partners or spouses to distraction.

Westside is in full motion as 2015 comes to an end (where DID that year go?). The dedicated search committee represents all of you as they put together a website and documentation to hopefully tantalize ministers out there looking for new positions. The Transition team is placing finishing touches on the new combined mission/vision statement for your consideration in January. A special ad hoc group is working with me on a relational covenant for the June business meeting. Linda and Myron Ice have worked tirelessly on the completed auction thanks to many others who also took part in many ways. Dianne Nixon, James Finn, and David Burlingame lead the board of directors through all the necessary tasks of keeping a church organized. Director of Lifespan RE Cameron Young is in the middle of his second year learning and adjusting as he goes. Cherri Mayberry still does her skilled work as office administrator despite health limitations.

It's nice to have a time of year like this. We can look back at successes and even some failures and call them good. We spend more time indoors now and with friends and family. We are reminded about how important community can be. I think that even with all the hoopla of the holidays, spending money, eating too much, and an occasional bah humbug we still can find grace and gratitude in this winter holiday season. It's a time to sit back and reflect hopefully without judgment.

The business of the poet and the novelist is to show the sorriest underlying the grandest things and the grandeur underlying the sorriest things.

-Thomas Hardy

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This year we lost more long time Westsiders. Some moved to other states. Others died or have become home-bound and unable to attend any longer. We also gained new members and a constant stream of visitors.

What I hope we as a community can do in December is to reflect on our past year with a certain humor. What made us laugh? Was there any event you attended or saw on TV or a computer that simply made you joyful and thrilled? Did a child say something that made you want to burst out with laughter in appreciation?

Indeed the time goes by very quickly and becomes more precious. I hope that we can remember and hold up for one another those times of laughter and joy that brought us to smiles and more. Perhaps you are planning a family or friends dinner. Ask people to bring a story of a time when they were filled with joy or laughter.

As that old column said “laughter is the best medicine” and laughter never wears out even as time goes by.

Happy holidays and Happy New Year for us all,

Alex (and Debra in Oregon)

President's Message

We close our service each Sunday with these words, “Let us go in peace, believe in peace, and create peace in our lives and in the world.” The emotions that follow terror attacks as we have seen recently, might leave us asking what more can we do to work for peace.

The following prayer, was written on November 14 by the Rev. Eric Cherry, director of the Unitarian Universalist Association's International Office:

*Holy One, our hearts are torn, broken, and battered.
Even across an ocean from the City of Light;
Such pain, such violence, such suffering.*

*The trauma is immense, nearly unspeakable.
We know that we are called to feel the pain of humanity,
to hear the cry of the soul, the innocent soul.
So we shall.*

*May it help us to turn to love in spite of hate.
May it help us turn to trust in spite of fear.
May it help us turn to each other, people of all faiths and none,
in spite of intolerance.*

*May it help us to turn to our neighbors in need.
May it help us turn our care to the vulnerable near us.
May it help us turn our spirits to the grieving, the injured,
and the traumatized.*

May it help us turn to the recovery,

*And to our work of becoming a world of justice and compassion.
Turn us. Guide our feet and hands. Bring us to peace.
Amen*

This holiday season, I wish you love and peace,

Dianne

I'm sometimes asked
“Why do you spend so
much of your time and
money talking about
kindness to animals
when there is so much
cruelty to men?” I
answer: “I am working
at the roots.”

-George T. Angell

Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) Progress Report

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“No choice is more important to the future of a Unitarian Universalist congregation than its call of a minister.” UUA Settlement Handbook.

The MSC continues to work on the ministerial search web packet which will provide a great deal of information for all those interested in applying for the settled minister position here at Westside. The packet is titled Westside UU Minister Search, 20 Years and Growing Strong.

We have been meeting weekly and each of the seven members of the committee has been creating content about Westside that will be featured in the website packet in order to meet the November 30 deadline. The Digital Communications committee has also been working diligently with us for the last few weeks in order to get the ministerial search website packet ready.

In December, ministers will be looking at our church through the ministerial search website and congregational record. The congregational record contains demographics, history, and ministerial needs of Westside and is placed on the UUA Transitions site.

To see our finished product, please click on the following link: www.westsideuu.org/minister-search

The Negotiating Team is made up of Debby Rake, Bill Terry and Tom Woods. They have been working on putting together a draft ministerial agreement that includes salary and benefits.

Westside members, though the MSC will not be able to look at candidates until January, still have to set the church calendar for Sunday services for a potential call of a minister. Please save the following dates: April 24 – May 1, 2016.

Westside UUC Service Project

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

October '15	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee	\$638.07
September '15	South Central Alliance of Churches	\$1,022.60
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

The memory of most men is an abandoned cemetery where lie, unsung and unhonored, the dead whom they have ceased to cherish.

-Marguerite Yourcenar

The finalist in our ministerial search process will be coming to Westside for these eight exciting days. At that time we will have an opportunity to meet the candidate and hear him/her speak at both services on those two Sundays. On May 1, we will hold a congregational meeting following the second service to vote on calling the candidate as our settled minister.

Carol Cappa, MSC Secretary

Life Crisis Support Group

Rev. Alex would like to try out an idea several people suggested this year. We will have an informal support group for anyone who is going through some type of life crisis (and “crisis” might simply mean a major change that may be good or not). We will meet in Alex’s office on Wednesday, January 27 and Wednesday, February 24, from 7 to 8 p.m.

All conversation will be strictly confidential. This isn’t a therapy group as such as there’ll be no certified therapist present. It will be a mutual support group to share anxieties, hopes, fears, and much more as the holidays end and the New Year begins. Please check in with Alex if you have questions.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Sue Anderson has been a professor at TCU for more than 20 years. She’s a single mom with two daughters adopted from China, ages 17 and 12. Though this leaves her with little “spare time,” when she has a chance, she enjoys traveling, gardening, and yoga.

Margaret Boehle is an electrical engineer at POWER Engineers, where she does consulting work for utility power companies in transmission substation design. She has been a UU for around 20 years and moved to Texas two and a half years ago. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, cooking, reading, traveling, and running.

Gwen McCullough Genius was born Aug 29, 1944, and her hometown is DeQuincy, LA. She attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe, majoring in Pharmacy (BS, MS). She worked in the Houston/Galveston and Dallas/Fort Worth areas. She was married to Malcolm S. Genius from Iowa, LA. They had 2 drugstores, raised cows and kids. Michael and his family live near New Orleans. Melanie and her family live here in Fort Worth. Gwen is supposed to be retired, but she does work sometimes, and she teaches piano, babysits grandchildren, and likes to garden.

Amanda Hazel has her own business as a contract paralegal. She has been married for 14 years and a foster parent for 3. She has 2 dogs named Ghost and Pepper, and she loves to sing, dance, paint ceramics, and crochet. She loves Broadway musicals and singing in the Westside choir.

Jared Kinison teaches pre-k RE at Westside. He’s an adviser for the Westside youth group and is involved with the young adult group locally and in the region.

Jerrie Koppa is retired from nursing for the past 2 years. Previously, she was a member of First United Methodist. She is widowed with one son and one grandson. She has lived in Crowley for the past 44 years and joined the UU due to the diversity of the church.

Christina Sellers grew up in Ft. Worth knowing that she wasn’t a Christian and left it at that for most of her life. She is trained as a speech-language pathologist and is passionate about feminism, reproductive rights, animal welfare and marriage equality (whoopie). She is grateful to have found this community.

Madeline Sellers will be 1 year in three days. She loves to come to Westside to play with the kids and meet all of the friendly people. She likes to read, “do laundry” (empty drawers and hampers), make animal noises, climb stairs, sing songs and dance.

**My sole inspiration is
a telephone call from
a director.**

-Cole Porter

Daryl Sellers was born and raised primarily in Fort Worth and most of his extended family still live here. Being a religious, political, and social liberal that has always been curious about religion and spirituality, he has never felt comfortable in a “church” until he arrived at Westside with Christina and Madeline. Currently, he is an educator who is teaching 8th graders as much as he can about science.

Sarah Skiles has been a UU since 1998. She has two grown sons, a daughter-in-law, and three grandkids She has been a forensic analyst for 25 years, the last nine here in Fort Worth at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner’s Office. Sarah was interim part-time DRE here at Westside at one time.

“Lilies” Ends a Successful First Season for Evens at Westside



On November 14, EaW hosted our last event of 2015, a reading of “Lilies,” the award-winning play by Quebec playwright Michel Marc Bouchard. Sponsored by TheatreProfile.com, it was directed by Fort Worth’s own Therese Furphy and put together by local producers Gordon Kelly and Robin Benson. We have high hopes that we will have future collaborations with these talented folks for more evenings of dramatic inspiration.

The cast included some of Fort Worth’s most experienced actors as well as some new talents: Gary Payne, John Parker, Chris Cook, Esteban Vilchez, Todd Camp, Grover Coulson and Thad Isbell all read their parts with skill and passion, all the more remarkable since they had only been allowed one rehearsal before the performance.

Evenings at Westside will be on hiatus until next March, when we start our 2016 season. We will be taking the off season to look over what worked and what didn’t; if you have feedback to share or suggestions for 2016 performers, please feel free to contact me. We’ll announce next season’s roster as soon as it’s finalized.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Evenings at Westside happen this year!

-Janell Broyles

Give Those Unwanted Kitchen Towels a New Home

Have you been wishing you could donate those new or gently-used (and clean) kitchen towels that are taking up way too much space in your kitchen? Well, it just so happens that our Peas Corps volunteers have recently encountered a kitchen towel shortage and would be thrilled to give your unwanted towels a welcoming home. Make your wish come true and assist our Peas Corps volunteers in their efforts to make Westside’s kitchen run smoothly by dropping off those extra towels. Thanks!

**The ideal scientist
thinks like a poet and
only later works like a
bookkeeper.**

-E.O. Wilson

Join a Circle Supper

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

Summary of the October 21 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

A. Board Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015 (attached)

B. Committee and Task Force Reports (attached)

- a. Building & Grounds and Parking Lot
- b. Membership
- c. Ministerial Search
- d. Nominating and Leadership

C. Information Items

- a. Heart of Texas Leadership Committee (attached)
- b. Naming Opportunities on Your Campus (attached)

Minister's Report - (full report in the minutes book) Alex noted that we need a policy for building use including times and room requests. He and Cherri will work on this with the Council of Committees.

DLRE Report - (full report in the minutes book)

Financial Statements (full report in the minutes book)

Compensation Negotiating Team Report (attached) - The Board agreed to budget the minister's salary in a range of \$60,000 to \$75,000.

BUUTs and Bling Auction Report - The report thus far:

- 274 items donated including 5 raffle items
- 28 raffle tickets sold
- 135 dinner reservations

Ministerial Search Committee Update - The church will be "off limits" on 2/27/16, 3/12 and 3/19 from 9 to 5.

NTUUC Grants - Janelle Broyles will report on the Evenings @ Westside grant and will look for a way to spend the remaining amount of the grant. The Building & Grounds Committee suggested that the Board seek a grant for providing a \$500 match to re-stripe the Lipscomb parking lot, replace cracked and/or crumbling wheel stops, and straighten the light pole. This matter will be voted on at the November meeting.

Parking Lot - The Board is working with Fort Worth Code Compliance on the double fence bordering the lot.

Building Use Policy - The Board agreed that we need to update our policy for building use.

"Standing on the Side of Love" Branding Policy -The Board agreed that Westside will purchase rights to use the Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) brand materials for non-commercial use at a one-time fee of \$50.

Thanksgiving Bags - The sanctuary stage will be used to store and display the SCAC Thanksgiving donations. We need the space and our outreach to the community will be visible to visitors, and it will

I never saw an ugly thing in my life: for let the form of an object be what it may, -- light, shade, and perspective will always make it beautiful.

-John Constable

also serve as a reminder for people to contribute.

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Future Parking Potential - We have obtained a bid for \$11,000 for asphalt repaving of the west parking area. We will explore the possibility of a matching grant with St. John's.

Aija Jansone's Ministerial Application (attached) - Aija has asked Westside to sponsor her UUA candidacy.

TXUJM Faithify campaign raised \$8,300.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2016, at 7 p.m. 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

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND SERVE

Buddhist Meditation Group

The group still meets at 7 p.m. each Thursday usually in the sanctuary. We welcome novice and advanced meditators and all those in between. We will NOT have meditation group on Christmas Eve. We look forward to seeing anyone who wishes to have quiet time in the company of other dedicated meditators. Please check with Alex if you're interested or have questions.

Women of Westside Group (WOW) – December 19!

WOW meets at the church on the third Saturday of the Month for a brown bag lunch, conversation and a short program.

On December 19, we will meet for a potluck lunch instead of the usual brown bag lunch. Annie Foerster will lead us in festive stories and games.

If you would like to receive an email reminder of the meetings, contact Sue Anderson at Sander60tx@yahoo.com.

- Sharon Salih

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Westside Quilters will not meet in December. Have a wonderful holiday and we will see you in 2016.

Humanists of Fort Worth

Our Annual HoFW Winter Party will be held on December 9 at the Szechuan Chinese Restaurant (upstairs), 4750 Bryant Irvin Road. We will order from the standard menu, and they have a full bar. Please RSVP soon so we can finalize arrangements. To RSVP or obtain additional information, go to <http://www.meetup.com/Humanists-of-Fort-Worth/events/226710215/>

**No one has ever
become poor by giving.**

-Anne Frank

Annual Christmas Open House at Annie Foerster's

I had a great time last year when people dropped in for Christmas, so I'm going to invite you again. If you don't have family to help you celebrate Christmas, come find a ready-made family at my house. My daughter works Christmas Day so that someone with children can take a day off (and because the holiday overtime is great), so we usually celebrate early. This leaves me free to offer food and fun to others on Christmas afternoon. Here's how it works:

Come at 4:00 if you just want to stop by for wassail or wine

Stay or come by at 6:00 if you want dinner

I'll provide a roast and beverages

You bring a dish to pass

RSVP to so I know how much to prepare

Annie Foerster

redseamripper@gmail.com, 513.301.4646

Contemporary Book Group

A change from our usual date for the holidays, we will meet December 6 to 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 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.

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.

Humanist Book Club – December 5

Due to the holidays, the Humanist Book Club will meet at Westside on Saturday, December 5, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. We will discuss "Regaining Balance: The Evolution of the UUA" by Michael Werner and choose a book for discussion the following month. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com.

The [Nobel] prize is such an extraordinary honor. It might seem unfair, however, to reward a person for having so much pleasure over the years, asking the maize plant to solve specific problems and then watching its responses.

-Barbara McClintock

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Angels at Westside

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

Alliance for Children is dedicated to the protection and healing of child abuse victims. "It is the only

Tarrant County non-profit organization involved directly in the protection from child abuse through coordinated and teamed investigations with law enforcement, Child Protective Services, Cook Children's Medical Center, and the District Attorney's Office."

Angel tags will be available for you to select every Sunday morning before and between services through December 6. The Angel Tags will have information with each child's name, clothing sizes and "toy wishes." Westside also asks that a book be given to your child.

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

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

Please bring your child's gifts, unwrapped in a separate bag with a handle, with the Angel Tree tag attached to the bag's handle (like a gift tag). Please deliver to Westside by December 13. If you would rather make a financial contribution, place a check in the offering basket with memo marked "Angels at Westside." Contact: Kim Lucas at devinewoman@msn.com or and Kristin Pitt at kristinpitt@att.net

SWUW Conference 2016 – Save the Date!

The annual SouthWest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUW) Conference will be held in Lawton, Oklahoma, from February 26 to February 28. The Keynote speaker will be Lauren Zuniga, an internationally touring poet, activist, and teaching artist. She is a three time national slam finalist and one of the top ranked female slam poets in the world. For your listening pleasure, music will be provided by musicians SJ Tucker and Emma's Revolution.

A non-profit organization that supports women through worship, learning, leadership, community and social justice, SWUW addresses women's issues, explores feminist theology, promotes friendships and celebrates the diversities that make us unique women on our individual spiritual paths. SWUW is an organization open to all UU women, particularly those women in the Southwest District of the Southern Region of the UUA. SWUW aligns itself with the spirit of Welcoming Congregations as depicted by the UUA. All who see themselves as women are welcome.

Registration opens Dec 1. For additional information or to register, go to <http://www.swuuw.org/>

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.*

The Westside Story December 2015

Westside Story Staff:

Janice Sims; Editor
Eric Stevens; Designer
Sharon Salih; Distrib.

Silence will save me
from being wrong
(and foolish), but it will
also deprive me of the
possibility of being
right.

-Igor Stravinsky

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**

October 2015 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Oct. 4	340	70	12	15	137
Oct. 11	43	58	9	17	127
Oct. 18	46	59	6	14	125
Oct. 25	40	82	11	28	161
Averages	42.25	67.25	9.5	18.5	137.5



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.