



April 2016



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.

**The Westside Story
April 2016**

*It is a curious thought,
but it is only when you
see people looking
ridiculous that you realize
just how much you love
them. -Agatha Christie*

*Soon silence will have
passed into legend.
Man has turned his
back on silence. Day
after day he invents
machines and devices
that increase noise
and distract humanity
from the essence of
life, contemplation,
meditation. Tooting,
howling, screeching,
booming, crashing,
whistling, grinding, and
trilling bolster his ego.
-Jean Arp*

Sunday Services

April 3: *“Prayer and Meditation as Mindfulness Practices”* by Reverend Alex Holt. We UU's have a love/hate affair with prayer. It sounds suspiciously orthodox. Yet we also embrace or at least appreciate mindfulness meditation. What's the difference between the two and does it matter in the 21st century?

April 10: *“Youth Sunday.”* The High School Youth group will be every facet of the service ranging from the music, the readings, the Story For All Ages, and some truly heartfelt homilies. Please come support our youth as they seek to correct the misconceptions regarding their generation and explore the various traits that make that very generation unique.

April 17: *“Do Real Ministers Google and Other Important Issues”* by Reverend Alex Holt. What does Westside have to look forward to with the new settled minister? After all, ministers are all different but arrive with certain common qualities. One of them involves vacuum cleaners.

April 24: **Candidating Minister:** We look forward to welcoming the Candidating Minister to our pulpit for their first of two Sundays with us. This Ministerial Candidate has come to Westside following an extensive search and recommended by our elected Ministerial Search Committee. This is an exciting day in the life of Westside Unitarian Universalist Church and will help set the stage for our future. We know that you will want to make every effort to attend.

SUNDAY MORNING OPTIONS

Adult Religious Education Class

11:30-12:30 in the “Glass Classroom”

In April, we will continue our series of lessons drawn from the UU Tapestry of Faith curriculum. The “Spirit of Life” series offers participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each lesson focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade's song “Spirit of Life.” Participants are invited to claim an inclusive definition of spirituality and to recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each lesson. All adults are welcome and we look forward to learning and growing together on our individual and collective faith journeys. For more information, contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

Religious Odysseys

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

We will continue this wonderful tradition on every fourth Sunday of the month in Adult R.E. class. Religious Odysseys focus on how a person's beliefs and life views developed. The person sharing his or her journey talks for 20-30 minutes and then the floor is open for discussion and questions. If you have not attended Adult RE to hear these 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. To volunteer to share your Odyssey, or to nominate someone to share theirs, please contact Karen Moore at moorekandk@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Upcoming Children's Religious Education Events

- April 1: Middle School Game Night (6:30pm)
- April 1: High School Youth Group (6:30pm)
- April 3: K-2 OWL Child/Parent Orientation
- April 10: Youth Sunday Service
- April 15: High School Youth Group
- April 29-May 1: North Texas UU High School Rally

If you would like additional information, please email Cameron Young at dlre@westsideuu.org.

IN AND AROUND WESTSIDE

The Traveling Minister's Road Show

"What on Earth are Transcendent Values?"

If you were at the mid-year Westside business meeting, you probably remember Anita Snyder's excellent report on the work of the Transition Team. They have been working on a variation of mission/vision statements, with the goal to find a broadly supported and holistic way to unite the community within Westside to the changes we wish to see in the world. There was some question about what 'Transcendent Values' are and how to use them.

Here's one way to understand the importance of rooting church planning in a small number of values. You no doubt know of the Martin Luther King quote: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." He had adapted those words from 19th century Unitarian minister and abolitionist Theodore Parker. Parker had written them thusly, "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe, the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. But from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice."

We could imagine perhaps a rainbow arching across the sky. One old tale says that there's a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Perhaps King and Parker imagined something even more valuable at rainbow's end. They used the word 'justice' as the transcendent value that waits for us there.

Let's use King's version and try three different endings:

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward equality."

"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward compassion."

In my mind I see those three values – justice, equality and compassion – to be aspirations and moral imperatives. None of these values fully exist in America and elsewhere without conditions attached.

So imagine for a moment an arc like a rainbow or perhaps a huge bridge spanning the sky. We start at one end – the present – and we travel toward a destination by a way that seems long and arduous. Our continued hope and belief is that when we arrive at the far end we will find value being lived that have been human aspirations for millennia. For Westside, values that are the basis, focus and filter for our work are justice, equality and compassion.

The mission and vision will arise from that great journey and those three values that anchor our shared ministry. Each word will bring a nuanced understanding of what Westside wants to achieve in coming years. The Worship Team might explore how compassion deepens and enriches Sunday services. The forum might consider how justice is best applied in a fair and balanced way not only for those in the larger world but those in the circle of the forum on Sundays.

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*What power has love but
forgiveness? -William
Carlos Williams*

*Be not too hasty to trust
or admire the teachers
of morality; they
discourse like angels
but they live like men.
-Samuel Johnson*

*Invention requires an
excited mind; execution,
a calm one. -Johann
Peter Eckermann*

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Wear your learning, like your watch, in a private pocket, and do not pull it out and strike it merely to show you have one. If you are asked what o'clock it is, tell it, but do not proclaim it hourly and unasked, like the watchman. -Lord Chesterfield

In my youth I thought of writing a satire on mankind; but now in my age I think I should write an apology for them. -Horace Walpole

Transcendent Values are bigger than any of us, our faith, our country and even the world itself. We follow their trail and signs along that great arc of life to find them awaiting our children and children's children at the far end.

That's what I think Transcendent Values mean. How about you?

-Alex



Nourishing Our Garden – Westside's Annual Giving Campaign

Letter from the President

Dear Members and Friends,

It is that time of year when we are all asked to give back to Westside -- time, talent, and especially treasure -- to support its operation and programs. This year, we're calling it our annual giving and the theme is "Nourishing Our Garden." No, we're not beautifying our back patio, not yet.

Our proposed budget is significantly greater than last year's. Seeds were planted in the fall by the Facilities Task Force and approved by our Board to move toward our independence from tenant income. At our mid-year congregational meeting, we began to envision what Westside could be and do with use of the entire building seven days a week. Our Board approved a fair compensation package deemed necessary to secure the settled minister Westside needs.

Providing the nourishment our "garden" needs to flourish requires an investment from all of us who are able. Successful annual giving this year will require us to increase our pledges significantly beyond what we gave last year. Note: no pledge is too large! For those who did not pledge last year, please know that no pledge is too small. One hundred percent participation in annual giving will bring us closer to our goal.

Last year, seven of our children and youth made and honored pledges of their own. Their giving creates an extra burst of color in our garden. By creating a spiritual practice of pledging in our own lives, we are assuring Westside will be a vital congregation for years to come.

As you consider how you want to give back to Westside, please know that your generosity will give the sunflowers the nourishment they need to stretch higher toward the sun!

*-Dianne Nixon
President*

Letter from the Campaign Chairs

Dear Members and Friends,

It is an unfortunate fact: Money touches every aspect of our lives.

This includes our church lives. For fiscal year 2016-17, Westside will need approximately \$285,000 in financial pledges to operate. While this amount may seem daunting to some, we look at it as an opportunity.

Our annual giving campaign is an opportunity for each of us to put our values into action and become stewards of the church. At its essence, stewardship simply means taking responsibility for something we care about and helping maintain it.

Stewards not only protect existing resources — they also look to the future, committing to ensure our resources for future generations.

This packet includes a chart providing suggested levels of giving. This year, we ask you to consider giving at least 5 percent of your adjusted annual income to support the congregation. We understand that this amount can be more easily reached for some members than for others.

Your contribution will make a significant impact on our church. We will be able to make repairs to the building and roof, and support the pastoral care team and young adult programming. Perhaps most significant, we also aspire to reduce our dependence on our rental income by one-third.

We hope you will take time to review the chart, and view the campaign as an affirming experience. We also hope you will remember that money is only one part of stewardship; you can also contribute your time and talent.

Yes, money touches every aspect of our lives. The good news is, we get to decide how it will touch us.

-Sandy Lord and Caroline Nixon

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A man's life is interesting primarily when he has failed -- I well know. For it is a sign that he has tried to surpass himself.
-Georges Clemenceau

There's no sauce in the world like hunger.
-Miguel de Cervantes

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor. -Truman Capote

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.

February '16	Downwinders at Risk	\$601.00
January '16	Texas UU Justice Ministry (TUUJM)	\$774.80
January '16	Aija Jansome, UUA ministerial candidate	\$540.00
December '15	Community Hospice of Texas	\$661.02
November '15	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees	\$274.00
November '15	LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S	\$256.10
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

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*I will not let anyone
walk through my mind
with their dirty feet.
-Mohandas K. Gandhi*

*Words are also actions,
and actions are a
kind of words. -Ralph
Waldo Emerson*

*Within one linear
centimeter of your
lower colon there
lives and works more
bacteria (about 100
billion) than all humans
who have ever been
born. Yet many people
continue to assert that
it is we who are in
charge of the world.
-Neil deGrasse Tyson*

Young Adults Group

The Young Adults group meets on the 4th Thursday of every month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 28 will be a very important meeting, as the Ministerial Candidate for Westside will drop by to visit with the group.



Evenings at Westside

Our calendar is still in progress, but we've got lots of great acts already booked. Put us on YOUR calendar and plan to come out, support local performers, and have a great Saturday night every month during our 2016 season.

Want to Be Involved?

If you want to volunteer as part of the E@W Crew, sponsor some of our refreshments, advertise your business on our broadcasts on 97.5 KFTW, or otherwise be a part of Evenings at Westside, contact Janell Broyles at eveningsatwestside@gmail.com.

2016 Evenings at Westside Calendar

APRIL 9: Spoken Word Showcase

MAY 14: Reinventing Jude

JUNE 11: Breaking Light/TBD

JULY 9: TBD

AUGUST 13: Pentacon 6/Signals & Alibis

SEPTEMBER 10: Spoken Word Showcase

OCTOBER 8: Stories in the Dark

-Janell Broyles

Ministerial Search Committee

President's Message

Great excitement is in the air! Candidating Week will begin this month. "Candidating" is the process by which we meet and get to know the candidate our Ministerial Search Committee has selected. After the service on May 1, the climax of Westside's ministerial search will be our congregational vote on whether or not to ratify the committee's choice for our settled minister. Time will be allocated for brief discussion before the vote. Mark your calendar now to be present for and participate in this important decision for Westside's future.

*Peace, love, and joy,
-Dianne*

TIMELINE

March: The ministerial search committee has had the privilege of spending a weekend with all three of the candidates who were selected following a series of interviews held in February. We were proud to share the best parts of Fort Worth with them and, in turn, experienced them at their best as they participated in the services and shared a reflection at a "neutral pulpit."

April: On April 7, the committee will make a call to one of the three candidates, offering them the opportunity to become our settled minister. The negotiating team will work with the finalist on the terms of the contract. If the candidate accepts our offer, they will then be invited to Fort Worth with their family for Candidate Week.

During this time they will explore the area and socialize with the congregation. They will present the reflection during both services on April 24 and May 1. Following the second service on May 1, a congregational meeting will be held to vote on calling the finalist as our new minister. If the vote is not strong enough, they may decline the call. Make plans now to be present at Westside for the vote!!!

August - September:

The new minister arrives!!!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many candidates are there? What can you tell us about them? Unfortunately, MSC members cannot provide any information about candidates. For example, even to say, “we have some strong candidates” is not appropriate.

What happens if the committee does not find a candidate they believe is strong enough to bring forward for a vote? If the committee cannot settle on a finalist, the board and others would meet to discuss next steps. This might include starting another search for a settled minister or seeking an interim or developmental minister.

How strong does the vote need to be? Our bylaws state that four-fifths (80 percent) of the voting members present must vote in favor of the finalist.

Why would a candidate decline a call? To accept a call, some ministers may want a stronger vote, perhaps 90 or 95 percent of voting members present.

What happens if the congregational vote is not strong enough, or the finalist declines the call?

In either case, the board and others would again meet to determine the next steps.

If you are a recent new member or friend here at Westside, please take a look at the Westside Ministerial Search Website which the committee spent many hours putting together during the fall. It can be viewed at: www.westsideuu.org/ministerial-search or on the main page of our church website - click on the blue box that says Ministerial Search Update.

-Carol Cappa, MSC Secretary

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*It's good to have money and the things that money can buy, but it's good, too, to check up once in a while and make sure that you haven't lost the things that money can't buy.
-George H. Lorimer*

We must learn to honor excellence in every socially accepted human activity, however humble the activity, and to scorn shoddiness, however exalted the activity. An excellent plumber is infinitely more admirable than an incompetent philosopher. The society that scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water. -John W. Gardner

Join a Circle Supper – April 16

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. For more information or to be added to the email list, please contact Elizabeth Campbell at batescampbell@gmail.com

Family Circle Suppers will also be meeting the third Saturday of every month at various members' homes. If interested, please contact Lauren Leising at eLLekaye@juno.com or 817-846-8012.

*Imagine there's no
countries, / It isn't hard
to do. / Nothing to kill or
die for, / And no religion,
too. / Imagine all the
people / Living life in
peace. -John Lennon*

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

*Life is a four-letter word.
-Lenny Bruce*

Summary of the February 17 Board Meeting

Consent Agenda (reports and minutes in the minutes book)

- Board Meeting Minutes January 20, 2016
- Mid-Year Congregational Meeting Minutes January 31, 2016
- Committee and Task Force Reports
 - a. Safe Congregation
 - b. NTUUC
 - c. Ministerial Search
 - d. Building and Grounds
 - e. Membership
 - f. Stewardship
- Sickle Cell Anemia Association of Fort Worth as the recipient of the March loose plate offering.

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) The Treasurer is reconciling the Wells Fargo, Icon, UBS and TD Ameritrade accounts. The reports will be filed for review.

Guns in the Building - The Board voted to post, at appropriate places to comply with the requirements of Texas law, a sign or signs that prohibit concealed weapons and open carry of firearms on the premises of Westside UU Church. The restriction will apply seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

AMS Building Issues - AMS will pay their share of the classroom doors in three \$500 payments. The school wishes to have the rooms repainted preserving the murals. We discussed who should pay the extra expense involved in painting around the murals. We will review this issue when we have the cost figures.

Parking Lot - Suggestions include restriping the lines and posting reserved signs for visitors and seniors, as well as a sign noting that the parking lot is for Westside UU use only on Sundays.

2016-2017 Draft Budget - The Board reviewed the budget, and with some changes approved forwarding same to the Stewardship Committee.

Building Use Task Force - Plans for building use when we have full use of the church space will be coordinated with a Capital Campaign to begin in the Fall.

Garage Sale - The Board approved a Youth Fundraiser Garage Sale on the sidewalk at Westside on April 16, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Setup will be in the foyer April 15, 7 to 11 p.m.

Social Justice Council - Kim Hart has resigned as Social Justice Chair.

The next meeting will be April 20, 2016, 7:00 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

Westside Library Book Review

“American Bloomsbury: Louisa May Alcott, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Margaret Fuller, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau: Their Lives, Their Loves, Their Work” by Susan Cheever (2007).

For those of you who have participated in the Adult Religious Education series on Transcendentalism this book may be of particular interest. It presents the lively personal stories of individuals who came to be known as the Transcendentalists and their relationships with one another. It is a compelling story that brings new insights into the lives of these remarkable writers whose influence continues to impact contemporary thinking.

This book can be found in Westside’s library shelved under the call number 810.9 Che. Westsiders can search the online library catalog www.librarything.com/catalog/Westsideuu or by clicking on the Westside UU Library button at <http://www.westsideuu.org/>. The library is open on Sunday mornings.

The Library Committee is looking for more librarians to take a turn helping out on Sunday mornings and for the occasional workday. If you are interested the Library can be reached by email at Library@westsideuu.org.

- Sharon Salih
for the Library Committee

*The higher we soar
the smaller we appear
to those who cannot
fly. -Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche*

*Who, being loved, is
poor? -Oscar Wilde*

*A man of courage never
needs weapons, but he
may need bail. -Lewis
Mumford*

Buddhist Meditation Group

The Buddhist meditation group continues to meet weekly on Thursday evenings usually in the church sanctuary. We meet from 7 to 8 p.m. We do 25 minutes of sitting meditation followed by tea and conversation about the dharma teachings of the Buddha and the teachers who followed him. Novices certainly welcome and no uncomfortable positions. See Alex if you have questions.

Women of Westside Group (WOW) – April 16!

WOW meets at the church on the third Saturday of the Month for a brown bag lunch, conversation and a short program. For the April meeting we will continue our series of biographies of UU women.

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

- Sharon Salih

Quilting/Handiwork Group

Quilting at Westside will be meeting on the third Sunday after Church every month. So, we hope to see many quilters, quilters-to-be, and folks who would just like to help on Sunday, April 17, 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.

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*No man's credit is as
good as his money.
-E.W. Howe*

*There is one art of which
man should be master,
the art of reflection.
-Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

*Think for yourself and
question authority.
-Timothy Leary*

Humanists of Fort Worth

The HoFW will meet at its regular time at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 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

We will meet on Sunday, April 24, to discuss Anne Perry's first book in the Monk Series, "The Face of a Stranger." From Goodreads: His name, they tell him, is William Monk, and he is a London police detective. But the accident that felled him has left him with only half a life; his memory and his entire past have vanished. As he tries to hide the truth, Monk returns to work and is assigned to investigate the brutal murder of a Crimean War hero and man about town. Which makes Monk's efforts doubly difficult, since he's forgotten his professional skills along with everything else...

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 – April 23

The Humanist Book Club meets at Westside on the fourth Saturday of the month, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. A book is chosen by the group for discussion the following month. In April the book is "The Sacred Depths of Nature" by Ursula Goodenough. All are welcome. Facilitated by Morris Meador, meadormorris1@gmail.com.

Seventh Principle Notes from your Green Sanctuary Committee

Recycling: The author has been far, far away for the last three weeks, so I am putting this together on the fly. While I know that a number of Westsiders reside in communities other than Fort Worth, the information in this article relates primarily to that little city on the Trinity, and to Westside, itself. I'll do some research regarding recycling policies in other area polities and include those in a future *Westside Story*. Any information residents outside of Fort Worth can provide will certainly be appreciated.

As you know, Westside actively encourages recycling by providing a blue cart in the Fellowship Hall, near the Women's Restroom. You do very well in what you place in that cart for recycling. Occasionally, though, it pays to mention some things which, perhaps ought to be recyclable, but are not. Since volunteers take the contents from the cart home and place them in their Fort Worth recyclable carts, we must abide by Fort Worth's guidelines. Also, the list of recyclables changes occasionally--for instance, pizza boxes are now accepted, as long as they are relatively clean.

Items NOT accepted include: Plastic bags and films; aluminum foil and disposable baking pans; napkins, tissues and paper towels; gift wrap and greeting cards; drink boxes and straws; styrofoam; any kind of light bulb; containers that held hazardous materials; used label sheets; hard cover books; and food scraps.

Acceptable items include: Milk cartons; plastic eating utensils; pots and pans; steel or tin food cans and lids; empty aerosol cans – with spray nozzle; food trays, tubs and bowls (should be relatively clean); magazines; and aluminum drink cans (not flattened).

Westside also provides locations for recycling small batteries and printer cartridges just outside the sanctuary doors.

Fort Worth residents can recycle old electronics at the city's drop-off stations (these electronics often contain valuable, as well as toxic materials). The drop-off stations also provide a good location for picking up free compost. You can often find free paint and other chemicals at the hazardous waste recycle/disposal site on the city's far east side.

Get more information at www.fortworthtexas.gov/solidwaste, 817-392-1234, or via the Fort Worth Garbage and Recycling app, available from the usual suspects. Let's save tax bucks and keep reusable materials out of our landfills.

Green Movie Nites: Our next John Huffman Green Movie is tentatively scheduled for June 25 at 6:30 p.m. The movie has not yet been selected, though we have had a couple of suggestions. If you have a favorite, do let us know.

April Committee Meeting: The Green Sanctuary Committee will not meet in April, and our meeting times through the month of June are pre-empted by other events. Therefore, our next meeting will be July 10. Whether you're interested in membership, or just want to sit-in, you will be very welcome.

OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

SWUUC Spring Conference, April 8-10

This year's Spring Conference will be held at the Wildflower Church, 1314 E. Oltorf St., Austin, Texas.

Please join our Theme Speaker, Kathy McGowan, Congregational Life Field Staff for the Southern Region of the UUA and Specialist in Intercultural Sensitivities, for a day of engaging conversation around areas of difference that make a difference.

We will explore how congregations are answering the call to multicultural justice-making through a panel discussion featuring leaders who are seeing success in navigating the difficult waters of difference in their congregations, clusters, and states. Following the panel discussion, the panel speakers will lead small-group conversations which deepen our understanding and bring light to our struggles in each area. Areas include cultural differences and racial justice, LGBT justice, generational issues and faith development as a justice issue, and navigating interfaith partnerships.

Participants who are 14 and older are invited to attend all workshops. Participants who are ages 5 through 13 are invited to attend the workshop on generational and faith development issues. Participants under 5 years of age may either attend workshops with their guardians or attend on-site childcare.

Registration fee is \$75 on or before April 1; \$125 after April 1. For additional information or to register, please go to: <http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/swspring2016.html>

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.

The Westside Story April 2016

Westside Story Staff:
Janice Sims; Editor
Eric Stevens; Designer
Sharon Salih; Distrib.

*I have a trunk
containing continents.
-Beryl Markham*

*A man who has never
gone to school may
steal from a freight car;
but if he has a university
education, he may
steal the whole railroad.
-Theodore Roosevelt*

*Remember, we all
stumble, every one of us.
That's why it's a comfort
to go hand in hand.
-Emily Kimbrough*

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

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**

February 2016 Attendance

	10AM Adults	11:30 Adults	10AM Kids	11:30 Kids	Total
Feb. 7	37	51	5	18	111
Feb. 14	33	61	11	13	118
Feb. 21	43	62	6	15	126
Feb. 28	39	62	6	27	134
Averages	38	59	7	18.25	122.25



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.