

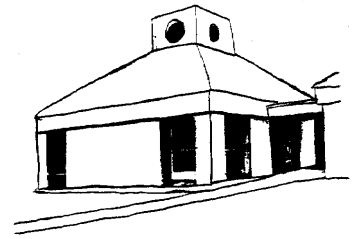
The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342
Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard
<http://uuvaldosta.net>

229-242-3714 e-mail: uuvaldosta@yahoo.com



Please note that although individual personal contact information has been removed from this online newsletter, you can obtain more information on any event or ask questions by sending an e-mail to uuvaldosta@yahoo.com.

What's going on... **August 2013**

Sun	Aug 4	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Transitions with Grace: Helping Our Family Members and Ourselves,” Rev. Bertrum Whitfield Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
W	Aug 7	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing at the church
F	Aug 9	6:30 PM	Potluck and Book Discussion at the church
Sun	Aug 11	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Spiritual But Not Religious,” Dr. Michael Stoltzfus Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	Aug 12	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Th	Aug 15		<i>Deadline for September newsletter</i>
F	Aug 16	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie at the church
Sun	Aug 18	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – <i>Confirmed information about this service was unavailable as the newsletter went to press.</i> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i>
F	Aug 23	6:30 PM	Games Night at the church
Sun	Aug 25	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - “Immigration as a Moral Issue,” Dr. Carol Stiles. Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>First of several after service conversations about immigration, which will continue after the service in coming weeks.</i>

August ... And here I thought I was going to have a blank calendar!! I should have known better. We all just move a little slower in the hot summer months I guess. As some of you know my e-mail was empty of UU Valdosta information when I started on this newsletter a week ago, but you came through. What a full and varied calendar. All of your church jobs, as well as mine, are volunteer jobs. Thank you when you help me with our community’s communication. We can be a community only if we do communicate with each other. Come when you can. We miss you when you are absent.

Sunday Services

Sunday, August 4 – Rev. Bertrum Whitfield, Transitions with Grace: Helping Our Family Members and Ourselves
Rev. Bertrum Whitfield, Chaplain at the Presbyterian Home in Quitman, will speak on working with elders and their families when transitioning to assisted living or nursing homes. For many this is a difficult transition, leaving long-time, sometimes life-time homes, and moving into unfamiliar spaces with new ways of doing things. For family members, it can be almost as difficult, including feelings of sadness, regret at not being able to care for the family member at home, and the difficulty of uprooting the family member. Formerly a chaplain at South Georgia Medical Center, Rev. Whitfield has also worked with many individuals experiencing difficult and life-threatening health issues. He is a “board-eligible” chaplain, and this fall he will complete the five-year process of becoming a board-certified chaplain with the final board interview. His seminary work was at Virginia Union University, where he completed a M.Div., specializing in Christian Education. Prior to his time as a chaplain, Rev. Whitfield served as a Navy Communications Chief.

Sunday, August 11 – Dr. Michael Stoltzfus, “Spiritual But Not Religious”

"I'm spiritual but not religious" is becoming the rallying cry of many in contemporary American culture. What might people mean by saying this? How are spirituality and religion similar and different? We will explore these issues by reflecting on the idea of practice, the nature of belief, and the role of individuality. We will also explore the common criticisms spiritual but not religious people make of traditional religion. Dr. Stoltzfus is a professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at VSU and a regular speaker each month at our congregation. We welcome him back after a summer break.

Sunday, August 18 – *Confirmed information about this service was unavailable when the newsletter went to press. Watch for later announcements.*

Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the “Hungry at Home” Backpack Food program. Donations to the plate not designated for pledges will be used to purchase items for the “Hungry at Home” weekend back-pack food program for S.L. Mason Elementary. This program provides backpacks containing nutritious food items to send home with a child or children in a family that might not otherwise have consistent meals on the weekends. We will also collect new / gently used backpacks and non-perishable single-serving food items (items should be easy-open, i.e., pop tops, rather than a can opener needed) for the program. Bring these items to the church any time on or before the third Sunday of the month.

Sunday, August 25 – Dr. Carol Stiles “Immigration as a Moral Issue,”

Carol Stiles, President of UU Valdosta, will present an overview of the Statement of Conscience, “Immigration as a Moral Issue,” overwhelmingly approved by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations at General

Assembly 2013. See Carol’s column in this issue for more information.

Fred Howard is our part time minister. After being on leave during the summer months he will return regularly to our services in September. You may contact him by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com should you need to reach him. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

Religious Education

For Children: The RE program for children under 15 years of age meets at 10:45 AM concurrent with the Sunday morning service. Older young people will remain with the adult service. Two adults are needed each Sunday to help with RE. Sign up on the weekly e-mail volunteer list or let Sue Bailey know if you can help on a given Sunday.

Sangha Tuesdays

5:30-7:00 PM at the church

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group meets on Tuesday evenings at the church. Everyone interested in Buddhist practice and meditation is welcome. Tea, 5:30-6: Buddhist shamata meditation, 6-6:30; Discussion of reading, 6:30-7. Participants should supply their own pillow for sitting, although using a chair for those unable to sit on the floor is allowed. The group shares books and the liturgy.



VALDOSTA SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP

This support group hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta is facilitated by Tamara Hardesty. The group meets at the church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8 P.M. Contact via e-mail at sosvaldosta@yahoo.com or connect online at **VALDOSTA SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP** or ‘Like’ us on **facebook** for online support, daily affirmations, links to resources, and information on upcoming meetings.

Social Action Activities

Break Bread Together

We deliver meals with the Break Bread Together program on the 2nd Monday (and 5th when there is one) of each month. Let Betty Derrick or Dee Tait know if you are interested in helping with this service.

UU Valdosta Caring Committee Contact Dee Tait if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee.

INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of our fellowship, we encourage you to talk with our minister, Rev. Fred Howard or our President, Carol Stiles, or Membership Director, Kimberly Tanner. We welcome your questions, and we extend an open invitation to all who want to join our liberal community of faith.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAROL STILES

I had the honor of representing our congregation at the UUA General Assembly held in Louisville, KY, June 19-23 - and the additional honor of speaking at a Sunday Service in early July about my trip to GA. General Assembly is, of course, the gathering of congregational voting delegates who discuss and vote upon many different items – that is, General Assembly is how UU's carry out governance. But it is also much more – music, worship, workshops, social justice, and inspirational speakers, including the poet Frank X. Walker, activist and writer Wendell Berry, and interfaith activist Eboo Patel, this year's Ware Lecturer. Many of the sessions were recorded and are online at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>

At GA, the UUA delegates overwhelmingly passed the "Immigration as a Moral Issue" Statement of Conscience (SOC). This SOC has been under study since GA 2010, and the statement presented at GA was finely honed by the Commission on Social Witness based upon many discussions / comments before and at GA 2013. Briefly (and quoting from a *UU World* GA blog): "The SOC calls on UUs to 'affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely.' A moral immigration policy will include: a path to legal permanent residency and citizenship; work visas; due process; and preservation of family unity, among other things...."

Eboo Patel, in the Ware Lecture at GA, asked this question: "What UU stories, language, ideas might you call upon to give expression to your conviction that interfaith cooperation is an article of your faith?" Immigration reform and human rights for immigrants are in the national conscience right now, perhaps more than any time before. The UUA and many other denominations have spoken out about immigration reform and fair treatment of immigrants. I believe that we need to prepare ourselves better on this social justice concern, so that we may develop a language to be able to "Stand on the Side of Love...With Immigrant Families," as the sign at our entrance proclaims. To this end, we will be holding some after-service conversations this fall, using the UUA curriculum developed for this Statement of Conscience. It all starts August 25 – join us for the service that will kick off this effort and watch for announcements of further conversations.

Finally, consider attending a UUA General Assembly in the future – it is an experience you won't forget!

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Betty Derrick
August 15: Deadline for the September newsletter.

If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.

Website Manager: Carol Stiles, uualdosta@yahoo.com
e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles
Facebook: Kimberly Tanner
Local Publicity: Dee Tait



Thank You! Thank You!

For layleading services: Doug Tanner, Valerie Webster, Lars Leader
For speaking at Sunday services: Carol Stiles, Doug Tanner
For Sunday service music: Rhett Watson, Bill Webster, Amy Wells
For Stories for All Ages: Sue Bailey,
For helping with Children's RE: Dawn Renner, Emma, Teagan, Meredith Covert, Kimberly and Doug Tanner
For serving as Meet and Greet Hosts: Doug Tanner
For greeting visitors: Kimberly Tanner, Dee Tait
For delivering Break Bread meals in July: Dee Tait
For cleaning the church last month: The Buddhist Sangha.
For coordinating the potluck lunch on the Shared Service Sunday in July: Dee Tait
For cleaning the church prior to the Shared Service: Kimberly and Doug Tanner, Sue Bailey, and any others who may have helped!
For bringing various items for the shared service potluck lunch: Carol Stiles, Doug Tanner, Kim Richardson, Sue Bailey, Lars Leader, Kathy and Fred Howard, Dee Tait, Raynae Jones, Diana Neel, David Rodgers, Valerie Webster, chicken, turkey, ham, corn, beans, okra, greens, soup, rolls, cornbread, and rice from Serenity Christian Church
For layleading and providing coordination for the shared Sunday service: Lars Leader
For coordinating the RE Project for the shared Sunday service: Sue Bailey
For playing music for the shared service: Rhett Watson
For donating some of her honey to benefit the church: Holly Jones

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns....

Thought you might like to know

- ❖ We extend best wishes to the Covert Family as they relocate to Delaware in late July. We'll miss you!

Notes from Kids' RE - Sue Bailey

Hope everyone is enjoying the Tidal Pool Community display in the sanctuary! We have such wonderful artists in RE! The kids have enjoyed learning about some of the creatures that live in tidal pools and making fish, crabs, sea anemones, and other creatures. We will continue our focus on the 7th principle - We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home we share with all living things - as we explore our interconnection with the ocean and its inhabitants and continue to learn about ways we can and should take care of our world. As always, we welcome visitors and volunteers to assist in the RE class. If you are interested in volunteering, there is a signup sheet at the back of the church or you can talk to Sue Bailey. You might also wish to add your email to the volunteers list to get weekly messages about volunteering for RE and other church tasks. Please see Doug Tanner about the volunteer email list.

Let's Have Some Fun!!

Book Discussion and Potluck

Friday, August 9 6:30 PM - At the church

The book is "The Left Hand of Darkness" by Ursula Le Guin. This is a book which, among other issues, deals with the significance of gender. The story takes place on a planet where the humanoid inhabitants at different times during their life cycle, are biologically female and at other times male. It is an interesting story which raises provocative questions about gender roles. The book is available in the library and should be available cheaply as a used book on Amazon. The group gathers for a potluck and fellowship for the first hour and then begins the discussion at 7:30 PM ending around 8:30 PM after choosing the next book. The group chooses books related to difference. All are welcome. It's always more interesting if you've read the book but you're always welcome whether you have done so or not. Plan to join the discussion in August. Contact Betty Derrick if you have books to suggest.

PIZZA AND A MOVIE

Friday, August 16 6:30 PM at the church

Please contribute \$5.00 to cover pizza and refreshments. The film "The Changeling" begins at 6:30 PM. Fred Howard and David Rogers are the contacts for this event. Let them know if you have suggested films for the future.

In Changeling (Rated R, 2008) Christine Collins (Angelina Jolie), a single mother, returns to her Los Angeles home from work to find her ten-year-old son Walter (Gattlin Griffith) missing. When she seeks help from the LAPD to locate him, she encounters a morass resembling the fate of the character in a Kafka short story who repeatedly seeks justice from the law for many years, only to be told by a guard, "It is true that no-one else has passed here, that is because this door was always meant solely for you, but now, it is closed forever." After five months, authorities present Collins with a boy in order to counter negative public perception brought on by their failure to solve the serial killing of many boys. When she determines he is not Walter, she resumes her emotional appeal for help. To silence her press appeals, Chief Davis

(Colm Feore) sends her to LA County hospital's "psychopathic ward" for psychiatric evaluation and protective custody on the pretext of mental derangement because she refuses to accept a contrived version of reality. Radio evangelist Gustave Biegleb (John Malkovich) launches a crusade to release Collins and women like her jailed because the police conveniently label them "crazy." Among critics who praise the film, Roger Ebert states, "The film simply tells its relentless story and rubs the LAPD's face in it. This is the story of an administration that is directed from the top down to lie, cheat, torture, extract false confessions that serve to protect its image." Other critics pan the film, including Stephen Garret, who writes in *Esquire* (May, 2008): "Ultimately all of Eastwood's genre-blending comes up with nothing more than a hollow highbrow message movie that lacks all the blood and verve of its lowbrow inspirations."

Games Night

Friday, August 23 6:30PM - until at the church

Often we play Mexican Train (dominoes), but we enjoy learning new games. If you have a game that is not limited to small numbers of players, please bring it along! Sue says it's still too hot and buggy for the firepit to return but come join the games in air conditioned comfort! Contact: Susan Bailey.

UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News July 3, 2013

(Note that some matters appear in articles and announcements elsewhere in this newsletter and are not repeated here. The full minutes are posted on the RE wing bulletin board after approval by the board.)

The UU Board discussed:

- Cleaning the church - the Buddhist group did a thorough job of cleaning the first week of the month. Additional cleaning will be scheduled as needed.
- Pride Festival is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013. Kimberly will submit the application for a table.
- Final plans for Shared Service with Serenity Christian were discussed. Lars Leader will laylead, Dee Tait will coordinate potluck, and Sue Bailey is working on plans for the RE project.

Next meeting, Wednesday, August 7, 6:00 p.m.

Holly Jones' honey for sale to benefit the church!!! Holly has some honey for sale for \$10 with all proceeds going to the UU church. Honey is located where our name tags are with a jar for the money.



Children in RE

At the Church-in-the-Woods

New Hope Christian Community Church- Sunday evenings: Choir practice at 4:30 PM. Service at 6:00 PM.
<http://www.wix.com/nhccc1/nhccc>

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday: Summer Schedule (until August 15) 6:00-7:30 PM; New Beginner's Class starts Thursday, August 15 7-8 PM. On August 15 the Continuing Class will begin meeting 5:30-7 PM. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

South Georgia Pride – 3rd Tuesday each month, 7:30PM
Contact Raynaé Jones www.southgapride.com
The August 20 at 7:30 meeting will be a Pizza Party. This is a free event but donations for our Pride Festival will be appreciated. Also, we will have a representative from the South Health District doing Free HIV testing that night.

In addition South Georgia Pride is asking for donations of school supplies. We will be giving them to the Save Our Children program at Serenity Church. People can email me at rjones@southgapride.com or bring them to the August 20 SGP meeting

PFLAG Meeting – 4th Tuesday each month, 7:00PM
Contact: Doug Tanner The web page for PFLAG Valdosta:
<http://community.pflag.org/Valdosta>



RE kids from UU Valdosta and Serenity Christian Church with their shared service project in mid-July.

Shared Service Sunday with Serenity Christian Church

On Sunday, July 21 members of UU Valdosta and Serenity Christian Church shared Sunday services and UU Valdosta hosted a potluck lunch at the UU church in what has become an annual July event for both churches. In the past as many as 60 people have lunched together after the services.

The day begins with UUers carpooling the short distance from the UU church to Serenity Christian Church to attend their service. Later in the morning, members of Serenity's congregation follow the UU folks back to the UU Valdosta church where our minister Rev. Fred Howard delivered a sermon entitled "Love Has No Color: Painting Life by Numbers."

Sue Bailey planned another RE Project this year as she has in the past. This year's project was two "jars" filled with rainbow colored sand with a quote from Eboo Patel inscribed on each. In the past the children have done interfaith peace trees and a peace pole. In each case two objects are prepared, one for each church. This year's project is pictured below along with a picture of the young people during the RE class.

The quote is:

*I believe every inch of America is shared,
from sea to shining sea.*

*I believe we make it holy by who we welcome and by
how we relate to each other.*

...Eboo Patel



"Don't walk the path alone: come for Sunday morning worship and stay for community."

– Victoria Weinstein, UU minister

"There is no means to arrive at a sense of our self that does not pass through our relationships with others."

– Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson, UU minister