



# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342

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Minister: Rev. Fred Howard

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|--|--|
| Tom Aiello – President                   | Carol Stiles - Vice-President /Program Chair |
| Rosie Asbury –Treasurer                  | Susan Bailey - Director of R.E.              |
| Kimberly Tanner – Director of Membership | Jim Ingram –Director of Building & Grounds – |
| Tom Phillips – Secretary                 | Carol Stiles – Newsletter Ed.                |

Please contact us by e-mail at [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

### What's going on... **February 2016**

|      |         |           |   |
|------|---------|-----------|---|
| Sun  | Feb. 7  | 10:45 AM  | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service - Rev. Fred Howard, "The Risk of Love"</b><br>Welcoming Congregation                             |
| Sun  | Feb. 14 | 10:45 AM  | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service – Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser, "A Sunday of Music"</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service        |
| M    | Feb. 15 | 11:00AM   | Break Bread delivery  |
| M    | Feb. 15 |           | Deadline - February newsletter  |
| Fri. | Feb. 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Pizza and a Movie!  |
| Sun  | Feb. 21 | 10:45 AM  | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service - Rev. Fred Howard, "Community and the Myth of Perfection"</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service |
| Fri  | Feb. 26 | 6:30 PM   | Games Night and Fire Pit!   |
| Sun  | Feb. 28 | 10:45 AM  | Religious Education for children<br><b>Service - Rev. Bennie Calloway, "The Gospel of Responsibility"</b><br>Meet & Greet after the service     |

## February, 2016

Join us for a special music service on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, as Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser return for a visit during our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year! And we are planning in earnest for the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> on March 20! See Dee Tait or Carol Stiles to volunteer to help with planning!

#### Mission Statement

*The Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta* is committed to building a community of acceptance and love, where all people may strive for intellectual, moral, and spiritual enlightenment. We offer a place to celebrate life's passages and to join in social action on behalf of local and global communities.

## Sunday Services

### Sunday, February 7 – Rev. Fred Howard, “The Risk of Love”

Love is a risky business. Our love goes unrequited. Our love is scorned. Our love is taken advantage of. Our lover falls out of love and we remain trapped in that most powerful emotion. Even if our love is returned, and our relationship is successful, it will one day be lost - the human condition being what it is. And yet we still take the risk. We are such interesting creatures. In honor of the upcoming Valentine’s Day holiday, I’ll explore this facet of love – one of life’s most fascinating subjects.

### Sunday, February 14 – Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser, “A Sunday of Music”

Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser return from Portland, Oregon, for this special Sunday of music! We will be learning some of the songs in the UU music supplement, *Singing the Journey*. Molly and Doug will provide special music for elements of the service. Plan to return Sunday evening for a potluck party and a chance to visit with our former musicians during their return visit to the southeast U.S. - more in this newsletter.

### Sunday, February 21 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Community and the Myth of Perfection”

I’m not \_\_\_\_\_ enough. How do you fill in that sentence? Psychologists and personal growth experts say that all of us see ourselves as deficient in some way and, if we’re honest with ourselves, put something in that blank. Healthy functioning, both individually and collectively, requires that we fill in the blank of a different sentence. This morning I’ll elaborate.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. SGPEH partners “with federal, state, local, and private organizations...to provide services and support to poverty-stricken and other disadvantaged individuals.” More info:*

<http://www.sgpeh.com/>

### Sunday, January 24 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, “The Gospel of Responsibility”

In this message in observance of black history month, we will examine the lives of two great leaders, Booker T. Washington and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois. We will examine their contrasts and commonalities in philosophy as it relates to empowerment of black people from intellectual and industrial perspectives.

Their objective was the same and that was developing a self help mindset. This mindset has many applications in helping black Americans in the 21st century. We can have the same mind but not always mind the same. All black people don't think alike. This message will disseminate the group identity stereotype among blacks in America.

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. 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.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health concerns.

## 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 volunteer list at the church or through Carol Stiles and the Worship Team.

## Molly and Doug return!

One Sunday in early fall 1997, Molly Scholz and Doug Fraser attended one of our Sunday services. We were without a musician, so Molly went to the piano and played the hymns that day! That's how Molly and Doug became our musicians for the next four years, before they returned to live in Portland in the summer of 2001. While here they served on the UU board and in other volunteer positions, and led us in organizing coffee houses that were great fun, while also raising a little bit of money!

Doug is a real estate agent and professional musician, playing guitar with the Portland band, Quarterflash, over 25 years. He uses his musical talents to work with at-risk youth through a program called PlayWrite. Molly retired last summer after 10 years of teaching music at Riverdale Grade School in Portland. Her principal at Riverdale had this to say when announcing her retirement: "Molly inspires our children daily as they make music from the moment they walk into her classroom until – well, truth be told, *on occasion* one minute after they are to be dismissed. Molly requires a lot from her students – setting the bar high and encouraging students to not only be outstanding musicians, but also great young people."

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>, to welcome Molly and Doug back to Valdosta, during this, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year! Sunday evening at the church, we will have a potluck / party for Molly and Doug and all their friends from the community. All are welcome!

## Welcoming Congregation

Our Welcoming Congregation conversations are based on the UUA curriculum, "Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum." We will continue this session on the first Sunday in February, after the service and a brief meet-n-greet. For more information and to receive announcements about readings, etc., please contact Carol Stiles. Carol and Kimberly, along with Tom Aiello and some possible guests, will co-facilitate these sessions.



## Ministerial Musings

Rev Fred Howard

On December 3, I read of yet another mass shooting in our country – the San Bernardino attack that left 14 people killed and 22 seriously injured. President Obama declared this an act of terrorism, and by such definition became the worst terrorist attack on US soil since September 11, 2001. Though I'm disappointed in myself for saying it, the news registered little visceral response from me - so used to such headlines I've become over the past few years. Consciously or unconsciously, I've succumbed to the same psychological defense mechanism most Americans employ to divorce themselves from the reality of news reports. As perplexing as this facet of the human situation is, it's simply the only way I'm able to get up the next day and read the newspaper or look at the internet again.

What did command my attention was the headline of New York's *Daily News* about this attack, "God Isn't Fixing This," the headline flanked by tweets from various politicians with the word "prayer" highlighted. The *Daily News*, provocative in its call for stricter gun control, obviously meant for the article to shame the pols into getting off their knees and enacting stricter gun control legislation. This headline got people's attention and evoked wide ranging responses – some calling it "brilliant," and some "deplorable."

A notable response to this headline from one perspective on the gun control conversation: "Ironically, enough, the 'Don't Just Pray There, Do Something' meme will actually keep things from happening. After all, some of our biggest obstacles to policy solutions of any kind is an ideologically fractured populace where virtually every issue is a test of political purity. If you shame away the most human aspects of public life — such as the call to pray for one another — you will find this situation worsening, not getting better. After all, we learn to listen to one another, and even work together, because we see one another as fellow humans, fellow citizens, as people of goodwill, not just as avatars to be warred against on a screen." (Dr. Russell Moore, the head of the Southern Baptist

Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.)

And from another perspective:

"The *Daily News*' front page is not, in any way, shape or form, condemning prayer or religion. Anyone suggesting otherwise is either — intentionally or unintentionally — misconstruing the point, which is that most GOP politicians have offered nothing but empty platitudes and angry rhetoric in response to the ongoing plague of gun violence in our country." (Jim Rich, editor in chief of the *Daily News*)

Both of these responses are notable for their civility in the heated exchanges that the headline and the article sparked. That's what's missing in the conversation over this, like so many, crucial issue(s) of our time. Civility. But to have discourse, even a civil public one, someone has to incite the emotions of people to get them to begin conversations. And for that, I commend the *Daily News*.

## **UU Valdosta Caring Committee**

Dee Tait chairs this committee. If you would be able to help, when requests for help are received, please let her know. Other members include David Rodgers, Betty Derrick, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles.

## **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 David Rodgers know if you are interested in helping with this service. Several volunteers make it possible to adjust to changing personal schedules. Please let David know if you are available to deliver meals. It is helpful to have two people on the route.

## **UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News January 10, 2016**

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Welcoming Congregation application has been submitted to the UUA!
- Board voted to support AAUW's Sister-to-Sister with a \$100.00 donation.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, Feb., 7, 9:30 a.m.

## **Pizza and a Movie**

**Friday, Feb 19, 6:30 pm.**

The film for Pizza and a Movie Night is *House of Sand and Fog*, which was originally scheduled for November. Thank you for donating \$5.00 for pizza and drinks. Rating: R (for some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality)

A film capable of shedding light on implications of immigrant diversity trends affecting America's view of itself is Director Vadim Perelman's *House of Sand and Fog* (2003). Co-writer Perelman and Shawn Lawrence Otto present how Massoud Amir (Ben Kingsley), originally a Behrani, recognizes an opportunity to climb higher on the American dream's upward mobility ladder, but at the cost of an American woman, Kathy Lazaro (Jennifer Connelly). As a naturalized citizen, he is entitled to the same benefits of a woman naturally possessing American birthrights. When Kathy fails to open her mail responsibly due to her lapse in fighting alcoholism following her husband leaving her, she falls behind paying property taxes and loses her house. To pursue her dream to return to sobriety and normalcy she fights to regain the house. When Deputy Sheriff Lester Burdon (Ron Eldard) becomes passionate about Kathy, he illegally attempts to come to her aid. Kathy's Public Defender (Frances Fisher) argues with Amir the right thing to do is to return the purchase money to help her restore her grounding to place. Amir must choose between helping a fellow American rebuild her life, or build a new life for his immigrant family in her former home. What is the right thing for decent Americans to decide when they possess comparable moral claims to equally legitimate entitlements and hopes?

-- Review by David Rodgers

## **Games Night / Fire Pit**

**Friday, Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m. – until ?**

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. (Please keep in mind that several of our members are gluten-free.)

If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along.

Contact: Susan Bailey.

## **Worship Team**

Each Sunday, there will be a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the sanctuary for sign up for the upcoming services. You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles and she will put you on the list for that task.

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

We're throwing a party for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>! That day, we will host a special service, with Rev. Mary Louise DeWolf, as our speaker. After the service, we will have dinner on the grounds and a special celebration. Dee Tait has agreed to chair the organizing committee, please let us know if you're willing to help!

Mary Louise DeWolf and Harold M. (Bud) Evans were founders of the Unitarian Fellowship of Valdosta (which is actually our official name) in 1965. In December, 1965, application for formal membership in the Unitarian Universalist Association was filed with 14 charter members, including Jim and Josette Ingram. The membership was accepted by the UUA in early 1966. For a full history of the church, please see the article on our website:

[http://www.uuvaldosta.net/?page\\_id=87](http://www.uuvaldosta.net/?page_id=87)

## UU Treasurer's Report Dec., 2015

|                                |           |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| <b><u>Outstanding Debt</u></b> | \$        | 0.00                  |
| <b><u>Receipts</u></b>         |           |                       |
| Plate                          | \$        | 93.00                 |
| Pledge                         |           | 3620.00               |
| Rent                           |           | 0.00                  |
| Share the Plate(GAYT)          |           | <u>50.20</u>          |
| <b>Total receipts</b>          | <b>\$</b> | <b>3763.20</b>        |
| <b><u>Disbursements</u></b>    |           |                       |
| Minister Expense               | \$        | 1027.62               |
| Pest Control/Termite           |           | 35.00                 |
| Assoc. Min/Interpreter         |           | 560.00                |
| Donations (GAYT/SGPEH)         |           | 110.20                |
| Supplies (OWL textbooks)       |           | 217.00                |
| Insurance                      |           | 0.00                  |
| Utilities                      |           | 270.50                |
| Advertising                    |           | 0.00                  |
| <b>Total disbursements</b>     | <b>\$</b> | <b><u>2220.32</u></b> |
| <b>Net receipt</b>             | <b>\$</b> | <b>1542.00</b>        |

## At the Church-in-the-Woods...

**Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Beginners Class, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Continuing class, 7 – 8 p.m.,** Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

## Sangha Tuesdays

6:00-7:30 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, 6:00 – 6:30; Buddhist shamata meditation, 6:30 – 7:00; Discussion of reading, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

## Oaken Circle CUUPS Chapter

Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m.

Oaken Circle, a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, meets each Wednesday evening, with an officers meeting on the first Wednesday of the month.

You can contact the group by e-mail at: [valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com](mailto:valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com) or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For lay-leading services:** Lawrence Rapier, Doug Tanner, Tom Aiello, Dee Tait, Cliff Adams

**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson, Nephtali Santiago

**For Meet & Greet:** Carol Stiles, Tammy and Tanya McDowell, Mary Ellen Adams, Dawn Renner, Rosie Asbury (on her birthday!)

**For assisting with RE:** Teagan Dunn, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner, Kimberly Tanner, Mary Ellen Adams

**For sweeping sidewalks:** Richard Watson, who often makes a trip early Sunday a.m. to finish this task!

**For taking out trash and recycling:** Richard and Rhett Watson, Sue Bailey, Dee Tait and others.

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** David Rodgers

**For photos for the newsletter:** Kimberly Tanner, David Rodgers, Carol Stiles

**For coordinating the Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

# Welcome New Member!

Stephanie Taylor



## 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 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.

## Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles  
Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles  
December 15: Deadline for the November 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  
e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner  
Facebook: Kimberly Tanner  
Local Publicity: Dee Tait

## Sage Advice from "Dear Abby"

"Lapsed Christian Misses Church, but Not Religion"  
Letter published in the *Valdosta Daily Times*, Jan 23, 2016:

DEAR ABBY: I was raised in the Christian faith by my pastor parents. As I reached my early teens, I realized that those beliefs didn't really fit, and I gradually stopped attending church. I stayed away all through college. My time away only solidified that, in terms of belief, Christianity wasn't for me.

After I graduated this year, I realized I missed the community and ritual of the faith and the church. There are a number of churches in my area, but I feel guilty attending one when I don't believe in the same things as the other members. My family always taught me to be considerate of the beliefs of the people around me, and it seems dishonest to go to a service and listen to prayers my heart doesn't embrace.

I'd still like to attend church. Have you any suggestions for what might be a good course of action? Should I go to church or stay home?

– UNORTHODOX IN OHIO

DEAR UNORTHODOX: You don't have to stay home. Instead, explore a denomination that has no dogma or creed. One in particular, Unitarian Universalism, has been mentioned before in this column.

Unitarian Universalists believe in the dignity and worth of every human being, and encourage and support others in following their personal spiritual paths. If you would like more information, visit [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote*

- The inherent dignity and worth of every person,
- Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations,
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations,
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- The right of conscience and 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.

*Grateful for the religious pluralism, which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant promising to one another our mutual trust and support.*