

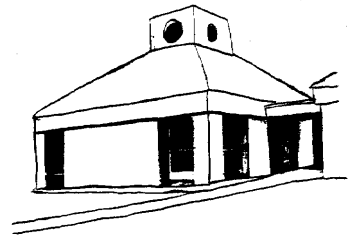
# The Flaming Chalice

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com).

### What's going on... **July 2013**

W	July 3	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing at the church
Sun	July 7	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “Reflections on UUA General Assembly: Where Do We Go From Here?” Dr. Carol Stiles Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	July 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	July 14	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – “The Seven Simple Principles,” Doug Tanner Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	July 15		<i>Deadline for August newsletter</i>
F	July 19	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie at the church
Sun	July 21	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 12:15 PM	<b>SHARED SERVICE WITH SERENITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b> Service at Serenity Christian Church Service at UU church: Rev. Fred Howard, “Love Has No Color: Painting Life by Numbers” Fellowship Luncheon with Serenity Christian Church at UU <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i>
Sun	July 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Dick Saeger, “An Update on Recent Supreme Court Decisions” Meet & Greet Coffee after the service

*July* ... Watch for more information later as dates approach for several events this month. Especially watch for details about the Shared Sunday Service with Serenity Christian church. This has become an annual event each July and shouldn't be missed. Please be aware too that we may have Governor's Honors Program students visiting us while they study at VSU this month. We've enjoyed their presence in past summers. Welcome them to our services. Sometimes they are UUs from across the state; others come with friends for their first UU experience. They're always interesting! Come when you can. We miss you when you are absent.

## Sunday Services

### Sunday, July 7, 2013 – Dr. Carol Stiles, “Reflections on UUA General Assembly: Where Do We Go From Here?”

UUA General Assembly featured an interfaith public witness event held alongside the Ohio River, in downtown Louisville, KY, focusing on energy and environment. The annual Ware Lecture was given by Eboo Patel, also focusing on interfaith work. UU Valdosta President, Carol Stiles, attended General Assembly, returning inspired and with many ideas for us to do the work of Unitarian Universalism in the south Georgia area. Come hear her reflections on General Assembly!

### Sunday, July 14 – Doug Tanner, “The Seven Simple Principles,”

Unitarian Universalists are often accused of not having beliefs. That’s not at all true. The Seven UU Principles bind our diverse beliefs into a coherent well defined movement. While we may not have them prominently displayed on alters and placards they underpin virtually everything that we are and do. Join us for message exploring these simple yet incredibly challenging set of principles.

### Sunday, July 21 – SHARED SERVICE WITH SERENITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**8:30 AM** - We will carpool the short distance from our church to Serenity Christian Church.

*Directions to Serenity Christian Church -- From our church, head towards the city on Park Ave. Turn left onto Lee St, heading towards downtown. (Lee Street is at the first traffic light past Ashley on Park, as you travel out of the city towards our church.) Serenity Church is about 1/3 mile down Lee, on the left at the corner of Lee and Moore. They have a large parking lot at the back of the church.*

### 9:00 - AM – Service at Serenity Christian church

**10:30 AM** - Members of the Serenity congregation will follow us back to our church to attend our service.

### 11:00AM - Service at UU Church

*(Note: Our service and RE will begin at 11:00 AM rather than 10:45 this day.) The Children’s RE kids have a special project planned that they will do along with Serenity children.*

**12:15 PM** - Fellowship Luncheon with Serenity at the UU Church.

### Sermon at UU church: Rev. Fred Howard, “Love Has No Color: Painting Life by Numbers”

The biblical book of Numbers is not exactly a “go to” book when it comes to composing an engaging sermon, but a recent event in south Georgia took me back to one of the stories contained in this 4th book of the Torah. This morning I’ll be sharing some thoughts on this event that went “viral” in our online social media and how it intriguingly echoes some struggles of the Hebrew people in the aftermath of their release from captivity in Egypt.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the Save Our Children program. SOC has partnered with L.O.D.A.C, and the Juvenile Justice System to assist young people, some who are assigned to Save Our Children as an alternative to confinement. SOC’s Rights Of Passage program provides them with a process through which they can change their way of thinking about themselves, and therefore change their behavior. Instead of imposing behavior from without by demanding assimilation, Save Our Children provides an opportunity and an incentive to change their thinking about their behavior....*

### Sunday, July 28 – Dr. Dick Saeger, “An Update on Recent Supreme Court Decisions”

The Supreme Court of the United States recently struck down portions of the Voting Rights Act as well as portions of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Dr. Dick Saeger will discuss these recent decisions, as well as other topics. Dr. Saeger is Professor Emeritus from Valdosta State University’s Political Sciences Department.

Fred Howard is our part time minister. He is on leave during the summer months but you may contact him by email (preferable) at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Governor’s Honors Students

We anticipate having some of the high school attendees of the Governor's Honors Program attend our services this summer, as they have in the past. The Georgia Governor's Honors Program (GHP) is a summer residential instructional program (four weeks in 2013) held at Valdosta State University designed to provide intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students challenging and enriching educational opportunities not usually available during the regular school year. GHP students may be attending our Sunday services on June 30, July 7, and July 14. See Lars Leader if you wish to help with providing transportation for these students.

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For layleading services:** Doug Tanner, Betty Derrick, Valerie Webster

**For speaking at Sunday services:** Carol Stiles, Tom Aiello, Doug Tanner

**For Sunday service music:** Rhett Watson, Betty Derrick, Amy Wells, Carol Stiles, Doug Tanner

**For Stories for All Ages:** Sue Bailey, Amy Wells

**For helping with Children's RE:** Meredith Covert, Kimberly Tanner, Nary Ellen Adams, Dawn Renner, Emma Bailey, and Teagan Dunn

**For serving as Meet and Greet Hosts:** Dee Tait, Cliff and Mary Ellen Adams, Kimberly Tanner

**For greeting visitors:** Mary Ellen Adams, Kimberly Tanner, Dee Tait

**For delivering Break Bread meals in June and heading up our Break Bread program for a number of years:** Frank and Rosie Asbury,

**For agreeing to assume responsibility for Break Bread for our congregation:** Dee Tait and Betty Derrick

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

### Keep in your thoughts

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health difficulties or the loss of loved ones. We also have members with family who have deployed overseas with the military.

### Thought you might like to know

- ❖ Laurel Hahlen Oñate, her daughter, Ava, and her mother visited several Sundays ago. She is now married and living in Wilmington, NC. Laurel Hahlen is a former member from the 80s and 90s. Hope you got a chance to visit with her.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### CAROL STILES

This summer, let me spring upon you a topic no one wants to talk about – finances! In many ways, we are in reasonably good shape – our normal expenses and income were about in line with last year's budget. As you know, we replaced the HVAC system for the sanctuary, a portion of which we financed; that is currently our only debt and, thanks to some special donations, we are on our way to paying that off. Prior to that, though, many of you noticed the new lights in the parking lot, especially in the new parking area. The costs for the lights and installation was approximately \$3700. To finance this, the board opted to dip into our 'general fund,' rather than taking on debt at that time.

So, our challenge for the upcoming year is how to rebuild our general fund for items that come up that are not on our budget. After the spring cleanup in April, the volunteers discussed possible fundraising events for fall when the weather cools, and we can make use of our beautiful grounds for some kind of fund-raising activity – possibly a low-country boil, fall festival, and / or other fund-raising activities. Please let us know of ideas that you may have that will help us with fundraising this year....

The major source of our funding is, of course, "people like you." For those of you who are new to our congregation as visitors and have wondered how to contribute, please consider joining our congregation as new members – Rev. Fred Howard, Kimberly Tanner, or I would be happy to talk to you about membership. However, you do not have to officially join to make a pledge in support of the church – just let Rosie Asbury or I know that you wish to make a pledge as part of your personal budget. Contributions then can be placed in the collection plate, marked as "pledge" for that month.

The benefits are endless – in my view, particularly the contentment of knowing that you are a part of a community that embraces diversity in spirituality and in life and provides "a place to celebrate life's passages and to join in social action on behalf of local and global communities." And, from a practical standpoint, you will be helping us keep the lights turned on! Thank you for all that you do!

In community,  
Carol



## Notes from Kids' RE - Sue Bailey

We have been busy exploring our planet earth, the home we share with all living things. The children are working on a variety of "creature" crafts as we learn about the importance of taking care of our world. We've found out some interesting facts about different creatures. For example, did you know that not all starfish have 5 arms; some have 10, 20, and even 40! Starfish can also lose an arm and grow a new one. Sometimes a new starfish grows from the lost arm because that's where most of its vital organs are located. We are currently focusing on starfish, crabs, barnacles, and other creatures that live in the ocean's tidal pools and are busy creating an exhibit of life in a tidal pool. It should be ready for display in a couple of weeks. Then we'll move on to explore the deep ocean as we continue learning about taking care of this planet we call home and the wonderful creatures we share it with. As always, we welcome visitors to the RE room. If you would like to volunteer to assist, please talk with Sue Bailey or write your name on the sign-up sheet in the sanctuary.

## Let's Have Some Fun!! PIZZA AND A MOVIE

**Friday, July 19**

**6: 30 PM at the church**

Please contribute \$5.00 to cover pizza and refreshments. The showing of Live Schreiber's film "Everything is Illuminated" 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 his 2005 film, *Everything is Illuminated*, Liev Schreiber brilliantly alludes to living and dead memories radiating from Ukrainian landscapes. Beautiful settings provide the context for Jonathon (Elijah Wood), a young, American Jew, to hire Alex (Eugene Hutz) and his grandfather Alex (Boris Leskin) as his translator and driver, respectively, to help him his search for the woman who saved his grandfather's life during the Holocaust. Jonathon's penchant for collecting family memorabilia and unraveling family stories eventually compels him to journey to the Ukraine to participate in what locals term "tours of dead Jews," travels to graves if they exist, and to bleak, empty sites of former shtetls, Jewish villages dating from the 1200s. Tour participants search of meaning behind factual accounts comprising Holocaust history and for opportunities to honor dead family members or ancestors by visiting killing grounds bloodied by the Nazi's and Ukrainian sympathizers. Unbeknownst to the Gentile viewer, but likely well-understood by many Orthodox Jewish filmgoers, Schreiber alludes to the shtetl version of yeshiva, a tradition in which men devote themselves to Talmudic study of the Torah, as well as to careful analysis of everyday street life, in order to gain wisdom. Both forms of study analyze and reanalyze experiences as bases for revealing meanings behind meanings, ramifications of oral and written traditions, and secondary consequences of events. Jonathon epitomizes one face of the contradictory identity of the yeshiva male by his austere, laconic language reduced to mere hints to explain his hoarding tendency to the younger Alex. His habit verges on an obsessive compulsive disorder when it renders him at times socially dysfunctional as he collects seemingly ordinary as well as extraordinary objects alluding to his family and his

life. It seems to make no difference if an allusion suggests meaning only to him. Not content to humor the viewer with relatively more obvious allusions to shtetl life during the comedic first half of the film, Schreiber devises corrective allusions in which an object's imitation opposes the original source's intentions, and which ultimately frustrate this interpretation. For example, although not a Jew, Alex exemplifies for Schreiber the opposite characteristic of the laconic shtetl male represented by Jonathon, namely, the voluble, loquacious interpreter. However, Alex casually mutilates language by his lack of understanding American culture, not to mention ignorance of English, in many translations. And, he avoids translating anti-Semitic remarks by Grandfather Alex for Jonathon as they penetrate more and more into the countryside in pursuit of evidence of his tragic heritage. Thus, although the film begins with humorous events in the present, as old and young Alex, accompanied by Sammy Davis Jr. Jr., the grandfather's bitch, seeing-eye dog, launch Jonathon's search for his grandfather's shtetl, the fictional Trachimbrod, tragic darkness eventually casts long, painful, shadows of true meaning across verbal and artifactual allusions when, incredibly, the trio stumbles upon the older sister of the heroine Jonathon seeks. The film's conclusion leaves the viewer to determine whether or not Schreiber succeeds in conflating multiple references in his allusions into an illuminated fusion capable of transforming cultural traditions.

**Book Discussion and Potluck:** The next discussion and potluck will be Friday, August 9. 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. Contact Betty Derrick if you have books to suggest. The group chooses books related to difference. Plan to join the discussion in August.

**Games Night:** Games Night is on vacation for the summer..

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Betty Derrick,

July 15: Deadline for the August 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, [uvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uvaldosta@yahoo.com)

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner,

Local Publicity: Dee Tait



**UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News  
June 5, 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:

- Plans for rides to and from UU for Governor’s Honors students
- Carol will attend General Assembly, with registration covered by UU
- UUA’s GIFT program, a new method of funding; the congregation will now pay 7% of the annual budget as the congregation’s contribution to the UUA, rather than a set amount per person.
- Possible special evening program in the fall to provide resources for end-of-life issues – health care, financial, end-of-life planning, etc.

Next meeting, Wednesday, July 3, 6:00 p.m.

**Treasurer’s Report – Rosie Asbury  
May 31, 2013**

<b>Receipts</b>	<b><u>May</u></b>	<b><u>July -present (11 mos.)</u></b>
Plate	\$192.00	\$ 1655.32
Pledge	1170.00	16172.00
Rent	240.00	2500.00
Share the Plate		<u>1487.40</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1602.00</b>	<b>\$26814.72</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Speakers’ Fees	200.00	2200.00
Minister Exp.	1115.02	9228.80
Maint.(crossties)	201.35	4813.32
Newsletter	9.49	9.49
Pest Control	285.00	635.00
Build. Insur.	1482.00	1482.00
Postage	450.00	456.44
Supplies	42.34	348.76
Utilities	318.79	3592.79
RE Program	0.00	28.59
Advertising	0.00	700.00
UUA Dues	0.00	1944.00
Donations	0.00	1487.40
Others	<u>0.00</u>	<u>204.17</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 4103.99</b>	<b>\$ 27130.76</b>
<b>Net Receipt</b>	<b>\$-2501.99</b>	<b>\$ - 316.04</b>

**UU Activities and Announcements**

July 21-27- SUUSI, Radford, Virginia.

*Looking for a great, affordable value for your whole family, with lots of adventures and filled with friends? Then come to SUUSI! You'll be welcomed warmly and invited into our community. SUUSI is an intentional community of approximately 1,200 people who gather in the 3rd week of July near Roanoke, VA, to explore our interconnectedness, learn new ways of seeing our world and each other, delight in the joys of meeting old friends and making new ones, share outdoor adventures, dance, and sing. Together, we'll create a*

*week of conversation, reflection, activity, nourishment, fun and family. "Let It Be A Dance" is this year's theme.*

Carol Stiles represented our congregation at General Assembly in Louisville, KY in June. She’s right: it is quite an experience to carry one’s church banner into the opening assembly at GA and then through the week wander past all the banners. Here in Valdosta with our small congregation we sometimes forget we have lots of UU friends out there! There



are always wonderful and inspiring speakers at GA. The picture below shows Wendell Berry speaking at the evening worship prior to the public witness event where 2,000 people marched to the Ohio River to hear testimony about the effects

of coal and fossil fuel use on our water supply, our environment, our towns, and our people. One of the major interfaith participants in the public witness events was Kentucky Interfaith Power & Light, an organization mentioned by Jessica Crowe in the discussion after her service a few weeks ago. Carol will share some of her experiences at GA during the first service this month.



**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 6:00-7:30 PM; Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

**South Georgia Pride** –3rd Tuesday each month, 7:30PM  
Contact Raynaé Jones [www.southgapride.com](http://www.southgapride.com)

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