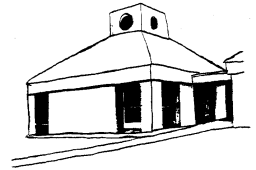


# *The Flaming Chalice*

## *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)



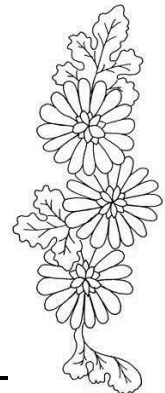
Please note that although individual personal contact information has been removed from this online newsletter, you can obtain more information on any event or ask questions by sending an e-mail to [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com).

### What's going on... **July 2014**

Sun	July 6	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – <b>"Religious Self-Determination: Exploring Individual Spiritual Paths and Creating Community"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
W	July 9	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing at the church
Sun	July 13	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: <b>Rev. Fred Howard, "The Geometry of Relationships"</b> Fellowship Luncheon with Serenity Christian Church at UU <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i>
M	July 14	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
T	July 15		<b>Deadline August newsletter</b>
F	July 18	6:30 PM	Potluck and book group at the church
Sun	July 20	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – <b>Dr. Dennis Marks, "Dark Energy"</b> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
F	July 25	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	July 27	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – <b>Dr. Bennie Calloway, "I Am Created To Be, To Do, And To Have."</b> <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Meet & Greet after the service

### July....

This month brings a special annual event in the life of our congregation, a shared service with Serenity Christian Church, scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>. The day's schedule is inside this newsletter, and Dee Tait is coordinating the potluck - join us for this and all of our July services and events!



#### 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, July 6 - “Religious Self-Determination: Exploring Individual Spiritual Paths and Creating Community”**

Many people come to the UU church out of other religious communities. For many of us, one thing missing from other churches is the encouragement to explore and determine our individual spiritual path as well as participate in the path the church community takes. Religious freedom and self-determination are vital components of a healthy mature worship community. Our fifth UU principle embodies our goal of the use of the democratic process in congregations – that is, UU congregations are self-governing, as exemplified by our annual congregational meeting, which includes election of officers, approval of the budget, and so on. It goes much deeper than that, though: here at UU Valdosta, lay-leaders are involved in all services in which our minister fills the pulpit, and more than half of our services each year involve an invited lay-speaker, from the membership or community. In addition, our fourth principle, is “A free and responsible search for truth and meaning” which UU’s tend to embrace enthusiastically, with each of us on our own spiritual path. Today’s service will be an opportunity to reflect on our individual spiritual paths and how those intersect with the mission of UU Valdosta.

### **Sunday, July 13 – 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 Potluck Luncheon with Serenity at the UU Church.

**Sermon at UU church: Rev. Fred Howard, “The Geometry of Relationships”**

For centuries, the Gospel characters of Mary and Martha, sisters of Lazarus (whom Jesus reportedly raised from the dead,) have received little attention from biblical scholars. Mary has been considered the “good” sister because she sat listening at Jesus’ feet, while Martha has gotten rather bad press for paying too much attention to household tasks. More contemporary interpretations, based on recent cultural scholarship of first century Judaism, provide a more complex

picture of what may be transpiring in their story. This morning, utilizing systems thinking, I’ll share some thoughts on the relationships among Mary, Martha, and Jesus based on the text in Luke 10:38-42.

*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 20, Dr. Dennis Marks, “Dark Energy.”**

Empty space is alive and growing. And the more space there is, the more it grows. That the universe is expanding faster and faster was first observed by teams of astronomers in 1998. We will explore the nature of the dark energy that fuels this ever increasing expansion. The energy of expansion of ordinary matter and of dark matter is positive and increasing; gravitational energy is negative and decreasing; dark energy is negative and increasing. The total energy stays zero.

Dr. Dennis Marks is Professor and Department Head, Emeritus, of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences, Valdosta State University. He describes himself as an “atheistic pantheist” (“pantheist” since the universe is alive, but “atheistic” since its total energy is zero). He has shared his knowledge and love of the universe with the congregation of the UU Church of Valdosta on numerous occasions.

**Sunday, July 27 – Dr. Bennie Calloway, “I Am Created To Be, To Do, And To Have.”** The emphasis of the message is to discover and recover our divine worth and notable contributions we have yet to make in the world. We must live up to our divine potential and live intentionally and not accidentally. Once we recognize our own divine worth we will recognize it and celebrate that worth in all humanity and promote its expression in the most life giving way.

## 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.

## New Worship Team!

Here are the members of our newly organized Worship Team: Valerie Webster, Chair, Cliff Adams, Rhett Watson (music), Dawn Renner (meet-n-greet), Doug Tanner (Vice-President/Program Chair), Kimberly Tanner. We very much appreciate all who have volunteered to help the worship team do its work, which is to support the UU as we, in the true meaning of worship, "give worth to our lives." (A list of volunteers is in the Thank You! Thank You! section.)

Please see Valerie with any questions or comments and thank you for your support. The areas available for volunteering include: meet-n-greet, music, visitor greeter, preparing the grounds and building, and other tasks. A large number of volunteers for each area of Sunday worship means that the tasks are shared among many.

If you are interested in music, feel free to visit with Rhett Watson; if you can volunteer to set up for meet-n-greet occasionally, contact Dawn Renner. Valerie Webster is available for all other questions and to express your interests in being involved!

## 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.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER CAROL STILES

My brief column this month will bring you some additional news. The South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness is working with a number of organizations and churches to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Kids Are People Too Fair on August 2 at Pinevale Elementary School, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SGPEH has invited churches to select and donate one type of school supply item; these items will be packaged in a book bag so that each child will have a complete set of needed school supplies to start the school year. Your UU board approved a donation from the Accepting Difference Project Fund to purchase boxes of crayons as our contribution to this annual event.

As you can see from the newsletter there are many other things happening at the UU Church this summer. My thanks to Valerie Webster and to all who have volunteered to be on the Worship Team or for various tasks coordinated by the Worship Team members!

In community,  
Carol

More information:

[http://www.sgpeh.com/events/kids\\_are\\_people\\_too](http://www.sgpeh.com/events/kids_are_people_too)

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Congratulations and best wishes to:*

- ❖ Our members and friends for, among other things, graduations, marriages, and moving for new opportunities.

*Keep in your thoughts*

- ❖ our members and friends who are dealing with health issues of their own or of family members.

**UU Valdosta Caring Committee** Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner if you would be able to help out with this committee. Several of this committee's core members are themselves in need of care right now. Get in touch too if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee.

## Electronic Newsletter Available!

Please contact Carol Stiles ([uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)) if you would like to receive the full newsletter electronically! Saves money and paper!

Do visit website for other information, updates, links, and other great stuff! You can even ask a question there! <http://www.uuvaldosta.net/>

Not on our Yahoo e-mail announcements list yet? Contact Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

## General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations, June 25-29, 2014, Providence, Rhode Island

As I write this, people are beginning to gather in Providence Rhode Island, General Assembly (GA), including Rev. Fred Howard. Fred will serve as our voting delegate, as voted on by the board at an earlier meeting. We look forward to hearing his update from GA! GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. More info: <http://www.uua.org/>

# Let's Have Some Fun!!

## Potluck and Book Discussion

**Friday, July 18 6:30PM**

Bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship and discussion. During the first hour we fellowship over our potluck meal and then move into a circle to have a discussion. The selected book this month is "The Bluest Eye" is the story of a little girl named Pecola during the late Great Depression. She's always taunted for being ugly, making her want to be white with blue eyes. It is a story of racism and poverty, a story about how we see each other and how we see ourselves. It does include an incestuous rape, which for all of its ugliness was and is a reality for so many. Still, because of the issues Morrison discusses, it has often been included on "banned books" lists. This was Morrison's first novel, so while it isn't as complete and fully-developed as some of her later works, you can clearly see the early talent of one of our best American authors. Also, it's just a great time to come and hang out with us! We're really fun! We eat a potluck meal then talk about both the book and the issues that it discusses. Our talks usually go pretty far afield, and you don't have to have read the book to come and be a part!!!!

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News June 4, 2014

*(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:

- the Shared Service with Serenity Christian
- ChemX service for termites – will be checked again in 90 days.
- Registration and plans for South Georgia Pride Festival, which will be Sept. 20, John Saunders Park
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 9, 6:00 p.m

### 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.

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.

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

### 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

#### 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.

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday: Beginner's class 5:30- 6:30 PM; Continuing class 6:30-8 PM. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at [georgia@taoist.org](mailto:georgia@taoist.org)

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

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

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

e-Mail List: Carol Stiles

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROJECTS — MOLA ART

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For speaking at Sunday Services in June:** Crystal Richardson, Bennie Calloway, Dick Saeger, Brett Hackett, and Rhonda Kelly

**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson, Bill Webster, Crystal Richardson, Valerie Webster

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Valerie Webster, Cliff Adams, Rhett Watson

**For Meet & Greet:** Dawn Renner (coordinator), Rose Baker, Mary Ellen Adams, Rosie Asbury, Diane Holliman, Valerie Webster

**For coming up with great projects for RE and sending photos!** Sue Bailey

**For sweeping sidewalks:** Richard Schofill

**For signing up to participate as volunteers for Sunday services:** Rose Baker, Rosie Asbury, Mary Ellen Adams, Dee Tait, Tom Aiello, Sue Bailey, Lars Leader, Diane Holliman, Crystal, Kim, Patrick and Seanese Richardson, Richard Schofill, Carol Stiles and Dee Tait. (See Valerie Webster for volunteering!)

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

**For coordinating the book discussion:** Tom Aiello

## Treasurer's Report – Rosie Asbury

May, 2014

Yes, our new AC system is paid off! Thank you to all for your special donations that made that possible!

### Outstanding Debt

Air Conditioner Loan	\$ 0.00
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### Receipts

Plate	\$ 29.00
Pledge	3185.00
Rent	100.00
Share the Plate(LACC)	106.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$3,420.00</b>

### Disbursements

Minister Expense	\$ 700.00
Pest Control/Termite	35.00
Speakers' Fees	200.00
Repairs/Maintenance	
Newsletter	
Donations (LACC)	206.00
UUA Dues	0.00
Insurance	0.00
Utilities	274.21
Advertising	
Others	0.00
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,665.21</b>

<b>Net receipt</b>	<b>\$1,754.79</b>
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## RE — STRING ART!



**An excerpt of a blog post by Maggie Lovins,  
UUA Southern Region Congregational Life  
Staff, posted APRIL 14, 2014**

## At the Core Is Love

*Amid all the noise in our lives,  
we take this moment to sit in silence—  
to give thanks for another day;  
to give thanks for all those in our lives  
who have brought us warmth and love;  
to give thanks for the gift of life.*

...

You all give of yourselves, you chair our RE committees, serve coffee on Sundays, edit newsletters, visit our members when they are unwell, and the list goes on and on. We need all of you and so many more to help move us towards the Beloved Community! But we still are left with the question of why we do it? Why do we come together as we do not have a guilt driven 'do it or else,' punishing type of Faith.

*We know we are on our pilgrimage here but a brief moment in time.*

I wonder, could it be as simple as Love? A little four letter word that I personally hold to be my only capitol 'T' Truth, could that be the unifying reason we gather? Our congregational and Associational polity declares we need not hold shared beliefs, but I would venture to say that this is something we all believe in. Not the pie in the sky, Pollyanna type of "All you need is love" (sorry John, Paul, George and Ringo, I still love ya!) but one of the most basic elements necessary for a healthy human existence, the one thing everyone seeks and some are blessed

to know, what I would say is at the core of who we are as Unitarian Universalists.

So if Love is at the core of who we are, why we are, and what inspires us to gather, how do we enact that Love to reach out? Do we take it to the streets? Do we take it to our schools? Do we take it to our government? Do we take it to our prisons? Do we take it to every corner of the world and let everyone we come in contact with know that this is who we are and what we believe? YES! Yes, we do- we ARE the Love people remember?! Now, how do we give it away to every single soul in need, to every single person in pain, to every single human being paralyzed by anxiety? We do it together. One step at a time, one social justice outreach at a time, one food pantry at a time, one piece of legislation at a time, one humanitarian effort at a time. ...

To do this work will take the hands of many, and our continued gathering in and outside our congregations. Why the continued gathering of our congregations you ask? Because that is where we manifest and synthesize the Love to take to the world! That is where the never empty font of Love, Justice, Compassion, Equity and Interdependence lives, in our Unitarian Universalist communities! I invite you to summon Love in to your everyday life, in to your every action, in to your every word. I invite you all to be the change you wish to see starting now. ... May you know Love, may you give Love, may you become Love.

Namaste,  
Maggie Lovins

[http://uuasouth.blogspot.com/2014\\_04\\_01\\_archive.html](http://uuasouth.blogspot.com/2014_04_01_archive.html)

*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.*