



# The Flaming Chalice

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

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Minister: Rev. Fred Howard

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Tom Aiello - President	Carol Stiles – Vice President
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 send email to [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com) to contact us!

### What's going on... **July 2015**

Sun	July 5	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	UU board meeting in the RE wing Religious Education for children <b>Service - Rev. Bennie Calloway, "Will African American Men Please Stand Up!"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	July 12	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service - Dr. Diane Holliman, "Unitarian Universalism and Social Work: Similar Foundations, Practical Differences."</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	July 13	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
W	July 15		Deadline August newsletter
Sun	July 19	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service - Rev. Anna Hall, "My Journey to a Progressive Christianity."</b> Meet & Greet after the service
F	July 24	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	July 26	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Dr. Kimberly Tanner, "We've Come A Long Way...Maybe? Reflections on the 25th Anniversary of the ADA."</b> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service

## July 2015...

We have some awesome speakers and messages lined up for July 2015! Join us when you can! And did you know that the UU Church of Valdosta was organized in in 1965 by Harold M. (Bud) Evans and Mary Louise DeWolf-Hurt? And that our formal membership was accepted by UUA in early 1966? That means we will be celebrating 50 years of Unitarian Universalism in Valdosta in the upcoming year! Read more in Carol's Corner....

#### 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 5 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, “Will African American Men Please Stand Up!”** Rev. Calloway will address the issues of police brutality and racism in our nation and provide a balanced response on how the African American community at large, with the men leading the way should appropriate address this issue being mindful of keeping spiritual and multicultural relationships in perspective.

**Sunday, July 12 – Dr. Diane Holliman, “Unitarian Universalism and Social Work: Similar Foundations, Practical Differences.”**

Unitarian Universalism and social work have similar origins and guiding principles, but their applications in our world are quite different. The social changes, ideas and philosophies of the 1800s inspired both liberal religions and professions such as social work. Today Unitarian Universalism and social work are strong players in the pursuit of social justice, but the two have unique purposes, identities and scopes. This will be explored in hopes of starting a conversation about how the Unitarian Universalists in Valdosta can continue to interface with community social service and non-profit agencies. Diane Holliman is a member and past-president of UU and is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Valdosta State University.

**Sunday, July 19 – Rev. Anna Hall, “My Journey to a Progressive Christianity.”**

Rev. Hall will tell the story of her own faith journey, from her childhood at Moultrie First United Methodist Church to her current engagement with the world of progressive Christianity. Along the way, she will touch on the history and distinguishing theology of the movement known as Progressive Christianity, and provide suggestions for those seeking deeper engagement with the writers and thinkers on this growing edge of 21st century faith.

An ordained minister in the Baptist tradition and former member of UU Valdosta, Rev. Anna Hall is a researcher and consultant specializing in congregational transitions. She currently manages several projects for the Center for Progressive Renewal, an organization dedicated to the vitality

and renewal of congregations. In recent years, she has also coordinated outreach, justice, and spiritual formation at Virginia-Highland Church. She holds a M.Div. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, a Master of Public Administration from Valdosta State University, and is currently completing her dissertation research on congregational learning during pastoral transitions as a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia.

**Share the Plate Sunday:** *Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will support the Kids are People, Too, Back to School Fair, coordinated by the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. To be held on August 1, families will have an opportunity at this event, to obtain school supplies and get information on other services, in preparation for the beginning of the school year.*

*Note: we are collecting **new packs of 24-count crayons** to be distributed at the fair. If you wish to purchase these, please bring them to the church by this date. Donations to the plate, not otherwise designated as pledges, will be used to purchase crayons or other needed supplies for the Back to School Fair.*

**Sunday, July 26 – Dr. Kimberly Tanner, “We've Come A Long Way...Maybe? Reflections on the 25th Anniversary of the ADA.”**

Since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act on July 26, 1990, a lot has been done to break down barriers for people with disabilities in our country, but has it been enough? And when we speak of Civil Rights, do we always remember to include our community members with disabilities? Reflections from recent events designed to honor this historic event will be shared along with thoughts about where our UU principles call us to go from here. Kimberly Tanner is Membership Director for UU Valdosta and Director of the Access Office at Valdosta State University.

## Welcome to our new UU Board!

President	Tom Aiello
Vice-President/Program Chair	Carol Stiles
Secretary	Tom Phillips
Religious Education Director	Sue Bailey
Treasurer	Rosie Asbury
Membership	Kimberly Tanner
Bldg & Grounds	Jim Ingram

## 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.

The Shared Service project for 2015! During the Shared Service in May, two heart shaped hand-printed posters were made containing the names of members of both UU and Serenity. Around the outside of the heart are the words "We are family...." One print was sent with Rev. Floyd Rose for the Serenity Christian Church sanctuary.

### Thank you!

A special thank you to Jim Ingram who has added a base to the chalice stand to make it more stable! Check it out next time you are at the sanctuary!

### Welcoming Congregation Update

Another thank you to Dr. Denise Levy who joined us for a special summer Welcoming Congregation session on Sunday, June 21. Denise is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Appalachian State University and was visiting her family in Valdosta this weekend. We had another enlightening conversation about how individuals with varying sexual and gender identities have resolved any conflict between their identity and Christian religious upbringing. We also learned more about being bisexual, pansexual, queer, and polyamorous. Another great step along the path of becoming a Welcoming Congregation!

## 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. If you have questions about any of the areas, please see the person listed below.

You can also send an e-mail to Carol Stiles, with the task and date(s) and she will put you on the list for that task.

Carol Stiles - chair  
Doug Tanner - lay leaders  
Kimberly Tanner – visitor greeter  
Cliff Adams  
Rhett Watson - music  
Dawn Renner – meet-n-greet

Rev. 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 should you need to reach him. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

## 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.

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

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

*Congratulations to ...*

- ❖ One of our young members who is progressing in his goal of achieving Eagle Scout.

## A Call for Volunteers....50<sup>th</sup>!!

We are having a party! If you would like to be involved in planning a celebration for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, let Carol know! We will need to choose a date, invite friends and former members of the church, members of the community, and plan the celebration!

## 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. Get in touch too if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee.

## Potluck and Book Discussion

The book group has chosen *House of Sand and Fog* by Andre Dubus, for the next book discussion, which will be held the third Friday, August 21. Plenty of time to read and enjoy this book!

We gather for potluck dinner at 6:30, and then begin the discussion. Contact Tom Aiello.

## Games Night

Friday, July 24th, 6:30 p.m. – until ?

All are welcome! Bring a snack to share and your choice of beverages. If you have a game suitable for several to many players and people of all ages, bring it along. Contact: Susan Bailey.

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

June 7, 2015

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Began considering ideas for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year. Since Michael Stoltzfus has moved, Carol is planning a series of speakers in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Next Meeting: August 2, 9:30 a.m.

## Litha Celebration held at UU

The Pagan Society (led by students attending VSU) used our space to host a Litha Celebration on Saturday, June 20, the Summer Solstice. Some of our members and friends participated. Kimberly Tanner has information on beginning a Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) chapter here. If you are interested, please see Kimberly.

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

**Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Beginners 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)

### 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.

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

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

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: Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For speaking at services in June:** Doug Tanner, Dr. James LaPlant, Tom Aiello, and Dr. Dick Saeger

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Betty Derrick

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

**For Meet & Greet:** Tammy McDowell and Tanya Thomason, Diane Holliman, Mary Ellen Adams

**For assisting with RE:** Mary Ellen Adams, Kimberly Tanner, Teagan Dunn

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

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

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

**For photos for the newsletter:** Kimberly Tanner

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

## Carol's Corner:

UU Members and Friends, this will be my last column as president of the congregation, as I finish up three years in that position. Tom Aiello will be taking over this space next month (do we have suggestions for a title for his column??)

I won't be going far, though, as I move into the vice-president / program chair position, and I want to tell you a little about what we are planning for next year! As noted earlier, we will be celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary here in Valdosta! Wow, that is an incredible accomplishment, and we owe that to all of the board members who have served over the years, the many volunteers, the ministers who have served here, and long-time leaders who have contributed to establishing Unitarian Universalism in South Georgia.

Particularly since Michael Stoltzfus has moved on, next year, I am planning a series of guest speakers who will help us remember and celebrate 50 years of Unitarian Universalism in South Georgia. The first guest will happen this month as Rev. Anna Hall returns to UU Valdosta on July 19<sup>th</sup>! Anna was chair of our Social Actions committee that received the Social Justice Award from the UUA Florida District in 2004. In the same year, Virginia Branan received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Next year, there will be other surprise return visitors who are already in touch with me - I'll let you know more next month. Stay tuned!

I want to extend my heart-felt thank you for all that we have done together over the past three years....

In community,  
Carol

## Treasurer's Report for May 2015

**Outstanding Debt** \$ 0.00

### Receipts

Plate	\$ 103.00
Pledge	2700.00
Rent	200.00
Share the Plate(Peacemakers)	150.35
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 3153.35</b>

### Disbursements

Minister Expense	\$ 700.00
Pest Control/Termite	35.00
Speakers' Fees/Child Care	200.00
Repairs/Maintenance	175.00
Newsletter	
Donations (Peacemakers)	150.35
UUA Dues	
Insurance	1548.00
Utilities	287.35
Advertising	0.00
Others	0.00
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 3095.70</b>
<b>Net receipt</b>	<b>\$ 57.65</b>

#### 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.



*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.*

# Our hearts are with the people of Charleston and Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Portion of a statement from UUA President Peter Morales:** “When two congregants were killed and six wounded at our Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in 2008, the entire community reached out and embraced our congregation with love and support. We will pass that love along to the Emanuel Church community in any way we can.”

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## Message from the Rev. Danny Reed, minister of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC:

June 20, 2015

Friends,

I write on behalf of the Charleston congregation to thank you for the many messages of concern and support we have received, and to provide a brief perspective on the soul and state of our beloved city.

Of course, we're reeling and will be for some time, yet poignant examples of healing and unity abound in our midst. Last night, members of our church gathered with thousands of our neighbors to grieve, pray, and sing together in a downtown arena. An interfaith core of clergy revisited ancient, holy words as source of comfort and perspective, and also as a clarion call toward renewed equity, justice, and moral solidarity. Our civic leaders, particularly our popular, forty-year mayor, Joseph P. Riley, Jr., called for a revival of community cooperation and reminded us that once united, we will recover and move forward. He also addressed our national fixation with handguns and said it is surely time for more reasoned conversation and swift reform.

Afterward, we walked the few blocks from the arena to nearby Emanuel AME church, longstanding symbol of African American identity and progress, and sadly now and evermore, a murder site where 3 men and 6 women were slain. Flowers, layers deep, brought by friends, mourners, and supporters, lined the sidewalk outside the church. A piper, in full regalia, moved to the center of the street and played “Amazing Grace.” Hundreds in the street, of different age, faith, and race joined in song. Soon after, those same voices shared an impromptu chorus of “This Little Light of Mine.” Then, a dozen or so Jewish Charlestonians formed a circle in the street and sang their songs of evening prayer and Kaddish. Though we walked, left our memorial flowers, and sang through tears, and despite the recent bloodshed that called us together, it was after all, still the Sabbath.

Forty percent of the slaves delivered to America entered through the port of Charleston. The Civil War was ignited here and the Confederate flag continues to fly on our Statehouse grounds. These and other difficult truths point to the significant baggage of racism and injustice that continues to influence life in Charleston. Yet, please know that we are more united than one might think. Thus far, our streets are filled more with abiding faith than blind rage. Property has not been vandalized and vigils have been marked by diversity and peace. Earlier Friday, as the disturbed and poisoned young man who wrought such violence stood at his bond hearing, the family members of those he murdered—those most entitled to rage and vengeance, instead spoke to him words of compassion and even forgiveness.

As you gather in worship yourselves, thank you again for remembering the deceased and their families: **Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Cynthia Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lance, Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Rev. Daniel Simmons, and Myra Thompson.** Remember too those survivors wounded in the attack and recovering.

We will never be the same. Charleston will bear the scars of the assault on Mother Emanuel church, yet we will not be defeated. The work of justice is never-ending and commitment to the beloved community is ever needed. Even in the haunted American south, love will prevail.

Thank you,

Rev. Danny R. Reed  
The Unitarian Church in Charleston



Image from the Unitarian Church in Charleston's website:

<http://www.charlestonuu.org/>