



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

Please send email to [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com) to contact us!

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

Sun	June 7	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	UU board meeting in the RE wing Religious Education for children <b>Service - Doug Tanner "Mid-Summer/Litha, the Summer Solstice"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	June 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	June 14	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service - Dr. James LaPlant, "Popular Belief in Conspiracy Theories."</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	June 15		Deadline March newsletter
F	June 19	6:30 PM	Potluck and Book Discussion!
Sun	June 21	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service - Dr. Tom Aiello, "Veganism as a Spiritual Tradition"</b> Meet & Greet after the service
F	June 26	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	June 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Bennie Calloway</b> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service

## June 2015...

The Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church was a great success! We estimate about 75 people were in attendance at the service at UU and stayed for the shared potluck. Thank you to all who brought food, set up, cleaned up and participated!

Although Rev. Fred Howard will be on sabbatical during the summer, we will have a full schedule of services and activities! This newsletter issue is a little bit short on details.... If you are not already getting our occasional e-mails, now might be the time to join the Yahoo e-mail list for announcements and updates, details on the next page.

#### 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, June 7 – Doug Tanner “Mid-Summer /Litha, the Summer Solstice”**

As daylight hours reach their maximum at the Summer Solstice and Summer officially begins in the northern hemisphere, celebrations of Midsummer or Litha are traditionally held in many northern countries. This long tradition of honoring the changing of the season, the wheel of the year and the cycle of life comes down to us from many European traditions. Join us for a service to honor these traditions and welcome the new season.

### **Sunday, June 14 – Dr. James LaPlant, “Popular Belief in Conspiracy Theories.”**

### **Sunday, June 21 – Dr. Tom Aiello, "Veganism as a Spiritual Tradition"**

**Share the Plate Sunday:** *Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will be donated to the South Georgia Migrant Farmworkers' Clinic. The clinic provides health care to the farmworkers in the area who are harvesting crops and working the fields. We will also collect food and clothing to be distributed at the clinic. These items may be brought to the church any time (please let Kimberly or Carol know....). Some suggestions include food staples such as rice, black beans and Maseca corn flour, household items, even small appliances (coffeemakers, etc.). Clothing items include men's and women's work pants, shirts, and small to medium size gloves.*

**Sunday, June 28 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, TBA.**

**Please watch the UU e-mail list, Facebook, and the website for more details on June services...**  
which are somewhat subject to change... ;)

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.

## UU Yahoo e-mail list

If you are not on our Yahoo e-mail list for announcements, now might be a good time to join!

The list is moderated and low-volume, for announcements and reminders regarding UU Valdosta and related activities. Kimberly Tanner and Carol Stiles are moderators. Please contact Carol Stiles if you are interested in being on the list.

## Congratulations to our new UU Board for 2015-2016:

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.

### 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.

## 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

## Thank you, Thank you!

A huge thank you to Doug Tanner, who will be rotating off the UU board as of July 1. He has agreed to continue to be involved in the Worship Team as noted above, for which we are grateful.

A quick check of the “archives” (our newsletters) indicate that Doug was elected treasurer in 2005, then V.P. in 2007 and then served as president for a couple of years. After a break of a year or so, Doug has been Vice-President, since 2011. It is indeed, time for a well-deserved break and grateful acknowledgement from the congregation of his many contributions not only in scheduling speakers, lay leading (and making coffee!) but also in helping out with building and grounds and many other activities as well. Thank you, Doug!

## 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...*

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

## News from...

Best wishes to the Hunt family who have recently moved to the northeast!

## 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.



Doug Tanner at the UU Pride Table, Sept. 2014  
(photo courtesy of David Rodgers)

### 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: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

## Potluck and Book Discussion

Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

The book for the next book discussion is *A Backpack, A Bear, and Eight Crates of Vodka* by Lev Golinkin. It's the true story of the author's Jewish family who emigrated from the former USSR to the U.S. in 1980.

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

## Games Night

Friday, June 26, 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 May 35, 2015

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed plans for Shared Service with Serenity Christian
- Voted to sponsor South Georgia Pride at the \$250 level, with the money coming from the Accepting Difference Project; this sponsorship level comes with several incentives, such as listing the church name on the Pride Festival banner and on FaceBook.
- Next Meeting: May 3, 9:30 a.m.

## 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.

## Another Throwback Photo – and Another Huge Thank You!



Michael Stoltzfus speaks at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Pride Service, Sunday, Sep. 21, 2014.

As many of you know by now, Dr. Michael Stoltzfus and family will be moving to north Georgia this summer to take on new challenges in a new home. We will miss him. Another check of the archives suggests that Mike has been providing monthly messages to us for about 10 years and occasional messages before that. He was the guest speaker at the “Unified Service Against Hate” (after the church was vandalized in May 2003) and more recently he was featured speaker at our annual Interfaith Pride Service.

Mike Stoltzfus emphasized in his message that day last September – in all his messages, really – a need to build community: “We gather here today to celebrate diverse expressions of love, hope and community; to envision a society that will embrace everyone, including but not limited to those of distinctive sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect and dignity for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively. The journey towards creating communities of support for distinctive religious and sexual expressions without fear or hostility is challenging. But we know that we can transform the way we think, act, and live. We can overcome the artificial divisions that divide us by building communities of support and hospitality.”

Thanks, Mike, for all you have done with us and for us here at the UU church and in the Valdosta community!

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For speaking at services in May:** Dr. Michael Stoltzfus, Rev. George Bennett

**For coordinating food for the Shared Service:** Dee Tait, Bess Shear (Serenity Christian), and Carol Stiles

**For lay-leading services:** Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Lars Leader

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

**To everyone who brought food for the potluck after the Shared Service with Serenity Christian!**

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

**For assisting with RE:** Diane Holliman, 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

An excerpt from:

## Congratulations Southern Region! You did it!

We Are Building A New Way!

by Natalie Briscoe, UUA Southern Region  
Congregational Life staff

Last week at our District Annual Assemblies, all four districts voted to walk into new relationship with one another. You decided to leave governance to the one governing body we have, our UUA board, as elected by the Association's member congregations. You decided that the best way to be together was rooted in our shared Faith. You decided that the most important time is now. You voted to stop allowing policy and procedure to dictate your relationships with one another and instead rely upon our covenants – our sacred promises – to guide us in transforming ourselves, our congregations, and our Faith into one that truly serves this world. You chose to live Unitarian Universalism out loud, to bring its values into the world in a very real and personal way. You chose love and trust over fear and pride.

...

No one is sure what will happen. We are all human beings: fallible and vulnerable. Our relationships will never be perfect, but working at them is the real work of our Faith. We can show the whole world a new way of being together, of working to bring more Love into the world, even when it is messy and we aren't exactly certain of the way. You can be certain of one thing, though: The Southern Region is building a new path, brick by brick. The path gets clearer and more beautiful and more generous every day. More and more people are standing on that path, hand in hand, ready to walk wherever it leads. It's a new day for the Southern Region! It's a new day for Unitarian Universalism! We come with praise and thanks for ALL that is our life! HallelUUjah!

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**Ed. Note:** These two paragraphs are excerpted from a much longer blog article. You can read the full article on the Southern Region website:  
<http://uuasouth.blogspot.com/2015/05/congratulations-southern-region-you-did.html>

## Treasurer's Report for Apr., 2015

**Outstanding Debt** \$ 0.00

### Receipts

Plate	\$ 192.23
Pledge	4,121.00
Rent	50.00
Donations (hymals)	299.50
Share the Plate (Break Bread)	99.18

**Total Receipts** \$ 4,761.91

### Disbursements

Minister Expense	\$ 1,142.31
Pest Control/Termite	35.00
Speakers' Fees/Child Care	225.00
Repairs/Maintenance	0.00
Donations (Break Bread /LACC)	199.18
Supplies (hymnal order)	386.40
UUA Dues	0.00
Utilities	329.00
Advertising	0.00
Others	0.00

**Total disbursements** \$ 2,316.89

**Net receipt** \$ 2,445.02

## Carol's Corner:

Hello, everyone! It has been an eventful month! We shared another wonderful day of fellowship with Rev. Floyd Rose and the members of Serenity Christian Church. There were so many people that day that we nearly ran out of chairs! Sue Bailey and the children prepared another wonderful shared project – two heart-shaped prints, one of which was sent to Serenity as a reminder of this day together (photos next month).

We also shared a heartfelt last service with Michael Stoltzfus (which I unfortunately missed...) - Michael and his family will be moving to north Georgia as I have noted elsewhere in this issue. Besides the fact that we will miss Michael's thoughtful presence with us each month, we must fill his shoes, so to speak, for that one service a month. As the incoming vice-president and program chair, I request your input as I and the board begin planning programming for next year – do you have ideas for suggested speakers or for topics that you would like to hear more about? Certain kinds of services we should incorporate into next year's programming? Please let me know – flag me down at a service or send an e-mail.

Even as I write this, I am preparing (in my mind) for the service on Sunday, in which we will wrap up the Welcoming Congregation curriculum for this year. A priority this summer, then, will be for Kimberly Tanner and I to prepare the application for Welcoming Congregation status, which we will submit to the UUA.

Welcoming Congregation will continue next year, too – this spring, we began to expand the focus to include the Building the World We Dream About curriculum from the UUA – this is another Welcoming Congregation program “that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another.” More information about this curriculum is available from the UUA website:

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/btwwda>

I wish you safe travels and happy summer activities, and look forward to seeing you at UU, when you are in town!

In community,  
Carol

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Below is another throwback, this time a “banner” from a previous incarnation of the UUA website. This banner was posted on the UUA website – and on our website – in the mid 2000's as the right-to-marry movement was building steam. A **real** banner with the same motto was flown on the UUA headquarters, formerly at 25 Beacon Street in Boston, which happened to be across from the Massachusetts Statehouse, in the year prior to the vote legalizing same-sex marriage by that state legislative body. Just a reminder of how far we have come, as the Supreme Court of the United States takes up this issue again in the summer of 2015! May it be so....



*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.*