

# *The Flaming Chalice*

## *Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta*

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342

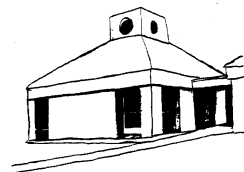
Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard

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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... **May 2017**

Sun	May 7	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. George Bennett, “Daddy’s Big House”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	May 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	May 14	11:00 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Kimberly Tanner and Carol Stiles, “UU White Supremacy Teach-In”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	May 21	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service -- Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church</b> Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	May 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Individualism, Individuality, and the True Spirit of Life”</b> Meet & Greet after the service

## *May, 2017*

At our annual congregational meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>, we voted to sign, as a congregation, the joint UUA / UUSC Declaration of Conscience, which states in part: “As people of conscience, we declare our commitment to translate our values into action as we stand on the side of love with the most vulnerable among us.” Individuals may also sign this document demonstrating our commitment to justice in our community and our world. For more information:

<http://www.uua.org/loversists/declaration-conscience>

### 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, May 7 - Rev. George Bennett, "Daddy's Big House"**

The question for Sunday is: How big is God's house? The message is based on John 14:1-14 and the Unitarian Universalist view of God. God includes us all.

### **Sunday, May 14 – Kimberly Tanner and Carol Stiles, "UU White Supremacy Teach-In"**

Today's service will have a different format as we join hundreds of other UU congregations around the country who are holding a Teach-In about white supremacy during Sunday services in late April or early May. We will use materials developed by Black Lives of UU and other resources to raise awareness of racism and white supremacy. As Black Lives of UU states "in order for us to be more effective at tackling the white supremacy beyond our walls, we must also identify ways in which systems of supremacy and inequality live within our faith and our lives." Come prepared to *participate* in this teach-in during the service.

### **Sunday, May 21 – Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church**

This Sunday is our annual shared service with Serenity Christian Church. Rev. Howard and Rev. Rose will do a pulpit exchange with Rev. Howard speaking at Serenity and Rev. Rose speaking at our church.

**Schedule: 9:00 - AM – Service at Serenity Christian church, 1619 N. Lee Street, Speaker, Rev. Fred Howard**

*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.*

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

**May 21, continued:**

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

**Speaker, Rev. Floyd Rose**

*(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.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to VSU CampDISCOVERY Scholarships for children for summer camp. See Sue Bailey for more information.*

### **Sunday, May 28 – Rev. Fred Howard, "Individualism, Individuality, and the True Spirit of Life"**

The importance we place on the individual is one of the great accomplishments – both for our faith tradition and for American society in general. But the individual, improperly understood, can also be the undoing of both community and nation. There is widespread misunderstanding of what we mean when we speak of the individual and what a healthy relationship between the individual and the larger community looks like. This morning I will elaborate.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting April 30, 2017**

Our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on April 30. The budget for 2017-2018 was approved. Welcome to our new board that will take office on July 1, for the 2017-2018 year!

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



## Ministerial Musings

**Rev. Fred Howard**

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly (GA) will be held in New Orleans June 21-25 this year. The GA has not been in our area of the country since 2011 and is not scheduled to return anytime soon. So, if you've ever entertained the idea of attending one, this is a wonderful opportunity.

I attended my first GA in 2003 in Boston, MA. Since then I've attended about every other year. I highly recommend experiencing a GA for anyone interested in furthering their understanding of our faith tradition. It's a great opportunity to see the governance of our UUA in action during the various plenary sessions. Sue Bailey and Lars Leader will be the designated delegates for our congregation this year.

But anyone can attend! For those not designated as voting delegates, there are dozens of workshops on a wide variety of interesting and informative topics that take place concurrent with the plenary sessions. And these are open to anyone registered for GA. There's also meditation and other spiritual practices, lectures, concerts, coffeehouses, and many other activities to educate and entertain. Something for just about every interest of a discerning UU.

During GA there are also two main worship services - the Service of the Living Tradition on Thursday and a Sunday morning worship service to close out the Assembly. Both are attended by several thousand UUs. There is no way to describe the energy and enthusiasm generated by 5000+ of our most faithful worshipping together and singing Spirit of Life.

For further information, see the UUA.org website or contact me or a board member.

Hope to see you there!

Fred

Rev. Fred Howard is our part-time minister. He may be contacted by email (preferable) at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com). He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

## Interfaith Day of Prayer

The Valdosta Area Ministerial Association will hold its annual Interfaith Day of Prayer service on Sunday, May 21 at 4 pm. As in recent years the site will be the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial at the corner of E. Branch St. and Church St. in downtown Valdosta. There are plans for musical selections from several churches during the service.

## UU Valdosta Caring Committee

Members of this committee include Dee Tait, David Rodgers, Kimberly Tanner, and Carol Stiles. If you are able to help when assistance is needed please see a member of the committee.

## 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.

## 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.

## Games Night

Games Night will be on hiatus in May due to the Memorial Day weekend. Please speak with Kimberly Tanner or Dawn Renner to express your interest in Games Night!

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

April 9, 2017

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Cleanup of parking lot and of two backrooms in RE building completed; need to clean carpets and move the nursery.
- Discussed plans for upcoming meeting with Dawn Cooley of UU Southern Region staff, who will be visiting us the weekend of May 20-21.
- Approved the proposed budget to be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Shared Service with Serenity Christian Church will be May 21.
- General Assembly in June: board voted to approve registration and delegate credentialing for Sue Bailey and Lars Leader who will attend GA.
- Voted to continue sponsorship of South Georgia Pride Festival.
- Next Meeting: May 7, 9:30 a.m.

### Thank You! Thank You!

**For cleanup day on Saturday, April 8:** Cliff and Mary Ellen Adams, Joe Rehberg, Tom Phillips, Dee Tait, Carol Stiles, and "Chris" from the Oaken Circle Pagan group. Special thanks to Chris for helping out on other days as well!

**For watering plants during May:** Dee Tait

**For serving on the Nominating Committee:** Dee Tait (chair), Cliff Adams, Dawn Renner

**For lay-leading services:** Stephanie Taylor, Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams, Carol Stiles

**For speaking at Sunday Services:** Deb Marine-Hill, Amy Jackson, Kimberly Tanner, Carol Stiles,

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

**For Meet & Greet:** Carol Stiles, Mary Ellen Adams, Crystal Rapier, Dawn Renner

**For leading RE and nursery care:** Sue Bailey and Teagan Dunn

**For assisting with RE and nursery:** Diane Holliman, Lars Leader, Dawn Renner, Doug Tanner, Doro Ellis

**For taking out trash and recycling:** Dee Tait, Lawrence Rapier, Lars Leader, and others.

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

**For photos for newsletter:** Carol Stiles, Diane Holliman

## ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Keep in your thoughts...*

- ❖ Our members and friends with health concerns.

*Congratulations to ...*

- ❖ Deb Marine, who was named one of Phi Theta Kappa's All-Georgia Academic Team members for 2017. She was nominated by the Georgia Military College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and attended a state-wide honors luncheon in Atlanta in March. Deb graduated Summa Cum Laude from GMC in December, 2016, and has been accepted to the BSN (Bachelors of Science in Nursing) program at Valdosta State University, which she will start in Fall, 2017.
- ❖ Alisa Pappas, who was named Outstanding Student in Philosophy at Valdosta State University. Alisa graduates in May from VSU, and has been accepted at the University of Missouri for the MA program in Library Science.

### UU Treasurer's Report March 2017

<b><u>Outstanding Debt</u></b>	\$ 0.00
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	
Plate	\$ 135.28
Pledge	1520.00
Rent	100.00
Share the Plate(LACC)	85.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$ 1840.28</b>

<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>	
Minister Expense	\$ 700.00
Pest Control/Termite	45.00
Speaker's fees	0.00
Repairs/Maintenance	0.00
Donations (LACC)	185.00
Insurance	1737.00
RE/childcare	0.00
UUA Dues	0.00
Utilities	243.47
Other	0.00
<b>Total disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 2910.47</b>
<b>Net receipt</b>	<b>\$ -1070.19</b>

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

**Taoist Tai Chi** – Monday and Thursday, 5:30 - 7:00 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/>

Welcome New Member!  
Daniel Peveto



## Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles

Newsletter deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the previous month!

*If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.*

Worship Team Chair: Carol Stiles

Website Manager: Carol Stiles

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles or Kimberly Tanner

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

## 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.

Lars and Sue and friends at our  
first Blessing of the Animals,  
April 23, 2017:







Amy Jackson,  
Stephanie Taylor and  
Deb Marine-Hill,  
during the Flower  
Communion on  
April 2, 2017



Tom Phillips,  
Amanda Hall, and  
friends, along with  
Jim Ingram at the  
Blessing of the  
animals on April  
23, 2017



### 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.

*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.*