

The Flaming Chalice

Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue

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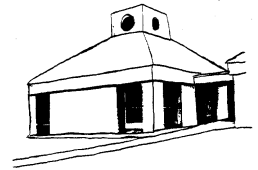
Valdosta, GA 31604

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

What's going on... **November 2015**

Sun	Nov. 1	9:45 AM 10:45 AM	Introduction to UU Religious Education for children Service - Rev. Fred Howard, "Entertaining Angels" Meet & Greet after the service Welcoming Congregation session
Sun	Nov. 8	9:45 AM 10:45 AM	Introduction to UU Religious Education for children Service - Rev. Bennie Calloway, "I Am Think-ful Therefore I Am Thankful" Meet & Greet after the service Welcoming Congregation session
M	Nov. 9	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sun	Nov. 15		Deadline December newsletter
Sun	Nov. 15	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - Rev. Fred Howard, "Thanksgiving: Relative or Absolute?" Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Nov. 22	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Rev. George Bennett, "Threatening the Status Quo." Meet & Greet after the service
Sun	Nov. 29	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service – Dr. Lars Leader, "UUSC and A Guest at Your Table," Meet & Greet Coffee after the service

November 2015

...has five Sundays in it! We welcome back Rev. George Bennett to the pulpit and then we kick off the UUSC Guest at Your Table program!

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, November 1 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Entertaining Angels”

We frequently hear the buzzterm “engaged spirituality” these days. Apparently inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh’s phrase “engaged Buddhism,” the term refers to religious or spiritual people of any faith tradition who actively engage in the world in order to transform it in positive ways while finding nurturance, inspiration and guidance in their individual spiritual beliefs and practices. What does a life of engaged spirituality look like? This morning I’ll explore that question by examining the life of a most unconventional modern saint.

Sunday, November 8 – Rev. Bennie Calloway, “I Am Think-ful Therefore I Am Thankful”

In this sermon, as we approach the Thanksgiving season, I want to discuss the power of gratitude. Gratitude is not an event, but it is an attitude, a disposition, and a way of life. What we are most thankful for are the things that increase in our lives. In order to experience being thankful in its profundity, it all begins with our think-ful-ness. Giving is a key component in our gratitude. We give because we have enough to share. We don't give to get in every instance, we give because we have received and will continue to receive. What you appreciate, appreciates. All major religions place a strong emphasis upon gratitude and I want to draw from those various sources of thought.

Sunday, November 15 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Thanksgiving: Relative or Absolute?”

There is much more to being thankful than simply good manners. Sometimes called an “attitude of gratitude,” it is also more than just another spiritual attribute alongside others. It’s an orientation to the human experience that, in some respects, is the mother of all spiritual attributes and very essence of spirituality. With Thanksgiving, our Great American Holiday, fast approaching, I’ll elaborate on this timely topic with some poignant illustrations.

Sunday, November 22 – Rev. George Bennett, “Threatening the Status Quo.”

The sermon is about a dozen women and men who were seen as undesirables because they were seen as odd and out of sync with the world around them.

Sunday, November 29 – Lars Leader, “UUSC and A Guest at Your Table.”

This Sunday, we will kick off our annual participation in the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Guest at Your Table (GAYT) program. Lars Leader, our UUSC representative, will share the background behind this annual campaign, which introduces us to various leaders working around the world for human rights. The concept is simple, as described by UUSC: “As you gather together with your family and friends to take part in Guest at Your Table, we ask you to figuratively invite those leaders into your community — to your table — through sharing their stories. We think of these leaders as our ‘guests.’ We look forward to introducing them to you!” - See more at: <http://www.uusc.org/guest>

***Share the Plate Sunday:** Contributions to the plate, not otherwise designated as pledge, will go to UUSC’s Guest at Your Table program, as part of our annual congregational contribution. In addition, each family will receive a GAYT donations box and information on joining and supporting UUSC.*

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.

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. 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.

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts...

- ❖ Our members and friends experiencing health difficulties...

Congratulations to ...

- ❖ Patrick Richardson, who has been sworn into the U.S. Navy! After graduating from high school in the spring, he will leave for boot camp. We are all proud of you, Patrick! And thanks again for the beautiful seating area around the fire pit, as your Eagle Scout project!
- ❖ Late-breaking news!! Your editor has just received notice that Patrick has received his Eagle Scout Award!
- ❖ Congratulations to Mars Hallman, Berrien High School student, who received a national award at the GLSEN Respect Awards ceremony in L.A., for Student Advocate of the Year!! Mars was one of our speakers at the Interfaith Pride Service, in which they described to us their experience with starting a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at Berrien High.

Welcome back, Rev. George Bennett!

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we welcome Rev. George Bennett back to the pulpit! Rev. Bennett was one of our regular monthly speakers, especially during the mid-2000's after his retirement from full-time ministry. He was ordained in the United Church of Christ and has served both Disciples of Christ and UCC congregations for over forty years. The son of Lee Bennett, local artist and professor at VSU, and Harold Bennett, retired business person and active community leader, George grew up in Valdosta, attended VSU, and is a graduate of FSU and BU. He is married to Martha McElroy from Quitman. They have three children and several grandchildren. George has been very active in the Valdosta Area Ministerial Association and in many social justice efforts in the community.

Ministerial Musings

November 2015

Habitat for Humanity started in 1968 on a cooperative farm called Koinonia not too far from here in Americus GA. A fellow named Millard Fuller had a vision of providing decent affordable housing for others. From that simple beginning, Habitat has grown into a worldwide leader in providing housing to low income families at low or no interest and no profit. To date, Habitat has built or repaired over one million homes, sheltering over five million people.

All monies paid by Habitat homeowners, along with donations to the organization go into a revolving fund that is then used to fund the building of other new houses. As Habitat says in its mission statement, "What the poor need is not charity but capital, not caseworkers but co-workers. And what the rich need is a wise, honorable and just way of divesting themselves of their overabundance. The Fund for Humanity will meet both of these needs. Money for the fund will come from shared gifts by those who feel they have more than they need and from non-interest bearing loans from those who cannot afford to make a gift but who do want to provide working capital for the disinherited . . . The fund will give away no money. It is not a handout."

Much like an old fashioned barn raising, people who volunteer to work at a Habitat building site are given the opportunity to experience firsthand what it means to participate in a community effort to provide a tangible expression of love. It also gives them a chance to get to know people they might not get to know otherwise. Our church has an opportunity once again to participate in a Habitat project that will take place November 15-21 right here in Valdosta. The annual week long effort is called "Building on Faith." This year's effort will be the renovation of an existing home.

I get more excited about Habitat every year because I know from experience how rewarding the experience is. Our church plans to participate as a group again this year by providing workers as well as coordinating a lunch for the crew. The house will then be dedicated on the following Sunday during the Community Thanksgiving

Service. I hope that you will be able to find the time to take part in this meaningful and most worthwhile endeavor. Contact me or a board member if interested in participating.

Grace and Peace,
Fred

News from CUUPS

It's Official! Oaken Circle is now an official chapter, affiliated with CUUPS, the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. The chapter meets at the UU Church, 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings, with the officers' meeting on the first Wednesday. You can contact the group by e-mail at: valdostaoakencircle@gmail.com or check out the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/oakencircle/>

More info on CUUPS available on Facebook, CUUPS Bulletin:

<https://www.facebook.com/CUUPS.Media> and on the CUUPS website: <http://www.cuups.org/>

We welcome Oaken Circle to UU Valdosta, and we welcome several new members who have joined by the Oaken Circle Chapter and UU Valdosta!

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

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Beginners Class, 7 – 8 p.m. Continuing class 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin. You can e-mail the group at georgia@taoist.org

Sangha Tuesdays

6:00-7:30 PM at the church

Note a change in start time: 6:00 p.m.

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.

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.

Pizza and a Movie

The November 13, 2015, UU Church of Valdosta film for Pizza and a Movie Night is *House of Sand and Fog*. We will meet at 6:30 and show the film at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Thank you for donating \$5.00 for pizza and drinks. Rating: R (for some violence/disturbing images, language and a scene of sexuality)

A film capable of shedding light on implications of immigrant diversity trends affecting America's view of itself is Director Vadim Perelman's *House of Sand and Fog* (2003). Co-writer Perelman and Shawn Lawrence Otto present how Massoud Amir (Ben Kingsley), originally a Behrani, recognizes an opportunity to climb higher on the American dream's upward mobility ladder, but at the cost of an American woman, Kathy Lazaro (Jennifer Connelly). As a naturalized citizen, he is entitled to the same benefits of a woman naturally possessing American birthrights. When Kathy fails to open her mail responsibly due to her lapse in fighting alcoholism following her husband leaving her, she falls behind paying property taxes and loses her house. To pursue her dream to return to sobriety and normalcy she fights to regain the house. When Deputy Sheriff Lester Burdon (Ron Eldard) becomes passionate about Kathy, he illegally attempts to come to her aid. Kathy's Public Defender (Frances Fisher) argues with Amir the right thing to do is to return the purchase money to help her restore her grounding to place. Amir must choose between helping a fellow American rebuild her life, or build a new life for his immigrant family in her former home. What is the right thing for decent Americans to decide when they possess comparable moral claims to equally legitimate entitlements and hopes?

-- Review by David Rodgers

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

No Games Night in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday! Contact: Susan Bailey

OWL Training

Kimberly Tanner participated in the UUA's Our Whole Lives (OWL) training on Sep. 25-27 at Emerson UU in the Atlanta area. OWL is a curriculum developed by the UUA and the United Church of Christ, but it contains no religious doctrine and has been adopted by other religious groups and secular groups as well. OWL "helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality." Curricula have been developed for various age groups from elementary to adult. More information available here:

<http://www.uua.org/re/owl>

Welcoming Congregation

Our Welcoming Congregation conversations this fall will focus on the UUA curriculum, "Examining Whiteness: An Anti-Racism Curriculum." The first session in November, on November 1, will be a reflection on the history of white supremacy in the U.S. For more information and to receive announcements about readings, etc., please contact Carol Stiles. Carol and Kimberly, along with Tom Aiello and some possible guests, will co-facilitate these sessions.

UU Church of Valdosta

Board of Directors Meeting News

October 11, 2015

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Several new members have joined as a result of the new CUUPS chapter forming. Several CUUPS activities and requests were discussed.
- March, 20 2016 for the 50th celebration, Mary Louise DeWolf will be the speaker.
- Next Meeting: Nov. 1 or 8, TBD

Thank You! Thank You!

For cleaning the church on Saturday, Oct. 17: Dee Tait, Fred Howard, Michael Greene, and Carol Stiles

For speaking at services in October: Rev. Jack Ford, UU Buckman Bridge

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Cliff Adams

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson, Doug Tanner

For Meet & Greet: Tammy and Tanya McDowell, Mary Ellen Adams, Dawn Renner

For assisting with RE: Teagan Dunn, Kimberly Tanner

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

UU Treasurer's Report Sept. 2015

Outstanding Debt

\$ 0.00

Receipts

Plate* \$ 8.00
Pledge 420.00
Rent
Share the Plate(rotary Reading) 63.00

Total Receipts \$ 491.00

Disbursements

Minister Expense \$ 700.00
Assoc. Minister 350.00
Pest Control/Termite 35.00
Speakers' Fees/Interpreter 0.00
Repairs/Maintenance 0.00
Donations (LACC, Rotary, NCNW) 313.00
UUA Dues 640.00
Insurance 0.00
Utilities 293.56
Advertising (bench) 350.00
Others (checks) 15.20

Total disbursements \$ 2,696.76

Net receipt \$ -2,205.76

*Note that some Sept. collections are not included.

Welcome New Members! Chris Salinas, Mimsy Dorsey, and Megan Molargik



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 with the task and date(s) and she will put you on the list for that task.

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.

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Carol Stiles, uvaldosta@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

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.