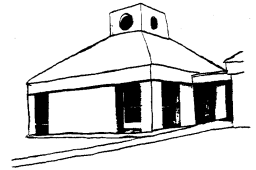


# The Flaming Chalice

## 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... **September 2014**

Sun	Sep. 7	9:30 AM 10:45 AM	Board Meeting in the RE wing at the church Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Against All Odds” Ingathering and Water Communion Service</b> Meet & Greet after the service Religious Education Planning Retreat – plan to participate!
M	Sep. 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
F	Sep. 12	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie
Sun	Sep. 14	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Dr. Michael Stoltzfus, “Shinto, Seamlessness, and Japanese Spirituality”</b> Meet & Greet after the service
M	Sep. 15		<b>Deadline August newsletter</b>
Sat	Sep 20	Noon – 7:00 PM	<i>South Georgia Pride Festival</i> – visit our table and volunteer to help!
Sun	Sep. 21	10:45 AM  2:00 PM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – Rev. Fred Howard, “Let It Go”</b> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> <b>Interfaith Pride Service – at the church!</b>
F	Sep. 26	6:30 PM	Games Night!
Sun	Sep. 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children <b>Service – To be announced.</b> Meet & Greet after the service

### September....

The Church year kicks into high gear with the arrival of September! Rev. Fred Howard returns to his two Sunday a month schedule, beginning Sept. 7. That Sunday will also be the water communion – bring a sample of water or use some from the communal supply to share experiences from your summer. We have lots planned this year, check out Rev. Fred’s column and other announcements inside. Join us when you can!

#### 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, Sep. 7 – Rev. Fred Howard “Against All Odds” Ingathering and Water Communion Service**

Today we will celebrate our annual ritual of water communion. For those who wish to participate, please bring a small jar or vial of water from that significant place of your summer journey, such as a lake, river, or ocean, and a few brief sentences about your experiences. If you didn't collect water, just bring some from the tap – no one will suspect the substitution. (;-). I will also share a short homily on my own journey this summer entitled “Against All Odds.”

### **Sunday, Sep. 14 – Dr. Michael Stoltzfus, “Shinto, Seamlessness, and Japanese Spirituality”**

Shinto is the indigenous worldview and origin of Japanese culture and spirituality. Shinto is not well understood in the West as it is too often uncritically associated with the Japanese imperialism of the early to mid-twentieth century. We will explore Shinto through the harmonious interaction of the multitude of Kami, the view of nature as an all-inclusive mixture of rivers, mountains, and people, the lack of systematic teachings or texts, and the focus on life and vitality rather than death and afterlife. The enduring strength of Shinto is maintained through an emphasis on sensory experience derived from Shinto festivals, shrines, and natural phenomena rather than philosophical or theological discourse. We will also emphasize Shinto's embrace of pluralism expressed through its historical willingness to welcome other religious traditions like Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism.

### **Sunday, Sep. 21 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Let It Go”**

It's been said that people today find solace in popular culture, the kind of solace they once found in organized religion. Assuming this is true (increasing movie revenues and declining church attendance hint at some validity to this), then theology can learn a lot from studying certain fascinations that develop within pop culture. Today I will make such an attempt, by examining the hugely popular Disney movie “Frozen.”

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: Donations to the plate this Sunday, not otherwise designated as pledges, will go to the Valdosta Area Rotary Club Imagination Library Project. The project provides Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books each month to children under the age of five in Lowndes County. Starting with “The Little Engine That Could,” an age-appropriate book is mailed directly to each registered child each month, until the child's fifth birthday. There is no cost to the*

*child's family. Early reading is important to all parts of the community because it leads to a lifetime of opportunity. Children who learn to read early in life become avid learners in school, skillful workers on the job, and informed citizens in life. A contribution of \$24 provides a child a book a month for a year; \$120 provides a child a book a month for five years. The program is administered in Lowndes County by the Valdosta Rotary Foundation.*

**Sunday, Sep. 28 – To be announced. Watch the weekly order of service, the e-mail list and the website for announcements.**

## 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.

## Notes from RE – Sue Bailey

We are winding up summer and heading into fall and a new season of RE lessons, crafts, and activities. We will be using the Tapestry of Faith series to explore our UU Principles and the many sources we reach out to for wisdom, spiritual guidance, and inspiration – the world's many religions, our Judeo-Christian heritage, science, lessons of important men and women throughout history, spiritual teachings from earth-centered traditions on the sacred circle of life, and our own experiences in life. As always, we welcome volunteers to assist with RE class and the nursery when needed. Please contact Sue Bailey to help.

## 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.

### 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.



## MINISTERIAL MUUSINGS

Rev. Fred Howard, September 2014

It's already September! That's rather hard to believe. The summer went by so fast for Kathy and me. We got to spend a lot of quality time together, did some travelling, and saw all the kids and grandkids. Kathy continues to do well with her maintenance chemotherapy regimen and had the energy to do everything we'd planned. For all this we feel quite grateful.

I so look forward to being back in the Valdosta UU church community! It'll be good to reengage and catch up with everyone. Even during time away, I never completely escape the role of minister, and my mind, heart and spirit are always exploring topics that might make good sermon material or worthy and engaging subject material for religious education. It's been a fruitful summer of reflection and I have lots of energy around some of the things I'll be visiting with you this year.

In October our congregation will begin the Welcoming Congregation Refresher Program as outlined by the UUA. This is a volunteer program for Unitarian Universalist congregations that want to take intentional steps to become more welcoming and inclusive of people with marginalized sexual orientations and gender identities. The Welcoming Congregation Program has been around since 1990. Since over time there is always some turnover in membership and changes occur in the wider culture, this refresher program was developed to provide congregations a chance to reacquaint, re-educate, and recommit to inclusive practices every few years.

Completing this program will be a part of our congregation's efforts to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation by the UUA. Today 66 percent of Unitarian Universalist congregations are recognized as welcoming congregations and it is my hope that soon we will join their ranks. It's time!

We will begin the curriculum for the Refresher Program during the "second hour," after meet and greet, on the first Sunday in October. The plan is to have sessions first and third Sundays each month until we've completed the program. This should take about 10 weeks.

Community building is an integral part of the Welcoming Congregation curriculum. I think you'll find the work intellectually stimulating, emotionally challenging, and spiritually fascinating. This is a courageous step for our congregation and I'm excited to be a part of it! Come join us as we begin this bold new journey together.

## Religious Education Kick-off Gathering!

New this year! All families participating in the Religious Education program are encouraged to stay after the service on Sunday, September 7, for a planning and kick-off for this year's Religious Education program! We will discuss the curriculum and various plans for activities this year. Any adults interested in helping with RE during the year are also encouraged to attend. Our RE program is growing with a diverse range of ages involved. We need to ensure that Sue Bailey has the help she needs throughout the year. A light lunch will be provided and there will be activities for the younger children, while the adults are meeting.

### ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

*Our best wishes to:*

- ❖ One of our families relocating to Wyoming.

*Keep in your thoughts*

- ❖ Keep in your thoughts members and friends who are dealing with health issues of their own or of family members.

**UU Valdosta Caring Committee** Dee Tait has returned as chair of this committee; if you would be able to help, when requests for help are received, please let her know. Other members including 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.

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. He is usually in the pulpit on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. He may be contacted by email at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto:fredhoward3622@gmail.com) (preferable). He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

## Interfaith Pride Service

Sunday, September 21- 2:00 PM at UU Church  
In conjunction with the South Georgia Pride Festival, we will host the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith Pride Service. The guest speaker will be announced shortly, and we will invite ministers of other local churches to participate in the service. Extend an invitation to your neighbors and friends – all are welcome to join us in celebrating diversity and recognizing efforts to keep our community safe for all people. Stay afterwards for a meet-and-greet that will include desserts, light snacks, and beverages.

## South Georgia Pride Festival

Saturday, Sep. 20, noon to 7:00 p.m. at John Saunders Park. We will have a table at the Festival! See Kimberly Tanner to volunteer to be at the table. Everyone is invited to the Festival! <http://www.southgapride.com/>  
See Raynae Jones, Executive Director of SGP, one of our members, to volunteer to help with the Festival!

## New Contribution Envelopes

We have new envelopes, labelled with two hearts and the words “Love Offering” for your cash or check contributions to the church. If you wish to designate cash contributions toward your pledge, please use these envelopes so that our treasurer can keep a record of your donation toward your pledge. Remember that a donation of record is necessary to be considered an active member and to vote in our annual congregational meeting. The envelopes can be found in the church entry, in the collection plate, or on the piano. Thank you! Your support helps keep us moving forward!

## E-mail list?

If you are not on our Yahoo e-mail announcements list yet, contact Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com). It is low volume and moderated, for announcements and reminders.

Please contact Kimberly Tanner if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically! Saves money and paper!

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

## Games Night

Friday, Sept. 26, 6:30PM

Often we play Mexican Train (dominoes), but we enjoy learning new games. If you have a game that is not limited to small numbers of players, please bring it along! Bring a snack to share, if you wish. Will it be cool enough for the fire pit to return?? Contact: Susan Bailey.

## Worship Team!

Please contact see Valerie Webster with any questions or comments for the newly organized Worship Team, or one of the team members listed here to volunteer. Valerie Webster, Chair, Cliff Adams, Rhett Watson (music), Dawn Renner (meet-n-greet), Doug Tanner (Vice-President/Program Chair), Kimberly Tanner.

## UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News

Aug. 3, 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:

- Plans for the RE kick-off gathering, see announcement!
- Plans for South Georgia Pride Festival, which will be Sept. 20, John Saunders Park, and the Interfaith Pride Service, Sept. 21, at UU Church
- newsletter e-mail delivery; many people have switched, such that the US mail list is below 60.
- Next Meeting: Sunday, Sep 7, 9:30 AM. (note the change in day and time due to board members' schedules.)

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

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

August 15: Deadline for the May 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

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

## **Pizza and a Movie Friday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m.**

“Sometimes you have to reach into someone else's world to find out what's missing in your own.” So goes the tag line for “The Intouchables,” our choice for movie night this month. In the storyline of the film, which is based on a true story, Philippe is a multimillionaire quadriplegic in need of a caretaker, Driss is a street smart ex-con out on parole who only applies for the job to prove to government officials that he's out looking for a job. Philippe finds Driss' laid back attitude, irreverence, and lack of sympathy refreshing and offers him the job. An unlikely cross cultural friendship develops between these two men.

The movie was a box office smash in France and became the biggest international film success in the history of French cinema. It received mixed reviews in the US and this is thought to reflect the wide gap in racial attitudes between the two countries.

I found the movie interesting on several levels. Besides being enormously entertaining, it prompts some serious reflection on what constitutes good caretaking. The role of a good caregiver is hardly limited to lifting, bathing, grooming, dressing, pushing and supplying medicines. When a patient is faced with a grim reality such as quadriplegia, caregiving necessarily also involves providing even more valuable services, companionship, cheer, and a renewed zest for living.

The movie is rated R for language and some drug use. Join us for Pizza and a Movie on Friday evening, Sept. 12 at 6:30 pm. A contribution of \$5 toward pizza and drinks is suggested. Contact Fred Howard for more information.

## **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.

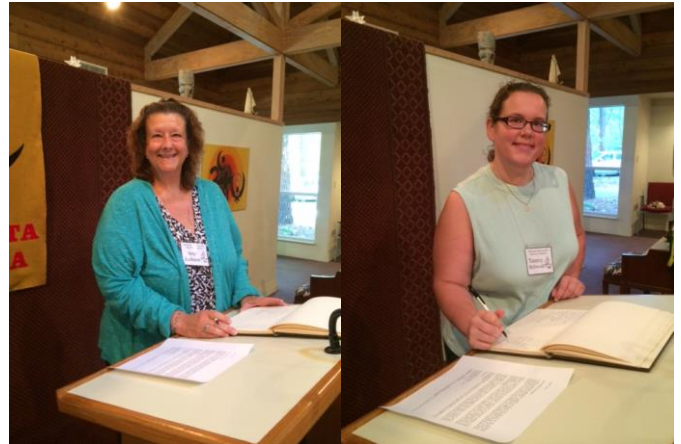


### **VALDOSTA SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP**

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>



Amy Jackson

Tammy McDowell

## **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!**

Luke, at right

Photos by  
Kimberly Tanner



## **Thank You! Thank You!**

**For speaking at Sunday Services in August:** Michael Stoltzfus (welcome back!), Patricia Marks, Bennie Calloway, Doug Tanner, Carol Stiles.

**For helping with the newsletter:** Jim Ingram (photocopying), Dee Tait, Rosie and Frank Asbury, Kimberly and Doug Tanner, Betty Derrick and others who helped fold and stamp newsletters earlier in the summer!

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

**For providing music at services:** Rhett Watson

**For lay-leading services:** Valerie Webster, Dee Tait, Doug Tanner, Betty Derrick

**For Meet & Greet:** Cliff and Mary Ellen Adams, Diane Holliman, Dawn Renner (coordinator)

**For sweeping sidewalks:** Richard Schofill, Cliff Adams

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

*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.*

**Special Treasurer's Report** – the following is an annual report of our Share-the-Plate contributions for 2013-2014. Thank you for your participation! We can make a difference!

July, 2013	Save Our Children	\$174.73
Aug., 2013	Hungry at Home	114.67
Sept., 2013	Rotary Reading	113.00
Oct., 2013	Habitat for Humanity	84.00
Nov – Dec., 2013	Guest At Your Table	174.55
Jan., 2014	The Haven	190.00
Febr., 2014	SGPEH	135.00
March, 2014	LAMP	40.00
April, 2014	Break Bread	161.00
May, 2014	LACC	206.00
June, 2014	Migrant Farm Workers Clinic	150.00
Total		\$ 1542.95

In addition, as budgeted by the UU board, we have pledged and donated \$100 per month to the Lowndes Area Crisis Care. LACC is organized by the Valdosta Area Ministerial Association (VAMA) to provide short-term financial help for those in emergency need.

### **Accepting Difference Project funds:**

In February, a special collection was held for the Migrant Farm Workers Clinic, \$91.00 was received from individuals (along with several bags of clothing) which was matched by \$100.00 from the Accepting Difference Project Fund.

In April, the board approved a donation of \$100 for the Mary Turner Project to help with refreshments for the 4<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Mary Turner Historical Site, which was held May 17<sup>th</sup>. More information: <http://www.maryturner.org/>

In July, the board voted to donate \$200 worth of crayons to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual SGPEH Kids Are People Too Fair, held on Aug. 2, which distributed backpacks containing school supplies.

## **Lars Leader visits Frank Lloyd Wright's Unitarian Meeting House in Madison, WI**

On a recent trip to visit my son in Madison, Wisconsin, I attended a Sunday service at the First Unitarian Society of Madison. One reason for going there was to see the Unitarian Meeting House, their older sanctuary, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. He was a life-long member of the congregation. The Unitarian Meeting House, completed in 1951, is recognized as one of Wright's most famous designs. As with our own UU Valdosta building, the congregation's members participated in its construction. Lots of windows connect the interior with the natural surroundings. Here is an exterior view:



A view of the interior of the sanctuary shows the pulpit and surrounding windows. The sanctuary seating is arranged in a triangular shape, a pattern found throughout the building. The congregation views others attending, not just the pulpit. And, the seating, also Wright's concept, is moveable. Some of what I saw here reminds me of how Jim Ingram designed our building!



Submitted by  
Lars Leader

