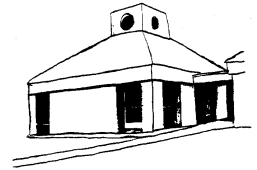


The Flaming Chalice

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



| | |
|--|---|
| 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 to contact us!

What's going on... **September, 2015**

| | | | |
|-----|---------|---------------------|---|
| Sun | Sep. 6 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service - Rev. Fred Howard, Water Communion and Ingathering Service Meet & Greet after the service |
| Sun | Sep. 13 | 9:30 AM 10:45 AM | UU board meeting in the RE wing Religious Education for children Service - Dr. Bennie E. Calloway, III, "The Recovery Of Our Original Unity" Meet & Greet after the service |
| M | Sep. 14 | 11:00AM | Break Bread delivery |
| T | Sep. 15 | | Deadline October newsletter |
| Sun | Sep. 20 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service – Rev. Fred Howard, "What is the Voice of Paganism within Unitarian Universalism?" Meet & Greet after the service |
| F | Sep. 25 | 6:30 PM | Games Night! |
| Sun | Sep. 27 | 10:45 AM | Religious Education for children Service – Glenn Ritchie, "Social Work Ethics and Faith-Based Initiatives" Meet & Greet after the service |

September, 2015!

The month when schools are in full swing and our church year picks up the pace! We Welcome Rev. Fred Howard back to the pulpit after a summer of study and reflection. And we welcome Rev. Bennie Calloway as a regular monthly speaker and associate minister! Read all it about it inside....

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, September 6 – Rev. Fred Howard, Water Communion and Ingathering Service

Unitarian Universalist churches celebrate an annual ritual of water communion and ingathering at this time of year. All who would like to participate in the ritual should bring a small bottle of water that represents some significant place or meaningful event from your summer travels – a lake, river, or ocean. If you forgot to collect one, no problem. Just bring some tap water and be prepared to share a few brief sentences about your travels and the significance of the place you visited. It's the story that you share and the tangibility of the ritual that makes the experience significant. I'll be sharing a short sermon entitled "A Wild Call and a Clear Call."

Sunday, September 13 – Dr. Bennie E. Calloway, III, "The Recovery of Our Original Unity"

The emphasis of the message is derived from a quote by Thomas Merton: "We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are."

I want to take the time to dissect this quote and make it applicable for a 21st interpretation of spiritual unity and focus on what we have in common, facilitate dialogue, and foster meaningful relationships and practical and pragmatic approaches to recovering original unity. We must tackle the notion of false imagery that we are not already one. We all have the same end goal and that is spiritual fulfillment that is only possible by community engagement not social disengagement by media influence and theological separatism.

Sunday, September 20 – Rev. Fred Howard, "What is the Voice of Paganism within Unitarian Universalism?"

You are probably familiar with the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. We live out these Seven Principles within a living tradition drawn from Six Sources, often seen printed after the Principles. You may not realize that, up until 1995, there were only five Sources. The sixth, "spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions," was not

added until 1995. Years of dialogue, deliberation, and education went into the discernment process leading up to that addition. This morning I'll attempt to give some perspective on that discernment process as well as share some ideas on how the voices of the Earth-centered traditions, including Paganism, inform our identity as a faith tradition today.

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. The program is administered in Lowndes County by the Valdosta Rotary Foundation.*

Sunday, September 27 - Glenn Ritchie, "Social Work Ethics and Faith-Based Initiatives"

Social workers and faith-based initiatives have a long history working together. Many times this relationship has fostered great cooperation. Practicing such ethics make for more effective outcomes for those served. This presentation will focus on social work ethics and how faith-based initiatives can incorporate these ethics into their charitable practices. Unitarian Universalists are also especially equipped to work with social workers due to many shared values. At the same time, social workers may benefit from examining Unitarian Universalist values in deciding how social work ethics can be expanded upon in the future.

Glenn Ritchie is a graduate student at Valdosta State University in his concentration year for his Master's of Social Work degree. He has eight years' experience working in social services as well as experience in community organizing and local activism.



Tom's Time

Tom Aiello
President, UU Valdosta

This month we are welcoming a new member to the team! Reverend Bennie Calloway has agreed to serve as our associate minister for the next year. He'll give us a message once a month and pastoral care throughout. Reverend Calloway is no stranger to our congregation. He has spoken here several times in the past. Please make sure to let him know how welcome he is when you see him on the grounds.

The expansion of our ministerial staff should symbolize to all of us the growth that we have experienced, and all of you have made that possible. We must be diligent, however, not to let that growth change who we are and how we reach out to those who need us most. Growth is an interesting phenomenon. In 1850, for example, Chicago was the size of Valdosta. But by 1900, it was home to more than 1.7 million people. It was a fundamentally different place, with different attitudes, different values, and a massive underclass that suffered under the weight of the changes. In our first fifty years, we haven't quite grown to the size of Chicago, but we have certainly grown. Just in the past few years our congregation has expanded significantly, as evidenced by the arrival of Reverend Calloway.

And while we wish for him nothing but success and welcome that change, we also need to be mindful that growth can lead to less helpful changes. It is up to us to make sure that we never become a fundamentally different place—that we maintain the attitudes and values that bring so many to this congregation and ensure that no one suffers under the weight of our changes.

-- Tom

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.



MINISTERIAL MUUSINGS

Rev. Fred Howard, September 2015

After a restful and relaxing (though all too short) summer, it's good to be back and reengaged with the church. I look forward to this year and the exciting opportunities for ministry it presents. I'm especially pleased that Rev. Bennie Calloway will be joining our community as an associate minister.

Bennie brings a wealth of gifts to our congregation. His biography appears elsewhere in this newsletter. He contacted me about two and a half years ago out of his interest in our faith tradition. We got together for a conversation and discovered many similarities in the paths our spiritual journeys were taking. We've gotten together many times since then, and out of those conversations came a desire to collaborate on some ministries in the community. Building a more multicultural and inclusive community has always been at the top of my long term goals, and I've heard much the same goal coming from Bennie in those conversations and in the messages he's shared with our congregation. I was delighted when he showed interest in serving us as a staff member.

By having both Bennie and me as regular speakers, the congregation will benefit from hearing both the similarities and the differences in our approaches to issues of common concern. One of the ideas we hope to develop is to speak on common themes each month as we both share our unique view from the pulpit, in conversations, and in other activities in the life of our community. This has great potential for all of us, both Bennie and me included, to broaden our perspectives and learn from each other as we journey together.

Please join me in making Bennie feel welcome as he begins speaking regularly on the second Sunday of every month beginning September 13th!

Rev. Fred Howard is our part time minister. He can be reached at fredhoward3622@gmail.com. He is available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

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.

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 ...

- ❖ Ed. Note: Please send news – this is your newsletter!

Welcome New Members!



Deborah Marine-Hill and Stirling Hill, after signing the membership book – welcome them to UU Valdosta membership!

Interfaith Pride Service

Sunday, September 20- 2:00 PM at UU Church

In conjunction with the South Georgia Pride Festival, we will host the 6th 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. 19th, noon to 7:00 p.m. at John Saunders Park. We will have a table at the Festival! See Carol Stiles to volunteer to be at the table. Everyone is invited to the Festival! <http://www.southgapride.com/>

Ministry News!

The UU board welcomes Dr. Bennie Calloway as Associate Minister!

Your UU board met with both Rev. Fred Howard and Dr. Bennie Calloway in a Saturday morning retreat to discuss the details of our ministry for the year. The resulting plan, with Rev. Howard and Dr. Calloway speaking two or three Sundays per month, and invited speakers who are members of the congregation or community on the other Sundays, will allow us to continue to hear a diversity of voices from many spiritual paths.

Dr. Calloway's bio: Dr. Bennie E. Calloway, III was born and raised in Fitzgerald, GA and has been a licensed minister since 1992 and an ordained minister since 1997. He has served two Baptist and two non-denominational congregations in the South Georgia area.

Dr. Calloway is a graduate of Valdosta State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Speech Communications and received his Georgia Educator Certificate in Middle Grades Language Arts/Social Sciences in 2008. He has taught in Brooks County, Lanier County & Valdosta City Schools. He is a former Adult Literacy Instructor with Wiregrass Technical College and is currently an instructor at Scintilla Charter Academy while pursuing a second certification in Special Education General Curriculum and a Master's Program with the American College of Education.

With respect to theological training, he has earned a Master of Ministry and a Doctorate of Religious Education degrees from Andersonville Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of the Valdosta Government 101 Citizens Orientation Course in May 2015.

Dr. Calloway has been married to his wife Tan for 20 years and they are proud parents of two daughters, Hannah Alexis and Kayla Savannah. They reside in Valdosta, GA.

Games Night

Friday, Sept. 25, 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
August 9, 2015**

Highlights of the UU Board meeting:

- Discussed plans for ministry and planned a board retreat, held August 15th. (See "Ministry News" elsewhere in this issue).
- PRIDE table: September 19th, 2015, 12pm to 7pm at John W. Saunders Park
- Next Meeting: September 13, 9:30 a.m.

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.

Potluck and Book Group

The book group has selected *Reading Lolita In Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi, for the next potluck and discussion, which will be sometime in early October.

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

CUUPS Meeting

An organizational meeting to form a new CUUPS chapter was held Aug. 1 at the UU church. CUUPS, the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS), is an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Association. More information about CUUPS is available here: <http://www.cuups.org/> Here's a description: "CUUPS is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified UU religious professionals."

For more information, please see Kimberly Tanner, who has contact information for the leaders of this group.

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

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday, Next Beginners Class starts Thursday, September 10, 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

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.

Thank You! Thank You!

For speaking at services in August: Dr. Pat Miller, Dr. Tom Aiello, Dr. Lavonna Lavern, Dr. Dennis Marks, Carol Stiles

For lay-leading services: Doug Tanner, Betty Derrick, Dee Tait, Tom Aiello, Carol Stiles

For providing music at services: Rhett Watson, Nephtali Santiago, Tom Phillips

For Meet & Greet: Diane Holliman, Rosie Asbury, Carol Stiles and others

For assisting with RE: Teagan Dunn, Kimberly Tanner, Dawn Renner

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

Request for Children's Books:

Scintilla Charter Academy, a public K-5 school opening this fall just down Park Avenue from our church, includes a beautiful new media center. However, the school's budget does not allow for buying of books. The school would very much appreciate any donation of books, fiction and non-fiction, new or used, appropriate for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Lars Leader will collect the books at Sunday services and take them to Scintilla. Five children from the families in our church attend Scintilla, so we have a strong presence in this new school.

A Special Thank You!

Thanks to all who contributed crayons or cash to buy crayons in the July Share-The Plate Sunday collection! Thanks to your efforts and some matching funds from the Accepting Difference Project, we delivered about 530 boxes of 24-pack crayons to the South Georgia Partnership to End Homelessness. These crayons and other school supplies were distributed at the Kids Are People, Too, fair in early August.

UU Treasurer's Report July 2015

Outstanding Debt \$ 0.00

Receipts

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Plate | \$ 119.00 |
| Pledge | 1840.08 |
| Rent | 150.00 |
| <u>Share the Plate(Kids are...)</u> | <u>90.00</u> |
| Total receipts | \$ 2199.08 |

Disbursements

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Minister Expense | |
| Pest Control/Termite | \$ 35.00 |
| Speakers' Fees/Interpreter | 480.00 |
| Repairs/Maintenance | 0.00 |
| Newsletter | |
| Donations (Kids are....) | 90.00 |
| UUA Dues | |
| Insurance | 0.00 |
| Utilities | 302.83 |
| Advertising | 0.00 |
| <u>Others (mailbox)</u> | <u>98.00</u> |

Total disbursements \$ **1005.83**

Net receipt \$ **1193.25**

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

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.