

The Flaming Chalice

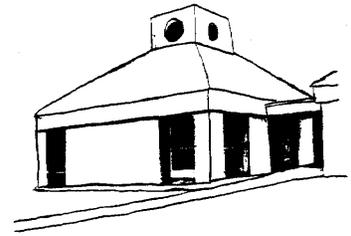
Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

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



What's going on... **December 2012**

Sun	Dec. 2	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "What if God Was One of Us?," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
W	Dec. 5	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing
Sun	Dec. 9	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "Spirituality, Cancer, and Healing in Filipina Religious Experience," Dr. Michael Stoltzfus Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Bring items for Break Bread gift bags & Stay to decorate the church for the holidays!</i> First Day of Hanukkah
M	Dec. 10	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
Sat	Dec. 15		<i>January newsletter deadline</i>
Sun	Dec. 16	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "The Moravian Lovefeast," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
F	Dec. 21	6:30 PM	Winter Solstice Celebration at the church
Sun	Dec. 23	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - A Holiday Service based on "The Grinch That Stole Christmas," Susan Bailey Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
T	Dec. 25		Christmas Day
W	Dec. 26		Kwanzaa
F	Dec. 28	4-7 PM	Caroling at Wild Adventures (<i>Watch for details about this event</i>)
Sun	Dec. 30	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "15 Years in a Building I Designed!," Jim Ingram, Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	Dec. 31		New Year's Eve
W	Jan. 9	6 PM	UU Board Meeting-
F	Jan. 4		Deadline for workshop preregistration
Sat	Jan. 5	6:30 PM	Book Discussion and Potluck at the church
Sun	Jan. 6	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "New Beginnings in Community: Lessons from Brook Farm," Rev. Fred Howard <i>Return Guest at Your Table Boxes during the service</i> Meet & Greet Coffee after the service Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
W	Jan. 9	6:00	Yoga Basics classes begin again
F	Jan. 11	7:00 PM	Lecture: "Compassionate Communication: How to Reintroduce Civility to the Public Discourse," Rev. LoraKim Joyner at the church open to the public
Sat.	Jan. 12	9AM-3PM	Workshop: Growing Compassion for Yourself, Others, and the World with Rev. LoraKim Joyner -at the church (<i>Preregistration required</i>)
Sun	Jan. 13	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "The Heart of Lightness," Rev. LoraKim Joyner

			Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	Jan. 14	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery

Sunday Services

Sunday, December 2 – Rev. Fred Howard, “What if God Was One of Us?”

Remember the holiday TV classic “A Charlie Brown Christmas” and that poignant question he asks in a moment of desperation “Is there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” Each of us who honors the holiday must answer that question for ourselves, I suppose. My own answer came to me through a rather remarkable experience that Kathy and I had a few years ago. As I have reflected on that experience, I have come to a greater and greater awareness of how it came to shape not only how I view Christmas, but also how I view the meaning and purpose of life. This morning I will share that experience with you and how it came to shape my theology.

Sunday, December 9 – Dr. Mike Stoltzfus, “Spirituality, Cancer, and Healing in Filipina Religious Experience”

This presentation will highlight a four-year ethnographic inquiry into Filipina transnational workers with experience of breast cancer in the San Francisco Bay area. These workers turned to a Filipino spiritual tradition rooted in the indigenous idea of subjectivity (*loob*) and Christian religiosity to frame and manage their illness. Study participants pursued a spiritual track parallel and simultaneous with their biomedical path of cancer treatment in their effort to “pass through” and become whole again. We will investigate how spiritual tenacity played a role in psychological and physical healing. *Bring items for Break Bread Gift bags to church today. See further information elsewhere in the newsletter.*

Sunday, December 16 – Rev. Fred Howard, “The Moravian Lovefeast”

This is our third consecutive year celebrating the Lovefeast as a part of the holidays. It is a simple service consisting of the singing of Christmas carols, a brief homily, and the serving of a homemade sweet roll and hot drink. The sweetness of the roll and the warmth of the cocoa are physical reminders both of our common human need for food and drink and the comfort and satisfaction we enjoy when we are all a part of a covenanted community. Come and be a part of this tradition – sure to delight your taste buds and rekindle a warm holiday spirit *Share the Plate Sunday Offering: This Sunday all otherwise undesignated gifts will go to UUSC through the Guest at Your Table Program.*

Sunday, December 23 – Susan Bailey, A Holiday Service based on “The Grinch That Stole Christmas”

Join our own Sue Bailey, Director of Religious Education at UU Valdosta, for a Christmas celebration. She’ll be using the Dr. Seuss book, the “Grinch That Stole Christmas,” as part of her presentation. Sue is a member of our congregation and works with the Continuing Education Program at VSU.

Sunday, December 30– Jim Ingram, “15 Years in a Building I Designed!”

Jim Ingram designed our UU Valdosta church building, which we have occupied now for 15 years. He plans to talk about the design of our building as well as some past history of our

congregation, which was organized in 1966. Jim and his wife Josette are the only remaining original members of our congregation still here in Valdosta. Jim serves on our UU Board of Directors and continues to work as an architect at IPG, the architectural firm he founded in 1965.

Sunday, January 6 – Rev. Fred Howard, “New Beginnings in Community: Lessons from Brook Farm”

As we begin the New Year, I thought it would be interesting and fun to explore some of the dynamics of the most celebrated commune in American history, Brook Farm. Founded on Transcendentalist principles, Brook Farm was a bold experiment in Unitarian idealism with the lofty goal of creating a literal heaven on earth. Unfortunately, it lasted a mere 6 years (1841-1847.) Fortunately, its legacy lives on and there are still lessons that our congregations and communities can learn from Brook Farm, its founders, and their fledgling attempt to build utopia. This morning I will share a bit of the romanticism, idealism, mystery, and eventual disillusion that was Brook Farm.

Be sure to bring your Guest At Your Table Box to church today. You will have an opportunity to return your box during the service. Please convert any cash or coins in your box to a check made out to UUSC before returning your box. Be generous!

Sunday, January 13 – Rev. LoraKim Joyner, “The Heart of Lightness”

Today we journey together into the depths of the human heart to see where hope and possibility lay waiting for us. There is darkness, but by understanding human behavior, evolution, and neurobiology we can lighten our burdens by growing in mindfulness through the consciousness of compassionate communication. Rev. Joyner is a Certified Nonviolent Communication Trainer and Unitarian Universalist Community Minister in Multispecies Ministry. She will be leading a workshop at the church on this weekend. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details about the workshop.



MINISTERIAL MUUSINGS

December 2012

How is it that Santa Claus is known to live at the North Pole? The idea originated from a Unitarian, Thomas Nast, who created political cartoons for Harpers Weekly during the late 1800’s. Nast is also the artist who gave us the visual image of Santa that found a lasting home in America’s mythic imagination - namely that of a portly, jovial, white bearded, ruddy cheeked man in a fur lined cap bearing gifts for children. Nast’s depictions were later picked up, with modifications, by the Coca Cola company as a part of one of their marketing campaigns and, you might say, this type of Santa imagery “went viral.”

For his version, Nast drew from word images in Clement Clarke Moore’s poem, “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” better known as “Twas the Night Before Christmas,” but added a few of his own flourishes - one of those being the idea that

Santa's home was at the North Pole. Nast loved to poke fun at current events of the day, and at that time there was intense competition among Scandinavian, Russian and British explorers to see who would reach the North Pole first. Fortuitously, this idea took root, as it gives Santa universal appeal as no one country or culture can lay claim to him. Santa therefore developed into a larger than life international figure who could be beloved by children all over the world. Nast is also credited with other images and lore of Christmas such as the notion of Santa having elves as helpers, of Santa keeping records of naughty and nice boys and girls, and also for bringing the custom of kissing under the mistletoe to the United States and helping to popularize it in this country. The next time someone asks you if Unitarian Universalists celebrate Christmas, remind them that it was Unitarians like Thomas Nast, Charles Dickens, and James Pierpont (the writer of Jingle Bells) that helped to invent Christmas in the way we celebrate it today. Being able to proudly proclaim the crucial role we played in creating the modern celebration may add a little more joy to your holiday cheer!

Happy Christmas to All and to All a Good Night!

Fred Howard is our part time minister. You may contact Rev. Howard by email (preferable) at fredhoward3622@gmail.com. He is available for consultations on Monday and Wednesday afternoons on most weeks from 2-5PM by appointment. Fred welcomes any questions you may have about membership in our congregation. He is also available for weddings and rites of passage ceremonies by prearrangement.

UU Valdosta Caring Committee Contact Dee Tait if you or someone you know needs the services of this committee.

"The Power of Myth" Class

After Sunday services on Fred Howard's Sundays

Fred is facilitating a class on "The Power of Myth" using video from the popular PBS series of conversations between the mythologist Joseph Campbell and journalist Bill Moyers. The classes are held every time Fred is in charge of the worship service, usually the first and third Sundays. They will continue into the new year at least through February. The classes begin after Meet and Greet and end promptly no later than 1 PM. Although you may come whenever you wish, Fred suggests that you attend regularly or purchase the companion book "The Power of Myth" and read along.

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.

Sangha Tuesdays

5:30-7:00 PM at the church

The KTD Buddhist reading and meditation group continues to meet on Tuesday evenings at the church. Everyone interested in Buddhist practice and meditation is welcome. The group

shares tea from 5:30-6, sits and meditates (Buddhist shamata meditation) from 6-6:30, and discusses the reading from 6:30-7. If someone is unable to sit on the floor, it is perfectly alright to use a chair. Otherwise, people should supply their own pillow for sitting. The group shares books and the liturgy.

A Memorial Service for our member and friend Dr. Frances Paterson originally scheduled for Dec. 14 has been postponed; please watch for later announcements. Frances had been ill for some time and returned to Michigan with her daughters, Jennifer and Elizabeth. She died shortly afterwards on October 25 but was able first to meet her 20-month-old grandson Ian as he held her hand, his mom Jennifer said. A reception will follow the service. Frances' daughters will return to Valdosta for the Memorial Service. Frances's daughters have established the Dr. Frances R. A. Paterson Memorial Scholarship for single mothers studying at the University of Oklahoma College of Law, to honor her passion for the law, her commitment to intellectual engagement and the sacrifices she made to further her education and provide for her children. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent (payable to: The OU Foundation, memo: Paterson Scholarship) to: Karen Renfroe, University of Oklahoma, 339 West Boyd, Norman, OK 73019. Dee Tait is coordinating a reception to follow the service at the church. Watch for further information and help out if you can.

Social Action Activities

Break Bread Together

Our date for meal deliveries with the Break Bread Together program is the 2nd Monday (and 5th when there is one) of each month. If you would like to help deliver meals beginning about 11:00 AM, please contact Frank or Rosie Asbury.

Traditionally at this holiday season we have prepared gift bags for the individuals on our delivery route. On **Sunday, December 9**, please bring some small items like shampoo, lotion, tooth paste, dietetic candy, Kleenex, etc. for the bags. Betty Derrick will have gift bags. We usually have only 6-8 people. Small monetary gifts to purchase items to fill out the bags are also welcome.

Rev. LoraKim Joyner-Lecture and Workshop

Compassionate Communication: How to Reintroduce Civility to the Public Discourse

Lecture: Friday, January 11-7:00 p.m. at the church

Open to the public

The last decades of politics in the United States has revealed a deterioration of civility and compassion in our collective and individual public life. To remedy this, people are turning to the use of Nonviolent Communication as a means to structure actual conversations, reconciliation practices, and behavior change. Nonviolent Communication (also known as Compassionate Communication) increases awareness, mindfulness, and a sense of connection and belonging so that individuals can become the change they wish in the world. Join us tonight for an introduction to Compassionate

Communication and how it can help restore civility to our public discourse.

Growing Compassion for Yourself, Others, and the World

Workshop: Saturday, January 12 workshop - 9:00 AM-3:00 PM (pre-registration required, by Jan. 4)

Compassion in humans, though innate in the human mind, can also be learned through practice and cultural influences. Recent studies indicate that this compassion is contagious. If one person shows it in a group, others will follow. If you'd like the chance to more greatly influence relationships and groups in which you find yourself so that they become more compassionate, join us during Saturday's workshop. Not only might you discover how you can be the change you wish in the world, but you will have the opportunity to grow compassion towards yourself, so you can be nourished and heal your spirit as you nourish and heal the world. In the morning, the workshop will introduce the components and consciousness of Nonviolent Communication (Compassionate Communication, www.cnvc.org) as well as offer practical exercises and small group discussion. After lunch we will focus on skills and conversations that can be useful for improving organizational maturity, efficiency, and empowerment. Exercises and discussion will focus on justice work. The workshop will be facilitated by Rev. LoraKim Joyner, Certified Nonviolent Communication Trainer and Unitarian Universalist Community Minister in Multispecies Ministry.

The workshop is free to UU members, friends, and recent visitors, but pre-registration is necessary so we can plan for lunch. If you have other friends from the community who wish to participate, we ask for a \$10 donation to help cover the costs of lunch and printed materials. Rev. Joyner's honorarium and travel will be covered by Accepting Difference Project funds.

Please contact Carol Stiles with questions or to pre-register, uvaldosta@yahoo.com

Accepting Difference Project

Some of our newer members and friends are probably unaware of this almost ten year old on-going project here at UU Valdosta. Through this project we work to bring attention to and build diverse coalitions to address systemic problems in our wider community. The monies available for the various community projects to we have supported over this ten years initially came from funds contributed from around the nation to our congregation when our building was severely vandalized in spring 2003, perhaps as a hate crime. We committed the funds, over and above those needed to repair our building, for use within our wider community to build diverse coalitions. Our participation and support of programs such as the recent Community Thanksgiving Service and the service at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Center that Fred discusses below as well as our Book Discussion group, which selects books for discussion that deal with difference, are all a part of this effort. In the last several years we have held several workshops with community leaders through the Gamaliel Foundation. The workshop in January is a part of this on-going effort.



Guest at Your Table

The Guest at Your Table annual tradition at UU churches fosters understanding and awareness of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) human-rights work.

Contribution boxes were distributed at a special service in November. If you did not receive a box then, you will find some available in the entry way to the sanctuary. Please pick one up and use it this month.

We will collect the boxes during the Sunday service on January 6. Please convert your cash contributions to a check made out to UUSC-GAYT and place it in your box. Complete the information on the side of the box too. We will send our donations as a church to UUSC.

You'll find information on the box about how you can join the UUSC. Consider making a donation during the holidays sufficient to become a member. Many of our members are also members of this worthy organization. It is one way we, as individuals, can globally support our UU principles. By celebrating Guest at Your Table in our congregation we are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Donations of \$100.00 or more can be matched by a special fund available to UUSC. Please be generous.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAROL STILES

We are expecting a guest! On the weekend of Jan. 11-13, Rev. LoraKim Joyner will travel from Gainesville, FL, to join us for a great opportunity to practice our "connecting" skills – ways to communicate compassionately within our congregation and to help us build connections in the larger community.

We would like ALL our members and friends to participate in the workshop on Saturday, Jan. 12. Or at least as many as possible! The workshop is sponsored by our Accepting Difference Project (ADP) funds, and there will be no charge for UU members, friends, and recent visitors, although we may ask you to help with set up, serving lunch, and clean up. If you have prior commitments for that Saturday, there will be two other opportunities to hear Rev. Joyner speak on "Compassionate Communication." Details of the events of that weekend are described elsewhere in this newsletter. We will be inviting others from the community (our ADP partners, for example) to join us for the workshop, and the Friday evening talk is open to the public.

Rev. Joyner is a Certified Nonviolent Communication Trainer. She served as co-minister at the UU Fellowship in Gainesville for four years, which is where I first met her. She is now a UU Community Minister which allows more time for another passion: she is also Dr. LoraKim Joyner, M.S., D.V.M., who works in avian medicine and conservation. Among other things, she travels to Central America "to work with people and parrots" – field work in the conservation of wild parrot populations while deepening connections among people and between people and nature.

Mark your calendar now, Jan. 11 – 13! Don't miss what will be an enlightening and nurturing weekend....

In community,
Carol

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.

Worship at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Center

On Thursday evening, Nov. 15, six members of our congregation led a worship service at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Center as a part of that congregation's annual Thanksgiving revival.

Lighthouse Fellowship is a predominately African American congregation. Young, too, judging by the large number of youth and children that were at the service. We were warmly received by the congregation. After their lay leader read a few verses from Psalm 50 and shared some personal Thanksgiving thoughts, Bill Webster led the entire congregation in a few verses of "We are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" from our UU hymnal. Then us UU folks taught the congregation "Spirit of Life" by singing it for them and then they joined in enthusiastically in singing it along with us. Fred was then introduced as the speaker. The text for his sermon came from the Gospel of John, chapter 12, and was entitled "Sir, We Wish to See Jesus." "Isn't that what all of us desire in our hearts?" Fred asks as his point of departure into the sermon. He then shared stories of some well known contemporary figures such as Mother Theresa and Maya Angelou who both looked for Jesus in others and, in turn, revealed the spirit of Jesus through their life and work as a way to show how leading an authentic life can allow us to "see Jesus" in one another.

In his closing remarks, Fred expressed his gratitude to the congregation of Lighthouse for this opportunity and how it had been an honor for us to be invited to be a part of their worship experience. Lighthouse's pastor, Reginald Benjamin, opened the door for us to do this by issuing an invitation to our congregation. After some preliminary conversations between Fred and Pastor Benjamin concerning potential differences in the culture and theology of the two congregations and how mutual worship might be handled with authenticity and integrity, the two ministers decided that such a worship experience could be an edifying and enjoyable experience for all and gave the go ahead. Pastor Benjamin is to be applauded for taking this initiative to foster better interfaith and multicultural relations in our community. After the service, in conversations with Pastor Benjamin, some of our members expressed a desire and willingness for our congregation to reciprocate and have the Lighthouse congregation come and worship with us.

There is a distinctive worship style informed by the African American religious experience. Given the number of African American congregations in our community, and the current emphasis in our faith tradition on expanding the horizons of Unitarian Universalism, incorporating such a worship service into our programming would seem to be a logical next step as we seek to be more multicultural and diverse. This is not forsaking Unitarian Universalism, this is what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. Perhaps our

community is now open to and ready for such a possibility to unfold.

Notes from Kids' RE - Sue Bailey

Kids' RE continues to grow and there is never a dull moment! We have been spending our time learning about fall holidays, reading stories, and making some wonderful crafts. We had fun creating jack-o-lantern hand puppets from construction paper and bookmarks for Halloween and clay lamps to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights. This wonderful holiday is full of bright colors and lights and honors Lakshmi, goddess of good fortune, and Lord Ganesh, the elephant god who helps Hindus overcome obstacles. Diwali is also the Hindu New Year. We are working on projects with the theme "what are we thankful for" in celebration of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah, and other winter festivals and holidays. Throughout our lessons and activities, we tie what we are learning to our UU principles. As always, we love having visitors and helpers in Kids' RE. Please talk to Sue Bailey if you'd like to volunteer.



Allison, Emma, Henna, Zaylee, and Sue playing "Lakshmi Says" for Diwali

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Keep in your thoughts

- ❖ Emory Warrick, Anne Warrick Tait's father, who recently suffered a stroke. He returned home from the hospital in mid November and is on the mend, still wearing the neck brace to allow an injured vertebra to heal.
- ❖ Chris and Paula Burleigh. In mid November Chris said he is improving but does not feel strong enough to get out yet. Paula was still working at that time. Their baby is due Sunday, November 25.
- ❖ Amy Wells whose grandmother died recently.

You might like to know

- ❖ Jeremy and Rebecca Tost's new baby arrived this past month. Best wishes to the whole family!
- ❖ Raynae and Holly now know they are expecting a baby girl!
- ❖ Dan Massey will be retiring from the Air Force soon and is delighted to have found a job in Valdosta, so he and his family will be staying on in Valdosta.

Thank You! Thank You!

For layleading services: Betty Derrick, Dee Tait, Doug Tanner, Amy Wells, Valerie Webster

For Sunday Service music: Doug Tanner, Amy Wells, Bill and Valerie Webster

For Stories for All Ages: Sue Bailey, Fred Howard, Amy Wells

For helping with Children's RE: Meredith Covert, Teagan Dunn, Emma Bailey, and Raynae Williams

For serving as Meet and Greet Hosts: Doug Tanner, Dee Tait, Betty Derrick, Valerie Webster, Raynae Williams, Kimberly Tanner

For greeting visitors: Kimberly Tanner, Dee Tait
For flowers for Sunday services: Valerie Webster, Betty Derrick, Dee Tait
For delivering Break Bread meals: Frank and Rosie Asbury,
For cleaning the church: Frank Asbury, Lars Leader
For sweeping the sidewalk: Doug Tanner, Mitch Tait, Zachary Williams, Pete Mahan
For putting together the wonderful Samhain ritual, harvest meal, and piñata for the special Halloween/Harvest Games Night: Meredith Covert
For coordinating the Faith Build Habitat for Humanity Project: Valerie Webster
For helping with the Habitat build lunch in November: Valerie Webster, Betty Derrick, Cliff Adams, Dee Tait, Carol Stiles, Margie Tullos, Rosie Asbury, Kim and Doug Tanner, Lars Leader, Jim Ingram, Sue Bailey
For donating the chicken for the Habitat Build lunch: Don Lockhart, Manager of Zacadoo's on Baytree
For helping with the Habitat build itself: Doug Tanner, Lars Leader

**South Georgia Pride Holiday & Award Banquet
 December 8, 7 PM at Jessie's Eats & Treats.**

Speaker is John Rogers with South Health District. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Includes buffet. We will have entertainment, Awards, and a charity auction. For more information call Raynae Williams.

Let's Have Some Fun!!

Winter Solstice Celebration

Friday, December 21 at the church
 Plans are afoot to celebrate the solstice along with games night and a bonfire on the 21st. Watch for later details about the event. Contact: Susan Bailey.

Caroling at Wild Adventures

Friday, December 28

Fred Howard has made arrangements for our congregation to provide caroling at Wild Adventures on the 28th. Sounds like fun! Watch for more details as they develop.

BOOK DISCUSSION AND POTLUCK

Saturday, January 5 - 6:30 PM - At the church

Please note the change in day and date for the next book discussion. (The board has scheduled a workshop for the originally announced date necessitating an adjustment in scheduling.)

The book is "Dreaming in Hindi" by Katherine Russell Rich. It is the story of a year she spent in India learning Hindi, but it is more than that. There are wonderful insights into the culture of India as well as interesting insights into linguistics research as it relates to adults learning a second language. Knowing she was suffering from cancer before she left on this adventure, in some ways her year in India was an escape. Her doctors allowed the trip with the understanding that she would continue her treatments.

Bring a dish to share. Coffee and tea will be provided. You are welcome to bring other beverages. We socialize over our potluck meal for the first hour and then

promptly begin our book discussion drawing to a close with the selection of our next book by about an hour later. We have been selecting books that deal with difference. Contact: Betty Derrick.

PIZZA AND A MOVIE: No movie this month but watch for this event to return in the new year.

Lunch after Sunday Services, Anyone?



UUs at the Smokin' Pig after church recently

Just wanted to be sure everyone, especially our newcomers, knows that some of us, on a very informal basis, go out for lunch after services on most Sundays. Any and all are welcome. If you are interested, just ask around and eventually someone will make a decision about where we'll go. It's a fun way to get to know folks on an informal basis. If you would like to join in, don't be shy. Ask if we're going out and where. You will be welcomed!

**UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News
 November 2012**

(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.)

- Parking: discussed whether to purchase rock to finish the new parking area; Jim Ingram will investigate.
- Share-the-Plate collections have been very successful, \$209 collected in October for Habitat for Humanity (plus \$100 approved by the board for a total of \$309).
- Discussed plans for Compassionate Communication workshop (details elsewhere).

Next meeting, Wednesday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.

Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Betty Derrick
 Website Manager: Carol Stiles, uuvaldosta@yahoo.com
 e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles
 Facebook: Kimberly Tanner
 Local Publicity: Dee Tait
 December 15: Deadline for January newsletter.
If you prefer reading this newsletter on the website, e-mail the editor to remove your name from the mailing label list.

**Treasurer's Report – Rosie Asbury
October 31, 2012**

Receipts	October	July -present (4 mos.)
Plate	\$ 232.00	\$ 609.47
Pledge	1055.00	5675.00
Rent	240.00	720.00
Share the Plate(Habitat)	<u>209.00</u>	<u>611.28</u>
Total Receipts	\$ 1736.00	\$ 7615.75
Disbursements		
Speakers' Fees	200.00	800.00
Minister Exp.	700.00	2158.16
Maint. (Lights)	278.24	466.74
Pest Control	35.00	140.00
Supplies	27.44	51.59
Utilities	323.63	1236.22
Advertising	0.00	700.00
UUA Dues	0.00	424.00
Donations (Habitat)	309.00	711.28
Others	<u>50.00</u>	<u>136.00</u>
Total Disburs.	\$ 1923.31	\$ 6834.58
Net Receipt	\$ -187.31	\$ 781.17

UU Activities and Announcements

Dec. 26-Jan.1 SWIM, Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Winter Institute, Miami, FL
SWIM is a UU camp with a wonderful community that takes place yearly in Florida. For more information see www.SWIMuu.org



UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS

Joan Lund December 2012
jlund@uaa.org

As member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we covenant to affirm and promote our UU Principles"...number five..."The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Are we involved in a "democratic process" when congregation delegates and others meet together once a year at General Assembly (GA)? Do those who participate in GA as delegates come funded by their congregations with instructions of how to vote on various issues? Are they truly representative of their congregations or are they UUs who possess enough money to be able to afford the expense of GA, have the time to attend, and maybe are interested in the location of where GA is being held? In January, 2010 the BOT received the Fifth Principle Task Force Report and for several reasons, mostly centered on making certain Justice GA 2012 was a success, did not address the recommendations of the Task Force's report. In August 2012 an ad hoc task force of the BOT, which I convene, was charged with re-opening the conversation and recommending how the BOT should move forward with the recommendations.

The Fifth Principle Task Force focused on the governance issues of GA and recommended that GA become a biennial event, held in odd years. In addition the Task Force recommended the delegate body change from passive receptors to active policy makers, giving power and the responsibility with it to the people who are the member congregations. Delegates would be elected and certified by their congregations or board and serve in an accountable relationship with geographically neighboring delegate teams and with UUA

trustees. Delegate registration for the governance/business portion of the meeting would be subsidized by our UUA.

The Fifth Principle Task Force Report indicated the future of our UU faith cannot continue in a faux democracy and unaccountable representation that characterize Association governance regarding. The Task Force believes the status quo for GA is not an option. Quote from Report, "The thinking activity of the denomination has no focus now...no focusing process or mechanism".

Next month I will write on the BOT's work so far regarding the recommendations; our discussions, decisions and how we are proceeding. The BOT did accept the fundamental objectives of the Fifth Principle Task Force to make GA more democratic, delegates more accountable, make the assembly less expensive, less economically discriminatory, less generationally discriminatory, and more active in policy formation. The committee further recommended the number of delegates be reduced to approximately 2,000. I strongly suggest reading the Fifth Principle Task Force Report which is available on-line on our UUA web site.

Please email or telephone me if you would like to talk about the recommendations and/or any other Trustee related issue: jlund@uaa.org. I wish you and your congregation a happy, blessed, and Holiday Season.

At the Church-in-the-Woods

New Hope Christian Community Church- Sunday evenings: Choir practice at 4:30 PM. Service at 6:00 PM.
<http://www.wix.com/nhccc1/nhccc>

Taoist Tai Chi – Monday and Thursday: Beginners Class 7-8 PM; Continuing Class 5:30-7 PM. (A new beginners class will start in early January.) Contact Dennis Bogyo or Luana Goodwin.

PFLAG Meeting – 4th Tuesday each month, 7:00PM Contact: Doug Tanner The web page for PFLAG Valdosta: <http://community.pflag.org/Valdosta>

Yoga Basics – Wednesday, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. Beginning January 9 - February 27. Contact: Jane Zahner, certified yoga teacher (RYT200). Donations (\$5-10 per session recommended) will be accepted to pay for facility usage; any extra will go to the UU Share-the-Plate collection for the month. Beginners and occasional practitioners will become more comfortable and safe doing yoga in group classes or at home. Gentle instruction and guided practice in common yoga postures, breathing, and relaxation techniques support increased flexibility, strength, and stress reduction. Bring a yoga mat (or beach towel) and an active body; leave with a quieter mind.