

# The Flaming Chalice

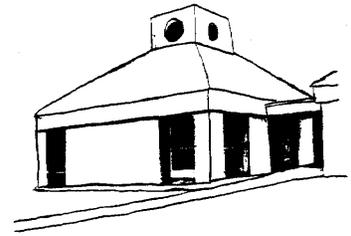
## Unitarian Universalist Church of Valdosta

Located at: 1951 East Park Avenue  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2342  
Valdosta, GA 31604

Minister: Rev. Fred Howard  
<http://uuvaldosta.org/>

229-242-3714

e-mail: [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)



### What's going on... **October 2012**

W	Oct. 3	6:00 PM	Board Meeting in the RE wing
Sun	Oct. 7	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "The Beauty of Impermanence," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
M	Oct. 8	11:00AM	Break Bread delivery
F	Oct. 12	6:30 PM	Book Discussion and Potluck at the church
Sun	Oct. 14	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "Living in Reverse," Melanie Hubbard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service
M	Oct. 15		<i>November newsletter deadline</i>
F	Oct. 19	6:30 PM	Pizza and a Movie at the church
Sat	Oct. 20	9AM-1PM	All About UU for those who have registered ( <i>See newsletter announcement.</i> )
Sun	Oct. 21	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "Entertaining Angels Unaware," Rev. Fred Howard Meet & Greet Coffee after the service <i>Share the Plate Sunday</i> Power of Myth Class after Meet and Greet
F	Oct. 26	6:30 PM	Fire Pit and Games Night at the church
Sun	Oct. 28	10:45 AM	Religious Education for children Service - "Fostering Healing and Spirituality by Embracing Vulnerability," Dr. Michael Stoltzfus Meet & Greet Coffee after the service

**October**... Lots of things going on at the church this month! Fred Howard will be starting a new series on "The Power of Myth." The weekly opportunities for newcomers to learn about UUism will continue, but notice the opportunity for a Saturday half-day more in depth look at our religious heritage and perspective for those considering our church as a home being offered this month. Social opportunities abound as a way to get to know each other, share our thoughts, and just have fun. Join in when you can. Be a part of our community. We miss you when you are absent.

## Sunday Services

### Sunday, October 7 – Rev. Fred Howard, “The Beauty of Impermanence”

The concept of impermanence (anicca in Pali) is essential to Buddhist teaching. The Buddha stressed that it is only by becoming aware of impermanence - by observing it, and by coming to accept it - that we can find a suitable remedy for the sorrow of human life and achieve liberation. While in Southeast Asia this summer I came across perhaps the most profound illustration of anicca in existence. The experience was not just visual – it was also quite visceral for me. This morning I will share this illustration with you and attempt to convey something of why it gave me cause to pause and reflect.

### Sunday, October 14 – Melanie Hubbard, "Living in Reverse"

Last year I had a stroke and had to relearn many skills we take for granted. I am going to reflect upon what it is like to relearn basic things such walking and also how the experience has changed my life. Since most people have no recollection of learning these things, this is an opportunity to understand the experience, as well as how people's perceptions of you change when you are ill. Melanie is a member of our congregation. Welcome her sharing of this personal experience.

### Sunday, October 21 – Rev. Fred Howard, “Entertaining Angels Unaware”

It's been said that this time of year the boundaries between this world and the world of spirit becomes thinner and more easily penetrable. The Greek myth I want to share with you today does just that for me. It heightens my awareness - both that there is something ethereal and mysterious within and among us and that there is more going on in our human encounters than usually meets the eye. Besides all that, this story simply fits so well with this time of year. Perhaps it will add an extra tingle to your spine as well as we eagerly anticipate strangers coming and going door to door as they often do on Halloween.

*Share the Plate Sunday Offering: October – Habitat for Humanity – all donations to the plate not otherwise designated for pledges will go to Habitat for Humanity, an organization which originated here in Georgia and builds decent affordable houses for families who otherwise could not afford their own home.*

### Sunday, October 28 – Dr. Mike Stoltzfus, “Fostering Healing and Spirituality by Embracing Vulnerability”

We will discuss why viewing illness, vulnerability, and lament as normal parts of individual and collective life and as opportunities for spiritual cultivation and healing are vitally important. People who live with long term illness or disability can teach the rest of us and entire cultures how to integrate pain and vulnerability into an expanded view of spirituality and healing; an understanding not rooted in individual cure for disease, religious miracle, or a new life to come in the future.

## 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.

### “The Power of Myth” Class

#### After Sunday services on Fred Howard’s Sundays

Beginning October 7 Fred will be 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 will be held every time Fred is in charge of the worship service, usually first and third Sundays. The classes will begin promptly after Meet and Greet and will end promptly no later than 1 PM. No prior sign up is required for the classes and you may come whenever you wish. However to get the most from the material, Fred suggests that you attend regularly or purchase the companion book “The Power of Myth” and read along. We look forward to your participation in this study of the fascinating and redemptive world of mythology. See Fred’s column Ministerial Musings for further information.

Fred Howard is our part time minister. You may contact Rev. Howard by email (preferable) at [fredhoward3622@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Brief Intro to UUism

Rev. Fred Howard or Director of Membership, Kimberly Tanner will be holding brief (20-30 min) "Intro to UUism" sessions after the service most Sundays when there are visitors who want to stay after Meet and Greet for such a chance to hear a brief introduction and ask questions. See the announcement in the newsletter for a more formal "All About UUism" class this month.

### 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

October 2012

The word myth conjures up all sorts of things in our mind. Some people think of myth as "a story about gods." Others think that describing something as a myth means that it is untrue. While these connotations of the word have a place in certain settings, on a more profound level, myths are stories that have deep cultural or spiritual significance. They are dramas that illustrate deeper truths about the human situation. Even though the stories seem whimsical or fantastic, and it is usually silly to approach them as facts or history, understanding them as dramas about life and meaning can open us up to the realization that myths are about timeless universals in the human experience. Myths are simply stories that all people have told and continue to tell each other as we come to grips and attempt to make some sense of our individual and collective life. So there are many similarities to these stories across cultures and across time, when examined beyond their historical and cultural context.

A shaping influence in my personal and spiritual growth was "The Power of Myth" series that aired on PBS back in the late 1980's. These were conversations between the teacher-mythologist Joseph Campbell and the student-journalist Bill Moyers on how myths hold the key for us to understand human experience. Campbell, according to The Village Voice, "knew the vast sweep of man's panoramic past as few men have ever known it" "(forgive the gender exclusive language.) In one of the greatest interviews ever recorded, Moyers, an ordained Southern Baptist, perfectly plays intellectual disciple to Campbell's role of guru in their televised dialogue. Though I sometimes felt that sometimes Moyers didn't quite "get it," these conversations transformed the understanding of myth for a significant number of people in this generation, including myself. The subject of myth is timeless, and the conversations are as fresh today as they were 24 years ago. I'm more convinced than ever that this material is essential viewing for anyone who thinks they can dismiss the stories of religion, myth, and legend as irrelevant to "enlightened" 21st century humanity.

Beginning Oct. 7 and continuing most Sundays when I am in charge of the service, we will begin a "second hour" at UU Valdosta where we will view "The Power of Myth" videos and have a dialogue about them. Our regular worship service will continue exactly as before with the exception that my sermons will be somewhat shorter. Then, after Meet and Greet, in lieu of a discussion (which I believe no longer fits with the emerging culture of our congregation), I will be holding these second hour classes when we will view a 30 minute segment of the videos and have a brief conversation on the material presented in the video. I invite all those who are willing to enter into the fascinating and redemptive world of mythology with me during this coming year. If interested, you may also want to purchase the companion book "The Power of Myth" which is still widely available.



*Opportunity!*

## All About UU Class-Saturday, October 20 9AM-1PM at the church

Kimberly Tanner and Fred Howard will be leading an "All About UU" class at the church with lunch provided. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, as well as those who are considering becoming members, to learn more about our faith tradition, join in a facilitated discussion of liberal faith and values, and ask questions. It's also a chance to meet with others who are new to our congregation and for all of us to get to know one another better through a mutual sharing of stories.

There will be both an informational as well as a personal sharing component to this session which will center around three general themes:

- 1) What brought you to Unitarian Universalism?
- 2) What do Unitarian Universalists believe?
- 3) Where do I want to go on my faith journey, and how might this church be a part of that future?

If you are interested in being a part of this experience you will need to let Kimberly or Fred know of your interest via email or after a Sunday service. The group will be limited to eight people, so please commit early. Come and be a part of the fun as we learn together and build community!

### **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. The group is currently reading Robert Thurman's book, "The Jewel Tree of Tibet." 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.

### **ABOUT OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*Keep in your thoughts...*

Our members and friends experiencing health difficulties.



## Social Action Activities

### Break Bread Together

Our date for meal deliveries with the Break Bread Together program is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (and 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Interfaith Pride** In conjunction with the South Georgia Pride Festival, UU Valdosta hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Interfaith Pride Service. Carol Stiles, UU President presided and Evelyn Thomas, of Sanctuary Project Veterans, was the guest speaker. Sanctuary Project Veterans is a nondenominational ministry headquartered at

Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad, California. The project works with veterans, particularly those impacted by Don't Ask, Don't Tell, to help them obtain medical benefits, pensions, etc. ( <http://sanctuaryproject.org/> ) Several local ministers including UU minister Fred Howard, participated in the service. Music was provided by Bill Webster and Grant Brown. About 40 people attended the Sunday afternoon service in September. Dee Tait coordinated the Meet and Greet after the service.



Pride Service speaker, Evelyn Thomas

(Photo above: Carol Stiles presiding.)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### CAROL STILES

September was a busy month for UU Valdosta! On September 15<sup>th</sup>, we had a table at the South Georgia Pride Festival. The Festival was attended by an estimated 1200 people, far more than last year. Thanks to Kimberly and Doug Tanner for organizing our participation in this event and for all those who visited with people stopping by our table. The next afternoon we hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Interfaith Pride Service, with special guest speaker, Evelyn Thomas, of Sanctuary Project Veterans, who told a powerful story of her experiences which led her to start SGP. SGP helps veterans obtain medical benefits, pensions, etc., particularly lesbians and gays who were discharged by the military prior to the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. A collection was taken to help out with the outreach ministry of Sanctuary Project Veterans. We were joined at the service by Rev. Galen Mirate of Christ the King Episcopal Church and Rev. Denise Ronn of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, who gave the opening and closing prayers. Music was provided by Bill Webster and Grant Brown. Finally, this column would not be complete without a huge thank you and recognition to our own Raynae Williams and the board of South Georgia Pride for a fantastically successful Pride Festival! In community, Carol



Carol Stiles, Kimberly and Doug Tanner at booth; Meet and Greet Cake.

### Caring Committee

Dee Tait has agreed to chair a newly forming Caring Committee. Among other activities, this committee will coordinate volunteers to help out when health concerns or crises arise. Please see Dee Tait or Carol Stiles if you are interested in being on the committee or on the volunteer list. Dee says that she and Kimberly Tanner have been looking on the UUA website for guidance in forming the committee.

### Communicating at UU Valdosta

Newsletter Editor: Betty Derrick

Website Manager: Carol Stiles, [uuvaldosta@yahoo.com](mailto:uuvaldosta@yahoo.com)

e-Mail List: Contact Carol Stiles

Facebook: Kimberly Tanner

Local Publicity: Dee Tait

October 15: Deadline for November newsletter.

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

## Thank You! Thank You!

**For layleading services:** Doug Tanner, Valerie Webster, Carol Stiles, Amy Wells, Lars Leader

**For speaking at Sunday services:** David Rodgers

**For Sunday Service music:** Doug Tanner, Amy Wells

**For Stories for All Ages:** Sue Bailey, Fred Howard

**For helping with Children's RE:** Sue Bailey, Kimberly Tanner, Fred Howard, Rosie Asbury

**For serving as Meet and Greet Hosts:** Kimberly Tanner, Sue Bailey, Dee Tait

**For greeting visitors:** Kimberly Tanner, Carol Stiles, Betty Derrick

**For flowers for Sunday services:** Valerie Webster

**For delivering Break Bread meals:** Frank and Rosie Asbury,

**For cleaning the church:** Frank Asbury, Lars Leader

**For sweeping the sidewalk:** Doug Tanner

**For Pride Festival Table:** Kimberly and Doug Tanner, Michael Greene, Dee Tait, Lars Leader, Sue Bailey, Julie Halter, Valerie and Bill Webster

**For Interfaith Pride Service:** Organizer/layleader, Carol Stiles; Music, Bill Webster and Grant Brown (Valdosta Choral Guild and Christ the King Episcopal).

**For Meet and Greet after Pride Service:** Dee Tait (Coordinator), Valerie Webster, Sue Bailey, David Rodgers, Kimberly Tanner, Doug Tanner, Rosie Asbury, Lars Leader, Carol Stiles

**For flowers for the Interfaith Pride Service:** Raynae Williams (The beautiful flower arrangement was originally displayed Saturday on stage at the South Georgia Pride Festival.)

**For agreeing to serve as chair of the new Caring Committee:** Dee Tait

**For suggestions for the Caring Committee:** Frances Patterson, Kathy Howard

## Let's Have Some Fun!!

### BOOK DISCUSSION AND POTLUCK

**Friday, October 12 - 6:30 PM - At the church**

The book is "My Two Moms" by Zach Wahls with Bruce Little Field. The book cover describes this book as "a resounding testament to the power of family." Some of you may recall that Zach Wahls addressed the Iowa House Judiciary Committee in a public hearing regarding a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage in Iowa." Zach, then the nineteen year old son of a same-sex couple, proudly proclaimed, "The sexual orientation of my parents has had zero effect on the content of my character."

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.

## Fire Pit and Games Night

**Friday, October 26**

**6:30PM - until at the church**

Bring your favorite beverage, something to grill over the fire, and a snack to share. 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! Contact: Susan Bailey.

## PIZZA AND A MOVIE

**Friday, October 19**

**6:30 PM at the church**

The film this month is *Bend it Like Beckham*. Director Gurinder Chadha creates a metaphor in this film by comparing the reputation of David Beckham, the great footballer (soccer player), for turning free kicks around virtually any defense wall, to how eighteen-year old Jesminder "Jess" Bhamra (Parminder Nagra) vigorously circumvents entrenched tradition of her immigrant Punjabi family living in the UK. She displays similar conviction as she overcomes resistance from her family and conceits of the dominant culture in order to follow her dreams. Jess must first find a way to overcome or maneuver around her parents' objections to play football at the invitation of her friend, Juliette "Jules" Paxton (Keira Knightley) the daughter of an English couple. Simultaneously, she must transcend racism of many native Brits toward waves of immigrants, including many from India typified by her parents. In YouTube interviews, Chadha explains why he decides to avoid upsetting conservative Indians by portraying travails of a tragic lesbian relationship as vehicle for issues he addresses. Instead, he and his three film writers transform the original tragedy into a romantic comedy. Misunderstandings compounded by prejudice swirl around Jess and Jules who fall in love with the Joe (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), coach of a local football team. Yet, the young women remain friends because they share a common passion to achieve their footballing dreams in spite of conflicts, obstacles, and their differences. The film effectively employs humor in a coming of age plot to challenge homophobia and preconceived women's roles, especially immigrant women, who wish to excel in European countries in the midst of cultural change caused by immigrants and their descendants. Due to its low budget, casting discovers amazingly expressive among relatively unknown actors. According to Chadha, the resulting film unfolds with enhanced authenticity since Jess and Jules lacked football skills their coach enabled them to bring to filming action scenes.

A \$5 contribution toward pizza and drinks is suggested. Contact: Fred Howard and David L. Rodgers.



Welcome to Cliff Adams our newest member.

**UU Church of Valdosta Board of Directors Meeting News  
September 6, 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: Jim Ingram has cleared space at the east end of the lot. Board briefly discussed the need and estimated costs for more lighting.
- Welcoming Congregation curriculum: We already provide many outreach activities to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Board will discuss further whether to pursue Welcoming Congregation certification.
- Share-the-Plate organizations: The October organization will be Habitat for Humanity; in November, the Guest at Your Table collection will begin.
- Next meeting, Wednesday, October 3, 6:00 p.m.

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

<b>Receipts</b>	<b><u>August</u></b>	<b><u>July -present (2 mos.)</u></b>
Plate	\$ 121.47	\$ 259.47
Pledge	1610.00	3480.00
Rent	240.00	340.00
Share the Plate	<u>100.00</u>	<u>249.28</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 2071.47</b>	<b>\$ 4328.75</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Speakers' Fees	200.00	400.00
Minister Expense	350.00	350.00
Maintenance	59.50	59.50
Pest Control	35.00	70.00
Supplies	17.73	24.15
Utilities	289.95	616.55
RE Program	10.59	10.59
Ads(2 benches)	700.00	700.00
UUA Dues	424.00	424.00
(Hopes & Dreams)	100.00	249.28
Others	<u>0.00</u>	<u>86.00</u>
<b>Total Disburs.</b>	<b>\$ 2186.77</b>	<b>\$ 2990.07</b>
<b>Net Receipt</b>	<b>\$ -115.30</b>	<b>\$ 1338.68</b>



Rev. Fred Howard at the September Ingathering and Water Ceremony Service

**UU Activities and Announcements**

October 1-5 Southern UU Fall Institute at The Mountain, Highlands, NC

October 10-14 UU Women Spirit Workshops, Explore Divine Feminine in Spirit Nourishing Workshop and Rituals, The Mountain, Highlands, NC



**UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS**

Joan Lund

October 2012

[jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org)

It is widely known that I am a Unitarian Universalist “institutionalist”, which to me means it is important to think, listen, discuss, and be active with other UUs beyond individual congregation walls. There is so much we can be and do when we learn from other UUs and “share the load”. If your congregation does not have a Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) or perhaps more aptly named Denominational Connections Committee (DCC), maybe it is time to take on responsibilities that might fall to other committees by establishing one.

The primary responsibility of the DAC/DCC is to provide a liaison between the congregation and both our UUA and the district. This committee would meet to discuss issues of denominational concerns and promote education on GA social justice statements in collaboration with other committees. Its job is to foster understanding of, and commitment to, what it means to be a responsible member of our UUA of Congregations. Having a thriving DAC/DCC can increase the congregation’s sense of being connected to a larger faith, even for the majority of UUs who never attend a GA or district meeting. It makes a difference to know a congregation participates in the larger structure, and that our UU values are lived within a wider context.

There are various endeavors a DAC/DCC might undertake such as selecting delegates to attend General Assembly, then after GA organize a “taking home” Sunday service to share some of what happened at our annual assembly. A DAC/DCC could publicize district and continental denominational events, lead a Sunday service or develop short educational promos for Sunday services, and organize adult education courses each year on study/action issues to be considered at GA. The DAC/DC can keep track of UUA programs and services and then write articles for the congregation newsletter. The infusion of denominational awareness in the congregation is important if as a faith we are to grow and thrive and can be the responsibility of the DAC/DCC.

I look forward to receiving your comments, questions, and concerns: [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org). I wish the best to each of our Florida District congregations, and am available to speak at your Sunday service about our UUA.

## Threats to Voting Rights

*(From a Standing on the Side of Love e-mail. Author: Rev. Gilbert H. Caldwell Retired United Methodist minister and a "foot soldier" in the Civil Rights Movement)*

On March 7, 1965—dubbed “Bloody Sunday”—civil rights activists in Selma, Alabama were violently attacked by police as they demonstrated for voting rights for Black Americans. Bones were broken; skulls fractured. In total, more than 100 people were injured. In response to this tragedy, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called for clergy from across the country to join him for yet another march in Selma. Rev. James Reeb, a Unitarian Universalist minister, and I were on the same plane from Boston, flying south with hundreds of others to join Dr. King. We marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge toward Montgomery, held a prayer service, and then returned to Selma. That night, Jim Reeb was severely beaten as he left a restaurant where he had been dining with colleagues. He died a few days later, at the age of 38. The brutal murder of a white man, a member of the clergy, was a key moment in a series of events that led President Johnson to introduce the landmark Voting Rights Act, just days later.

Nearly fifty years later, I am reminded of Selma as I witness new voter ID laws popping up across our country. These laws will disenfranchise huge numbers of Americans this November—especially African Americans, the elderly, and college students. These voter ID laws make a mockery of the Selma to Montgomery March and the many sacrifices that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We must ask ourselves: Did James Reeb and the others who were killed as they sought voting rights for African Americans die in vain?

Let us work to ensure that is not the case! Please join me in shining the light on discriminatory voter suppression efforts underway in our country. [Click here](#) to learn more about the issue and how you can get involved.

I returned to Selma recently and visited the memorial created to honor Jim. I remember wondering what Jim’s reaction would be to our current state of affairs. Today’s voter ID laws are truly a 21st century replication of the biased policies that he and I and so many others worked to overturn.

That Tuesday in 1965, when Jim and I and hundreds of others gathered with Dr. King in Selma to call for full voting rights for African Americans, was a collective expression of what it means to “stand on the side of love.” Today, our work continues as we struggle to ensure that everyone has the ability to exercise his or her right to vote.

Please speak out against voter suppression. As we remember the many people like Jim Reeb who lost their lives fighting for the right to vote, and those who sacrificed so much along the way, may we all be as bold and brave in speaking out for true democracy.

Standing on the side of love.



## Travel to Haiti

*(From Rev. Kathleen McTigue., Director, UU College for Social Justice)*

Two and a half years ago Haiti was devastated by one of the most powerful earthquakes in modern history. You were one of the many Unitarian Universalists who responded with open hearts and exceptional generosity in the wake of that tragedy, as the UUA and UUSC together raised \$1.8 million in humanitarian aid.

Today, we’re writing you with a very different kind of invitation: come travel with us to Haiti and see firsthand what your gift is helping to build.

You may have considered the possibility of a connection with the people of Haiti beyond your financial gift. We are pioneering connections with the people of Haiti by helping individuals and entire congregations explore genuine partnerships that can grow and deepen over time.

During the past year, we have led a dozen delegations to meet with our Haitian partners in the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP) and to lend a hand in building the new eco-villages that MPP is constructing to house some of those displaced from Port-au-Prince. Emphasizing community, self-sufficiency, and organic farming, the eco-villages bear witness to an inspiring new vision for Haitian reconstruction.

The UU College of Social Justice offers service-learning trips designed to do much more than briefly visit a different land and culture. We ground the experience in UU theology and history, use contemplative practices and group reflection as part of our learning, and help each other discern where we may be called to create more justice in our own communities. Participants in our journey to Haiti gain a rich understanding of the history, culture, challenges, and vitality of our Haitian partners. But they also come home with renewed hope and inspiration for the work of peace and justice right here at home.

Service-learning trips to Haiti are scheduled for January, March, and May of 2013, with other openings available for congregations wishing to organize a congregation-wide delegation. We warmly invite you to join us for an unforgettable and deeply rewarding experience.

Please visit our website ([uucs.org](http://uucs.org)) to learn more about service-learning trips to Haiti for individuals and congregational delegations.

## 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. 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 6-7:30 PM, September 12-October 24. Contact Jane Zahner for further information