



# THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)  
P.O. Box 1266  
White Stone, VA 22578

December 2009

## Fellowship Services

Fellowship services are held each **Sunday** at **10:30 A.M.** at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA.  
All are welcome. Coffee and conversation follow the presentation.

## Sunday Programs

**December 6** – Barbara Martin: “Tis the Season”

Enjoy winter solstice reflections with singer/songwriter, Barbara Martin, from her 'Tis the Season' recording. The program will combine original compositions and popular songs of the season.

**RE Topic: Wheel of the Year**

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**December 13** – Sue Anne Bangel:  
“Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights: December 12-19, 2009”

Hanukkah is the only holiday whose origin is precisely dated. “In the year 162 before the present era, the Syrian and Greek King Antiochus ordered a pagan altar to be set in the temple in Jerusalem and sacrifices to be ordered to the Greek god Zeus Olympus. A small Jewish band led by Judah Maccabeus and his brothers defied the powerful Antiochus. Fierce battles were fought but the Jews emerged triumphant against the mighty Syrian-Greek host. The pagan altar was ripped out of the temple. The Maccabeans purified the sanctuary. The altar on which God was served was sanctified and dedicated anew. Lamps and torches were kindled as a symbol of spiritual light and freedom. The elders of Israel and Judah Maccabeus decreed a feast to be held in commemoration, a

celebration of eight days. This they called Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication, the Festival of Lights. Sue Anne will bring some foods served at the holiday of Hanukkah.

**RE Topic: Santa Claus**

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**December 20** – Rev. Kathy Duhon:  
“Lessons and Carols”

Rev. Duhon will host both a traditional and non-traditional December holiday service, with plenty of singing and heartfelt reflections on the season, filled with "Peace on earth; goodwill to all" and "Joy to the World". This service is definitely for all ages, and any children who come will receive a gift.

**RE Topic: TBA**

*The Christmas Party will follow the Service.*

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**December 27** – Don and Lorie Lowrey: “A Seasonal Exchange”

Don and Lorie host a Holiday Extravaganza. Please bring a small gift representing a pleasant holiday memory. Exchange the gift and share the memory. Christmas goodies will be welcome.

**No RE Topic**

## *President's Corner*

Do you ever wonder if other Unitarian Universalist churches experience the same challenges, issues, and joys that we do? What lessons have they learned about building a dynamic congregation? In September, I sat down with twenty-four board presidents of other UU churches from our district for a day of conversation and workshops in Charlotte, NC. I want to share a few ideas and impressions from that event.

Right off, I was struck by the abundance of joy and enthusiasm exhibited for our shared faith. Unlike some organizations, the UUs don't have to be coaxed or cajoled into volunteer service. It is such a joy to work for a movement that we can believe in.

Some of the small UU churches in our area have experienced rapid growth, and we all wanted to know to what they attributed their success. Some of the answers were: leadership training, acquiring a part-time minister, excellent governance, nurturing new members spiritually, welcoming visitors, attracting children, getting members involved in the work of the church—including community outreach and social justice issues. Most importantly, dynamic churches stayed focused on their mission.

As we got into the day, the presidents were asked to discuss challenges facing their fellowships. Issues raised included financial stewardship, developing a strategy for growth, leadership fatigue, developing a broader base of leadership, and internal disagreement about the nature of the worship services. For every issue that was raised, one or more of the other churches was able to relate how they had overcome that hurdle.

I have shared this and more with our own Board of Stewards. Our own board is enthusiastic, talented, dedicated, and thoughtful and already generates great ideas for moving forward. Still, we are happy to benefit from others' experiences, and this leadership conference was a great opportunity to do just that.

*Bob Weekley*

## **Phood and Philosophy?**

Phood and Philosophy, our monthly Potluck and discussion event, is enjoying its seasonal hiatus. Check back for details in the February, 2010 edition of *The Chalice*. This month, enjoy the fellowship and frivolities at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party.



Some of our ESL participants enjoy a break from studies.

## **ESL is a Success!**

**by Shirley Kinney, Lorie Lowrey, Lynn Langley**

Our Community Service Committee is proud to report on the outstanding success of our first English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Those of you who have volunteered to help teach the area Latinos know how important this program has been. Thanks to Chris Gimpel, Kathleen Brooks, Sue Adriance, Brown Mobley, Marj Bradwick, Diana Jamison, Bob Weekley, Shirley Kinney, and Eve Jordan—what an enthusiastic bunch of people—who planned, taught, laughed, and shared in the transformation of peoples' lives.

We got off to a late start this year, making the program too short. Next year we plan to begin on April 17, and continue through June 19. That's ten weeks of classes. This year, we had eight students. Next year, we hope to expand to more Latinos who want to improve their communication skills.

Come join the group next April. Put it on your calendars right now. All it takes is a willingness to help. It's not much time for us, but it means the world to someone else. Tell the Community Service Committee that you are interested in becoming involved in 2010.

## **Christmas Party Spectacular!**

Once again UUFR-VA is ushering in the holiday spirit(s) with a Christmas Party at the home of **Tom and Shirley Kinney**. Immediately following the service on **December 20**, grab a bottle or two of wine, a dish or two to pass, and your Santa hats, and head on over. There will be lots of food, wonderful conversation, music, decorations—what more could anyone ask for at this time of year!

**Please call Shirley or Tom** with questions or suggestions.

## **Mission Accomplished**

**by Elaine Weekley**

The Phood and Philosophy cookbooks are sold! Our Bleu Cheese Puffs may be famous now, having been sampled hither and yon at various markets, festivals, and UU churches; however, there's no doubt that our "hot" cookbook was definitely a big hit!

The Membership Committee wishes to thank all those members and friends who helped make the project a success, not only by buying, selling, and hawking our wares, but also by providing logistical support when needed.

We decided to reprint the cookbook in order to give those who kept asking about it a chance to enjoy it and also to let people know that the UUFR-VA is here. In only five months, we succeeded! The profit of about \$1750.00 is being used to improve the handicap access from the parking lot and to purchase a lectern to enhance the sanctuary. Thanks again!

## **Annual Meeting of the Members**

**by Bob Weekley**

Our annual Congregational Meeting will be held on December 13, right after the Sunday morning service, to do the yearly business of UUFR-VA. I hope every member will attend.

Our agenda will include a brief update on important matters that include an explanation of some changes in the governance of our fellowship and the budget for 2010. This year our agenda also includes electing a new Vice President, Treasurer, and Program Committee Chairperson to serve two-year terms on the Board of Stewards. A ballot was distributed presenting the results of the Nominating Committee's work as approved by the Board. (In alternate years, we elect a President, Secretary, and Membership Committee Chairperson for two-year terms.)

An additional very important item on the ballot this year is approving the update of our Bylaws. We have indeed moved from a back-porch church to a much larger congregation of active UUs with a Home of Our Own. In addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia has made changes to the statutes covering churches. This stimulated UUFR-VA to make some organizational changes and pointed us toward organizing ourselves as a tax-exempt corporation in the manner of many other area churches.

Please mark your calendar to attend the annual Congregational meeting to hear the reports, ask your questions, and cast your vote.

## **Covenant Groups**

by Fran Schelling

The Membership Committee invites you to participate in a Covenant Group at UUFR-VA, which we are now forming.

A Covenant Group, which consists of 6 - 10 people, will meet twice a month for two hours, starting Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. It will end in May. This unique group provides an opportunity to participate in a supportive, nurturing group setting that facilitates spiritual growth and mutual caring. Each Covenant Group creates its own covenant, which governs the group's relationship and interaction. It is a safe place for all to be heard and to connect and share our thoughts and feelings. The structure that we will be following prevents debates and interruptions.

Some of the suggested topics are: Getting to know you, Divergent Paths, Friendship, Forgiveness, Intimacy, Renewal, Expression of Our Values, and Those That Have Touched Our Lives.

While this is not a therapy group, social group, debate society or worship service, it is a great way to develop friendships and a deeper understanding of yourself and others.

We now have fourteen people signed up and will most likely have two groups. If you are interested please contact Diana, Cliff, or me.

## **Time to be Santa!**

by Shirley Kinney

The Social Services of both Lancaster and Middlesex counties have provided UUFR-VA with a family to “adopt” for the holiday season. Your Community Service Committee happily agreed to the idea.

You now have the opportunity to make the holiday season a little bit brighter for a couple of families in our area. These families will have a bleak Christmas if we don't step in to help. All of us are *so* fortunate—we have more of everything in our lives than most folks. The only thing we don't have enough of is the wonderful warm feelings we get when we help someone in need.

Lynn Langley and Lorie Lowrey will be walking around at UUFR-VA for the next couple of Sundays carrying large baskets. Please put a large check (or even cash!) into the baskets to help. In the middle of December, the Committee, and any of you who would like to participate, will use your donations to go on a shopping spree. We'll bring toys to children and household items to the parents of these needy families. We are hoping to have collected sufficient funds to also fill us a few bags of groceries for their dinner.

Please give generously – your help is vital.

## **TJD Choir Fest**

by Mignon Dobbins, UUFWS Choirmaster

All members of the Fellowship are invited to the 2010 TJD Choir Fest, to be held April 10 and 11, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem. A combined choir of singers from all over the district will rehearse five pieces on Saturday and perform them on our Sunday morning Service. Our theme is “Music Appropriate for a Water Service”. Saturday evening will also include a concert on which individual choirs may perform for each other. To view the tentative festival schedule, click here: <http://www.uufws.org/content/uufws-choir>.

Online registration will open in January and will close February 1. Space may be limited. The cost for participation is \$20 per person and includes a short clinic for singers, plus three excellent meals, a pick-up breakfast at registration, snacks, and a wine, cheese & dessert reception following the Saturday night concert. Recommendations for area lodging will be provided and home hospitality will be made available for those who need it. If you plan to attend the Choir Fest, please drop me a note by December 15 and let me know approximately how many singers you expect to bring.

On behalf of the UUF of Winston-Salem, and particularly our Festival Planning Team, I look forward to welcoming you to our fellowship this coming spring. If you have any questions before December 15, please email me at [musicdirector@uufws.org](mailto:musicdirector@uufws.org) or [mignondobbins@triad.rr.com](mailto:mignondobbins@triad.rr.com).



The top is lowered onto the Home of our Own, by Rick's Tree Service. More photos are available on our website @ <http://www.uufr-va.com>

## Mark Your Calendars

by Shirley Kinney

Your Community Service Committee and Membership Committee members met in late November with Sara Mackey for an in-depth discussion of what would be involved for UUFVR-VA to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation. UUA has designated as Welcoming Congregations those which have taken certain steps to become more inclusive towards bisexual, gay, lesbian, and/or transgender persons. It consists of a series of workshops developed by the UUA, the goal of which is to reduce prejudice by increasing understanding and acceptance among people of different sexual orientations. Each congregation adapts the program to best meet its own goals and its own unique situation.

Over the ten years of UUFVR-VA's existence, we have discussed this program and, because we were just getting started or because we were consuming our energies just building a home of our own, we kept putting off this important move. Now we are at a point in our congregational life where we can take some action.

We are currently putting together a committee to begin the process. We'll be taking it step by step, examining at each step whether we wish to proceed with the program and how we should proceed. The entire program may take as long as two years to complete, and the steps along the way are important ones for each of us.

The workshops involve examining our own fears, worries, and prejudices about BGLT issues. There will be a lot of open and non-judgmental discussion. We may discover more about our feelings on this subject than we knew existed. It will most definitely be an opportunity for spiritual growth.

We welcome all who are eager to provide positive input to join the committee and to those who will help facilitate the workshops. Talk to anyone on the Membership or Community Service Committees — Shirley, Lynn, Lorie, Fran, Elaine, Kathleen — for more information or to volunteer to help.

We are hoping that the workshops can begin in June, 2010. Planning sessions will begin in April.

If not us----who?  
If not now----when?

## Landscapers' Wishes

by Sue Adriance

The Landscape Committee wishes to thank the Cook Book Team for the funds to extend the walkway and make improvements to the handicapped parking area. Drainage has been an issue and, little by little, the problems are being remedied. It takes a village or in this case, a congregation.

Thank you.

## River Readers

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:30 P.M. at the Lancaster Community Library. Everyone is welcome. Please read the book and join us. The upcoming selections are:

**December:** No meeting

**January 25:** *The Mistress of Spices* by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

**February 22:** *The Bookseller of Kabul* by Asne Seierstad

**March 22:** *Lark and Termite* by Jayne Anne Phillips

We're always looking for acclaimed books which lend themselves to discussion, and we actually need several more to complete next year's list. If you have a recommendation for a future read, please let **Shirley Kinney** know. Call **Elaine Weekley** if you have any questions.

## Welcoming Rev. Kathy Duhon

by Bob Weekley

Rev. Kathy Duhon, who recently moved to the Mathews area, spoke to our Fellowship on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Afterward, many were asking me when she would be speaking again. We expect that in the coming months she will be one of our regular speakers. In addition, starting in January, she has agreed to lead a series of monthly adult workshops, entitled: "Who Are We? A New Look at UU."

Details will be announced in future editions of *The Chalice*.

Rev. Duhon has moved to our area from Massachusetts where she was the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire. In August she left her South Berkshire congregation to be near her parents in Mathews County who are experiencing ill health.

According to Rev. John Weston, the UUA Director of Ministerial Settlements, Kathy comes with strong ministerial credentials and is highly regarded by the UU Association of Congregations. He noted that her sermons in the South Berkshire church, and her teaching, were highly praised and that she has a strong pastoral orientation. She has an undergraduate degree from Harvard and Masters Degrees from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in Ethics and Divinity. She was ordained by the UUA in 1998.

Rev. Duhon has broad experience in other fields of outreach and social justice. She was a volunteer with Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India, in 1978; a Habitat for Humanity Global Village team leader in 2002, 2003, and 2004; a delegate to the Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious and Spiritual Leaders in Geneva, Switzerland; and she has helped organize numerous community outreach activities supporting children, the homeless, prisoners, and the environment.

In addition to leading some of the services at our Fellowship, Kathy will be providing support to various UU churches in the general area during her stay in Virginia.

Let's give Rev. Kathy Duhon a warm UUFR-Virginia welcome!

### Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President  
Caroline Shifflett, Vice President  
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer  
Diana Jamison, Secretary  
Shirley Kinney, Past President

#### Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>

<http://www.uufr-va.org>

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Vacant, President Elect  
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs  
Fran Schelling, Vice President for Membership

#### Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20<sup>th</sup> of the month

Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)