

THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFR-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

May 2010

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

May 2 – Tom Kinney: “Did Priestley turn Jefferson Christian?”

Let’s meet Joseph Priestley. Priestley, a man of science, theology, and theories of governance, was a primary influence in establishing the Unitarian churches in England in the 18th century. A much admired friend of Benjamin Franklin, Priestley found receptive minds among America’s revolutionary leaders. Both John Adams and Jefferson were fans.

May 9 – Bob Weekley: “A Charter Sunday Celebration”

This Sunday marks the beginning of the second ten years for UUFR-VA. It’s Charter Sunday--the day the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock became officially affiliated with Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. We will look to our past and celebrate how we arrived where we are today. And we will look to our future and where we hope to be. New members of the past year will be honored. This will be a joyous day. Come celebrate it with us!

A special Membership Meeting will follow the service.

May 16 – Rev. Kathy Duhon: “Color My World with Joy: The Language of Flowers”

We will celebrate, like most Unitarian Universalists do this time of year, a beautiful flower communion. Please bring a flower — any flower, big, small, wild, or garden variety. We will bless them and remember that we all bring our precious gifts to each other and that we also all receive from each other. At the end of the service, each person leaves with a different flower. Flowers bring their own joy and speak a special language. Come celebrate with us!

A Potluck Luncheon and Conversation with Rev. Duhon will follow the service.

Who Are We? A New Look at UU Conversation

We will gather for a final conversation in our series about Unitarian Universalism, and everyone is welcome. Please stay after the potluck. This time we will open it up for any of your questions about all things UU. We will also discuss what membership in this UU congregation means. We’ll have about 45 minutes together after lunch.

We’ll also share special food together. Thanks so much for being a part of this conversation.

May 23 – Diana Jamison: “Dedication of UUFR-VA Labyrinth”

Once an ancient and now a modern pathway, the labyrinth is often described as a tool for change. Metaphorically speaking — the walk in symbolizes a single clear path into one’s interior reality, a path through layers of consciousness. The center represents wholeness and completion, being at the heart of the matter. The walk out offers a sense of peace, perhaps resolution, rebirth and renewal. Diana will talk about the many ways one can walk the labyrinth. In the background, Dave Rowden will present a side show of labyrinths Diana has visited in

the last several years. The service will conclude with an invitation to walk The Andrew Kesley Labyrinth. For your comfort and balance, Diana suggests that you wear flat sole shoes the day of the walk.

May 30 – Melinda Maddox: “Blessing of the Animals”

Our own “Pajama Lady” hosts a discussion of our relationship to animals and their place in our world. Owners are encouraged to bring well controlled animals, or pictures of their animals, to be blessed. Some dogs may be available for adoption.

President’s Corner

Just as the life that lies quiet and dormant in winter begins to stir and bloom in the spring, so it seems to me that our Fellowship is blooming.

It is so exciting to see each phase of spring’s brilliant displays — from the first crocus to the daffodils, tulips, fruit blossoms, dogwoods, azaleas, and soon, the laurel. At the UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock, our members and friends are returning from winter hibernation. We are coming out of the holes where we felt trapped by winter’s snow and cold. We feel the sap of optimism rising in our limbs. Metaphors aside, our Fellowship is surging with activity, new members, new projects, new ideas.

Our Sunday morning services are the heart and soul of our Fellowship, but the joy of belonging manifests itself in many other ways. Our Covenant Groups, which began meeting in winter, have nurtured new ties among our members. Volunteers come on their own or to join groups to work and continue the beautification of our natural setting: the nature walk, the butterfly garden, the memorial grove, future parking expansion, and the lovely landscaping around our “lighthouse.”

In building community relationships, our Fellowship is working to improve the quality of life for the less fortunate people of the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. We have actively encouraged Fellowship representation at various meetings to create new

community initiatives. Our English as a Second Language (ESL) program has restarted for another series. We are about to embark on extensive learning about how to become a UU-designated “Welcoming Congregation.” We are holding our first-ever yard sale as a fundraiser.

Your Board of Stewards is meeting on a three-day leadership retreat as this issue of *The Chalice* goes to press, and the retreat agenda is filled with lots of ideas and proposals initiated by the Vision and Planning Committee. (I should note that the retreat consumes no funds of the Fellowship, thanks to the donation of the retreat venue by a member.) A report on the results of the retreat will be summarized in the next issue of *the Chalice* and more detailed results posted with the “Minutes” binder in the foyer.

I am often reminded of the apocryphal tale of the British general who said: “There go my troops. I must hurry after them, for I am their leader.” The people of our congregation take the initiative and work to accomplish the mission of our Fellowship to:

- ...inspire spiritual and intellectual growth*
- ...provide a spiritual home for future generations*
- ...serve the needs of our community*
- ...stand on the UU Principles in fostering the pursuit of truth, fairness, respect, and social justice.*

Bob Weekley

Phood and Philosophy

Our weekly discussion group will be on hiatus this month to accommodate the Great UUFR-VA Yard Sale.

Check this space next month for the June 5 return of Phood and Philosophy.

Membership Meeting

by Bob Weekley

On **Sunday, May 9**, after the Charter Sunday Service, there will be a *short* membership meeting to complete the transition to the new bylaws approved in December. All members should have received ballots for Trustees, for Leadership Development Committee, and for Endowment management approval. If not, or if you need a replacement, please see Secretary **Diana Jamison**.

Please attend as we complete improvement to our governance.

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:

May 24: *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

June 28: *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein

July 26: *The Enchantress of Florence* by Salmon Rushdie

August 23: *The Inheritance of Loss* by Kiran Desai

If you have a recommendation for a good read, or if you have any questions, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Moving Wood

by Shirley Kinney

Have you noticed the stack of wood by the drive? Have you noticed the pile of brush by the mulch pile? Well, the brush and logs have been cut to a more manageable size and stacked by the road in the hope that some wonderful UU (or many wonderful UU's) can haul it off in their pickup trucks to the dump. It'll just take a few trips; it doesn't all have to be moved in one day. If you can, please help to haul the logs and brush away so the front of our building is more beautiful.

Thanks to Hank Stupi, Audrey Brainard, Marge Rowden, Tom and Shirley Kinney, Bob Weekley, Richard Weekley, Eva Abel, Larry Graves, and, of course, Bob and Sue Adriance, for spending a morning hauling and sawing and planting and weeding. Our nature trail has a walkable path. We have new flowers everywhere. The trash pile has been reduced to logs and brush. Trees have been cut, and so on and so on.

The Great UUFR-VA Yard Sale

The UUFR-VA Yard Sale is scheduled for **May 1 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** We need your donated items (no broken items and no clothing, please) and will be ready to accept them Sunday, April 25 through Thursday, April 29.

Volunteers, who will be sorting and pricing items, should be at the church from 9 a.m. until noon on Monday through Thursday. However, just to make sure someone's on duty, you're encouraged to contact **Hank Stupi** to make certain that someone will be there to accept your donations. We're hoping to have a bake sale, but so far only five people have volunteered, so that is an area where more help is sorely needed.

Don't forget to wear your UUFR-VA shirts and/or hats and name badges if you'll be helping on the sale date. We'll try to have some shirts available.

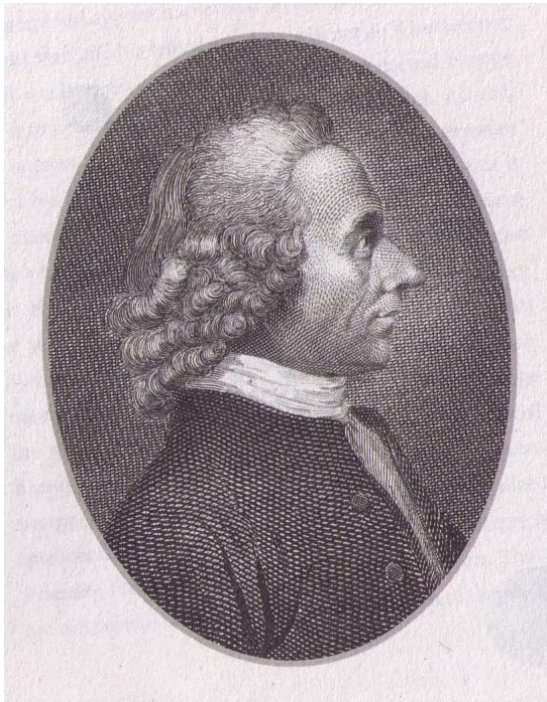
Xmas Preparations

by Shirley Kinney

The Imagine That! art group at UUFR-VA would like to relieve you of the nagging anxiety you have been feeling lately with an answer to your question: What is the art group doing for the YMCA tree this year? The answer is: We are covering every square inch of a six-foot tree (donated by Olivia and Terry) with hand-made exquisite red poinsettias, liberally sprinkled with gold and silver glitter. In addition, there will be white, hand-made, also exquisite, snowflakes on the tree. "Could it be any more perfect?" you ask. Why, yes it can! All of the flower ornaments are made from those paper egg cartons you all donated to the group a couple of years ago, so the ornaments are eco-friendly.

Would you like to be a part of this amazing group and help with the painting and glittering and cutting? Of course you would! Just talk to Sue Adriance, Marge Rowden, Ruth Fitzpatrick, or me to find out more. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 13 at 9:30 am.

See you there!



Tom Kinney introduces **Joseph Priestley**, 18th-century English theologian, dissenting clergyman, natural philosopher, educator, and political theorist to the Fellowship on May 2nd.

G & O Fills the Gap

by Tom Kinney

UUFR-VA's CME (formerly Capital, Ministerial, and Endowment) Fund served us well over many years as a repository for donations that built our building and established an endowment to help keep the building running. The resulting Endowment continues to attract donations from members and friends who wish to create an income stream in perpetuity from a protected principal to support UUFR-VA's needs. This leaves a gap for those who want their entire donation to be available for other projects, programs, and opportunities on a shorter term basis.

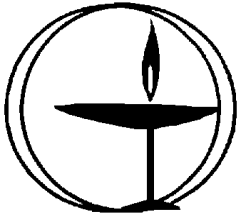
The Board of Stewards recognizes that need and has established a Growth and Opportunity Fund to give members that second option. Donations to this fund can be either project specific or undesignated with the hopes of building a nest egg to be tapped by the Board to help us continue to grow and flourish within our community. G & O funds awaiting an opportunity will be cautiously invested to further build our resources for community or internal programs, projects, staff, publicity, or other possibilities as they arise.

Now all of our members and friends have two choices for their special donations — our Endowment or our Growth and Opportunity (G & O) Fund. Please see your Finance Committee members if you would like help in deciding which will work best for you.

Thomas Jefferson District Name Change

Last month's issue of The Chalice included a letter from Jim Key, TJ District President, regarding a proposed name change for the district. Following a vote by the UUFR-VA Board of Stewards, the Fellowship chose to reject the proposal to change the district name. The Fellowship's response to the proposal, and instructions for our delegate votes follows. Further background information is available on the UUFR-VA website

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>.)



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK

P.O. Box 1266 White Stone, VA 22578

April 11, 2010

Mr. Jim Key, President
Thomas Jefferson District
Unitarian Universalist Association

RE: District Name Change

Dear Jim:

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock's size of 100 members or less qualifies it for 2 voting delegates at the annual Thomas Jefferson District meeting on April 30-May 2, 2010. The priorities among the other good works of our congregation and the more than 500 miles distance one way with an estimated minimum 18 hours driving time there and back to the meeting site makes it impractical for us have a physical presence at the meeting. However, we would like our votes to be heard and counted.

Of key concern is the name change for the Thomas Jefferson District. A number of our members have weighed the various arguments for and against. Our Board of Stewards, the governing body of UUFR, voted on April 11, 2010, against changing the name of the Thomas Jefferson District for (1) many of the reasons contained in the TJD newsletter, (2) the perspectives and concerns brought forward by other letters that have been exchanged on the subject, and (3) our long-standing internal discussions and Sunday morning presentations on the wisdom of such a move, discussions that go back many years.

Therefore, you or your representative are requested to enter **TWO DELEGATE VOTES IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE THOMAS JEFFERSON DISTRICT NAME** on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock as the official name of our UUA district and to assure us that our votes have been counted.

Thank you very much for your support including all congregations in such decisions.

In Faith,

Bob Weekley, President
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Rappahannock

CC: Glen Johnson, TJD District Administrator

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Caroline Shifflett, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Diana Jamison, Secretary

Vacant, Past President
Shirley Kinney, Vice President for Programs
Fran Schelling, Vice President for Membership

Web Site

<http://www.uufrappahannock.org>
<http://www.uufr-va.org>
Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month
Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)