



THE CHALICE

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

June 2011

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

June 5

Rev. Jennifer Ryu: “Confession: Good for the Soul?”

9:45 Meditation: Diana Jamison

For many people the word *confession* conveys too much baggage from traditional religion. We can throw out the word, yet the truth remains — every one of us has fallen short and broken promises. When we confess, we are not admitting to our inherent guilt, but to our inherent humanity.

June 12

Anne Baltrusaitis, Margaret Lawyer, and David Duhon: “A Morning of Contemplative Creativity”

9:45 Meditation: Bob Weekley

Anne Baltrusaitis, violin, Margaret Lawyer, viola, and David Duhon, cello, will present an offering on contemplative creativity. They will play chamber music, present some ideas on what inspires composers and musicians, and talk about how it feels as a musician to play great music. They have been playing once a month for their own pleasure for over six years, and combine with other musicians to form quartets, sextets, and other groups — extending the range of what they can undertake. Anne is a guidance counselor at Middlesex High School, Margaret is a

communications officer for Rappahannock Community College, and David teaches bridge in Williamsburg and online. Their program will include works by Bach, Beethoven, and Febonio.

June 19

Sara Mackey: “Loving our Neighbors”

9:45 Meditation: Eva Abel

Unitarian Universalists believe in justice, equity, and compassion in all of our relationships. We know that emphasis on strict enforcement of immigration laws is not always just, equitable, or compassionate. Join Sara to hear about immigrants she has known whose stories put faces to the debate about immigration laws.

The monthly potluck lunch will follow the service.

June 26

Ann Kelsey and Cliff Schelling: “Tarot: What is it? A Mysterious Connection Between the Occult and the Spiritual”

9:45 Meditation: Pam Collins

Ann and Cliff will show the relevance of this ancient game for today, explain the cards and their psychological significance, and will do an example reading.

President's Corner

Leadership Retreat

On May 1st to May 3rd, our board members and others gathered on the North Carolina shore for what has become an annual retreat — a time of working together on ideas and actions on behalf of our Fellowship. At our regular board meetings, it seems we just barely have time to deal with the many new matters and questions that pop up, to discuss budget items, and to “put out fires.” At the retreat, board members and committee chairs make presentations in greater detail, and we take the time needed to debate and study matters. And, very importantly, we enjoy having time to get to know each other better.

What did we discuss? As is our policy — there are no deep and dark secret plans being made. The Minutes of the gathering will be posted in our Minutes book in the foyer as usual. But some of the highlights included:

- Making initial plans for a Congregational Retreat October 9th to 11th at Virginia Beach. All members and friends are invited. You will be getting more details, but **mark your calendars** now.
- Diana Jamison was appointed to be Vice President to complete Caroline's term. We welcomed this appointment.
- The Finance Committee held a mini-workshop on our financial history, our policies as they have developed, and procedures going forward. We decided that it would be of value for the Finance Committee to offer a Budget Forum for the membership following a Sunday service in November. This would give people an opportunity to offer their ideas about the annual budget before it comes to a vote at the Annual Meeting in December.
- The Membership Committee led a discussion of ongoing activities and initiatives. How to better care for our members, how to communicate better within the membership, and how best to make visitors and newcomers feel welcome were at the heart of the discussions.

- The Program Committee discussed possible new initiatives and improvements that could be made in our speaker list and Sunday services.
- Social Justice activity is an area where we want to give people an opportunity to be part of both local issues and national issues. We agreed that learning more is the first step, and we also agreed to be more active in this area.
- Community Service has been at the heart of our mission. We discussed ways to be as effective as possible in all that we do and to target our financial contributions where they will do the most good.

All of this may sound like “the usual stuff,” but when you have such energetic and creative people involved, it is exciting. I am so appreciative of all who took the time and expense to attend. Of course, it was not all work. We walked on the beach, fixed meals together, and generally had a great time just being together.

I think it goes without saying, but I'll say it — no Fellowship funds are expended on the Leadership Retreat. One of our members generously donates the use of a beach house before it goes on the summer rental market, and we provide all of our own food and transportation. I trust we will continue these retreats and that many more of our members will be participants in the future.

Bob Weekley

UU For Kids This Summer

by Bob Weekley

For children aged six to twelve, we plan to resume classes in September — tentatively on the third Sunday of each month. Congratulations go to the teacher, Jonathan Frist, who graduated from Lynchburg College this month.

Classes for the younger children continue to be scheduled on the second and fourth Sundays. However, due to summer activities, Wendy and Lydia may not be able to attend each time. So, if bringing children, we suggest you check beforehand with Wendy.

Phood and Philosophy

Thea Marshall and Donald Miller will host this month's Phood and Philosophy in their home on **Saturday, June 4th, at 5:30 P.M.**

The evening's topic will be: **Imagination Immigration.**

Don't come as you are!

Come as a citizen of any country in the world who wants desperately to live in America. Why do you want to come here? How do you plan to get here — legally or illegally? What will you do when you get here? Plan on telling your story in ten minutes or less!

Please contact Thea or Donald so they can be sure to have enough chairs, etc. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share ... maybe from your fantasy country of origin.



The Graves' extended family gathers for Larry's Memorial.

A Note of Thanks

from Pirkko Graves

My heartfelt thanks to my UU family for all the care, support, and generous help you have given to me. Without you, my distress would be unbearable. Gradually, I may truly understand Kahlil Gibran, who wrote:

When you are sorrowful look again in
Your heart, and you shall see that in truth
You are weeping for that which has been
Your delight.

The Wait is Over

by Shirley Kinney

We are now a UU Welcoming Congregation — welcoming all people into our services and activities. Although this program addresses in particular the concerns of gay, lesbian, transgender, and bi-sexual people, it goes beyond that to say that we welcome all who follow our Unitarian Universalist Principles. We have taken a congregational vote, following seven sessions in the Welcoming Congregation program. The results are in — an overwhelming **yes!** (Actual results: 36 yes, 2 no.)

We sent the results of our vote to UUA. They will soon be sending us official notification that we have successfully completed the Welcoming Congregation program. We will be able to proudly advertise our new designation, telling everyone that we are a congregation that welcomes people no matter who they love.

Musically Speaking

by Shirley Kinney

Everyone is talking about what a wonderful job Hank Stupi does arranging for the music during the offering portion of our Sunday services. Way to go, Hank! He has performed on the guitar, singing both his own songs and those of others. He sings duets with Eva Abel and Diana Jamison and Cliff Schelling and Mike Knez, as well as his wife, Nancy, and his son, Matt. He's played duets with Bob Weekley. He plans weeks ahead to coordinate with the Sunday service.

Hank has a passion for music, and it shows. *And ...* he has now agreed to assume the role of Music Coordinator for UUFR-VA services. In that role, he will be seeking to expand our Sunday repertoire — using even more of our congregation's talents. He will be actively searching for your hidden musical talents to add to the Sunday experience. Do you sing? Do you play the trumpet? Do you play the drums? Whatever! Hank is looking for you. Please talk to him and let him know how you would like to participate on Sunday mornings. Also, be sure to give him your feedback on how you are enjoying the music, or any changes you would like to see in the music program.

Our Beautiful Garden

by Sue Adriance

The grounds of our special home are a shining beacon of hope on James Wharf Road. From a scrubby patch of weeds and thistles, the grounds have been transformed into a place of grace and beauty — all due to the efforts of our Fellowship volunteers.

But our landscape, like any garden, requires plenty of TLC. A sign-up sheet for landscape volunteers to maintain the gardens through the summer will be on the table in the foyer. Please consider giving an hour of your time to weed, trim, clean up, or whatever you think is needed to keep UUFR-VA looking beautiful.

Covenant Groups are Back!

by Fran Schelling

UUFR-VA Covenant groups will meet during the summer and fall on the first Tuesday of the month. Our last group didn't want to say goodbye, so we will be continuing on a different evening.

We meet at the UUFR-VA building at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in joining us, with longer daylight hours and interesting fellowship, please let me know.

Have You?

... done your share to add to our parking lot by dropping an extra check marked “parking lot extension” in the Sunday offering? If not, please do — or mail the check to Treasurer Lynn Langley.

— Thanks from your Finance Committee and fellow UUFR-VAs.

UUFR-VA Votes!

by Tom Kinney

The UUA General Assembly (GA) in Charlotte, NC, June 22 to 26, will decide upon a series of issues. The first draft of “Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice,” a Statement of Conscience for 2012, will be presented, likely with many proposed amendments. This is a midway step in the four-year process that then guides congregations and UUA's Washington advocacy office. Also, an extraordinary number of UUA bylaw changes regarding significant restructuring and economizing the governance of UUA are up for individual approval. Please see your latest issue of *UUWorld* and the UUA website for details. Also, there will be a handout on the sharing table that will add to the overview.

Our Board of Stewards has identified Shirley and me as our GA delegates this year. We welcome your thoughts and guidance on each of the issues before the Assembly.

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:

June 27: *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen

July 25: *The Imperfectionists* by Tom Rachman

August 22: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak

September 26: *Tinkers* by Paul Harding

We're always on the lookout for a noteworthy book which would generate a lively discussion. If you have a recommendation, please call Elaine Weekley.

Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President
Diana Jamison, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Kathy Duhon, Secretary

Tom Kinney, Past President
Shirley Kinney, Programs Chair
Janet Hemming and Marge Rowden,
Membership Co-Chairs

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)