



THE CHALICE

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

December 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

December 4

Hank Stupi: "A Little Help From My Friends"

9:30 Meditation: **Eve Jordan**

Our music coordinator, Hank Stupi, will be joined by members and friends of our Fellowship for a musical service. He will provide guitar accompaniment for their solos and will perform some duets as well. The songs are primarily popular hits with which the listener will likely be familiar. Expect a good deal of variety and some fun as Hank and his friends showcase their musical talents.

December 11

Sara Mackey: "Choosing to Forgive"

9:30 Meditation: **Pam Collins**

At this joy-filled time of year, we recognize that for some people, the holidays hurt. Loss, grief, old wounds can seem more intense during the holidays, when we're supposed to be jolly. During this season, we may be called to re-examine the idea of forgiveness: what does it mean, how can we do it, why should we do it? Join Sara Mackey for an exploration of this complex challenge

The Annual Congregational Meeting will follow the service.

December 18

Rev. Jim Sanderson: "Advent"

9:30 Meditation: **Ina Fuller**

Rev. Sanderson, a frequent speaker and contributor, answers the questions "What is Advent all about, and does it hold hidden meaning for us?"

The Annual Holiday Party will follow the service.

December 25

Hank Stupi: "The Meaning of Christmas"

9:30 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

Sixteenth-century Unitarian minister, Francis David, of Transylvania, said, "We need not think alike to love alike." Unitarian Universalist Holley Ulbrich said, "It is also true that we need not find the exact same meaning in the Christmas story in order to join in the celebration." Come join us on Christmas day and share what Christmas means to you.

President's Corner

As we come to the end of another year, I am reflecting on the state of our UU Fellowship — *accomplishments, transitions, and dreams*. As I look around I see so much that we, all of us together, have brought about, in building a true Unitarian Universalist family and home here in this beautiful place.

Accomplishments. Isn't it wonderful how our members and friends have opened more opportunities for us to celebrate work and play together? The Ladies' Luncheons, Movie Nights, Circle of Life meetings, the Art Guild, the Book Group, Phood and Philosophy, Sunday Morning Meditation, Socrates Café, yoga classes, a great yard sale, support of the Food Bank, gifts for our service men and women overseas — all clustered around a great variety of Sunday morning services enhanced by newfound musical talent.

Our website, *The Chalice* newsletter, and, now, an online calendar support this cornucopia of happenings. We joined together to study and develop the consensus to become, officially, a *Welcoming Congregation* that confirms our commitment to our first UU principle — affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all persons. Our Fellowship has truly become a place where people of inquiring minds can enjoy being with like spirits. Best of all, it has not been the formal leadership that has created this momentum; it is the members themselves who step forward and say, "Let's do it."

At the same time, we have seen remarkable development at our "Home of Our Own." We saw the expansion of our parking area, erection of a garden shed that helps us maintain our grounds, installation of a beautiful sign designating our nature walk, the nurturing of a thriving butterfly garden, and obtaining designation as a certified Wildlife Habitat. This year our volunteers took over the mowing and trimming work that had cost us over \$1,000 the year before — a significant contribution. We acquired a new copier that is saving us the commercial reproduction costs we had been paying for newsletters, bulletins, and committee work.

Transitions. Our members have "voted with their pocketbooks" to put us near our goals in creating a beautiful *Pathways of Remembrance* area as a permanent memorial for members who have left our world; for remediating pesky acoustic issues in our sanctuary, for creating a real art gallery in our building, and for

blackout shades in the sanctuary for special presentations. The Board has approved moving ahead to complete the "Gathering Deck," part of the original building plan, where we can enjoy good-weather fellowship in our beautiful setting.

Dreams. With all this momentum I can't help dreaming a bit. I dream of having regular child care during services so people will feel free to bring their young children. I dream of a school-age kids' program to meet the needs of younger families that will find a home with us. I dream of finding a special niche in our community to mobilize organizations across the community for the unmet needs of children, or of seniors, or of whatever challenges us. I dream of expanding our facilities to handle these dreams. I dream of the day when we can afford part-time ministerial support to help guide us in these efforts, and to provide pastoral care for our members. As a result of this year's electronic forum and the *Common Ground Workshop*, I know that some of you dream with me.

I am so thankful for our members who willingly step up to make all of this happen. Thanks to all. It has been a remarkable year for our UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock.

Bob Weekley

Holiday Happening

by Shirley Kinney

Tie on the tinsel! Ring those bells! It's time for the UUFR-VA Annual Holiday Party. Bring something to share, and come to our house right after the service on Sunday, December 18th.

There will be lots of good food, tons of wonderful conversation, and even lights and tinsel.

Please call me or Tom with questions or suggestions.

Christmas 2011 — Birth of a New Tradition

shared by Janet Hemming

As the holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Americans with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods — merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labor. This year will be different. This year Americans will give the gift of genuine concern for other Americans. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift-giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by American hands. Yes, there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese-produced wrapping paper? Everyone — yes, *everyone* gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local American hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, American-owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plunking down the Benjamins on a Chinese-made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants — all offering gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks, this isn't about big national chains — this is about supporting your hometown Americans with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck, or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the American working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would *love* the services of a local cleaning lady for a day ... or a massage ... or a manicure or pedicure.

Gift certificates from the local grocery store or pharmacy for the older citizens. Gift baskets filled with canned meats, peanut butter, or herbal teas.

My computer could use a tune-up, and I *know* I can find some young guy who is struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people spin their own wool and knit them into scarves. They make jewelry and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner-operated restaurants, and leave your server a nice tip. And, how about going out to see a play or ballet at your hometown theatre?

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you *really* need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five-dollar string of lights, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy, or babysitter a nice BIG tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining American pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about US, encouraging American small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Americans, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

This is the new American Christmas tradition.

Forward this to everyone on your mailing list — post it to discussion groups — throw up a post on Craigslist in the Rants and Raves section in your city — send it to the editor of your local paper and to radio stations and TV news departments. This is a revolution of caring about each other — and isn't that what Christmas is about?

Movie Nite?

by Devi Herrsche

We're sorry, movie fans!

There will be no *Friday at the Movies* in December. We will resume our monthly evening adventure on the third Friday in January

What's on Your Mind?

Is there something you'd like to say?

Now's the time to say it! We are preparing the 2012 speaking calendar for Sundays and are looking for volunteers to do a Sunday talk. Probably the single most important item that attracts people like you to UUFR-VA is us — we're interesting, we're intelligent, we're passionate. So — share your interests, your intelligence, your passions!

Talk to anyone on the Program Committee to let them know you would like to do a Sunday service in 2012. We will help you with someone to open the program, with music, and with ideas. All you need do is speak for about 25 minutes on a subject of your choice — something that will inspire, inform, and maybe entertain us. Have you read a great book that you think others might like? Do you have a passion for a position? Are you very concerned about something? Look at our Unitarian Universalist principles — will your talk relate to them?

We'd love to hear from you!

Program Committee members:

Shirley Kinney, Bob Weekley, Hank Stupi, Jane Elkin, MJ Anderson, Pam Collins, Devi Herrsche, and Terri Dustin

Nutshell UU History: Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

by Kathy Duhon

No author is more noted for his or her contribution to Christmas literature than Charles Dickens, who wrote *A Christmas Carol*, giving us the eternal characters of "Scrooge" and "Tiny Tim." Dickens was an English Unitarian who wrote a great deal of fiction, most of which helped in his crusade for social reform. He exposed the injustices of his day through the platform of his novels and his great speaking abilities, and inspired many to change the conditions that were so harmful to the poor.

Many of us read *A Tale of Two Cities* in high school and will always hear his opening wise words, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times," as well as the stirring statement, "It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to, than I have ever known."

Dickens was the most popular English author of his time, and some consider him to be the greatest English novelist of all time. His writing embraced both comedy and compassion, and his intelligence and conscience inspired others.

Dickens didn't just try to reform society, but wrote out of his own experience of a tough life well lived. He grew up in poverty, and his father went to a debtor's prison when Dickens was only 12. Charles was withdrawn from school and went to work in a squalid factory to support the family. He strove with his scanty education to make the best of his life, trying clerking and journalism, and then writing fiction.

As we celebrate another holiday season, let us be cautioned not to slip into the early mood of Scrooge, when he proclaimed "**Bah, Humbug!**" but to live his transformed understanding, "*I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.*" And may we always know and pass on the spirit of Tiny Tim, who despite his suffering, declared, "**God bless us every one!**"

A New Opportunity—

Thanks to all who have supported the projects currently on the project list (see the status poster in the foyer). The blackout shades are almost fully funded. Both the Memorial Area construction and the screening hedge that some members recommended are getting close. If you haven't done your part, please vote by getting your check to Treasurer Lynn Langley to help wrap up these projects and get a 2011 tax deduction to boot.

Your Board has added a new opportunity to the project list. In recognition of how our members and friends sometimes overflow our space, crowding the foyer after Sunday services and especially at special programs and memorial services, it is time to move forward with the 500 square-foot Gathering Deck that is part of our original design. This lovely outdoor space will add room for easy conversation, open-air potlucks, a gathering spot for youngsters, and many other valuable uses. Check the architectural model in the foyer. Vote with your checkbook, and let's get the deck built. The awning for summer sun shelter can follow. *Your Finance Committee: Chair Barbara Haynes, MJ Anderson, Tom Foster, Paula Greenwood, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Marge Rowden.*



Who's Who in UU: Bob Adriance

by Eve Jordan

Across the road from the highest point in the Northern Neck (80 feet above sea level) was once a plain field with trees in the background and Mill Creek not visible because of the thicket. This is the property that Bob and Sue Adriance bought in 1986. This has become their spiritual place. Through their combined efforts, this once barren field has been transformed into a welcoming garden with peach, pear, apricot, and fig trees; nut trees; and so many blueberry bushes that they give blueberries away each year,, daylily beds with grasses as a backdrop; and wildflowers that have not been overcome by weeds. Many of these plants have come from the Arbor Society and were originally potted in New Jersey. There is also a three-year-old oak tree in a pot from Westfield, New Jersey. This is four plus acres of garden heaven. The UUFR-VA plantings are a miniature of this, since much that is around our grounds was propagated from the Adriances' gardens and reflects their efforts. Bob has also put up many birdhouses in their area and the neighborhood and, although not a great birder, he enjoys pausing to listen and tune-in to bird song and nature sounds, and considers this a great part of life's pleasures. There is a charming Amish garden shed among the bushes and trees that adds to the feeling of enchantment. This is their home, this is Meadowood. Although this article highlights Bob, the Master Plan is to feature Sue in the spring when the gardens are in full bloom.

Before coming to the Northern Neck, Bob spent his life in New Jersey in a traditional family. He has an older brother. Bob went to Trenton State College

where he received a BA in Social Studies Education in 1956. He met Sue when he was a sophomore and she was a freshman. He graduated in 1960 and began teaching at Freehold High (Bruce Springsteen's high school) and, after two years, he left for Westfield, New Jersey. He and Sue married; she began teaching also, and they started their family: David, born in '64, Lisa in '65, and Laura in '69. While raising this young family, Bob was coaching soccer and going to graduate school. With his MA in American History, he became the supervisor of the Social Studies Department in 1971, forcing him to give up soccer coaching. Westfield High School was an excellent school with 94% of the students going on to four-year colleges. Education was the industry in this suburban town that was 30 miles west of Manhattan, an upper-class community where teachers were respected and excellence was demanded. It was pure pleasure for Bob to be there, where he had 15 teachers supporting the program, in addition to himself as Chairperson. Although salaries reflected the importance the community placed on education, Bob worked each summer, first as manager of a large 3,000-member swim club for twelve years, and then another eight or nine years painting houses. This was economic reality! When they thought about retirement, Bob and Sue knew what they were looking for was a warmer climate with four seasons, space to plant and grow, perhaps three to four acres, and near water. This was not going to be possible on a teacher's retirement in the New Jersey area. However, Bob had just finished reading James A. Michener's novel Chesapeake and was reading the New York Times, idly looking at properties for sale when he found four acres near the Chesapeake Bay. He asked Sue if she wanted to go for a ride (this was a Friday). They saw an agent on Saturday morning and bought the property on Saturday afternoon. On the ride home, Sue asked if Bob had any idea where they were; he replied that he did not but they would find their way back home. They signed a contract with a builder in 1991, and from 1992 to 1996 they came weekends, summers, mid-winter breaks, spring breaks and Christmases, working on their property and preparing for their retirement. At age 58, having no summers, weekends, or holidays off for so many years, the decision for retirement was made. Both Sue and Bob were ready for the land of pleasant living.

Once down here, Bob bought a boat, fished, gardened, and joined the Master Gardener program

and the Audubon Society. He eventually joined the Northern Neck Bay Tones, although he never sang, did not read music, and didn't play an instrument. However, he does loves to dance and has always liked harmony. This is his ninth year with the group. Since he cannot read music (even now!), Bob learns his part, the rhythm and tempo, by standing next to another bass. He looks very happy on stage in his red satin shirt, along with the other gents in equally bright colors. They appear to be having a great time.

Raised a Methodist, Bob loved the music, especially the great organ in the Westfield Methodist Church. However, he began to distance intellectually from the church, and when he came to the Northern Neck, he had little interest in organized religion. Sue began coming to the UU Fellowship, and he accompanied her when the speaker was appealing. The intellectual aspects and lack of traditional dogma, as well as the people, were what kept him coming.

Bob is the proud grandfather of twelve-year old Joseph (David's son), Zachery who is six (Laura's son), and Grace who is three (Lisa's daughter). He and Sue travel at least twice a year to Seattle, where his two daughters live, parents of Zachery and Grace. Joseph is closer, in Springfield, New Jersey, and they visit with him and his parents every six weeks or so.

Life is good. The property is beautiful. There are fish in the creek. Everyone is healthy and happy. Bob is the kind of guy you wish you had been privileged to have known when you were in high school. What a difference he has made in the lives of countless young people! But we're sure glad we know him now, still making a difference!

Oh! And there is one more tidbit! When visiting Poughkeepsie, New York, a while back, Bob and Sue found the Adriance Memorial Library. They discovered that Adriance is a Dutch surname and can be traced as far back as 1646 when the family came from Holland. Bob's relatives and family lived and farmed west of Albany, NY.

Are You Interested?

by Marge Rowden

Many ideas were raised in the Vision and Planning effort over the past several months. Two areas were emphasized, and the Board is looking for people who are eager to participate going forward with these ideas.

Community Niche. What contribution can UUFRA-VA make in our community? What can our Fellowship do to make a real and continuing difference? If you have a passion for helping to determine what our niche will be and making it a reality, contact Program Chair Shirley Kinney or Community Service Chair, Lorie Lowrey, by email. Become involved!

Building Expansion. Our Fellowship is growing steadily. As we reach our capacity, we will need to expand our facilities to accommodate larger Sunday morning gatherings, RE, and perhaps other purposes. The Vision and Planning Workshop confirmed that we should start planning now. We need people who are interested in how we can plan to build for this future to participate in brainstorming on an architectural design committee. Let the Leadership Development Committee (Tom Kinney, Pirkko Graves, or Marge Rowden) know by email of your interest. UUFRA-VA needs your ideas!

Supporting Interfaith

by Pam Collins

Recently, the large rug in our foyer was removed by Interfaith. The people who took it away said that Interfaith is always in need of all kinds of household items, including mattresses. So if anyone has items that could be useful to them, the telephone number is (804) 435-6950. They may even do pick-up, as they did with the rug.

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 23: *The Echo Maker* by Richard Powers

February 27: *The Wife of Martin Guerre* by Janet Lewis

If you have a recommendation for a noteworthy book, please call **Elaine Weekley**.

Please, Please Put Down Your Knitting!

by Diana Jamison

Cabaret is a form, or place, of entertainment featuring [comedy](#), song, dance, and theatre, distinguished mainly by the performance venue: a [restaurant](#) or [nightclub](#) with a stage for performances and the audience sitting at tables (often dining or drinking) watching the performance, as introduced by a [master of ceremonies](#) or emcee .
(Wikipedia)

If the subject piques your interest, join Cliff and me in a conversation about creating a Cabaret at UUFR-VA. We would like to get together and begin brainstorming. Our first meeting is scheduled for December 5th at 7:30 P.M.

Call or email me ASAP.

Ding-Dong! Ding- Dong!

by Lorie Lowrey, Chair, Community Service

It's that time of year when the holiday bells are ringing.

We're ringing the bells at UUFR-VA beginning every Sunday in December until Christmas. We'll be asking for money to help bring Christmas to area families in need — in Lancaster, Middlesex, Mathews, and Northumberland Counties. They are in need of warm clothing, food, and a few toys for the little ones. Your generous donation can make all the difference.

So, if you see Lynn Langley in the foyer each Sunday, ringing her silent Ding-Dong bell, be sure to put something in her basket to help out. If you would prefer to write a check, make it payable to UUFR-VA.

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Newsletter

Deadline for articles: 20th of the month

Bob Prescott, Editor (editor@uufrappahannock.org)