

# THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP  
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)

P.O. Box 1266  
White Stone, VA 22578

January 2012

## 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

### January 1

**David Dustin:** “When Did the Practice of Celebrating the New Year Begin and What Are the Origins and Meaning of New Year’s Resolutions?”

**No Meditation at UUFV-VA**  
**Please meditate wherever you are on the first day of 2012.**

This service will explore the first records of when our ancestors started celebrating the winter solstice and welcoming the start of longer days and the coming of spring. It will also take a quick trip around the world to look at how different cultures celebrate this astronomical phenomenon.

### January 8

**Sara Mackey:** “Progressive Christianity: A New Day Coming”

9:30 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

Have you heard of a movement called Progressive Christianity? Our speaker, Sara Mackey, will offer some observations about elements that Unitarian Universalism and Progressive Christianity share.

### January 15

**Rev. Alane Cameron Miles:** “A Novel Idea”

9:30 Meditation: **Eva Abel**

Rev. Miles, who has taken part in National Novel Writing Month for two years, believes that if we understood our spiritual lives more as a novel, we would be better at it. Today’s chapter, which is the first in a four-part series, is the Plot – bring pen and paper – followed later by chapters on Characters, Crisis, and a great Ending.

*The Monthly Potluck Luncheon will follow the service.*

### January 22

**Bob Weekley:** “Soap Box Sunday”

9:30 Meditation: **Bob Weekley**

This is your opportunity to share your inspiration, your passion, and your insight. What do you want to share with the congregation? Soap Box Sunday, moderated by Bob Weekley, is back by popular demand. Volunteers will have three to four minutes to speak on a subject of their choosing. For ideas, you might choose to share a favorite reading or poem,

an inspirational anecdote, a special pastime or joy, or a concern. Perhaps there is that inspirational piece that your grandmother kept in her cookbook or Bible. You may find it helpful to jot down your presentation in advance. The important thing is your sharing what is in your heart. Guidelines? The speaker's time will be controlled, and we ask that no one raise partisan political matters.

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## January 29

### **Bob Wohlfort: "We Are the Creator's Viceroy's"**

9:30 Meditation: **Diana Jamison**

Viceroy – an old and very appropriate term for our time. The viceroy carries out the wishes and directives of the sovereign. Her actions will carry the unique flavor of her personality as the sovereign's will is accomplished.

Too often in our time there is a refusal to submit, subject, and humbly listen to the expertise of our sisters and brothers of this planet we call Home. Ninety percent (90%) of the world's professional climate scientists (read "sovereigns") concur that climate change is real, and the vast majority of that 90% agree that human activity is the major cause of the crisis! Yet most of the candidates for the office of the President of the United States reject these experts. Their hubris is that the United States is an exceptional nation that should never be called upon to limit itself. To refuse to acknowledge and not live within limits and boundaries is a profound moral, spiritual, and ethical issue.

Through this example, Rev. Wohlfort suggests that these climate scientists are a contemporary voice of the Creator — whose wisdom, expertise, and directives must be acknowledged lest we arrogantly storm ahead toward planetary destruction. Furthermore, he reminds us that each of us, also, is the viceroy of a Loving Creator.

## *President's Corner*

As we begin another year together, I reflect again on all the great things that happened in 2011, and I expect 2012 will bring us more — maybe even surprises. We have welcomed some newer members who are bringing fresh ideas and hands to help.

For 2012, I know already of good things to anticipate:

- The Program Committee has an exciting list of Sunday speakers lined up.
- Contracts have been signed, and work is underway to create the beautiful Memorial Pathways area — honoring those of our Fellowship who have gone before us.
- An Architectural Design Committee is being organized to gather ideas for expanding our "Home of Our Own" to better host a range of activities and a growing congregation.
- The Board of Stewards is planning a two-day Spring Leadership Retreat to think about and plan seriously for the future of UUFR-VA and its role in the greater community.
- A new electronic forum will be launched in January — an online place for our members and friends to exchange ideas about our Fellowship. Hank Stupi will be the moderator.
- Two of our members, Devi Herrsche and Judi Caples, will be attending Healthy Congregations Training, a series of four workshops in Richmond, January through April, sponsored by the Southeast District of the UU Association.
- And more...

I am looking forward to being a part of all of these activities. Before the December election, I told our Leadership Development Committee that I welcome "fresh blood" in all of our leadership positions, including the President's. I was asked by many to continue for another term, and I agreed. To the extent I can contribute time and whatever talents I have to help build and maintain this wonderful Fellowship, I am honored. Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

May the New Year bring you undreamed of blessings.

*Bob Weekley*

## Phood and Philosophy

**Diana Jamison and Charles VanDenburgh** will host this month's Phood and Philosophy, our monthly potluck dinner and discussion, in the UUFRA-VA home at **366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA**, on **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**, at **5:30 P.M.**

Join Diana and Charles for dinner and a movie – **“For The Bible Tells Me So.”** Director Daniel G. Karslake takes a poignant (and sometimes humorous) look at the ways in which conservative Christian groups have used — and sometimes exploited — scripture to deny human rights to gays and lesbians around the world. A lively discussion will follow.

**Please contact Diana** to plan for seating, etc. Plan to bring a dish and a bottle of wine to share for a lovely evening and lively conversation.

## Volunteer Opportunity — Hospice Support Services

by **Bob Weekley**

Looking for a worthy volunteer opportunity? Jim Charbeneau has informed me that Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck (HSSNN) is in need of volunteers. The UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock supports several excellent local charities with funds and volunteer work. HSSNN is one you may want to consider. Jim provided the following overview. If you might be interested, or would like more information, please contact Jim directly. Volunteering for Hospice Support Services is a wonderful way to make the world a better place.

“Hospice Support Services of the Northern Neck (HSSNN) is a nonprofit, all-volunteer, charitable organization that began operations in 1987. It operates in the four lower counties of the Neck: Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster. Its volunteers provide many kinds of non-medical assistance to residents with life-threatening diseases or terminal illnesses, and respite for their families.

“In-home visits are made by approximately 30 trained volunteers. An additional 30 volunteers provide administrative help, deliver equipment, and provide transportation and help with emergencies. This year, HSSNN will provide continuing assistance for about 200 individuals.

“In addition to the in-home care and respite for families, the volunteers will provide patients with hospital beds, walkers, wheelchairs (manual and electric), canes, food supplements (for both diabetics and nondiabetics), incontinent supplies, disposable bed pads, and a host of other equipment/supplies. All services and supplies are provided without charge. And HSSNN receives no funds from any federal or state organization.

“Costs of HSSNN operations are covered by several fund-raising events throughout the year: the Hospice Turkey Shoot Regatta, a musical presentation by choir groups, and a yard sale. Another major source of funds is donations from individuals, churches, fraternal organizations, businesses, and individuals.

“The Support Service’s *greatest need* will always be for more dedicated volunteers. The basic requirement is for the volunteer to be willing to help and to have an open heart. Here in Lancaster County we have 65 patients and a dozen volunteers who work with patients and another six who help with equipment delivery and transportation. HSSNN provides training for all of its new volunteers.

“If you think you might be interested in becoming a HSSNN volunteer or would like to attend one of our volunteer meetings, please phone Jim Charbeneau, Lancaster HSSNN Coordinator, at (804) 435-0641 or email him at [jamesb@kaballero.com](mailto:jamesb@kaballero.com).”

## How Do You Like Your Birthday?

Some folks love their birthday, some tolerate them, and some only show up for the cake. However you slice it ... ahem ... we would like to celebrate birthdays at the UUFRA-VA each month when we have our potluck lunch. Cake will be provided (of course!) and perhaps ice cream (if you are lucky!) ... and we will do the rest. All we need is your birth date (year optional). Please send this info to **Eve Jordan** and leave a message. Look for your birthday announcement on the third Sunday of the month of your birth, and *Eat Cake!*

## About the Circle of Life Group

by Fran Schelling

A Circle of Life Group is a small relational group made up of six to twelve people who meet at the UUFR-VA building on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. to establish and nurture themselves in their own beloved community.

Group members build strong relationships with each other and with the larger fellowship of which the small group is a part. UUFR-VA has had Circle of Life meetings for about two years. We tell life stories, offer support, and experience relational individuality, which affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We have rituals, and there are ground rules which lay a foundation for shared relationship building. We pick topics to discuss that are informational and interesting. Each person has a voice and is heard, and each person is respected for his or her own intrinsic humanity.

If you are interested in joining one of our groups, please tell **Hank Stupi** or **me**.

## All Because of a Dog

by Elaine Weekley

Her name is Keisha, and she is a beautiful seven-year-old Akita. Bob Weekley learned of an organization called the Guardian Angels for Soldiers' Pets, formed by Gold Star Mothers (mothers who have had a child killed in Iraq or Afghanistan). The Angels' mission is to support our military members whose deployment in harm's way impacts their ability to retain their pets. After a careful search, a match was made, and Bob and Elaine are now fostering Keisha, a playful, well-trained dog, until her owner, C.J. North, returns from Afghanistan in April.



When Judi Caples met Keisha on her first Sunday in the Northern Neck, she thought C.J. might enjoy some Christmas gifts from friends at his pet's new home. She organized a project to collect items he and members of his unit could use to stay healthy and warm. Book and magazines for off-duty time were included as well. Through the generosity of members and friends of UUFR-VA, 17 boxes were sent to his remote base in Afghanistan.



C.J. responded to Judi on Facebook. "Thank you so much for the packages! So much stuff – wow! We pretty much took the boxes and consolidated them into one giant box, and all the things in there were very useful to everyone. Thank you so much from our whole unit to you and everyone who was involved."

Mission accomplished! Thanks, Judi.

## Our Electronic Forum Is Coming Back!

by Bob Weekley

The electronic forum that Dave Rowden set up and moderated for Vision and Planning was a big success. Since so many people expressed an interest in continuing the conversations, we're going to do just that. Hank Stupi has agreed to set up a new forum and act as the moderator. It will again be using Google Groups and, therefore, will have the same look and feel as its predecessor.

In January, you will receive an email message from Hank inviting you to join the UUFR-VA electronic forum. You'll need to click the "Accept This Invitation" button on Hank's email message to join. It's that simple. You should be redirected to a Google Groups website page saying that you have successfully joined the group UUFR-VA. It is suggested that you click the link that appears under "Visit this group's homepage." Once you are at the homepage, it would probably be a good idea to bookmark it, so that you can easily find it in the future (should you lose it, it is <http://groups.google.com/group/uufr>). Please read the message "Welcome To The Group (Please read this first)." Once you've read that and responded to the message, please feel free to join in any discussions that might be taking place or start a discussion on a topic that is of interest to you.

A few rules:

1. Postings should be responsible; names are required, and anonymous postings are not allowed.
2. Use the "Subject" line on all of your messages carefully. If you are responding to a message and

changing the topic of discussion, please change the "Subject" line accordingly. This will greatly help keep things organized.

3. Remember Playground Rules: Play nice, respect others, and share. If you have ideas on what can be improved at UUFR-VA, or what we can do better, we do welcome constructive ideas. We use our electronic forum to learn from and support each other. We realize that on occasion disagreements may occur, but we must avoid personalizing them.

Please email Hank if you have any problems or questions.

### 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:

**January 23:** *The Echo Maker* by Richard Powers

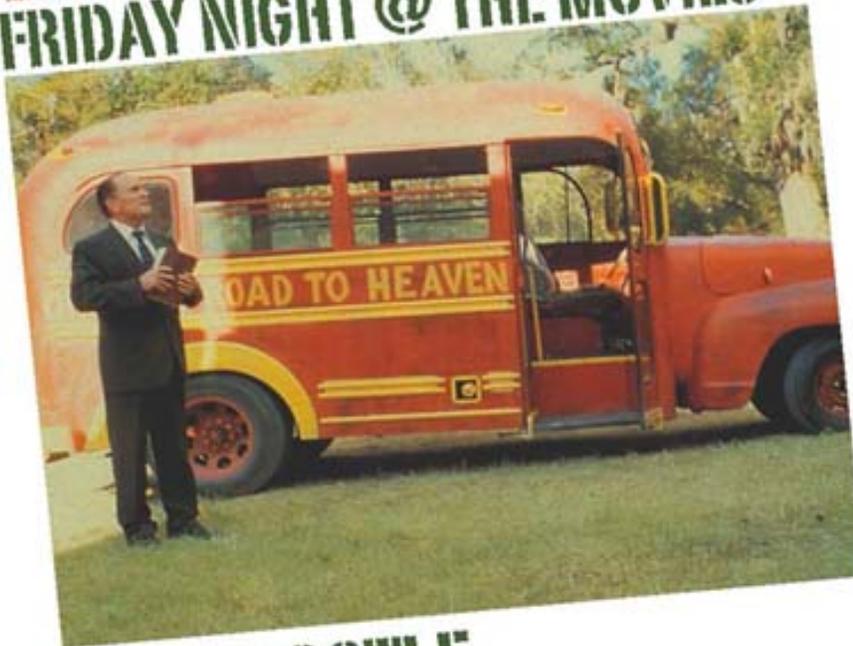
**February 27:** *The Wife of Martin Guerre* by Janet Lewis

**March 26:** *The Tiger's Wife* by Tea Obreht

**April 23:** *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

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

PRIVATE SHOWING FOR UUFR MEMBERS & INVITED GUESTS  
**FRIDAY NIGHT @ THE MOVIES**



## THE APOSTLE

**PG-13 • 148 MINUTES • UUFR SANCTUARY**  
**FRIDAY, JAN 20TH • DOORS CLOSE AT 7:15 P.M.**

A disturbing, but thought-provoking, depiction of genuine faith coexisting with sin and carnality, of spiritual authority and moral bankruptcy combined. Robert Duvall is writer, director, producer and star of this movie.

**BYO SNACK & DRINK**  
**FREE \* DONATIONS APPLIED**  
**TOWARD THE FUNDING &**  
**FACILITATION OF FUTURE**  
**UUFR MULTIMEDIA EVENTS**

366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA (804) 435-7577

### Board of Stewards

Bob Weekley, President  
Bill Gimpel, Vice President  
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#### Web Site

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

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Vacant, Past President  
Shirley Kinney, Program Chair  
Janet Hemming and Marge Rowden,  
Membership Co-Chairs

#### Newsletter

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