



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFV-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

December 2014

Fellowship Services

Fellowship services are held each **Sunday** at **10:30 A.M.** at 366 James Wharf Road, White Stone, VA.
Meditation is held each Sunday from 9:30 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. in the sanctuary.
All are welcome. Coffee and conversation follow the service.

Sunday Programs

December 7

Donna Sequeira: Risking Rebirth –
Forgiveness, Compassion, and
Gratitude

In this time of anticipation and reflection, we wait for the sun to offer more of itself to us while we wrap ourselves in the darkness preparing for a kind of rebirth of the world around us. Let us take the time to explore the wisdom of many religious paths through the practices of forgiveness, compassion, and gratitude during this time with the hope that it might cause a rebirth of something new in our own lives and in the world.

Donna Sequeira, M.Div., ministers to those outside (and inside) religious communities through spiritual direction, teaching, and celebrating life transitions. She is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and is the former Social Justice Coordinator for the Southeast District.

UU For Kids Topic: If Christmas Eve
Happened Today

December 14

Dave Dustin: The State of Our
Fellowship

Dave Dustin, the Board of Stewards, and other key members will lead a discussion about our own UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock. What is our purpose? Are we meeting the needs of our members, friends, and the larger community? This is about vision, planning, and feedback. Come to learn more and to offer your ideas about our future direction. After the service and refreshments, the annual (short) business meeting will be held.

December 21

The Fellowship Singers: Life Is A
Song. Love Is The Music.

For the fourth year, Hank Stupi, our Music Coordinator, will again be joined by the Fellowship Singers, all eager to perform some of their favorite songs after a very successful Cabaret at the UUFV-VA just last month. Expect a nice mix of both popular and seasonal music.

**The Annual Holiday Party will
follow the service.**

December 28

Bob Weekley: Unitarian Universalism as a World Faith Movement

Our little White Stone UU congregation has partnered with the Walmsley Unitarian Chapel in Bolton, England. Our brothers and sisters at Walmsley represent the worldwide linking of Unitarian and Universalist faiths. And we have more global connections that can energize our spirits. Come and learn about our partners, and how we can share the joy of our faith beyond our borders.

Bob Weekley is a retired career U.S. Army officer and international business executive. He is a past president and a long-time member of UUFRR-VA. He and his wife, Elaine, moved to Lancaster from Arlington in 1998.

President's Corner

by Dave Dustin

Mixed Blessings

Every morning I sit at my desk and look out onto the Rappahannock River, which is only about 100 feet away. As you might imagine, that's a "Mixed Blessing!" Most of the time it's an absolute wonder to look out on the river and watch the cormorants, blue herons, and pelicans fly out to stake their claim on Mr. Hinson's fishnet. In the summertime, I can also watch the occasional pod of dolphins maneuver their way up and down the river.

Fall and winter also bring some interesting changes. The ospreys migrate somewhere south, which seems to make the local bald eagles and blue herons very happy. In their place, come a variety of ducks and geese. The dolphins return to warmer, southern waters, and watermen begin "catching" oysters at a couple of artificial oyster reefs in front of our house. Of particular delight are the stunning sunrises. As the sun travels from north to south around the middle of October, it rises

over the bay and gives us our most spectacular morning sunrises of the year.

Mother Nature is not without a sense of humor though. As the beautiful sky lures you outside to embrace a beautiful day on the "Rivah," your bare feet melt through a thin coat of ice on the porch, and the wind seems to cut right through you. The seasons have changed, and the wind proceeds to blow away our worries and shorten our to-do list as we warm our hands with a cup of hot chocolate and sit by the fire.

The "Mixed Blessing" also comes into play when a hurricane comes churning its way up from the south. If the storm track is just right, the presence of a hurricane in your hometown can be devastating. The year we were married, we started off with Hurricane Agnes, which caused us to be evacuated from our apartment in Laurel. Then, we have been through both Hurricanes Irene and Ernesto while here in White Stone. If it's true that things come in "threes," hopefully we have filled our quota!

So it is with life; it's a mixed blessing. During a person's life, you get to enjoy their wit, charm, encouragements, and love. You watch them interact with others and see the warm smile of shared appreciation. Walking through the seasons of life, it is hard to embrace the circle that we know is an inevitable part of the human condition.

Following our human hurricanes, we come outside after the storm and survey the damage. Friends and neighbors and family come together to gather the happy memories and appreciate the strength of one another in shared experiences. We are protected by the rip-rap of friends who keep the waves of sorrow from engulfing us.

Thank you all for being a lighthouse in our storm.

Fondly,
-Dave and Terrie

Phood and Philosophy

Phood and Philosophy will skip a month, so that we can all enjoy our UU Holiday Party.

Our UU Holiday Party

It's almost time to party! You are cordially invited to our annual UUFR-VA Holiday Party at the home of Shirley and Tom Kinney.

We'll gather immediately following the service on Sunday, December 21st, for a potluck dinner at their home. Bring a dish to share and a bottle to pass. There will be lots of people, lots of laughter, lots of talking, and lots of holiday decorations. No need to RSVP – just come!

Building Update

by Bill Gimpel

The UUFR-VA Building Concepts Team has been quite busy these past few weeks. A survey was made available to members and friends regarding perceived needs, preferences, and suggestions or other comments.

We found the majority of people responding favored the mid-sized plan, "B." Accordingly, we sent five sketches to Deltec Homes in Asheville, NC, for comments and suggestions. For those who do not know, Deltec was the firm that produced our original construction drawings in 2006 and provided the ceiling joists plans and wall panels. We are at our first step in obtaining a rough cost estimate, additional comments on layout for interior space, and rooflines that will fit ... and look good with our existing lines. We feel this is a major step moving forward – constructing additional class space for the children's program, adding additional storage, and giving us some flexibility in programming space. This is a work in progress, and no commitments have been made as yet. We will get back to

the congregation with additional details as they become available. Stay tuned!

***Note:** Copies of the **proposed 2015 budget** are now available in the foyer



Elaine Weekley presents a check on behalf of UUFR-VA to the Northern Neck Free Health Clinic on November 5. This donation is part of UUFR-VA's annual giving to community charitable organizations. From left: Jeannie Nelson, Executive Director; Jo Crockett, NNFH Board Member; and Elaine, UUFR-VA.

Tax Problems? We Can Help!

As each one of us begins to think about our 2014 income taxes, and consider what can and should be done in that respect before the end of this year, please keep the Fellowship in mind. Our Treasurer, Lynn, stands ready to accept your tax deductible donations. You can direct those donations to various activities of the Fellowship, if you wish. The options for this year are the Kids First Program, the Building Maintenance Endowment, the Pathways of Remembrance Maintenance Endowment, the Building Addition to better accommodate UU for Kids, or the project to improve handicapped access for wheelchairs by extending the paver stones down the entry slope. Please note your preference on your check or leave the note line blank for the Board to decide how best to use your contribution.

And just a reminder, if you have not returned your invitation card with a “yes” or “no” to become a founding member of our Legacy Bequest Society, best do that before the December 15th deadline.

Finally, a big *thank you* from your Finance Committee for your continuing support of the Fellowship. It is because of each of you that we are a financially healthy and strong church – able to accomplish all that we do for each other and our community.

Happy Holidays from MJ Anderson, Tom Foster, Paula Greenwood, Barbara Haynes, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Marge Rowden.

Tell Us a Story

by Shirley Kinney

Come join the fun! Have you tried your hand at speaking at a Sunday service yet? It's a challenge, and it's rewarding, and it's fun. You'd be surprised how much fun it is – just ask all your fellow UUs who have done it. You'd be speaking to your family who are

eager to hear from you and are very forgiving if you're not perfect.

Plus, it's part of what we mean when we say on Sunday mornings that we are a lay-led fellowship. We all need to pitch in to help make this great Fellowship even greater. That means doing a Sunday service and/or serving on the Board of Stewards and all the various committees.

So, what should you talk about at a Sunday service? How about your passion? Whatever that may be. Are you an artist? Show us your work and tell us why you feel so passionate about it. Are you a reader? Share an author who speaks to your heart. Are you a social activist? Tell us why you are passionate about that cause. Have an unusual/uplifting/important story to share? We'd all love to hear it.

Contact Nancy Stupi, your new Program Chair, and let her know that you'll volunteer to speak in 2015.

Unitarianism as a Worldwide Fellowship

by Bob Weekley

While we enjoy the camaraderie and traditions of our Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in White Stone, do we also sense that we are part of a worldwide congregation of shared faith? Each of us has followed her or his own spiritual journey that led us here. In the worldwide Unitarian and UU communities, people with questions and views like our own congregate to experience a sense of spiritual community that our own congregants often speak of.

This year the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (www.uupcc.org) welcomed our own White Stone UUFRR-VA as an international partner church. Our partner church is in Egerton, England, the Walmsley Unitarian Chapel. The Walmsley congregation is similar to our own in many ways – located in a rural area, about the same

congregational size, and active in projects to reach out to our respective communities. One way they are very different is that the Walmsley congregation was formed before **1672** and their beautiful stone country chapel was built in **1713**. I have enjoyed being in contact with Rev. Helen Mills, their minister. Learn more by exploring the Walmsley web site at www.ukunitarians.org.uk/walmsley.

Some of you also may enjoy the rewarding experience of corresponding with a member from Walmsley, exchanging views, news, and maybe even recipes. Let me know of your interest, and I would be happy to be the go-between. Such a “pen-pal” (Internet) relationship could even lead to a visit in person.

Beyond our congregation-to-congregation relationship with the Walmsley Unitarian Chapel, the UUPCC introduces us to an amazing range of international collaboration. UUs have formed partnerships with other Unitarians around the world. UUs travel individually, as choirs or other musical groups, and as young people’s groups. International travel has its rewards – travel to meet new friends with whom we have much already in common could prove even more richly rewarding.

On December 28th, I will be giving a talk and leading a discussion about the international reach of our UU faith movement. I look forward to hearing your views and questions.

A Late Note: We received the Dec./Jan. edition of *The Link*, the Walmsley congregation’s newsletter. It contains Bob’s letter to Rev. Mills, and a fine recipe for Muesli Cookies. The newsletter is available on our website, www.uufrappahannock.org.
-ed.

Post-Holiday Sing-Out

The December Sing Out will begin at 7:00 P.M. on December 28th. Join Diana Jamison and your UUFR-VA fellow singers as they celebrate the closing of the holiday season

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 26: *Clare of the Sea Light* by Edwidge Danticat

February 23: *Faith Fox* by Jane Gardam

March 23: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

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

Dinner With The 3-Year Olds

by Tom Kinney

A twelve-member team from our Fellowship sponsored the early preschool for 3-year-old at-risk kids Parent-Child-Teacher dinner at Lancaster Primary School on Monday, November 24th. A nutritious potluck-style dinner was provided by Judi Caples, Dave and Terrie Dustin, Adam Ginsberg, Pirkko Graves, Paula Greenwood, Don and Lorie Lowrey, Marge Rowden, Elaine Weekley, and Lois Williams. A big thanks to all!

Our own professional photographer, Hank Roden, along with local portrait photographer, Charles Lawson, set up a mini-studio to provide quality family photographs for each family attending – a tool in strengthening family bonds. The Hemmings and the Weekleys made sure each of the 3-year-olds (and a few of their younger and slightly older siblings) left with a Kids First fundraiser doll in tow.

All of the attendees, which included Lancaster School Board Chairman Bob Westbrook, Superintendent Steve Parker, and Primary School Principal Earnest Palin, were impressed with the community support for the Kids First quality early preschool program for at-risk 3-year-olds. Group pictures emphasized we are all part of a team to help these children succeed in life and put an end to generational poverty in our community. If you have yet to participate, please contact Dave Dustin, Kids First VP for Hunger/Nutrition, to join this very important team – UUFR-VA's niche within our community. A small investment of your time reaps big rewards for others. And it's fun!



Top left: UUFR-VA Membership Chair Judi Caples being sure everyone is nutritionally well fed.

Top Right: Lancaster Schools Superintendent Steve Parker among some early preschool 3-year-olds who are in school thanks to UUFR-VA.

Bottom: Lancaster Superintendent Steve Parker, School Board Chair Bob Westbrook, Primary Principal Earnest Palin, UUFR-VA President and Kids First VP for Hunger / Nutrition Dave Dustin, and a little representative of why we do what we do.

Board of Stewards

Dave Dustin, President
Bill Gimpel, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Susan Johnson, Secretary

Bob Weekley, Past President
Shirley Kinney, Program Chair
Judi Caples, Membership Chair

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)