



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFRA-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

December 2015

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 6

Rev. Jennifer Ryu: For So the Children Come – Worship for All Ages

Whether you are older or younger, whether you are feeling cheery or blue about Christmas, you will find some company this Sunday as we sing and tell stories of the season. So set aside the shopping frenzy and religious battles and let's celebrate the heart and soul of this season.

This year, Rev. Jennifer Ryu concluded a nine-year ministry with the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists (WUU). Born in South Korea, Jennifer grew up in Ohio, and then moved to Baltimore, where she discovered Unitarian Universalism. After many years, she answered the call to ministry, entering seminary in 2002 (Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA). Jennifer is taking this year off to travel, rest, and discern. She serves our faith as Vice President of the UU Minister's Association.

December 13

Dave Dustin: The State of the Church

Dave will lead a discussion about our own UU Fellowship of the Rappahannock. Where

have we been? Where are we today? What lies in our future? As outgoing president, Dave will share his unique perspective and insights about our church. After the service, the annual business meeting will be held.

Dave holds a BS degree in Computer Science from Maryland University and retired from Johns Hopkins University/Applied Physics Laboratory in 2012 after 38 years of service. During the years of 2000–2006, he worked as a cyber-security consultant to the Federal Aviation Administration. He is currently serving as the President of UUFRA-VA and as a Vice President for the newly established Kids First Foundation. He also volunteers at the White Stone Baptist Church Food Pantry.

December 20

The Fellowship Singers: Music Brings Us Together

For the fifth year, Hank Stupi, our music coordinator, will again be joined by the Fellowship Singers, all eager to perform some of their favorite songs – guaranteed to warm your heart or perhaps even tickle your funny bone. Please join us and allow the music to bring us together that day.

***** UU Kids Party *****

Annual Holiday Party Follows the Service

December 27

Margaret M. Sequeira: Waiting in the Dark

As we sit at the end of the year in the darkness of winter, we reflect on what gets us through the night. Each of us will experience periods in our life where it seems like the hard times will never end, when hope seems very far away. Many mystics spoke of this “dark night of the soul.” What is it that gets you through the night?

Margaret M. Sequeira is currently seeking her next professional opportunity after serving as the Consulting Minister for the UU Congregation of the Outer Banks. She possesses a Masters of Theological Studies from the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara and is a candidate for UU ministry. She blogs regularly at scatteredrevelations.net. She lives in Richmond with her spouse Donna and their daughter Mollie.

UUFR-VA Activities at a Glance

December 2015	
Dec 13	Annual Meeting
Dec 18	Ladies Luncheon at The Kilmarnock Inn RSVP to Eve.
Dec 20	Christmas Party at the Kinneys'

Please let the Calendar Girls know of any up-and-coming UUFR-VA events.

Peny Gallogly
Diana Jamison
Vicki Kinsel

President's Corner

by Dave Dustin

A Season of Change

As winter nears, several families in our fellowship take flight. Like the osprey, they head for warmer grounds. That's not a bad idea given how cold last year's winter turned out to be. Hopefully, we won't get the same ill treatment from Mother Nature again this year! None the less, we wish them well and envy them ... just a little bit.

The rest of us get to enjoy the changing of the seasons with all the glory the Northern Neck has to offer. However, by now all the leaves have turned from glorious reds and yellows to a dreary brown, while many trees have simply shed their leave altogether.

Our fellowship also goes through some changes around this time of year. Our annual elections will take place on December 13th, and the installation of our newly elected officers will take place on January 1st. Winter at UUFR-VA is a place of renewed vigor and excitement. Everyone's trying to settle into the new administration and come up to speed as soon as possible. We have very competent committee chairs who are always willing to lend a helping hand to those who are new to the Board of Stewards. These transitions, as designed, go very smoothly.

Up for election this year are the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Leadership Development, and Trustee. The candidates listed on your ballots have all graciously accepted the opportunity to serve our fellowship for the next two, or three years, depending on the term of that particular office. This slate of candidates is very qualified to serve in their selected positions and, I'm confident, will skillfully continue to move our fellowship forward to meet our future needs and challenges.

We currently have a very active building committee that has been carefully and

diligently evaluating various options for meeting the anticipated needs of our community and also helps us, as a congregation, fulfill many of our spiritual aspirations. We also have a committee investigating the possibility of employing a part-time minister. These are both projects that have the potential to greatly enhance our ability to meet the long-term goals of our fellowship.

So it is with a sense of complete satisfaction and confidence that I hand the President's office over to the next elected President.

I never thought I would quote a politician, but one recently said something like this when they stepped down from the office they held: "It has been a privilege, an honor, and a humbling experience to have served our fellowship as President during the last two years."

Serving in this office has provided me with a unique experience to better understand how our fellowship operates and, most of all, it has provided me with an opportunity to get to know members of our congregation in a way that would not have been possible any other way.

So, with that, I'll hand over the office of President and this monthly column to the next President of UUFR-VA.

-Dave

Our Holiday Party!

Mark your calendars for our annual UUFR-VA Holiday Party. It's on Sunday, December 20th, immediately following the service, at the home of Tom and Shirley Kinney. This is the time of year when we all want to be together and share the holiday spirit (and eat lots and lots of wonderful food!) Bring a dish to pass, a bottle to share, and a smile to brighten the day. This year, the Kinneys will be decorating their home in the more traditional holiday colors of fuchsia, teal, and lime green, and, to

assist them in the un-decorating process, please feel free to take home with you the Christmas stockings decorating the tables -- made especially for you! No need to RSVP -- just come!

Ding-A-Ling! Ding-A-Ling!

by Shirley Kinney

It's that time of year again -- the time when we hear the sound of the Christmas Families bell chiming, silently, in our UUFR-VA foyer following Sunday services.

There are many, many families in our four-county area who will not have a good Christmas -- who will not be able to afford gifts for their children. We, with our own personal good fortune and our own comfortable lifestyles, can help share the joy and gladness of the holiday season by listening to that "ringing" bell and reaching into our pockets and checkbooks to help. When you "hear" the bell and see the basket being passed in the UUFR-VA foyer, please be generous and show you care for families in our counties. Bring a smile to parents who cannot afford to provide gifts for their children. Bring laughter to the faces of children who want to believe that the spirit of Santa lives on.

We Can Help!

December is tax action month when our fellowship makes its annual offer to help reduce your taxes by presenting multiple opportunities for your tax-deductible donations.

If you are a believer in putting your Faith In Action within our four-county community, our Servetus Community Outreach Endowment is one opportunity. Another will be the ringing of our silent bell (ding-a-ling) in the foyer for Christmas gifts for the children of families in need. And the Food Bank is always in need of support.

If you are a believer in doing your part to enhance our facilities, we have long had a "checkbook voting" system in place. Votes of all amounts are appreciated. One current project to vote for with your checkbook is adding Sunday morning children's classrooms to our building, providing a multi-purpose room for all kinds of gatherings, and increasing space for stuff crowding our "back room." Another is a children's playground between the road and the Nature Trail sign, including a picnic spot. See drawings in the foyer. Facility projects are an opportunity for our newer members enjoying what was done for them to do the same for those in the future.

If you are a believer in the importance of care for our members in need, our "Crises Fund" could use your support. This emergency fund is maintained at \$1000 to deal with financial catastrophes among our members and has just been depleted.

A check in the offering noted with directions to Treasurer Lynn is all it takes to bring down those taxes. Thanks from your Finance Committee: MJ Anderson, Tom Foster, Paula Greenwood, Barbara Haynes, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Marge Rowden.

Become a UU Member

by Shirley Kinney

Signing the Membership Book at UUFV-VA and becoming an official member comes with some responsibilities -- you agree to help support our fellowship financially, and to volunteer your muscles and brain to serve on the Board of Stewards, to serve on clean-up crews, to serve on committees that run this congregation, to participate in music programs, to give a Sunday talk from time to time, and/or to help with our RE for Children.

But, you also receive an amazing amount in return. You receive the satisfaction of knowing you are keeping alive the spirit of liberal religion in the Northern Neck. You receive a group of people who become your family and friends. You receive a sense of pride in our building, our spiritual home. You receive the thanks of all of us for making our fellowship stronger and better able to reach out to our communities with needed help.

And, lastly, you receive a quarterly issue of UUA's *UU World*. Not receiving your *UU World* magazine? Contact me, your friendly UUFV-VA Secretary, and let me know. The *UU World* keeps you up-to-date on what's happening in the larger Unitarian Universalist life around the world. It brings you articles on spiritual, ecological, human rights, and religious education issues. I'll make sure you start receiving your subscription right away.

Scenes from Our UU Halloween



The “beekeeper,” Scott Mabes, is joined by his “bee,” Beth Mabes, near her “beehive” hairdo on Dallas Scales.



The Halloween Sanctuary is extra scary with Shirley Kinney at the pulpit. Shirley had organized some pretty spooky events to illustrate her talk on Halloween at the November 1st service.

Sunday Gathering Music by Hank and Nancy Stupi

As music coordinator and program committee chair, respectively, many people have expressed to us their appreciation for the gathering music that is played before the Sunday service begins. The most frequent complaint that we hear is from people who are unable to quietly enjoy the music because of the whispering and talking that often takes place in the sanctuary during this time. There are small yellow signs on each

of the sanctuary doors asking that silence be honored from 10:20 to 10:30. People who would rather chat should feel free to remain in the foyer during this time. For us, the least favorite part of our Sunday experience is having to ask people who are talking to remain quiet when gathering music is being played. We would greatly appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping this time on Sunday special, not only for the people who want to enjoy the music, but for the musicians as well. When any visitors are talking, politely informing them of this quiet and contemplative time would be of great help. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated and, hopefully, will allow everyone to enjoy this time quietly and meditatively. Thank you.

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 18:** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

*Please note that the January date has been changed to the **third Monday**, and we will meet at **UUFR-VA**.

February 22: *Clash of Civilizations Over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio* by Amara Lakhous

March 28: *The Paying Guests* by Sarah Waters

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



UUFRA-VA sponsored the Kids First Foundation's Fall Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lancaster Primary School on Tuesday evening, November 17th, at 6:00 P.M. Under the direction of our own Chef Adam, a Baker's Dozen of UUFRA-VA Volunteers served a beautiful and delicious buffet to 20 families, LPS Administrators, Teachers, and Staff.

Teaming our efforts of donations of main course items and desserts that could be sent in ahead of time, UUFRA-VA pulled together a wonderful evening.

Attending families were treated to holiday photos taken by Charles Lawson of Highlander Studios in Kilmarnock, while Kelly Lewis and Tara Brent of the Virginia Tech Extension Agency were the evening's speakers. Their talk was well received and prompted the attention and interaction of the children and their families. As always, everyone waited with rapt attention when the raffle tickets were drawn for Tri-Star Gift Certificates!

Our thanks to all who participated in their own special way to make this community event sparkle!

Board of Stewards

Dave Dustin, President
Bill Gimpel, Vice President
Lynn Langley, Treasurer
Shirley Kinney, Secretary

Bob Weekley, Past President
Nancy Stupi, Program Chair
Judi Caples and Eva Abel, Membership 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)