



THE CHALICE

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK (UUFRA-VA)

P.O. Box 1266
White Stone, VA 22578

December 2017

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 3

Scott Mabe: Practicing Gratitude

Scott will explore the concept of gratitude – how we define it, what purpose it serves, and what benefits it provides. While the expression of gratitude is seen as a positive goal, how do we express gratitude when we are struggling with life difficulties? Are there specific ways that gratitude can be expressed in our day-to-day lives? Fellowship members and friends will be encouraged to share their own thoughts and experiences regarding the feelings and expressions of gratitude.

Scott Mabe and his wife, Beth, live in Middlesex County. Scott earned his graduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to his retirement, Scott was a family counselor for 25 years, and later taught sociology and psychology at Rappahannock Community College for 15 years.

UU Kids: We'll be talking about the meaning of the season of Advent. The kids will be creating an "Advent Candles" collage, and they will also decorate "Helping Others" boxes for the month of December. The Helping Others boxes will become part of their family holiday décor. They will invite family and friends to drop in a few dollars or spare change throughout the month, and then

in celebration of the fourth Sunday of Advent they will make a contribution to help someone in their community. All ages are welcome to participate.

December 10

Ruth Micklem: The State of the Fellowship

Ruth Micklem will talk about the "State of the Fellowship" and share her experiences as President of the Board. She will share her thoughts on moving forward into 2018 and how we can work together to sustain and grow the fellowship, both in size and in spiritual development. Ruth will share her perspective on growth, change, and unity and what it means to her to be part of a Unitarian Universalist Community today.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend the Annual Business Meeting, which will be held immediately following the service.

Ruth Micklem lives in White Stone and currently works as a Project Manager and Community Engagement Coordinator for the VA Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance in Richmond, VA. In that capacity, Ruth provides leadership to a Statewide Partnership of Agencies and Organizations working to enhance the criminal justice

response to sexual and domestic violence throughout Virginia. Ruth also works to build partnerships and engage members of the communities throughout Virginia to identify and change the social structures that contribute to this violence. Ruth makes her home and life with her partner of 29 years, Kristi, and their menagerie of animal companions, their four adult children and their partners, and their five brilliant and beautiful grandchildren, Liliana, Oliver, James, Ashlin, and Eleanor.

December 17

The Fellowship Singers: Music Brings Us Together

For the seventh 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.

The Annual Holiday Party at the Kinneys' home follows the service.

UU Kids: Our activities will once again be linked to Advent with a third Sunday celebration of joy. A special Sunday of music, stories, games, and yummy food will bring the children and teens together to make merry – and to consider the meaning of Christmas celebrations around the world.

December 24

Sara Mackey: Let It Be

The Christmas season, with its energy and glitter and excitement, can be the favorite time of year for some. For others, it can be a time of challenge and stress and nostalgia. Come join us, no matter how you experience Christmas, and reflect on the stories of some

of the first characters in the drama. For them, Christmas may have been pretty stressful, too.

Sara Mackey has been a friend of UUFR-VA since her seminary days, when the fellowship was meeting in the Woman's Club down the road. She lives in Richmond and currently works at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where she earned her M.Div. She has served Williamsburg UU as Director of Faith Development, and she has volunteered in many capacities over the years at UU Community Church in Glen Allen. Always on the lookout for new perspectives, Sara currently attends evening worship at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Richmond. Sara has a son, daughter-in-law, and pre-school grandson who live in Brooklyn, and a daughter and son-in-law in Richmond. She has a dog and two cats who share her home. She loves to make things and is improving her knitting and crocheting skills, inch by inch.

December 31

Blair Kenyon: Clutter

What's worth holding on to, and what is worth moving on from? How do you know when it is time to throw something out? Is it okay to put something aside to throw out later?

Blair Kenyon was 18 years old for his first 37 years. He then took the accelerated path to adulthood, and married his wife Suzanne, became a father to Oliver, and then a couple of years later, became a father to Ashlin. Blair has been a cook, barista, travel agent, kennel manager, veterinary assistant, bank teller, town councilman, and financial services advisor. When he grows up he wants to be an actor.

With the abundance of holiday fare, there will be no 5th Sunday Potluck.

Leadership Corner

Our Business Side

Churches thrive on enthusiasm. Leadership inspires the excitement, generation to generation, that keeps members eager to step forward together, making the good things happen that keep the church healthy and vibrant. The resources needed to feed a vibrant church are organization, people power, and funds. Who manages the funds?

Your elected Trustees and Treasurer manage our business side of the fellowship through a seven-member Finance and Legal Committee (FiCom). The three fund types are the Annual, Growth and Opportunity (G&O), and Endowment. In addition, the Trustees and FiCom review all contracts, real estate, and insurance, and oversee the legal needs and activities of the fellowship.

The **Annual Fund** addresses the everyday and repetitive expenses through a zero-based annual budget. The FiCom collects committee chair needs and provides the proposed budget at the Annual Meeting for member comments. Your Board approves the budget in January. Your Treasurer controls cash flow requiring full documentation. The Chair of the FiCom cross-checks the Treasurer's records annually.

The **G&O Fund** is money set aside or donated for special purposes and includes an “undesigned” fund the Board may tap for any major, very exceptional opportunities. Members participate in various projects we call “vote-with-your-checkbook.” The foyer poster lists project funding progress, like the new walkway to our front door.

The **Endowment Funds**, managed by the Trustees, currently has five individual endowments for various purposes. Many people prefer to donate to endowments where the value of the principal is protected and invested with the investment gains funding its purpose. All UUFRR-VA endowments are of

that type. The Building and Grounds Maintenance Endowment eases the burden of building care. The Pathways of Remembrance Endowment maintains our memorial area. Our new Ministerial Endowment, when fully funded, will help pay the annual expense of a minister. Our Servetus and Founders Endowments both support our Faith In Action community programs in health and education of the very young, post-high school scholarships, and the arts. Anyone can add to these endowments.

UUFRR-VA Bylaws and Policy and Procedures Manual detail how the Trustees and FiCom is formed and functions. The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) helps identify members with strong business, finance, and investment backgrounds to nominate as Trustees and Treasurer. The Trustees decide which of the three will chair the FiCom for the year ahead. The LDC also helps staff the FiCom, the only committee for which the Board must approve the addition of each non-elected member. All financial activities are transparent to all members except who gives how much. That's kept confidential.

The Finance Committee is always looking for advice on how to do our job better. Please talk with any FiCom member: Trustees Barbara Haynes, Janet Hemming, Tom Kinney; Treasurer Lynn Langley; Assistant Treasurer Paula Greenwood; members MJ Anderson and Gus Shelton.

It's Party Time!

Everyone is invited to our annual Holiday Party at the home of Tom and Shirley Kinney immediately following the service on Sunday, December 17. This year is all about flowers – one way to shake off the winter chills. As always, you are encouraged to take home the table decorations and use them to decorate your own home. In fact, this year you are encouraged to participate in the decorations

by adding lots of color to the place mats. You can be kids again!

Please bring a dish to pass and a bottle to share and a heart filled with joy.

See you all there!

New Books

by Shirley Kinney

A new book has been added to our UUFRA-VA library in the foyer. As always, you are encouraged to check out our library books. Perhaps you've been dying to do a Sunday talk, but didn't know what to talk about? One of these books would be a great jumping-off place.

Perhaps you've been wanting to increase your knowledge of the world's religions? Perhaps you just want to satisfy that insatiable craving for knowledge you've always had? Here's the place to satisfy all these needs.

Ingersoll: Immortal Infidel: Selections from the writings and speeches of Robert G. Ingersoll

Edited by Roger E. Greeley

Robert Green Ingersoll was America's finest orator and foremost leader of free-thinkers. Mark Twain, Thomas Edison, Eugene Debs and Elizabeth Cady Stanton idolized him, and crowds used to gather to hear the speeches of "the great agnostic."

For this anthology, Roger Greeley has selected the best from the speeches and essays of this iconoclastic orator from Peoria, who labored to destroy the superstition and hypocrisy of fundamentalism in America. One hundred years after he advanced into the national spotlight, Ingersoll's commentaries still retain their fresh, penetrating, and witty character. His pleas for civil rights, the rights of women and children, responsible and responsive government, and individual freedom of conscience and religious belief placed him in the vanguard of futuristic thought.

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 22: *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles

February 26: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

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

A Taxing Issue

Need help to cut your 2017 taxes? Your Finance Committee and Treasurer stand ready. As you probably know, all of your charitable donations up to 50% of your Adjusted Gross Income reduce your tax bill to Uncle Sam. We are quick to make suggestions on how you can run up your charitable deductions, if you are unfortunate enough to find your charitable giving so far this year has fallen short of that 50% goal. Now is the time to act – since the deduction deadline for 2017 is December 31st. Here are some suggestions:

A check to UUFRA-VA marked with the notation "building addition" will move us closer to having more space for our children's programs and a multipurpose room for us and our community. A check noted "Servetus Endowment" will add to our ability to support all the good stuff we do within our four counties, including scholarships. A check noted "Kids First" will help us change the trajectory of the lives of at-risk three-year-olds from generational poverty. A check noted "Minister" will help us be ready to hire

a part-time minister. And an extra check in the Sunday offering with no notation will help pay our everyday expenses more easily. Besides the reward of a reduction in your taxes will be the reward of helping the fellowship do all the good things we do even better. All donations are included in your

January tax letter as we continue to do good things together.

Please direct any questions to your Finance Committee: MJ Anderson, Paula Greenwood, Barbara Haynes, Janet Hemming, Tom Kinney, Lynn Langley, and Gus Shelton.

Katherine Cassidy

Katherine Cassidy, daughter of Lois Williams, will be speaking at RW-C (Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury, 132 Lancaster Drive, Irvington) on Monday afternoon, December 26. UFRers are invited to the Wine Reception at 4:00 and Katherine's talk at 4:30.

After serving as a Catholic Relief Services volunteer in Kenya, Uganda, and Sierra Leone, Katherine returned to Sierra Leone on her own in July for three and one-half months – volunteering with a girls’ orphanage, jumping in to teach English grammar in two schools, and organizing a fact-finding “Listening Tour for Sierra Leone Girls.” Katherine is home (in Maine) for December and heading back to Sierra Leone in January, determined to make a difference in girls’ education through programming for mentoring girls who are struggling to finish secondary school.

UFR-VA Activities at a Glance

December 2017	
Dec. 5	Finding Your Way (Session 7) – 7:00 P.M. at UFR-VA
Dec. 10	Annual Congregational Meeting
Dec. 15	Ladies’ Luncheon - 11:30 A.M. at The Kilmarnock Inn
Dec. 17	Annual Holiday Party – After Service at the Kinneys’
Dec. 26	Katherine Cassidy – 4:00 P.M. at RW-C

Activities Group: Peny Gallogly, Diana Jamison, Vicki Kinsel

Board of Stewards

Ruth Micklem, President
 Bill Gimpel, Vice President
 Lynn Langley, Treasurer
 Shirley Kinney, Secretary

Dave Dustin, Past President
 Nancy Stupi, Program Chair
 Janet Hemming, 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)