



THE CHALICE

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

DECEMBER 2008

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 7 – Jane Elkins: “A Parent's View of Unitarian Universalist Children's Religious Education”

RE Topic:

UU Traditions: “Living in UU Ville”

December 14 – Bob Weekley: TBA

RE Topics:

UU Traditions: “A UU Ritual Celebrating the Earth”
Judeo Christian Story: “The Story of Jesus’ Birth”

December 21 – Bob Duryea: “Petite Messe Solenelle”

Bob will present a musical program entitled "Petite Messe Solenelle" by Rossini.

RE Topic: All Church Sunday

December 28 –Don and Lorie Lowrey: TBA

RE: To Be Determined

President's Corner

As I write this, it is just before Thanksgiving. Jim Sanderson will speak to us this coming weekend on the meaning of Thanksgiving for UU's. And by the time you read this, we will have already celebrated Thanksgiving. But for me it feels like we just had our own special Thanksgiving. I'm talking about the day we gathered together in our home and we took time to say thank you.

We shared a meal together. We reminisced about all that we had done in the past year (or three years). November 16th was that day, the day we all came together to say thanks for all that we had given to each

other. It was a wonderful day, full of love and life. Thank you to everyone who had a part in making the event successful, from flowers, to preparing the church, to setting up, to the wonderful refreshments, to making displays and slide shows. Thank you for the innovative invitations that were designed and sent, for the special music by our own members, and the list goes on and on.

So many people in our congregation gave of their talents and time and money to make it happen. Thank you for such an amazing day of thanks and giving.

Caroline

Phood and Philosophy?

Phood and Philosophy, our monthly Dinner and Discussion group, will be on hiatus during the months of December and January. For those in need of UU mingling, make plans to attend our annual UUFR-VA Holiday Party. Look for specifics elsewhere in *The Chalice*.

2009 Holiday Preparations

by Shirley Kinney

Imagine That!, our UUFR-VA arts and crafts group, is already planning the YMCA tree for next year. We'll be making ornaments from jigsaw puzzle pieces and using them, along with small toy cars and board game pieces, to decorate the tree. If you have children or grandchildren or neighbor children who have old little cars or game pieces, please bring them to any I.T.! member for our tree.

Also, if you find an artificial tree we can use, we'd love to have it. Give your parts and pieces to **Shirley Kinney, Sue Adriance, Rosa Prescott, Elaine Weekley, or Fran Schelling**. We're also looking for plain solid color ornaments for the tree.

Holiday Food Drive

by Bob Duryea

As the holidays approach, it is all the more apparent that hungry families need our donations of food. For the next couple of Sundays (11/30, 12/7), please bring your non-perishable foods and place them in the *Hungry Families Food* box in our Entry Room.

To prod your generosity, imagine how it feels to be hungry on a chilly day and to be short of food to prepare for your children or for yourself. Imagine the anxiety of not knowing when more will come along.

December 7th is the last day to donate your food. Right after that date, the food will be distributed to our local food pantries. For more information, call **Jane Duryea**.



UUFR-VA's 2008 Festival of Trees contribution, surrounded by our Imagine It! Artists. Top Row, Left to Right: Fran Schelling, Rosa Prescott, Elaine Weekley. Bottom Row: Barbara Haynes, Shirley Kinney, Sue Adriance.

Festival of Trees

by Shirley Kinney

The YMCA's Festival of Trees happens Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7 at the YMCA in Kilmarnock. Come to bid on a tree, admire our UUFR-VA tree, and share cookies and milk with Santa. Proceeds from the auctions and activities will help community children through many YMCA programs.

The UFR-VA Holiday Party

Join us for our annual UFR-VA Holiday Party at the home of **Tom and Shirley Kinney** at 1167 Ottoman Ferry Road, in Ottoman, immediately following the service on Sunday, December 21.

This is a time to celebrate good friendships, good conversation, and good food. Bring a dish or two to share along with a bottle of wine, and definitely bring your party hat!

Feeding the Hungry

by **Bob Duryea**

Our Fellowship has the opportunity to participate in the *Home Delivered Meals Program*, coordinated by the InterFaith Council, Inc. of Lancaster/ Northumberland Counties. This is an essential program. In September, 400 meals were delivered in upper Lancaster County. In Northumberland County, 390 meals were delivered.

As a volunteer, your responsibility is limited to delivery of the meals to residences in Kilmarnock, White Stone, and Weems. Deliveries are made three days per week and take about an hour and a half, beginning at 10:00 am. Your help is needed for the month of January. For further information, contact **Jane or Bob Duryea**.

RE Notes

by **Jane Elkin**

What an honor for children to be included in the November 16th Church Dedication! When Sara Mackey announced, "Children, come and sit with me on the carpet and I will tell you a story," nine children--infant through middle school--assembled around her to hear a richly told Lighthouse Story. At the Dedication, children handed out programs, lit the oil-absorbing wick of our new chalice, and

extinguished the chalice, using Mr. Weekly's cup-on-a-stick.

During Caroline's All Church Sunday talk on Laughter Yoga, everyone laughed aloud. After Shirley's talk on Creation Stories, a child noted, "In all the creation stories the humans were made out of mud." We considered the theme of deception in the story of Jacob and Esau. We learned the Jacob's Ladder string game and ate lentil soup.

As we have worked to create a magical Intergeneration Worship Time during our worship service, issues have been noted. A website titled "Creating Effective Intergenerational Worship Services (Without Going Insane)" (<http://www.uuintergenerational.org/>) states elegantly what we may feel:

"If yours is like most, the congregation you belong to may have many nay saying voices when it comes to Intergenerational Worship. They insist Intergenerational Worship is something that rarely works for them. And complaints will often fall into one of two categories:

- (1) It coddles to the younger members and leaves the adults craving substance and moral transformation; or
- (2) It is over the heads of the children who are invited and when they end up squirming, the parents and other worshippers end up feeling distracted."

The RE committee is pledged to providing more magical moments for our children during the Intergenerational Worship, whether children gather on the carpet around a story teller; watch or participate in a dramatic reading; or listen to one our guest speakers address the children at their level for a few minutes.

December Intergenerational Worship stories will include: "Christmas Menorahs--How a Town Came Together to Fight Hate," A true story of the response in Billings Montana to a series of hate crimes, the last of which was a rock thrown through a child's window where his menorah was displayed--also, "Earth Centered Tradition -- Turning the Wheel of the Year,"

from In Nature's Honor, Myths and Rituals Celebrating the Earth, (Patricia Montly) and "The Birth of Jesus."

As more children join our Religious Education Class, we may adjust our curriculum to meet parent's needs. Parents will be asked to share the teaching. Lesson plans will focus on UUism, Judeo-Christian Heritage, and World Religions.

2009 Budget

by Tom Kinney

It's budget time again. Your Board of Stewards, with the support of the Finance Committee, has prepared a proposed budget for congregational review. The proposal will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on December 14th with copies available.

All members are asked to review the budget and provide comments to any Board member prior to the January 11 Board meeting, during which the 2009 budget will be approved. If you cannot attend the annual meeting and wish a copy of the proposed budget, please contact me. Thanks.

Holiday Schedule Changes

Holidays and birthdays are the best times to run away from home. And your humble editor, chasing that elusive dream, will need to deviate from the usual publishing schedule. Look for the January issue of The Chalice in your email in-box around December 9th. Thanks for your understanding. –ed

Book Sale Update

By Shirley Kinney

Our UUFR-VA Book Sale proceeds on Amazon.com have reached a new benchmark. To date, we have earned \$3450 by selling books you have donated. Clean out your bookshelves and bring your books to Shirley Kinney and watch our earnings grow. All proceeds go to our CME Fund for future projects and improvements in our Fellowship. Think how nice it will be to see empty shelf space in your home!

River Readers

The book discussion group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 2:00 P.M. at the Lancaster Community Library. Everyone is welcome. Please read the book and join us. The upcoming selections:

December: No Meeting

January 26: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz

Please call **Elaine Weekley** for more information.

Board of Stewards

Caroline Shifflett, President
Barbara Haynes, Treasurer
Pirkko Graves, Secretary
Shirley Kinney, Past President

Web Site

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

Bob Prescott, Webmaster

Bob Weekley, President Elect
Pam Collins, Vice President for Programs
Kathleen Brooks, Vice President for Membership

Newsletter

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