

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills
4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214
www.uuverdugo.org

May 2015

Volume 20, Issue 5



A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Children's Religious Exploration Education class concurrent

Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Verdugo Hills
818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford
Minister

Deborah Rice
Ministerial Intern

Elizabeth Brown
Director of
Religious Exploration Education

Ann Kleinsasser, President
Linda Hunt, Vice-President
Cindy Lopez, Secretary
Gary Clark, Treasurer
Terresa Jones, Administrator



IMAGINE

a religion that embraces
many different beliefs.
Where all are accepted;
where we cherish the
process of developing our
own spiritual path;
where we respectfully
support the paths of others.
Welcome to UUCVH!

May 3

Debbie Rice, Intern Minister

Seeds represent new beginnings, creation, and mystery. Henry David Thoreau says, "Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to share wonders." Please join us for my last service at UUCVH, where we will explore the wonder of the seeds that have been planted in our time together, and those that await to be sown.

"Sowing Seeds of Possibility"

May 10

Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

We often hear about our Unitarian and Universalist heroes such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Joseph Priestley. But what about the brilliant and dedicated women in our tradition? On this Mother's Day Sunday, we will lift up some of the women who devoted their lives to the success of Unitarian and Universalist causes and who made a huge difference to their times and ours.

"Sheroes of Unitarian Universalism"

May 17

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

I became a Unitarian Universalist because it was the only faith I found to offer my mind, body and spirit freedom of choice and expression. Today's service is an opportunity to engage, excite and dream together about our chosen faith and the future of this congregation.

"Dreams of An Unrepentant Religious Progressive"

May 24

Rev Gordon Clay Bailey

Many of you know the hymn "Let It Be a Dance." I have often wished to dance better, more gracefully, with abandon. That sounds worthy! Likewise, if we as UUs don't develop a cogent, focused, dynamic message for the 21st century, we will go down in history as the best option in the religious spectrum that never fully made its mark on society at large. And, ultimately our dance may be in vain. Join us for a service about the future of Unitarian Universalism, Liberal Religion and our spiritual home in this beautiful location.

"Let It Be A Dance"

May 31

The Off-Foothill Players, Directed by Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford

On this Sunday our UUCVH theatre group will be presenting staged readings of two short plays by Garrison Keillor - "The Prodigal Son" and "The Prodigal Daughter." If you have ever questioned why those who do bad things are sometimes rewarded and those who do good things are not, this will be your opportunity to engage with this conundrum in a humorous way. Don't miss it!

"The Prodigal Children"

May 1 – May 3

Rev. Betty and Tom will be in Moorestown, New Jersey from for Tom's mother's Memorial Service.

In case of an emergency needing ministerial coverage, please contact the UUCVH office. For situations needing pastoral care contact a member of the Shared Ministry Team.



Sunday, May 3

First Sunday Potluck

11:30am

Please bring a brunch or salad item to share.



Sunday, May 3

and

Sunday, May 17

Internship Committee Meeting

12:00 - 1:00 PM



Monday, May 4 at 7 PM

All skill levels welcome.

Knitting Circle meets in members' homes. Contact Linda Hunt for details.



Thursday, May 7

Membership Committee

11:00 AM

MINISTER'S MUSINGS

During the almost 5 years I have been with you, a number of you have asked me why I began to wear purple, almost exclusively, about 20 years ago. Well, here is the answer for those of you who haven't asked, and some who have.

It all began with the fact that the amethyst, usually a purple gem, is my birthstone. So I have always had a connection with the color. And then there is the fact that it is a color related to royalty, the clergy, and spirituality – an association that gives me a sense of being at least somewhat unique.

But the most important reason has been my inspiration from the short piece called "Warning" by Jenny Joseph. It tickled me when I first read it, and it has continued to be a source of joy for me. Perhaps you have heard or read it too. But, whether you have heard of it or not, I would like to share it with you here as a gift of humor and encouragement. So here it is.

"When I am an old woman I shall wear purple-With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me.-And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves-And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter-I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired-And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells-And run my stick along the public railings-And make up for the sobriety of my youth.-I shall go out in my slippers in the rain-And pick flowers in other people's gardens-And learn to spit.-You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat-And eat three pounds of sausages at a go-Or only bread and pickles for a week-And hoard pens and pencils and beermats and things in boxes-But now we must have clothes that keep us dry-And pay our rent and not swear in the street-And set a good example for the children.-We must have friends to dinner and read the papers-But maybe I ought to practice a little now?So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised-When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple."

I hope you like the color purple too and that when you see it in the future, you will think of me with fondness. This congregation will always have a special place in my heart, and when I finally become an old woman, I will have some wonderful memories.

Blessings and thanks,
Rev. Betty

The Wi\$dom Path

Thursday, May 7 and Thursday, May 21

7:15-9pm

This Adult Religious Education class, developed by the UUA President's Council, helps us look at the ways money affects us physically, intellectually, and spiritually in our lives. For more info, contact facilitators: Gary Clark, Alan Kleinsasser, Rev. Betty, or Tom Stapleford.



Tuesday, May 5
Committee on Ministry
7:30 – 9:00 PM



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
MINISTERS
ASSOCIATION

Thursday, May 7
Valley Cluster UU Ministers
at UUCVH
1:00 – 3:00pm



Sunday, May 10
Spiritual Explorers Group
12:30 - 2:00 PM

All are welcome! Come discuss a new spiritual, religious topic each month with openness and respect.



Monday, May 12
Staff Meeting in La Canada.
6:30 – 8:00 PM

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

We have had the joy these past two years of having Debbie Rice as our Ministerial Intern, and it's hard to believe her time with us is almost at an end! It has been a pleasure for me to get to know her, her husband Orlando and daughter Chantell, as I'm sure it has been for all of you. They have been a bright spot in our congregation! I have appreciated Debbie's calm and thoughtful presence at board and committee meetings. Her commitment to our faith and our values shines through in all she does. We have enjoyed her heart-felt sermons and careful attention to the details of all aspects of our worship rituals. Hearing her children's stories, it's obvious that she was a wonderful elementary teacher in her "previous life". But I'm delighted that she has chosen to share her commitment and talents within Unitarian Universalism. Debbie, we will miss you and your family and we wish you the best as you continue on the next stage of your journey!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Search Committee: Deane Phinney, Terresa Jones, Howard Richman, Roy Lopez, Jerry Buchanan, and Vivienne Payne (who replaced Jerry when he had to resign), for their diligent work throughout this past year. Many hours and much thought went into the rigorous process of finding a "called Minister" for our church. As their work draws to a close, we are very excited to meet and learn more about the candidate they have chosen! We will have an opportunity to hear him speak on two Sundays, May 17 and 24, and to get to know him during the intervening week, as he attends committee and group meetings with us. After the service on May 24, we will have a congregational meeting and vote on whether to accept him as our called Minister. I sincerely hope that all of you will be able to attend these two very important Sundays, and be a part of choosing our future!

Ann Kleinsasser

MOVIE NIGHT
Tuesday, May 12
6:30pm

Hosted by Paula Hallowell
"The 5,000 Fingers of Dr. T"

1953, Rated G, 92 minutes

Bart has only one enemy in the world: his piano teacher Dr. Terwilliker. Fantastic sets, screenplay, and even song lyrics were provided by Dr. Seuss.





Monday, May 18

Gnu UUs Meeting

5:30-7:00 PM

Contact Paula Hallowell,
Chair of the Gnu UUs for info!



Wednesday, May 20

UUCVH Board Meeting

7:00 PM



Newsletter

Friday, May 22

**Outlook Newsletter
deadline**

(Always the Friday after the 3rd
Thursday)



Friday, May 22

Women's Group Potluck

12:00 - 1:30pm

Contact Deane Phinney for info.

You are also welcome to "just
show up" for potluck lunch!

*Aesthetics Committee
following lunch!

COME INTO THE CIRCLE

Chalice Children



Getting to Know You!

A huge part of the UU faith is a sense of togetherness! We are thrilled to see new faces at our children's services and are in the process of getting to know one another. Here's what we know and would love to share with all of you!

- There are 5 five year olds in our children's program
- There is 1 one year old and 1 three year old in our children's program
- Our oldest child is 7 years old!
- Some of our 5 year olds are already in kindergarten and some are getting ready to start kindergarten in the upcoming school year

Many of us like the same colors and some of us like the same things like drawing and creating art pieces during our Sunday time together.

Many of the children were excited to learn about one another and find out more about what they had in common and what made them different from one another. This simple exercise of exploring who each other is allows for us to understand and embraces the differences we have and the similarities we share, which in turn leads to a more accepting community.

While we are taking a brief break from our principles, we are focusing on something so very important. We are getting to know one another and forming our learning community one step at a time!

Please help us welcome our new children by introducing yourselves, spending time with them after the service at the tables or even by joining us for one of our Sunday children's programs! We'd love to have you there!

Warmly,

Elizabeth & Rachael

*Elizabeth Brown, Director of Religious Exploration Education
Rachael Myers, RE Assistant*

INTERN'S INSPIRATION

Dear UUCVH congregants,

As my time as a ministerial intern is winding down with you this month, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and wish you all well during the next exciting phase of congregational life, as you call a settled minister. Having a part-time ministerial intern over two years is a huge commitment, and I am so glad that you all took a risk and agreed to the possibility. Over the last two years, I have had the honor and privilege to attend various meetings and events, serve as worship associate, facilitate sacred writing workshops and reading discussion groups, chair the Worship Committee, meet with Rev. Betty weekly, meet with the cluster ministers monthly, serve as the UUCVH ambassador for our UUJM cluster, attend prayer breakfasts, facilitate the Internship Committee monthly, attend monthly staff meetings the second year, write a newsletter article monthly, write sermons, and create and lead worship services (including an intergenerational service).

Throughout my time here, I have been given the trust and freedom to experiment with new things, such as intergenerational worship, prayer, "Writing as a Sacred Practice," and monthly Worship Committee meetings. I have so appreciated the faith and trust you have put in me! It has allowed me to grow into my ministerial presence and authority little by little. Everyone in the congregation has spent some time talking with me and giving me feedback about my ministry. This has helped me to identify my strengths and growing edges. I have felt supported and encouraged through this process, and for that I will be eternally grateful. Your feedback and encouragement have given me a great deal of confidence and allowed me to see that I am on the right path.

Thank you all for the support, feedback, encouragement, hugs, love, and care you have shown me. Thank you for always stepping up and being a worship associate, joining a committee, attending my events and services, helping me with a project and/or anything else you have done to aid me in becoming a minister! And thank you for allowing me into your congregation and your lives. I have learned a great deal from the love and care you all show to one another.

As I move on to the next part of my journey towards ministry, please know that I will be carrying this congregation in my heart wherever I go. You have been an integral part of my ministerial formation.

I will be sending you all positive energy, prayers, and well wishes on the exciting new possibilities that are coming your way. I am so exciting that you will be calling a settled minister! May you all blossom and grow in your new ministry together.

Bless you all!
In gratitude and love,
Debbie

Announcement!
UUCVH Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 7, 2015
Here are our nominees
for 2015-2016:

- **President Ann Kleinsasser**
- **Vice President Roy Lopez**
- **Secretary Vivienne Payne**
- **Treasurer Gary Clark**
- **Trustee (term ends 6/18) Pat Berberian**
- **Nominating Committee Howard Richman**
- **Nominating Committee Cindy Lopez**
- **Nominating Committee Alan Kleinsasser**

Canvass Kick-Off Fiesta!



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BITS FROM THE BOARD
DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
4-18-15

Present: President Ann Kleinsasser, VP Linda Hunt, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Cindy Lopez, Trustees Howard Richman and Patrick Berberian, Minister Rev Betty Stapleford, Intern Minister Debbie Rice and Administrator/Bookkeeper Terresa Jones.

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm. The chalice was lighted and members checked in.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 3-18-15 were approved as read.
Agenda reviewed, Rev Betty added to New Bus.

The board confirmed delegate for District Assembly (Debbie Rice). Confirmed delegates for General Assembly (Rev. Betty, Tom Stapleford, Debbie Rice) and alternates (Gary Clark, Vickie Guagliardo).

Treasurer: Report submitted by Gary Clark, with improved format.
Audit committee: Gary, Roy and Tom, met once, will need to meet at least once more to complete audit.

Minister: Report of activities for March/April reviewed.

Search Committee: Howard reported that candidate selected. Contract to be drafted prior to official announcement. Candidate week to be held May 17th-24th, to include meeting of Board and most committees, Friday night social. Suggested outreach to [members & visitors] over past 10 years.

Old Business: Canvass dinner on track for Sat, 4/18. Approx 25 ppl, with possibly 8 children, expected. Other ideas for campaign include pledge cards in order of service and weekly speakers during announcements.

- CV Fair 4/25 on track. Need a few more volunteers to cover midday shift.
- Nominating committee to announce nominees in upcoming newsletter.
- Annual meeting to be held 6/7, reports due to Terresa asap.

New Business: Terresa joined Assoc of UU Admin. Howard put forth motion for Board to pay her dues, Linda seconded and motion carried.

- Sammy Phinney [requested] facility use for a teen study group. Adult supervision and details tbd.
- Support letter re petition for Senate Bill 128 (End of Life Opt) presented by Terry Richman. Rev Betty will look into a speaker for a special event, to share more info on this topic with congregation, to be voted on at annual mtg.
- Outreach to be combined with Membership committee, addl details tbd.
- Cindy has potential candidate for RE Asst when position becomes available this summer.

The chalice was extinguished and meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 20th , 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Lopez, Secretary

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Have We Got A Minister For You!

Let's give a joyous welcome to our new Candidate for Ministry,
the Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey!

Rev. Bailey will be joining us at UUCVH for the week of
Sunday, May 17 through Sunday, May 24.

Come get to know Rev. Bailey!

Announcements are on the way to your inbox with invitations for all to attend
a very special week of Candidating events!

Meet Rev. Gordon Bailey:

Growing up on the banks of the Hudson River, the Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey spent his early adult life searching for a job where he could make the most difference; a home for abused boys, Catholic Charities, the New York City Public School System. His call to ministry in his thirties, while unexpected to him, did not surprise those who knew him. Rev. Bailey's choice to serve in the Unitarian Universalist denomination was due to its rich tradition in social justice and its non-dogmatic approach to worship.

Rev. Bailey graduated from The University of the District of Columbia with a dual BA in Anthropology and Sociology. He then attended Wesley Theological Seminary in the District of Columbia where he earned his Master of Divinity and specialized in Urban Ministry. He has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Garden City, NYC, Washington, DC, Utica and Oneonta, NY in various ministry positions.

Currently, Rev. Bailey is the Consulting Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Pomona, NY and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Essex Co, NJ.

Rev. Bailey is a Board Certified Clinical Chaplain and Pastoral Counselor with the College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy, an organization with which he is seeking Diplomate status; he is also a candidate at the Harlem Family Institute for certification in Psychotherapy. Additionally, Rev. Bailey has a small practice in Consulting, Counseling and Coaching institutions, individuals and families, and is the Founder/President/CEO of a new not-for-profit: New York Interfaith Associates, Inc., an organization devoted to Interfaith Dialog, Clinical Pastoral Education and practical training (CPE/T) as well as Spiritual Care.

Rev. Bailey is married to Lisa Stiffler Bailey and between them they have four children (Jennifer, Devin, Ethan, Darien) and one grand daughter (Kai). The Bailey's currently reside in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan.

May 2015 at UUCVH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Events take place @ UUCVH unless otherwise noted.					1 <i>Beltane!</i> 3-8pm Private Rental	2
3 10:30am Worship Service "Sowing Seeds of Possibility" Debbie Rice 11:30am Potluck Lunch 12-1pm Internship Comm"	4 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member's home	5 7:30-9pm Committee on Ministry meeting	6 9am Facility Servicing 10-12pm Cleaning service	7 11am Membership Comm 1-3pm Ministers Cluster meeting @ UUCVH 7:15-9pm "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Ed Course	8 3-6pm Private Rental	9
10 10:30am Worship Service "Sheroes of U.U." Rev Dr Betty Stapleford 12:30-2pm Spiritual Explorers Group	11	12 6:30-8pm Staff Meeting @ La Canada 6:30pm Movie Night "5,000 Fingers of Dr. T"	13	14	15	16 <i>Armed Forces Day!</i>
17 10:30am Worship Service "Dreams of an Unrepentant Religious Progressive" Rev Gordon Bailey 11:30am Potluck Lunch 12-1 Internship Comm	18 5:30-7pm GNU UUs meeting @ UUCVH	19 8-10am Debbie Rice's Graduation @ Claremont School of Theology!	20 7:00pm Board Meeting	21 7:15-9pm "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult Ed Course	22 <i>Harvey Milk Day!</i> Newsletter Deadline 12-1:30pm Women's Group Potluck Luncheon Ice Cream Social, evening time TBA	23
24 10:30am Worship Service "Let It Be a Dance" Rev Gordon Bailey 12-1pm Congregation Meeting & Vote	25 <i>Memorial Day!</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30am Worship Service "The Prodigal Children" <i>Off-Foothill Players</i> 2:30-5pm Private Rental						

SAVE THE DATE!

May 3 First Sunday Potluck Luncheon 11:30am
May 3 Internship Comm 12-1pm
May 4 Knitting Circle 7pm
May 5 Committee on Ministry 7:30-9pm
May 7 Membership Comm 11am
May 7 Ministers Cluster at UUCVH 1-3pm
May 7 "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult RE 7:15-9pm
May 10 Spiritual Explorers 12:30-2pm
May 12 Staff Meeting 6:30-8pm
May 12 Movie Night 6:30pm
May 17 Potluck Luncheon w/ Rev Bailey 11:30am
May 17 Internship Comm 12-1pm
May 18 GnuUU Dinner @ UUCVH 5:30-7pm
May 19 Debbie's Graduation! at Claremont 8-10am
May 20 Board meeting 7pm
May 21 "The Wi\$dom Path" Adult RE 7:15-9pm
May 22 Outlook Newsletter Deadline
May 22 Womens Group Potluck 12-1:30pm
May 22 Evening Ice Cream Social at UUCVH
May 24 Congregational meeting &
Ministerial Candidate vote, 12 noon
May 31 Our Beautiful Intern Debbie Rice's last day @ UUCVH!



May 10
Happy Mama's Day!

the Outlook

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