

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)  
September: Vocation

They are the songs  
that come from the voices  
Of the earth.  
Sometimes they come  
as murmurs that rise up  
through the ground into our  
feet and travel to our hearts  
and minds.

“Come quickly!”  
They whisper,  
“Come quickly!”  
You, I am calling you!  
The time is now not later  
You must remember me. . . .”

– Norma Cordell  
*Permission given to publish*



"Tiny Chalice" photo by Liz King

Throughout this month's theme of "Vocation" we consider the inner voice that whispers to us. Sometimes it rests and is silent. There are times when it murmurs, but beware when it shouts and is all we can hear.

Rev. Norma Cordell was a minister in Marin, California. Every week she sent the congregation forth from Sunday services with the encouragement to "Go Shining!" I interpret her words to say, "Shine with your gifts, be with the people who give you strength, savor the goodness in your life." And what will you do with all of this? That's where the word *vocation* comes alive.

In September we'll show the photos of chalice images our congregation has sent for worship. We'll create bumper stickers for cars and bikes to share our shining message. There will be opportunities to purchase those bright yellow "Standing on the Side of Love" tee shirts that identify our message as we do witness. With each other and in the world, we will begin our fall season together – "Go Shining."

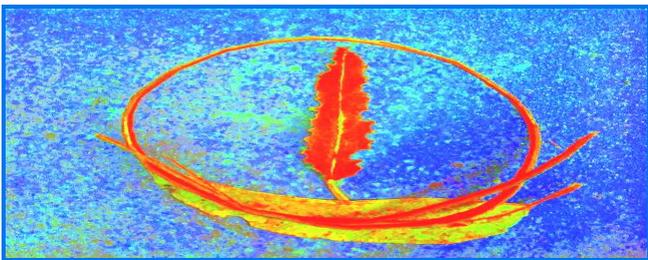
- Rev. Beth Banks

**Create a photo of your own creative chalice for the Summer Chalice Challenge!**  
Send it to [office@uudavis.org](mailto:office@uudavis.org) by Aug 31.

# UUCD September, Vocation

## Worship Services

**Sept 1, 10am only, *Hosting the Stranger***, Jessica Castan'eda & John Ashby. Hospitality is a key value in all religions. In almost every moment of our lives we are either the host or the stranger; sometimes both.



Leafy chalice photo, 2013, by Liz King, UUCD Member; photo altered by Mandy Dawn using Picasa

## Worship Returns to 9:30 & 11:15am!

**Sept 8, *Gathering the Waters***, Rev. Beth Banks; Lifespan Learning Director, Kate Raymond; Intern & Campus Minister, Caitlin Cotter. This popular all ages service begins our fall season. Bring water from the place you found sustenance in summer: a far away place, or your home. The question is, "How were you changed?" We'll use the water to bless our grounds.

We'll show the photos from the Summer Chalice Challenge: some are serious, others funny. It's not too late! Submit a photo of a chalice you made by Aug 31!

At the end of our services there will be a surprise that we'll continue to create throughout the month. Get on board at the Gathering of the Waters service!

**12:15pm, Reception to meet the 2013-2014 Intern and Campus Minister, Caitlin Cotter**

**Sept. 15, *Ducking & Weaving: Spiritual but Not Religious***, Rev. Beth Banks. Is this a phrase that you use to describe your religious life? As a 3rd generation UU I'm conflicted when I hear my companions in our denomination use the phrase. Intern & Campus Minister, Caitlin Cotter, gives the Life Journey.

**Just One Question: 12:45-1:15pm**, Meeting/Senghas Room. Rev. Beth presents one question from the sermon; participants write a personal reflection (5-10 min). With a few moments of reflection and an opportunity to share, integrate the take-away message of the day. Participants can continue later through journaling or talking with others. Bring a light lunch.

**3rd Sunday Special Collection: CoolDavis.org** – to inspire our community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to a changing climate, and improve the quality of life for all. . Checks: UUCD, memo: Cool Davis.

**Spirited Family Worship, Sept 15, 22, 29, 10:30-11am**, Meeting Room. All ages are welcome. Share awe, exploration, commitment, questioning, and more. The collection taken at this service is donated to a non-profit chosen by the children of our congregation.

**Sept 22, *What's Worth Failure?*** Rev. Beth Banks. "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."  
– Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*. A vocation comes from our desire to live with purpose. Ask, "What is worth doing, even if I fail?"

**Sept. 29, Come hear Intern & Campus Minister, Caitlin Cotter preach!** *Caitlin is a third generation UU from Knoxville, TN, and a Starr King School for the Ministry student. She was the Director of Religious Exploration for the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists for three years, a Young Adult Resident at the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in North Carolina, and a UU leader and representative at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. She is an outdoor educator, theater geek, environmental advocate, and serves on the UUA's Commission on Social Witness. Caitlin is excited and honored to learn and serve in Davis!*



## Hymn of the Month:

"At the Community Choir Leadership Training in Victoria, BC in 2011, we gathered for the last time with the *Gettin' Higher Choir*. A hundred singers surrounded me and the other trainees and blessed us on our way with a song that includes words in Tolkien's Elvish language. My heart creaked open and tears rolled down slowly. When it was done, a man shook my hand and said, "Good luck in your new career." I thanked him, then ran to the bathroom and sobbed hard for several minutes. A career? I had always wanted one of those! And how beautiful and joyful, to lead people in song! This round by Laurence Cole, our hymn of the month, is one of many songs I brought home from that training:

" Oh when we come into our calling,  
"We become bells, calling to everyone else,  
" Oh come, come into your calling! "

– Laura Sandage, Sparks Choir Director

## Resources for Further Exploration

On your own or with friends

---

**Listen** [www.uudavispodcast.org](http://www.uudavispodcast.org)

---

**Reflect** The Committee on Ministry invites UUs in small groups (committees, TIE & fellowship) to make the theme part of their spiritual practice.

"Every human being has a work to carry on within, duties to perform abroad, influence to exert, which are peculiarly his, and which no conscience but his own can teach."

– William Ellery Channing,  
American Unitarian minister (1780-1842)

What are you uniquely called to do? What does your conscience demand? What does your conscience suggest?

Committee on Ministry: Sarah Keith,  
Karen Naliboff, Steve Reynolds, Lorraine Visser,  
Carlena Wike

---

**Watch** **The Great Debaters** Film based on the life of Melvin B. Tolson (Denzel Washington), a professor at Wiley College, Texas. In 1935 he formed the first debate team. Teaching was his vocation, not simply his job. The debate team made national news and competed with Harvard.

---

**Read** **Let Your Life Speak** by Parker Palmer. His writing can give you the courage to explore a new profession, or to accept a new relationship with yourself and your commitments. He asks, "Is the life I am living the same as the life that wants to live in me?" Vocation is not a goal, but a gift.

---

**Two Tramps in Mud Time** (excerpt) by Robert Frost

My object in living is to unite  
My avocation and my vocation  
As my two eyes make one in sight  
Only where love and need are one,  
And the work is play for mortal stakes,  
Is the deed ever really done  
For Heaven and the future's sakes.



Quilt Chalice photo by Julie Saylor

---

Excerpt "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran

Then a plowman said, / "Speak to us of Work."  
And he answered, saying:

You work that you may keep pace  
with the earth and the soul of the earth.  
For to be idle is to become  
a stranger unto the seasons,  
and to step out of life's procession,  
that marches in majesty and proud submission  
towards the infinite.

When you work you are a flute  
through whose heart / the whispering of the hours  
turns to music.

Which of you would be a reed, / dumb and silent,  
when all else sings together in unison?

Always you have been told  
that work is a curse and a labor, / a misfortune.  
But I say to you that when you work  
you fulfill a part of earth's furthest dream,  
assigned to you when that dream was born,

And in keeping yourself with labor  
you are in truth loving life,  
And to love life through labor  
is to be intimate with life's inmost secret.

Work is love made visible.