



The UUCG beacon

January 2007

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org

beacon Editor: Don English
Email: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 7

In Memoriam

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

January 14

Building Bridges

Rev. Frieda Gillespie

January 21

*The Myth of Interfaith
Dialogue*

Rev Frieda Gillespie

January 28

*Cure the Body, Save the
Spirit: Universal Health
Care*

Social Action Committee

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

HEAR THE CALL!

One of the things I like about UUs is that we believe in acting in this world. While spirituality, reflection, and thought are certainly important to us, we also put strong emphasis on acting on our beliefs. This is one of the strengths we get from our Judeo-Christian heritage. Christ enjoined us to act: to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, speak out against injustice, teach those who would learn. While we search for the truth, we act on what we already know.

We act in the world; sometimes the world acts on us. We recently had to repair the front of our church. Naturally this happened during the Christmas season, while people were shopping, traveling, and distributing at First Born. With help from The Robert's Company in Winterville and several of our members, we were able to remove the failing front and make emergency repairs before the next service. What could have been a dangerous and very expensive situation was made safe and only moderately expensive.

This reminds us of the physical needs of our Congregation. The Building and Grounds Committee has done a very good job of keeping our church attractive and functional with little cash outlay. Often, we don't appreciate just how much work is involved. Imagine having a much bigger house with a few large and many small groups using it every week.

Many of our members have given much of their time to clean, mow, weed, decorate, and repair our church. We save thousands every year because of their contributions. We also want a full time minister. Frieda serves because she loves her calling, but even love has its limitations. She and our Congregation know love is what matters and have plenty to offer. Some area businesses still insist on cash (or plastic).

I'd like to challenge each of us to find a way to contribute to the church that is fun, uplifting, or both. Our society often teaches that work is unpleasant. I think that is a false teaching. Work can and should be rewarding in itself. Giving is also enjoyable and beneficial for the giver. We have enough ways to contribute that we can each find ways that are rewarding. If nothing else, working next to your wonderful fellow members and friends is rewarding. We need cash, too, of course, and we will be asking for some of yours in the coming months. I hope you will give generously so we can continue to work to make this a better world for all.

-- Feryl Masters

Reflections

Reflections . . . of Rev Frieda Gillespie

Notes from the Interim

Often people ask me if it is difficult for me to be away from home when I'm here. And of course I have to say it is. I miss my partner, Jennifer, my daughter, Tealeesha and Jen's kids, Ben, Tim and Julia. I even miss Jennifer's dogs shepherd/lab mixes – Toby and Annie. Toby is famous for being the only dog we know that has to be woken up in the morning. He will be found on someone's bed lying on his back snoring well into the daylight hours. Then there are the three cats, Angie (a male), Christine, and Saber, Tim's hamster, Sirius and Julia's guinea pig, Cinnamon. I was talking to Jennifer the week before Christmas and she described our living room with a fire in the fireplace and a dog curled up on the couch on a brisk still officially Fall day. No, talking on the phone just doesn't replace the actual being there, the hugs, the interaction, even the problems are part of the stuff of life that makes it worth living.

But before you start to feel too sorry for me stranded away from home while I am here, you should know that I start to miss you almost as soon as I get home. There is no way to win in this situation. I love my work with you and long for a day when my work won't take me away from home.

John Weston the Director of the Transitions Dept at the UUA, has this quote at the end of his emails:

"People wish to be settled; only as far as they are unsettled, is there any hope for them."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson, in "Circles," Essays: First Series (1841)

How true this is. It is only when we are forced out of our comfort zones that we get to know new things about ourselves. What I love about ministry is that it regularly challenges my complacency. I don't get to relax into any kind of sense of having arrived anywhere before I am thrust into a new situation and asked to respond. I couldn't do this work if I wasn't anchored in my heart in a home where I am loved and love without reservation.

In this New Year I wish this for you as well. I wish new challenges that stimulate your mind and heart to reach for new depths. And more than this, I wish for you to have the unwavering support and love from others that give you a home base from which to venture forth in the world. You deserve all of this and I hope that anything that stands in the way will become dross in the fire of your life energy.

There will be a child dedication ceremony in February; if there are any members who would like to have their child dedicated please get in touch with me soon.

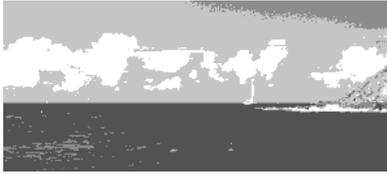
Happy New Year! I'll see you again on the 7th and will return to Framingham on the 21st.

Frieda
minister@uugreenvillenc.org
252-367-0103

Board Tidbits

The Board met December 17th. For more detailed information, see the draft of the minutes posted on the Bulletin Board. The position for a part-time administrative assistant has been advertised locally. As Frieda requested, the Board has approved a special collection for First Born to be held during a Sunday service in January. This month's Program Council meeting had excellent attendance and the congregation's committees have been very active. Plans for the pledge drive are progressing well. There will be a fundraising event in March. Improvements in the appearance of the grounds have been made. The Social Action Committee has been working hard on the Universal Healthcare project. The Negotiating Committee for the settled minister search met last month. A Town Hall meeting after the service on 1/14 will focus primarily on proposed amendments to the by-laws.

--Sue Farris



On The Horizon

Dinners For Eight

We all look forward to Dinners For Eight, and the next one's scheduled for the 20th of January. So, please mark your calendar and plan to participate.

Dinners for Eight is a great way to get to know your fellow UUGC members on a slightly deeper level. Here's how it works. Let Kay Alston know that you'd like to participate in this pot luck dinner. Kay will coordinate the event by pairing six or seven hungry guests with a host. It's the host's job to provide the space and help coordinate who's bringing what.

Please contact Kay Alston if you'd like to participate. Let her know if you would be willing to be a host.

See you at dinner January 20th at 6:00pm

--Don English for Kay Alston

Social Action

The Universal Health Care Task Force of the Social Action Committee will be making a full presentation January 28th with the aim of enlisting the efforts of the entire congregation in a year long project. This in no way will exclude other Social Action efforts that may come up.

The Social Action Committee will meet January 21st after the service. Beginning in February the SAC will meet the second Sunday of each month. Any member who is interested in social action is encouraged to attend and bring a list of your concerns on which we should take some action. The more the merrier.

--Ray Sobel

Town Hall Meeting

We will be holding a Town Hall Meeting and Pot Luck on January 14th. The focus will be on proposed By-Laws amendments. We want to provide information and get feedback so we can develop a final version for the Congregational Meeting on February 4th. In addition to discussing By-Laws, we invite discussion on other topics of interest to the Congregation. This is a time to ask questions and give suggestions.

--Feryl Mas-

From the Denominational Affairs Committee

The UUA offers a wide variety of opportunities for conversing and connecting with UUs around the world. It hosts over 225 e-mail lists on subjects ranging from district leadership discussions to covenant group ministry, from large congregation leadership tips to discussions for religious professionals. Go to <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/> to find out more!

There are also topical Forums. Two current ones are at <http://www.uua.org/programs/forums/index.php?action=vtopic&forum=1> and <http://www.uua.org/programs/forums/index.php?action=vtopic&forum=4> -- the first for Social Actions, the second for "Reclaiming a Vocabulary of Reverence".

It's easy to sign up for these e-lists and Forums, then share your thoughts -- or simply read the sometimes fascinating offerings of others.

--Jackie Wyman & Carroll Webber

On a Personal Note . . .

Edith and Carroll Webber bought a car and are now really getting around. They visited former members **Tee Gross** and **Peg Rossett**.

David Day had a temporary job which recently became permanent. Congratulations!

Jan Salstrom's son got a job, and Jan sounded very happy about that!

Don English's sister is doing well, and hopes to still be doing well for her son's wedding in April. **Don and Sylvia** had a nice visit with her after Thanksgiving.

12/17 marked the 62nd anniversary of the most exciting day in **Bob Franke's** life. It also was the day he came within minutes of the possible end of his life. It was the second day of the Battle of the Bulge, and Bob was a very lucky soldier.

Sean Stayton's parents visited him and the girls over Thanksgiving, and had a good time. They made it back to Wyoming just 20 minutes before that huge snowstorm that happened.

Sean's daughter, **Lutia**, recently celebrated her 3rd birthday.

Sondra Haynes is progressing well following her knee replacement surgery. She hopes to very soon give up her cane and also be able to drive again. Her significant other, **Howard Hinckley**, will soon be having cardiac surgery.

The **Butler-Masters** family traveled to Germany for Christmas with Miciah, who is studying there. We can hardly wait to hear all about it.

--Jackie Wyman

Happy New Year Birthdays

Marta Dominguez	Jan 5th
Rich Elkins	Jan 11th
Kelly Kurz	Jan 15th
Sue Daughtry	Jan 24th

TWELFTH NIGHT CELEBRATION

On January 6th at 7:00 PM, there will be a Twelfth Night party. We'll have entertainment, the traditional crowning of the King and Queen, a Yankee gift exchange, and great merriment. Bring a dessert to share. Come be festive!

--Jackie Wyman

Angel Tree for the Little Willie Center

The Social Action Committee arranged for UUCG to provide holiday gifts for the children at the Little Willie Center. There were 36 "Angels" at the Center. A holiday tree was decorated with angels. Each angel had the name, age and gender of a child from the Center. UUCG members selected an angel and purchased a gift. The gifts were delivered to the Little Willie Center on 12/18/06 by me and Frieda Gillespie. The children and staff had a party on the 18th and there were many happy faces and content hearts. Thank you for your gifts and your acts of kindness.

--Toni Britt



JANUARY in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	3 6:00 Eat Out @ Ddragon Fly	4	5	6 7:00 Twelfth Night Party
7 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>In Memoriam</i> 12:00 B&G, RE	8	9 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	10 6:00 Eat Out @ Lone Star 7:30 New UU	11	12	13 9:00 Bldg Cleanup 9:30-10:30 Social/Political Covenant Group
14 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Building Bridges</i> 12:00 Pot Luck & Town Hall Mtg 7:00 Meditation Covenant	15 7:30 Board Meeting 7:15 Search Committee	16 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	17 6:00 Eat Out @ Los Charros 7:30 New UU	18	19	20 6:00 Dinners for 8
21 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>The Myth of Interfaith Dialogue</i> 12:00 Membership & Social Action 7:00 Book Club	22	23 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel 12:00 Beacon Deadline	24 6:00 Eat Out @ Dale's Indian	25	26	27 9:00 First Born
28 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Cure the Body, Save the Spirit: Universal Health Care</i>	29	30 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	31 6:00 Eat Out @ CPW			

Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA. To contact her call: 252-367-0103 or email: minister@uugreenvillenc.org

Working Together to Build Community



RE Program

First we would like to thank everyone for helping us with our Religious Education Program in 2006. This year promises to have a lot of fun, educational, and exciting learning opportunities. We are still in need of teachers for our children's RE program. We have lesson plans ready for volunteers to help with our program. The Tweens are continuing their Time Traveling curriculum and the Teens are starting UUville.

In the Adult program the forum group is meeting at 9:30 before the service and will start back January 7. Also Frieda will be teaching January 10 and 17, 7:30-9:00, New to UU classes --please note that this is a change from what was previously published. The class is an introduction to UU History, Theology, and what this church offers. This year we are going to expand our Adult RE Program. We are hoping to offer Cakes for the Queen of Heaven in the Spring. If you are interested in teaching a course, please call or email Victoria.

	Tweens	Teens	Adults
Sun. Jan. 7	Time Travelers 1	UUville 1 Breakfast	Forum
Wed. Jan. 10			New to UU 7:30-9:00
Sun. Jan. 14	Time Travelers 2	UUville 2 Breakfast	Forum
Wed. Jan. 17			New to UU 7:30-9:00
Sun. Jan. 21	Yoga	Yoga	Forum
Sun. Jan. 28	Time Travelers 3	UUville 3 Breakfast	Forum

Religious Education for Those New to the UU

New UU Class: If you are new to Unitarian Universalism or have new questions about it, this is a chance to learn more. Sign up for this interactive class with Rev. Gillespie to take place two Wednesday nights: Jan 10th and 17th from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM. Call Jackie Wyman at the church office to sign up: 355-6658.

-- Frieda Gillespie



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

January 7th - *"In Memorium"* - **Rev Gillespie** So many of you missed having the Day of the Dead service normally held at Halloween. In this service we will honor those we cherish who have died in 2006 or any others we wish to commemorate. Bring pictures or other objects of memory to place on the altar.

January 14th - *MLK Day Sermon* - **Rev Gillespie** -- "Building Bridges" - How do we build bridges between our Eurocentric cultural expectations and what African-American, Hispanic-American or Asian-American people might need in worship and mission? The collection this day will be given to First Born for their food pantry program.

January 21st - *"The Myth of Interfaith Dialogue"* - **Rev Gillespie** -- Are there any really separate religions that haven't been influenced by others? UU's are often accused of appropriation or being dilettantes when it comes to other religions. Is that true?

January 28th -- *Cure the Body, Save the Spirit: Universal Health Care* -- **Social Action Committee** A UU Look at Health Care. Why a more equitable health care system is essential to a better, more compassionate America.

Guest at Your Table Boxes

The Guest at Your Table boxes were distributed on 11/19/06 by Frieda during the service. As often as you can, please drop your change, coins and bills in the boxes. Share stories of hope from your experiences related to human rights work – to imagine a different guest at your table with you each week.

The money in the boxes will be collected January 28, 2007. Bring the box or write a check to UUSC for the amount you collected. The money is used by UUSC to strengthen worker's rights; protect the right to safe, affordable water; defend civil liberties and democratic process and preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters. Some of the money is currently being used for work related to the genocide in Darfur and for relief and recovery efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Guest at Your Table is a UU tradition for educating our communities about human needs and human rights, and sharing our blessings.

--Toni Britt

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, Jan 23rd

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

January 7 -- **Dragon Fly** -- 3150 Evans Street -- 215-8893

January 10 -- **Lone Star** -- 500 SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-4900

January 17 -- **Los Charros** -- 206 SW Greenville Blvd -- 355-0253

January 24 -- **Dale's Indian Restaurant** -- 419 Evans Street -- 551-3253

January 31 -- **CPW's (Carolina Pasta Works)**-- 2422 Stanton Squ -- 757-7756

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
355-6658**

Minister, Rev Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Sue Ferris
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman
Communications: Don English
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Ruel Tyer
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Ray Sobel
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

