



The UUUCG beacon

JANUARY 2008

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 6

How Free are We Really?
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

January 13

The Meaning of Membership
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

January 20

Is Love the Answer?
Ed Day

January 27

Democratic Process
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Happy New Year! Or maybe I'm six months late?

Although we're flipping in our calendars to a New Year, January 1st marks the halfway point in our congregation's operating year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th. It also marks the midpoint of my term as President (unless I'm chosen to serve a second term). So I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of our accomplishments of the past six months.

Probably the largest event during this period has been our ministerial transition. We bid farewell to Rev. Frieda Gillespie who had served for a year as our Interim Minister and welcomed Rev. Ann Marie Alderman as our first full-time Settled Minister. We had a successful start-up weekend with the District Executive, exploring the roles that a minister and leaders serve, and discussing our direction for the future. The transition also served as an impetus for the Aesthetics Committee to undertake a wonderful redecoration of the sanctuary, including a repainting and display of members' artistic creations.

Under the wonderful direction of Mort Stine, our choir has been reborn, leading songs during worship and providing special music and a large portion of the holiday musical service. I definitely think that this has served as a great enhancement to our Sunday services.

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RE has continued to flourish under the direction of our DRE, Victoria Brown. We held our second annual Harry Potter Magic School camp, and a program of rotating teachers to encourage participation, and a successful teen program.

Our Social Action Committee has taken on new life under its chair, Marta Dominguez with a new emphasis on local environmental issues as well as continuing our ongoing commitments, such as First Born and Little Willie.

We had a very successful second Service Auction under the direction of Jackie Wyman, in one day raising approximately 1/3 of our annual fundraising goal. Jackie has also just recently taken over as Membership Chair and is working with Ann Marie to plan a new member orientation and recognition ceremony.

We are also increasing our presence and visibility in the community. We continued to participate in the CROP Walk and Interfaith Thanksgiving. In addition to that, Ann Marie was recently interviewed on WITN in response to a story that was done about "ex-gay ministries", and new member Jennifer Barr spearheaded an effort that resulted in UUCG having a float in three local holiday parades, for which we were awarded first prize in two of them.

Although I've named the big events that have stood out to me over the past six months, I want to make sure that I recognize the diligent work that is ongoing and underappreciated by many volunteers within our congregation week after week, making our congregation function. They are the things that go unnoticed, but if they were missing they would be noticed. These include the cleaning and maintenance of the Building, the preparation of coffee and refreshments for after the service, the greeters on Sunday morning, the Treasurer paying bills, childcare in the nursery, and all the other preparations which make things work so smoothly that they become expectations and don't receive the recognition they truly deserve.

To all of you, named and unnamed, those who have taken on leadership or task roles, and also those who contribute simply by their participation, I express my thanks and good wishes in the New Year (or second half of our operating year)!

Rich Elkins
Board President 2007-08

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

... of Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Most of us make New Year resolutions. Mine is to stop eating so much sugar and eat more vegetables! I am sure that by the end of the first week that my resolute resolution will have morphed into "eat more of what's good for you and less of what's not!" In that spirit I have been busy re-arranging Wednesday night schedules, asking the Weds night dining out group and the choir to consider different meeting days, so that we can start up Soup and Sharing again at UUCG. I have heard from a lot of you, that you liked this when it was done in the past. So, we will begin gathering on Wednesday, January 9th at 6pm. Come if you can. The only charge is that you clean up after yourself! I will provide the Soup and Bread for the first time. I hope those of you who can, will be resolved to sign up for future opportunities to bring a pot of soup or a loaf of bread for all the other Wednesday nights for as long as this experiment in eating what's good for you lasts!

To make it worth your while to gather with UUCG folks on Wednesday nights, we will be offering Religious Education opportunities starting at 7 pm and ending by 8:30 pm. On January 9th, I will lead a Newcomer's Orientation. All new members, all interested visitors or friends and youth are welcome to come! In just an hour and a half, you'll get a quick and super informative course in Uuism and UUCG! Childcare will be provided every Wednesday night!

Starting on Wednesday evening, January 16th, and continuing on the 23 and 30th, I will lead a 3 – session review of the UU Principles & Purposes. This will be an eye-opening look at the seven principles and the six sources; how they function in congregational life, what they mean, if they need to be re-worded, all ending with our collective comments and conclusions being forwarded to the UUA!

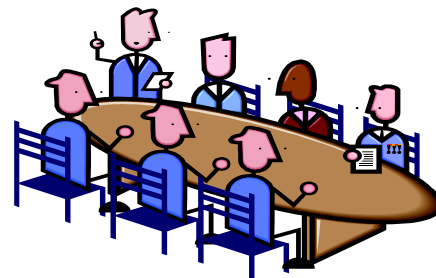
In February, on Weds evenings, we will begin the Welcoming Congregation curriculum. This course is 14 sessions long. Again, this will be an adult and teen religious education opportunity. It is meant to deepen our awareness of issues that affect us as a congregation that includes gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons. All members, friends, or visitors to UUCG are welcome to come to any session. Each week's leader and the topic for open discussion will be announced in the order of service and in each month's newsletter.

All the Wednesday night Religious Education sessions will be opportunities to grow in knowledge and to deepen our relationships with each other! Good food and good company; what could be better than that!

Rev. Ann Marie

Notes from December's Board meeting:

Rich Elkins, Feryl Masters, Patrice Alexander, Claudia Sundman, Karen Hall, Scott Gade and Carol Maxwell all serve on the Board!



Beginning in January Wednesday nights at the church will be busy with Soup and Sharing at 6:00pm and Adult RE from 7:00 to 8:30. Child care will be provided and Children's RE options are being explored. The January 9th RE Wednesday night meeting will be UU orientation for our new members. Beginning on February 6 we will be starting the 14 week "Welcoming Congregation" Adult RE curriculum which is largely discussion group based. Board and Congregational approval would be required before UUCG would actually become a Welcoming Congregation.

A Congregational Town Hall/ Informational meeting will be held on January 27th to discuss some proposed bylaws changes regarding the process for selecting Committee Chairs. These proposed changes are based on feedback received from Annette Marquis, Thomas Jefferson District Director, at our November Ministerial Start Up Retreat weekend.

Feryl has submitted our application for a Chalice Lighter's Grant to the District. We are asking for \$17,500 to fund building improvement, creating a green sanctuary, and improving our RE facilities.

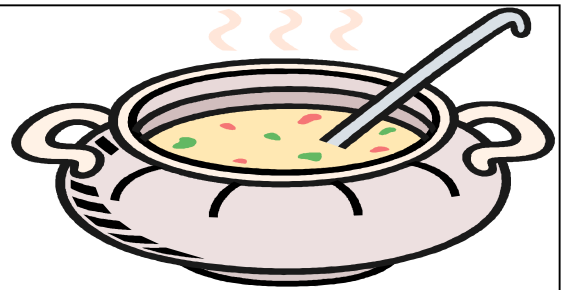
The Stewardship Committee is still without a Chair. The annual Pledge Dinner has been scheduled for March 9th. As of December our fundraising efforts have generated \$3,500, by way of the Funder Frolics Service Auction on December 1st, of the \$10,000 revenue budgeted for this fiscal year.

The Program Council will meet on January 10th at 7:00pm. All committee chairs should submit their budget requests at that meeting.

Ann Marie, Rich, Claudia, and Patrice all plan to attend the January 18th and 19th District Stewardship meeting in Savannah. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be January 21st at 7:00pm.

Soup and Sharing begins Wednesday,
January, 9th at 6 pm.

Followed by **Lifespan Religious Educa-
tion**, 7—8:30 pm.



Childcare Provided

January 9th 7-8:30pm New Member Orientation—-all new members, visitors,
or any one needing a refresher is invited to attend!

January 16 7-8:30pm Principles & Purposes Review/Session #1

January 23 7-8:30 pm Principles & Purposes Review/Session #2

January 30 7-8:30pm Principles & Purposes Review/Session #3

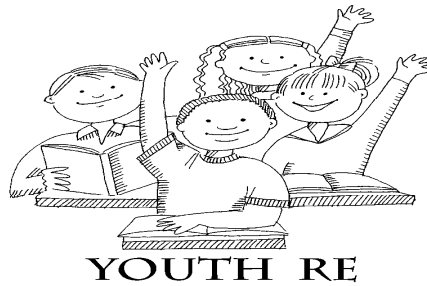
Come to one or all 3 sessions of 3 part review of the
UUA Principle and Purposes....all led by
Rev. Ann Marie

Notes from Building and Grounds.....

Building and Grounds is working with Feryl Masters to apply for a Chalice Lighters grant for some improvements on our building. The handicap ramp for the front is one of the things we are applying for in the grant application. An upgrade in our air conditioning is another. We are always looking for volunteers who can aid in church cleaning. See me if you can give an hour or two on occasion. We are accumulating a lot of miscellaneous boxes of items in the library. If you leave something, please tape a note to the box or bag and say what it is for. We are going to have to give items to goodwill soon to clear up the library.

Ruel Tyer, Building and Grounds Chair person

Notes from Youth Religious Education



Team teaching continues to be a success in RE.

Kim Smith has been leading the Tweens in a discussion of Christmas traditions and symbols and soon they will learn about Hanukkah. The children have helped to pick their own lesson topics with positive results.

Rich Elkins and Jennifer Barr have been working with the Teens in a new curriculum, Heresy Apparent, which allows them to explore their UU spiritual heritage. They discussed Michael Servetus who was burned at the stake for his non-Trinitarian beliefs and they have been learning about historical UU's as they work to guess each other's secret UU identities.

The Teens are planning to ring in the New Year with bowling and a lock-in on New Year's Eve. They will meet at the bowling alley at 5pm. After bowling, they will travel to the church for the lock-in. There will be plenty of food, drinks, movies, and games all night and breakfast will be served in the morning.

We are always excited to see new faces and talents in RE. If you would like to volunteer to be an assistant teacher, help in the nursery, bring food to an event, or create a bulletin board, please contact me.

Patty Gade

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, January 26th, to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for this distribution. Please arrive by 8:30/9:00am to receive your assignments. The distribution begins at 9:00am until 12:00pm. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

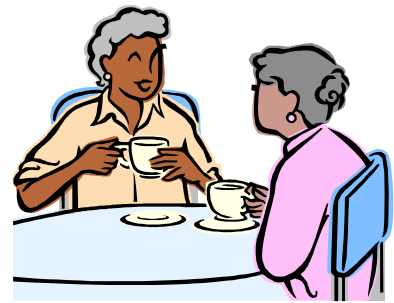
If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

FIRST BORN COLLECTIONS

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters. If you have food items, non-perishable, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

From the Caring committee



How would you feel if you were a Member of the UUCG, regularly participating in congregational activities, and you became ill or a family member became ill, or for some other reason, you went several months or more without attending any sort of congregational function....and no one contacted you to inquire about your absence!

In an effort to make sure no UUCG Member “goes missing” for an extended period of time without an explanation, the Caring Committee, which is Sue Daughtry, Ruth Leggett, Janet Doig and Nancy Shires, has assigned each Member to a Caring Group. Every Caring Group has a Caring Captain. These Caring Captains have agreed to know who you are and to pay attention enough to know if you happen to “go missing”!

So, if you are a Member and happen to take “leave” from congregational life, your Caring Captain will be contacting you to let you know we miss you and we care about you!

This program has already begun for Members. If you are a Friend, someone who makes an active contribution of support to UUCG, but have not, for whatever reason, become a Member, you are invited to voluntarily participate in this program and become part of a Caring Group for Friends. Contact Rev. Ann Marie or Nancy Shires and let us know if you would like to be included and you will be.

The Caring Committee’s role as defined in UUCG’s Policy Manual is to “perform caring functions, such as sending cards, flowers, phone calls, or meals for members and friends who are ill, or are experiencing life transitions, or are in need of special attention.” Due to limited financial resources this year, the committee has temporally suspended the practice of sending flowers. Despite the temporary “no flowers” situation, we hope that the formation of Caring Groups and the recruitment of Caring Captains for each of these groups will better serve to increase our “caring function”, so that no one who joins UUCG or is a Friend of UUCG will fall between any “cracks”, without our noticing!!!

Thanks to all who have already agreed to serve as Caring Captions: Sylvia English, Lora Hylton, Janet Doig, Marcia Sobel, Jackie Wyman, Toni Britt-Tyer, Joanie DeGroot, Ruth Leggett, Patrice Alexander and Claudia Sundman.

Upcoming Installation Service....

On the first Sunday in February at 5 pm, UUCG will “install” the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman. Whenever a UU congregation calls a full-time minister by means of a congregational vote and with an open-ended agreement, it is customary to celebrate the new relationship between congregation and minister with an “Installation” ceremony. It is kind of like a marriage ceremony! We’ve been living together for a while now, getting to know one another, after agreeing to be formally engaged. We’ve even bought the house and started making payments! Now it is time to get married and invite the all our friends to the party! We will speak our “vows” to each other. We will hear beautiful music and moving words. We will be with all those folks we care about and those who care about us!



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE INSTALLATION
OF OUR NEW MINISTER

THE REVEREND ANN MARIE ALDERMAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2008
AT 5:00 P.M.

121 OAKMONT DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

RECEPTION FOLLOWS

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

CLERGY, RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS AND SEMINARIANS ARE INVITED TO ROBE AND PROCESS

Please RSVP call 252-355-6658, or email: office@uugreenvillenc.org



Be sure to check the UUCG website at www.uugreenvillenc.org for calendar updates

Rev. Ann Marie's cell phone number is 414-4076
Her office Hours are Tuesdays 11:30—1:30, Weds 4-6 pm

January 2008

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 8:30 am Breakfast at K&W Cafeteria	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Forum 10:30 Worship, How Free Are We?, Rev. Ann Marie	7 7 pm Commit- tee on Ministry meeting	8 8:30 am Breakfast at K&W Cafeteria 6:30 pm Social Action Cmt	9 6 pm Soup & Sharing 7 pm Orienta- tion 8:30 pm Choir	10 7 pm Council Meeting	11	12 9 am B&G Workday 7 pm Teen Night
13 9:30 am Forum 10:30 am Wor- ship, Membership Noon Worship Committee 7 pm UU Medita- tion	14 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting	15 8:30 am Breakfast at K&W Cafeteria	16 6 pm Soup & Sharing 7 pm Principles & Purposes 8:30 pm Choir	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Fo- rum 10:30 am Is Love the An- swer?, Ed Day	21 7 pm Board Meeting	22 8:30 am Breakfast at K&W Cafeteria	23 6 pm Soup & Sharing 7 pm Principles & Purposes 8:30 pm Choir	24	25	26 9 am First Born
27 9:30 am Forum 10:30 am Wor- ship, Democratic Process, Rev. Ann Marie	28	29 8:30 am Breakfast at K&W Cafeteria	30 6 pm Soup & Sharing 7 pm Principles & Purposes 8:30 pm Choir	31		

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Director, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman

February Newsletter
Deadline

Jan 22nd

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds, Ruel Tyer
Endowment, Bill Paulson
Finance, Paul Alston
Hospitality, Gail Butler and Marcia Sobel
Membership, Jackie Wyman
Religious Education, Patty Gade
Social Action, Marta Dominguez
Worship, Bruce Maxwell

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