

# The UUCG Beacon

January 2011

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
www.uugreenvillenc.org  
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi  
beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 2  
*Are We Here Yet?*  
Rev. Etta Breit

January 9  
*Harvest the Power*  
Rev. Ann Marie

January 16  
*Green our Dream*  
Rev. Ann Marie

January 23  
*Preach the Kindness*  
Rev. Ann Marie

January 30  
*Imbolc Celebration*  
Green Weavers CUUPS

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

I knew the moment I mentioned the almost too nice weather I would jinx it and boy, was I right. Hopefully, even in the midst of the really cold weather and somewhat unexpected snowfalls everyone has been able to make their holiday preparations and will be able to celebrate with good cheer! This month is a busy one for UUCG as our mem-

bers wrap gifts at Barnes and Nobles for at least three fundraising efforts— Claudia is definitely back! The Gilda's Club initiative is going great guns. According to Pat Anderson, they are very close to having the \$5,000 that they need to trigger a \$5,000 matching gift by the end of the year!

Our Stewardship Committee has planned a great Pledge Campaign that will be kicked off in January. Our Program Council will be meeting early in the New Year with a focus on our each committee's work contributes to our strategic goals. In the mean time we are asking our Committee Chairs for their input as we work on our 2011-2012 budget. We have received a letter from The Reverend Peter Morales, UUA President, notifying us that the UUA is asking for a \$2.00 per member increase, from \$56.00 to \$58.00, in the suggested Fair Share congregational contributions for 2011-2012 so we will need to factor that in to our budget planning. At our last Board meeting we were excited to learn that we have gained another new member, Ruth Abramson. So we now have 103 members. We approved the revised UUCG Policy Manual; it will soon be posted on our website. The church now has a new flaming chalice banner, courtesy of the children's RE class, which was presented to the congregation this past Sunday. Its semi-permanent home will be the middle hallway, across from the water fountain. Special thanks to Jennifer Thielen and Brenda Stewart for their help with this project.

We are all facing challenges these days. Each one of us has much to share- at the same time we each need support and understanding at times. The difficulty is in knowing when and how our decisions and behaviors impact others. This is the time of year for each of us to do questioning of our priorities as we make our New Year's resolutions. Hopefully we will each ask ourselves why we make certain commitments and what UUCG means to us, our families, and our communities. Please be as generous as you can be, with your time, talents, and resources when you are asked to contribute to a project or initiative. It is an exciting time here at UUCG and I am confident that together we can do much for those in need with the energy and passion that is UUCG!

In Gratitude and Covenant,

*Patrice Alexander*  
Patrice Alexander, President  
UUCG Board of Trustees,  
2010-2011

### **Please Save the Date**

The Ambience Committee invites you to a reception on Friday, January 21, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in honor of **Bee Behr** who will exhibit her art work on our walls during January and February. Bee has been a member of our congregation since 1962. Her paintings and ceramics have been displayed in various venues in Pitt County and beyond. Please join us in honoring Bee and welcoming her family and friends.

# Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Three, at least three, exciting things are on the horizon for UUCG in 2011. All three are important so I am not implying any relative merit in this trinity!

First, January will see the beginnings of our pledge drive for the 2011/12 church year.

You'll be receiving a pledge card and printed information. You'll be receiving messages from the stewardship committee and from me. You'll be receiving an invitation to a gathering in someone's home. All of these various and copious invitations are meant to elicit your response! What financial contribution might you be able to commit to UUCG? We won't know what we can do to make our dream green in Greenville, until we know how much green there will be, so please respond by filling out your pledge card!

Secondly, the Gilda's Club project is generating tremendous support from you as congregational members and friends and from many individuals within the wider Eastern Carolina community. It is exciting to see all the interest, activity and support for something so obviously needed for all those who are living with cancer. If you aren't already involved, please see me or Pat Anderson to get in on this wonderful opportunity to make a BIG difference.

Thirdly, I will be leading Adult Religious Education again on Wednesday's starting January 19, at 5:30 pm. We will be using the brand new Leadership Training curriculum called; "Harvest the Power". It doesn't matter if you are already a congregational leader, or just thinking of becoming one....some day. We will learn together about the challenges of leadership, how being a leader can be rewarding and an opportunity for spiritual growth as well as skill development. We explore power and authority, the turning points and opportunities that create a UU leader identity. We will look at the choices we make, and how we might best honor our own needs as well as others. Anyone is welcome to join in on Wednesday's, the best part is always the small group opportunity to get to know each other better!

*Ann Marie*

**Guest Speaker for the January 2 Worship Service  
Rev. Etta Breit, "Am I Here Yet?"**

Rev. Etta Breit, PhD, is an ordained interfaith minister and retired hospice chaplain. She is an active member of the UU Fellowship of Wilmington, where she currently serves on the Committee on Shared Ministry and offers workshops on "Healing our Spiritual Wounds." She has had careers as a marriage and family therapist and women's studies faculty. Her beliefs reflect Eastern religious thought.

**Staff**

**Minister:** Rev. Ann Marie Alderman  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

**Board of Trustees**

**President:** Patrice Alexander  
**Vice President:** Bev Harju  
**Secretary:** Susan Foreman  
**Treasurer:** Brenda Stewart  
**At-Large:** Alan Bailey  
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**At-Large:** Tom Thielen

**Committee Chairs**

**Ambiance:** Terry Shank  
**Building Maintenance:** Feryl Masters, & Pat Tesh  
**Communication:** Rich Elkins  
**Endowment:** Bill Paulson  
**Finance:** Paul Alston  
**Fundraising:** Feryl Masters  
**Hospitality:** Lynn Caverly & Pat Dix  
**Membership:** Bud & Phyllis Hazel  
**Youth Religious Education:** Jennifer Thielen  
**Stewardship:** Feryl Masters  
**Social Action:** Tom Long & Pat Anderson  
**Worship:** Gladie Hamilton

# Social Action

## Social Action Report

Our enthusiastic Friends of Gilda group is rapidly moving toward opening a Gilda's Club for people who have cancer and their families. We have started attracting people outside UUCG who want to work on the project. Although we have not yet started formally fundraising, we have raised \$4,886. If we raise only \$114 more before the end of December, we will also get all of a pledged \$5,000 matching grant! If all goes well, we'll be starting the year off with \$10,000 toward our goal! For more information, contact Pat Anderson [patanderson@suddenlink.net](mailto:patanderson@suddenlink.net) (252) 414-9986.



Music Director, Mort Stine and musician Bob Jeffcott play at the Holiday Music Service

## Funraising

As you read this, we should be at or near our budget goal of raising \$5,500. Our Spring Car Wash should put us comfortably above our budget. We did this while having fun, and much of this money came from outside our Congregation. It's nice to meet all of one's goals. Thanks for everyone's help! Let's do it again next year.



Choir Director, Stephen Brand and musician Erin Helvig perform at the Holiday Music Service

## UUreHome Travel

--Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, can fulfill your dream. For thirty years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The last paper edition will be published in April 2011, since most members now use the website exclusively, at a cost of only \$10 for a year's access to the current listings. For a copy of the 2011 paper directory plus a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

## Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee will begin hosting small group meetings in January and February to talk about our next year and your pledge. Our pledges are our main source of money for the things we want to do. They allow us to have the great services and special events that enrich our lives. They help us provide a religious education for our youth to prepare them to be caring, loving, and responsible adults. It allows us to reach out into our communities and work to make our world a better place for us and others. Please come to one of the meetings so we can hear from you, and you can find out more about what we hope to do in upcoming years. I also want to thank all of you who have agreed to host a meeting. I'm told they're fun, but I know they also take time and effort to prepare for.

**Affirming  
justice,  
equity and  
compassion  
towards all**

# Religious Education

## Youth Religious Education Report

Season's Greeting from RE! We hope you are keeping warm & cheerful as we enjoy our various winter celebrations of light and giving. The children are very proud of the chalice banner that they helped make and gifted to the congregation. If you missed the presentation, the banner will be hanging in the hallway near the water fountain, so be sure to take a look at it when you have the chance.

It's hard to believe that our year is coming to a close. I want to extend our thanks to all of the very dedicated individuals who have helped make this year's Religious Education classes a success for our children. We can't do this without you. I hope you are all ready for an exciting year in 2011. Our Tweens are finishing up their unit about Self-Exploration and will be moving on to their unit on our Judeo-Christian Heritage. The Primary class is moving into their next curriculum unit: The Unique Child. This is an opportunity for them to explore in depth just how unique each of us is, and supports the self-esteem of our young ones who are growing up so fast. As part of their curriculum the Primary class is preparing for an overnight retreat on January 21st, with hot cocoa and marshmallows, and a lot of fun. Please mark your calendars. The Tweens will have an overnight stay into the spring and we'll have more details on that later in the year.

We do have something else to look forward to in the New Year that I'd like to go ahead and mention. By popular demand, Harry Potter will be making a comeback in 2011! As agreed by the RE Committee at this month's meeting, Hogwarts's Academy will be our curriculum for Sunday mornings next summer. Thank you, Taylor Sparrow, for bringing up the idea. We're looking forward to taking another trip into the magical world where we are encouraged to do what is right rather than what is easy. Let us know if you'd like to offer your services as one of our professors or if you have some suggested courses for our summer session.

Stay warm and enjoy the holidays. We hope to hear from those who would like to work with us in 2011. With all of us working together, it's going to be amazing!

Holiday Blessings

Jennifer Thielen  
Chair, YRE




## Living Mindfully in January and February

The Living Mindfully Group is open to all who wish to practice guided mindfulness meditations together. We meet in the Library Room on Sundays from 9:50-10:25 am. Mindfulness meditation raises our awareness of how the mind and body interact. By observing and accepting what happens we can develop the skill of guiding our attention to deeper, more spiritual and psychologically helpful experiences. One's ability to experience life is expanded. While the group meditations are powerful in themselves, home practice of mindfulness and meditation is encouraged because it is essential for deepening these skills. Practice, practice, practice. For those who wish to read about mindfulness, I recommend three books: Germer, Christopher [2009] *The Mindful Path to Self-compassion*, Thich Nhat Hanh [1975] *The Miracle of Mindfulness: An Introduction to the Practice of Meditation*, and Kabat-Zinn [1994]. *Wherever You Go There You Are. Mindfulness Meditation for Everyday Life*. If you are interested or have questions, please call or email Bev Harju, harjubev@yahoo.com or 252-258-1212.

## UU Leadership Course

Adult Religious Education will begin again on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 5:30 pm. Rev. Ann Marie will lead a 12 session course on UU leadership, called "Harvest the Power". Anyone is invited to attend.

~ January 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully  10:30a-11:30a "Am I Here Yet", Rev. Etta Breit  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>3</b> 6:30a-10:30a Building Cleaning  5:15p-6:15p Worship Committee meeting  7p-8:30p Finance Committee meeting	<b>4</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>5</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>6</b> 7p-8p Stewardship Facilitators Meeting	<b>7</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group  7p-9p First Friday Fun Night	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully  10:30a-11:30a "Harvest the Power", Rev. Ann Marie  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>10</b> 6:30a-10:30a Building Cleaning  7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/Finance Team  7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club Meeting	<b>11</b> 8a-9:30a Gilda's Club  8a-9a Breakfast Group  3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>12</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>13</b> 7p-8p Social Action Committee Meeting	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully  10:30a-11:30a "Green our Dream", Rev. Ann Marie  12p-1p Lunch Group  5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	<b>17</b> 6:30a-10:30a Building Cleaning	<b>18</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-9p The Coffee Party  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>19</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  5:30p-7p Adult Religious Education  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>20</b> 10a-11:30a Gilda's Club 101  7p-8:30p Gilda's Club 101	<b>21</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group  4:30p-6p Art Reception	<b>22</b> 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution  6p-6p YRE overnight
<b>23</b> YRE overnight  9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully  10:30a-11:30a "Preach the Kindness", Rev. Ann Marie  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>24</b> 1:30p-2:30p Caring Committee Meeting  7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting  7p-8:30p Book Club  7p-8:30p Interfaith Alliance/St. Paul's Epis.	<b>25</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/Fundraising & Marketing Teams  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>26</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  5:30p-7p Adult Religious Education  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>27</b> 7p-8:30p council?  7p-8p UU Men's Group	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully  10:30a-11:30a Imbolc Celebration of Hearth and Home  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>31</b> 6:30a-10:30a Building Cleaning					

**Denominational Affairs**

Just a reminder that this June, the General Assembly (GA) will be held in Charlotte, NC. This is an opportunity to see a GA without having to travel across the country. I encourage you to plan to attend the GA the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>. You may also want to attend the Eastern Cluster meeting March 19<sup>th</sup>, The TJD Choir Festival April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the District meeting April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Happy Birthday to UUs this January**

- Jan 11 –Rich Elkins
- Jan 15– Kelly Kurz
- Jan 17– Judi Hickson
- Jan 22– Gary Greer
- Jan 24– Sue Daughtry

**New Event**

We're starting something new in January. First Friday Fundays will start January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. The goal is to have a regular time to get together and have some fun. We want to hold events that all ages can enjoy at little or no cost. January will be a Games Night. People are encouraged to bring one or more of their favorite games. You can play something you bring, or try someone else's game. We are planning movie nights and hope to try other events. Perhaps you have a suggestion?



The Choir sings at the Holiday Music Service

Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, January 25 at 8:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist  
 Congregation of Greenville  
 131 Oakmont Drive  
 Greenville, NC 27858  
 252-355-6658

