



The UUCG Beacon

January 2012

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

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 1
NO SERVICE

January 8
The Tong Len Project
Derek Maher

January 15
Who is Jesus? Part 4
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

January 22
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

November 27
Fifth Sunday
The Humane Society

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.



President's Notes

As 2011 ends, we are reminded to look at the past year for our visions of who we spiritually strive to be and whether we are fulfilling our goals. Are we on our right track? We foster this vision by joining our kindred spirits at UUCG and, for two dozen of us, attending the UUA General Assembly in Charlotte. We are very deeply inspired by the energy and messages from UU's around us. It is difficult to overstate how much we are nurtured and even mentally stimulated by this. Dan Siegel provides some shockingly innovative ideas about our social brains in his book, *The Mindful Brain*. Researchers now pinpoint and map brain-body regions that operate when our brains are working. Siegel states that a cultural evolution is creating and recreating us even more than the biological evolution. Just as attunement between parent and child is facilitated by mirror neurons in the brain, our lives are created by the energy and information reflexively interacting between mind and brain and interpersonal relationships. By enhancing our self-awareness, we are clearly capable of choosing how we want to be in the world, and I might add, with whom.

Now for the Board work. We addressed our financial picture again at the Board Meeting. We are further behind, about \$4,800, in pledges. We hope that many people are ready to catch up so that we can meet our budget goals. We must all work together as best we can to plan.

We were pleased to have Pat Tesh and Feryl Masters attend the meeting so that we could prioritize the timing and personnel for needed repairs from the Hurricane and father time. We have monies from our storm insurance reimbursement and the Building Committee budget. Pat, Feryl, and Ruel will lead volunteers in repairing siding, painting, windows and a door. Gutter work will be contracted out. They will provide a scheduled calendar of projects. We are deeply indebted to these men for all their work on our building! Please thank them yourself too and volunteer to help them. January 1st will be our next work day and we will have more of them. Just plan to help!

(continued on pg. 6)

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



In the past year I have been on a personal *mission* to learn how to use social media. Judging from how much time I now spend reading, posting and sharing I would say I am not a beginner anymore! Wonder what my mission

will be for 2012? I'm tired of the same old "lose weight" resolutions. I'd like my next personal improvement goal to be learning how to do something else that's new. It would also be great if, like learning to use social media, the next thing I get good at doing also takes advantage of my obsessive qualities! Maybe, I will learn to speak Spanish? I am sure I'd have to practice a lot to master a new language. Maybe, I will be practicing so much and so often my partner will say like she does now when I am using social media too much "enough already"! Maybe, I'll begin a new practice of sending monthly or weekly letters to the editor, or something else completely new and different.

I haven't decided yet exactly what my new learning will be, but I am looking forward to whatever and however the next year sends me forth...

Look it up! The definition of "mission" is to be sent forth. At UUCG we've already defined our "mission" in beautiful prose. I wonder about and I invite you to reflect on what shape our being sent forth will take in 2012? How will we ... "seek out those who have been turned away...embrace those whose spiritual path has been isolated...comfort the suffering...share our ...commitment to a more just and compassionate society". Always celebrating how we already in so many great ways fulfill this, our mission, what will we do new in 2012? What will we be sent forth to learn that we don't yet know? I'm excited to find out! I hope you are too... Happy New Year!

The REVEREND Ann Marie

Staff

Minister: [Rev. Ann Marie Alderman](#)

Youth Religious Education

Director: [Kimberly Scholl](#)

Music Director: Mort Stine

Choir Director: Sue Jefferson

Office Administrator:

[Michelle Covi](#)

Board of Trustees

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Vice President: [Tom Thielen](#)

Secretary: [Susan Foreman](#)

Treasurer: [Brenda Stewart](#)

At-Large: [Alan Bailey](#)

At-Large: [Judi Hickson](#)

Past President:

[Patrice Alexander](#)

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: [Terry Shank](#)

Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)

Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)

Endowment: [Bill Paulson](#)

Finance: [Paul Alston](#)

Fundraising: [Feryl Masters](#)

Hospitality: [Alice Arnold &](#)

[Ann Eleanor](#)

Membership: [Bud & Phyllis Hazel](#)

Youth Religious Education:

[Jennifer Thielen](#)

Stewardship: [Feryl Masters](#)

Social Action: [Tom Long &](#)

[Pat Anderson](#)

Worship: [Lynn Caverly](#)

UU Community Opportunities

Eno River Fellowship of Durham, NC Hosts Multiracial Conference

The Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Durham, NC cordially invites members and friends of your congregation to participate in a one-day conference on building a multicultural congregation. The conference is from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sat., Feb. 11, 2012 on the Eno River campus, 4907 Garrett Rd., Durham.

Led by UUA's Multicultural Congregations Program Coordinator Rev. Alicia R. Forde, the conference is titled "Transformations: Building a Multiracial and Multicultural Beloved Community." It opens with a keynote address by Rev. Forde, after which breakout groups will convene to consider issues in depth. Rev. Forde will present an experiential program, "Building the World We Dream About," in which participants will practice dreaming of ways to interrupt racism and transform how people from different racial and ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. In another breakout group, Southeast District President and member of the UU Fellowship of Beaufort, SC. Jim Key will facilitate a discussion on "Race and Place: Finding Opportunities for Witness and Linkage."

The conference is part of Eno River's Installation Weekend when Rev. Deborah Cayer will be recognized and celebrated as Eno River's fourth Lead Minister. A Service of Installation will take place at 4 p.m., Sun., Feb. 12, 2012 in the Fellowship's Sanctuary. Rev. Cayer has expressed her wish that the subject of congregational diversity be made a focus during Installation Weekend. The one-day conference is a fulfillment of that wish. In addition, the theme will be extended the next day when Rev. Forde preaches on a similar topic at both morning services.

A conference fee of \$15 includes lunch. Interested individuals can register online at www.eruuf.org or by calling the Fellowship office, 919-489-2575, or contacting Director of Administration Daniel Trollinger at dtrollinger@eruuf.org. The registration deadline is February 5.

Leadership Training Workshop: How do you know you are a Unitarian Universalist when you are not in church?

What does it mean to live the values and tradition of Unitarian Universalism every day? How do UUs and UU-sympathetic people create community, support, and accountability to live their values? Through popular education style workshops, worship, writing, reflection, and discussion, this participatory retreat will include time for exploring what it means to create UU Community and honor desires for deeper connections to one's religion and community. This is for anyone who is part of a UU Community within or outside a congregation, wants to imagine how to start a community or is curious about alternative ways to live in UU Community. Age is no barrier. Young adults, singles, families, retirees are all encouraged to attend and join in the conversation and creation of this retreat.

The retreat will be led by Rowan Van Ness and Heather Concannon from the Lucy Stone Coop in Boston. The coop is an intentional community living the values and tradition of Unitarian Universalism through cooperative home ownership. Members of the coop seek to grow a diverse community centered in justice. Through shared resources and faithful action, they align their daily lives with their core values of sustainability, spiritual practice, and social change.

UU Identity Workshop and Retreat

March 16 - 18, 2012 Haw River State Park, NC (near Greensboro)

Register at seduua.org <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/68JNKSW>

Religious Education

Happy Holidays from YRE!

The children had a great time preparing for and performing "Jingle Bells" for the congregation recently and it was a real treat to watch them sing. You may notice that I frequently report on the "fun" things that we do with the children in our congregation. We have lots of fun and laughter, but did you know that we tackle thought provoking and sometimes difficult topics as well? Our tweens group has been continuing their exploration and discussions about Jesus' life from a Unitarian Universalist perspective and our elementary students recently had a lesson on death and some of the emotions and beliefs surrounding the loss of a loved one. As always our children meet the challenge of addressing what can be very mature topics, and they often surprise us with their insights.

We can only broach these more serious topics, and foster the continued spiritual growth of our children, because of the dedication of our volunteer teachers. We have several members who take an interest in exploring these issues with our children and in guiding them where needed, and we are very thankful for the dedication of our teachers! Our community will continue to grow both in size and in fellowship when we work together.

As we enter a New Year, I would like to ask each of the members of our congregation to consider how they can help our community thrive, and I hope at least a few of you will express an interest in helping out with our youth. We need volunteers in the nursery as well as in the classrooms, and if you aren't sure you are up for teaching a lesson, you can always volunteer to be the second adult to help out in the room. Please contact me or Kimberly Scholl about how you can help.

Wishing you all a bountiful New Year!

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE

Shelter Neck Youth Summer Camp —Summer 2012

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SUMMER CAMP IN BURGAW, NC

Connecting youth from small, mid-size, and large congregations across Eastern and Central North Carolina. Each week will include workshops, games, music, campfires, out-ings, and more. The perfect setting in which to be silly, make lasting friends, and learn what makes UU youth so awesome! sponsored by the Universalist Convention Of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI)

High School Camp— July 22nd-28th
for ages 15-17 (rising 10th-12th graders)

Jr. High Camp - July 8th-14th
for ages 12-14 (rising 7th-9th graders)

Leadership Camp— June 24th-30th
for ages 15-17 (rising 10th-12th graders)

or more information, contact:
Agatha Buell, Camp Director
youthcamps@shelterneckuucamp.org
(415) 240-6638

~ January 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Rev. Ann Marie on vacation</p> <p>5:30a-8:30a Buddhist Sunrise Service</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a NO UUCG SERVICE!</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1p-2p Women's Lunch Group</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a The Tong Len Project: Derek Maher</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>1p-3p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Who is Jesus? Part 4, Rev. Ann Marie</p> <p>10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p> <p>12:30p-2p Council Meeting</p> <p>5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>1p-3p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p> <p>7p-9p Coffee Party meeting</p> <p>7p-8:30p Shelter Action Group meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1p-2p Women's Lunch Group</p> <p>7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Rev. Ann Marie</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7p-8:30p Book Club</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>1p-3p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p> <p>7p-8p UU Men's Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Fifth Sunday: The Humane Society</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>1p-3p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>				

Prez notes cont. from front...

I would like to remind us not to be discouraged by the discrepancy between our visions and our accomplishments. I heartily recommend viewing the film, "The most Dangerous Man in America". Daniel Ellsberg was the single force that brought the Pentagon papers to the press as a way of exposing the deception used by our presidents to justify the intense war efforts against Viet Nam. Despite the public's respect for his work, they remained indifferent and even re-elected Nixon. Ellsberg has made it his life work to expose injustice and the evil of war. We too must persist as much as possible to defend the causes we hold dear.

Happy New Year, 2012

Affirming the goal of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all

Happy Birthday to UUs this January

- Jan. 1– Jennifer Perry–Hidalgo
- Jan. 10– Jessica Lieberman
- Jan. 10– D. J. Hall
- Jan. 11– Rich Elkins
- Jan. 15– Kelly Kurz
- Jan. 17– Judi Hickson
- Jan. 22– Gary Greer
- Jan. 24– Sue Daughtry



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, January 17 at 8:00 pm

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131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
252-355-6658

