



# The UUCG Beacon

January 2013

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
 252-355-6658  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)  
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 6  
*When God Comes as a Baby*  
 Lynn Caverly

January 13  
*Poetry Sharing*  
 Paul Kumas

January 20  
*Commemorating Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
 Paul Kumas

January 27  
 TBA

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

*If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.*

—Woody Allen

(American comedian, screenwriter, actor, musician)

Something about the transition from December to January, from one year to the next, makes this time of year a natural time of reflection on the past and planning for the future. In that aspect, this year is no different. Assuming the world as we know it still exists after the "end" of the Mayan calendar, our Program Council, for instance, will meet to review the progress we have made since our goal setting retreat, and will plan for the rest of the year. Our Nominating Committee will begin thinking about who have been great leaders in the past, and who will make great leaders in the future. Our Stewardship Committee will begin reviewing prior canvassing campaigns and planning for this year's canvas.

But a few things make this year different.

During this annual time of reflection and planning, our nation has been hit by a tragic act of domestic terrorism. The horrors of the shooting spree at Sandy Hills Elementary School in Newtown, CT have been on the minds and in the homes of most Americans during this holiday season. May everyone affected directly or indirectly by this terrible event be embraced by the comfort, peace, support, and strength to move forward through the healing. May we as a nation reflect upon the incident with solemn mindfulness, then enact change that honors all touched by this violence.

Also during this time, we are also transitioning from our settled minister, to our interim minister. As reviewed in the recent Town Hall Meeting, Rev. Ann Marie Alderman will give her parting sermon on 12/23/12. During this service, she will be de-installed as our settled minister. In mid January, Rev Rod Thompson will take on his role as interim minister, providing transitional ministry during the search for and calling of our next settled minister, a process we anticipate requiring eighteen months. I'm sure everyone in our congregation looks forward to meeting and getting to know Rev. Rod and his wife Mary over that time. The impact they will have on our congregation has the potential to be a powerful and transformative one.

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# Committee News

## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee encourages your participation in our Sunday services in many ways.

- Beginning January 6, we invite congregants to light our chalice, sharing a short reading or thought. Ray and Marcia Sobel have graciously agreed to be our chalice lighters for the first service of 2013. We look forward to sharing this moment with many of you in the future.
- On January 13, we will have a poetry sharing. If you'd like to share a poem that moves you spiritually, please let us know to be included in the service planning.

On January 20, we will commemorate the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. How did Rev. King affect your life? Do you have stories to tell? Please share them with us!

If you have any thoughts or questions, please share them with Lynn Caverly ([caverlyl@ecu.edu](mailto:caverlyl@ecu.edu)) and Paul Kurmas ([pkurmas@gmail.com](mailto:pkurmas@gmail.com)).

## Social Action Committee, Shelter Group Report

The "½ the Plate" initiative has been successful this year in two respects: we have donated substantial amounts to local charities and we have done this without diminishing the additional sums put into our treasury beyond the pledges donated by the congregation. The following is a list of funds donated to the designated charities:

June - Cancer Support Community of Eastern NC	\$249.00
July - Greenville Community Shelters	\$300.04
August -A Time for Science	\$258.61
September -Humane Society of Eastern NC	\$285.09
October -First Born Community Dev. Cntr.	\$211.25
November -PiCasso	\$318.00
December - Little Willie Center (collections not complete yet)	

We have been told by the UUCG Board and benefactors involved, that approval has been granted to continue "½ the Plate" into 2013. Therefore we have developed a contribution list of charities for 2013, pending Board approval. The Cancer Support Community of Eastern NC will be the recipient for January 2013. The other charities will be announced after approval from the Board.

Pat Dix, Co-Chair Social Action Committee, Shelter Group

## Staff

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Rod Thompson  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## Board of Trustees

**President:** [Tom Thielen](#)  
**Vice President:** [Susan Foreman](#)  
**Secretary:** [Tammy Atchison](#)  
**Treasurer:** [Brenda Stewart](#)  
**At-Large:** Shannon Terry  
**At-Large:** [Judi Hickson](#)  
**At-Large:** [Patrice Alexander](#)

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** [Terry Shank](#)  
**Building Maintenance:** [Pat Tesh](#)  
**Communication:** [Rich Elkins](#)  
**Endowment:** [Bill Paulson](#)  
**Fellowship :** Cam Scales  
**Finance:** [Bill Paulson](#)  
**Fundraising:** [Feryl Masters](#)  
**Hospitality:** [Louise Sharpless](#), [Judy Drum](#) & [Ann Eleanor](#)  
**Membership:** [Bud](#) & [Phyllis Hazel](#)  
**Youth Religious Education:** [Jennifer Thielen](#)  
**Stewardship:** [Patrice Alexander](#)  
**Social Action:** [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)  
**Worship:** [Lynn Caverly](#) & [Paul Kumas](#)

## Religious Education

Happy Holidays from YRE!

We are quite pleased to let everyone know that childcare is now available in the nursery starting at 9:25 am for those who wish to attend the Mindfulness/Meditation sessions on Sunday mornings. We hope this will make it easier for some of our members to attend.

Our regular classes are going well as the children continue working through their respective curriculum.\* The children are quite engaged by the materials, which is not surprising considering their inquisitive natures. Kimberly, our Director of Religious Education, has been working to make sure the children have engaging class materials, and a pleasant classroom. The addition of the new storage building has allowed her to clear out quite a bit of clutter from our classrooms, which makes the physical space much more appealing. We are very appreciative of the members who have made the new storage building possible.

Most of the work done by the committees of the UUCG is made possible by member generosity. Not only a financial generosity (although that is quiet helpful when it is time to purchase supplies or pay for staff), but a generosity of time. Each Sunday the Youth Religious Education classes need six adult volunteers (seven are needed if there are four or more children in the nursery), in addition to the paid nursery staff and director, in order to hold classes. Each classroom needs one teacher and a second adult in order to insure a safe and productive environment. We have not been meeting our goal number of volunteers as of late. I suspect that it is, at least partially, due to busy time of year where we may forgo some of our normal activities and change our schedules to accommodate additional seasonal commitments.

We have been doing our best to work around the lack of volunteers, but our efforts will not be sustainable in the long term. The responsibility of providing classes and an environment that will safely foster the spiritual and intellectual growth of our youth is too big to be taken on by so few. We need the commitment of our entire congregation behind this program. We are hopeful that in the relative calm of the post-holiday season we will see an increase in volunteers. Practicality dictates, however, that we also work on contingency plans for the Sundays where we do not have enough volunteers to properly staff each room. This may include having some of the children stay with their parents during the services if their classroom is not fully staffed. Notice will be given as soon as these plans are finalized.

I hope everyone enjoys their holidays and has a bright start to their new year.

Jennifer Thielen

Chair, Youth Religious Education Committee

### \*Current Youth Religious Education Class Offerings

Nursery Care: age appropriate play for children birth through age four

Elementary Class: Holiday and Holydays, an exploration of diverse religious traditions through their holidays.

Tweens Class: Toolbox of Faith, a reflection on the qualities of the UU faith and how they can be used as "tools" in daily life.

Teens Class: Neighboring Faiths, an in depth exploration of differing religions using discussions and visits to other faith communities.

## Funraising

Mark your calendar for January 26. That's when we will hold our first Bingo night. Join us for a great meal at 6:00 followed by Bingo. Fun for all ages. Come for either food or Bingo or both. We'll have fun and prizes.

Our next Funraising event will be the Service Auction. On February 16<sup>th</sup>, we'll be auctioning off meals, labor, and all kinds of enjoyable possibilities. If you have something to be auctioned, contact Feryl Masters at [oferyl@gmail.com](mailto:oferyl@gmail.com). Make sure you come to the Auction. You don't have to bid, but I'm sure we'll have some things you want. It's fun to watch, even if you don't buy anything.

# Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

## SUMMER CAMP for UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST YOUTH (AGES 12-17)

Join us for an inspiring, community-oriented, fun filled week this summer! 2013 Summer Registration is now open for Shelter Neck Youth Camp, a Unitarian Universalist summer camp located in eastern North Carolina.

Junior High Camp - July 7-13th - a fun-filled week of workshops, music, games, campfires, and UU community

High school Camp - July 14-20th - a week of fun, relaxation, friendship, discussion, silliness, and UU community

Youth Leadership Retreat - June 26-29<sup>th</sup> for youth interested in developing leadership and community building skills and in helping to create future camp programs

We are also currently recruiting counselors and adult volunteers (ages 18 to 200!) - consider joining us!

To register, get more information, or find out about counselor & volunteer opportunities, please contact our Summer Camp Director, Agatha Buell Eggers, [youthcamps@shelterneckuucamp.org](mailto:youthcamps@shelterneckuucamp.org), (415) 240-6638, or check out our website <http://www.shelterneckuucamp.org/YouthCamp/youthcamp.htm>.

In Faith,

Agatha Buell Eggers

~ January 2013 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>2</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>5</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>6</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a When God Comes As a Baby, led by Lynn Caverly  12p-1p Lunch Group  12p-1p Program Council	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>9</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>10</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>13</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Poetry Sharing Service, led by Paul Kurmas  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>14</b> 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting  7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting	<b>15</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>16</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>18</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group  7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	<b>19</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>20</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Commemorating Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., led by Paul Kurmas  12p-1:30p Council meeting  12p-1p Lunch Group  5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	<b>21</b> 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>22</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  4p-5p Caring Committee Meeting  6p-8p Democracy NC  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>23</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>25</b> 6p-9p Bingo night	<b>26</b> 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution  9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>27</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  12p-1p Lunch Group  12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	<b>28</b> 7p-8:30p Book Club	<b>29</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>30</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>31</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness		

### Prez notes continued.....

In the intervening weeks between Ann Marie’s departure, and Rod’s arrival, the worship committee has worked very hard in planning for several lay-led services. The caring committee has been planning for the meeting of pastoral care needs in the transition. Your Board, Program Council, and other leaders have been preparing for the transition, and for meeting the needs of the congregation during this time. And we are counting on each of you to support one another as a loving faith community during this transition, as you have always done.

With all of this review and planning in place, things should go off without a hitch, right? Or is that God’s laughter I hear?

Tom Thielen  
President  
UUCG Board of Trustees

### 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. 12– Ashley McIver
- Jan. 15– Kelly Kurtz
- Jan. 17– Judi Hickson
- Jan. 22– Gary Greer
- Jan. 24– Sue Daughtry



Deadline for next month’s **Beacon** is Tuesday, January 22 at 8:00 pm

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