



# The UUCG Beacon

February 2013

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

February 3

*You Dime! Your Time!  
Make it Happen! A  
Sermon on the Amount*  
Rev. Rod Thompson

February 10

*Bright Galaxy?*  
Brenda Stewart

February 17

*Your Work in the  
Interim Ministry*  
Rev. Rod Thompson

February 24

*Rules for Living*  
Rev. Rod Thompson

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

*Love keeps the cold out better than a cloak.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (Unitarian, poet)

I find this quotation especially poignant as I contemplate this time of year. For me, cold hands and a warm heart have always been the norm for February. There is just something about the cold, harsh weather that makes me take stock of the sources of love in my life. The love of learning, of truth, of freedom, of justice. The love of friends and family, of good meals and good conversations. The love of beauty. The love of order. The love of calm stillness. And let's not forget the love of flannel clothing, cozy blankets, and hot chocolate.

And yet, when I consider the words of Longfellow, I begin to see that my introspection may be only half of the story. Certainly love can, and does, keep the cold out of our lives, but let's not forget what love can do for the lives of those around us. Loving others gives them a hope and strength beyond what they can muster. Loving others validates their worth. Loving others affords them the freedoms to be their more authentic selves. Loving others eases their burdens. Loving others makes them feel less alone. Loving others can counter their own hate and indifference (as well as our own). Loving others inspires further courageous acts of love.

As we enter into the annual pledge campaign, I want to encourage each and every one of you to think about who and what you love, and how you show and share that love. I know I also speak for a large number of the congregation, when I say I love the UUCG. And I love what the UUCG brings to the world. At times, I show my love by just attending service. Other times, I show my love through sharing my story, thoughts, and needs with others, while helping them share their stories, thoughts, and needs with me. I show my love through pledging. I show my love through volunteerism. In short, I show my love through involvement in the life of the church.

*Continued on pg. 6*

## News You Can Use

### February Worship Services

Feb 3 **“Your Dime! Your Time! Make it happen! A Sermon on the Amount”** Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister  
 I'll be up front. My goal is to encourage you to consider your pledge to this congregation as a religious expression. It is a way for you to put your values into action. And it is a part of being in a community, supporting its work, as demonstrating our caring for each other and the world around us.

Feb 10 **“Bright Galaxy”** Brenda Stewart

Feb 17 **“Your Work in the Interim Ministry”**  
 Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister  
 During our time together we will be engaged in the TASKS OF INTERIM MINISTRY as outlined by the Transitions Office at the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Interim Ministry Network. My job is to help you through this time of transition to make it as fruitful and satisfying as possible. This service is about your part of that effort. See you in church.

Feb 24 **“Rules for Living”** Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister  
 Rules for living? We all have them. Sometimes we are aware of them and sometimes we're not. They are the rules we live by. It's what our parents tried to teach us, and what we try to teach our children and grandchildren. So, I'll offer you five such rules that I try to live by. See you in church

### Social Action Committee, Shelter Group Report

The Social Action Committee, Shelter Group, submitted to the UUCG Board a list of charities for "1/2 the Plate" project for their review. The following charities have been approved:

- January-** Cancer Support Community of Eastern NC
- February-** Neighbor to Neighbor Program in Ayden, NC (a fuel assistance program for the poor)
- March-** Food Bank of NC, Greenville
- April-** Joy Soup Kitchen
- May-** Greenville Community Shelters, Inc.
- June-** First Born Community Ministries

Pat Dix and Pat Tesh, Co-Chairs

### 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](#)

## Committees In Action

**The Hospitality Committee**, Ann Eleanor, Chair, is always on the look-out for people to bring in refreshments and help with kitchen duties for Sunday after-service. Individual tasks include setting up 3 coffee urns and sodas, setting out cups and condiments, napkins and food. Directions are posted in the kitchen. The sign-up form is on the bulletin board.

**The Buildings and Grounds Committee** composed of Feryl Masters, Pat Tesh, Joan Rapier, Don Hudson, Kay Alston and Terry Shank has been involved in reorganizing areas to include storage space for our various functions. Thanks to an anonymous donor, a storage building was erected by Feryl with help from Don, while Pat handled caulking and painting of the side and front of our main building. Any day now the congregation's name in large letters will adorn the front, which will also feature a weather friendly beautiful chalice. This long-time need, too, was made possible by another anonymous donor.

You will have noticed that the parking lot is now lighted by a utility pole light which we have rented from the city. The city has pledged to remove the tree whose roots are damaging the parking lot. In return we will plant two small trees in that area. There is always something to be repaired or improved upon. Volunteer help is surely needed.

**The Caring Committee** composed of Gladie Hamilton, Tammy Atchinson, Claudia Sundman, Ruth Abramson and Dorothea Handron reach out to members of concern. Please let them know of those having difficulties.

**Youth Religious Education** is a responsibility for all of us. Jennifer Thielen heads the committee while Director Kimberley Scholl oversees the program. At the moment there are many empty slots for us to fill on Sundays in February as assistants to teachers at the levels of Elementary and Kindergarten, of Tweens and in the Nursery. Help is needed to assist in the planned curriculum.

The lead person for the nursery is Sarah McKenna, slots for Elementary/ Kindergarten are open, Rich Elkins leads the Tweens. The Teens are taught by Cam Scales and Susan Foreman.

If each of us would choose just one Sunday, the children would be cared for and the responsibility would be fairly shared. Do see Jennifer or Kimberley to volunteer.

**Funraising Committee** shares these "Save the Dates":

Bingo on January 25 – Service Auction on February 16 – Car wash in May

Approximately \$700 was raised from the last three McAllister Deli nights.

Holiday Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Nobles raised brought in \$1695 for the Church and \$1100 for the Cancer Support Community. A big thank you goes to Claudia for coordinating "The Wrap".

Be sure to check this column in the next Bulletin for further Committee In Action news!!

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

## Up Coming Events

*Pledge Your Dime! Pledge Your Time! And Make it Happen!*

**We're not just kicking off the Pledge Drive, we're celebrating our future!** Join us, after the service on February 3, for a pot luck celebration with food, fun and fellowship. This is an exciting time for our congregation. Come welcome our Interim Minister, Reverend Rod Thompson, and his wife Mary. Help us plan for the transformation of our congregation. Please e-mail Patrice Alexander at [peal-exa123@yahoo.com](mailto:peal-exa123@yahoo.com) to let us know if you plan to attend and what you would like to bring.

Our opening celebration will be followed by a series of small group meetings where you can share your vision for our future and let us know how you want to contribute. Most meetings will be held on Sundays after the service, February 10 through the end of March. Child care will be available for several dates. You can sign-up for the small group meetings at the pot luck. If you cannot attend the pot luck on February 3, please e-mail Alice Arnold at [arnoldm@ecu.edu](mailto:arnoldm@ecu.edu) to let us know what Sunday you would like to stay after the service for the small group meeting.

**We need for everyone to be involved!!**

### Service Auction February 16

Our service Auction fundraiser is coming on Saturday February 16th at 7 pm. We need donations of services and items. Meals and labor are always popular. Perhaps a gift certificate from your favorite local business is available. Contact Feryl Masters ([oferyl@gmail.com](mailto:oferyl@gmail.com)) for forms or information. Also, we need bidders. Make sure to mark the date on your calendar and bring your friends. We always have fun, and refreshments will be served.

### Greetings from Youth Religious Education

Our classes are going quite well, and I just recently learned that some families are traveling quite a distance to have their children attend RE on Sundays. I'm quite honored that these families, as well as the ones from "in town", see the value in what we offer. Those of us who work in RE have made great efforts to make sure that the curriculum we use is well matched to the children we are serving, and I believe we are seeing those efforts pay off.

Even when something is going well, there are always areas for improvement. Some of you may have noticed we are continuing to work to improve our physical space to give the children an inviting work area. We have been able to make great strides towards that goal because of generous donations of funds and time which have resulted in a new storage building. One of the other areas we need to improve is following all of our procedures on staffing for RE each Sunday. Meeting these goals will require some assistance from our congregation as well.

If there are four or more children in the Nursery, an additional adult is needed. Our nursery worker can keep no more than three children without additional assistance. Please plan on staying in nursery, or coordinating with another adult of your choice to assist, if there are already three children when you arrive.

Lead teachers and second adults are needed for the Elementary and Tweens classes. If a particular class is understaffed the children for that class will be returned to the front to enjoy services with their parents.

Nursery care and YRE classes are scheduled to end at the end of the worship service. Children should be picked up from the nursery and classrooms immediately following services and should remain under the supervision of their parents during the coffee hour. Children are not allowed in the back classrooms unsupervised at any time.

Thank you in advance for helping us make sure that each classroom is properly staffed and that all of our procedures are followed. Having these aspects of RE "covered" will allow the RE committee and Director to continue to focus our efforts to bringing meaningful education to our classrooms.

Jennifer Thielen

Chair, Youth Religious Education

~ February 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>2</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>3</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a "Your Dime! Your Time! Make it Happen! A Sermon on the Amount", Rev. Rod Thompson  12p-1p Stewardship Kick-off Potluck Lunch	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>6</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>7</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>10</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Bright Galaxy? lead by Brenda Stewart  12p-1p Lunch Group  12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings	<b>11</b> 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting  7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting	<b>12</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>13</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>14</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>15</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group  7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	<b>16</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-9:30p Service Auction
<b>17</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Your Work in the Interim Ministry  12p-1p Lunch Group  12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings  5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	<b>18</b> 3p-5:30p CSCENC Board Meeting  7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>19</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>20</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>21</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution  9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>24</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Rules for Living  12p-1p Lunch Group  12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting  12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings	<b>25</b> 7p-8:30p Book Club	<b>26</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  4p-5p Caring Committee Meeting  6p-8p Democracy NC  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>27</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>28</b> 9a-10:30a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness  6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness		

**Prez notes continued.....**

And I am obviously not alone in showing and sharing that love. From the food and fellowship after service, to the building’s exterior renovations; from our presence and involvement in local charities, to our children’s religious education; from our committee meetings, to our celebration of life services; from our music to our newsletter, from the Sunday sermon to the infinite behind the scenes tasks, the evidence of love for the UUCG is all around.

May our shared love of Unitarian Universalism and the UUCG continue to inspire further courageous acts of love, both with and beyond our four walls.

Tom Thielen  
President  
UUCG Board of Trustees

**Happy Birthday to  
UUs this February**

- Feb. 6– Dorothes Handron
- Feb. 9– Shannon Terry
- Feb. 10– Lynn Caverly
- Feb. 10- Judy Drum
- Feb. 13 Tom Thielen
- Feb. 17– John Gustafson
- Feb. 19- Karen Holstein
- Feb. 22– Tara McKinnon
- Feb. 23– Bev Harju
- Feb. 26– Shareen Berkowitz



Deadline for next month’s **Beacon** is Tuesday, **February 19 at 8:00 pm**

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