

The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org



President's Notes

January has been a busy month. February looks to be even busier! This point was driven home for me when, while giving the Sunday morning service welcoming and announcements, I realized that there were five pages of announcements. It took nearly twenty minutes. With that much information to disseminate, I thought I would highlight a few points here.

First, some bittersweet news. The congregation will be saying a sad goodbye to two of our most hard-working and valuable contributors to the work of the church. Life has offered them both opportunities too good to pass up, exciting new chapters in life that I hope will bring them happiness and success. Best of blessings to **Michelle Covi**, as she begins a full-time Assistant Professorship at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and to **Kimberly Scholl**, as she and her family move to Winston-Salem with her husband Mark's new position at Wake Forest. The contributions these two have made to the church over the years as volunteer office administrator and as YRE director, respectively, have been invaluable. They cannot be replaced, merely succeeded.

Shannon Terry facilitated the quarterly Program Council meeting, in which the chairs of each church committee, along with several board members, discussed the current status, plans, and needs of the various committees, how the committees can work together in synergy, and how they are working toward the goals and needs of the church. It was an energetic and productive meeting with the sharing of many exciting ideas.

The Developmental Ministry Task Force and the Board of Trustees each met last month with Rev. Keith Kron, UUA director of Transitional Ministry, to discuss the Developmental Ministry process. In that vein, by the time this goes to print, the application for a Developmental Minister will

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Chili Cook-Off

Don't miss the **UUCG CHILI COOK-OFF** on Saturday, Feb. 8! The festivities begin at 5:30pm when everyone will vote for their favorite chili. There will be prizes for the Best Chili with Meat and for the Best Vegetarian Chili. To enter YOUR award-winning, secret-family-recipe chili, contact Chris Federico at (252)227-4115 or freddi.5767@yahoo.com. After the voting, we'll all get to have a fabulous chili dinner. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided; you may bring your own beer or wine, if you'd like. There will be no charge for this event (but donations will be appreciated.) There will also be door prizes!

Save the date, February 23, 2014, for the Pledge Drive kick-off luncheon that will be provided by the Board! Fun, fellowship, and entertainment will also be provided!

Worship Services

Feb 2 **“The Right of Conscience and the Use of the Democratic Process”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

This is a sermon focused on the 5th of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. As members of a congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association we are called to “affirm and promote” these principles. What does that mean? How difficult can that be? I’ll share my thoughts and listen to yours in a Community Response time after the sermon. See you in church.

Feb 9 **“The Search for Truth is its Sacrament”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

We say the Unison Affirmation every Sunday, where this is the second line; but I wonder if we know to what you are committing yourselves. I’m going to look at each of the six lines of this affirmation, one at a time, one a month, continuing with this Sunday. I’ll want your responses, too. See you in church.

Feb 16 **Spoon River Anthology in Readers Theater**

Led by Cam Scales and the Worship Committee

Under the leadership of Cam Scales this service will be a dramatic reading of selections from the play "Spoon River Anthology" by Edgar Lee Masters followed with discussion of the various themes, misunderstandings, and spiritual issues that are addressed in the play. The dramatic reading will be performed by members of the congregation and discussion will be open to all. See you in Church.

Feb 23 **“Feed the Flame – The Fire of Commitment”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

This is your church so it is your responsibility to keep it vital and resourceful. The Flaming Chalice is its symbol so it is the fire of your commitment that will feed the flame. Are you ready? See you in church.

Staff

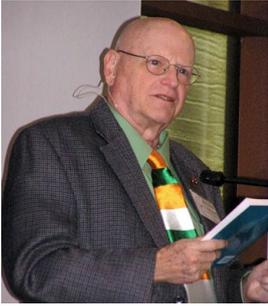
Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Sue Jefferson

Board of Trustees

President: [Tom Thielen](#)
Vice President: [Shannon Terry](#)
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At-Large: [Rich Elkins](#)
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Committee Chairs

Ambiance: [Terry Shank](#) & [Kay Alston](#)
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Caring: [Dorothea Handron](#)
Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)
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Fellowship : [Cam Scales](#)
Finance:: [Brenda Stewart](#)
Fundraising: [Feryl Masters](#) & [Claudia Sundman](#)
Hospitality: open
Membership: [Sue Foreman](#) & [Judi Hickson](#)
Youth Religious Education: [Jennifer Thielen](#)
Stewardship: [Patrice Alexander](#)
Social Action: [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)
Worship: [Michael Bettken](#)



Rod's Ruminations

Your church – your faith – your neighbors in Greenville and Pitt County – all need your help – and you need theirs.

Your church needs to attract new members so it can better fulfill its mission and grow its programs and be more responsive to the spiritual, social, and economic needs in your community. That means you need to be even more welcoming of visitors and prospective new members when they come. On Sunday morning (as well as other times when visitors come) you are all on the Membership Committee! Overcome your shyness, stop doing business (even church business), spend less time with your friends, and spend your time and energy speaking to and welcoming the stranger in our midst.

This is your church so it is your responsibility to keep it vital and resourceful. The Flaming Chalice is its symbol so it is the fire of your commitment that will feed the flame.

Your faith – Unitarian Universalism and its saving message as embodied in the Unitarian Universalist Principles – needs to become better known in this part of East Carolina. That means you need to be willing to identify yourself as a Unitarian Universalist and proclaim these Principles whenever and wherever possible.

Your neighbors need to know that there is an alternative to the narrow, sometimes mean-spirited religion that they may think is the only choice out there. As you have learned yourself, this church and Unitarian Universalism offer a faith that is inclusive rather than exclusive, offer hope rather than fear, and welcome diversity rather than promoting sameness.

So, I leave you with this one question: Would you have liked to have known about this congregation earlier than you did? If so, you are the one who can make a difference in the lives of others. Please do so!

From Ted Wisniewski, Interim Director of **The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center**:

“Hello and happy New Year from the Mountain! We are entering 2014 season and it is an exciting time on our mountain. Mountain lovers will remember that 35 years ago The Mountain was born out of SUUSI. Today the dream continues. We are so excited to start the season and see you here. After a banner 2013 we have planned some exciting programs you and your family. Be sure to check out our website mountaincenters.org and sign up. Our youth programs include Spring & Fall Youth Cons, Mountain Camp (one week and two week sessions for most ages). Our family programs include work weekend 4/18-20, Mountain Homecoming 5/23-26, and Family Camp 7/26-8/1, Thanksgiving 11/26-30. Our programs for adults are Appalachian Spring at The Mountain 5/19-23, Mountain Health and Wellness week 6/15-19, SUUFI 10/6-9. If you love The Mountain and want to be a volunteer, please contact Julia.jamieson@mountaincenters.org. We are looking for people to host groups and help with daily tasks.”

Ted D. Wisniewski 828-526-5838 ext 245 PO Box 1299, Highlands NC. 28741

Founded in 1979, **The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center** is a non-profit program center, summer youth camp, and retreat for individuals and groups where people can grow and renew themselves. It continues to be guided by Unitarian Universalist values and is open to all.

Religious Education

The Youth Religious Education program is entering a time of transition as our Director, Kimberly Scholl, moves from the area with her family. I am excited for her and the opportunities that await her family in their new adventure, but I'm also a little sad (personally and for this congregation). She has put considerable effort in to making sure the children attending each Sunday had an engaging lesson and a pleasant learning environment. She cares very much for each child and their individual needs, and she will be missed by those of us here at UUCG.

That said, rather than focus on what we are "losing" with Kimberly's departure, we can look at our time of transition as an opportunity. It is an opportunity to for our congregation's members to join together in support of a program that we as a congregation have said we value. It is also a chance to grow new volunteers and leaders from within our ranks. During this transition we will need consistent volunteer participation to keep the classrooms staffed. We have two dedicated volunteers who have taken over the role of lead teacher in both our Lower and Upper Elementary classes, but we still need Second Adults for both rooms each week. Because we will not have a paid Director to coordinate the volunteers it will be even more important for volunteers to sign in advance. As there may not be someone present on Sundays to search for volunteers to staff each room, we are going to institute a new policy: If a classroom does not have enough volunteers signed up by the Friday before classes, the understaffed classes will be cancelled and the children will be expected to stay with their parents/guardians during the service. I would hate for the kids to miss out on the exciting lessons we have in store for them and hope that our members will be willing to commit to their volunteer time in advance in order to keep our program running smoothly.

An overview of our curricula for each class is below.

Nursery (Birth to age 5):

Curriculum for children in the nursery is neither formal nor religious. Instead children have an opportunity to develop their social and relation skills in a warm and supportive environment. We have a limit of 3 children in the nursery without a second adult. On days that 4 or more children are present a parent or other second adult must remain in the nursery.

Kindergarten & Lower Elementary:

"World Of Wonder" This programs delves into our Seventh Principle. Through stories, crafts and games the children explore nature and the interdependent web of all existence. It is founded on the premise that experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual development. Second Adults needed.

Upper Elementary & Tweens:

"Traditions with a Wink" This curriculum strives to give students an understanding of UU faith. Activities, games and crafts are used in addition to powerful stories to explore the roots, traditions and history of good works within our faith.

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Standing on the Side of LOVE

**MORAL
MARCH
ON
RALEIGH**

**Sponsored by the NAACP and the HKonJ Coalition
Saturday, February 8, 2014
and other events, February 7-9**

PLEASE REGISTER AT: www.Tinyurl.com/UUMoralMarch

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AT: www.Tinyurl.com/SSLinRaleigh

In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.
—Albert Camus

Prez notes continued.....

(Continued from page 1)

have been submitted, complete with the Congregational goals for the next 3-5 years.

Worship leader training will be held at the church at **Noon on February 2nd**. All who are interesting in developing the skill to facilitate a worship service are welcome. It should also be noted that attendance does not commit one to leading a service or delivering a sermon.

You are all invited and encouraged to attend the Moral March on Raleigh on February 8th. Billed as "the Most Massive Moral Rally in the South Since Selma!", this UUA and NAACP sponsored march and rally is in support of North Carolina UU Clergy Arrested for Civil Disobedience. Come join our UUA president Rev. Peter Morales and UU congregations from around the country, in our efforts to address racial and economic disparities in voter rights, criminal justice, and access to health care. For more details, [visit this link](#).

Please also plan to attend the Pledge Drive kick-off luncheon, at Noon on February 23. Lunch will be provided by your board of trustees. There will be food, fun, fellowship, and entertainment.

Thomas Thielen, President
UUCG Board of Trustees

YRE continued.....

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Teens:

The Sunday class is on a temporary hiatus. We are exploring the possibility of informal get-togethers with Teens other small congregations. Teens are welcome to join the adults in the sanctuary for service or to attend one of our other classes.

The class schedule and volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the back hallway by the RE classrooms. If you have any questions about volunteering or need assistance signing up as a volunteer, please do not hesitate to ask.

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, Youth Religious Education Committee

The problem with winter sports is that - follow me closely here - they generally take place in winter.

—Dave Barry

February 2014						
<u>Sun</u>	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10am: Brand Music
2 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 Worship The Right of Conscience 12pm Lunch Group	3	4 8am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	5 7pm Choir Practice	6 5:30pm Brand Music	7	8 10am: Brand Music 3:30 Chili Cook-off
9 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 Worship Search for Truth 12pm Lunch Group	10 7:30 Sierra Club	11 8am Breakfast Group 5:30pm Worship Committee 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	12 7pm Choir Practice	13 5:30pm Brand Music	14 1pm Women's Lunch	15 10am: Brand Music 2pm Spoon River Rehearsal
16 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 Worship Spoon River Anthology 12pm Lunch Group 5pm Vegetarians in Pitt County Potluck	17 1:30pm Caring Committee 7pm Canvasser Training	18 8am Breakfast Group 6:30 Wi\$dom Path Adult RE 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	19 7pm Choir Practice	20 5:30pm Brand Music	21 7pm Classic GLBT Movie Night	22 10am: Brand Music
23 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 Worship Fire of Commitment 12pm Fellowship Lunch	24	25 8am Breakfast Group 6:30 Wi\$dom Path Adult RE 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	26 7pm Choir Practice	27 5:30pm Brand Music 7pm Board of Trustees	28 1pm Women's Lunch	

The UUA has developed a new faith development program called The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life!. The program deals with money and the way it intersects with our spiritual and ethical values. Money plays a large part in our lives and our society, but often we avoid talking about it. This will be a way to integrate our attitudes and emotions about money with our UU Principles.

The UUCG has been selected as a pilot location for this program to provide feedback to the developers. The course will be offered at 6:30 Tuesday evenings beginning on February 18th. There is no charge for this program. Anyone interested in assisting or participating should contact Reverend Rod, Patrice Alexander, or Feryl Masters.

**Happy Birthday to
UUs this February**

Dorothea Handron	Feb 6
Shannon Terry	Feb 9
Lynn Caverly	Feb 10
Judy Drum	Feb 10
Thomas Thielen	Feb 13
John Gustafson	Feb 17
Tabitha Monoco	Feb 17
Daren Holstein	Feb 19
Shareen Berkowitz	Feb 26



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, February 18 at 8:00 pm

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