



The UUCG beacon

March 2006

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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www.uugreenvillenc.org

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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

March 5

Political Reform
Molly Beacham

March 12

Lessons from the Rabbi
Rabbi Yosef Serebryanski

March 19

The Stream of Life
Ed Day

March 26

Patterns
Ed Day

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

We will be holding a Congregational Meeting on March 19. We have a number of important decisions to make.

Late last year, we discussed the possibility of buying the next door buildings and lots. It made sense financially, but some felt it would divert us from finding a place closer to our vision. Now we have 2 new possibilities. One is the Music Academy on Red Banks Road. We have also just found out that the University Church of Christ (opposite the Golden Corral Restaurant) may be for sale, but probably with a delayed occupancy. While all 3 choices have their own benefits, we can afford only one, so we must choose which one to buy, if any. I doubt we will make a binding commitment, but we need to know which way to proceed. Look at the choices, and help us decide what we want to do.

Last year, we elected a search committee to find a new settled minister for us. Two of the members have had changes in their lives, so they cannot commit the time to this they feel they should. We will be electing 2 replacements for them. Fortunately, we are still early in the process. As before, we will accept nominations from the floor, but if you may not be at the meeting let Rich Elkins or me know you are interested so you can be included.

At the January Town Hall Meeting, we presented a proposed policy for dealing with Disruptive Behavior. The UUA recommends adopting a policy, and this one is modeled after one developed by the UU Fellowship of Waynesboro. I encourage everyone to pick up a copy from the table by the door, or read it from our website. We will be voting on it also at the Congregational Meeting.

We are a member governed congregation, so we need input from members. We welcome ideas from our friends and guests, also.

--Feryl Master

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Ed Day

March is coming in like a lion for UUCG as we have two exciting programs to start the month. On March 5th Molly Beacham of Democracy North Carolina will speak to us about political reform. This is getting to be a bigger and bigger problem on both the state and national level, and it's not just a political problem but a moral, and ethical one. Our political situation is at a critical stage and only immediate action by aroused citizens will turn the tide. The people who pay for our elections control our politics. Isn't it time we the people took control?

On March 12th Rabbi Yosef will address us on Kabbalah - the mystical Jewish discipline that has attracted so much interest lately. I asked the Rabbi how he happened to come to Greenville and he said, "God sent me." Well. I guess you can't argue with God. An Australian by birth, the Rabbi's full name is Yosef Yitzchok Serebryanski. He describes himself as Healer, Spiritual Guide, Mentor, Educator and Author. He says that Kabbalah is a universal spiritual teaching based in Jewish mystical teachings.

--Ed Day



First Born Food Distribution is on SAT. MARCH 25th!

You can arrive early (8:30 am) like Hank and Helen Foster often do. They help pack up the boxes with Ms. Dee in the back room. Just arrive before 10:00 am. That's when the food distribution starts. You can help with paper work, carry or pack boxes.

Also, Toni collects the plastic bags you bring in to church and takes them over to First Born. So, keep the plastic bags coming. I've noticed they get requests for baby supplies (diapers, wipes etc..) but often they have nothing to give. Perhaps we can bring over some baby supplies

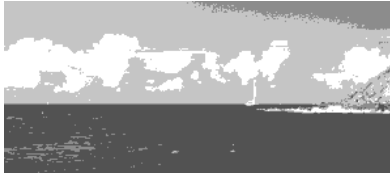
with the plastic bags. I'm sure it would be appreciated.

Thanks to First Born volunteers: Toni, Ruel, Feryl, Luca, Rick Becker, Hank and Helen Foster, Ruth Leggett, Hank Obremski, Roger Robbins, and new member Betty (?) (Oops I don't know your last name, Betty! And you volunteer for both distributions.)

New Volunteers are always needed! If you wake up on Saturday and feel like volunteering, do so! To get to First Born Church from Greenville take Rt. 33 East to Grimesland. In Grimesland, turn right on Chicod Street. Go around a mile. First Born will be on your right.

--Tracy Donohue

2 Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, March 17 to Marcia Fletcher.



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare . . . by Ed Day

Worship Services for March

March 5 -- *Political Reform* -- **Molly Beacham**

March 12 -- *Lessons from the Rabbi* -- **Rabbi Yosef**

March 19 -- *The Stream of Life* -- **Ed Day** --
Would you go rafting with Huck Finn?

March 26 -- *Patterns* -- **Ed Day** -- How people
look at the world

The Beacon Online & Privacy

We are omitting the phone numbers of board and committee chairs from this Beacon. From now on the phone number of the church will be the only phone number printed since the Beacon is posted on the web. Please, consult your church directory for phone numbers.

Rich Elkins, our Web Master says, "Because the Beacon is available on the website and freely searchable by anyone, it is a concern, and is generally not considered good practice in the numerous discussions which I have read on the UUA Websters email list."

We are a community of people who care for one another, and while privacy is important, it is hard to care for each other if we don't know what's going on in each other's lives. Let's begin a dialogue about what should and should not be included in the *Personals* column.

--Beacon Editor

COM Holds New Member Dinner

The Committed on Ministry hosted the 2006 new member dinner Sunday, Jan 29th. The dinner was attended by Katherine Jones & Jeff Popky, her non-member husband, Ruel Tyer, Ron Moye, Joanie deGroot, Ruth Leggett and Diane Mackenroth. Feedback forms were mailed to the Weirs, Carole Weil, Karen Hall, the Berkowitz and Frances Roebuck. Mark Barnes and Lezah Pagels did not attend.

Invitations are sent to people who have been members for at least six months but not included in the previous new member dinner.

COM provided food, set up, clean up and participated in the discussion. Feryl Masters and Ed Day acted as group leaders encouraging the new members to provide input to the Board about their thoughts, feelings and concerns regarding the church. Feryl agreed to compile the discussion results for COM and the Board.

The next COM meeting is March 14th at 6:00pm.

--Sylvia English

Early Deadline for March Beacon Submissions

Deadline for April's Beacon is March 17th at noon. Please submit Beacon items to Marcia Fletcher at

News, Notes and Other Stuff

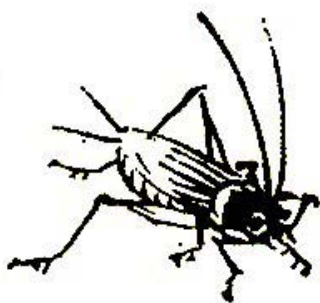
This Beautiful Quilt Could Be Yours

The UUCG fund raiser is in full swing. Joanie deGroot has donated her handmade quilt to be raffled off at the Pledge dinner March 25.



The chances are 6 for \$5.00. Remember this is a fund raiser. The idea is to raise money for the church, so think of the money you spend for a chance is actually a donation to the church. This quilt is valued at between \$300 and \$500, so let's get behind this project and support our church and it's activities.

Sell as many chances as you can to friends and non-members to increase the income and ensure that the quilt earns its value and more -- hopefully, much more!



Happy March Birthdays to:

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear,

Frances Roebuck	March 06
Peter Sachtjen	March 10
Linda Clark	March 15
Dave Pulver	March 17
Richard Weir	March 19
Patty Gade	March 27
Kendall Garing	March 27
Seinie Postma	March 30

Happy Birthday to yoooooooo.

--Jackie Wyman

Meditation Covenant Group

The Meditation Covenant Group will meet Sunday, March 12th, at 7:00pm at the church.

Social Action

The Social Action committee is collecting items for the Greenville shelter during the month of March. They are in need of trash bags, 39 gallons or larger, cleanser (Ajax and Comet), general cleaning supplies (no pine cleansers), dishwashing liquid, disinfectant spray, Ziploc bags, and blankets, gently used. They are also in need of kitchen supplies and office supplies. A more complete list will be posted on the bulletin board at church. Items donated can be put under and around the social action table.

Thanks for your help with this. The shelter has an immediate need for most of these items.

--Joan Sachtjen



MARCH in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 Eat Out @ Fuji Japan	3	4	5
5 10:30 <i>Political Reform</i>	6	7 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	8 6:00 Eat Out @ Finelli's	9	10	11 9:00 Bldg Cleanup 9:30-10:30 Social/Political Covenant Group
12 10:30 <i>Lessons from a Rabbi</i> 7:00 Earth-Based Covenant 7:00 Meditation Covenant	13	14 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel 6:00 Committee on Ministry	15 6:00 Eat Out @ Mayflower	16	17 Beacon submissions due to Marcia Fletcher	18
19 10:30 <i>The Stream of Life</i> 12:00 Congregational Meeting 7:00 Sacred Text Covenant Group	20 7:30 Board Meeting	21 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	22 6:00 Eat Out @ Dale's Indian	23	24	25 9:00 First Born
26 10:30 <i>Patterns</i>	27 7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace	28 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	29 6:00 Eat Out @ Ruby Tuesday	30	31	

Portrait of a UUCG Member

We are a varied and diverse group of people who come together each Sunday to worship. Although we have a Coffee Hour (actually it's a half hour) after the service, there never seems to be time to have an in depth conversation with everyone present. This is our attempt to bring you "up close and personal" with your fellow members. This month we highlight Sue Farris.

Sue Farris started life in Bethpage, NY, but soon moved to Pittsfield, MA, where her father had been transferred. She has fond memories of her childhood there, including family outings for picnicking and picking apples and blueberries. Sadly, however, Sue's younger brother died when she was 13 (he was 12); shortly after that, her father was transferred to NYC. The family moved to Croton-on-Hudson where Sue very happily spent her high school years as the well accepted new kid on the block. She played soccer, ran track, and was co-president of the ski club.

Following high school, Sue attended Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. She started pre-med, but was distracted from this goal and ended up with a BA in Psychology. She "didn't know what the hell" she was going to do then, so she became a flight attendant! For two years, she worked for Arrow Air and lived in NYC with other flight attendants. She then married a pilot and moved to Charlotte, where Matthew and Ellen were born.

Divorce was imminent, and "nothing firms up career goals like knowing you're going to get divorced." Sue went back to school at Central Piedmont Community College to begin her journey toward becoming a Physician Assistant. She applied to seven PA programs, but

was not accepted. However, she knew she was on the right path. When she heard that ECU was developing a PA program, she, Matthew, and Ellen moved to Greenville in December, 1995. It was an act of faith. Sue was very driven to follow her calling; she knew she couldn't fail financially or emotionally. When the PA program began in May of 1997, Sue was one of the 20 students out of 475 who were accepted. She graduated from ECU in 1999, along with a Masters earned concurrently from Duke, and went to work at Walter B. Jones Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center. There she takes care of the female patients' medical needs. When Sue recently purchased a home in Winterville, it was her first tangible sign of success. She knew that she could take care of herself and her children.

Sue's number one hobby is belly-dancing; she's been taking classes for two years. She's still single but is "no longer looking."

While in High School, Sue wrote, "Though your ski slope of life may contain icy patches and moguls, plunge ahead with fearless heart and open spirit." She didn't know at the time how that statement would help her through her journey.

--Jackie Wyman

An Inquiry Into a Spiritual Path



What is Yoga?

Being prepared to start: To sincerely begin the pursuit of Self-realization is a most significant step in life, when the highest goal of life is taken on as number one on your list of things to do. The first word of the Yoga Sutras is *atha*, which means *now*. This particular word for *now* implies a preparedness in arriving at this auspicious stage of desire and commitment towards Self-realization, the highest goal of Yoga.

Definition of Yoga: The first four sutras define Yoga, with that definition being expanded upon in the other sutras. In a systematic process of meditation, you gradually move your attention inward, through all the levels of your being, gaining mastery along the way. Eventually you come to rest in your true nature, which is beyond all of those levels. This action and the realization of this center of consciousness, is the meaning of *Yoga*.

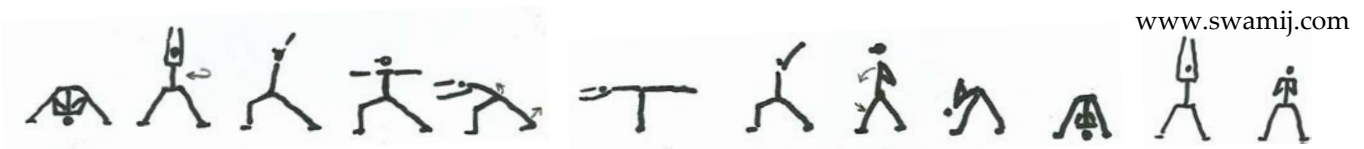
The true Self shines through: The true Self, which has been there all along, naturally comes shining through. The rest of the time, we are so entangled with our false identities that we literally do not see that this misidentification has happened. It is the reason that sometimes it is said that we are asleep, and that we need to awaken.

That awakening to the Self is the meaning of Yoga.

Like a mirror: Consciousness looks outward, through the intellect, through the mind, and then through the senses and body. It sees a reflection, like a mirror. It sees reality, a world, a self-identity, which it falsely thinks to be "me" or "mine." Through the forgetting power of *avidya* or ignorance, pure consciousness says, "I am *this* or *that*!" This is not all bad, for it gives the opportunity for the joy of awakening, through a journey called *Yoga*, returning to the wholeness that was never really divided in the first place.

Yoga Sutra: Chapter I

1. Now, after having done prior preparation through life and other practices, the study and practice of Yoga begins.
2. Yoga is the control of the modifications of the mind field.
3. Then the Seer abides in Itself, resting in its own True Nature, which is called Self-realization.
4. At other times, when one is not in Self-realization, the Seer appears to take on the form of the modifications of the mind field, taking on the identity of those thought patterns.



www.swamij.com

On a Personal Note . . .

Larry Spell's brother-in-law is back from service as a Naval Chaplain with the Marines in Iraq. That's right: the navy supplies chaplains and other staff to the Marines. In any case, the family was happy, Happy, HAPPY to have him home which is what really matters.

While Benjamin and Tanya were vacationing in the Bahamas, Toni Britt was taking care of two young sprouts (grandchildren?) Quite an undertaking. But Sylvia English says it's small stuff compared to taking care of a lab, which she and Don are doing for their children.

Carroll Webber went to a science conference in St. Louis.



Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on February 20th and took care of normal board business. In addition, the 2006-2007 budget was discussed, and the board will meet again in a week to finalize the proposed budget. A mid-year board retreat will be combined with that. The Interim Minister Search Committee is close to getting our application posted with UUA, and they are also working on the packet of information that needs to be available to potential applicants. They are looking toward hiring an Interim Minister in August or September. The Permanent Minister Search Committee is gathering information. That committee needs two replacement members. Richard Weir has resigned because of work and school, and Kendall Garing will be moving away in the Summer. Let Feryl know if you would like to serve on the committee. The Stewardship Committee is going to be asking for your help; it takes a lot of hands and brains to make the canvass successful, and, since we're looking at buying a new location, this year's canvass is even more important than usual. The Fund-raising Committee is raffling a quilt (buy tickets and sell tickets!) and selling UUCG t-shirts (buy one or two!). The Nominating Committee will be getting to work soon to fill offices and chairmanships. Please volunteer for a position. This year has been difficult without chairs for some of the committees. Board members have been acting-chairs in the missing spots. There will be a Congregational Meeting after the service on March 19th. Until next month.

--Jackie Wyman



Buildings & Grounds

B & G News: There will not be a garage sale in the foreseeable future as it is a lot of work for little return. Therefore please don't leave items at the church that you have cleaned out. The utility room is full of stuff like that. If unclaimed we will take it to a charitable organization on the next workday. Also please check the lost & found box if you have misplaced anything as those items will also be "recycled" in March. Lastly please come to our workday Sat. March 11 at 9am. We have fun while we are working. There is inside & outside work to be done. Any amount of time & help is appreciated! Thanks,

--Lisa Brenner

Refreshments for March

Mar 5 bagels -- Janet Doig, Susan Foreman

Mar 12 cookies -- Sondra Haynes

Mar 19 Volunteers' choice-Kriston & Katherine Kenyon

Mar 26 fruit -- Marcia & Ray Sobel

Due to conflicts in scheduling the use of our building during March, we will not have Soup & Sharing on 3-15, as previously announced. The BIG DINNER will be the Pledge Dinner on 3-25.

--Janet Doig

From the Desk of the Religious Education Director

The Teens will continue studying neighboring faiths by looking into Judaism. Saturday, March 11, the teens will have their monthly Teen Movie night at 7:00. Pizza and soft drinks will be served. The Tweens will continue with their curriculum In Our Hands with their study of nature.

* March 5 – Teens - Judaism
Tweens – Lesson 12

* March 12 Don English Yoga Tweens
Teens will stay in the service to listen to the visiting Rabbi

* March 19 Teens - Judaism
Tweens – Lesson 13

* March 26 Teens - Judaism
Tweens _ Lesson 14

--Victoria Brown

More Hospitality News

Looking ahead, Dinner for Eight is scheduled for April 1 and June 3rd, both on Saturday night at 6:00pm. Dinners for Eight is a popular event. Plan to sign up to bring a dish or to host eight people in your home.

--Janet Doig

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UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



- March 1 **Fuji Japan** -- 204 S.W. Greenville Blvd -- 353- 4848.
March 8 **Finelli's** -- 2905 E. 5th Street -- 695-0020
March 15 **Mayflower Seafood** -- 136 Davenport Farm Road, Winterville -- 321-6188
March 22 **Dale's Indian Cuisine** -- 419 Evans Street -- 551-DALE
March 29 **Ruby Tuesday's** -- 3510 S. Memorial Dr -- 355-4060

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

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

Minister(pro tem).Ed Day
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Jackie Wyman
Treasurer, Brenda Stewar

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lisa Brenner0
Committee on Ministry: Sylvia English
Communications: Don English
Finance: Mark Barnes
Hospitality: Janet Doig
Membership: Kendall Garing
Religious Education: Victoria Brown
Social Action: Joan Sachtjen
Worship: Roger Robbins

