



The UUCG Beacon

March 2012

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

March 4
Co-exist
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

March 11
Forgiveness
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

March 18
Jesus: the Rabbi
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

March 25
Ostara: Intergenerational Service
 Green Weavers CUUPS

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

In this column I will review Board work and end on some personal news. Last month we learned that the Youth Religious Education [YRE] program will want to expand to six classrooms, more storage space and more teacher volunteers. We propose that this should be our two year goal. Similar ideas were mentioned at a recent fundraiser led by Susan Foreman and Feryl Masters. There was also excitement around a proposal to have a 50th celebration for our being Unitarian Universalists. And do you know that we now have 110 members. This is awesome!

In our current meeting we reviewed a significant rental space proposal for Gilda's Clubhouse, made by Pat Anderson, President of the Cancer Support Community. The CSC will need to raise a significant amount more before they can implement this plan. As these plans materialize, we at UUCG have a way to dramatically make a difference in the community, a way that greatly expands our Social Justice Outreach Goal. The Gilda's Clubhouse proposal would use all of our building space from Thursday through Saturday morning or two and a half days per week. Some areas would be modified and upgraded at the CSC expense. Our first step will be to schedule a few Town Hall Meetings starting in April to facilitate discussion of the Clubhouse proposal before putting this plan to a vote at a Congregational Meeting.

Here are some activity news items: McAllister's Deli gave us a big check for \$372.70 from our last Community Night with them. Of course we are asking for another Community night. The most vital way we raise money for UUCG is through our pledge drive. Be ready to commit! Our new, Greer drop safe is installed and ready for more money. The Nominating Committee will soon be looking around to add new leaders so start thinking about what you might want to do.

Here's my personal news. I retired in 2009 to enjoy more free time with Tom. We increased our commitment to UUCG and feel strong ties to you. The Mindfulness Meditation Group has been my most precious experience and I've valued my work on the Board, Worship Committee, CSC-ENC and other places. I believe that I have made a small difference. Tom has too. However, my two weeks visit in January caring for Camille, my only granddaughter strongly affected me. I felt sad that she was going to daycare the day I left San Diego and I questioned where my commitment should be. My choice to be a psychologist reflects my strong desire to help people feel more secure and loved. Since the first year is so critical, we have decided to spend a year in San Diego. Camille will be with loved ones 24/7. We will miss our home and UUCG very much. Tom Thielen who is vice president move up three months early. He is enthusiastic and will be a wonderful president. Welcome him!

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



As you may have already read in the President's column, Bev Harju (and her husband Tom Long) will be leaving us for at least a year. Although, I will miss them both, I applaud their commitment to be in Bev's first granddaughter's first year of life in such a significant way. So often we gloss over the very important role that grandparents play in children's lives. Forever this child will know that she is loved and adored. That is a gift worth whatever it takes...including moving across the country! Good for you both, Tom and Bev, (and really, really good for Camille!)

In church life, this is the time of year when leaders and those looking for those about to be leaders look ahead fairly intently to plan for what is next and who is next! Bev and Tom have both served in significant positions (ministries, really) since they first walked in the door... I remember sitting with them in their home right after they had joined and wondering what roles they would play and what gifts they would bring. As they leave, they leave open spots for others to step into. Tom Thielen is ready to begin his time as President of the Board of Trustees. What are you ready and eager to do, that will shape not only this congregation, but your life and the life of those who come after you?

The REVEREND Ann Marie

Staff

Minister: [Rev. Ann Marie Alderman](#)
Youth Religious Education Director: [Kimberly Scholl](#)
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: [Michelle Covi](#)

Board of Trustees

President: [Bev Harju](#)
Vice President: [Tom Thielen](#)
Secretary: [Susan Foreman](#)
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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](#)

Funraising

Funraising is an important part of our budget. Each year we raise a little more to help pay for things we want to do. We had a very successful gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble. We are a little more than half way to our goal for 2011/12. We'll be having a car wash in April. There has also been interest in a yard sale. If you are interested in helping with a yard sale in the spring, please contact Feryl at oferyl@gmail.com. We will also be having another McAllister's night. We'll announce the date soon.

New UU Fellowship

The UU Fellowship of the Albemarle is now meeting the first and third Saturdays of each month at 9:30AM at Nothin' Fancy Café in Edenton. Questions? Call 518-587-0403.

Social Action

Give Cancer a Noogie!

The Cancer Support Community Eastern NC (formerly Gilda's Club) will be holding a "Give Cancer a Noogie" event on March 29, 2012 at 7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville (131 Oakmont Drive). This one hour event will feature cancer survivors oncologist Mary Raab-McConnell, M.D. as Emcee; Bobby Tripp of Daughtridge Gas & Oil, and Michelle Liebermann of Beaufort Community College. Pat Anderson, President of the Board, will talk about the exciting progress this project has made. It will be an informative and inspirational look at how Eastern North Carolina will benefit from a Cancer Support Community.

Pat Anderson says, "The mission will be to ensure that men, women, and children touched by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community. Innovative programs will be an essential complement to medical care, providing networking and support groups, workshops, education, and social activities. We are working hard to create a Cancer Support Community with Gilda's Clubhouse because no one should go through cancer alone!"

Anderson promises that this event will last no longer than one hour and dessert will be provided. Reservations (call Pat Anderson at 252 414-9986 or email reservation@cancersupportenc.org) are helpful for planning but not necessary. You are encouraged to bring a friend. Appeals for financial help will be made but no amount is too small (or too large!).

Don English, a local yoga instructor, whose late-wife Sylvia English, RN died of colon cancer a little more than a year ago says, "For us, a Cancer Support Community/ Gilda's Clubhouse would have filled our need for services and support that was independent of our church community. Sometimes you want to share your concerns without upsetting your friends and family."

Stewardship

On Stewardship Sunday, we heard some powerful presentations from Alan Bailey and Terry Shank about what our fellowship means to them. I hope you take some time to think about what it means to you. We are now in the middle of our annual pledge drive. Our theme this year is "Answering the Call". We as a Congregation have heard many "calls". We have spearheaded the very successful campaign to start a Gilda's Clubhouse (Cancer Support Community) in Greenville. We have helped house the homeless, feed the hungry, and stand up for the rights of citizens in Greenville, the United States, and the World. We are the founding congregation and a leading member of the Interfaith Alliance, to bring different faiths together. We have developed an outstanding RE Program and choir. We are recognized as the congregation that does things in Greenville.

We do all these things because our members answer when called. We contribute time, energy, and money to support our fellowship and the causes we believe in. Money is not the most important part of our stewardship, but it is a needed part of it. I hope that when you are called to a Stewardship Gathering, you answer. I also hope you respond with a generous pledge. Last year, we had enough pledges that we were able to fully fund our budget and didn't have to cut out part of our dreams. As we grow, our needs are growing also. We are outgrowing our building, so we will need to expand or move soon. Our YRE program is growing, and needs more support. We are taking on more social actions. I think you would agree that the money we give to our fellowship is a good investment. There are many demands on your time and finances, but I encourage you to keep our fellowship near the top of the list when you consider where to contribute. I also encourage you to consider other ways you can contribute. Helping with YRE or organizing an activity like the Friday night LGBT movie nights don't take much money, but are of real benefit to our fellowship and community. So please, when invited to a pledge get together, be sure to Answer the Call.

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

This month the children worked on exciting project; Valentines for Marriage Equality. The children made their own valentines cards which were then mailed to Rep. Marian McLawhorn and Rep. Edith Warren, both of whom represent Pitt County and whose voting records oppose the proposed Amendment One to North Carolina's Constitution. Pictures of some of the children's work has been posted on the UUCG Facebook page, and more photos will be printed and displayed on the YRE bulletin board soon.

The calendar is finally catching up to our spring weather, and it is time to start working our vegetable garden. Working in the garden helps children appreciate the work that goes into producing food and helps in cultivating an appreciation of the natural world. We are working to devise a new system of rabbit proofing, so that we may share the garden's bounty with humans in need. Any suggestions or materials that can be used in helping to rabbit-proof the garden would be greatly appreciated.

None of the activities in our Youth Religious Education Program would be possible without the work of our teachers and volunteers. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who has helped make YRE a success.

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE Committee

Cluster Meeting at UUCG

Technology in Congregations, March 17, 2012, 8:30 am– 4:15 pm

The demand for congregational leaders to understand the role of technology in congregations in the 21st century is growing exponentially. This doesn't mean you have to be a tech expert, it means only that you need to know what's possible, what's feasible, and how to make the most impact with the resources available.

In this workshop, we'll explore:

- ⇒ The scope of technology in congregations today
- ⇒ Keys to an effective technological front door
- ⇒ Connecting with members and friends technologically
- ⇒ The role of social media in congregational life
- ⇒ Using technology in worship services
- ⇒ Best practices in virtual meetings

The workshop is designed for:

- ⇒ Board members
- ⇒ Ministers, Religious Educators, and other staff
- ⇒ Communications Committee members
- ⇒ Membership Committee members
- ⇒ Other congregational leaders

Cost for adults, 13 yrs old and up. \$5 for children under 13 and that includes child care.

REGISTER NOW https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ECC_Gathering

~ March 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	2 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	3
4 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a Co- exist 12p-1p Lunch Group	5	6 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	7 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Conversa- tions with Rev. Ann Marie 7p-8p Choir Practice	8 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-9:30p Democra- cyNC and NC Policy watch	9 5:30p-7p Artist Recep- tion	10
11 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a For- giveness 12p-1p Lunch Group	12 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	13 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	14 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Conversa- tions with Rev. Ann Marie 7p-8p Choir Practice	15 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-9p Coffee Party meeting 7p-8:30p Shelter Ac- tion Group meeting	16 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	17 8:30a-4:15p enc clus- ter gathering
18 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a Jesus: The Rabbi , Rev. Ann Marie 10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga 12p-1p Lunch Group 12:30p-3:30p Pledge Gathering for Families 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County	19 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	20 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 6:30p-7:30p Keystone Property Homeowners 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	21 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Conversa- tions with Rev. Ann Marie 7p-8p Choir Practice	22 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8p UU Men's Group 7p-10p Turtle Creek HOA meeting	23	24 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
25 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a Ostara Intergenerational Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	26 7p-8:30p Book Club 7p-8p Interfaith Prayers for Peace	27 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4p Caring Commit- tee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	28 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Conversa- tions with Rev. Ann Marie 7p-8p Choir Practice	29 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8p Give Cancer a Noogie	30 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	31

Art on Our Walls

The Ambience Committee invites you and your friends and neighbors to the opening reception of a fabulous photography exhibit by artist Louise Sharpless on Friday, March 9, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Louise is a new member of our congregation, having moved from Pennsylvania to Greenville in 2009. She has studied with Jeff Jakub, Robert Burrige and Sterling Edwards. Her paintings and photographic pieces are being shown on a regular basis at the Inner Banks Artisan Center. A member of Brushstrokes of Greenville and the East Carolina Camera Club, Louise brings to us many-faceted talents to enjoy.

Happy Birthday to UUs this March

Mar. 3– Michelle Covi
 Mar. 8– Cam Scales
 Mar. 10– Peter Sachtjen
 Mar. 12– Derek Carmichael
 Mar. 16– Tammy Atchinson
 Mar. 19– Richard Weir
 Mar. 27– Scott Gade
 Mar. 29– Don Philyaw

Fifth Saturday Workday

We've started the practice of giving away our fifth Sunday collection to an organization as part of our social action mission. This year, we are also trying giving time on fifth Saturdays to work on our building. Please put March 31 on your calendars to come and work at the church building. We have several projects. If you know something that should be done, let Feryl Masters (oferyl@gmail.com) know. We'll be working up a list of things to do.

Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, **March 20 at 8:00 pm**

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