



# The UUCG Beacon

## Rod's Ruminations

Happy March! Up in Ohio March meant still more winter. I hope it is not that way here in North Carolina. But that is only one reason why we are happy to be here with you in Greenville. The main reasons for being happy here are you and this congregation. Thank you for your warm welcome!

Folks have asked me when I am in the church office. Well, I am here almost every day, Tuesday through Friday, from at least 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Feel free to stop by, but you may want to call to make sure I'm not off at a meeting somewhere.

I have asked Michelle to make a couple of changes in your months Beacon. One is this column – Rod's Ruminations – meaning what is on my mind. I expect there will be a variety of topics and styles.

The second change is the addition of descriptions of the services that I will be offering on Sunday mornings and not just a title. I want to be able to tempt you with both the title and what I expect to share with you. Of course, since my role is as your interim minister, I will have us looking at this congregation – who you are, what you want to be, how you function – as well as looking at your expectations for the future.

The other item on my mind today is the ministerial search process that you will be entering into later this spring and summer. The first phase of this process is selecting a Ministerial Search Committee, so on page 4 you'll find a fairly detailed description of the kind of person is best suited for this important task. Please read it over and ask whatever questions you have of me. We are planning on inviting the UUA trained Southeast District Settlement Representative to come and lead a service and answer all your questions about the process. You won't want to miss that one!

Again, thank you for welcoming Mary and I into your community. We are going to do some exciting things together.

### History and Identity Workshop

March 16, 2013, Noon -4:00 pm

#### Help prepare for the work of your Ministerial Search Committee!

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The more folks we have here the better our outcome will be. The sign up poster is in the sanctuary or you can call the church office to register.

We are going to create a History Time-Line to explore how your church came to be and reflect on the important events in your history so we can move on into the future. Then we are going to look at your current Identity. Meaning: Who/What do we think we are? What words do we use to describe ourselves? How do we see ourselves? How is that different from who we used to be? If it is. What do folks outside of our church say about us? How do they describe us? Are there myths about us? What words do they use to describe us? What difference does that make to our Vision of the future? What difference does that make to our Purpose/Mission? What difference could this make to your next minister?

*continued on pg. 5*

# Worship Services

Weekly Worship Services are held on Sundays at 10:30 am.  
 Children's Activities are available each Sunday.  
 Join us for coffee and conversation following the service.

## March 3 "Who Are You this Time?"

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister  
 Imagine yourself as a newcomer (maybe you are). What does Sunday morning tell you about The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville? What does the name tell you about this group of people? What is unique about this congregation? This is a service about the identity of and your vision for your church as you think about seeking a new minister. See you in church.

## March 10 "The Parables I Wish Jesus Hadn't Told"

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister  
 Jesus is reported to have told some wonderful stories, or Parables, as a way of teaching that goes beyond the limitations of words. There are some of these Parables that I'd just as soon the Gospel writers had left out. I'll tell you why this Sunday. See you in church.

## March 17 Spring Equinox—Green Weavers CUUPS

Celebrate the turn of the seasons with a yin/yang themed service recognizing the role of balance in our lives as day and night shift to equal.

## March 24 "How to search for your little m ministry"

Denise M. Rimes, Ministerial Settlement Rep, Member, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, VA, President, Southeast District of the UUA  
 As we enter into a time of search, does the congregation have a role? What should you be thinking about? Denise is an eleven year member of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, Virginia. She was raised in the Jewish tradition, but, as a religion major in college (long, long ago), she felt drawn to the teachings and principles of Unitarian Universalism after the 9/11 tragedies. She served in numerous leadership roles in her congregation, and currently serves as the President of the Southeast District and as a Ministerial Search Representative for the district as well. Denise serves as a congregational consultant for the Southern Region, and as a staff member at the Southern Unitarian Universalist Leadership experience. Her work in her congregation has spanned a ministerial termination, intern ministers, an interim minister, a home-grown consulting minister, a ministerial search and call and two transitions (congregational/ district) to policy governance.

## March 31 Easter/Passover/Spring Family Service and Flower Communion

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, DRE Kimberly Scholl, & our musicians  
 Please bring a flower or two to add to our congregational bouquet for our traditional Unitarian Universalist Flower Communion. In addition, our plan is to make this a memorable family service in which we acknowledge the three religious traditions that are all associated with this date. There will be singing and story telling. Please join us.

## 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 Kurmas](#)

## Committees In Action

### Buildings and Grounds and the Ambience Group

Those beautiful letters on the front of our building may/can/will let "everyone" know who we are, and we will be reminded that "that little light of ours" keeps shining brightly. We have waited for a long time to bring our building facade into the 21st century. Feryl Masters, Pat Tesh, and Kay Alston were the painters and designers. Great appreciation goes to the generous donor for the designated donation.

Our library in the Conference Room has been reorganized. The books of religions of the world and of spiritual perspectives may each be borrowed for two weeks on the honor system. One bookcase holds UU reference volumes and notebooks pertaining to UUCG. These must remain in the building.

### Ambience Group

Please mark your calendars for the next art reception introducing the paintings of Sheldon Downs. On March 8 from 5:30- 7:00 pm you are invited to hobnob with people from all over the county who are interested in art and culture.

### Social Action

The Greenville Community Shelter is our present service focus. Two baskets near our front door are ready for your donated items, which will be delivered to the shelter. Every fourth Saturday starting at 8 AM First Born in Grimesland needs volunteers to help distribute food items. In addition there is a cabinet in the Conference Room where we can leave donate of plastic bags and food items for that cause.

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is in need of volunteers who like to put on parties and such. Please see Cam Scales to sign up!

### Worship Committee

Have you heard the Worship Committee mentioned in conversation and wondered what it does? The Worship Committee is responsible for presenting the Sunday service. We support Rev. Rod in the selection of sermon topics. On weeks where Rev. Rod isn't speaking, we identify speakers on topics of interest to the congregation. We train interested members of the congregation to act as Service Leaders, welcoming visitors, setting the mood for the service, and introducing speakers. We work with our musicians to ensure that there's beautiful music to sing and to hear at the services. We select stories to share with children of all ages and organize the storytellers. Most of all, we work to ensure that there are opportunities for an "a-ha!" moment for those in attendance.

We'd be happy to include your skills and energy in our efforts. The Worship Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30pm in the church library. But participation in our efforts doesn't necessarily require attendance at meetings. If you'd like to be involved, feel free to speak to me or e-mail me at [pkurmas@gmail.com](mailto:pkurmas@gmail.com)



**AFFIRMING  
THE  
INHERENT  
WORTH  
AND  
DIGNITY OF  
EVERY  
PERSON**

# Pledge Your Dime, Pledge Your Time and Make It Happen!

This is the theme of this year's pledge campaign which was officially kicked off on Sunday, February 3rd, with a Potluck Lunch after the Sunday Service. Members of the Stewardship Committee, which is coordinating the Drive, are Patrice Alexander, Alice Arnold, Susan Foreman, Bob Franke, Karen Holstein, and Terry Shank. This year our goal is to raise at least \$99,999!!!!

We have made some changes in how we conduct our Pledge Drive this year. It will be a three step process.

**Step 1: We focus on what we LOVE and WANT for UUCG!** We are holding short small group meetings after the Sunday service throughout February and March to learn what we as members and friends love and want. These meetings are jointly led by a Board member and a Committee Chair. Reverend Rod, our Interim Minister, is also attending the meetings so that he can get to know us and what we are seeking by our UUCG involvement. During the meetings pledge envelopes are distributed. These include a brochure describing the goals of the pledge drive and how the money that is raised is used, a financial pledge form, and an involvement pledge form.

As a congregation we need both the financial and involvement commitments of our members and friends. As the Board and the Stewardship Committee realize, at different points in our lives we can pledge different amounts of each. We discuss what we learned about our member's "loves" and "wants" from our recent Engagement Survey. There is a sign up board at the back of the church that list the meetings or you can just show up, depending on what works best for you. Please let Alice Arnold know if you will need child care.

Members of the congregation will be speaking briefly each Sunday on why they choose to contribute their time and money to UUCG and why they want to encourage each one of us to do the same. Please contact Patrice Alexander if you are willing to share your contribution story at a Sunday Service.

## **Step 2: You DETERMINE the DIME and the TIME you can give!**

How do we make it happen? Each of us decides *how we will contribute to keep what we love and attain what we want for UUCG by pledging* money, time or services. Your contributions of money, time, and services will determine how UUCG will grow and where we can create meaningful connections. Your pledge to serve on committees will help turn our WANTS into the foundation for new goals. During the meeting we want to hear from you. We also want to share the reasons for our increased pledge goal:

- ◇ Half of our budget is generally spent on worship, member services, and buildings & grounds. This includes the support for our minister, music and choir directors, and Youth RE Director. The fact that we own our building is our biggest asset; two other facts are that we have to take care of the building and that we are rapidly outgrowing our space.

- ◇ Our membership has increased over the last couple of years we now have 110 members. The Board is receiving requests for additional Youth and Adult Religious Education, fellowship and social action opportunities, and more community outreach to those in need. All of these require additional resources, usually a combination of money and time.
- ◇ As a "Fair Share" congregation, for each member that we have we pay approximately \$85 in dues to UUA and the Southeast District. Last year District and UUA helped us obtain our interim minister, Reverend Rod Thompson, who will be with us for about 18 months. This year they will be providing support and guidance as we conduct the search and then call our next full time minister. The anticipated cost for the ministerial search process in 2013-2014 will be \$10,000.

### **Step 3: Together we DECIDE to spread the green to reach our dream!**

We are going to tracking the success of our Pledge Drive. Start looking for the Pledge Thermometer that will be updated weekly. The Finance Committee created an initial budget based on expected income and expected expenses for the upcoming fiscal year. Once the pledge drive is completed the Board will review and adjust this budget as necessary to present to the members of the congregation. The members of the congregation, during the annual meeting, which will take place in May, will discuss and vote on the budget, *deciding together how what they say they want to happen will happen!*

The committee will be following up with members and friends to make sure that everyone has an opportunity to attend a meeting and/or make their pledges. The message from our UUCG Board of Trustees is one that we want to share.

It is great that there is mystery and magic in all our lives! Yet, there is nothing particularly mysterious about the pledge drive or the budget process in a UU congregation. What is magical is that we say what we want, and we say what we will give to make it happen... and it does!

*Please complete and turn in your Pledge Forms to make it happen for all of us! Thanks.*

### **History and Identity Workshop cont.**

If you would, here is some pre-workshop homework:

1. Before the Workshop, talk with 5 people here at UUCG and get them to talk about how they see the church. Ask them for a couple of words that they use to describe this church. Make notes and bring them with you.

2. Before the Workshop, talk with 5 people outside the congregation (neighbors, co-workers, friends, anybody) and ask them if they've heard of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville. If so, then ask them what they know, have heard, or speculate about us. Make notes and bring them with you.

That's it. We'll see you at Noon on March 16th. The sign-up poster will be available soon. **Let us know if you will need Childcare.** Coffee and snacks will be provided.

## Ministerial Search Committee

It is not too early to be thinking about the Settled Minister Search Committee and who should be on it. On Sunday, March 24th, Denise Rimes, one of the Southeast District Ministerial Settlement Reps will start the ball rolling by leading the service and then answering your questions afterward. Then by the end of April applications to be considered for the Search Committee will be available. Being on a Search Committee can be wonderful and very rewarding, but being on a Search committee is also a major commitment of time and energy.

So that you might know what you're getting yourself into I am going to share a list of qualifications adapted from the UUA Transitions Office's "Settlement Handbook" that relates to selecting the search committee. Here is who we believe will make good Search Committee members.

All members of the search committee should be:

- ⇒ Known and respected by others in the congregation
- ⇒ More strongly committed to the congregation as a whole than to any subgroup
- ⇒ Well informed about the demands and time requirements of search committee membership  
Members should promise to attend every meeting, and to give about 250 hours over the coming year
- ⇒ Be available for some weekend travel to nearby UU churches
- ⇒ Possess organizational ability, broad theological awareness, and computer skills
- ⇒ Not on the Board or paid members of the church staff
- ⇒ Pledged to conduct a search that is fair and nondiscriminatory with respect to race, color, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, and national origin
- ⇒ Committed to maintain confidentiality and to seek consensus
- ⇒ Capable of both self-assertion and compromise
- ⇒ Not prone to extreme reactions to ministers. The previous ministers' strongest supporters or opponents are rarely the best choice
- ⇒ Well suited to teamwork: a search committee is no place for Lone Rangers!

The congregation should endeavor to elect and/or appoint a Search Committee that is balanced by sex, age, interests, attitudes, and tenure of membership to reflect the diversity of the congregation. Major areas of church life such as religious education, social action, property management, finance, and music should also be represented by participants, not partisans.

During the search, members should be released from other major duties in the congregation. One member (normally the chair) should be assigned as a board liaison, but will not become a voting member of the Board.

Now that you know the details I hope you will consider being a part of this vital committee. If you have any questions you can contact me here at the church 355-6658 or [minister@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:minister@uugreenvillenc.org).

~ March 2013 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
Half Share: Food Bank						<b>1</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group  6:30p-9:30p Bingo night	<b>2</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>3</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Who are you this time?  12p-1p Lunch Group 12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings	<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> 5:30p-7p Art Reception	<b>9</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	
<b>10</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Parables I wish Jesus Hadn't Told  12p-1p Lunch Group 12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings	<b>11</b> 3p-5:30p CSCENC Board Meeting  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  1p-4p History/Identity Workshop	
<b>17</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Spring Equinox by CUUPS  12p-1p Lunch Group 12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings  5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	<b>18</b> 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>19</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7p-9p Yorktown Square Condo meeting  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  6p-9p Turtle Creek Homeowners Assoc Meeting	<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 How to Search for your little m ministry- Denise M. Rimes  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  7p-9p PTRF "Fracking in Pitt County" event  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	<b>29</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>30</b> 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	
<b>31</b> 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Easter/Passover/Flower Communion  12p-1p Lunch Group 12:30p-1:30p Stewardship meetings	<div style="background-color: #d3d3d3; padding: 20px; border: 1px solid black;"> <h2 style="margin: 0;">Affirming the goal of world community &amp; peace, liberty and justice for all</h2> </div>						

## FunRaising Events

Don't forget our Bingo Night Friday, March 1 at 7:00 PM. Prizes and snacks will be there, come and bring a friend or three. We're adding the option of a cash prize this time, so there's guaranteed to be something you can use.

Don't forget to let Feryl, Jennifer, or Claudia know what you want to offer for our upcoming service Auction (date to be announced). Food and labor is always popular. Also, your useful items, that you don't really need but are just too good to throw out, will be great for our Yard Sale and Car Wash this Spring. We'll need lots of good items, big and small for our Spring event.

### *Did you read this newsletter?*

Please let us know if this is a good way to reach you. If you read this newsletter please send an email to [uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org) (or if reading on line, you may just be able to click the highlighted address). Or if you would rather call, just leave us a message in the office 252-355-6658. We will let you know the results next month.

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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### Happy Birthday to UUs this March

- Mar. 3– Michelle Covi
- Mar. 6– Joan Robson
- Mar. 6– Jackie Vaughn-Heath
- Mar. 8– Cam Scales
- Mar. 10– Peter Sachtjen
- Mar. 12– Derek Carmichael
- Mar. 13– Holly Brown
- Mar. 15– Jodi Hess
- Mar. 16– Tammy Atchinson
- Mar. 19– Richard Weir
- Mar. 27– Scott Gade

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, **March 26 at 8:00 pm**

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