

The UUCG Beacon

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



President's Notes

I hope you and the rest of the congregation can forgive a rather short submission, as well as my rather sparse involvement in the congregation over the last month. Many may not stop to think about this, but as a pediatrician, my professional life tends to be quite seasonal. Much like accountants,

tax attorneys, and the like, my peak season tends to be January through March, obviously for differing reasons. But I take solace in that Punxsutawney Phil, that famous fuzzy forecaster, assures us that spring is on the way. Whether or not you put stock in this mythical prognosticator, an end to cold and flu season is in sight.

Although I was unable to attend either event, I am told that there was a significant UUCG contingency at both the Moral March on Raleigh and the inaugural UUCG chili cook-off. These events are reported to have been wonderful opportunities for members to show support for the things that this congregation values: social, legal, and economic equity and justice, fellowship, ethical eating, and good food. I am told that a good time was had by all in attendance.

By contrast, I was able to attend the worship leader workshop, facilitated by Rev. Rod. It was well attended, with many insightful tips offered regarding how to think about, prepare, organize, rehearse, and facilitate delivery of a worship service. It was encouraging to see the amount of interest there was in this topic, and I was impressed at the thoughtfulness, deliberateness, and behind-the-scenes work that go into preparing a worship service.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the Developmental Ministry Task Force's Goal Development Workshop. It went surprisingly smoothly, with valuable discussion, and a feeling of collaborative effort and compromise. Those in attendance were able to accomplish the imposing task of narrowing down our goals to help focus our efforts over the next few years. We have since submitted the formal application for a developmental minister.

I will close with these final thoughts. With the recent pledge drive kick-off luncheon, I hope everyone is thinking about what UUCG means to them, what they are thankful for, what they value about the work of the church in both this congregation and the larger community, and where they would like to see improvement or growth. It is from this mindset, and with a courageous generosity of spirit, that we ask you to return your pledge card this year.

Tom Thielen, President, UUCG Bard of Trustees

Worship Services

Staff

March 2 **“The Goal of World Community”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

This is a sermon focused on the 6th 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.

March 9 **“And Service is its Prayer”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

We say the Unison Affirmation every Sunday, where this is the third 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.

March 16 **“Unitarian Universalism in One Sentence”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

Do you think you could do it? Could you capture the essence, the identity, of Unitarian Universalism – or this Church – in one sentence? One paragraph? One page? One lifetime? That’s our challenge for this Sunday. See you in church

March 23 **“Spring Equinox Intergenerational Service”**
Led by your Worship committee

Come join us as we celebrate the Spring Equinox where we will welcome the return of brighter days and warmer weather. It is a time to celebrate balance and the arrival of spring. Let us join together as we renew our energy and prepare for new growth in our lives. See you there.

March 30 **“Living Through the Neutral Zone”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

There is no doubt that we as a church community are in the midst of change. Our challenge is not with the change, it will happen whether be are ready and plan for it or not. Our challenge is to live though the emotional, psychological, and spiritual transitions that we are faced with in the process. William Bridges, in his book *Managing Transitions*, calls the place many of us are in *the Neutral Zone*. This Sunday I’ll try to explain what he means by that and, I hope, help us all live through it.

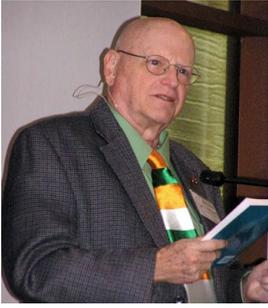
Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Sue Jefferson

Board of Trustees

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Endowment: Feryl Masters
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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 Betteken



Rod's Ruminations

I offer these words of wisdom for you to ruminate upon. They are from Olympia Brown, the first woman Ordained by any denomination in the US – by our Universalist ancestors in 1863. If you have not yet made your pledge to your church, then maybe these words will help make that commitment.

Stand by this faith.

Work for it and sacrifice for it.

There is nothing in all the world so important

as to be loyal to this faith

which placed before us the loftiest ideals,

which has comforted us in sorrow,

strengthened us for noble duty

and made the world more beautiful.

Do not demand immediate results but rejoice

that we are worthy to be entrusted

with this great message,

that you are strong enough to work

for a great true principle

without counting the cost.

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

Gautama Siddharta

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

Anonymous

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education is a collaborative effort here at UUCG. We rely on volunteers from our congregation to lead and assist in the classroom in order to provide a quality religious education experience. Assistance from a variety of members can help give the children a more rounded view of the variety of perspectives and beliefs held within our congregation. Currently we are in need of volunteers for both our Lower Elementary and Upper Elementary classes. We're using VolunteerSpot to organize our Youth Religious Education volunteer needs.

Please sign up for Youth Religious Education - here's how it works:

1. **Enter this link** to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/EFm1F4>
2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on VolunteerSpot)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. I have been using it for several weeks and have ONLY received the confirmation and reminder emails.

It takes more than just a good curriculum and plenty of volunteers to create a strong youth religious education program - we need students! Many of us have busy and variable schedules, and it can be nearly impossible to be at church each and every Sunday. However, consistent attendance helps the children feel that they are part of the group and helps them better absorb the spiritual and social lessons offered, and I hope that our families will make YRE attendance a priority.

It isn't enough to say that religious education is important, we have to show through our actions that it is important. So let's get busy!

Jennifer Thielen, Chair, Youth Religious Education Committee

UUs from many states joined tens of thousands for 'Moral March' in Raleigh February 8.
By [Donald E. Skinner](#)

Hundreds of Unitarian Universalists marched in Raleigh, N.C., with tens of thousands of North Carolinians and activists from across the country on Saturday, February 8, creating the largest civil rights rally in the South since the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., in 1965.

Approximately 1,500 Unitarian Universalists took part in the "Moral March" organized by the North Carolina NAACP as part of its Forward Together Moral Movement. Organizers estimated that as many as 80,000 people filled the streets outside the state capitol.

Read more at: <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/293312.shtml>

~ March 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. --Charles Dickens</p>						<p>1 10am Brand Music Together</p>
<p>2 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12pm Lunch group</p>	<p>3 <i>Read Across America Day</i></p>	<p>4 <i>Mardi Gras</i> 8am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30 KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6 5:30pm Brand Music Together</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 <i>International Women's Day</i> 10am Brand Music Together</p>
<p>9 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12pm Lunch group</p>	<p>10 7:30pm Sierra Club</p>	<p>11 8am Breakfast Group 5:30 Worship Comm 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30 KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>12 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13 5:30pm Brand Music Together 7pm Board of Trustees</p>	<p>14 1pm Women's Lunch</p>	<p>15 10am Brand Music Together</p>
<p>16 <i>Purim</i> 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12pm Lunch group 5pm Vegetarians Potluck</p>	<p>17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 1:30pm Carving Committee</p>	<p>18 8am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30 KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>19 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>20 <i>Spring Equinox</i> 5:30pm Brand Music Together</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 8:30am First Born Food Dist.</p>
<p>23 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12pm Lunch group 1:30 Buddhist Event</p>	<p>24 7pm Book Club</p>	<p>25 8am Breakfast Group 6pm Democracy NC 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30 KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p>26 7pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 1pm Women's Lunch 7pm GLBT Classic Movie Night</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 <i>National Doctor's Day</i> 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12pm Lunch group</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>One swallow does not make a summer, but one skein of geese, cleaving the murk of March thaw, is the Spring. --Aldo Leopold</p>				

“Dinners for 8” does a return engagement at UUCG.

These dinners in various forms are a tradition with UU throughout the country. The purpose is to give members an opportunity to meet and know people in the congregation on a more than basic level. UUCG has done ‘Dinners for 8’ in the past; the Fellowship Committee is bringing them back!

Basically, several members volunteer to host a dinner. The host sets the theme and date within a specified window, guests sign up, and the dinner happens. The host is not required or expected to provide the entire meal; guests will be expected to bring a dish. These are planned as adult only activities.

Fellowship is first looking for members who want to host a dinner. When the hosts are identified, the entire congregation will have the opportunity to sign up to participate at a dinner. The planned time frame for the dinners is the month of April (except for Easter weekend). Sign-up grids will be on the bulletin board near the Library door. Hosts need to sign up by March 9th and guests by March 30.

For more information contact Cam Scales at camrme@aol.com or 252-565-5611.

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

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