



The UUCG beacon

April 2005

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

April 3

Change and Renewal

Ed Day

April 10

Renewing Ties to Earth

Rev Karen Day

April 17

Reader's Theater

ECU Medical Students

April 24

Flower Ceremony &

New Member Welcome

Rev Karen Day

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Tentative Certainty

As a school bookkeeper, I had seen the sad-faced father many times, coming to pick up his 5th grader for being sick or his younger son, for making faces at the teacher and terrorizing the 4th grade girls. Every week, another incident brought him to sit on the couch in front of me. "In the olden days," he reminisced, nervously, "teachers gave you a good whooping. After your hurtin', you'd get on knees and pray out loud for Jesus to forgive your sins. That would scare the devil right out of you."

The father had no idea that he could possibly be speaking to a non-Christian, so by his fourth visit in two weeks, I decided to crack his assumptions. "Who," I asked, looking him right in the eye, "picked what God to pray to?"

Silence filled the office. The father was no longer breathing.

Finally the moment of uncertainty was over. The parent slapped his hand on my desk so hard my gourmet Jelly-Belly's jumped in their jar. "Ha!" he exploded. "Had me going. Gaw!"

Which God. *As if!*

I am excited to create a religious home in Greenville that tolerates uncertainty, if for no other reason than to protect my jelly beans from further injury. Although our location will continue to be vociferously debated, the majority is in favor of 1) expanding our physical plant, 2) integrating more programming, particularly in the areas of children's religious education and social action, and to accomplish both objectives while remaining fiscally sound.

Next, a small group of dedicated members will convene to assess our building needs. You may expect this team to request your permission to pursue building and land opportunities and, if needed, hire an architect.

I hope that our congregation is strong enough to embrace paradox: remaining certain about our optimism for our church and open to spiritual ideas that refuse easy dogma.

--Randi Finley
President UUCG

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev. Karen Day

“You cannot think straight with a heart full of fear, for fear seeks safety not truth.”

William Sloan Coffin

My friends and teachers, Kay and Carmen, are going out into the streets this week for a seven day retreat. They send word via email to remember them during this time and this quote comes too. Carmen speaks of how much she learns and opens when she lives outside, how she doesn't know what to expect. While my heart might be filled with fear at the prospect of seven nights in the Tenderloin, she sounds fearless.

But fear fills hearts everywhere. Are Greenville's streets any safer than San Francisco's? I have been stunned by the recent murder of Jahmel Little on Third Street. I walked up to his porch and placed a flower and card on the bare wood, noticed a basketball in the yard. Talking with a teacher in Halifax County I find that violence, including shootings, is also a fact of life there. How can children think straight when they fear for their lives? Or maybe they are not afraid, maybe they need us to be afraid for them. What are we to do? How can we think clearly, seeking truth?

As usual, I have no answers. But what I do know is true—we need to reach past fear. This congregation has done a good job of

working outside our doors. We pack boxes at First Born in Grimesland and we serve lunch at JOY Soup Kitchen here in Greenville. We need to keep reaching. Many of you are working in schools and with the youth of our community. Many of you recognize that we can't write off any child, we want all our Pitt County children to live in safety. I attended a recent community meeting for Citizens Against Violence and heard of renewed efforts to create programs for more children, heard calls for more parks and supervised weekend activities. Some of you have dreamed with me about an alternative Vacation Bible School where children of all races, religions and ethnic groups could come together to celebrate unity.

The above quote continues, “A heart full of love, on the other hand, has a limbering effect on the mind.” When we reach past fear to love we find dreams and ideas bubbling. We experienced that in our congregation as we began to dream about the future and wherever our dreams take us, we need to include those who may never walk through our doors but who can be touched by our efforts to create inclusive, loving spaces for all. When we take to the streets with love in our hearts we open our eyes and we are changed, then we create change. Be the change you wish to see,

--Karen



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare

. . . by Karen Day

Worship Services for April

Apr 3 *Change and Renewal* -- **Ed Day**

Apr 10 *Renewing Ties to Earth* -- **Rev. Karen Day**

Following the Interfaith workshop on "Spirituality and the Environment" we'll consider what brings us closer connection to the earth and how we can renew our ancient ties to this Mother.

April 17- Reader's Theater -- **ECU Med Students**

April 24- *Flower Ceremony and New Member Welcome* -- **Rev. Karen Day**

This popular ceremony is a time to renew our community ties, meet our newest members and remember our connection to the larger Unitarian Universalist world.

Understanding the Bible

Sunday April 3 from 4:00 to 5:30

"Understanding the Bible"--- An adult religious education group that will take a quick overview of the Bible using this new work by John Buehrens, former UUA President. He says, "The oppressive uses of the Bible are real, but unless you learn to understand that there are other readings possible, the Bible will, indeed, simply continue to be a source of oppression for you, and not a source of inspiration, liberation, creation and even exultation..." Let's look together at some alternative readings and find new meanings. Beginning April 3, the class will decide how many sessions it will last. The group will be led by Rev. Karen Day. Sign up now. There will be a limited registration.

--Karen Day

Social Action Committee

The Social Action committee has been busy working out the details of their soccer goal project for the migrants. We have instructions for building two goals out of PVC, and soon we will be asking the congregation for help in assembling and installing. We would like to have goals built on site by the end of May, with a dedication and pot luck dinner in June. These are our tentative plans, and we will keep you informed as things fall into place.

Also, we have reserved Saturday, September 10, as our day to help build a house with Pitt Country Habitat for Humanity. These volunteer Saturdays go quickly, so we feel lucky to have gotten this fall date. Ten volunteers from the congregation will be needed to help with the project.

--Joan Sachtjen

Band Concert Performs

The Tar River Community Band in our 17th annual Pops Concert will perform Saturday, April 9th at 7:00p.m. at C. M. Eppes Middle School. Admission \$3.00/person includes complimentary refreshments. With Co-conductors Thomas Coleman and Joseph Sayblack this performance features a flute solo with band accompaniment. See Janet Doig for tickets.

--Janet Doig

News, Notes and Other Stuff

TidBits from the Board

Carroll Webber visited the March board meeting (Board meetings are open). He had been asked to submit our 50 year history (from our 50th anniversary) into a collection of such histories, as well as to put our history into places like the ECU Library. He was asked to look into the cost of getting the history bound in a library acceptable manner.

Karen talked about the upcoming TJ District annual meeting and the General Assembly. The TJD annual meeting will be in Raleigh April 22nd and 23rd. We will probably start sending our President to the General Assembly each year. Our annual meeting will be May 15th. We talked about which officers and committee chairs will need to be elected at our annual meeting. Interested in serving?

We discussed forming an ad hoc committee to look for possible property sites in and out of town. Interested in serving?

We'll be in the Talking Phone Book yellow pages in the fall! Until next month.

--Jackie Wyman

Children's RE Seder

A Spring Event for the children and their families will be held on April 24 after service. The children and families from the children's RE program are invited to attend a Seder to honor Passover on April 24th shortly after the regular service. Lowell will lead us in a Passover Seder service, which will include a meal. RE families, please mark your calendars; more details will be forthcoming.

--Gail Butler & Shareen Berkowitz

UUCG Youth Group

The UUCG Youth Group will meet on Sunday April 3rd at 2pm. The meeting will be at the church and is open to any teens ages 13-18.

Please feel free to bring a friend. We will be discussing our art project and a possible retreat or lock in which will happen later in the season.

--Richard and April Weir

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION - APRIL 23rd

Our day this month for volunteering at First Born to help with the food distribution is Sat. April 23rd. Come between 9:00 - 10:00 to get your assignment before the distribution starts at 10:00.

Please try to let me know if you're coming so I can tell them how many people to expect. In February, we had 14 people volunteer. But, I only had 5 people signed up to go.

Also, they really need volunteers for fourth Tuesday diabetic distributions. Mike Grizzard is in charge of that. If you can help, e-mail him at: mgrizzard@coxnews.com They're looking for individuals or groups who can help with the nutrition and health demonstrations and other activities on those Tuesdays, too.

If you have any questions or if you want to tell me you're volunteering, contact me (Tracy Donohue) at: 758-0693 or email donohuet@mail.ecu.edu.

--Tracy Donahue

UU Peace Fellowship Celebration Service & Reception

The UU Peace Fellowship, a newly formed UU congregation meeting in north Raleigh, invites you join our celebration service and reception. Delegates from the Thomas Jefferson District congregations will be joining us, and all area residents are invited to attend. The service will begin at 6 p.m., and will be followed by a reception with heavy hors d'oeuvres. Home hospitality will be provided Saturday night on a first-come, first-serve basis. Hospitality forms and maps to Durant Nature Park are available at our website, www.uupf.org.

When: Saturday, April 2, 6 - 9 p.m.

Where: Durant Nature Park Lodge,
8305 Durant Rd., Raleigh

Speaker: Rev. Leslie Takahashi-Morris

R.S.V.P. requested by March 25 to 919.783.5676,
or uupfellowship@yahoo.com

Questions? Contact Abbie Modjeska,
amodjeska@nc.rr.com or 783-7720.

--Rich Elkins

Hospitality

Refreshment hostesses/hosts for April

4/3 Tracy Donohue 4/10 Mark Barnes

Diane Mackenroth Terry Shank

4-17 Bea Behr 4/24 Lorraine Obremski

Edith Webber Susan Foreman

Dinner for Eight will be April 23rd. The sign-up sheet is there. All Kay Alston needs is your name.

Next Dinner & Movie will be May 14th. Film will be "Ironed Jawed Angels" starring Hilary Swank and Angelica Houston. Put this on your calender.

--Janet Doig

UUFR -- Johnsmith Concert:

Mark your calendar. Singer-songwriter Johnsmith will perform in the Raleigh UU Fellowship Social Hall on Sunday, April 17, at 7 p.m. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the warmest, and most honest voices on the singer-songwriter circuit.

Tickets are \$10.

Learn more about Johnsmith at
<http://www.johnsmithmusic.com>

--Janine Reed for the UUFR Performing Arts Series Subcommittee janine2355@earthlink.net

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh
3313 Wade Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27607

919-781-7635

<http://www.uufr.org>

Political Covenant Group

The Political Group met March 20th with a small attendance. We discussed the possibility of putting on a fun day for Hispanic families with booths for kids and with representatives from various organizations to reach adults. We talked about asking a farmer to let us use their farm. We need full participation to make a decision and work out details.

The next meetings will be on April 3rd and 17th at 4:00pm at the church. We need as many members as possible to attend. We are trying to schedule meetings twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sunday at 4:00pm.

--Ruth Leggett

On a Personal Note . . .

Sienie Postma hasn't been to church much lately because she often doesn't feel good in the morning. She appreciates the cards and flowers and visits from members of the congregation ("Congregants" is shorter, but doesn't feel comfortable).

As of March 23rd **Fred Becker** was still in the hospital, but expecting to be discharged soon.

Kendall Garing and **Roger Robbins** announced their engagement to be married. Is it a match made in heaven? Maybe. But I prefer to think of its more earthly roots at UUCG. After all, there are lots of matches that claim a celestial origin, but not that many that have their genesis in UUCG.

Bruce Baker has a new job -- in his field, and also one that lets him get to meeting.

Another piece of good news is that **Michael Shank** (**Terry's** eldest) received a humanitarian award in the last month. More reflected glory for us all to bask in.

Rich Elkins, our web master, bought a house and by the time you get this will be in. Congratulations.

Rik Barnes figuratively handed out bouquets to a bus driver, JJ Staton, who found Rik's lost hat and returned it to him. That's service Rik didn't expect and appreciation drivers don't often get, I'm afraid.

Cheers for **Judy Hepler**, whose new kidney is working well.

Richard Weir celebrated his birthday with the youth group seeing to the tables at the pledge dinner. Well, we did sing Happy Birthday to him, in appreciation. .

Chester Freeman's cancer has returned, but it's small and the prognosis for **Chester** is good. (Bad for the cancer.)

Dianne and Hooker Horton's fourth grade grandson tied for third place in a math contest. He'll be going on to the next level, and by the way, they've been married 44 years!

More than 25 Greenvillians celebrated the spring equinox on the Town Common, honoring the earth and new life with words and soft drums and dance, organized and led by **Richard, Linda, Carroll, Cindy, and Heather**.

"Spirituality and the Environment"

An Interfaith Interactive Workshop by Meghan Shearer will be held on Saturday, April 9th from 1:00-5:00.

This workshop will explore practices that reconnect our lives to the earth. Ms Shearer will share her experiences with Tibetan Buddhist study in India and will relate our own experiences to focus on personal and community empowerment. Take this time near Earth Day to renew your own deep connections to this precious planet.

Meghan Shearer, a native of Greenville, received her BS in Environmental Studies at UNC-Asheville and is currently finishing her MA in Environmental Education in California. She is a long-time practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism and has studied with depth ecologist Joanna Macy.

--Karen Day



THE MONTH in PREVIEW

Church Calendar for April

- 3 10:30am *Change and Renewal* -- Ed Day
4:00pm Understanding the Bible
4:00pm Political Covenant Group
- 5 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 6 6:00pm Eat out at Fajita's
- 9 1:00pm Arts & Crafts Covenant Group
1:00-5:00pm Spirituality and the Environment -- An Interfaith Workshop
- 10 10:30am *Renewing Ties to Earth* -- Rev Karen Day
- 12 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 13 6:00pm Eat out at Texas Steakhouse
- 17 10:30am Reader's Theater
10:30am Begin drop off for Women's Covenant Group
4:00pm Political Covenant Group
6:00pm Earth-based Covenant Group
- 18 7:00pm Board Meeting
- 19 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
10:00am Women's Covenant Group
- 20 6:00pm Eat out at China 10
- 23 9:00am First Born
9:00am TJ District Annual Meeting Annual Meeting
1:00pm Arts & Crafts Covenant Group
- 24 10:30 *Flower Ceremony & New Member Welcome* -- Rev Karen Day
- 25 7:00pm Interfaith Prayers for Peace -- St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
- 26 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 27 6:00pm Eat out at Ruby Tuesday's

RE Calendar for Spring 2005

Date Topic

- April 3** Exploring ritual session by attending Mass
- April 10** Exploring ritual
- April 17** Yoga
- April 24** Intergenerational Flower Service --- Afternoon Seder for the RE program,
- May 1** Earth Based Spirituality Covenant group presenting Beltane
- May 8** Mothers Day----- Intergenerational
- May 15** End of Year Party
- May 22** Yoga

Women's Covenant Group Community Service Project

This group will enlist the assistance of the entire congregation to stock the hurricane readiness supply closet for the Women's Shelter. They need 40 cases (24 bottles each) of 16 oz water, 27 flashlights with size C or D batteries, Dreft laundry detergent powder for baby clothes. Another ongoing need at the shelter is gently used twin bed sheets. Donations can be brought to the church starting April 17th. Financial donations can be made to any Women's Covenant Group member and items will be purchased. Collection will end May 15th when supplies will be delivered to the Shelter.

--Sylvia English

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, April 19

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



April 6 -- **Fajita's** -- 650 E. Firetower Road -- 353-8700
April 13 -- **Texas Steakhouse** -- SW Greenville Blvd
April 20 -- **China 10** -- 2516 E. 5th Street -- 830-2238
April 27 -- **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 (355-0652) 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
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355-6658**

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Treasurer, Brenda Stewart, 746-4714

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lisa Brenner, 329-8130
Committee on Ministry: Jan Salstrom 752-3991
Communications: Don English, 756-7010
Finance: Peter Satchjen, 353-5447
Hospitality: Janet Doig, 355-1822
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