



The UUCG beacon

April 2006

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858 • 252.355.6658

Sunday Services—10:30 am

April 2

Brody School of Medicine Reader's Theater,

April 9

The UU World, Ed Day and others

April 16

*Evo Devo, or is God in Our Genes,
Ed Day*

April 23,

To be announced, Roger Robbins

April 30

The Stream of Life, Ed Day

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am
unless otherwise noted.
Children's activities are available each
Sunday unless otherwise noted

It's Time to Talk About Money

This month we are holding our pledge drive. Asking for money is not my favorite thing to do. Our congregation is a place I look to for meaning, inspiration, and love. A haven from the fear, indifference, commercialism, and unfairness too often found in the world. Unfortunately, even in our congregation, we need to deal with finances.

The generous gifts of time, labor, food, and supplies help us keep our costs at a minimum. Unfortunately, the utility companies insist on cash payments. Our new minister, no matter how much he or she may love this calling, will still need to eat and live somewhere. We are continuing our commitment to provide 2 percent of our total budget to social action projects. We need money to keep our congregation going.

Our main source of money is member and friend pledges. A pledge is a symbol of our commitment to our congregation and our UU principles. It is one way we show that we believe in and want to support the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville, the Thomas Jefferson District, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Because it is voluntary, your pledge is also symbolic. No collection agent will call if you don't fulfill your pledge, and we certainly won't complain if you pay more than you pledge. While it may be symbolic, your pledge is needed in a very real sense. The budget for next year continues our current ministries and includes a full time interim minister beginning in September.

We assumed a level of pledge income to make this budget. We left out some things we wanted because we felt pledges would not provide enough money. Maybe we'll be pleasantly surprised and can add some back. But if pledges come in low, we'll have to find things to cut. We've budgeted for a pledge income of \$800 per member. For some, this will obviously be more than they can afford. Others will be able to give more.

(continued on page 7)

Reason & Rhyme

. . . *Ed Day*

Spring, that wonderful season, is here with signs of renewal all around us, including that wonderful pine haze that paints everything yellow.

We are in a time of renewal ourselves, looking forward to a new minister and perhaps a new home. A congregation in Connecticut that I am familiar with faced a similar challenge without sufficient preparation and is now searching desperately for the money it needs to live up to its commitment.

Here at UUCG we have faced similar problems in the past and have successfully met the challenge. Our present building and the ministries of Bob Murphy and Karen Day are proof of our past foresight. Now we must face the present situation with our eyes, our hearts and our wallets wide open.

Our pledge drive will start soon, and Feryl and Brenda will tell us about our options and choices. Then its up to us to decide how badly we want to move forward in faith toward renewal and growth.

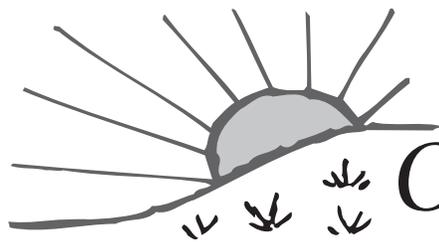
We have a nice collage of services this month starting with the always intriguing Reader's Theater presented by students from the Brody school of Medicine. A round table discussion of articles in the *UU World* will follow. *The World* is always full of stimulating information, and this will be an opportunity to share in some exciting and challenging discussions.

The term *Evo Devo* stands for evolution and development, and we will examine some amazing concepts in an assuredly non-scientific way in this service.

A Poem for Spring

In the springtime when the sun comes up
And the bright light shimmers on the trees
And the flowers flash their colors
And the green leaves quiver in expectation,
Then the songbirds strike up their melodies
And the squirrels scamper about the lawn
The children play laughingly in the yard
Oh then its hard not to feel that good things
Can still happen in this crazy old world
And that after all we were meant to be happy.





On the Horizon

Get Involved

Katie Benson sends us news of a special monthly Kids' Day planned at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville.

Children ages 5–12 plus an accompanying adult are invited to participate at the Food Bank at Greenville, 497 West Ninth Street (behind Habitat for Humanity and just east of Dickenson on the south side of the street).

The first Kids Day was on March 11. From now on, it will be held on the second Saturday of each month, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Kids will get a tour of the Greenville facility and learn about the Food Bank and nutrition.

Both children and adults will get the chance to perform a volunteer service opportunity designed just for them.

Please pass along the news to anyone you think might be interested in attending.

Tar River Community Band

The Tar River Community Band has a new conductor this year and will present its spring concert at 7:00 pm on April 8 at Epps Middle School cafeteria. Young conductor, Keith Phillips from the ECU School of Music, challenges us to work hard during rehearsals and brings out the best in all of us.

Concert tickets are only \$5. See Janet Doig if you'd like to attend the concert.

Don't Forget First Born

First Born food distribution is from 10:00-12:00 Saturday, April 23. Arrive before 10:00 am to get an assignment. Or, you may arrive earlier to help pack the boxes. They will need box carriers and desk workers.

To get to First Born church from Greenville take Route 33 East to Grimesland. When you're in the town of Grimesland, take a right on Chicod Street. Go about a mile, and First Born will be on the right side of the road.

~ Tracy Donohue

Beacon Deadline

The deadline for the May issue is noon, Tuesday, April 18. Please submit articles and announcements by email to: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org.

Easter Romp

Easter Egg Hunt and General Gaiety will abound at the Maxwells this Easter Sunday. All are welcome. Bring your family and friends. Refreshments, games and relay races will be part of the fun.

When: 3:00 pm until we're all tired out, Sunday, April 16.

Where: 1713 Worthington Warren Road, Stokes

Please call the Maxwells at 355-4538, or sign the sheet at church if you plan to attend.



News, Notes and Other Stuff

Campus Ministry Update

This year we started a UU Campus Ministry. Our numbers are small. We've met a few times to eat soup and talk. Last time we brought quotes we liked and discussed them.

It was very pleasant. Our new president is Rachel Drye. Next year we hope to participate in some campus events to advertise our group.

I've attended several Campus Ministry Association meetings. I think our presence on this committee is important because there are many different Christian denominations and few non-Christian denominations. We offer a different point of view. Also, there was talk of having offices for the different campus ministries under one roof. I'd like us to get in on that, even though it won't be until far in the future.

I've been working with Scott Wilkinson, the Methodist representative, to plan a Campus Religious Diversity event for next fall. The first meeting had a table filled with students of very different faiths trying to plan some kind of an event to celebrate religious diversity.

The Muslim fellow said "Well, we believe in serving others in need," and the Mormon girl says, "So do we. Maybe we could get together and do a service project."

It was wonderful to hear young people discover what they have in common instead of dwelling on what makes them different. I hope to continue to work on this project.

~ Tracy Donohue, Faculty Advisor to the UU Campus Ministry

Social Action Report

The Social Action committee voted to continue its commitment to Amnesty International by renewing membership in the organization with a \$75 gift. Amnesty International works to free prisoners of conscience, end torture, "disappearances" and executions, and ensure fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners in countries around the world. ~ Joan Sachtjen

Wine Country Excursions

UUs of Napa, California, announce the second season of UU Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to tour the scenic Napa and Sonoma Valleys.

These small tours are customized to your interests such as wine tasting, art, history, gourmet dining, or exploring the beauty of our hills and valleys. The tour includes private rooms with baths and breakfast in the homes of congregation members.

Special places include COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts), Jack London's home, the Francis Ford Coppola winery and movie museum, fine restaurants, many museums and galleries, miles of bicycling and hiking trails, etc.

We offer excursions from April through October. Plan for two days of touring and two or three overnight stays. Home hospitality without tours is available. All proceeds benefit our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 or twilson9@sbcglobal.net.



Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on March 20. The proposed 2006-2007 budget was finalized; it will be voted on at the May annual meeting.

The Board discussed the results of the March 19 congregational meeting and the search for a new facility. Rich will look into getting a right of first refusal on the music academy and gather the necessary information about the building next door and the property. Feryl will get the information for the University Church of Christ.

Rich already had some information about the music academy. The land is not practical for purchase without the building because of drainage and a gas easement.

Comments made about the Disruptive Behavior Policy were discussed, as was the election of Joanie Degroot, Patrice Alexander, and Jan Salstrom to the Ministerial Search Committee.

Our application for an interim minister has been submitted, and we should get three possibilities soon after April 15, the deadline for congregations to submit their applications.

Proposals for committee realignment were briefly discussed and will be discussed again at the April 17 meeting. It's been very difficult to recruit volunteers for committee chairs, so the Board is considering combining some of the committees. If you have an opinion about our committee structure, please come to the next meeting or let a board member know of your thoughts.

We will be a part of a cluster Public Radio East advertising campaign. The cluster meeting raised \$180 toward that expense. If you normally support

Religious Education

The Religious Education Department is planning an Egg Hunt on April 9. We are also adding Toddler Playground equipment for the children four and under to play on outside. We are hoping to start up a curriculum for preschoolers. If you are interested in helping or teaching please contact Victoria Brown at 747-7785 or HemlocMoon@aol.com.

April Schedule

- **April 2** – Teens, *Discovering Faiths*; Tweens, Lesson 12; Story Teller, Victoria Brown
- **April 8** – Teen Movie Night 7:00 pm, *Spiderman*
- **April 9** – Spring Egg Hunt; Story Teller, Marli Baker
- **April 16** – Intergenerational Service; Story Teller, Kristen Kenyon
- **April 23** — *Yoga for All Ages*, Don English; Story Teller, Feryl Masters
- **April 30** — Teens, *Discovering Faiths*; Tweens, Lesson 14; Story Teller, Sue Farris

April Birthdays

Tracy Donohue-Stine	April 5
Joan Sachtjen	April 8
Ray Sobel	April 23
Carroll Webber	April 23
Billie Mallison	April 24
Mona Lang	April 25
Paul Alston	April 29
Mary Yahnker	April 29

PRE, your gift can be sent in with the church contribution. You will still get the tax deduction and company matching that you might have available to you.

Until next month ~ Jackie Wyman

On a Personal Note . . .

How wonderful to read in the *UU World* of **Karen Day's** admission to Final Fellowship.

The adults in **Bob Franke's** Bosnian family recently passed their citizenship test. Congratulations!

Good letters from **Patty Gade** and **Ray Sobel** appeared in the *Daily Reflector* in March.

William Mallison, Billie and Mac Mallison's son, will graduate in May from George Washington University. Currently, he is serving an internship at the White House. This summer he plans to attend Moscow State University to improve his Russian language abilities. He hopes to obtain a job in Washington, DC following graduation and is sending out lots of resumes.

We are all proud of **Eli Stine** who not only composed music for an ECU theatrical production, but got written up in a splendid full-page article in the *Daily Reflector*. More congratulations are in order for Eli for winning fifth trombone chair in the state youth orchestra.

Kendall Garing reports that she will probably accept an offer to join a practice in Asheboro, NC, and that means that she and Roger will be moving soon. They have been very active contributors to our congregation and will be sincerely missed.

We are also gloomy about the upcoming departure of **Diane and Hooker Horton**, who have also been pillars of our UUCG family for several years. The Hortons have sold their house in preparation for a move to Raleigh to be closer to their son. We hope they'll come back and visit often.

Martha Dominguez is looking for someone to share her condo in Forbes Woods. Lucky renter will have a private bedroom and bath and will share other space. A vegetarian would be ideal. Call her if you know someone who is interested

Thanks to **Rik Barnes** for calling to check on me when **Carroll** had to be away and I was under the weather. I'm sorry to have so few personals this month, what with hospital time (angioplasty). Can you help us next month to catch up with you and with others you know about by sending me items? ~Edie Webber



Could There be Shamrocks in Your Path this Summer?

Our former minister, Bob Murphy, writes to tell us about a special opportunity for travel in Ireland this summer. . .

Unitarians have been actively involved with Celtic cultures for more than 200 years. We have congregations in Edinburgh, Dublin, Cardiff, Belfast, and other Celtic cities. *(continued on page 8)*



Church Calendar

- 2 10:30 am — Sunday service, Reader's Theater
- 5 6:00 pm —Dine Out, China 10
- 9 10:30 am — Sunday service, Ed Day
- 12 6:00 pm —Dine Out, Carolina Pizza & Pasta
- 16 10:30 am—Sunday Service, Ed Day
3:00 pm — Easter Egg Hunt at the Maxwells
- 17 7:00 pm — Board Meeting
- 18 Noon — Beacon deadline
- 19 6:00 pm —Dine Out, Los Charros
- 22 10:00 am–Noon, food distribution, First Born
- 23 10:30 am—Sunday Service, Roger Robbins
- 26 6:00 pm —Dine Out, Logan's
- 30 10:30 am—Sunday Service, Ed Day

Joy Soup Kitchen

Since November, Janet Doig, Diane MacKanrath and Marcia Sobel have been volunteering at the Joy Soup Kitchen on the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you're interested in helping with this project, please call Janet at 355-1822.

In Celebration of Sienie

Sienie Postma, who celebrated her 93rd birthday on March 30, was born in The Netherlands into a large family of nine children. When she grew up and moved away from home, she lived in a single room over a bar and worked in a bakery.

Sienie married a barber and they had one child, Jake. She was active with the Salvation Army in Amsterdam and continued her interest in the organization in Greenville.

Sienie, her husband and son came to the United States in 1956 when her Pentecostal church was sponsored by a church in western Kentucky. The family flew into what was then Idelwild Airport where they were met by their sponsors and driven to Kentucky. After two years, they moved to Paducah, KY, where Sienie became a foster mother. At one time, Jake said, they had six babies in their home.

After her husband died at age 55, Sienie trained to be a nurse's aide, a role that she continued after she moved to Greenville.

Jake Postma came to Greenville in 1979 and Sienie joined him the following year. She lived in her own apartment in Wilson Acres for more than 20 years. During her earliest years here, she took care of children in their family's home and still keeps in touch with them. She has been photographed as a clinic patient and is recognized by many. She loves to be with people and is comfortable with everyone.

We at UUCG have known Sienie about six years. She participated in Tuesday morning breakfasts and eventually joined our congregation.

After a hospitalization last December, Sienie moved to Red Oak Manor assisted living. Her room is adorned with many pictures of her son, his wife and her two grandchildren, her eight siblings and places she has lived. Her English fails her sometimes these days, and she may begin a sentence in English and end it in Dutch.

She loves to have visitors and receive mail. Her address is Red Oak Manor, 2920 Williams Road, Greenville, NC 27834.

President's Message (from page 1)

Your pledge is very personal. Obviously, the money is important, but the symbol of your pledge is at least as important. Big or small, please pledge your commitment.

~ Feryl Masters, UUCG President

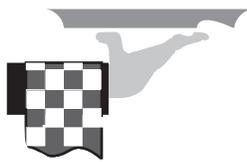
Tour of Ireland (continued from page 6)

This summer, a group will travel to Ireland to focus attention on the situation in Belfast. The tentative dates for the tour are July 31–August 14th, 2006.

This is not a “shamrocks and green beer” tour of Ireland. The trip will be managed by Global Exchange and will emphasize political and cultural education. We’ll be meeting with Roman Catholics and Protestants who have been through some difficult times in recent years.

Additional information about expenses and the basic itinerary is available at www.globalexchange.com. Global Exchange will manage most of the tour arrangements. Please contact them if you have questions about air travel, lodging, meals, ground transportation, etc. One possibility is to extend the tour by two or three days in order to see more of Dublin and to discuss Unitarian and UU involvement with topics like Celtic history and Celtic spirituality. Expect surprises.

Rev. Bob Murphy, on Cape Cod, will help answer UU questions. For more information, contact Bob at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 840 Sandwich Road, Falmouth, MA 02536



Dine Out Schedule*

April 5 China 10
12 Carolina Pizza & Pasta
19 Los Charros
26 Logan’s Steakhouse

*Starts at 6:00 pm

Congregation of Greenville

131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
355-5568

Interim Minister, Ed Day
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Jackie Wyman
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee chairs

Building and Grounds, Lisa Brenner
Ministry, Sylvia English
Communication, Don English
Finance, Mark Barnes
Religious Education, Victoria Brown
Social Action, Joan Sachtjen
Worship, Roger Robbins

