



# The UUCG beacon

April 2007

The **beacon** is published monthly  
by the Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
www.uugreenvillenc.org  
**beacon** Editor: Don English  
Email: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

**Sunday Services -- 10:30 am**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Messiah for a Day*

**Rev Frieda Gillespie**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Sunday**

*The Secret Life of Parents*

**Rev. Frieda Gillespie**

**April 15<sup>th</sup>**

*Quaker Silence Service*

**Rev. Frieda Gillespie**

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Great Narratives that give*

*Meaning to Education and*

*Life*

**Ed Day**

**April 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Jesus' First Day at School*

**Dr Calvin Mercer**

Children's activities are available  
each Sunday.

## President's Notes:

It's been a fun month at UUCG. We had a very successful and fun auction, a great Pledge Night, a stimulating Young Adult evening, an inspiring revival service, beautiful wedding and anniversary celebrations, and a teen trip to a Youth Con. This is in addition to our normal teen movie night, discussion groups, and dining out. To complete the fun filled list, we had a full slate of Board, committee, subcommittee and Congregational meetings. We also made a strong showing in the First Born Food distribution, Pitt County Cleanup, and Girl Scout Dinner honoring Bee Behr and other women of distinction. Nobody went to all of these, but that is part of the joy of our Congregation.

April and May aren't quite as busy, yet. We still have a number of events. Our District Spring Conference in Virginia on April 27, and our Annual Meeting and Potluck are two major events. We'll have a contingent from our Congregation going to the District Spring. If you'd like to go, join us. We can arrange car pools and have a scholarship fund to help pay for registrations.

We have a lot of different activities. Hopefully, everyone found something they could enjoy. If not, suggest something. Our congregation is much more fun when you participate. Even the things that are "work" are fun with our fellow Congregants. Not everything is fun to everyone, of course. Find something you like and get involved. As I've often been told by people who've organized activities or worked on events and projects, it's fun and satisfying. We're asking for money this month to fund all the things we want to do. Hear the Call to give financially, but also listen for what calls you to join in.

As part of our Canvass, we want to talk with you about our Congregation. What do you like? What do you want more of? We have many activities and projects possible for the future. We can't do everything, so we need to know what is most important to you. Speak up so we know what you're thinking.

Think about what you'd like to do and volunteer. Don't be bashful.

--Feryl Masters

# Reflections

Reflections . . . of Rev Frieda Gillespie

Notes from the Interim

"I loaf, and invite my soul" -- Walt Whitman

In the Judeo-Christian tradition a day is set aside as the Sabbath day, a day of rest. It isn't just Orthodox Christians and Jews who observe a Sabbath but a number of UU ministers and lay people do as well. In this world of high productivity and high consumerism, a day devoted to one's own well-being separate from work and busy-ness seems very appropriate. I suspect all of you have a day here or there where you just "crash". Hopefully you don't wait until you are thoroughly exhausted or ill to do this, but take time when you feel the need to just lay around and read, go for a walk, talk with friends or distant family, or sleep in. Although usually hours rather than days, I treasure this downtime. It helps me to integrate the many experiences I've had during the previous days, and reminds me that I am not my work but have a life and an identity that is my own. Often I get my most creative ideas or resolve conflicts when I am relaxing and not even trying to think about these things.

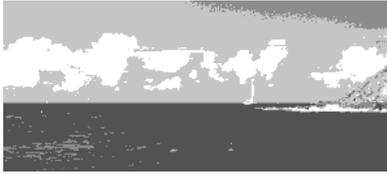
Dogs are very helpful reminders, if you like them (and I do), because they devote most of the day to relaxation having only short bursts of time when they are "on the

job" barking at intruders or chasing squirrels. Their inverted lives suggest that we might not have the right idea at all about how to live. They certainly seem happy enough and have better dispositions than many people I know including me.

If you consider how you spend your time on Sundays after the worship service, do you find yourself really enjoying the fellowship of the others there or is there a rush of food and meetings and cleanup that keeps you still in that daily grind? Could you create a different atmosphere where the priority is that which feeds your soul? It has been suggested that cutting back on all of the distraction of meetings and food there might be incentive to linger and really have some deeper conversation or take another person you've been wanting to get to know out to lunch. You might have a chance to really get to know some of the newcomers and they you, making it more likely that they would return for more. (Don't worry, no one is suggesting to eliminate the coffee!) Just some food for thought. Perhaps if you take some time to loaf this month, you could let the idea percolate and see what it leads to.

Wishing you times of delicious and soulful sloth,

Frieda



# On The Horizon

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## Membership Committee

Spring is just around the corner and our pledge drive is coming up. The membership committee asks each of our members to make a pledge of some type during the pledge drive.

On a different note, the building next to the church has been purchased. This includes the parking lot behind it and the building facing Oakmont in the opposite direction. The new owner is putting up a low rope divider with posts between this parking lot and the area beside our asphalt pad.

Until we can come to some agreement with the new owner, we can no longer drive across the grass between the parking lot and our rear area. We should also try to limit our parking in his lot for the time being.

Someone also mentioned to me that the Montessori School has asked us not to drive across the area between our lots. I do not believe they mind our parking there on Sundays as parents use our lot during the week when picking up their children. It is just the driving across the grass that is a problem. Respecting our neighbors is a way of respecting ourselves.

--Ruel Tyer

## Plan Ahead for the Annual Meeting

Don't forget our Annual Meeting and pot luck on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We have raised the number needed for a quorum, so your presence is even more important. We will be electing officers, approving our budget, and -- we hope -- calling a Settled Minister!!!

--Feryl Maststers

## Interfaith

The Buddhist Sangha will host Prayers for Peace at UUCG April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

We still need interested people to help with the running of this organization. Inquiries can be directed to me at 756-6088 (9am-9pm) or [DUP-Habiba@suddenlink.net](mailto:DUP-Habiba@suddenlink.net).

Thank you and Blessings of Peace,

--Debi Habiba Niswander

## Have A Favorite Movie?

Write up a short paragraph describing your favorite movie, submit it to the Beacon Editor at [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org) and we'll start a movie column, space permitting. Movies to be considered should be somewhat artistic, have a message, make you think. Tell us what it's about and why you like it.

--Beacon Editor

## District Conference in Late April

The Thomas Jefferson Spring Conference will be in Glen Allen, Virginia this year. It will be April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Gini Courter will be speaking, something you don't want to miss. The UUCG will be speaking, also. We will have a group going up to present the Universal Health Care Proposal at the conference. If you'd like to go, please register. Information and registration form is available at the District Website [www.tjd.uua.org](http://www.tjd.uua.org). Contact Feryl Masters if you want to arrange to car pool. Scholarships are available from the Congregation if money is a problem.

--Feryl Masters

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

## Sunday Services Preview

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – *Messiah for a Day* - Rev Frieda Gillespie** -- For a very short time, Jesus was hailed in Jerusalem as the Messiah. He overturned the money exchange tables in the Temple there. What would you do if you were Messiah for a day?

**April 8<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday - *The Secret Life of Parents* – Rev. Frieda Gillespie** -- How many of us have found that becoming parents brought out the best and worst in us? Why is this most intense work so hard to do and even harder to talk about? We will all share in a baby dedication ceremony with two UUCG families.

**April 15<sup>th</sup> – Quaker Silence Service – Rev. Frieda Gillespie** -- After describing the Quaker worship tradition, we will sit in silence together as the Quakers do for an extended time in this service inviting a deeper wisdom to speak to us. From this silence there will be an opportunity to share our insights and concerns.

**April 22 -- *Great Narratives that give Meaning to Education and Life* -- Ed Day**

**April 29 -- *Jesus' First Day at School* -- Dr Calvin Mercer** -- Dr Mercer is the Co-Director of the Religious Studies Program at East Carolina University. Jesus' First Day at School will deal with the non-canonical Gospels.

## April Birthdays

Happy Birthday to you...      April 23<sup>rd</sup> Edith Webber  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> Ray Sobel  
April 1<sup>st</sup> Pat Dix                      April 24<sup>th</sup> Billie Mallison  
April 5<sup>th</sup> Tracy Donohue Stine  
April 6<sup>th</sup> Sean Stayton              April 25<sup>th</sup> Mona Lang  
April 8<sup>th</sup> Joan Sachtjen              April 29<sup>th</sup> Paul Alston  
Happy Birthday to You!  
--Jackie Wyman

## Office Administrator Notes

Thank you to all of those members that have been very helpful to me during my first few weeks. I hope to get to know the rest of you very soon. Just a quick summary of some of my duties; managing the church calendar, printing the order of service and announcements for Sunday, keeping membership and visitor records, and sending out congregational mailings. Please keep in mind if you have any announcements for Sunday, please let me know by 11am on Thursday. Additionally, please contact me with your request for room reservations. If you can, please let me know of any meeting changes or cancellations, I'd be very appreciative.

Finally, a new directory is coming. If you have recently moved or changed your phone number let me know so that I can update our records.

My office hours are Tuesday 8-11, Wednesday 8-11 and Thursday 8-12. My e-mail address is [office@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:office@uugreenvillenc.org) <<mailto:office@uugreenvillenc.org>>. Feel free to call or e-mail me. I am here to help!

Thanks,

--Jess Patterson

## Adult RE Offering

Meditations: On the "Monk Who Dwells in Daily Life"

In this discussion class we will read meditations from Thomas Moore, (author of "Care of the Soul") as he meditates on his early life in a monastery and how that experience can be lived in ordinary life. Book is approximately \$10. Three Tuesdays: April 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Attend 3:30 - 5:00 PM or 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Led by Rev. Frieda Gillespie

--Frieda



# APRIL in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 <b>9:30 Forum</b> <b>10:30</b> <i>Messiah for a Day</i>	2	3 <b>8:30</b> Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel <b>3:30-5:00</b> Monk Class <b>7:00-8:30</b> Monk Class	4 <b>6:00</b> Eat Out @ Pizza Inn	5	6	7
8 <b>9:30 Forum</b> <b>10:30</b> <i>The Secret Life of Parents</i> <b>7:00</b> Meditation at GYC	9 <b>7:30</b> Board Meeting	10 <b>8:30</b> Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel <b>3:30-5:00</b> Monk Class <b>7:00-8:30</b> Monk Class	11 <b>6:00</b> Eat Out @ Saeng Thai House	12	13	14 <b>9:00</b> Bldg Clean-up
15 <b>9:30 Forum</b> <b>10:30</b> <i>Quaker Silence Service</i>	16	17 <b>8:30</b> Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel <b>6:30</b> Young Adult Pot-Luck	18 <b>6:00</b> Eat Out @ Tripp's	19	20	21 6:00 Dinners for 8
22 <b>9:30 Forum</b> <b>10:30</b> <i>Great Narratives</i> <b>7:00</b> Book Club	23	24 <b>8:00</b> Beacon Deadline <b>8:30</b> Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	25 <b>6:00</b> Eat Out @ Mi Cabana	26	27 TJ District Spring Conference at Glen Allen, VA	28 <b>9:00</b> First Born  TJ District Spring Conference at Glen Allen, VA
29 <b>9:30 Forum</b> <b>10:30</b> <i>Jesus' First Day of School</i>	30 7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace at UUCG hosted by the Buddhists	May 1 <b>8:30</b> Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel <b>3:30-5:00</b> Monk Class <b>7:00-8:30</b> Monk Class				

Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA. To contact her call: 252-367-0103 or email: [minister@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:minister@uugreenvillenc.org)

# Getting Acquainted

Our most recent new member is Claudia Sundman, who moved here from Oriental in December. She found us almost immediately! And she liked us!

Claudia was reared on Long Island, and has never looked back. Between finishing school and leaving Long Island, she lived in a historic mansion at the very best location in South Hampton that had been turned into a library. She resided in one of the towers and worked as the caretaker. She also worked as a restaurant cook during that time.

At the age of 12, Claudia had a crush on a 19 year old named Roger Sundman who didn't know she existed. He went away to school and life. He returned to Long Island when Claudia was 19 and discovered that Claudia existed! They stayed on Long Island for a couple

of years, but moved to New Hampshire to get away from state taxes.

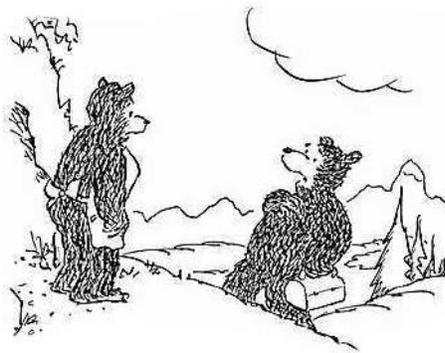
Roger worked as an engineer on ships so was out to sea a lot. At one point, Roger was in Finland where a cruise ship was being retrofitted. Claudia went to visit for awhile, and ended up working on the ship as the crew purser. They cruised around the Hawaiian Islands on that ship for several months. That company went bankrupt, but, amazingly, there was a newly retrofitted ship that needed a full crew, and the full crew from the cruise ship needed jobs. Rog-

er got a job a chief engineer, and Claudia made a crew purser job for herself. They spent ten years on that fish processing mother ship where fish mush was being made. They were in the Bering Sea mostly, and their fish mush mostly went to Japan where it was a delicacy. Apparently Americans don't have a taste for fish mush!

Claudia and Roger retired after ten years. They sold the house they owned in New Hampshire and moved to Oriental where it was warmer (they had been very cold in the Bering Sea for a long time).

Claudia and Roger had ten more years together, three of which were on a sailboat.

Unfortunately, Roger became ill while they were spending hurricane season on their boat in Guatemala. He received good care there, but was diagnosed with a brain tu-



*I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THE FISH FACTORY.  
LET'S RETIRE TO NORTH CAROLINA.*

mor. Claudia and Roger came back to the US, and went to the National Cancer Center for evaluation. After that, they returned to Oriental (they had built a home there). Claudia brought Roger to Greenville for treatment, and they stayed in the Hope Lodge. Roger died on August 25, 2006 at home in Oriental with Claudia by his side. Because Claudia had liked Greenville, she moved here in December, and she is in the process of selling their home in Oriental.

--Jacckie Wyman

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## Working Together to Build Community



### Ethical Eating...

The Spring 2007 issue of the UUWorld carries an article on CSAs (that acronym stands for Community Supported Agriculture). CSAs aspire to create environmentally sound relationships between farmers and health-conscious eaters. This is not a new idea, but one that is spreading, often through UU congregations.

CSAs assure farmers that their fragile produce will generate an income, and they assure those of us who consume their wares that we are eating fresh, healthy food. They also reduce our participation in large-scale (long-distance) agricultural marketing which relies on massive fossil-fuel use (supermarket produce travels an average of 1,500 miles to reach our shopping cart).

The essential idea is that a group of consumers commit to purchase a portion of a farmer's harvest. Each participant pays a set amount per month during harvest

time, and in return receives a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly box of the current harvest (depending on the arrangement entailed in the CSA). Food is often picked the day it is delivered.

There is great variability in CSAs. A single CSA may offer options for members who want their boxes to include organic free-range meat, eggs, or fruit, in addition to garden produce.

One constant is how the food is received. The farmer would deliver to our church parking lot on the specified day, at the specified time. We would show up, and go home with a box of farm-fresh, seasonal goodies. We can ask that the farmer provide instructions for preparing unfamiliar veggies.

If you are interested in pursuing the development of a UUCG-CSA, please contact me, Carol Maxwell, at 355-4538 or speak to me at church.

–Carol Maxwell

### Campus Ministry

YOUNG ADULT (ages 18-35) POT-LUCK will be held on Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the UUCG. Please bring something to eat and bring your ideas about activities for the group. Questions? Contact Tracy Donohue 758-0693 or Jess Patterson 355-6658

--Tracy Donohue

## ***On a Personal Note . . .***

Please keep Michelle Jenkins in your thoughts and prayers. Her mother died suddenly March 10<sup>th</sup> as a result of a stroke at the age of 59. Michelle has been in Kentucky with her family.

Carole Weil decided that North Carolina wasn't the place for her. She moved to Indianapolis in March. We'll miss her.

Lora Hylton has been ill since before Christmas. Please send her some positive thoughts. It would be very nice to see her back in church.

Ben Thomas resigned his membership because of declining health. His presence was always so pleasant, but had become very infrequent. Warm thoughts to him.

Seinie Postma passed away March 6<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. She had been living in an assisted living facility for several months. Seinie enriched our lives, and we miss her.

Bob and Cynthia Jeffcott recently celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and Jim and Loiose Pleasant celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!

Jess Patterson is very happy about her new niece, Autumn Elizabeth.

Justin Capehart has finally gotten a job! He's working at the nearby Sonic.

Mary Fowler has been moved to the Memory Cottage at Cypress Glen. It's a rather isolated existence, and visits would be very nice.

Carroll and Edith Webber have found a pleasing UU Fellowship in Chico, California. That's a lucky fellowship. This fellowship certainly misses them.

And finally our condolences go out to Marcia Fletcher on the recent loss of her mother.

.....from the Caring Committee

### **Your Beacon Editor Needs a Volunteer**

I'm looking for a someone who can be a backup person for putting the Beacon together on those occasions when I'm away or otherwise unable to put together the Beacon. You'll need to have a Desk Top Publishing program to make life a bit easier. If you can be that person, please email me at [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org).



## News, Notes and Other Stuff

### RE Corner

Aliens have landed! Oh, false alarm. It's just the UU Tweens performing a skit for the congregation and showing off what they know about the first two UU principles. The Tweens have been very patient as they wait to blast off in their time machine and explore the rest of the UU principles. Besides practicing for their skit, they have had a visit from the Girl Scouts on Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> and an Easter Egg hunt on April 1<sup>st</sup>. And don't forget they are selling FairTrade chocolate during coffee time. Large bars are \$2.50 and mini-bars are \$0.25--just catch a Tween. Everyone welcome Kim Smith back to the Sunday services. We are excited to have a new volunteer in RE, Pat Dix. She has taken over as the lead teacher for the Tweens.

The Teens continue to turn out for movie and pizza night. Four of our teens represented the UUCG at the youth convention at Eno River UU Fellowship Mar

16-18. Amber and Nick Brown, Elizabeth Lones, and Rebecca Gade were the participants and Rich Elkins was their youth leader at the Conn. We are very proud of them. It is not easy to extend beyond the safe, comfortable boundaries of our UUCG home, but these exceptional teens were eager to participate. We look forward to hearing all about their adventures. During the Pledge Dinner, the Teens were put to work serving and cleaning up—they're great helpers.

Parents, please remember to pick up your children from RE immediately following the service. Childcare is provided until 11:30am only. After that, the children and their activities are the responsibility of their parents.

Thanks to all the volunteers in RE.

Patty Gade

### Dinners for 8

In January we had three groups that participated in Dinners for 8. We typically have these gatherings every other month, but since March was so busy, we had a dinner in late February. We had two groups at our February dinners. These are dinners where everyone brings a dish to the hosts' home and we enjoy a nice meal and get to know each other better.

The next Dinners for 8 is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup>. I will put a sign up sheet on the bulletin board a couple of weeks before the date. If everyone who has enjoyed the dinners in the past would invite someone else to sign up, we could have even more tables for our April 21<sup>st</sup> dinner.

--Kay Alston

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday , **April 24<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am

## UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu\*



April 4 -- **Pizza Inn** -- 1840 SE Greenville Blvd -- 758-6266  
April 11 -- **Saeng Thai House** -- 3400 S. Memorial Drive -- 754-2244  
April 18 -- **Tripp's** -- 420 Red Banks Road -- 329-0400  
April 25 -- **Mi Cabana** -- 333 East Arlington Blvd -- 931-9555

### Let's Eat!

\* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English 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  
Greenville, NC 27858  
355-6658**

**Minister**, Rev Frieda Gillespie  
**Religious Education Dir**, Victoria Brown  
**President**, Feryl Masters  
**Vice President**, Rich Elkins  
**Secretary**, Sue Ferris  
**Treasurer**, Brenda Stewart  
**Office Administrator**, Jess Patterson

**Committee Chairs**  
Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman  
Communications: Don English  
Endowment: Bill Paulson  
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel  
Membership: Ruel Tyer  
Religious Education: Patty Gade  
Social Action: Ray Sobel  
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

