

The UUCG
beacon

APRIL 2008

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 6
"Is Anybody Listening? What is Prayer & What Are Its Benefits?"
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 13
Does UUism Have An Adequate View of Evil?"
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 20
"The Seventh Principle (final sermon in a series)"
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 27
"Faith & Jazz"
Mort Stine & Bob Jeffcott

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Revaluation Time

If you're a property owner in Pitt County, you recently received a revaluation notice from the County Tax Office. North Carolina law requires that counties re-value real estate at least once every eight years, but many re-value more frequently, especially in fast-growing areas. More frequent revaluation reduces the "sticker shock" of a large increase in value after eight years into smaller increments, and generally allows for tax rates to remain more steady.

Property taxes are an ad valorem tax (based on the value). Changing market conditions make periodic revaluation necessary to alleviate disparities in value, bringing tax values back in line with market values. A house in a brand new development may appreciate rapidly, compared to one in an established neighborhood that might appreciate more slowly, or compared to a home in a more depressed area that may actually depreciate in value.

Property taxes are also often classified as a regressive tax, because they are not based on the ability to pay. A farmer with land worth millions of dollars may still be unable to pay the taxes when crop failures lead to loss in income. But the tax bill is still due, good crop or bad crop.

I, unlike many, was happy to see our revaluation notice, and even more happy to see the value increase. In many areas of the county, a collapse in the real estate market has led to people's home values plummeting and owners owing more than the home is worth. This is one factor in the current sub-prime mortgage crisis.

We have a sort of revaluation system here at UUCG as well, but it occurs every year at this time. But instead of an appraiser coming out and determining that value and the assessor sending you a bill,

PREZ NOTES (continued page 7)

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Reflections:

Thank you, thank you to all who make such generous contributions of money, time and talent to UUCG! Because of what you give UUCG is visibly and vocally present in Greenville. Because of what you give UUCG is connected with other UU's in Eastern North Carolina, in the Thomas Jefferson District, and throughout the UU Association of Congregations. Because of your generosity, UUCG helps make this a more just and compassionate society for all. Whatever age someone happens to be, because of your gifts to UUCG, everyone has an opportunity to learn, to grow, to deepen in their understanding

of this UU faith. It is your gift of money, time and talent that makes every Sunday Worship Service meaningful and inspiring. UUCG is organized, caring and FUN because of what you contribution! Yippee for you! Yippee for us! Yippee for UUism in Greenville!

Let's celebrate! You are invited to party on Saturday, April 12th at 6 pm!! Mort Stine and Bob Jeffcott will entertain us with music. Selected members will "testify" about how important UUCG has been, is and will be in their lives! I will provide the noodles, if you will bring either spaghetti sauce, rolls, salad or dessert!

— Ann Marie

Annual Meeting of our Thomas Jefferson District

It's April 25-26 at the UU Church of Asheville. Its theme is ARE WE READY... to welcome the many visitors who have been excited by the UUA's National Advertising Campaign -- and to help those visitors feel that this is their religious home?

Josh Pawelek (minister at UU East in Connecticut) keynotes the meeting with Our Search for Moisture (for our dry intellectual headiness) -- Can we sanction the digging of new spiritual wells? Great reservoirs of spirit await.

2008/9 Pledge Campaign:

To all members and friends who have not yet returned a "pledge card" (a statement of your financial commitment for the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 period), please do so by mail, by folding and placing in the offertory basket, or by hand delivering to Claudia Sundman, UUCG's Treasurer, by April 12th!

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, April 22 at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

2008 UU Cluster Meeting for Eastern NC (and Beyond)

The Universalist Convention of NC, Inc. (UCONCI) invites all UU congregations of Eastern North Carolina and beyond to the annual cluster meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at Shelter Neck Camp, the site of the early 1900s Unitarian School, one of two Carolina Industrial Schools. Shelter Neck is located on Crooms-bridge Road near Burgaw NC. For detailed directions see the Shelter Neck Camp website at www.shelterneckuucamp.org and click on "Directions."

The opportunities for interaction with other congregations are a vital resource to helping our congregations to grow and be successful. The meeting will include various short sessions on specific topics and opportunities for those in various leadership and volunteer roles to meet with their counterparts in other congregations to share ideas and experiences which will hopefully inspire improvements and expansions to all our program areas. At meetings, one moves from one session to another, and there just isn't usually enough time for unstructured interactions and continuations of conversations begun. So, in addition to the hour lunch on-site (included with registration), there will be an hour of time at the conclusion of the sessions for informal socializing and continuations of con-

versations begun earlier in the day. For those who wish to continue discussions still further you may wish to have a Dutch dinner at Holland's Holly Shelter Cafe on Hwy 53 just a couple or so miles from Shelter Neck Camp.

Events will start at 9:00 am and end in afternoon about 4:00.

Rev. Brian Clougherty, Assistant DRE at Chapel Hill Community Church (UU), and President of UCONCI and Feryl Masters, former president of the UU Congregation of Greenville NC, are in charge of the planning of the cluster meeting.

Contact Brian at asstdre@c3huu.org or Feryl at oferyl@gmail.com

Registration fee (to help UCONCI cover costs involved with hosting) \$15.00 (Must be received by March 26, 2008--after that date registration is \$18 and payable only at the door upon arrival) If you plan to spend the night please add \$10 to registration. Mail all early registration (postmarked on or before March 24) to Shelter Neck Events Coordinator, Susan Wasilewski, 7305 Fiesta Way, Raleigh NC 27615. Make checks out to UCONCI or (Universalist Convention of NC, Inc) and specify for Cluster meeting.

Registration includes Saturday Lunch and possible drinks/snacks.

Giving the Gift

Opportunities to share your time and talent abound If you want to help craft the Sunday Services...the Worship Committee now meets on first Monday's at 6 pm... If saving the environment is your thing... the Social Action Committee is eager to study and implement the Green Sanctuary program...stay tuned for the April meeting day and time! Interested in earth-based spirituality? Come to the organizational meeting to talk about forming a congregational chapter of the Covenant of UU Pagans, (CUUPS)...on Tuesday evening, April 22nd. Teach the children, help in the nursery, bring a snack to share on Sunday's...there are so many ways to connect and contribute!

Interfaith Prayers for Peace

The Interfaith Prayers for Peace group will meet April 28th at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A panel discussion will follow continuing with the theme of the origins of "Authority."

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

The “REAL RULES”

I expect each and every one of us has, or will have, a passionate interest in the upcoming Presidential elections. I say, yippee, to that, as each of us goes about creating the world we want to see!

Yet, let us remember that as a congregation we cannot (as a congregation, or on the congregation’s property) engage in partisan activities without jeopardizing our tax exempt status. Here’s a summary of what congregations cannot do, taken from “THE REAL RULES: Congregations and IRS Guidelines on Advocacy, Lobbying, and Elections”, written by the UUA’s Advocacy and Witness Program, which can be found at www.uua.org/documents/washington_office/real_rules.pdf ; CONGREGATIONS (501c3 organizations) are prohibited by the IRS from directly or indirectly participating in any political campaign for or against any candidate for elective public office.

CONGREGATIONS cannot issue letters of endorsement or opposition printed on congregational letterhead, nor can they distribute partisan literature at congregational events, nor can they display campaign signs on congregational property, nor engage in any activity that could be construed as endorsing or opposing a candidate.

CONGREGATIONS cannot contribute money to candidates or solicit contributions, and individuals cannot fundraise for candidates at the

congregation.

The UUA advises that CONGREGATIONS...

- 1.) not endorse or oppose candidates for public office as a congregation, nor advise its members, nor the public at large, directly or indirectly, to vote for or against specific candidates or political parties.
- 2.) not make financial contributions to candidates, nor collect money on behalf of, or provide in-kind services to a candidate.
- 3) not distribute or display partisan campaign literature or voter guides.

Ministers and congregational members may freely make partisan statements as individuals, BUT if they are identified by or likely to be associated with a congregation, they must make it clear that they are speaking only in their name.

If UUCG were found by the IRS to be in violation of these rules, UUCG’s tax exempt status could be in jeopardy. Perhaps the entire congregation might agree to accept the risk of giving up its tax exempt status in order to endorse a particular candidate! Yet, keep in mind that hasn’t happened, and is not likely to! So, be warned that any partisan literature or signs that show up at UUCG will quickly disappear! I hope you agree that far more important than any IRS rule... is our promise to each other to be “united in our diversity” and to share “our commitment to a more just and compassionate society”.

—Rev Ann Marie Alderman

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

We have several April birthdays. Send them a card or sing them a song....Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear...

Pat Dix	April 1st	Billie Mallison	April 24th
Tracy Donohue Stine	April 6th	Mona Lang	April 25th
Joan Sachjen	April 8th	Paul Alston	April 29th
Ray Sobel	April 23rd	Mary Yahnker	April 29th
Edith Webber	April 23rd	Happy Birthday to yoooooou!	



APRIL 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8:30 Breakfast K&W Cafeteria 7pm» CUUPS group interest meeting	2 10am» THUUM A meeting 6pm» Soup and Sharing 7pm» Choir Practice 7pm» Adult RE	3 6pm» Girl Scout	4 7pm» Course in Miracles	5 Cluster Meeting
6 9:30 Forum 10:30Worship 11:30 Business Meeting (by - laws) 7pm» Spirit in Practice Adult RE	7 6:00 Worship Cmte Meeting	8 8:30 Breakfast K&W Cafeteria	9 6:00 Soup & Sharing 7:00 Adult RE 7pm» Choir Practice	10 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting	11 7pm» Course in Miracles 7:30pm» KTC Buddist Event Kenpo Urygen	12 9am» B&G workday 10am» KTC Buddhists 1pm» EDS 2pm» KTC Buddhists 6:00 Pledge Finale Dinner 7pm» Teen Night
13 9:30 Forum 10:30Worship 2:00 Member- ship Cmte Mtg 2pm» KTC Buddhists 7:00 UU Medi- tation 7pm» Spirit in Practice Adult RE	14 7:30pm» Sierra Club	15 8:30 Breakfast K&W Cafeteria	16 6:00 Soup & Sharing 7:00 Adult RE 7pm» Choir Practice	17 6pm» Girl Scouts	18 7pm» Course in Miracles	19
20 9:30 Forum 10:30 Worship 7:00 Town Hall Meeting (Welcoming) 5pm» Vegetaria n Pot Luck 7pm» Spirit in Practice Adult RE	21 7:00 Board Mtg	22 8:30 Breakfast K&W Cafeteria 7pm» CUUPS 8:00 beacon deadline	23 6:00 Soup & Sharing 7:00 Adult RE 7pm» Choir Practice	24 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting	25 7pm» Course in Miracles	26 9:00 First Born
27 9:30 Forum 10:30 Worship 5:30pm» UU	28 7:00 Prayers for Peace, St. Paul's Episcopal	29 8:30 Breakfast K&W Cafeteria	30 6:00 Soup & Sharing 7:00 Adult RE 7pm» Choir Practice	1	2 7pm» Course in Miracles	3 Dinners for 8 5/4/08 Family Picnic

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

SPIRITUAL EXPRESSIONS

Much of the rhythms of jazz evolved from gospel hymns, shouts and rhythms performed in Congo Square in New Orleans and Southern Black Baptist churches during the early years of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

This influence spread...especially to Northern states with the introduction of the phonograph and later-radio in the 1920's.

The direct influence on two well know composers/performers will be heard and demonstrated in our April 27th service by Bob Jeffcott and Mort Stine.

This is a return visit for this duo...having had a service "Spirituality Of Jazz" a few years ago.

In Memoriam Dr. Mary Morecroft Fowler

Passed away on March 22, 2008 at Cypress Glen Retirement Community.

Born Mary Minerva Morecroft in Syracuse, NY on June 28, 1922. She was the daughter of Frederick and Minerva Morecroft and had four siblings. Her childhood years were spent in Syracuse and Canastota in New York. After graduating from Oneonta College in NY, she taught children on an Indian reservation on Long Island, NY. She married James Fowler and settled in Cleveland, Ohio where she received her Master's Degree from Western Reserve.

Later she earned her PHD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then became a professor at the graduate level at Eastern Carolina University in Greenville, NC from 1973 to 1988. She was an artist, and loved learning, music and nature. She travelled the world. Throughout her life, she volunteered for many organizations for the disadvantaged. Most remembered will be her optimism, independence and kindness. Instead of saying "Have a good day", she would say "Make it a good day". A wise lady, loved and respected by all who knew her. She was a resident of Greenville for 35 years and a member of the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

She is survived by her brother, George, and three nieces and five nephews. Her siblings, Annie and Barton predeceased her in 2005, and Spencer in 1969.

A private memorial gathering will be held by her family at a future date. Donations can be made in her name to Alzheimer's organizations.

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

PREZ NOTES (continued from page 1)
you get the chance during this period to determine **what UUCG is worth to you** and make your pledge judging not only the value, but also your ability to pay. So here's where the tax analogy really falls apart... imagine if taxes were voluntary! I just laugh at the idea of the Pentagon having a bake sale to buy a new tank.

No, your pledge isn't a tax. It is an investment. And your investment isn't just the money you pledge, but it is also your time, effort, and commitment. It is this collective investment of time and money by us all that determines the **real** value of our congregation, not a market analysis of square footage versus comparable sales. Consider your investment wisely and enjoy the returns on it.

(By the way, according to the county revaluation, the value of our church building and land went up by more than 28% in the past four years!)

Rich Elkins

FIRST BORN COLLECTIONS

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters. If you have food items, **non-perishable**, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this Social Action project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help. — Toni Britt Tyer

Religious Education

Following the Palm Sunday service, the children celebrated the stirrings of spring with an Easter egg hunt. Divided into two age groups they searched for over 200 eggs filled with treats. All the children were happy and the parents appreciated the healthy treats.

The Tween group continues to work with a curriculum that encourages an exploration of themselves. So far, they have discussed anger, fear, and love. They are really having a good time with the activities and some of the artwork is still on display in the RE room. Marli Baker and Shannon Terry are their teachers with others filling in.

The Teens are wrapping up the "Heresy Apparent" curriculum, but they are also taking some time out to have their own Welcoming Congregation discussion. The next Teen night is April 12th at 7pm.

Nicholas Brown is close to completing his Eagle Scout project. He is creating a meditation path at the Shelter Neck site. Feryl and Miciah Masters and Aaron Gade spent a recent Saturday working with Nick and his dad Greg Brown to clear brush along the path. It was exhausting but progress was made.

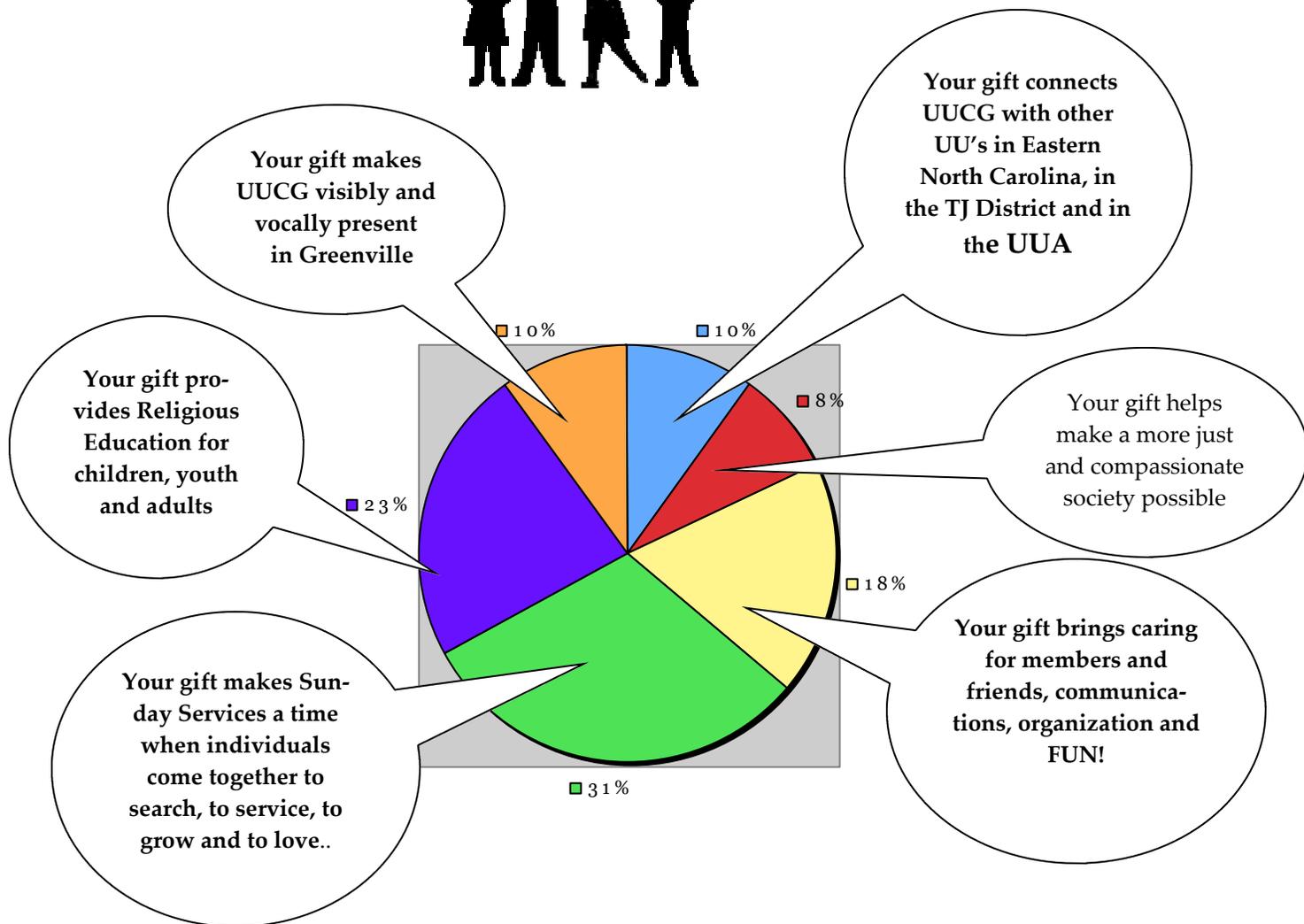
Sunday, June 1st RE will be hosting a Family Picnic at River Park North. Details to follow.

Attending Adult RE is a great way to connect to other UU's in a smaller, less formal setting. Current opportunities include the continuation of the Welcoming Congregation discussions following Soup and Sharing on Wednesday nights at 6pm and a new offering called "Spirit in Practice" is meeting on Sunday nights at 7pm. New faces are welcome.

—Patty Gade

Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large

UUCG is full of Dreamers who DO. . . .



TID-BITS

— On April 28th **Inter Faith Prayers for Peace** group will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The discussion piece will probably be a continuation on the "Authority" topic.

— **The UUCG Choir** meets every Wednesday at 7PM. at the church. All are welcome!!

FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTION

Love this congregation, but just not in a position to make a financial contribution? Make a "pledge" to clean the restrooms or the windows, or vacuum once a month. There are so many great ways to give your "fair share"!

Affirming the goat of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all

From the Membership Committee

We have more new members! Jean Thatcher has been a part of our UU family for a long time, and decided that she would like to become an "official" part of the family. Charlene Young has been visiting for several months, and found such a warm, welcoming family that she wanted to be a real part of us. Charlene is an ECU student. Michelle Covi and her husband, Tim Kelley, are new to Greenville, but not new to UU. They have settled in with us rather quickly, and Michelle is even volunteering in the office! Welcome to you all. We're glad to have you in our UUCG family!

We've had many visitors since Ann Marie has been with us. It's really nice to see so many filled chairs on Sundays, and to hear so many voices singing together.

The Membership Committee is going to start having monthly pot luck dinners -- fun, fellowship, and food -- how UU is that! The purpose is for everybody to get to know everybody, especially the new members. Members, friends, and visitors are all invited. The first pot luck will be Friday, May 9th, and then there will be one on the second Friday of every month.

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, April 26th, to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for this distribution. The distribution begins at 9:00am until 12:00pm. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

If you can carpool or need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

—Toni Britt Tyer

Up Coming UUCG Raffle!

Good News! The board has approved a fundraising raffle! This is an opportunity to raise some money for the church, get even with your neighbors and co-workers from whom you have purchased their fundraisers, and raise some money from outside our congregation. How does that sound?

Ah, but what are we going to raffle, you ask! Well, here are the prizes.

First Prize:

LG (Life's Good) 42" LCD TV, Full HD 1080p model #42LB5DF

Second Prize:

Nintendo Wii Sports edition (game included)

Third Prize:

8" LCD Digital Photo Frame by Alco Electronics

Tickets will be \$5 each and 5 for \$20. Brenda Stewart will be in charge of distributing the tickets. Ticket sales will be from April 15th to May 10th, we will ask that all funds and ticket stubs be returned by May 20th and the drawing will be May 25th at the church at noon.

Lets sell, sell, sell

BULIDINGS & GROUNDS

We have completed the installation of the new heat and air conditioning system for the church. This should make temperatures more comfortable this coming summer. Work on a chalice symbol, permanent or a temporary one is moving along. We still need volunteers to help with cleaning of the church building. If you have a spare hour on Saturday or Friday, call me.

—Feryl Masters

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

!Abrazos y hasta la vista!

As I prepare to move to the Sunshine state and look forward to finding a Salsa partner and being able to freely speak Spanish, I must admit a little bit of me is staying behind. In the 2 1/2 years that I was a member of UUCG, I became quite close to some of you and far more attached than I realized. This was a very healing--though perhaps personally painful--time for me. I grew immensely, was able to let down my guard and embrace the people I met here. I began to realize that I really missed my father--with whom I have had a painful relationship, learned much about the issues of our GLBT folks and feel proud that our church is considering and will, hopefully, become a welcoming congregation. Towards the end, I have been attending Torah classes and getting in touch with the true roots of my Catholic ancestry. I hope to continue that in Miami. Maybe I will be lucky and find Torah classes in English and a liberal Catholic bible study class.

Most of all, however, I feel extremely proud of guiding the Social Action Committee in a direction that I hope will make us all proud to be UUs and more loving to our environment. I truly regret that I will not be able to continue with you on this journey, but hope that you will keep me informed from afar. There is so much we can do in this area. Little Willie is starting a community garden, so is a university group. The time is now and I believe there are those of you for whom the environment isn't just something to consider but a friend about whom you feel passionate. I hope you will continue the dream or create one of your own and that the next time I visit Greenville, someone will show me that the results of our work over the past six months grew and multiplied.

—Marta Dominguez

**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
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Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
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Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Jackie Wyman
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Marta Dominguez
Worship: Lora Hylton



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