



The UUCG Beacon

April 2011

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi
beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

April 3
What is Prayer?
Rev. Ann Marie

April 10
Poetry Service
Lynn Caverly

April 17
Earth Day
Rev. Ann Marie

April 24
Easter Service
Rev. Ann Marie

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

This was a busy and exciting month within as well as beyond UUCG. Very importantly, we exceeded our Pledge Campaign Goal of \$90,000 to the sound of \$94,860 from 66 total pledge units. These units are comprised of 79 members and 11 friends. Thanks to all of you for your kind generosity. Not much could be more important to the tangible support of our congregation than to be more financially secure. The Board attends very carefully to budgetary concerns. For example, we now have a paid cleaning person, which helps us present ourselves well. We are most grateful to Feryl Masters, Chair of Stewardship along with his committee and those who hosted home meetings for the Pledge drive. Susan Foreman, Terry Shank, Kay and Paul Alston, Lynda Lane, Patrice Alexander and Claudia Sundman all hosted gatherings.

The Council Meeting on March 20th was comprised of 14 of our dedicated committee chairs. The purpose of the meeting was to give and receive thanks with an emphasis on happiness. Ann Marie said it well with her greeting to the group when she said, "There is enthusiasm and participation in the cluster, district, and national gatherings, which make me feel blessed and honored. Something good is happening here at UUCG." I invite all congregants to become part of this vibrant committee's energy and consider becoming a chair for the greatest rewards. See Feryl Masters, Rich Elkins, Billie Mallison, Patrice Alexander, Rev. Ann Marie or any Board Member for details. We had another successful McAlister's event last Valentine's Day and very good attendance. We all enjoyed taking over the side room. The RE program continues to blossom under the dedicated and creative workings of Kimberly Thornton Scholl and her teaching group. The tween group will be studying Jewish and Christian Heritage while the primary class will raise their awareness on elements of their individual uniqueness. Gail Masters has created a Hogwart's summer program for the kids; something they can be excited about.

Outside UUCG, we have a lot of activity as well. On March 19th, Saturday, three cars took an early trip with nine of our congregants to the Eastern North Carolina Cluster Meeting in Wilmington. It was well worth the effort. The opening and closing half hour services were very inspiring. We had meaningful subgroup work exploring "Whose are we" in order to explore our spiritual depths. This followed a vibrant talk by Laurel Hallman, the minister who ran for president of UUA two years ago. She has at least two books in print. I will donate my one copy to UUCG after I have read it. In the afternoon meeting time, Patrice and Bev attended the president's meeting where we compared notes about congregational operations and established a plan for further networking. A Cluster choir and also a Cluster banner creation groups met to prepare for GA participation. Another group met to begin planning next year's cluster gathering.

The Thomas Jefferson District's Annual Meeting is next month on April 30th at Eno River UU in Durham to vote for District Board Members, to consider a proposed By Law change with would change the district name, and to address other issues. UCONCI [Universalist Convention of NC, Inc] is creating a photo montage of congregations and needs volunteers to work for two hour slots at the General Assembly Meeting in Charlotte, NC, June 22-6. See Feryl Masters or respond to the flier, which is on our UUCG board if you wish to volunteer. Finally, I encourage all of you to attend the General Assembly. Check it out at the UUA website. I attended the GA in Salt Lake City and was very inspired by it. It was a unique experience to be the dominant faith on one block of downtown Salt Lake City! We can re-experience some of these feelings again in Charlotte, NC. Join us. You will be inspired.

In Gratitude and Covenant,

Bev Harju

Bev Harju, Vice President
UUCG Board of Trustees

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Mother Nature has been putting on a spectacular display, especially of beautiful blooming trees, again this year in Eastern North Carolina. It's easy to feel comfortable and "at home", and to be especially glad to live here...if the blooms don't affect your sinuses! Yet, on the other side of our world, "nature" has wrought a disaster of epic proportions that continues to unfold. It is hard to reconcile the loveliness we are seeing here this spring with the photos and video of what nature did to Japan and the people who live there. As the disaster continues to unfold at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, the contrast between our illusions of living in sweet harmony with the natural world and what happens when things in that relationship go terribly wrong is compounded. Some in the media can be heard crying out that the end times are near!

I am reminded-again- that my end time, that your end time, is always "near". If the tectonic plates are ready to shift and our little lives are in the way the end for us will certainly feel apocalyptic. On the other hand, when I turn off the tv and the internet and go outside, and am overwhelmed by the awesome beauty and generative power of nature, I forgive and forget how short my life will be. In nature, I lose my worry and anxiety and rest in the blessed gift of this day.

Ann Marie

Denominational Affairs

We had a great time at the Eastern Cluster Meeting at Wilmington. Great services and several thought provoking discussion/educational sessions.

We have a District meeting in Durham April 30th. I encourage you to go and have a good time. Last, but not least, the 2011 General Assembly is in Charlotte this year. This is your opportunity to attend a General Assembly without having to buy a plane ticket. If you're wondering whether or not to go, just ask one of our members who has gone. So far everyone I know who has gone to a previous GA is planning to go to this one.

Shelter Neck is having a work day on April 2nd. They're getting the camp ready for summer events. They'll be having a summer session in July for middle school age people. Information is available in the church. Shelter Neck was the first Unitarian school in eastern NC. Come and see this historical site April 2nd. There will be at least one car going from here.

Staff

Minister: Rev. Ann Marie Alderman
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Board of Trustees

President: Patrice Alexander
Vice President: Bev Harju
Secretary: Susan Foreman
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
At-Large: Alan Bailey
At-Large: Judi Hickson
At-Large: Tom Thielen

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Feryl Masters, & Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Hospitality: Lynn Caverly & Pat Dix
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Youth Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Feryl Masters
Social Action: Tom Long & Pat Anderson
Worship: Gladie Hamilton

Social Action

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

FIRST BORN:

Thanks are extended to Hank Foster and Helen Foster who were our two Volunteers at First Born Food Distribution Program on Saturday morning, February 26, 2011.

UUC GREENVILLE COMMUNITY SHELTERS ACTION GROUP:

On Thursday, March 17, 2011, our Group met with five members present: Gladie Hamilton, Ruth Leggett, Tom Long, Ray Sobel and Pat Tesh.

Our three initiatives, one operational and two still planning were the focus of discussion. These three are:

Ongoing provision of " Daily Needs" items to the community Shelter. Our third full delivery is ready to go this week.

Collection of completed Volunteer Application Forms prior to setting up an orientation session preparing us to work in the Shelter's daily evening "Check In" Program.

Work on a program to provide Shelter residents recognition at selected holidays.

Tom Long, SAC Co-Chair

Ambience Committee Report

Spring has sprung with bright flowers and trees and so has our art exhibit enlivened the walls once again. Joanie De Groot's beautiful wall hangings have been changed to the flowering mode and Dorothy Jensen and Dinah Sylvants creations also bring us happy smiles. We had a most well-attended art reception on March 11 with much public interest. The Ambience Committee supplied the refreshments and musical background. This exhibit will remain until the end of April.

The members of the congregation will have the opportunity to bring in art from their homes to share in the art exhibit this summer during July and August. Please be thinking of your favorite pieces.

The garden elves have been quietly at work. The church grounds have never looked so manicured and groomed, thanks to the pruning, edging, and weeding know-how of three committed individuals: Bob Franke, Helen Foster and Hank Foster. We applaud and praise their efforts and offer gratitude.

Terry Shank

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Happy Spring! The warming weather is a welcome thing, especially as the children are busy working with the season. They enjoyed seeing the crocuses they planted last fall appear in the grass by the vegetable garden, and even dove right into weeding the garden while they were outside! Last fall we harvested seeds from many of our vegetables and herbs, and the children have recently planted those in starter trays. Once the new sprouts have grown large enough we will be transplanting them into the raised beds, allowing the children to see the cycle come full circle. We look forward to once again working in the garden this growing season.

Both classes are about to progress into the next units of their respective curricula. The Tweens will be moving from “Our Jewish and Christian Heritage” to the “Comparative Religions” portion of our curriculum. I expect much rich discussion to come from this work, as it has with our other topics.

The Primary Class will be completing their unit on “The Unique Child,” and extending their appreciation of their own uniqueness to how they perceive others. It's been a rewarding, multi-step journey toward better integrating our first principle. In April we'll move on to the “Knowing Who We Are” portion of our curriculum, and explore more about being part of the Unitarian Universalist community.

We have lots of exciting things coming up in the next few months. On April 24th, Easter Sunday, we expect to hold our next Easter Egg Hunt. The children always enjoy searching the grounds for their brightly colored treats. June 5th services will be held at River Park North, and will mark the end of our curriculum year. Starting the very next week, June 12th, Hogwarts will return! I know the children are excited about the return of "magical" lessons this summer, and we are working to make sure the children have a very rewarding and exciting experience.

The children's enjoyment of their work and participation in RE are readily apparent, which is exciting for us as our goal is to plan and implement meaningful, fun lessons for our children. None of this would be possible without the help of some very special people who volunteer so much of their time. To everyone who teaches, plans lessons, works on the planting projects, helps improve the RE areas and generally offers assistance, we offer a heartfelt "Thank You".

In Service,
Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE

Come enjoy Spring in the Smokies -- and stay with fellow UUs

Discover the Smokies Spring Wildflower Adventure! Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church invites you to come to Knoxville for a couple of days to enjoy spring wildflowers and festivals in and around the Smokies while you stay with our UU bed and breakfast hosts. We are ready to welcome you anytime between April 1 and May 1, 2011. Costs are \$40 single, \$70 couple per night. Everything should be in full bloom, and there are lots of opportunities (and some well-kept secret places) where you can immerse yourself in the season. For details and registration information, visit our website at www.tvuuc.org.

~ April 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 7p-9p First Friday Fun Night	2
		3 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a What is Prayer? Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	4 5:15p-6:15p Worship Committee meeting	5 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	6 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Harvest the Power #11 7p-8p Choir Practice	7 7p-9p Sierra Club Outings meeting
10 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a Poetry Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	11 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club Meeting	12 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 6p-7p Gilda's Team Leaders 7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	13 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-7p Harvest the Power FINAL! 7p-8p Choir Practice	14 7p-8p Social Action Committee Meeting	15 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	16 Spring Car Wash Fundraiser
17 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a Earth Day Service 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	18 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	19 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 7p-9p The Coffee Party 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	20 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	21	22	23 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
24 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a Easter Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	25 7p-8:30p Book Club 7p-8:30p Interfaith Alliance	26 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	27 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	28 7p-8p UU Men's Group	29 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	30

Stewardship

Thanks to all for a great Pledge campaign. We met our goal, and then some. Thanks to all who increased their pledge this year. We will be able to fund everything we hoped for, and have a little left for emergencies. I especially want to thank our meeting hosts and facilitators. Next time you see the host for your meeting, thank him or her for helping. We had no budget for the campaign, so all those goodies were donated by them. We were a little apprehensive about increasing the pledge goal, considering the economy, but our congregation came through. We can take pride in our accomplishment.

Funraising

We are almost at our goal for funraising for the year. We had a very successful Service Auction and Gift Wrapping session. Our McCallister Mondays have brought in hundreds, and our first car wash earned us over \$500. We have two more events this year. Our Hymphony is scheduled for March 30, and our car wash is scheduled for 9:30 to noon April 16th (note the date change). Please be sure to come to both.

Happy Birthday to UUs this April

- Apr 1–Pat Dix
- Apr 4–Schatz-Grootveld
- Apr 5– Tracy Donohue-Stine
- Apr 6–Sean Stayton
- Apr 8–Joan Sachtjen
- Apr 23–Ray Sobel
- Apr 23–Pat Tesh
- Apr 24–Billie Mallison
- Apr 25–Mona Lang
- Apr 25–Pat Anderson
- Apr 29–Paul Alston
- Apr 29–Mary Yahnker



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, April 19 at 8:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation of Greenville
 131 Oakmont Drive
 Greenville, NC 27858
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