



The UUCG Beacon

April 2012

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
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www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

April 1

Humor Heals

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 8

A UU Easter

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 15

Jesus: the Yogi

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 22

Earth Day

TBA

April 29

TBA

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

In this final Prez Notes column I want to give you Board news and how I see our current path lays the groundwork for creating our UUCG vision. Where we go will greatly depend on the voices and actions of the most dedicated congregants. When I was a teenager, my mom gave me a "spot on" cartoon picture that made me squirm. It showed this goofy guy driving his convertible towards a Y intersection. Unable to decide which way to go, he ended up stuck on the center island. Not wanting to prove her right anymore I learned to trust my instincts and then to observe the results. Sometimes they are difficult. And is this why I chose to drive convertibles?

News from the Board continues to develop. Pledges, where are they? While we are grateful that most people are making their pledges, we are concerned about those that aren't. While your own financial security must come first, we may need to accommodate our budget. Would you please send a note to our treasurer or minister if you need to readjust your pledge? I don't think China's politicians will give loans to a church.

As I mentioned last month, Pat Anderson, President of the Cancer Support Community [CSCENC] gave us a proposal to rent space two and a half days per week. We will discuss this proposal on **Sunday, April 15th in a Town Hall Meeting**. It will also be addressed in the Council Meeting on April 1st. After this we will elect next year's UUCG officers and vote on this CSCENC issue at our **Annual Meeting on Sunday May 20th**. The nominating committee has found most candidates for next year but if you are ready to step up, please let Rich, Patrice or a Board Member know. Be involved! We want to hear your voice so please mark these meetings on your calendar.

Concerns were raised about whether our by-laws permit us to have signs encouraging people to vote against Amendment One on May 8th. Our UUCG By-laws state that: "there shall be no signs on congregation property endorsing any political party or candidate. The UUCG membership list shall not be used for political contacts. [And finally], vigorous discussion of issues is an important facet of a UU congregation." We should all read this amendment and decide for ourselves whether or not its aim is to deny the civil rights of same-gender couples. Does it reflect the "inherent worth and dignity of all persons?" Since the majority of our members voted to be a Welcoming Congregation, our position in this regard seems very clear.

I believe we are living and exemplifying our Unitarian Universalist visions in every step we take. I'm proud of our reputation around town. We are courageous thinkers who are involved in what happens in our home, village and world.

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Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



You may be aware that there are yard signs and bumper stickers available in the UUCG building that propose voting against Amendment One on May 8th. The text of this proposed amendment to the state constitution can be found [here](#). You may have seen that there is a yard sign propped up near the front

glass wall in the foyer that can be read by passers by. There have been a few who are not members, friends, or at UUCG for any kind of event, who have come in asking for a sign.

There have also been some who have questioned whether or not this sort of open advocacy (which includes our offer of space to other advocacy groups) regarding how to vote on this Amendment violates the separation of church and state. So, I wanted to share a document called [The Real Rules](#) that offers a full explanation of what a church can and cannot do that might or might not violate a congregation's tax exempt status.

In the past, especially during heated political campaigns when I have discovered partisan campaign literature or buttons in the building, or when anyone has tried to use the UUCG e-mail lists to advocate for particular candidates or parties, I have removed the materials and shared this document. It is true that we cannot, as a church, advocate for any particular candidate running for office, nor can we promote a one political party over another, or allow either of these activities to be connected with us in any way. There is even a section in UUCG's policy manual that reflects this that reads..."there shall be no signs on congregation property endorsing any political party or candidate."

However, we CAN take a stand about an issue, without *in any way jeopardizing* our tax-exempt status. And, not only can we, we ought to!as long as we do it with care and with deliberation. The UUCG policy manual also says: "The UUCG name as an official sponsor of any particular activity or position on an issue shall be allowed only by decision of either the Board of Trustees or by vote of the Congregation."

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: [Bev Harju](#)

Vice President: [Tom Thielen](#)

Secretary: [Susan Foreman](#)

Treasurer: [Brenda Stewart](#)

At-Large: [Alan Bailey](#)

At-Large: [Judi Hickson](#)

Past President:

[Patrice Alexander](#)

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: [Terry Shank](#)

Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)

Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)

Endowment: [Bill Paulson](#)

Finance: [Paul Alston](#)

Fundraising: [Feryl Masters](#)

Hospitality: [Alice Arnold &](#)

[Ann Eleanor](#)

Membership: [Bud & Phyllis Hazel](#)

Youth Religious Education:

[Jennifer Thielen](#)

Stewardship: [Feryl Masters](#)

Social Action: [Tom Long &](#)

[Pat Anderson](#)

Worship: [Lynn Caverly](#)

Four years ago UUCG made a decision by voting to become a [Welcoming Congregation](#). In so doing UUCG agreed in part to:

- attend to legislative developments and work to promote justice, freedom, and equality in the larger society.
- speak out when the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people are at stake.

The proposed amendment is an attempt to further negate the civil rights of BGLT people and even proposes disallowing legal agreements for any unmarried couples in this state. This amendment would affect the elderly who choose not to marry, and it would affect the civil rights of children of ANY unmarried couples. See here for more information about [Amendment One](#).

I hope that anyone who is concerned about our appearing to be engaged in advocacy about a particular issue, will learn that our UU faith is not only able, but willing to take a stand in the public arena whenever necessary to protect the rights of all people.

Some of our sister UU congregations in North Carolina have gone so far as to adopt “statements of conscience” similar to this one:

UU Congregation of Hillsborough Statement of Conscience against passing the North Carolina Marriage Amendment

1. We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Hillsborough, affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the inherent worth and dignity of all persons.
2. We affirm the basic right of same-gender couples to marry and to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.
3. In the absence of this right to marry, we resolve to oppose any law, policy, or practice that limits the recognition of same-gender couples’ relationships and families and any related rights and protections. We are especially called to oppose any attempt to enshrine such discrimination into the North Carolina Constitution.
4. We further resolve that we will respect and protect same-gender couples and their families by raising awareness of the discriminatory effects of any proposed laws or constitutional amendments and taking other actions to defeat them.
5. We strongly oppose this amendment because it removes rights from and threatens the health of North Carolina's citizens, LGBT and heterosexual alike.

It is my hope that we will all use any question about our right to advocate on particular public issues as an opportunity to increase conversation and awareness that we are...as a faith movement... not only able but obligated to speak out in the public forum about issues that have to do with denying the inherent worth and dignity of any person...

Rev. Ann Marie

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

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

It is now officially spring! That means it's time to start thinking about summer vacation, right? Perhaps it is still a little soon for that kind of thinking, but it does mean that we are getting closer to the end of our "school year" curriculum. It also means that we are gearing up to work in the YRE vegetable garden. The children have planted seeds and we have a variety of vegetable seedlings growing in the classroom that will be ready to transplant to the garden very soon. Working in the garden gives the children a chance to appreciate the growth cycle of the plants, and gives us an opportunity to help others in our community by donating our harvest. If you have an interest in gardening, this is a great time of year to volunteer as either a teacher or a second adult.

There are some special events coming up this month. We will be holding our annual Easter Egg Hunt after services on April 8th and children are encouraged to bring their Easter baskets. We could use a few extra volunteers to hide the eggs and to assist with the hunt. Sunday April 22nd will be our Earth Day service and some of the children are working on a special song to share. Both of these should be too much fun to miss!

As we work on wrapping up our current units of study I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered. We couldn't offer our wonderful programs without your help. I'd also like to encourage those who have been thinking about volunteering to go ahead and "take the plunge" and volunteer to teach on Sunday mornings, or perhaps just "test the waters" by volunteering to be a second adult.

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE Committee

Stewardship

It's Pledge time. We don't spend weeks bombarding you with requests for money like Public Radio East. And we only ask for your pledge once a year, but we are a member supported organization. Email or write in your pledge to support your church today. No amount is too small or too large to help, but we need you to be a part of UUCG. Become a sustaining member with your monthly pledge today.

Earth Day for UUs

This year marks the 42st anniversary of Earth Day, and congregations across the country are celebrating our planet and taking action to make it a viable place for all people to live, now and into the future. This year's offerings explore the links between Environmental Justice and Immigration, aligning with the UUA's focus on immigration at the upcoming Justice GA and the current "Immigration as a Moral Issue" CSAI. Climate change and environmental toxins disproportionately and unjustly impact the health and economic well-being of immigrants. Some environmentalists have even been leaders in anti-immigration movements. As UUs, we are called to deeper understanding of these issues and to put our values into action. For more information check out:

www.uumfe.org

~ April 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Humor Heals , Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1:30p Council meeting 12p-1p Lunch Group	2	3 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	4 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	5 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	6	7
8 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a A UU Easter, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	9 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	10 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	11 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	12 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	13 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	14
15 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Jesus The Yogi , Rev. Ann Marie 10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga 12p-1:30p town hall meeting 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County	16	17 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7p-9p Coffee Party meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	18 7p-8p Choir Practice	19 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8:30p Shelter Action Group meeting	20 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	21
22 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Earth Day Celebration 12p-1p Lunch Group	23 7p-8:30p Book Club 7p-9p Interfaith Prayers for Peace	24 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	25 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	26 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8p UU Men's Group	27 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	28 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
29 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	30					

Pres. Notes continued....

We express our interdependence by listening respectfully to one another before creating a cohesive action plan. Our legacy is being created by all of you who love and care enough about UUCG to do the chores as well as create policies. We must remember to support the inspired YRE program and to be with our UU kids. Thanks for the dedicated and playful work of our Board Members. And thanks to everyone in our congregation for being there. Tom and I feel sad about leaving. Yes there are Y's in the roads but there are also roundabouts and round trips. We will return.

Funraising

We have a Funraising Opportunity on **April 21st**. Come and help feed the people at the River Jam Festival on the Greenville Commons. We need grills, cooks, servers, and baked goods for the event being hosted by the Pamlico Tar River Association. Contact Feryl Masters at oferyl@gmail.com to let him know how you can help raise money and let people know about our Congregation.

Happy Birthday to UUs this April

- Apr. 1– Pat Dix
- Apr. 4– Mary Schatz-Grootveld
- Apr. 5– Tracy Donohue-Stine
- Apr. 8– Joan Sachtjen
- Apr. 20– Chris Authement
- Apr. 23– Ray Sobel
- Apr. 23– Pat Tesh
- Apr. 24– Billie Mallison
- Apr. 25– Mona Lang
- Apr. 27– Pat Anderson
- Apr. 29– Paul Alston
- Apr. 29– Mary Yahnker



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, **April 24 at 8:00 pm**

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