

The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
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www.uugreenvillenc.org



President's Notes

It is often when night looks darkest, it is often before the fever breaks that one senses the gathering momentum for change, when one feels that resurrection of hope in the midst of despair and apathy.

-Hillary Clinton

Announcements!

Your help is requested!

Both your Worship Committee and your Board have been concerned about the amount of time the verbal announcements have been taking at the end of the service, so we would like to try the following changes for the next couple of months. We respectfully request your cooperation as we try these changes out.

First, we are moving the Announcements to the beginning of the service, to be part of the Welcome by the Board Member. As important as the announcements are, having them at the beginning of our time together has two benefits: (1) the RE folks get to hear them, too, and (2) it allows the service to end on a thematic (religious or spiritual, if you like) note rather than a housekeeping one. So, the "Service" begins with the Musical Prelude.

Second, there will be three ways to make your announcement:

1) By having it printed on the back of the Order of Service. Michelle creates this page and copies it when she is here on Wednesday evenings. Please send them to (office@uugreenvillenc.org) by noon on Wednesday.

continued on pg. 2

Politics aside, the former Secretary of State makes both a reassuring and inspirational point in the above quote, a point that in some ways encapsulates the work we have to do during this time of transition and transformation. As many of you who attended Rev. Rod's Congregational Identify Workshop can identify, within our congregation there is both a feeling of despair and apathy, alongside a sense of hope and momentum for change. We are tired and hurt, but we are committed to growth and healing. We don't always play well with each other, but we are committed to righting our relationships. I hope as many, if not more of us will be able to attend the Right Relationship/ Behavioral Covenant Workshop later this month.

By now, most of you have noticed the new facelift the building has received, as well as the parking lot resurfacing. In the same vein as our congregational "resurrection", the physical space where we gather will also be receiving a new roof later this month. This serves to both protect our current place of worship, and hopefully make the building more desirable to a potential buyer when the time for relocation is ripe.

For those of you who didn't have the privilege of attending the service lead by Denise Rimes, UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative, look for the development of a ministerial search committee in the days to come. This will start with an every member canvas of the congregation, so look for a brief questionnaire soliciting your suggestions for who you think would best serve the will of the congregation in the search for a settled minister.

The Stewardship campaign is coming to a close, so be sure to get your pledges to Patrice or another member of the Stewardship committee. There is still time to be courageously generous with your time and your dime.

continued on pg. 6

Worship Services

Staff

April 7 **“A Mistaken Charity”**
A Readers’ Theater Performance & Discussion of the Short Story
 by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, adapted by Greg Watkins
 This performance and discussion about caring for aging relatives is sponsored by the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies at ECU’s Brody School of Medicine, the ECU College of Nursing, and ECU Department of Student Involvement & Leadership.

Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

April 14 **“Being Open to New Ministry”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister
 What are your expectations of your new minister? I know you have them. Your Search Committee will need to know what they are. This morning I will be more concerned about all those unwritten, unspoken, perhaps unrealistic expectations that you've got in the back of your minds. So, let's look at what makes a good minister and what your expectations should be. You might be surprised. The subtitle for this sermon is: A Good Enough Minister. See you in church.

Board of Trustees

President: Tom Thielen
Vice President: Susan Foreman
Secretary: Tammy Atchison
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
At-Large: Shannon Terry
At-Large: Judi Hickson
At-Large: Patrice Alexander

April 21 **“Living Together in the Wilderness”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister
 Is the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville a religious organization, a club, or something else altogether? How can you tell? What difference does it make? This is a sermon about how we treat each other while this Congregation seeks a new minister. See you in church.

Committee Chairs

April 28 **Volunteer Recognition Sunday** -- More than our building or our message, the strength of our congregation is our people. We reach our goals through the contributions of members and friends in the church leadership, committees, and religious education program. Today we take time to say "Thank You!" to all of these people.

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Feryl Masters
Fellowship : Cam Scales
Finance: Paul Alston
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Hospitality: Louise Sharpless, Judy Drum & Ann Eleanor
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Youth Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Patrice Alexander
Social Action: Pat Tesh & Pat Dix
Worship: Paul Kurmas

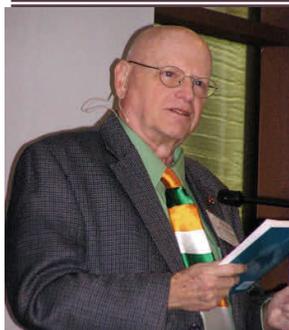
Announcements (cont.)

Please make them as concise as possible. Michelle, as always, has the right and responsibility to edit them for space and appropriateness.

2) By giving a concise and readable copy of your announcement to the Board Member doing the Welcome and Announcements that morning. The Board Member will it, unless it is already in the Order of Service. As always, the Board Member has the right and responsibility to edit each for length and appropriateness.

3) If the Announcement is long please provide a separate page to be handed out by the Greeters with the Order of Service. Unless you make other previous arrangements you will have to provide enough copies for everyone.

That’s it. We think this will help both the length of the service and its impact. We respectfully request your cooperation as we try these changes out. Thank you!



Rod's Ruminations

March has been such a busy month, and a productive one as well. We had about 25% of your congregation at the History and Identity Workshop on March 16th. No matter how long you have been in the congregation, you will probably learn something new about the development of this church by reading the History Wall, located on the wall behind the pulpit. Participants were divided into decade cohorts and asked to write their memories of the significant events and people on sticky-

notes and then put them on the easel-pad paper of their decade. Please take some time to read it over. By the way, if you know of something that should be added or moved let me know. I've got lots more sticky-notes.

The rest of our time together was devoted to examining your Identity – how we see yourselves as a congregation right now. Here is the Identity Statement that those gathered crafted (with thanks for Judi Hickson and Paul Kurmas for the final editing):

“We are a welcoming, diverse, and well-intentioned congregation, striving to fulfill our UU principles of love, acceptance, compassion, and social justice. We uphold the importance of the individual but realize the power of our whole. We confront our collective lack of initiative and resources to reach our goals, as we are often risk- and conflict-averse. We endeavor to share with our children, congregation, and community our commitment to a MORE COMPASSIONATE AND JUST SOCIETY.”

In addition to all our regular events and activities, we are making progress toward what could be a successful Stewardship Pledge Drive. Of course there is still time for you to get your pledge in!

April is going to be a month of collegial travel for me. On the 8th I will drive to The Mountain for a gathering the Southeast District ministers. Then the next week I fly to a conference center outside of San Antonio, TX, for the annual Interim Minister's Guild Seminar. At the end of the month (April 26-27) the Southeast District will meet in Charlotte for their Annual Meeting. I hope that some of you will be able to go.

Please also mark your May calendar for two events. On May 4th you are urged to be a part of a Right Relations Covenant Creation Workshop, 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Then on May 19th, after the Sunday Service, your presence is necessary for the UUCG Annual Meeting. In addition to the normal election and budget work, you will be formalizing your Ministerial Search Committee. You will want to be here for both of these events.

Service Auction April 6

April 6th at 6:30 is our annual Service Auction. We're getting some interesting donations from members. A number of businesses have also contributed. If you haven't already donated something, March 30th is the deadline. Come to the Auction and invite your friends. There will be wine and light refreshments, as well as fun and excitement.

Pledge Your Dime! Pledge Your Time! And Make it Happen!

We have reached 60% of our pledge goal. We need everyone to fill out and turn in both their financial and time commitment pledge cards. We hope to have all the cards turned in by **April 7th**. The proposed budget for 2013-2014 is dependent on our meeting or exceeding our pledge drive goal. If we do not meet our goal the Board will have to make some tough decisions about what activities, projects, and services will need to be cut.

Committees In Action

There is much ado on the calendar and in the air for members and friends activities. The Fellowship Committee, chaired by Cam Scales, camme@aol.com, is organizing an after-service POTLUCK JUST FOR FUN!! (an opportunity to get to know those folks you see, but don't know their names) on Sunday, April 7. It's an opportunity to celebrate the funds raised at the FUNRAISING Auction of the evening before. Feryl Masters, ofery@gmail.com, and Claudia Sundman are asking for items to auction off such as service /help offerings, including food items and prepared meals. The silent auction welcomes your offerings of specialty items. Please let them know at once of your donation.

Social Action chaired by Pat Dix, dixpe2@centurylink, and Pat Tesh is asking for more committee members to carry out the plans they are formulating. Your donations to the fill the baskets for the benefit of the Homeless Shelter are most welcome at any time. Volunteers are still needed to help with evening intake of shelter inhabitants.

The Ambience Committee sponsored the opening reception for the art work of Dr Sheldon Downes on Friday, March 8 in the Surround Gallery. The community was well-represented.

The news is about to be told -The Stewardship Committee, chaired by Patrice Alexander is counting up the pledges of time and money and will soon be ready to tell all. Have we met our financial goal? Will our committees round out in numbers? If you have not yet done your part, please get your completed pledge cards to our treasurer as soon as you can.

Now, have you signed up for your hour to help/teach YRE for one Sunday or for a month of Sundays? We are all needed to share in the support of our children. Please contact Kimberly Scholl, dre@uugreenvillenc.org today.

Greetings from Youth Religious Education

Any Youth Religious Education program requires a good deal of man (and woman!) hours in order to succeed. That can be especially difficult in a small, yet growing, congregation like ours. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who have contributed their time and energy to provide a thoughtful and safe place for the spiritual growth and exploration of our congregation's youth. Our program would not exist without your willingness to "step up to the plate". Thank you

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, Youth Religious Education

HOSPITALITY TASKS – Or How a Little Help Can Mean a Lot

Providing the coffee and snacks after Sunday services is not a large task but does require a number of small tasks. If you don't feel like you can bring food, set up, **and** clean up, maybe you could do a smaller task .

What, might that be?

-- If you can come in early, you could make coffee, put out plates, napkins, etc., empty the dishwasher, set out cups and condiments; empty the ice, or set out sodas, water or juice.

-- If early is not your strong point, you could fill the dishwasher, wash the coffee pots, sweep the floor, take the trash and recycle.

-- You could bring some food such as fruits and veggies, bags of chips or cookies and keep an eye on the table to see if things need to be replenished or empty plates removed.

All of this is to say, many hands make lighter work.

~ April 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Joy Soup Kitchen Half Share	1 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 6p-10p Interfaith Alliance Event 7p-9p Interfaith Alli- ance Film	2 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	3 7p-8p Choir Practice	4 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	5	6 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-9p Service Auction
7 9:30a-10:10a Mind- fulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Read- ers Theater 12p-1p Fellowship Potluck	8 7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	9 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	10 7p-8p Choir Practice	11 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	12 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	13 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
14 9:30a-10:10a Mind- fulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Being Open to New Ministry 12p-1:30p Council meeting	15 3p-5:30p CSCENC Board of Directors Meeting 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	16 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	17 7p-8p Choir Practice	18 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	19 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	20 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
21 9:30a-10:10a Mind- fulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Living Together in the Wil- derness 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	22 7p-8:30p Book Club	23 8a-9a Breakfast Group 4p-5p Caring Com- mittee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	24 7p-8p Choir Practice	25 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	26 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	27 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribu- tion 9a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
28 9:30a-10:10a Mind- fulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Volun- teer Recognition 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	29 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Wellness	30 8a-5p Review Officer Workshop - Lin- colnton 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation				

Prez notes continued.....

As the US Supreme Court hears arguments that impact the rights of same sex couples across this nation, I am struck by the blossoming dialogs across traditional media, social media, and even across coffee tables.

Do you sense the gathering momentum for change? Do you feel that resurrection of hope? I'm starting to, both within this congregation and without.

Tom Thielen
 President, UUCG Board of Trustees

Did you read this newsletter?

Thanks to everyone who answered the query in the last newsletter. We had no phone messages, and about 5 people directly mentioned to me that they read the newsletter. We also received 12 emails indicating enthusiasm for the newsletter. Each month we send out over 170 email newsletters and mail about 30. Let us know if you have any suggestions for more effective communication. Rich Elkins is Communications Chair and Michelle Covi is the Beacon Editor

Happy Birthday to UUs this April

- Apr. 1– Pat Dix
- Apr. 5– Michael Betteken
- 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. 29– Paul Alston
- Apr. 29– Mary Yahnker



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, April 23 at 8:00 pm

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