



The UUCG beacon

May 2006

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

May 7 -- Ed Day

Why I Am A Pagan

The religious journey of
Lin Yutang

**May 14 -- Ed Day & Vari-
ous Members**

**Peace, Justice and
Commitment**

May 21 -- Ed Day

The Stream of Life

Annual Meeting & Pot
Luck

May 28-- Roger Robbins

Science and Religion

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Our annual meeting is May 21 after the service. We will be approving the budget for next year, electing or reelecting officers, and possibly amending our by-laws. We budgeted for very little increase. The main increases are for a full time minister and full year RE Director. We are coming in slightly below goal on our pledge campaign. The Board has identified several alternatives to adjust the budget. We will be presenting them to the Congregation for a decision.

We have a number of elected positions to be filled. The Nominating Committee will be looking for people to help lead our Congregation for the coming year. If you are elected, I encourage you to find assistants. Too often, we hesitate to ask for help. Asking for help is contrary to our American ideal of self sufficiency. But asking for help eases our own load, and also gives other people a chance to participate.

We are looking for ways to reduce the number of leadership positions. For now we don't have enough members to fill all of them. We may be amending the by-laws to combine or eliminate a few elected positions. As we get more members, we may restore some of them. I like having a lot of people in leadership. It reduces the work load on any one person. More importantly, it expands the number of people making decisions. We are a democratic religion, and democracy works best when everyone participates.

Looking back over the year so far, I am excited about our future. We have faced some challenges, but we have grown in numbers, we are expanding programs, and we are making a difference in both the Thomas Jefferson District and the Pitt County area. We are progressing remarkably close to the Long Range plan we developed several years ago. We should have an interim minister by the Fall, and a settled minister next year. Join us at the meeting and Pot luck May 21st to help choose our future path.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Ed Day

This is sort of a lazy season for me, but then most of them are. But is laziness really bad? I don't think so. It seems to me that we are way too busy almost all the time. Even youngsters these days are too often bound by schedules and time tables. Who wants to go through life with their nose to the grindstone? After all the view can't be very interesting in that pose! Here I am sitting at my computer with Don's friendly reminder that my contribution to the Beacon is overdue. I ask myself, "What would Thoreau do?" I suppose he would go into the woods and write an essay. So here is the essay Don and Thoreau are making me write.

Being a UU is an interesting occupation. To start with we can't really refer to revealed authority to motivate us. That means that we have to think for ourselves, something that sounds good but is often difficult. People are creatures of habit. We do today what we did yesterday

On a Personal Note . . .

It's spring and TERRY SHANK's wisteria is blooming. She invites us to share her enjoyment.

SHIRLEY GOLDEN DAY had a cataract operation and was back at church the following Sunday -- at least the Sunday after we heard about it.

JAN SALSTROM's daughter successfully defended her thesis

LISA BRENNER and BRUCE WILHELMSSEN celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary in Miami with their children, Anna and Jon.

SYLVIA & DON ENGLISH, and BEE BEHR & MARY FOWLER recently returned from separate Elderhostel Trips to Costa Rica.

Most of the time this is good, after all who would want to have to make a big deal about our routine tasks? But all too often we let this carry over into more important matters. We worry about the same old things and probably they weren't really worth all the worry yesterday. What we can do is take some time for contemplation. There are so many things around us to cause wonder -- from birds and squirrels and flowers to the faces of people rushing by us worrying about who knows what -- when they could be thinking of blossoms or music or love.

There is enough earnestness in the world but not enough constructive frivolity -- that is the savoring of joy and love and serenity. Live a little this "merry merry month" of May and don't worry about that old grindstone. That can wait until June (or maybe July.)



MAY in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 Eat Out @ Olive Grove	4	5	6
7 10:30 <i>Why I Am a Pagan</i>	8	9 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	10 6:00 Eat Out @ Fuji Japan	11	12	13 9:00 Bldg Cleanup 9:30-10:30 Social/Political Covenant Group
14 10:30 <i>Peace, Justice & Com- mitment</i> 7:00 Earth- Based Covenant 7:00 Meditation Covenant @ GYC	15	16 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	17 6:00 Eat Out @ Chili's	18	19	20
21 10:30 <i>Stream io Life</i> 12:00 Pot Luck & Annual Meet- ing	22 7:30 Board Meeting	23 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	24 6:00 Eat Out @ Outback	25	26	27 9:00 First Born
28 10:30 <i>Science & Religion</i>	29 7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace	30 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	31 6:00 Eat Out @ Red Lobster			

Membership: Springtime Fun

Thank you to the Maxwells for hosting UUCG's Springtime party. It was a blast! There were lots of down home activities, such as an Easter egg hunt, the egg on spoon race, three-legged races, and a sack race. For those of you who weren't there, you missed seeing Lee Wyman with his size 14 sneakers trying to scrunch his feet into a paper sack for the race -- nice effort, even if he didn't take first place. The adults got into the spirit and participated in the games. Just another gathering where we spent time with our UU family. If you missed this event, please join us for future UU events -- there's nothing like hanging with UU's -- we're an interesting bunch! Are you new to the congregation or just coming to see what we're about? Then feel free to join us at any of our events -- we'd love to see you.

-- Kendall Garing

Kids Religious Education

May 7 – Teens – Discovering Faiths – Hinduism

Tweens – Gardening

Story Teller – Rich Elkins

**** **Teen Movie Night** *****

May 13 - 7:00 King Kong - Pizza and snack foods served.

May 14 - Teens Discovering Faiths - Hinduism

Tweens - Mother's Day Craft

Story Teller – Marli Baker

May 21 Yoga for All

Tween -- Present flags from April Sunday School

Story Teller -- Kristen Kenyon

May 28 Teens -- Discovering Faith -- Hinduism

Tween -- Memorial Day Class

Story Teller -- Feryl Masters

--Victoria Brown

Treasurer Reports on Pledges

With about half our pledges in, we're at \$54,000 -- with a goal of \$77,000. If you haven't returned your pledge cards please do so. At the congregational meeting the members could be asked to consider various options.

--Brenda Stewart

Social & Political Action Covenant Group

This Covenant Group is looking into three possible topics that may need some direct action. They are, Dafur, Immigration, and Health Care. We will decide which one merits our attention first as well as which one the Congregation would be interested in supporting. some sensible action. We are also looking into bringing in the Cluster Groups for some concerted action as suggested in the UU World (California has started to combine congregations in joint actions) Suggestions were made at our last meeting that other religious denominations be contacted to see if they would be interested in joining with us on issues of mutual concern. At this juncture no final action will be taken unless the congregation gives its OK. If anyone has an interest or expertise in any of the three topics mentioned we would welcome your input.

--Ray Sobel

More RE...

The RE department had a busy month in April. Only April 9 we had our Spring Egg Hunt. We dyed boiled eggs with dyes made from foods like raspberries, blueberries, red cabbage, etc. While this was going on the Teens hid the plastic eggs filled with raisins, crackers and other snack foods. All had a great time.

Please note we have some new playground equipment in the fenced in area. There will be more to come. The equipment being purchased is for ages 4 and below.

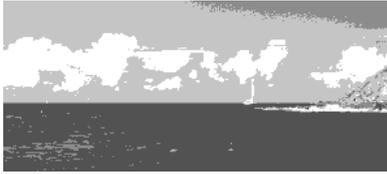
Teens also visited a Synagogue in Greenville as a part of the Discovering Faiths Curriculum. They had a Guest Teacher Amanda Rush lead them in this study. We wish to thank her for her time in helping our RE program.

--Victoria Brown

Interim Search Committee

The Interim Search Committee reports "that our application for interim minister has been submitted to UUA, and that we will receive our list of possible interims shortly after April 21."

--Brenda Stewart



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare . . . by Ed Day

Worship Services for MAY

May 7 -- Ed Day -- Why I Am A Pagan
The religious journey of Lin Yutang

May 14 -- Ed Day & Various Members
Peace, Justice and Commitment

May 21 -- Ed Day -- The Stream of Life
Annual Meeting & Pot Luck

May 28-- Roger Robbins -- Science and Religion

Roger says: “Through the series of reflections I’ve given over the past year I’ve taken you from the Big Bang to the evolution of man to our current environmental problems. I’ll conclude the series by taking your questions about these topics, being careful to distinguish scientific answers from our own opinions. To help get started I will take questions in advance – either e-mail them to me at robbins@ecu.edu or give them to me at a service.”

Membership...

May Birthdays

...happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear...

Larry Spell	5/02
Dave Clark	5/16
Sue Farris	5/17
Charles Gunther	5/17
Jan Salstrom	5/24
Lee Wyman	5/25
Janet Doig	5/26

---Jackie Wyman

Social Action...

Thanks to donations by the congregation to the social action can, \$71 was sent to the UUSC South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund. The social action committee has donated \$120 to the United Nations Office project Every Child is Our Child. This will send two children of Ghana who have lost one or two parents to AIDS to school for one year including health insurance.

Thanks to everyone who signed a postcard to President Bush asking him to support a stronger multinational force to protect the people or Darfur from genocide. A million postcards will be give to him at a rally in Washington DC on April 30.

--Joan Sachtjen

Hospitality

Gail Butler will be setting up coffee the first two weeks in May and Marcia Sobel the last two weeks.

Refreshments will be as follows:

5-7 Cookies:Sylvia English and Sondra Haynes

5-14 Fruit: Susan Foreman and Patty Gade

5-21 Pot Luck with Congregational Meeting. Be thinking about what you will bring.

5-28 Cookies:Cindy McMorris & Marlin Virgin

Reminder: THOSE WHO BRING REFRESHMENTS ARE TO HELP CLEAN UP THAT DAY.

Kay Alston will be providing a sign up sheet about the 2nd week in May for the June 3rd Dinner for Eight. These are fun occasions when we get to know each other a little better.

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, May 23, 2006

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

May 3 **Olive Grove** -- 912 Moye Blvd -- 757-0600
May 10 **Fuji Japan** -- 204 S.W. Greenville Blvd -- 353- 4848
May 17 **Chili's Bar & Grill** -- 3050 S. Evans Street -- 355-7449
May 24 **Outback Steakhouse** -- 606 SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-8444
May 31 **Red Lobster** -- 3501 S. Memorial Drive 756-4000

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day 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(pro tem).Ed Day
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Jackie Wyman
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lisa Brenner
Committee on Ministry: Sylvia English
Communications: Don English
Finance: Mark Barnes
Hospitality: Janet Doig
Membership: Kendall Garing
Religious Education: Victoria Brown
Social Action: Joan Sachtjen
Worship: Roger Robbins

