



The UUCG beacon

MAY 2007

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
beacon Editor: Don English
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

May 6th

Aging as a Spiritual Journey

Rev Frieda Gillespie

May 13th

Who Me?

Rev Ann Marie Alderman

May 20th

Walking Together

Rev Ann Marie Alderman

May 27th

The Rise of Fundamentalism

Frank L. Benedetti

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

This has been an emotional time for us. We lost 2 well-loved members. Sienie Postma and Fred Becker helped make us special. Both had many interesting stories to tell, and added much to our church. They lived interesting and full lives and had much to teach us. They enjoyed living and shared their enjoyment with us.

We enjoyed a Wedding and a Wedding Anniversary. We helped Ruel and Toni celebrate the start of a life together, and Jim and Louise celebrate 50 years together, an accomplishment many of us hope to achieve. While marriage can be a struggle at times, it is also a source of joy and mutual support.

Happiest of all, we celebrated the beginning of 2 lives. Daniel Lynn Sparrow and Hayden Jack Cundiff were welcomed into our Congregation. Who knows what lives they will live? What they will accomplish? Their potential is almost unlimited, and our hope is to help them realize their potential.

It is fitting that our church should be a part of these events. Our religion is where we seek to answer the unanswerable questions. What is our purpose? What is right and wrong? Is there more to this universe than can be measured scientifically? Is death the end? If not, what might come after? These questions may never be fully answered, but they are all vital to who we are, and how we live.

Birth is one of the greatest miracles -- a new person created. Marriage is the greatest commitment most of us will make in our lives - Uniting our lives with another. Death is inevitable, and for as long as there have been people, we have wondered what comes after it. As we mark these milestones, our church is where we turn for inspiration, consolation, answers, and support. We will face many events in our lives. We will need our family, friends, and church to help and guide us at times.

We all have dreams and aspirations. I have done many things, and hope to do many more. Sienie and Fred enjoyed their lives, and helped us enjoy ours. We all enjoy watching Daniel, Hayden, and our other youth grow. When my time on this planet is ended (I hope many years from now) I hope I can say I enjoyed my life, and helped others enjoy theirs. This church will have played a large part in both.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev Frieda Gillespie

This year is indeed a year of transition for UUCG. New energy and hope for the future pervades the congregation. The announcement of a candidate for settled minister is a great reason for joy. But there is much already in motion that you have generated from yourselves to feel good about. It is important to realize what the Search Committee learned: that this is really a good congregation and has much to offer a minister as well. You are in a good place to meet this person with mutual respect and excitement. I am very happy for you.

This year you've seen two babies dedicated, witnessed the wedding of two cherished members, and the recommitment to marriage of two generous friends of the church. And this year you've had to say a final goodbye to two of the old ones of your community: Siene Postma and now Fred Becker. No matter what the age of those who leave us, we mourn their loss just as much as if they were taken in their prime. Fred will be missed and I do hope you will share your favorite stories of him at his memorial on May 6th. Mary Fowler is very much still with you but now is somewhat removed because of her increased need for care. I hope some of you will make the effort to help her get

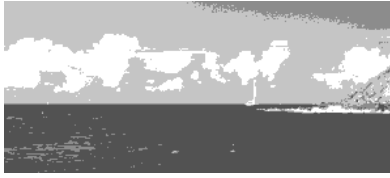
to church when she wants to come and will visit her frequently as well at Cypress Glen. And let's not leave out the loss of Carroll and Edie Webber to the community. It is wonderful that Carroll keeps in touch via phone calls and emails. They are very much missed as well. I have been so touched to witness the depth of caring you express for each other in words and deeds. This is worth more than anything you can build together.

Each of these losses leaves a gap, a vacuum that wants to be filled. These folks are irreplaceable, being so much uniquely themselves, so that what or who comes to fill the void they've left must be new. New life out of loss: it is the way of nature. Perhaps what comes will be a reflection of your dreams for UUCG.

Alchemy

I lift my heart as spring lifts up
A yellow daisy to the rain;
My heart will be a lovely cup
Altho' it holds but pain,
For I shall learn from flower and leaf
That color every drop they hold,
To change the lifeless wine of grief
To living gold.

--Sara Teasdale



On The Horizon

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE TASK FORCE

The Universal Health Care Task Force will now begin to involve the congregation in the project. We will be asking individuals who have signed up to write letters to the editor to do so. We will also be holding quick study sessions after Sunday services for those wanting to know more -- or who have questions -- about affordable health care in North Carolina. We will do a session this coming Sunday as we report what went on at the TJD Conference in Virginia the day before.

Since the Board and the congregation have endorsed UHC project for this year's NC. legislative session we need a few more UUCG members to assist with presentations to other UU congregations. The UHC Task Force will carry the brunt of the presentations but they could use some support. If we can learn it, anyone can.

--Ray Sobel, Chair.

UUCG Book Club

The next UU book club meeting will be June 4 at Terry Shank's at 7 pm. The book is "Suite Francaise" by Irene Nemirovsky. We usually meet the 4th Monday of the month, but there were several conflicts, so the change. In July it will be July 23. All meetings will be at Terry's.

Everyone is invited. We would especially like all comers to bring suggestions for future books to the June meeting.

--Marcia Sobel

Board Tidbits for April

Special collections for First Born and UU Churches affected by Hurricane Katrina - Rev. Gillespie will hold these collections on two separate Sundays in the near future. Donations will be matched by funds from the Social Action Committee.

Mini-retreat on June 2nd - Current and incoming Board members and Committee Chairs will meet to improve their leadership skills.

Green Sanctuary Task Force - The Board approved setting up a task force to organize projects which will improve the environment.

--Sue Farris



Congregational Meeting

Remember our Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck after the service May 20th. We will be electing officers, passing a budget, and - we hope- calling a settled minister. Signed proxies are now allowed (limit one per attendee), and we need at least half of the members present in person, or by proxy to conduct business.

---Feryl Masters

News, Notes and Other Stuff



The Hospitality Committee is responsible for making coffee each Sunday and setting out the refreshments provided by members of the congregation. A member of the committee is asked to do the coffee making about once a month (less often if we get more members,) which means he or she must be able to get to the church by 10 A.M. or earlier on that Sunday, and to stay to supervise clean up after coffee time is over. Training will be provided! The committee also needs a frugal shopper to keep up with supplies (half and half, juice and soft drinks, napkins, paper cups, etc.) The committee member who does this job needs to check weekly to see what is running low and to purchase items before they are needed.

We could also use a member to be responsible for emptying the recycling bins every couple of weeks.

Please email Gail (gailbutler1@suddenlink.net) or Marcia (ramar50@yahoo.com) if you would like to join this committee. Thanks!

--Gail Butler

CANDIDATING WEEK -- A WEEK OF SOCIAL EVENTS

Volunteers needed! Please offer to Marcia Sobel or Gail Butler to help with the work needed to put on our potlucks and other social events of the Candidating Week. Gail & Marcia can't do it all, so don't be bashful. Step forward and make a good impression on our candidate.

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday (May 26th) to assist with the food distribution. Please arrive by 8:00am - 8:30am to receive your assignments. 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 for disabled folks.

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. First Born cannot use these bags because many people associate the red lettering with "contaminated" and are afraid of the food in them.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. Some folks want to help but do not have transportation to Grimesland. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.

--Toni Britt Tyer



Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA.
 To contact her call: 252-367-0103 or email: minister@uugreenvillenc.org

May 2007 in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	2 6:00 Eat Out @ Riz	3	4 7:00 Course in Miracles	5
		7:00 <i>Monk Who Dwells in Every Day Life</i>				
6 9:30 Forum 10:30 Sermon: <i>Aging as a Spiritual Journey (Flower Service)</i> 1:30 Fred Becker	7	8 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	9 6:00 Eat Out @ Habachi Express	10	11 7:00 Course in Miracles	12 13 9:00 Bldg Cleanup
13 9:30 Forum 10:30 Sermon: <i>Who Me?</i> 7:00 Meditation @ UUCG	14 7:30 Board Meeting	15 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	16 6:00 Potluck dinner & Meet our Candidate	17 7:00 Board & Committee Chairs meet with Candidate	18 7:00 Course in Miracles	19 5:30 Picnic@ the Maxwell's
Candidate Week	Candidate Week	Candidate Week	Candidate Week	Candidate Week	Candidate Week	Candidate Week
20 9:30 Forum 10:30 Sermon: <i>Walking Together</i> Yoga with kids 12:00 Potluck - Annual Mtg	21	22 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	23 6:00 Eat Out @ Chico's Winter-ville	24	25 7:00 Course in Miracles	26 9:00 First Born
27 9:30 Forum 10:30 Sermon: <i>Rise of Fundamentalism</i>	28 7:00 Book Club	29 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	30 6:00 Eat Out @ Finelli's	31		

Pledge Campaign

Our Pledge Campaign is almost over. May 1st is our deadline. As I write this, we do not have enough pledges to fund our settled minister. If we want an RE program, heat and air conditioning, and the other things that keep the church going, we will need to find more money somewhere. Some of our members have increased their pledges very generously. I thank those of you who have. We still have a few outstanding pledges, but we don't expect them to meet the shortfall. At the Pledge Dinner, I stated that we needed to average \$1,100 per member to meet our goal. Some obviously can't meet that, but others can give more. The table below shows our pledge levels. Remember, some of the pledges are for 2 members.

Unfortunately, there aren't many places to cut. We pay \$79 per member as our Fair Share contribution to the UUA and Thomas Jefferson District. We've cut our utility bill

to under \$500 per month. We depend on volunteers to minimize spending. The Board will be putting together a final budget proposal for the Congregation to vote on May 20th. We can't responsibly budget to spend money we don't have, so some things will have to be left out. If you haven't yet pledged, please do so. If you can increase your pledge, please do so. The Stewardship Committee promised we would pledge a dollar for every dollar the Congregation increased pledges over last year. We were nervous about that. Apparently, we didn't need to be. Instead, we're nervous about paying the church's bills next year.

	Dollar Range	Number of Pledges
\$ 1	- \$500	20
\$ 501	- \$1,000	9
\$ 1,001	- \$2,000	11
\$ 2,001	- \$4,000	7
\$4,000	- Above	3

--Feryl Masters

FROM YOUR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Personally I feel like I've come full circle from feeling stunned and shocked when Karen left in mid-church year to being filled with excitement at what lies ahead for us.

Your Search Committee spent many long hours in preparing for and conducting the actual search for a ministerial candidate that fits the needs of our growing congregation. We feel that we've found that person in the Reverend Ann Marie Alderman. Beginning on Sunday, May 13th, and running through the following Sunday, you all will have the opportunity to meet Ann Marie and hear her deliver two sermons. After her second Sermon on the 20th, she will leave the building to await the results of your vote. We're looking for a 90% affirmative vote.

I would like to extend a special thanks to your search committee members for the long meetings and hard work they all put in to this process. Thanks to: Terry Shank, Marcia Fletcher, Patrice Alexander, Jan Salstrom & Joanie deGroot.

Please make an opportunity to meet Ann Marie at one of the scheduled functions and then on the 20th vote your heart and conscience.

--Don English

A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE REVEREND ANN MARIE ALDERMAN

The Reverend Ann Marie Alderman grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, as an active Southern Baptist youth. She graduated from Florida State University with a major in religion in 1975. Unsure what to do with her fascination with all things religious, she found herself at Vanderbilt Divinity School in the late-seventies, just when the first woman dean of a major seminary was taking over...it was exciting an time. Ann Marie changed denominations, moving from Baptist to Methodist, (at least they were ordaining women ministers.)

Upon graduation from Vanderbilt she realized that the Christian ministry was not for her. She spent several years in "alternative" careers, including a couple of years as an automobile mechanic and over a decade managing her family's wood flooring business. By mid-life the urge to find a deeper purpose began with a move to Georgia. While living there, Ann Marie found the giant welcome extended to her by a small UU fellowship in Georgia -- just what she needed to begin to recognize where her journey was leading. In a few years she returned to Florida and by 2001, had become fellowshipped by the UUA and jointly ordained by both of the UU congregations in her hometown.

Years of experience in small business administration, a full year of intensive training as a hospital chaplain, two years as a Director of Religious Education, three as an Associate Minister with responsibility for religious education, pastoral care and church administration, and two more years as the sole minister of a thriving small congregation in the northern Pennsylvania whose membership doubled while she was there have all created an attractive and unique candidate for our church community. Pending an affirmative vote by the Unitarian Unviersalist Congregation of Greenville the the Reverend Ann Marie Alderman looks forward to serving as our settled minister this fall.

CANDIDATING WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS May 13th thru May 20th

Date	Event	Location	Time
May 13 Sunday	Service	UUCG	10:30-12:00 am
	Lunch	Pirate's Pub	12:00-1:30 pm
	Meet & Greet	UUCG	5:30 to 6:30 pm
May 14 Monday	Board Meeting	UUCG	7:00- pm
May 15 Tuesday	Breakfast	Cracker Barrel	8:30-9:30 am
May 16 Wednesday	Pot Luck	UUCG	6:00-7:30 pm
May 17 Thursday	Dinner with President & VP	Their Choice	6:00-7:00 pm
	Board & Committee Chairs	Terry Shank's	7:00-8:30 pm
	May 19 Saturday	Picnic	Maxwell's farm
May 20 Sunday	Service	UUCG	10:30-11:30 am
	Congregational Mtg	UUCG	12:00- pm

During the Candidating Week, Rev Alderman will be meeting with the Director of Religious Education, the Administrative Assistant, and the Treasurer.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

It is time for needed change - our wall décor remains the same, our pulpit area needs revitalization, our ceiling is discolored -and so forth. The requests for some new ideas and creative vision have been heard. Therefore, you, who are creative and full of ideas, have been invited to give input and bring creativity to the table on Monday, May 7 at 7 o'clock at the church.

Please let Terry know whether or not you can attend at tshank@greenvillenc.com or at 756-3108.

Alice Arnold	Lorraine Obremski
Bee Behr	Louise Pleasant
Lisa Brenner	Jan Salstrom
Don English	Marcia Sobel
Joanie deGroot	Ray Sobel
Lora Hiylton	Jackie Wyman
Carol Maxwell	

If you know someone of artistic leanings whom I have left out, please let me know.

--Terry Shank,
Buildings and Grounds Com.

PICNIC MAY 19th AT THE MAXWELL'S

Meet our ministerial candidate, Rev Ann Marie Alderman -- come to the picnic at the Maxwell's

Their address is 1713 Worthington Warren Road, Stokes -- it's just off of NC 903, SW of Stokes. Take Memorial Drive north from Greenville to the intersection with NC-903 and turn right. Worthington-Warren Road is the 4th right (Wichard, Brown, Oakley, Worthington-Warren). The house is on the left maybe a half mile or so down the road -- #1713.

--Search Committee

NOTES FROM THE RE CHAIR

The Easter Egg Hunt was a blast for all ages. The teens hid the eggs for the younger groups and helped when their hiding spots proved too good.

I hope everyone was able to attend the Child Dedication ceremony. We welcomed Hayden Jack Cundiff and Daniel Lynn Sparrow as the newest additions to our church family.

The teens came back from the UU Conn in Durham very excited. Rebecca said it was difficult at first because it seemed everyone else already knew each other from numerous past Conn's. By the end of the weekend, though, she had made a lot of friends and wished she wasn't turning 18 and unable to participate next year. Nicholas reported having a great time, start to finish, and commented that "all the other UU teens made us look normal". Amber and Nick both enjoyed the games. Elizabeth was the queen of friendship making, she came home with many emails and has already made contact with some of her new friends. Rich Elkins said the teens are already interested in planning for another Conn.

For anyone interested in helping with the Harry Potter week, we are having a meeting in the RE department just after the service on May 6th. Please attend, even if you are just curious or unsure of your ability to help.

The next teen movie night is May 12th at 7pm. There's always enough pizza and soda and the company is great.

RE families mark your calendars for a pool party on June 10th at 12:30pm. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Younger children must be accompanied by an adult. Janet Doig and her daughter generously offered the pool party at the auction and Charles Gunther bought it for the RE department. Thank you Charles and Janet.

Thanks to all the volunteers in RE!

--Patty Gade

Working Together to Build Community



Religious Education Schedule May 2007

	Teens	Tweens	Adult
Tuesday, May 1			<i>Meditations On the Monk</i> <i>Who Dwells in Daily Life</i> 7:00 PM
Friday, May 4			Course in Miracles 7:00 pm
Sunday, May 6	UUVille Noon	Time Travelers During the service	Forum 9:30 am-10:15 pm
Friday, May 11			Course in Miracles 7:00
Saturday, May 12	Teen Movie Night 7:00 pm		
Sunday, May 13	UUVille Noon	Mother's Day activity during the service	Forum 9:30 am – 10:15 am
Friday, May 18			Course in Miracles 7:00 pm
Sunday May 20	cancelled due to Congregational Meeting	Yoga During the service	Forum 9:30 am – 10:15 am
Friday, May 25			Course in Miracles 7:00 pm
Sunday May 27	UUVille Noon	Time Travelers During the service	Forum 9:30 am – 10:15 am

On a Personal Note . . .

We will certainly all miss Fred Becker. Richard and Dusty are in our hearts.

Brenda Stewart will miss her stepfather, who passed away in March. He visited her in Ayden not so long ago, even though he was in his nineties at the time.

Bruce Baker's Grandmother, who was known as Tommy Lou, passed away in March also. She was 99.

Bette and Dave Nelson recently celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Michelle Jenkins' grandmother has been very ill with pneumonia following the death of Michelle's mother last month.

Bob Franke shared that his wife, Annie, lost her very best friend. Bob also shared that their son, Warren, received an award for his humanitarian work. Following in his father's footsteps, I think.

Ruth Leggett has both of her children working in public service (police and fire). Because of the recent death of a Greenville Police Officer, Ruth reminded us that we need to thank all of our public servants regularly. The same thing had been on Charles Knowlton's mind. He expressed gratitude for all the people that serve us in so many hazardous jobs.

Justin Capehart is moving to Oklahoma to accept a private scholarship to college and a new job. Those of us who have gotten to know him will miss him. He was the tall young man with black hair.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership committee will be having the spring new member flower ceremony on May 6th. This is a special yearly ceremony and we hope you can attend. We are planning the new member dinner for June 9th. We are looking for new people to work with us on the committee. Why not give it a 12 month commitment? Come join us.

--Ruel Tyer



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

May 6th - "Aging as a Spiritual Journey"
What do our later years offer us for spiritual growth? We'll explore the challenges and changes of aging and what we can do to prepare for or improve our hopefully lengthy years as an elder. We will also welcome the new members to UUCG.

May 13: "Who Me?" No matter how much planning we engage in, life often just happens. What this mother knows about imagined ideals and reality.

May 20: "Walking Together". As valuable as sitting still and adopting a quiet, listening presence is, we are members of a faith tradition that moves... Where is UUCG going?

May 27th: "The Rise of Fundamentalism"
- Frank L. Benedetti, co-chair *Accepting Allies*

We are currently faced with Fundamentalist uprisings in the three major religions of our time: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. They have more in common than you may think. As UU's, we are called upon to not only understand them, but to find a way to communicate with them.

Memorial for Fred Becker

Please join us on May 6th at 1:30 PM in the sanctuary for a service celebrating the life of Fred Becker. Refreshments will be served afterward.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our vision ten years ago (10 years ago) ----

CONGREGATIONAL WORKSHOP NOV 1996
In 2006.....

- Raleigh will be a suburb of Greenville
 - Rev Bob will be full-time
 - a building designed for UUs
 - at least 150 members
 - visible in the community --with social action, particularly
 - full-time RE Director
 - active youth group
 - leader of an inter-religious group
 - have a plan in place for on-going fundraising/development
 - a published church history
 - have a part-time church administrator
 - adult studies group for religious heritage
 - be "neutral" about religious beliefs
 - a full music program
 - support of individual growth
 - achievement of diversity in our congregation
- Terry Shank



Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday , May 22nd at 8:00 am

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

May 2nd -- **Riz** -- 10th Street across from China 10

May 9th -- **Hibachi Express** -- 3040 S. Evans St -- 321-1816

May 16 -- **Pot Luck Meet our Ministerial Candidate at Church**

May 23 -- **Chico's Mexican Restaurant** -- 4054 S. Memorial Drive, Winterville, 439-0003

May 30 -- **Finelli's** -- 2905 E. 5th Street -- 695-0020

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English 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, Rev Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Sue Ferris
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart
Office Administrator, Jess Patterson,

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman
Communications: Don English
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Ruel Tyer
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Ray Sobel
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

