



The UUCG  
**beacon**

**May 2008**

The *beacon* is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville 252-355-6658 [www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)  
*beacon* Editor: Don English  
[beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org)

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

May 4

*Thanking Volunteers!*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

May 11

*Prevention, detection, and the successes in preventing Family Violence.*  
Sarah Munzer

May 18

*What is Congregational polity? Why do we do things the way we do?*  
11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

May 25

*Our Christian roots: Heritage or Hindrance?*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

**President's Notes**

**Extending Our Welcome**

It was a delight to participate in the Town Hall Meeting on April 20<sup>th</sup> to solicit the input of the congregation on the Welcoming Congregation Program and Designation. The congregational response was overwhelmingly in favor of the program, and those "dissenting" voices were not those who believe that we should not be more welcoming, but instead were ones of concern for singling out one group over another and that our welcoming should be even more widespread to include other disenfranchised groups.

In reality, I couldn't agree more! I wish we didn't need to single out any one group for welcome, but in American religious society, GLBT people are frequently singled out for discrimination, or are "welcomed" with various caveats, the lingering "but..." which limits the welcome.

While there are common elements to all forms of oppression, a topic which is covered in the welcoming congregation curriculum, the targets of each form of oppression have unique group characteristics, histories, and cultures. To be accepting of some oppressed group, whether it be race, gender, ability, affectional orientation, or any other category is not enough to be truly welcoming. It takes an understanding and appreciation of the unique life experiences that those people bring and how it enriches us all to include them.

I believe that the Welcoming Congregation program for GLBT people is not some be-all-end-all of understanding oppression, but instead it is only a beginning. A part of living the ideals of the Welcoming Congregation calls us to continue our study, to understand the various racial minorities that compose our society and undertake anti-racism work, to learn how both physical barriers and also attitudes affect and restrict the lives of the differently abled, and to understand the inequities in our society that are based on gender. The work to be truly welcoming is never ending, but is a process worth undertaking.

We have to start somewhere. I think that starting with GLBT people makes sense, because homophobia is still more accepted in our society than racism, sexism, or ableism. The law protects people from discrimination in other categories, but not based on orientation (some places, yes, but not here). This was punctuated by one story of discrimination that was shared very tenderly at the town hall meeting, and I was very touched and grateful for that sharing.

**PREZ NOTES** (continued on page 6)

# Reflections

... of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

I am happy to share the great news that 58 households responded to the Pledge Campaign making financial commitments totaling nearly \$83,000. As the Finance Committee and I expect there may be a few more regular contributors who have yet to make a pledge, but who soon will, we advised the Board to set the pledge income budget for July 2008 through June 2009 at \$85,000. That sum represents a nearly 10% increase over this year's (2007/8) pledge income. That's an increase that the pledging members and friends of UUCG can be very proud of! That increase represents a big statement of support and approval for the direction UUCG is headed!

If you are among the few who have yet to make a pledge, I hope you will. Even a small amount, especially if you are experiencing a financially challenging time, can also make a big statement and make you feel good! Did you know that nearly \$100 a year per member is paid by UUCG to stay con-

nected with other UU's in our area and for UUCG to remain a member congregation of the UU Association? If you make a pledge of \$8 a month that is enough to keep another member from paying those "dues" sent for you to the Thomas Jefferson District and the UUA. Making a pledge of \$10 a month, would be making a statement that you do what is fair, and don't rely on another member to pay your dues!

As more pledges come in the lean and responsible proposed budget that will be presented to the Members for approval on May 18<sup>th</sup> may be adjusted! In the meantime, many thanks are due to all those leaders who spent so much time and energy in conversation, working toward consensus to create next year's proposed income and expense amounts in a way that does not rely on savings to make ends meet, yet insures that UUCG's liberal presence in Greenville will be alive and well! Good work, everyone!

-Ann Marie

## Topic for Mothers' Dayservice

Sarah Munzer with the Family Violence Program of Pitt County will be speaking on prevention, detection, and the successes they have had in preventing Family Violence.

Social Action has donated (\$100) to this charity for several years.

Any questions, call me at 439-32321 or 714-7520 - Lora Hylton, Worship Committee Chair.

Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, May 20th at 8:00 pm

# Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

## PEOPLE AMONG US –

**JANET DOIG** tells us that the Sheppard Memorial Library and she were both born in 1930. Janet was born in Pittsburgh, PA, the oldest of five children. She graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, IN and received her masters degree in social work from Columbia University. Janet met her husband, Stewart, when he spoke to the young adult group at the Methodist Church in South Orange, NJ where he taught history. They were married seven months later.

Janet worked as a social worker with a family counseling agency, then as a supervisor for fifteen years in Obstetrics, Gyn and Pediatrics in Nassau County Medical Center. She also did part time work for Pearl Buck's Welcome House studying couples in the New York area interested in adopting hard to place children and made five flights to Korea bringing back children. She and her husband adopted their oldest daughter and youngest son through this agency. Widowed in 1996, she has our children and five grandchildren.

Janet has been an active Unitarian from 1958 in Long Island to her retirement and move to NC in 1985. She has been with UUCG from 1997 to the present. She served as Chair with Building and Grounds and loved cutting the grass. Next, she was Hospitality Chair and since then odds and ends like the Crop Walk and currently on the Nominating Committee. In the Greenville community, she has volunteered with My Sisters Closet, the Soup Kitchen and First Born.

Her passion has been the flute and she has taken lessons for eleven years and played with the Tar River Community Band for six years. Janet enjoys reading, gardening, and traveling and while her oldest daughter lives here, she has always felt that UUCG is her extended family. She shares that she has been a juvenile diabetic for 51 years and has learned to be very careful regarding eating and activities.

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**CHILDCARE.....UUCG is committed to offering childcare whenever needed so that parents can fully participate in congregational life. All we ask is that you MAKE a request at least 48 hours in advance of the UUCG committee meeting or event you plan to attend. Childcare is always available on Sunday mornings during the service. All other times, please advise in advance and childcare will be arranged!**

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**PLEASE consider saving a tree and accessing your newsletter on-line! Or printing your copy at home on paper you have already "used" on one side! Let us know if we can stop printing and mailing your copy! The office maintains a list of e-mail addresses and you can be notified immediately when the newsletter pdf is available! No wait, no loss of forests! Please, please, please advise us at [uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org).**



# May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Move on Down East	02 7pm Course in Miracles	03 Dinners For 8 6pm Cuups May Day potluck
04 9:30am - Forum 10:30am Worship Service - Thank- ing Volunteers! Rev. Ann Marie Alderman 7pm Spirit in Prac- tice Adult RE	05 6pm Worship Com- mittee Meeting	06 8:30am Tuesday Breakfast Group	07 6pm Soup and Sharing 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Lifespan Adult RE	08 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting	09 7pm Course in Miracles 6:30pm Member- ship potluck	10 9am Building & Grounds Workday 1pm EDS Support Group Meeting 7pm Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
11 9:30am - Forum 10:30am Worship Service - Prevent- ing Family Violence 7pm UU Meditation 7pm Spirit in Practice Adult RE	12 7:30pm» Sierra Club	13 8:30am Tuesday Breakfast Group	14 6pm Soup and Sharing 7pm Choir Practice	15 6pm Girl Scouts	16 7pm Course in Miracles	17
18 9:30am - Forum 10:30am Worship Service - What is Congregational polity? Rev. Ann Marie Alderman	19 7pm Board Meeting	20 8:30am Tuesday Breakfast Group	21 6pm Soup and Sharing 7pm Choir Practice	22 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting	23 7pm Course in Miracles	24 9am First Born
25 9:30am - Forum 10:30am Worship Service - Christian roots: Heritage or Hindrance? Rev. Ann Marie Alderman 5:30pm UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	26	27 8:30am Tuesday Breakfast Group	28 6pm Soup and Sharing 7pm Choir Practice	29	30 7pm Course in Miracles	31

# Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

## FABULOUS FIBER ART RECEPTION

The “Fabulous Fiber Art” evening reception on April 18 brought many people from the community through our doors. The public and members of our congregation were able to visit with the artists from the Artrageous Quilters of Eastern Carolina who exhibited their works. Those present enjoyed the refreshments offered by the artists and congregation members. The exhibit will remain with us until the end of May.

Members of the Ambience Committee sponsored the reception, Joanie De Groot coordinating the artists' involvement. We greatly appreciate the time and expertise given to this project by Patrice Akexander, Kay Alston, Joanie De Groot, John Griffin, Lorraine Obremski, Hank Obremski, Marcia Sobel, Brenda Stewart, Claudia Sundman, and Ruel Tyer.

**Terry Shank, chair**

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## CALLING ALL UUCG ARTISTS!!

We are a congregation full of creative and talented people. During June, July and August we will exhibit the wonderful art created by our members . Let it be seen!! If you are interested in sharing your art with us and the community, please get in touch with Terry Shank at 756-3108 or [tshank@embarqmail.com](mailto:tshank@embarqmail.com) by May 20.

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## MAY POT LUCK DINER FRIDAY - MAY 9th - 6:30 P.M.

Plan to join us at the church for an evening of delicious food and good friendship. Please bring either a main dish, salad or dessert that can be shared by 8 people. Ice tea, coffee and water will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you all there on the 9th!

# Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

## **PREZ NOTES (continued from page 1)**

We will be done with our first offering of the Welcoming Congregation curriculum early this month. It will be made available again in the future as needed and desired, hopefully led by some of the participants in the current offering. The only remaining step to official designation is to pass a congregational resolution declaring ourselves a Welcoming Congregation and forwarding information on to Boston to let them know. That resolution will be drafted by participants in the workshops and presented to the congregation for consideration at our Annual Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to your vote of support.

**Rich Elkins**  
**UUCG President 2007-08**

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## **Building and grounds**

Spring is here and the grass and weeds are starting to grow. Building and Grounds is still looking for members who are willing to give us 30 minutes to an hour on some Saturday mornings. Contact Ruel Tyer at 902-6068.

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## **Photo Directory**



We are working hard to update and print a photo directory of UUCG members and friends this spring. Please submit any changes in contact information to the office at [uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:uucgoffice@uugreenvillenc.org). Charles Gunther is available to take your picture after most Sunday worship services. We would love to include your picture, so please contact Charles.

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The newly forming congregational CUUPS group (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans), Green Weavers CUUPS, would like to welcome all to celebrate May Day, known as Beltane in the Gaelic languages on Saturday, May 3 at the church. We will have a potluck feast at 6 pm, followed by an inclusive celebration at 7 pm with drumming circle and dancing to follow. We will celebrate the coming of the warm months and the weaving of community. If you have any questions about the group or the event, please contact Michelle Covi at [michellecovi@yahoo.com](mailto:michellecovi@yahoo.com).

## **Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society**

**The religious education committee has been busy keeping pace with our religious education classes and activities. The Tween group, with its range of ages and varying class numbers is always our most challenging and requires a lot of planning and focus. Through the end of May the Tweens will continue the exploration of themselves. I believe we have found a happy medium of learning and fun with the current activities. We are already recruiting next year's teachers and helpers and planning next fall's curriculum.**

**The Teen group has finished their current curriculum and will be having a "welcoming congregation" discussion through the end of May. At least two of our Teens will be attending the next UU Con in Durham. Rich Elkins, the teen advisor, has a goal of attending two Cons per year. This will make the third Con for the UUCG teens. The next Teen night is May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Adult RE has been an important addition to church community. The Forum, Welcoming Congregation, and Spirit in Practice are the current offerings and they have been well attended.**

**On June 1<sup>st</sup>, RE will be sponsoring the church picnic at River Park North. It will be a potluck with RE providing the drinks and paper essentials. Hiking, volleyball and paddleboats will be available. We are looking for a good turnout and great weather.**

**The RE committee has already started planning for the next Harry Potter Camp to be held July 13<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a big event for us and we need lots of help with set-up, meal preparations, and teaching. See Patty Gade or Victoria Brown to volunteer.**

**ANNUAL congregational meeting will be May 18th after the service!**

# Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

## From the Membership Committee

We have more new members! We welcomed six new members at our recent new member ceremony. Following the service that day, two more people signed the book. The eight new members are Sue Jefferson, Charlene Young, Michelle Covi and Tim Kelley, Jean Thatcher, Alan Bailey, Nicholas Brown, and Audrey Dunphy. Welcome to you all. We're glad to have you in our UUCG family!

Our committee needs someone to update the church scrapbook. We have lots of pictures. If you're willing to help, please contact Jackie.

We hope to see many of you at our first monthly pot luck dinner on Friday, May 9th. Come and meet our new members.

We have several May birthdays. Send them a card or sing them a song....Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear...

Larry Spell	May 2nd
Jennifer Barr	May 15th
Dave Clark	May 16th
Sue Farris	May 17th
Charles Gunther	May 17th
Jan Salstrom	May 24th
Lee Wyman	May 25th
Janet Doig	May 26th
Claudia Sundman	May 31st

Happy  
Birthday  
to yooooooooou!

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**The Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Greenville  
131 Oakmont Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858  
355-6658**

**Minister**, Rev Ann Marie Alderman  
**Religious Education Dir**, Victoria Brown  
**President**, Rich Elkins  
**Vice President**, Feryl Masters  
**Secretary**, Patrice Alexander  
**Treasurer**, Claudia Sundman  
**Office Administrator**, Michele Covi

### **Committee Chairs**

Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer  
Endowment: Bill Paulson  
Finance: Paul Alston  
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel  
Membership: Jackie Wyman  
Religious Education: Patty Gade  
Social Action:



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