



The UUCG beacon

May 2009

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

May 3
Ready to Share
Rev Ann Marie

May 10
Mother's Day Celebration
Rev. Ann Marie

May 17
*The Relationship Between Spirit-
tual Beliefs and Counseling*
Dr Clement Handron

May 24
Michael Servetus (1509-1553)
Jean Michel-Margot

May 31
Feed the Hungry
Rev Ann Marie

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Decisions, Decisions

During the month of May, you're going to have a couple of formal opportunities to make your voice heard and give some guidance as to where we are going as a congregation. The first Sunday, May 3rd, after the service, we will be having a Town Hall Meeting about growth. Our space is limited, but we aren't in a position to move to a new facility. How can we make the most of the space we have in the meanwhile? Can we rearrange the space to make it more efficient? Should we add a second worship service? Would a second service be the same, or should it have a different character to it to appeal to a wider variety of worship tastes? We'll be using small-group brainstorming activities to focus on issues of interest, then come back together and share with the whole group. These are very important short-term questions the Board must answer, and we need your input. But while we look at the short-term accommodations for growth, we must also consider the long-term as well. The meeting will also introduce the group who will be working over the next year and a half to revise and update the SLRP (pronounced Slurp) Strategic Long Range Plan. The time span of our current SLRP's vision ran through June 2009. Members of the SLRP Revision Committee will explain the process involved with drafting a revised plan.

On the last Sunday, May 31st, we need your voices again, this time for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Our Church year for officers and budgets begins on July 1st and runs through June 30th of the next year. No major policy changes are proposed, but the congregation must elect officers for all those positions whose terms are expiring, we must approve the church budget for the upcoming year, and we may also be electing our delegates to represent our congregation at UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City this summer.

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

In this issue of the Beacon, you will find the proposed budget for the upcoming church year: July, 2009 – June, 2010. The Board received, reviewed, and then approved the budget that was put together by the Finance Committee after this year's pledge drive was complete. Members will be asked to vote on this budget at the annual congregational meeting, which will be held on May 31st. As you can see, this year's pledge drive yielded the same total for pledged income as last year. Many of our sister UU congregations are experiencing frightening reductions in their expected pledged contributions. That's why the buzz phrase that is going 'round the UU world is ..."flat is the new good"! Although far short of the goal for pledge income that the Board set last September, given the economic down turn since then, the fact that the combined total that UUCG members and friends have promised/pledged to contribute *has stayed even* with last year is something *we can all be proud of and recognize as Good!*

Pledge income is flat (*which is good*), but while working on the budget, it became clear by projecting our current financial situation forward, that reductions had to be made in the income to be expected from non-pledge contributions and from interest payments. To complicate matters, it also was clear that there would be increases in some expenses, such as insurance costs, during this next

year. That meant that other expenses, costs that UUCG can control, had to be lowered. As you can read, the proposed budget projects just over \$2000 less in total income compared with this year's budget. Spreading this reduction in total income in an equitable and responsible way over the expenses side of the budget was the task of the Finance Committee and then the Board. I participated in these discussions by freely agreeing to a reduction in the total costs related to full-time professional ministry in order to lessen the impact on other expenses categories where reductions were going to have to be made. Paying attention to money really does matter, even...maybe especially, at church! I hope you have lots of questions, as I am happy to help you to understand the process, the budget and how to stay both real and positive!

I'll end this by saying how deeply grateful I am for the effort, energy and real money that so many give to continue to make it possible for UUism to thrive in Greenville! Things may be lean, but we are a generous group and a giving group that cares about each other and cares that UUism is here for us and for our children, and for our neighbors, for all who need what we are ready and willing to share!

—In positive faith, Rev. Ann Marie

Where Do We Grow From Here? Town Hall Meeting Sunday May 3, after the Service

Join us on Sunday, May 3rd for a sub sandwich lunch followed by a Town Hall meeting sponsored by your Board. Where and how will we make room for new members and friends? Growth keeps occurring but we need to make more space available to new visitors so they can find their place with us. Share your ideas and learn what others think as we work in small groups. Everyone's input is important so please come. Donations for lunch will be greatly appreciated. You may call Rev. Ann Marie or any Board member for more information.

—Bev Harju

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, May 19th at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

Forerunner's Project

The Coalition against Racism (CAR) is putting together an educational program for public schools throughout Pitt County. They are looking for speakers who were participants or in some way involved during school desegregation efforts in the '60's and 70's. If you were in public school during that time and would like to help with this project, please see Rev. Ann Marie! Or e-mail Kelley Haven at kelly.haven@gmail.com.

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, May 23rd, to assist with the food distribution. The distribution begins at 8:30am until 12:00pm. This is the "Diabetic" distribution. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebtritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.

— Toni Tyer

FIRST BORN COLLECTIONS

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. If you have food items, **non-perishable**, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this Social Action project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebtritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

Toni Tyer, "The Bag Lady"

Guest Speaker May 24:

Jean-Michel Margot, will be our speaker on May 24th. He was born in 1937 in Switzerland. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Greek, Latin, and Portuguese as well as a Masters Degree in Geology. His mother language is French and he worked for 30 years with IBM Switzerland. IBM brought him to North Carolina and he became a UU when he moved to Hillsborough in 2000. His wife introduced him to UUism. After the first service at UUCH, he read the Seven Principles and knew that he had found the denomination he was looking for more than 60 years.

Born in Switzerland, he was raised Protestant with all the stereotypes against the Catholics and these strange sects like Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, etc. For more than 30 years, he never went to any church.

His presentation will be about Michael Servetus (1509-1553). A fascinating figure, considered to be one of the founding fathers of Unitarianism. He was also one of the first Universalists. He was burned in effigy by the Roman Catholic Inquisition and at the stake by Protestant Calvinists in 1553.



— Ann Marie

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

Shoe Collection

The American Business Women's Association (ABWA) has resumed collecting shoes. If you have shoes you want to donate, please leave them in the library at UUCG or give them to Toni Tyer. I will collect the shoes and deliver them to the ABWA. The shoes are donated to third world countries through the Destined4Success program. If you want to know more about ABWA, please visit the website, www.pirateabwa.org.

Thank you for your shoes.

—Toni Tyer, "The Shoe Lady"

Family Violence Center

If you have a cell telephone you want to donate to the Family Violence Center, bring it to UUCG and Toni Tyer will deliver it to My Sister's Closet or the Family Violence Center. Put the cell telephones in the library or give them to Toni. If you want to deliver the telephone yourself, take it to My Sister's Closet. The staff will give you a donation receipt. If you want Toni to get a receipt for your telephone, leave a note with the telephone and she will get a receipt with your name on it. If you have the charger and other equipment for the telephone you want to donate, please put everything together in a box/bag for delivery.

Thank you for supporting the Family Violence Center.

—Toni Tyer, "The Telephone Woman"



Worship Committee May 2009

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to this year's core members of the worship committee for their regular attendance, friendship and participation. These include Rev. Ann Marie, Michelle Covi, Ed Day, Joannie DeGroot, and Ray Sobel. We have been able to have some lively discussion but to develop a consensus of ideas. I enjoy seeing democracy in action and believe the committee represents the congregation well.

In our April meeting we planned the five This I Believe Speaker Series and identified plans for other summer services. Training and identifying of Lay Leaders was also discussed. Finally, we identified the need for the addition of a stair and railing for the speaker's podium. Others are welcome to visit or join the committee. We usually meet the first Monday of the month and so our next meeting is on Monday, May 4th at 5 pm.

—Bev Harju

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

May 7: Stephen Brand
May 15: Jennifer Thielen
May 15: Jennifer Barr
May 17: Janet Doig
May 17: Sue Farris
May 17: Charles Gunther
May 18: Laura Schroeder
May 24: Jan Salstrom
May 25: Lee Wyman
May 31: Claudia Sundman

From the Membership Committee

—Kay Alston & Bette Nelson



May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					01 ■ 10am» Building cleaning	02 ■ 9am» Car Wash/Bake Sale ■ 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
03 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 12pm» Town Hall Meeting	04 ■ 5pm» Worship committee meeting ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts	05 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	06 ■ 7pm» Choir Practice	07 ■ 7pm» Program Council	08 ■ 10am» Building cleaning	09 ■ 9am» Building & Grounds Work-day
10 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 11:45am» Membership Committee Meeting ■ 7pm» UU Meditation Group	11 ■ 7:30pm» Sierra Club Meeting	12 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	13 ■ 7pm» Choir Practice	14 ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting ■ 7:30pm» Women's Interest and Service Group	15 ■ 10am» Building cleaning 6pm»» Potluck Spring Fling & Game night	16 ■ 1pm» EDS Support Group in Library
17 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck ■ 7pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting	18 ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts ■ 7pm» Board Meeting	19 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	20 ■ 7pm» Choir Practice	21 ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts	22 ■ 10am» Building cleaning	23 ■ 9am» First Born Food Distribution
24 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle	25	26 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	27 ■ 7pm» Choir Practice	28 ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting ■ 7:30pm» Women's Interest and Service Group ■ 7:30pm» UU Men's Group	29 ■ 10am» Building cleaning	30
31 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service						

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

News from RE

RE was blessed with a beautiful spring day for the Easter Egg Hunt. The children were split into three age groups for three different egg hunts. Hundreds of eggs were hidden and each egg was filled with healthy snacks. From the smiles it appeared that everyone had a great time.

The car wash and bake sale are scheduled for May 2nd from 9am to 2pm and we hope many of our RE families will participate. We especially need our teens for the car wash. To encourage a big teen turnout, we have rescheduled the regular teen night to directly follow the car wash. The teens' hard work will be rewarded with pizza and a movie.

The UUCG picnic will be Sunday, June 7th at River Park North. There is fun for everyone—walking trails, horseshoes, volleyball, and my favorite, the paddle boats. Put it on your calendar!

Teachers and assistant teachers, please remember there is a schedule posted on the bulletin board outside the teen room. It would be a big help to RE, if you could keep up with the Sundays you are scheduled. I have been busy myself lately and I have forgotten to remind the volunteers and consequently we have had to scramble at the last minute to have enough adults for the RE classes. Thank you for volunteering, but an even bigger thank you for showing up!

The RE birthdays in May belong to:
Lilani Masters - 19 years on May 2nd
Lauren Jenkins - 7 years on May 7th
Douglas Pendleton - 7 years on May 14th
Katherine Kenyon - 13 years on May 19th

—Patty Gade

UUA Thomas Jefferson District Annual Meeting and Multi-Generational Family Retreat

Friday, May 8th through Sunday, May 10th. Haw River State Park (north of Greensboro).

See the District Website www.tjd.uua.org for more details and registration.

**CHURCH SPRING FLING**
FRIDAY, MAY 15TH – 6:00 P.M.
Church Family Potluck & Game Night

Bring your salads, casseroles or desserts for eight along with board Games for adults and children or decks of cards to enjoy a fun evening with friends. See you all there at the church!

—Kay Alston & Bette Nelson



David Weiss Springtime Arbor

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

(PREZ NOTES: continued from page)

In a congregation of our size and with the amount of things we do, there are a lot of jobs to be filled. Members of the Nominating Committee are charged with the responsibility of trying to find people for these positions, both elected officers and appointed committee chairs. If you have an interest in serving in such a role, talk to one of the members of this committee. And if you are approached by the committee to consider a position, please consider it seriously, because the volunteers are the reason our congregation can function. A minister or Board President can't do it alone.

Elsewhere in this issue of the Beacon, you will find a proposed budget from the Finance Committee, approved by the Board for submission to the Congregation. The Budget provides a realistic view of our expected income and expense, and also shows the budget that was adopted for 2008-09 for comparison. I hope you will see the wisdom in the decisions made in formulating this budget and approve it at the Congregational Meeting.

—Rich Elkins

Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting

UUCG will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers and approving the budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year. The meeting will be held Sunday, May 31st at noon at the church. If you have questions about the meeting or proxy voting, please consult the minister or a member of the Board of Trustees.

—Rich Elkins

One more Fifth Sunday “Give Away the Plate” to go!

This church year there have been 3 Fifth Sunday's so far. The organization's that have benefited are: The Little Willie Center (\$260 in August) , PiCaso (\$182.66 in November), and the Family Violence Program (\$325.00 in March). One more opportunity to spread UUCG generosity to an organization doing good works in Greenville remains! First Born will receive all loose and non-pledge contributions given during the Sunday Service on May 31st! What we give makes a difference....

—Rev Ann Marie

SPRING CLEANING IN BLOOM

Volunteers got busy in April and brought a sparkle to our sanctuary. Claudia Sundman, Janet Doig, Bev Harju and Callie Shevlin got down on their knees and outed more than a dozen spots on the carpet and another dozen on the cushy chairs. What a job well done!! Our heartfelt thanks!!

--Terry Shank

Additional Notes on Sunday Services

Following the service on May 3rd will be a Town Hall meeting. Please plan to stay after the service for a sub lunch and the meeting.

May is a month with five Sundays and as has become our tradition, the collection plate will be donated to a charity. This month the collection plate will go to First Born.

Following the service on the 31st will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. While business meetings can sometimes seem long and tiresome, they are extremely important. Please plan to attend.

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

Proposed Congregational Budget for 2009/10	Current 2008/9 Budget
Income	
Fundraising	4000
Interest Earned	175
Non-Pledge Contributions	3300
Pledges	85000
<u>Rentals</u>	<u>1400</u>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>93875</i>
Expenses	
Building & Grounds	1500
Communications	900
Contingency	167
Denominational Affairs	
TJ District	2000
UUA	5208
UUCONCI	100
General Operations	
Insurance	2400
Office Supplies	700
Telephone	1000
Utilities	4200
Hospitality	100
Membership	
Caring Committee	0
Membership Committee	100
Minister: salary, benefits, exp	66000
RE Director: salary, expenses	7100
Religious Education Committee	
Childcare	1350
Programs	850
<u>Worship</u>	<u>200</u>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>93875</i>
	96000

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

Pledge Drive a Success

Although we did not reach our lofty goal of \$98,000, we consider the Pledge Drive a success. This year's pledge drive was a series of social gatherings at individual's homes and a luncheon at the church. We are very grateful to those who hosted and to those who facilitated at the gatherings. Judi Hickson, Claudia Sundman, Kay and Paul Alston, Sylvia English, Patrice Alexander, Terry Shank and Susan Foreman hosted gatherings. Shannon Terry helped Patrice with their gathering which included children. Judi Hickson, Bill Paulson, Sylvia English, Feryl Masters, Tom Thielen and Ann Marie Alderman facilitated. The gatherings were not only an opportunity to share our hopes and dreams for our congregation's future but to get to know one another better.

As of April 1, 2009, the total amount pledged was \$82,988. For those individuals who pledged last year and again this year, this is a 6% increase from last year. A total of 59 "units", representing 67 members, responded to the pledge drive with a promise of financial support to UUCG.. In terms of percentages, that means that 71% of UUCG members pledged and member pledges make up 91% of the total dollars pledged. Nine "friends" pledged and their pledges made up 9% of the total. When remaining pledges are returned, we anticipate a final total of \$85,000.

Next year we hope to see the Stewardship Committee as a year long standing committee that works in conjunction with the finance committee, fundraising committee and the endowment to assure the financial security of our congregation.

—Susan Foreman & Terry Shank

CONSTANT CARE

Every Friday morning John Gustafson and Diane Mackenroth with Terry Shank clean the entire facility, vacuuming, scrubbing floors and bathrooms, cleaning glass doors, emptying trash and recyclables, etc.

Every month, once for sure and many additional times the Grounds Crew makes certain the weeds are pulled, the shrubbery trimmed and the grass is cut. Bob Franke, Hank and Helen Foster, Ruel Tyer, and Terry Shank are the faithful few that keep us looking trim and neat.

More willing hands are needed to keep the building and the grounds in good shape. If you have even just an hour to offer, please see

--Terry Shank

RENEWAL TARGET – ONE WALL

The south side of our building will be getting an upgrade as some hardy folks will be putting up new siding and new windows. The present siding and window frames are showing signs of rot and age and need to be replaced. Ruel Tyer, Feryl Masters and Hank Obremski have offered to give their time to this project. We need more willing hands. Those that are able to be of help, please contact Terry Shank as soon as possible.

—Terry Shank

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

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, May 19th at 8:00 pm

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

Staff

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Patrice Alexander
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Music Director, Mort Stine
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Bev Harju

