

The UUCG Beacon

May 2011

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

May 1

May Day
Green Weavers CUUPS

May 8

Faithful Companions: Pets and Happiness
Rev. Ann Marie

May 15

A Grateful Heart and a Positive Mind
Rev. Ann Marie

May 22

William Ellery Channing and the Unitarian Controversy
Rev. Ann Marie

May 29

Jewish Mysticism
Rabbi Yossi

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

This April has certainly had its share of surprises, some good and some not so good. Based on the week before, April 16th was supposed to be a beautiful Saturday and perfect for our Spring Car Wash. Instead, we had an overcast morning, and therefore not very many customers, and then ferocious storms in the afternoon. Thankfully, it appears

that the destructive tornados that touched down all around us did not directly impact our members and friends. However, our neighbors in Bertie County were not so lucky; please keep those who did lose so much in your hearts. We did raise almost \$275 on Saturday. Many thanks to our faithful car-washers including Claudia, Feryl, Derek, Patty, and Pat.

The good news, that Social Action co-chair Pat Anderson shared with the Board at our last meeting, is that provisional approval has been received from the National Cancer Support Community (CSC) Headquarters for establishment of the CSC-Eastern NC Gilda's Club-house. The National organization has been very impressed with how much has been accomplished in such a short period of time. They have a fundraiser coming up on June 7th.

Our Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 22nd. We will have a potluck lunch after the service and the meeting will begin at 12:30. At that meeting the Congregation will be asked to elect members of the Board of Trustees and approve our 2011-2012 Budget. All members are asked to attend and participate as we conduct the business of the congregation. The proposed 2011-2012 Budget is published in this newsletter. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Board of Trustees.

Our current treasurer's report shows that we are living within our means with a big assist from our fundraising efforts. The last McAllister's Day, on February 14th, was very successful; we raised \$231. We overflowed the side room and for a while it looked like there was standing room only! Our second annual Hymphony was a wonderful evening of music and fellowship and we raised \$440.00 to support our music program.

The Annual Thomas Jefferson District Meeting will take place at the Eno River Fellowship in Durham on April 30th. Alan Bailey and Gladie Hamilton will represent UUCG. The excitement is building in anticipation of General Assembly, which will take place June 22-26th in Charlotte. We hope to have a large number of UUCG members in attendance. Several of our members have already registered, made their reservations, and agreed to serve as volunteers. It promises to be a special and exciting experience. Child care and children's programming is available so it is truly a family event.

The days are busy and our lists often seem impossibly long. However, the unique aspect of volunteering is that we always get back more than we give. So when the Nominations Committee member calls you in the next few weeks and asks you to serve please say "yes." If we all work together we can do extraordinary things for those that are in need in our communities.

In Gratitude and Covenant,
Patrice Alexander,
President UUCG Board of Trustees, 2010-2011

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



This month on Sunday, May 22, just after the Sunday Service, those of you who are members of the UU Congregation of Greenville will gather to vote. You will be voting for the chosen few who have been nominated to lead this congregation as Board members and for a proposed projection of income and expenses that this congregation will do its best to honor during the period of July 2011 through June 2012. This might seem like a mundane, not- too- exciting way to spend even a small part of your midday. Yet, I assure you that our forebears considered voting on these sorts of faith community matters not only a great privilege but a right won only by centuries of martyrs and freedom (religious freedom) fighters! Self rule was very important and precious to them!

Even if you look at it from a shorter view, the members and friends of this congregation ought to be proud and thankful for the energy and enthusiasm that those who are volunteering to spend more time with this UU endeavor are offering. Won't you honor them with your YES vote?

Then there's the short view that takes a look at this coming year's proposed budget and realizes just how far this congregation has come in the last five years. (You'll find a copy of the proposed budget in this newsletter. If you want more details, Brenda Stewart or I would be glad to share with you the answers to whatever questions you might have.) It cannot be denied that this congregation has grown tremendously its ability to do big, important things. In this day and age where it might feel to many of us that we have so little control over so little... isn't it nice and refreshing to belong to this place where just the reverse is true. Yes, yes and yes!

Ann Marie

The Universalist Convocation 2011 will meet in Newberry, South Carolina May 20-22, 2011

This is a very historic Universalist Church and town. Many very early Universalist ministers came to North Carolina from Newberry. They laid the foundation for many of the current UU churches in the state.

Registration fee of \$60 may be sent to: Peggy Jones, P O Box 235, Seven Springs, NC 28578. Please include names of those attending, address, phone number and email address. There are 5 hotels in Newberry, each of which is between 2 and 7 miles from the church.

Staff

Minister: Rev. Ann Marie Alderman
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Board of Trustees

President: Patrice Alexander
Vice President: Bev Harju
Secretary: Susan Foreman
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
At-Large: Alan Bailey
At-Large: Judi Hickson
At-Large: Tom Thielen

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Feryl Masters, & Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Hospitality: Lynn Caverly & Pat Dix
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Youth Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Feryl Masters
Social Action: Tom Long & Pat Anderson
Worship: Gladie Hamilton

Social Action

Social Action Report From Tom Long

FIRST BORN:

Our congregation had two volunteers at First Born Food Distribution Program on Saturday, March 26th, 2011: Tom Long and Larry Means. Toni and Ruel Tyer also volunteered work time at First Born on other days during March.

Proposed Congregational Budget for 2011/12

			current 2010/11 budget
Income			
	Fifth Sunday	2000	0
	Fundraising	6500	5500
	Non-pledge Contributions	7350	7000
	Pledged Contributions	94860	86500
	Rentals	1125	1300
	<i>Total Income</i>	111835	100300
Expenses			
	Administrator salary	2600	2000
	Building & Grounds	4750	2500
	Church Cleanup	2800	0
	Childcare salary	1250	1200
	Communications	800	800
	Conferences	600	0
	Contingencies	1144.75	230
	Denominational Affairs	8390	7723
	General Operations	8358	8000
	Hospitality	300	300
	Membership	250	250
	Minister salary, benefits	67320	66000
	Social Justice/Fifth Sunday	2000	0
	Stewardship	200	0
	YRE Director salary, benefits	7097.25	7097
	Youth Religious Education	950	950
	Worship & Choir Director	3025	3250
	<i>Total expenses</i>	111835	100300

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Over the last few days our garden in the back of the church has undergone quite the transformation. We've cleaned out all the weeds, and this past weekend the children helped to plant the seedlings we planted several weeks ago and have been nurturing in the big RE room. We planted a mix of squash, tomato, pepper, cucumber and eggplant and will probably be adding some more plants in the next few weeks. Working in the garden is a very rewarding experience. The children get to watch the plants from seeds to fruit-bearing maturity, and we donate our harvest to the First Born Food Bank. This project will be ongoing, and if anyone would like to test out their "green thumb", we'd welcome the extra hands this growing season.

Upcoming dates:

- April 24th: Easter Sunday: Easter Egg Hunt after the service
- May 14th: Tweens' RE Overnight
- June 3rd: RE Teacher Appreciation Dinner
- June 5th: Official end of the curriculum year at River Park North
- June 12th: UU Hogwarts Academy begins.

As you can see, we have a number of activities planned for the next few weeks. I am particularly excited about the start of our UU Hogwarts Academy. We are planning some great lessons with some magical flair that the children (and our volunteers) will greatly enjoy. Our summer curriculum is combined age (5+) and offers a great opportunity for all the children to work together.

We appreciate all the hard work of our dedicated volunteers who teach in the classrooms and who work to keep our spaces clean and inviting, inside and outside. If you would like to volunteer with RE, either in the garden or as a teacher or second adult in the classroom or the nursery, just let us know!

In Service,
Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE

RE Teacher Appreciation Night

Friday, **June 3rd** at 6 pm Teacher Appreciation Dinner. All RE teachers are invited to a Teacher Appreciation Dinner at the church on Friday, June 3rd at 6 pm. Dinner will be provided by Tom Long and Bev Harju. Anyone else who would also like to show their appreciation is invited to bring a potluck item and join us. The monthly Friday Fun Night begins around 7 pm.

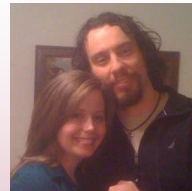
Joseph Priestley House

When Joseph Priestley is remembered today, it's usually for his 1774 discovery, in England, of oxygen. Few know he was a noted Unitarian theologian, political progressive, and author whose scientific contributions include the development of the carbonation process, the identification of carbon monoxide, and early experiments in electricity. Joseph Priestley House is a historic site in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania that preserves and interprets his contributions and significance to American history. They welcome UUs traveling in the area to visit. Check out <http://www.josephpriestleyhouse.org/>

~ May 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a May-Day Intergenerational Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	2	3 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	4 6p-8:30p Potluck Wedding Shower!	5	6 7p-9p First Friday Fun Night	7
8 Faithful Companions: Pets and Happiness 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 12p-1p Lunch Group	9 5:15p-6:15p Worship Committee meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club Meeting	10 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 6p-7p Gilda's Team Leaders 7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams 7:30p-8:45p KTC	11 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	12 7p-8p Social Action Committee Meeting	13 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	14 1p-5p Brooks Celebration of Life 7:30p-7:30p YRE overnight
15 YRE overnight 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a A Grateful Heart and a Positive Mind 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	16 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	17 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 7p-9p The Coffee Party 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	18 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 4:30p-6:30p Montessori Graduation	19	20	21
22 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a William Ellery Channing and the Unitarian Controversy 12:30p-1p Annual Congregational meeting	23 7p-8:30p Book Club	24 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	25 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	26 7p-8p UU Men's Group	27 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	28 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
29 9:50a-10:25a Living Mindfully 10:30a-11:30a Rabbi Yossi and Jewish Mysticism 12p-1p Lunch Group	30	31 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's office hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation				

Shower for Stephen and Erin

On May 4th at 6:00 pm, UUCG will host a wedding shower/pot luck dinner for Stephen Brand and his fiancée Erin. Since they both have residences that are furnished and there is very little that they need, we are requesting monetary gifts. We will have a decorated box available for all members who would like to participate with this gift.



As with our famous pot luck dinners, we look forward to a wonderful dinner and lots of fun celebrating the upcoming marriage of Stephen and Erin. We hope everyone will mark your calendars and plan to join us on that night for fun and good food.

Happy Birthday to UUs this May

- May 7 –Stephen Brand
- May 15– Jennifer Thielen
- May 17– Sue Farris
- May 17– Charles Gunther
- May 18– Laura Schroeder
- May 24– Jan Salstrom
- May 25– Lee Wyman
- May 26– Janet Doig
- May 27– Bud Hazel
- May 31– Claudia Sundman



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF
LOVE



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, May 17 at 8:00 pm

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