



The UUCG Beacon

May 2012

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

May 6

Annual Flower Ceremony
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

May 13

Faithful to the Future
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

May 20

The Jesus Movement
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

May 27

World Religions
 TBA

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better. --King Whitney Jr.

In my inaugural column, I'd like to start off with a fond farewell to Bev Harju and Tom Long, as they begin the next chapter in their lives, taking on the role of full-time grandparents and providing daycare for their family's newest addition. Anyone who has ever taken care of children can appreciate how both challenging and rewarding that role can be. Your contributions to this congregation, through your work with the board, the social action committee, and in many other ways over the years, have been greatly appreciated. You will be missed.

Pat Anderson, sadly, is also leaving our ranks, to begin the next chapter in her life. Anyone with a finger on the pulse of this city knows of her dedicated efforts at improving the lives of those touched by cancer, though her tireless efforts with the Cancer Support Community of Eastern North Carolina. Her contribution to bringing CSCENC from concept to implementation has been both impressive and inspirational. In many ways, she has shown us the importance of dreaming big, then working hard (and recruiting other hard-workers with similar vision) to help achieve those dreams. As leadership of this project transitions, may the next leader be just as visionary and inspiring.

As I take up the duties as acting president of this congregation, I feel as though I am not off to the greatest of starts, as I must apologize to you all from the very beginning. I had hoped to bring you a board reviewed and approved preliminary budget in this newsletter, in preparation for the **Annual Congregational Meeting, May 20th**. At the time of this writing, board review and approval is still pending. Part of the holdup has been that the hopes, dreams, and desires of this congregation are growing VERY quickly, I think sparked by the inspiration of all we have accomplished in the past year. We have, after all, come together to: weather a natural disaster, expand our social action footprint on the community, expand our membership numbers, accommodate a blossoming youth religious education program, and band together to oppose a state constitutional amendment that is hateful and in contrast to our principles. We are all beginning to feel our own power to influence the world around us. And yet the challenge that has arisen, is that our pledge drive has fallen short of our target goal by a substantial

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Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



UUCG has a Caring Committee! Consisting of Tammie Atchison, Gladie Hamilton, Dorothea Handron, Claudia Sundman and Rev. Ann Marie; we meet once a month to share what we know of the joys and concerns in the lives of UUCG members and friends. We share for two reasons: One, in case there is something concrete we can do,

such as mailing a card on behalf of the entire congregation to those members or friends experiencing significant transitions, like an illness, surgery, or the death of a loved one. When we hear of a need for rides or meals, we will coordinate other members and friends to meet those needs. As you might imagine, the members of the Caring Committee are always keeping our ears open for caring concerns during the process of congregational life. Sometimes members of the committee share what might be considered "sensitive information". When we do, we are always attentive to the bounds of confidentiality. The second reason we share what we know about the concerns of members and friends is simply to be aware! We know there are those concerns that can't be solved or fixed with any practical action. Yet, if we know of these concerns we can be ready to offer of an attentive presence, so you feel heard and cared for. (If you would like to know more about what an attentive presence is or how to offer it, please contact me, as we would love to offer a time for practical instruction!) We may not "pray" like a more traditional congregation would, but we certainly lift up the concerns we become aware of. Our goal is for you to know without a doubt that you are not alone.

We would like to take on a more ambitious practical project in the coming year, knowing from all our members and friends if there are specific needs those who are elderly, differently abled, or alone might have during a time of severe weather or an extended power outage. Would you appreciate a visit, a call, someone to check up on you, bring you food or water, etc? Please let us know!

Rev. Ann Marie

Art on Our Walls

The Fabric Art of Pat Carlson will be the featured exhibit on our walls for the months of May and June. Pat is a resident of Chocowinity, retiring here from New Jersey. You will enjoy her folk art creations.

The opening reception for the public and the congregation will be Friday, May 11, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Please bring your friends for viewing, refreshments and music.

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: [Tom Thielen](#)

Vice President:

Secretary: [Susan Foreman](#)

Treasurer: [Brenda Stewart](#)

At-Large: [Alan Bailey](#)

At-Large: [Judi Hickson](#)

Past President:

[Patrice Alexander](#)

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: [Terry Shank](#)

Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)

Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)

Endowment: [Bill Paulson](#)

Finance: [Paul Alston](#)

Fundraising: [Feryl Masters](#)

Hospitality: [Alice Arnold &](#)

[Ann Eleanor](#)

Membership: [Bud & Phyllis Hazel](#)

Youth Religious Education:

[Jennifer Thielen](#)

Stewardship: [Feryl Masters](#)

Social Action: [Tom Long &](#)

[Pat Anderson](#)

Worship: [Lynn Caverly](#)

Proposed Congregational Budget for 2012/13

			current 2011/12 budget
Income			
	Fundraising	7000	6500
	Non-pledge Contributions	5000	7350
	Pledged Contributions	88785	94860
	Rentals	1200	1125
	Share the Plate	1500	2000
<i>Total Income</i>		103485	111835
Expenses			
	Building & Grounds	5300	7550
	Childcare	1100	1250
	Communications	300	800
	Contingencies	19	1145
	Denominational Affairs	8564	8990
	General Operations	9050	10958
	Hospitality	125	300
	Membership	150	250
	Professional Ministry	64705	67320
	Social Action/Share the Plate	1500	2000
	Stewardship	0	200
	YRE Director	7797	7097
	Youth Religious Education	950	950
	Worship & Choir Director	3925	3025
<i>Total expenses</i>		103485	111835

to be voted on by members of UUCG during the Annual Meeting on May 20th immediately following the Sunday Service

Religious Education

Greetings from YRE!

The children had a wonderful time hunting for hidden eggs on Easter Sunday. All the eggs have been found and the candy eaten, but that doesn't mean we don't still have a hidden bunny surprise! Some of you may remember that last year our YRE garden never quite "got off the ground" because the wild rabbits kept making snacks of all our seedlings. Word must have gotten out that the garden area was quite hospitable, because this year one of the wild rabbits has built a nursery hole right in the middle of the oregano patch! Luckily wild rabbits mature very quickly and we should be able to work in our garden this season, but because of our unexpected guests we will be making a few changes to our plans. As UUs, our seventh principle is that we covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. And sometimes the opportunities to do so come when we least expect them!

The original plan had been to put our seedlings into the ground for Earth Day. We can't really do that without offering an all-you-can-eat buffet to the wild rabbits, but our seedlings still needed more space to grow. We have decided to do some temporary container gardening and spent our very wet Earth Day transplanting seedlings into larger pots, which had been donated by members of our congregation. We'll keep the re-potted seedlings outside, but raised off the ground on some benches where they will hopefully be out of reach from the hungry bunnies. When the babies have matured enough to leave the nest we will move forward with our plans to plant in the garden.

We will be putting up a barrier fence to try to keep the rabbits from eating all of our young plants again this year. If anyone has any extra stakes or small posts, or any wildlife barrier mesh that they would like to donate to the project, it would be greatly appreciated.

Jennifer Thielen

Chair, Youth Religious Education Committee

Social Action

Shelter Action Report:

We regretfully saw Tom Long depart for California in April for his temporary hiatus from chair responsibilities. However, Pat Tesh and Pat Dix have stepped in as co-chairs to continue the activities of the committee.

We have had fewer volunteer visits in April due to volunteers being out of town or having responsibilities that prevented them from volunteering. Ruth Abramson, Pat Tesh, and Pat Dix were able to volunteer their time in April.

There have been some changes in staff and their responsibilities at the shelter, and we are planning to meet with these new staff members to better understand their individual roles and how we can work with them effectively.

We have made one delivery of supplies to the shelter that were donated by our congregation. We continue to encourage donations of articles for the shelter and volunteers who are willing to participate in our active service to the shelter.

Our committee decided, at our last meeting, to change our meeting dates and time to the third Sunday, after the service at UUCG, from 12:00-1:00. We welcome new members.

Pat Dix

Co-Chair, UUCG Social Action Committee

~ May 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC	2 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	3 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	4	5
6 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Annual Flower Ceremony, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	7 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting	8 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	9 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	10 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	11 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 5:30 p Art Reception	12 2p-5p Private Event
13 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Faithful to the Future, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	14 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	15 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7p-9p Coffee Party meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	16 5:30p-7:30p Montessori Graduation	17 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA	18 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	19
20 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a The Jesus Movement, Rev. Ann Marie 10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga 12p-1p annual meeting 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County	21 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	22 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	23 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	24 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8p UU Men's Group	25 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 6p-9p KTC Buddhist Rental	26 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution 9a-8p KTC Buddhist Rental
27 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a World Religions, guest speaker	28 7p-8:30p Book Club	29 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	30 7p-8p Choir Practice	31 6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA		

Pres. Notes continued....

amount. Are we holding back in uncertain financial times, fearful of over committing? Are members and friends of this congregation willing and able to be more generous than they have pledged? Will we be able to increase income in terms of unpledged donations, fundraising efforts, rentals, etc? Perhaps. But in order to offer a financially responsible budget, we must work within the limits we know to expect. By the time this newsletter is published, you have my commitment to a balanced budget that is responsible and reflects the vision and priorities of this congregation. I hope you will consider it at the **Annual Congregational Meeting, May 20th**.

This is proving to be a challenging transition, indeed. I am exited about the opportunities that currently exist, and look forward to the ones not yet arisen.

Tom Thielen
 Acting President
 Board of Trustees, UUCG

**Happy Birthday to
 UUs this May**

- May 7– Stephen Brand
- May 9– Scott Kohtz
- May 15– Michelle Leiberman
- May 15– Jennifer Thielen
- 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



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

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