

The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org



President's Notes

Faith is the commitment to live as if certain things are true, and thereby help to make them so. Faith is a commitment to live as if life is a wondrous mystery, as if life is good, as if love is divine, as if we are responsible for the well-being of those around us...Faith is a leap of the moral imagination that connects the world as it is to the world it might become.

-Galen Guengrich, Senior Minister,
All Souls Unitarian Church,
Manhattan NY

Funraising

Our last major fundraiser is the Car Wash and Yard Sale on May 18th. Volunteers are needed to help set up, sell on Saturday, and to wash cars. Donations may be taken to the church on Friday May 17th. Contact Feryl Masters at oferyl@gmail.com if you need something picked up. We always have lots of fun, and it's a great way to clean out your closets and get your ride sparkling. Any donated items not sold at our yard sale will be offered to the St. Paul's Episcopal Church for their yard sale to benefit Tong-Len.

We all have a notion of the meaning of the word faith. We may have both good and bad baggage associated with the word. We may not be comfortable using it in mixed company. But the words of Rev. Guengrich certainly inspired me to examine the meaning of faith.

The above quotation really resonates with me. I am accustomed to thinking of faith as a system of beliefs, often incapable of, or inaccessible to, objective validation. Rev Guengrich, however, seems to emphasize that faith is also a way of behaving. He emphasizes the power of intention. If we consciously CHOOSE TO LIVE as though the world is the way we want it to be, we will MAKE IT SO. If we commit to a way of behaving, our own behavior will change ourselves and the world. It is important to note that he does not say we have to agree on the state of the world currently, as long as we commit to living a certain way. He also does not say that we need to follow a specific path to that change. The mere act of conscious living will connect the world as it is to the world it might become.

Part of the reason this resonates with me so strongly, is that I feel that many of us in this congregation have differing views of our current state and differing views of our potential. We have differing views of what we need to do. We have differing views of what it means to be a member of UUCG, what we stand for, how we treat each other, and how we treat the world. And yet, if we share a "commitment to live as though certain things are true", we will make them true. What certain things can we agree upon as true? I leave that to the Right Relations Covenant Workshop, Saturday May 4th @11 AM-3PM. But I will venture a guess--they may have something to do with the seven guiding principles of Unitarian Universalism.

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Worship Services

May 5 **“Our Unitarian Universalist Principles Upside-Down”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

We usually think about our Unitarian Universalist Association Principles as the seven affirmations of faith in the first part of the statement and often ignore the six Sources which follow them. The principles’ affirmations have even more meaning when we know the Sources from which they grew, so this Sunday I’ll be looking at these sources of our religious tradition. You don’t want to miss this one!

May 12 **A Mother’s Day Service-** a Lay Led Service

May 19 **“Wanta Borrow a Jack?”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

Beginning from a wonderful story from J. P. McEvoy of the same name, a story that was a favorite of Walt Disney, I want to explore how we talk ourselves into and out of situations before we actually know the whole story or what we’re talking about. See you in church.

May 26 **A Service of Remembrance**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

This will be a service centering on Memorial Day, or as we used to call where I grew up, Decoration Day. Since we will be remembering loved ones who have passed away, you are invited to bring a picture or an item that calls them to mind to put on our Table of Remembrance.

Staff

Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

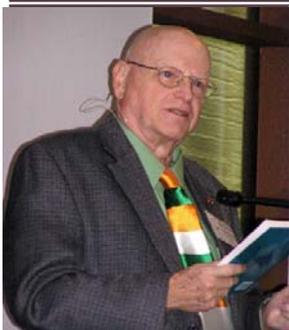
Board of Trustees

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Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)
Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)
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Social Action: [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)
Worship: [Paul Kurmas](#)

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person



Rod's Ruminations

As I was preparing for the very busy month of May I came across this humorous list sent to me by a former colleague, Doug Walters, a few years ago. I share it now to give you a laugh, and maybe, to inspire and strengthen your commitment to this congregation.

10 THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN A UU CHURCH

- 1) Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
- 2) I was so enthralled; I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
- 3) Personally I find canvassing much more enjoyable than golf.
- 4) I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to spend on football pools.
- 5) I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High RE class.
- 6) Forget the recommended minimum salary; let's pay our minister and church staff so they can live like we do.
- 7) I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before.
- 8) Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
- 9) To the Minister, "We'd like to send you and your wife to this seminar in the Bahamas."
- 10) Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!

Ten things we never hear in a Unitarian Universalist Church, but maybe we ought to. May your participation and support be guided by a smile and a spirit of abundance. See you in church.

Rod

Shelter Neck Youth Camp

We offer one-week camp sessions for youth aged 12 to 17 at our rustic campus in Burgaw, North Carolina. Based on Unitarian Universalist values we are a caring community dedicated to enriching the lives of our youth and inspiring them to become lifelong Unitarian Universalists engaged in sustaining and transforming our world. In 2013 our programs aim to reach approximately 50 youth over three weeks in the eastern/central North Carolina region.

Shelter Neck Youth Camp is made possible by the generous support of the Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI). UCONCI was first organized in 1895 to promote the coordinated growth of Universalism and now Unitarian Universalism in North Carolina. UCONCI has owned and maintained Shelter Neck's forty acres since 1932. Registration is open [here](#)

Shelter Neck Youth camp is looking for summer counselors and adult volunteers - join us for a wild week (or two) in July 2013! Counselors lead activities, act as role models and are integral in creating an accepting, empowering UU community for campers. Counselors are needed for Junior High Camp, High School Camp, or both! See www.shelterneckuucamp.org

Committees In Action

Committee chairs and co-chairs met in Council after the service on Sunday, April 21, for the last meeting of the church year. Chairs shared their accomplishments and challenges during the past year and identified goals for the 2013-2014. We should all take pride in the activities and programs our congregation promoted. Chairs were asked by Susan Foreman, vice-chair of the UUCG Board, to identify members of their committees who could act as leaders for the coming year. She also thanked everyone for the many volunteer hours that were spent in supporting the mission of our church.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 2. The Nominating Committee composed of Patrice Alexander, Gladie Hamilton and Terry Shank is actively recruiting members for the open board positions and seeking input regarding its recommendation for committee chairs. Now is the time to let the nominating committee know of your interest in serving in a certain capacity. Your help is needed, as always.

Please mark your calendars for the opening art reception on May 10 from 5:30 -7 pm,. The Artrageous Quilters will again bring their creativity to the Surround Gallery at UUCG. Bring friends and family for a good time!

Submitted by Terry Shank

About the General Assembly

(from the UUA [website](#))

You are invited to attend the 2013 General Assembly (GA) in Louisville, Kentucky. The theme of this GA is "From Promise to Commitment." Building on the experience of Justice GA, we will gather in Louisville to examine and renew our covenant to our faith, one another, our congregations and the larger world.

Programs will explore the kinds of promises our religious communities are called to make as we seek to live out our Unitarian Universalist values; how we make these promises, with whom, and how we hold ourselves and each other accountable. Here are just some of the topics that will be addressed: environmental justice, the next steps in immigration justice, anti-racism, anti-oppression multiculturalism, organizing for justice, multigenerational work, growing Unitarian Universalism, leadership education, spiritual growth and theology. There will also be many, many opportunities to worship.

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

[Video recap](#) of General Assembly 2012. is available on the site.

~ May 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Greenville Community Shelter Half Share			1 7p-8p Choir Practice	2 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	3	4 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 11a-3p Right Relations Workshop
5 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Our UU Principles Upside-Down 12p-1p Lunch Group	6	7 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	8 7p-8p Choir Practice	9 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	10 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 5:30p-7p Art Reception	11 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
12 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a A Mother's Day Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	13 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting	14 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	15 7p-8p Choir Practice	16 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	17 Yard Sale Set up 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	18 7a-1p Car Wash & Yard Sale 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 3p-8p Inclusive Roman Catholic Pentacost
19 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group 10a-11a Wanta Borrow a Jack? 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	20	21 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	22 6p-8p Montessori Graduation 7p-8p Choir Practice	23 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	24 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	25 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
26 9:30a-10:10a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a A Service of Remembrance 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	27 7p-8:30p Book Club	28 8a-9a Breakfast Group 4p-5p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	29 7p-8p Choir Practice	30 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	31	

Prez notes continued.....

Another upcoming meeting that is important to put on the radar, is the annual congregational business meeting, June 2nd immediately after the service. It has traditionally been a pot luck affair, with business starting promptly at 12:30PM. On the agenda for that meeting will be several important issues regarding our next fiscal year, our Board of Trustees docket, our ministerial search committee, and our work with the identity and right relations workshops. As the meeting requires a quorum to conduct business, it is vital for all members to attend or send written notification of a proxy.

As we continue to move forward through this time of transition, I am encouraged by FAITH.

Tom Thielen
President, UUCG Board of Trustees

**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 28– Joanna Hess
- May 31– Claudia Sundman



Deadline for next month's *Beacon* is Tuesday, May 21 at 8:00 pm

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