

# The UUCG Beacon

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

## Why become a Green Sanctuary?

Most of us are aware of the enormous environmental challenges our world faces today. Global climate change, resource depletion, pollution, and species extinction are just a few of the concerns that trouble us, both as individuals and as Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations. We may feel overwhelmed by the enormity of these problems, which are so difficult to understand, let alone solve.

Yet none of us is called to solve the world's problems on our own. We are called simply to do our part, through small steps carried out consistently, with faith in their power to make a difference. Religious leaders from most of the world's faith traditions have claimed that these environmental crises may be the greatest moral challenge facing humankind in the twenty-first century. Some suggest that religions may be the only human institutions still able to respond to the challenge.

Native American wisdom reminds us to look ahead in time to the impacts of our actions seven generations hence. Especially for environmental issues, we can consider the long-term impact of our individual and communal practices and behavior. Together we can imagine the "Earth Community" we wish to build for our children and grandchildren and theirs, seven generations into the future. We can make choices that will lead to a sustainable future for every being on this planet.

Read more at <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary/manual/290821.shtml>

From Patrice Alexander:

**Our 2014-2015 pledge campaign, "Feed the Flame - The Fire of Commitment," is drawing to a close** and we have not yet met our goal of \$90,000. To date we have received pledges and gifts totaling \$79,742. We are hoping that those members and friends who have not yet turned in their pledges will do so and help us reach our goal.

If pledge cards have been lost or misplaced send an e-mail to me, with their pledge amount, at [pealexa123@yahoo.com](mailto:pealexa123@yahoo.com)! About 80% of our members and friends have pledged so we know that the potential to reach our goal which supports our congregational programs and activities, and which in turn supports us all, is within reach. The way that I look at it is that even on those days when I cannot attend UUCG my pledge ensures that UUCG is there for other like minded folks who are pursuing their own spiritual journey in a community that supports and respects their search.

Anyone with questions can please contact me or any member of the Board.



## Worship Services

**May 4 "To Seek the Truth in Love"**

**Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

We say the Unison Affirmation every Sunday, where this is the fifth line; but I wonder if we know to what you are committing yourselves. I'm looking at each of the six lines of this affirmation, one at a time, one a month, continuing with this Sunday. I'll want your responses, too. See you in church.

**May 11 Mother's Day Intergenerational Service**

**Led by Judi Hickson and Laura Schroeder**

During our Mother's Day service, we will explore the world of "mothers" and/or those who took that role for us. We will look at one mother's unique solution to defining her role when applying to rejoin the work force. Please join us as we celebrate the Mothers on this special day.

**May 18 "The Unforgiving Moment"**

**Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This sermon begins with these words from the Rudyard Kipling's poem "If." "If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run, Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it . . ." I'll look at how we fill the minutes of our lives, as we measure time, and what forgiveness there is (if there is any).

**May 25 Veterans and Memorials**

**Coordinated by Ray Sobel**

This Memorial Day we will hear from members of our congregation who have served our country. These veterans will freely express their experiences, and give whatever comments they feel will be significant. Join us as we learn or are reminded that Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor those that have fought for our freedoms.

## Staff

**Interim Minister:** Rev. Rod Thompson

**Music Director:** Mort Stine

**Choir Director:** Sue Jefferson

**RE Director:** Lilani Butler  
Masters

## Board of Trustees

**President:** Tom Thielen

**Vice President:** Shannon Terry

**Secretary:** Tammy Atchison

**Treasurer:** Feryl Masters

**At-Large:** Terry Shank

**At-Large:** Rich Elkins

**At-Large:** Patrice Alexander

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** Terry Shank & Kay Alston

**Building & Grounds:** Feryl Masters

**Caring:** Dorothea Handron

**Communication:** Rich Elkins

**Endowment:** Feryl Masters

**Fellowship :** Cam Scales

**Finance::** Brenda Stewart

**Fundraising:** Feryl Masters & Claudia Sundman

**Hospitality:** open

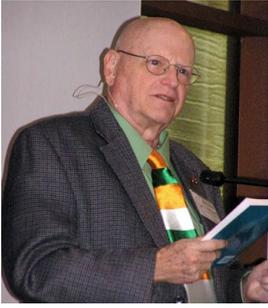
**Membership:** Sue Foreman & Judi Hickson

**Youth Religious Education:** Jennifer Thielen

**Stewardship:** Patrice Alexander

**Social Action:** Pat Tesh

**Worship:** Michael Betteken



## *Rod's Ruminations*

My work as your interim minister is almost complete. Actually my last service will probably be June 15<sup>th</sup>, then I'm off to Ohio. I'll be on vacation until the end of July, so we've obviously entered into the home stretch. You need to know that I believe we will have had a good 18 months together and that we have accomplished a lot. I will remember you fondly and carry away some precious memories of some wonderful people. You are a great congregation! Don't let anyone tell you differently.

People have often asking me how and why I do this wandering type of ministry. I will share with you the *Top Ten Reasons for Becoming* and Interim Minister (according to someone in the Interim Minister's Network with tongue firmly planted in cheek):

- #10 You can re-use all your old sermons.
- #9 You can re-tell all your old jokes.
- #8 You can't get a real job anyway.
- #7 You get to experience a wide variety of minister's offices, including ones that have a shower!
- #6 You get a chance to handle all the books you own as you move place to place instead of letting them collect dust.
- #5 You don't have to worry about being elected to anything because you're not around long enough.
- #4 You get a lot of practice honing your interviewing skills (and learn to deal with rejection).
- #3 If you're lucky you get an extra month or two of unpaid vacation every year or so. If you're unlucky you get an extra six months.
- #2 You learn to pack neatly and quickly.
- #1 Anything you don't want to do, you can say "That really should wait until you have your new minister."

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It's time to say goodbye, but I think goodbyes are sad and I'd much rather say hello. Hello to a new adventure.

Ernie Harwell



The Mountain is an extraordinary camp and retreat center serving youth, adults and families. Founded in 1979, it continues to be guided by Unitarian Universalist values and open to all.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MOUNTAIN?

*Appalachian Spring* is May 19-23, only a few weeks away.

*Fun & Adventure Week* is during the July 4th week.

*Come join the fun, please! We'd love to see you at The Mountain!!*

[www.mountaincenters.org](http://www.mountaincenters.org)

#### ***Appalachian Spring—May 19-23***

This, our first ever event at The Mountain, is shaping up to be both fun and informative. Explore both Early Settler and Native American lifestyles with off-site tours to nearby Cherokee Village and settlers' FoxFire museum in combination with Mountain-top, hands-on craft workshops and interactive lectures about the Appalachian History by notable local expert Rev. Dr. Barry Whittemore. There will be crafts, dance, singing, and storytelling. Find more information at our website. Museum visits and some hands-on activities have modest fees, listed on the website. Shorter and commuter packages are available. 5-day/4-night (12 meals) package is \$495.

#### ***Fun & Adventure Week—June 30-July 5***

Bargain-priced, family fun like decades ago—all concentrated in 6 day/5 nights at The Mountain: Rafting, Rock-Climbing, Zip Lining, Hikes, Waterfalls, "Childcare Windows", Campfire with S'mores, Fireworks on July 4<sup>th</sup>, "SweeTreat", evening programs, plus other options on-site and in the area. Kids 0-6 are free. Ages 7-17 are \$35/night plus \$25 program fee. There are three packages for adults ranging from \$250 (4 day/3night) to \$400 (6 days/5 nights). Find schedules and program descriptions at our website. Note—Optional "high adventure activities" have minimal vendor charges.

UUCG Note: FLYERS AND SCHEDULES for these programs are also available from our church office – ask Toni Broshears.



~ May 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>In all our deeds, the proper value and respect for time determines success or failure.</i></p> <p>Malcolm X</p>						
<p><b>4</b> 9:30 Mindfulness Medication 10:30 Worship 12:00 Lunch groups</p>	<p><b>5</b> 6:00pm Science of the Mind</p>	<p><b>6 National Teacher Day</b> 8:00am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:00pm Music Together</p>	<p><b>9</b> 1:00pm Women's Luncheon 4:pm Art Reception Setup 5:30pm Art Reception</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10:00am Music Together</p>
<p><b>11 Mother's Day</b> 9:30 Mindfulness Medication 10:30 Worship 12:00 Lunch groups</p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:00pm Science of the Mind 7:30pm Sierra Club</p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:00am Breakfast Group 5:30 Worship Comm 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>14 Vesak</b> 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:00pm Music Together</p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:00pm Classic GLBT Movie Night</p>	<p><b>17 Armed Forces Day</b> 10:00am Music Together</p>
<p><b>18</b> 9:30 Mindfulness Medication 10:30 Worship 12:00 Lunch Groups 5:00pm Vegetarians in Pitt Co.</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6:00pm Science of the Mind 6:30 Music Together</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00am Breakfast Group 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>21 American Red Cross Day</b> 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>22</b> 6:00pm Music Together 7:00pm Board Meeting</p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:00pm Women's Luncheon</p>	<p><b>24</b> 8:30am First Born Food Dist. 10:00am Music Together</p>
<p><b>25</b> 9:30 Mindfulness Medication 10:30 Worship 12:00 Lunch groups 12:00 Shelter Action Committee</p>	<p><b>26 Memorial Day</b> 6:00pm Science of the Mind 7:00pm Book Club</p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00am Breakfast Group 6:00 Democracy NC 6:30pm Wi\$dom Path 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>29</b> 6:00pm Music Together</p>	<p><b>30 Heat Safety Awareness Day</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> 10:00am Music Together</p>
<p><b>1 May Day</b> 6:00pm Music Together</p>						
<p><b>2 National Tuba Day</b></p>						
<p><b>3</b> 7:00am Church Yard Sale 9:00am Car Wash 10:00am Music Together</p>						

The UUCG **Spring Yard Sale and Car Wash** is happening **MAY 3**. Pack up all those still usable items you don't need and bring them on down the first of May. We rejoice in a diversity of items. Later, Bring in that filthy (or just slightly dusty) car or truck to get it thoroughly washed. We believe all vehicles have inherent worth and deserve to look dignified.



Indoor yard sale starts 7 am  
Outdoor car wash starts 9 am

**Looking for an interesting Book Club???** We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 1PM at Joan Sachtgen's house, in Greenville. We will be deciding on the books to read in June, for the 2014-2015 year. For more information contact Joanie de Groot at 252-321-1405 or [yoshi72@suddenlink.net](mailto:yoshi72@suddenlink.net).



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

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