



The UUCG Beacon

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Every New Beginning Comes from Some Other Beginning's End

That is a poignant line from the 1998 song "Closing Time" by the band Semisonic, and applicable to how things run with our congregation. This is the time of the church year where we start to prepare in earnest for the next year. Our church year runs from July to June, so on the 1st of July, a new Board will take office, new committee chairs will begin their responsibilities, and we start with a new year's budget based on the results of our pledge drive. But before all that can happen we must wrap up this year and begin to prepare for the next.

The process actually started a couple of months ago as the Finance Committee prepared a budget proposal with various goals, expected expenses, and projected income. In order to pay for all the new or continued projects and staffing, it was determined that we need to raise \$98,600 in pledges. The Stewardship Committee then started the annual pledge drive with that figure as its goal. They are also soliciting for people to make a pledge of time, to become involved in a committee or project. The Nominating Committee also started the process of finding individuals willing to take leadership roles as members of the Board or as Committee Chairs.

If you haven't already turned in your Pledge Cards, please do so as soon as possible. The results of monetary pledges will be compiled and if the goal is not met, we must make adjustments, cutting or scaling back new or existing programs to a level we can financially support. The pledges of time will be shared with the Nominating Committee in their effort to recommend committee chairs (who are appointed by the Board) and provide members to those committees to carry out their missions in the operation of the church.

All of this work will culminate with our Annual Meeting on May 31st. At that meeting, we will (at a minimum) elect new Board of Trustees, elect a new Nominating Committee, and approve the 2015-16 Annual Budget. The budget from the Finance Committee goes through the Board of Trustees, but is ultimately voted on by the Congregation. Additional business may be considered, but none have been proposed by the writing of this article. After the meeting, we will have a potluck lunch, and will remind you repeatedly in hope that you will stay and participate.

See you there!

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



"When we dream alone it is only a dream, but when many dream together it is the beginning of a new reality".

- Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

As your Developmental Minister, I'm charged to work with the Board of Trustees and its advisory Working Group of Brenda, Judi and Ruel, to identify and take steps toward reaching the 2014 Developmental Goals in 3 to 5 years. Goal #2 begins with the words: "to develop a financial support system...."

In order to move toward our goal, I think it is important for you to know what the contributor base looks like. With a proposed budget of \$115,600, it costs \$1,000 per member to operate the church. As a matter of full disclosure, eight of the 67 pledging units (individuals/couples) contribute from \$3,000 to \$6,000 per unit, adding up to a third of the total pledge income.

We are very grateful for the new members who have moved to town and who support the church with their participation and pledges. Every year some among us move away for jobs or to be near family. Others have died. With the added energy and wisdom of newcomers, it has fallen to us to envision what shape the congregation will take and what we will contribute to make it so.

The 2008 Great Recession has challenged Unitarian Universalist congregations here and abroad. The late Terry Shank among others were determined that the congregation not step backward.

Last year in order to have a budget with full-time ministry, three members made second pledges. The Trustees also made the hard decision that after twenty-five years contributing our Fair Share to the Unitarian Universalist Association, in 2014-15 UUCG would contribute less than our Fair Share. To persist with fewer resources is sometimes difficult. And necessary.

Without reducing full-time ministry with you, Jeannette and I are offering the Board a reduction of the Minister's remuneration in order to fully fund our Fair Share contribution to our association of congregations.

What is important is that we become fully aware of how we all depend upon one another to support our congregation's mission, its values and witness in Greenville. We need one another's presence, your participation and one another's contributions in order to be able to do so.

William James said: *"Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does."*

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, pastor

EVENTS



Please plan to attend an ALL-Congregation Workshop! -“How Is It With the Children?: Exploring the Ministry to Your Congregation’s Children and Youth” led by Reverend Susan Archer, Saturday, May 16, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Morning coffee and lunch will be provided. Childcare is available with prior registration.

There is a story of a Masai warrior walking through the forest, meeting a warrior from another village. “How is it with the children,” the first man greeted the other. “Well, well indeed. The children are well! ALL is well!” That was the normal greeting among the Masai, for to them, the wellbeing of their children was the measure of the wellbeing of the village. What a wonderful measure of the wholeness of life!

And, so it may be for us, in the UU villages that are our congregations! This workshop will invite you to explore the wellbeing of UUCG, focusing on its children and teens

It’s for EVERYBODY, not just parents and teachers, but for anyone who has ever been a child! We need YOUR ideas! Elders, teens, non-parents, that includes you! Come with your UU values and visions, memories and hopes, your wisdom and knowledge. What is possible in the Congregation, and what might be paths to enrich and grow the ministry to your kids? It will be a fun and engaging day, plenty of room for conversation, inner focus, and unbounded imagination!

About the Reverend Susan Davison Archer

Susan served for thirty years as a UU religious educator and minister. That work has included positions at the UU Congregation of Monmouth County in Lincroft, NJ, the UU District of Metropolitan New York/UUA, and Cedar Lane UU Church in Bethesda, MD. She also has served on many denominational committees as well as president of LREDA (our UU RE professional organization). She continues to serve as a Mentor in the UUA RE Credentialing Program. Her recent retirement brought her to Greensboro, NC where she volunteers in a local kindergarten, sings in the choir at the UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem, cares for her young grandsons, and enjoys her 3 grown-up children and daughter-in-law who have blessed her by settling in the same town. She remains passionate about deepening our UU commitments to children, youth and families, nurturing loving faith communities, and respectfully holding hands with others beyond our congregations.

CLASSIC GLBT MOVIE NIGHT— Friday May 15th at 7:00 pm

The movie is "Cloudburst" (2011)--Separated from one another by family members, a woman (Olympia Dukakis) springs her blind partner (Brenda Fricker) from a nursing home after hearing they can be legally married in Canada. Along the way they pick up a young, male hitchhiker.





NEWS-----

Pete Leary Scholarship Fund UCONCI has set up a fund in memory of Pete Leary to provide scholarships to Shelter Neck Youth Camps. You can donate via paypal at <http://www.shelterneckuucamp.org/LearyFund.html>

The **Membership Committee** is happy to welcome **nine new members** since the beginning of 2015 - Holly and Bret Wilson, Christopher Clark, Katherine Peterson, Christopher Lucas, Benjamin Britt, Nicole McLaughlin, Mercedes Wilkins and Veta Miller. We will have a new member ceremony on Sunday, May 17 to welcome our new members to the congregation. Alice Arnold and Laura Baltaro are updating the church directory. An electronic copy will be distributed soon.

Fundraising is a significant part of our budget. Last month, we had a very successful Yard Sale/Car Wash. We raised almost \$1,400 in our April event. Thanks to all of those who worked to make this a success. Thanks for all the donations to the church. If you need a record for tax purposes, please let me know.

Looking for Church leaders and volunteers--It's that time of year again, where we start to find all those amazing volunteers and leaders that our congregation needs for the upcoming year. The job of the nominating committee is to find our new church leaders and to direct individuals who wish to help to the various committees, activities, and opportunities that our congregation has to offer. If you are interested in any of the opportunities listed below please contact [Michael Betteken](#).

We have a few fantastic leadership opportunities this year:

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|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Member at Large (Board) | Chair Membership Committee |
| Co-Chair Hospitality Committee | Member of the Nominating Committee |
| Co-Chair Stewardship Committee | Chair of Building and Grounds |
| Chair Worship Committee | |

The following Committees are looking for new members:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Fellowship | Finance | Stewardship |
| Hospitality | Social Action | Membership |

MAY 2014

Sunday 3 rd	"In the Image of God: A Humanist Faith" Rev. Debs
Sunday 10 th	"Guide My Feet" Rev. Debs Chalice Circles
Monday 11 th	Chalice Circles
Tuesday 12 th	Chalice Circles
Thursday 15 th	Classic GLBT Movie Night 7:00pm
Saturday 16 th	Workshop "What Do We Want for Our Children"
Sunday 17 th	"Can We Raise World Citizens?" Rev. Susan Archer, MRE New Member ceremony
Sunday 24 th	"We Are Now Keepers of the Dream" Rev. Debs
Sunday 31 st	TBA Panel discussion UUCG Annual Meeting and Potluck

STAFF

Minister: Rev. Rod Debs
 Music Director: Mort Stine
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Rich Elkins
 Vice President: Brenda Stewart
 Secretary: Shannon Sparrow
 Treasurer: Feryl Masters
 At Large: Cam Scales
 At Large: Laura Schroeder
 Past President: Tom Thielen

WEEKLY SCHEDULE**SUNDAYS**

9:30AM Mindful Meditation
 10:30AM Worship
 12:00PM Lunch Groups

TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group
 7:30PM KTC Buddhist Meditation

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice

COMMITTEE CHAIRS**Building and Grounds:**

Chris Federico & Bob Hudson

Ambiance: Marcia Sobel

Caring:

Ruel Tyer & Ruth Abramson

Communications:

Rich Elkins

Fellowship:

Cam Scales

Finance:

Richard Baltaro

Fundraising:

Patrice Alexander & Jennifer Schultz

Hospitality:

Holly Brown

Membership:

Susan Foreman

Social Action:

Ray Sobel & Ann Eleanor

Stewardship:

Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters

Worship:

Judi Hickson

Youth Religious Education:

Shannon Sparrow & Christy Hoppenthaler

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is **Tuesday May 26 at 8:00 pm**