

The UUCG Beacon

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



President's Notes

And now in the serenity and quiet of this lovely place, touch the depths of truth, feel the hem of Heaven. You will go away with old, good friends. And don't forget when you leave why you came.
-Adlai E. Stevenson

It's that time of year again. The time of commencements, invocations, convocations, and graduations. It's a time of looking back and celebrating accomplishments. It's also a time of looking forward to the opportunities that await. In some ways, our annual congregational business meeting serves a similar purpose as University commencement exercises, though obviously not in the literal conveying of degrees. There is, after all, work to be done at either type of assembly. Graduation, however, is also a time for students to look back over their academic career and reflect upon the good and the bad, assessing their success at achieving their goals as well as their preparedness for the real world.

A similar thing will happen at the **Annual Congregational Business Meeting on June 1st**. Sure, we will be conducting business. We will take a congregational vote on the 2014-15 proposed slate of Board of Trustees, Nominating Committee, and Budget. We will consider an amendment to the Congregational By-laws. We will also present awards of congregational gratitude. But similarly to the graduating student, each of us will also be silently evaluating the relative success or failure of this year's efforts at achieving the goals of the congregation (and perhaps our own goals) while simultaneously contemplating the next step. Are we prepared for what lies ahead?

The quotation at the beginning of this article is the closing of Mr. Stevenson's address to the Princeton graduating class of 1954, entitled, "The Educated Citizen". It immediately struck me as poignantly motivational for a much broader group than those with newly conferred degrees. Why have you come to UUCG? Have you found what you were seeking? Have you achieved what you set out to accomplish? Much the way a new graduate carries their degree and educational experience out into the world, you too can carry out into the world the "depths of truth" you have touched while at UUCG.

Have a safe and blessed summer!

Tom Thielen, President, UUCG Board of Trustees

Worship Services

June 1 **“So That All May Grow Into Harmony”**
Led by Rev Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

We say the Unison Affirmation every Sunday, where this is the sixth 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, concluding with this Sunday. I'll want your responses, too. See you in church.

June 8 **Stories, Music and New Members**
Led by Rev Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

On this Sunday when we welcome new members into our Congregation and the Choir graces us with their music we'll hear some stories to make us laugh and think. See you in church.

June 15 **“Changing Partners”**
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

This will be my last Sunday Service with you as your Interim Minister, so I want to talk about the transition from me to your next minister, reload my tub, and sing our swan song (so to speak). You will be changing ministerial partners as I will be changing church partners. Come, let's celebrate together and take the next steps (dance metaphor intended).

June 22 **Summer Solstice**
 Today we celebrate the longest day of the year the Summer Solstice. But do we know what this day represents and why it is so important to our Earth Centered Religious traditions? Come and celebrate the Summer Solstice as we learn more about the importance and significance of this day. See you there.

June 29 **What Brought us here?**
Led by Sergio Ybarra
 "What brought us here? Why do we keep coming back? Examining the ties that bind us as we move into an uncertain and exciting future." This lay led service, being presented by Sergio Ybarra, will truly be an interesting look at where our congregation came from and where it is going. See you in church.

Staff

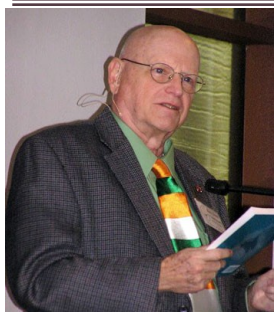
Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

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](#) & [Pat Dix](#)
Worship: [Michael Betteken](#)



Rod's Ruminations

Thank you for welcoming us into your community.
 Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Interim Minister
 Thank you for trusting me with your most intimate concerns – and
 joys,

Your tragedies and your triumphs

Thank you for allowing us into your lives.

I am a better minister, and a better person
 for having been a part of this congregation.
 Thank you for your nurture and your patience.

I leave behind a large part of myself here, in Eastern Carolina;
 Here in the Greenville;
 Here, cradled within this community that you love;
 Here, nurtured by these people.

I will remember UUCG as a caring community
 I will remember your welcoming spirit
 I will remember your commitment to each other
 And I will remember how you love to eat and talk and be with each other.

So, I know how I shall remember you.
 As for how you will remember me,
 I entrust those memories to your tender care.
 Thank you.
 Thank you!

You May Be A Unitarian Universalist If...

- you think socks are too formal for a Summer service
- you think the Holy Trinity is "reduce, reuse and recycle"
- when you watch Jaws you root for the shark ("Hey, sharks have to eat too!")
- you think "Whatever" is a valid theological point
- you think a Holy Day of Obligation is your turn to bring coffee hour treats
- you know at least two people who are upset that trees had to die for your church to be built.

Religious Education

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

The UUCG Chapter of Hogwarts School of Magic begins June 1st! This is always a fun program with plenty of hands-on activities and lots of imagination. While we highly encourage your child to show up for the First Day for Sorting and Introductory work, you can start at any time! Each lesson is self contained and combines some "magic", science and UU History & Principles. Our planned schedule is as follows, but may be subject to change.

June 1 - First Day/Sorting

June 8 - Owls

June 15 - Pixies

June 22 - No Class - Intergenerational Service

June 29 - Divination

July 6 - Cats

July 13 - Defense Against the Dark Arts

July 20 - Potions - Acidity

July 27 - Illuminated Writing

Aug 3 - Maps

Aug 10 - Potions - Re-hydration

Aug 17 - Astronomy

Aug 24 - Transfiguration

Aug 31 - Hogsmeade Celebration

Parents should be on the lookout for an email with some registration and allergy forms. These are very important as some of our lessons involve food, and we want to make sure that everyone can be included in the fun.

As a reminder, during the summer session of Youth Religious Education there is no Story For All Ages during the service. Children should come directly to the back hall to the "Common Room" (Tween Room) upon arrival. Your child may come to the back as early as 10:15 am and classes will begin at 10:30 am. Because these lessons are often more involved, we do ask that you help your child be on time so they don't miss any important information or run out of time to complete an activity.

Please see Lillani or Jennifer if you have any questions or would like to be a Hogwarts Professor this summer!

Worship

As summer approaches, the worship committee is looking for congregation members who want to lead services. There will be a 6-8 week gap between when Rev. Rod leaves us and the developmental minister will start leading sermons. This is where we need your help. If you are interested in leading a service please contact Michael Betteken (ike4587@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

The worship committee has presented two potential topics for the summer series which are "What Inspires You" and "What I Believe". The "What Inspires You" series is being brought back from last summer which was a great success. The "What I Believe" series is a chance for you to share with the congregation what your beliefs are and why they are important to you. Want to lead a service that doesn't fit in these two categories?

Great! Let me know what I can do to make your dreams come true. We are looking for people to lead services on the following dates:

July 6	August 3
July 13	August 10
July 20	
July 27	

Membership

The membership committee hosted a Welcome Luncheon for new members and visitors on Sunday, May 18. Fifteen new members and visitors attended. Terry Shank reviewed the history of our congregation and Rev. Rod reviewed the history of Unitarian Universalism. Four people joined - Lisa Baranik and Brandon Gorman (husband and wife) and Kenneth Johnson and Robert Mariner (former members of our congregation who moved away and have moved back). Uriah Ward had previously joined on April 13 and Becky Woelkers joined on April 6. We will have 12 new members to welcome to the congregation during the new member service on June 8.

We are planning for June to be picture month. We will be taking pictures of new members and updating pictures of those who request updates. We hope to update the directory this summer. Laura Neece-Baltaro has agreed to help with the directory.

Becky Woelkers has joined the membership committee and is eager to help make our presence more visible at both ECU and PCC.

Susan Foreman

Fellowship

ATTENTION SECRET PALS—There will be a brief but fun Big Reveal even at the end of the service on Sunday July 8! Be sure to attend and learn who's been sending you all those goodies this year!

COMING SOON—We will be organizing one Sunday a month this summer to meet downtown for a Sunday In The Park concert.

All of us on the Fellowship Committee have had fun this year, and I tremendously appreciate the time and effort that committee members Ann Eleanor, Cheryl and Chris Federico, and Lynda Lane have put into our efforts!!

Affirming the goal of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all

Fun & Adventure Week at The Mountain
June 30, -July 5

Have unbelievable fun-safely and with expert guides! Join us for 6 days and 5 nights of hiking, zip lining, rock climbing, Nantahala rafting, and lots of exhilarating fun that will make this vacation one to talk about for years to come. Just arrive and we will do the rest including planning your adventures, cooking your meals, washing dishes, introducing you to new best friends and offering your children a safe play environment to meet other children with similar values.

Experience what you always wanted to do! Feel the rush; celebrate your breakthrough; decompress with Family and New Friends. Individuals, couples, families:

Reserve an affordable, fun Summer Vacation at The Mountain.

Children: 0-6 FREE Youth: 7-17 \$35 a night

Adults: 18 Plus

6 days/5 nights \$375

5 Days/4 nights: \$300

4 Days/3 nights: \$225

Price includes room, board, daily adventures.

Optional: (Rafting, Rock Climbing and Ziplines) have add-on prices for each trip.

Mark vacation time now during the 4th of July week. Age 10 to 90 plus invited for adventure activities. More about Adventure Week, 6/30-7/5, at <http://mountaincenters.org/calendar>.

June 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00 Annual Congregational Meeting	2 6:00pm Science of the Mind	3 Shavuot (midnight) 8:00am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhism Meditation	4 Shavuot 7:00pm Choir Practice	5 Shavuot 6:00pm Music Together	6 1:00pm Women's Luncheon	7 National Yo-Yo Day 10:00am Music Together
8 Pentecost 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00 noon Lunch groups	9 7:30pm Sierra Club	10 8:00am Breakfast Group 5:30pm Worship Committee 7:30pm KTC Buddhism Meditation	11 7:00pm Choir Practice	12 Superman Day 6:00pm Music Together	13	14 Flag Day 10:00am Music Together
15 Father's Day 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00 noon Lunch groups	16	17 8:00am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhism Meditation	18 International Picnic Day 7:00pm Choir Practice	19 6:00pm Music Together	20 1:00pm Women's Luncheon 7:00pm Classic GLBT Movie Night	21 Summer Solstice 10:00am Music Together
22 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00 noon Lunch groups	23 Pink Flamingo Day 7:00pm Book Club	24 8:00am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Democracy NC 7:00pm Moral Movie Series: Freedom Summer 7:30pm KTC Buddhism Meditation	25 7:00pm Choir Practice	26 7:00pm Board Meeting	27 PTSD Awareness Day	28 Ramadan Beggings (until 7/27) 8:30am First Born Food Distribution
29 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00 noon Lunch groups	30	<p>How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?</p>				

Dr. Seuss

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS SUNDAY
JUNE 1ST at NOON

Agenda includes:

- 2014-2014 budget
- Slate for the Board of Trustees
- Nominating Committee Candidates
- By-law amendments
- Awards and Recognitions



June is Picture Month at UUCG. If you are a new member, a member without a picture in the church directory, or a member that needs a picture update, this is for you! Please stay after any service in June to have your picture taken. You do have the option to continue to use your current picture. The directory will be updated later this summer.

RE needs items for the Hogwarts Academy this summer. Please donate mayonnaise-size jars and olive or jelly size jars. Please drop them off at the RE classroom or the office. Thanks!

Deadline for next month's *Beacon* is Tuesday, **June 24 at 8:00 pm**

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
252-355-6658

