



The UUCG Beacon

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



Summer is Upon Us

If you're a college student or employee, your summer is already well underway. Other schools will get out for summer break in early June; astronomers and calendars mark the beginning of summer at the solstice, the longest day of the year; and meteorologists look at summer months as starting with June.

Regardless of when your summer starts, for many it is period when vacations are taken and when some kids go to camps. Speaking of camps, I'd like to point out that there is a UU Camp at Shelter Neck for middle and

high school-aged students and information is available elsewhere in this *Beacon*.

Some UU Congregations have a history of either not meeting during the summer months, or changing their schedule to meet at a different time, and if they have multiple services, these might be reduced during the summer months. But we do not have that tradition at UUCG. Some recurring events may take time off during the summer, but our Sunday services continue on regular schedule.

What is different is the content of our services. We have many more lay-led services during the summer months, and attendance can be lower some weeks. Summer at UUCG reminds me more of what we were like when I first started attending 15 years ago. We were about half our current size and without a professional minister at that time.

So this is your opportunity! What passion or interest would you like to share with the congregation by leading a Sunday service? Last summer, with the gap between our Interim Minister leaving and our new Developmental Minister starting, we had two-and-a-half months of all lay-led services, and I have to say that the Congregation really stepped up and provided consistently high quality services. Credit also needs to go to the Worship Committee who recruited, coached, and supported the presenters. Share your ideas with a member of the Worship Committee and then with us all.

Sunday services are not the only way to share your passion, though. Not everyone is comfortable speaking in front of a group, but maybe you have an interest you'd like to share in some other way? Many of our regular Congregational activities started out as one person's suggestion. What interest can you share with others in a participatory way?

Our Congregation is not the building, it is the people. And when we put in more effort, we also get more out of it.

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



Have you ever wondered what is going on in over 1,000 Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country and around the world? What do they care about? How are they influencing society?

The 2015 Portland General Assembly of Unitarian Universalist congregations is now available in streaming video. You could watch the Banner Parade, music and festivities on Wednesday night, June 24. The Service of the Living Tradition is Thursday night, and on Saturday evening, the Ware Lecture will be by Cornell West. If you don't catch it in real time, you can watch the streaming videos as they are posted to the website: <http://www.uua.org/ga/program>.

If you want to watch the evening entertainment, music and dancing, it's there. I am most impressed by the Plenary presentations often showcasing videos that take you on-site to sister congregations interviewing lay leaders and staff on exciting and successful initiatives. What's great about the videos on-line is that you can skip ahead beyond sections that are boring right to the most interesting parts. You can't do that when you're there! That's when we step into the lobby and connect with one or another of the three thousand plus Unitarian Universalists of all ages, from all over the world, representing countless religious sentiments and passions for enjoying the world and making it better.

Feryl, Gail, Jeannette and I plan to attend in person. I will have my three seconds of fame during Ministry Days preceding General Assembly, for completing 25 years of ministry with congregations in Texas (4 years), in Iowa (9 years), in Florida (11 years), and in North Carolina (1+ years). Then we will enjoy a wide range of people and programs as General Assembly ignites.

You can experience the excitement and the program highlights by logging on to <http://www.uua.org/ga>. I hope you will.

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, pastor

EVENTS



NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS!—Sunday June 14th

The membership committee will be hosting a luncheon after the service **on June 14** for visitors, friends and new members who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and our congregation. Please come and learn how you can be a part of our vibrant spiritual community. Please RSVP to Susan Foreman, sfore31000@aol.com.

CLASSIC GLBT MOVIE NIGHT—Friday June 12th at 7:00 pm



Movie Night in June is a week early to avoid a conflict with a wedding.

It will be at **7pm, Friday June 12th**, and the movie is "Pride" (2014) Rated R, based on a true story of a group of British gays and lesbians who see unity in the government oppression being experienced by striking miners in Wales, organizing to help in the struggle.

Movie night will return to its regular third Friday schedule in July, but will take the month of August off to not conflict with the NC Gay & Lesbian Film Festival in Durham. Greenville will be hosting a shorter GLBT film festival at the Topsy Teapot in September. More details to come.

TEAM TRIVIA UPDATE—Wednesday Nights

While our numbers have remained strong on a weekly basis, the number of competing teams participating in Team Trivia **Wednesday nights** at The Coffee Shack in Winterville has been decreasing. Unless there are at least 3 teams who reserve tables in advance, the event will not be held, at least during the summer months, maybe making a return in the fall?

Often, we have enough people participating that we could divide and field 2-3 teams ourselves. Maybe a "Battle of the Generations"? Baby Boomers vs. Generation X vs. Millennials?

If we show up for Trivia and it ends up being cancelled, we will most likely move over to another venue whose trivia event starts later in the evening. Trivia group relocations will be announced through the Trivia Group's Facebook group chat and will also be posted on the Congregation's page.

UU Summer Camp at Shelter Neck

UCONCI (Universalist Convention of NC) will be doing summer camps at Shelter Neck (near Burgaw) again this year for youth who will be entering grades 7 to 12 (or equivalent). Grades 7-9 will be the week of July 5-11 and Grades 10-12 from July 12-18. The cost for the week-long camp is \$350 and financial aid may be available. There are also opportunities for counselors and other volunteers. See <http://www.shelterneckuucamp.org/> for more details.

JUNE 2014

Sunday 7 th	"Willing to be Changed" - Rev. Debs
Monday 8 th	Board Meeting – 7pm
Friday 12 th	Classic GLBT Movie Night – 7pm
Sunday 14 th	Flower Communion Prospective Member Luncheon Program Council Meeting - noon
Sunday 21 st	Summer Solstice Service
June 24 th - 28 th	UUA General Assembly – Portland OR
Sunday 28 th	Service Topic TBA

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
 7:00PM Team Trivia

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 **Wednesday June 24 at 8:00 pm**