



The Beacon

of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville NC
June 2016

President's Message



Our Fifth Principle is "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large". In November, we will get the chance to use the democratic principle in our society at large. However, **June 19th**, we will use the democratic principle in our congregation. We will be electing officers and board members and approving our annual budget. We are a congregation governed organization. The members are the source of authority in our congregation. The minister is not in charge, although we delegate some authority and responsibilities to him. The board is not in charge, although we elect people to serve on the board and make decisions within the authority our bylaws permit. The President is not in charge, although he has some authority granted by the bylaws and congregation. The UUA is not in charge of our congregation, although they can set rules for being part of the UUA.

In addition to the officers and board, we elect the Nominating Committee members. These are the people who will recommend candidates for the Board and Nominating Committee for next year's election. They also recommend people for committee leadership to the Board.

Last, but not least, the Congregation approves the budget. The budget is how we determine where our financial resources will go to support our missions to our members and our communities. The Board proposes a budget based on our belief of what the congregation wants to support. Our pledges determine how much we have to spend, and the budget determines where we spend our money.

I say all this to emphasize the importance of member participation in the annual meeting. In past years, we managed to eliminate the requirement for a specific quorum because of a lack of participation in the meeting. We also added the ability of a member to hold a written proxy for one other member.

Considering our commitment to democratic process, it's a little strange that we have a smaller percentage of members voting than the US public in elections. I like to think that it shows trust in the current leadership of our congregation. I hope it doesn't just mean we care more about lunch than our church.

I urge you to stay after the service on June 19th for our annual meeting. I promise it won't be long. If you can't attend, maybe you can give a written proxy to someone you trust to vote as you would. There's no special form, just something on paper authorizing a named individual to cast your vote. If you think you might like to serve on the Nominating Committee or board in the future, feel free to attend a board meeting or speak with a member of the Nominating Committee. Board meetings are open to all members, and are listed on the calendar. There is a lot going on at our church, and joining the board is a great way to learn about much of it.

Regardless, democratic process is an important principle. Democracy works best when most members educate themselves on issues and vote. That's true whether applying it to city councils, state government, the US government, or our church. Our congregation tends to be more active politically than most people. I hope you will extend that activism to our church.

Minister's Reflections



I like free stuff. I'm thinking about going to the bank and saying, "Let's not talk about money. Just give me a place to live." No rent. No mortgage. Like NPR!

The warmth and generosity of this congregation is wonderful! The Principles of Unitarian Universalism have won my heart! But what we need to know is that this Unitarian Universalist religious community currently costs about \$35 per week for every 2-member household among us.

Twenty-two households contribute \$35/week, or more. Not everyone can, for lots of good reasons. Of those twenty-two households, four households contribute between \$70/wk and \$140/wk. They are able to give when others can't. So they do.

The sustainability of Unitarian Universalist ministry is not in question. With or without professional leadership, this congregation will thrive. We have for many years. At the same time, our funding source is "brittle": If two households whose members are in their retirement years should cease to contribute, the budget income would drop by \$10,700, which is 11% of the budget. Two households!

So here it is: If you can, please consider joining those four households who are the major financial contributors. They make it possible for this Unitarian Universalist Congregation to welcome everyone and to have a strong, consistent community presence, even when individuals come and go.

Please find the little booklet "How to Be Involved." Bring your energy to Religious Programs, Social Activities, Community Service, and Committees. Your participation is the most important contribution you can give to the Unitarian Universalist congregation. Give of your finances if you can.

On behalf of the congregation, the community and the Unitarian Universalist mission we serve, thank you!

Blessings!

Rod Debs

minister@uugreenvillenc.org

Moral Movies

Is there such a thing as too much of a good thing? While there most likely is, two chances to view and participate in Moral Movies for the month of June is surely well below that threshold!

MICHAEL MOORE'S MOST DANGEROUS COMEDY



For June, we will be screening Michael Moore's latest film "Where to Invade Next?"

Filmmaker Michael Moore visits various countries to examine how Europeans view work, education, health care, sex, equality, and other issues. From cafeteria food to sex ed, Moore looks at the benefits of schooling in France, Finland and Slovenia. In Italy, he marvels at how workers enjoy reasonable hours and generous vacation time. In Portugal, Moore notes the effects of the decriminalization of drugs. Through his travels, we discover just how different America is from the rest of the world.

The first screening of the film will be **Thursday, June 2nd at 7pm** as part of a nationwide effort organized by MoveOn.org promoting the film. There will then be an encore showing on the regularly scheduled night for Moral Movies, **Saturday, June 11th at 6:30pm**. Both screenings will include refreshments and the customary group discussion afterwards, led by Dave Nelson, a recent repeat visitor also heavily involved in the local progressive political scene. It is sure to be a good one!

Prepare To Be Liberated.

Religious Education



Why is religious education important as a Unitarian Universalist? Is it just play time? As children play they learn and grow. We use stories and hands on projects to teach about UU's seven principles in child friendly terms. Sources from varied religious and cultural backgrounds are utilised to teach the youth about respect, friendship, kindness, and even interdependence. The tweens continue these lessons as they learn about the faiths of others. The more they know, the easier it is for them to respect the differences and understand that there are commonalities as well.

During May we had two intergenerational services and started a new curriculum with the elementary class. They will continue this curriculum during the summer with member stories and intergenerational services. The tweens will continue to learn about neighbouring religions. We encourage the tweens to attend regularly and to invite friends to help enrich the experience. Alessandra Lazarek started as our new nursery caregiver. Lindsey Fair has volunteered as a second adult in the elementary class.

Are you a parent or just interested in what goes on in RE? Volunteering as a second adult once or on a regular basis is a great way to see what the youth of UUCG are learning. Having second adults is crucial in maintaining a safe environment for the youth of our congregation. These volunteers also have the opportunity to foster deeper connections between the youth and adults at UUCG. We encourage **second adult volunteers** that might be interested to develop a role as teachers.

Member Stories are a one time commitment. Volunteering as a second adult doesn't require a commitment on a regular basis. If you are interested in learning more, sharing your story, or volunteering as a second adult please contact me at holly.brown8319@gmail.com or 252-571-8319.

UUCG Board Notes from May

- The Board reviewed the pledge status
- The Board Approved a policy manual revision to recommend background checks on church officers
- Assigned a task group to develop ideas for informing members of participation opportunities
- Asked the secretary to review revising and combining the Disruptive Behavior and Conflict Resolution Policies
- Postponed the Annual Meeting to June 19th to allow for adequate notification of members
- Discussed items for the Annual Meeting agenda

May 2016 Worship Schedule

- June 5 Rod Debs "Breeding Privileges"
- June 12 Samar Badwan--refugee resettlement
- June 19 Ruby Nancy
- June 26 Rebekah Woelker--Summer solstice

Roving Lunch Group

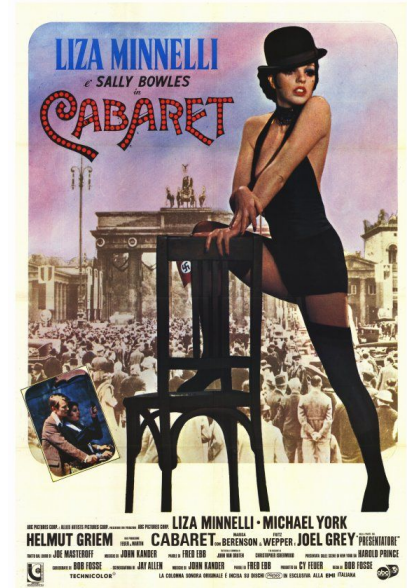
Tentative Roving Lunch Group Schedule for June (subject to change)

- June 5 Anchalee Thai
- June 12 China 10
- June 19 Ninja Hibachi
- June 26 Bateeni Mediterranean

Classic GLBT Movie Night

Each month, attendees at Classic GLBT Movie Night watch previews and choose a film for the next month's showing, but there is often a theme which determines what the options are. Frequently if there isn't a particular theme which is evident to coincide with the particular month, organizers will look through the previous several months' films and try to find some aspect that has been left out. This could be films featuring protagonists who are women, transgender, or people of color. It could be the genre, such as too many serious or sad movies where we really need a comedy. When one thinks of what constitutes a "Classic" movie, this is a very relative term, often dependent on the viewer's age or length of exposure to GLBT Film.

In our most recent months, most of our movies have been from the early 2000s, and overall in the series, the vast majority have been from the 1990's to today, because most of the films in the genre were made more recently with increased societal acceptance of films featuring GLBT characters and story lines. Earlier films often only imply a character's sexuality, and frequently use it as a means to encourage dislike of an antagonist character, but a few notable exceptions exist, starting largely in the 1970s. June's theme was just that, movies from the 1970s, and the film chosen was "Cabaret" from 1972, starring Liza Minnelli and Michael York. The film also helps fulfill the lack of recent musical films or films based on Broadway musicals.



In Berlin in 1931, American cabaret singer Sally Bowles (Liza Minnelli) meets British academic Brian Roberts (Michael York), who is finishing his university studies. Despite Brian's confusion over his sexuality, the pair become lovers, but the arrival of the wealthy and decadent playboy Maximilian von Heune (Helmut Griem) complicates matters for them both. This love triangle plays out against the rise of the Nazi party and the collapse of the Weimar Republic.

As usual, Classic GLBT Movie Night is on the third Saturday at 7pm, this month on **June 17th**. Refreshments are served and the audience will pick the movie for July. What will the theme be?

Just a reminder, Classic GLBT Movie Night takes off the month of August so not to conflict with the NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Durham that same week. During the month of December, Moral Movies and Classic GLBT Movie Night will join forces in commemoration of World AIDS Day, with that month's showing being on Friday, December 2nd.

Share The Plate

June Share the Plate receipt is A Time for Science Nature and Learning Center
<http://www.atimeforscience.org/>

At a time when our population is falling behind other industrialized countries in its understanding and literacy of science, technology, engineering, math and the environment A Time for Science Nature and Science Learning Center celebrates science and Nature in fun and welcoming settings and provides opportunities for the public to cultivate positive images and attitudes toward STEM and toward Nature. By so doing ATFS encourages the pursuit of the basic elements of STEM and environmental knowledge as well as the pursuit of science and environmentally related careers. Importantly, it allows everyone to discover what scientists already know, namely that science is fun!

A Time For Science Nature and Learning Center is located in southwestern Pitt County at 949 Contentnea Lane, Grifton, NC 28530. Be sure to check out their website and consider participating in some of their events!



Annual Meeting - June 17th, 2016

UUCG Nominees For Election 2016-2017

Board Nominations

President	Richard Baltaro
Vice-President	Shannon Sparrow
Secretary	Ann Eleanor
Member at Large	Jerry Gregory

Continuing

Past President	Feryl Masters
Treasurer	Brenda Stewart
Member at Large	Toni Broshears

Nominating Committee

Feryl Masters
Sandy Sheppard
Judy Hickson

UUCG Budget Proposal for 2016-2017

	Budget 2015-2016	Proposed Budget 2016-2017
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Fundraising Income	8,000.00	7,000.00
Total Non-Pledge Income	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Pledges	92,400.00	83,000.00
Rental Income	<u>3,000.00</u>	<u>1,500.00</u>
Total Income	109,400.00	97,500.00
Expense		
Total Building & Grounds	6875.00	4,520.00
Total Childcare	1,200.00	1,200.00
Contingencies	400.00	405.00
Ministerial Package - other	57,000.00	57,000.00
Professional Expenses	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Denominational Affairs	8,207.00	6,615.00
Total Fellowship	150.00	150.00
Administrative Assistant	5,827.00	0.00
Insurance	2,150.00	2,300.00
Office Supplies	2,600.00	1,500.00
Telephone	1,400.00	1,400.00
Utilities	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Hospitality	150.00	150.00
Total Membership	1,350.00	750.00
Total Religious Education	7,920.00	7,400.00
Total Stewardship	150.00	150.00
Total Worship	<u>3,960.00</u>	<u>3,960.00</u>
Total Expense	109,339.00	97,500.00
Net Ordinary Income	61.00	0.00