



The UUCG beacon

July 2006

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858 • 252.355.6658

Sunday Services—10:30 am

July 2

What Is A Religious Experience, Ed Day

July 9

To be announced

July 16

The Slippery Slope, The Liberal Religious Experience, Ed Day

July 23,

To be announced

July 30

What is a Life of Commitment? Ed Day

Sunday services begin at 10:30 am
unless otherwise noted.
Children's activities are available each
Sunday unless otherwise noted

Home Is Where The Heart Is

As I leave for General Assembly, I miss my homes. Work has kept me away from UU, and, mostly, my family for over two weeks. Now I leave my family and UUCG for another week. At least I'll be enjoying my larger home at the UU General Assembly.

I find our Congregation a spiritual home. I know I'm not alone in that feeling. I got a brief refresher at the board meeting to tide me over until I get back. The brief times I'm at home after work each day help me regenerate some also. Even while away from home, knowing that it is there is a source of comfort and strength.

Often, we don't appreciate the importance of home until we are away. During this shut down, I worked with men who haven't been home for over two months. They were headed on to another job after this. They worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week—hard work. The only complaint I heard was about being away from home.

Home isn't all peace, love and support. There are stresses and conflicts in every home. Sometimes, we have to get away for a while, and a brief change is good for the mind and spirit. Leaving home helps us expand our knowledge and experience. But often the best part of a trip is coming back home.

I'll enjoy the General Assembly. It is a powerful experience to be among so many UUs and feel our strength as a group. Our congregation is a small, but important part of that strength. I'll represent us there to help add our strength to others. But I'll be very glad to get home to my family and the Unitarian Congregation of Greenville.

~Feryl Masters

Reflections

... *Ed Day*

Giggle or Guffaw — Laughter is good for you

One of the overlooked aspects of humor is the way it enhances our lives. It does this in three general ways. First, it is physically good for you. Laughter increases endorphins, which help you deal with discomfort. A sense of humor gives you a positive attitude and pleasurable experiences. Laughter enhances your immune system, helping you ward off illness.

Second, it helps you mentally. Look-

ing at the incongruity of a situation lightens your mental anxiety. It helps you explore new ways to become more creative. It helps you deal with stress in a positive way.

Finally, humor can help you spiritually by adding delight to your life and by helping you connect with others. So remember, laughter is the best medicine—especially if you learn to laugh at yourself.

Health Care Discussions Planned

The Political, Economic, Social Covenant Group will undertake the study of health care in the United States, examining problems and quality of care and looking at programs that will best serve the needs of North Carolina citizens. Such programs might include Medicare expansion, solving the expensive drug problem, subsidizing private programs, single pay, universal health care, The Massachusetts Plan and other successful state plans.

Anyone who has information that will contribute to our study is encouraged to pass it on to us or to make a

presentation at one of our meetings.

At our next meeting, we will briefly exchange information and sources so that we will all be more or less on the same page. We will meet the first Sunday in July at 9:45 am. When we have enough information, we will decide when we want to spend time coming to tentative conclusions. It is hoped that by September our proposal will have been firmed up for presentation to the entire congregation. We look forward to members in the medical field giving us their views and/or expertise. ~Ray Sobel, chair



Board Highlights

The normal board business was conducted at the June meeting. The Interim Search Committee is still working diligently, but has had poor luck so far. Pledges are up to \$62,000. Hopefully, more pledge cards will be returned soon.

We are going to have the Music Academy appraised for future consideration. The office computer is finally going to be replaced for no more than \$600 from the contingencies fund.

...until next month, Jackie Wyman



Religious Education

This month we are holding our Harry Potter Magic Camp from July 10-14. We are serving supper at 6:30 and should be finished by 8:30. We have several classes for the children including potions, herbology, care of magical creatures, etc. For adults we are offering *Building Your Own Theology*. We are still in need of helpers. Registration forms are available at the church. Class size is limited, so please register soon.

August 10-13 is our Sensational Intergenerational Weekend at Shelter Neck. We hope to offer sessions for learning and for fun. If you have suggestions or would like to lead a session, please contact Victoria (252-747-7785).

Our Teen lock-in last month was a success. Several members participated in watching movies, dancing, eating pizza and building the delicious sundaes. Many stayed up all night for the fun. We may hold another one during Christmas break if there is enough interest.

Magic Supplies Needed

As we prepare for our week long Harry Potter Magic School for the kids, we find that we need some supplies and we hope members of the congregation can help supply them.

We need empty plastic film canisters, old spices (you know it's time to get rid of that old turmeric and curry powder and buy some fresh, so give us the old stuff and it won't be wasted) and, once again, staplers.

If anyone happens to have unused

poster board (especially light colors, including white, gray, and tan) lying around, we can take it off your hands. If you have too many orange or yellow pipe cleaners, send them over.

~ Gail Butler

Picnic Redux

The Father's Day Picnic preparations were made for attendance of 50; 21 attended. The food was delicious.

It may be time to consider having a picnic in between Mother's and Father's Day when folks will not have family commitments, will not be at the beach or on vacation.

Refreshments for July

July 2 Helen Foster
July 9 Marcia Sobel
July 16 Patty Gade
July 23 Kelly Kurz
July 30 Kristen/Katherine Kenyon

Thank you all for volunteering and providing such nice goodies. Marcia Sobel and Gail Butler will take over as hospitality co-chairs in the coming year. ~ Janet Doig, retiring chair

Don't Forget First Born

First Born food distribution is from 10:00 am-12:00 Saturday, July 23. Arrive before 10:00 to get an assignment. Or, you may arrive earlier to help pack the boxes. ~ Tracy Donohue

Beacon Deadline . . .

For August issue is noon, July 18 (Tuesday). Email articles, etc., to: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org.

July Birthdays

Joanie DeGroot	July 5
April Weir	July 5
Ruel Tyer	July 7
Mort Stine	July 10
Bonnie Pulver	July 12
Diane MacKenroth	July 13
Shareen Berkowitz	July 23rd
Ben Thomas	July 24th
Bill Paulson	July 27th
Janice Schreiber	July 31st

Farmworkers Needs Volunteer Drivers

Aaron Jacobson of the Eastern Regional Farmworker Labor Organizing Committee, and Abdon Duran Ordaz, president of the Eastern Region last year, were with us on June 25.

The eastern region farmworkers will be meeting at our church on July 2, August 6 and September 3, and they are asking us to provide transportation to get the farmworkers to and from the church. Volunteers will be given maps and the necessary ID for picking up the workers from their camps.

If you are willing to offer your services, please contact Aaron by email at floc_triangle_organizer@yahoo.



Dine Out Schedule*

July 5	Olive Grove
12	Finelli's
19	Saing Thai House
26	Mayflower

*Starts at 6:00 pm

Congregation of Greenville

131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
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Interim Minister, Ed Day
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Jackie Wyman
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee chairs

Building and Grounds, Lisa Brenner
Ministry, Sylvia English
Communication, Don English
Finance, Mark Barnes
Religious Education, Victoria Brown
Social Action, Joan Sachtjen
Worship, Roger Robbins

