



The UUCG
beacon

July 2008

The *beacon* is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville 252-355-6658 www.uugreenvillenc.org
beacon Editor: Don English
beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

July 6

Literacy Volunteers of America (Pitt County) : A Vital Community Service
Sylvia English

July 13

Mystery and Magic and the Religious Imagination
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

July 20

Why I am a Vegetarian
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

July 27

The First Born Community Center & Food Distribution program
Caroline Spenser

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Relationship: (fill in the blank)

I had to go to a meeting last week at work where they explained our new options for Short-Term Disability Insurance and Life Insurance. These meetings, and the various scenarios portrayed to explain what benefits the policies provide, get me thinking more about death, something I don't usually otherwise really consider at my age, but they only get more expensive the later you wait, so I really should sign up now. Oh and did I mention it pays double the face value for accidental death or dismemberment? Just a cheery thought for your day.

So then I have to figure out what level of coverage I should buy, and start filling out the paperwork. It asks for the name of my primary beneficiary, his/her social security number, and relationship to me. Naturally, I'm selecting my partner of nearly 11 years (happy anniversary on July 24th!) and get his social security number, but then I come to the part about relationship. What should I put down?

What do you call the person with whom you have chosen to spend your life? With whom you've endured numerous trials, tragedies, and triumphs? My preferred term is "partner" although I have been known to call John my husband, my spouse, my boyfriend, or even my "roommate" (in situations where I may need to be more discrete, such as at a new job).

The most appropriate legal term for our relationship would be "domestic partner" and because John's employer recognizes Domestic Partnerships (DPs), we recently registered with them as such so that I could get on his dental and vision insurance, which were cheaper and better plans than were available at my new job. However, my employer doesn't recognize DPs, and I don't have the

(PREZ NOTES: continued page 3)

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean--
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down,
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

~ Mary Oliver ~

(New and Selected Poems, Volume I)

Worship Committee

The worship committee is bring to our congregation representatives of the organizations that our congregation has supported through the social action committee and personal involvement.

The first Sunday of July Sylvia English will represent the Pitt County Literacy Volunteers of America in her presentation. The last Sunday of July we have scheduled Minister Carolyn Spencer of the First Born Holy Church and the First Born Community Development Center in Grimesland. She will speak about the outreach of the Community Development Center and the Food Distribution program.

—Lora Hylton

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, July 22nd at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

(PREZ NOTES continued from page 1)

same option to put him on my medical insurance, although my employer offers a better plan for that than his. There is also no Domestic Partnership Registry for Pitt County, so outside of his job, there is no legal recognition of any sort to our relationship, and I don't see North Carolina following the lead of Massachusetts and California in allowing marriage equality to same-sex couples. Most likely it wouldn't occur here until nationally mandated by congress (no time soon) or by a Supreme Court decision (hoping for some more liberal judges to be appointed) in a case like Loving v. Virginia, the case that invalidated state laws prohibiting interracial marriage.

North Carolina and Florida are somewhat unique in the South that they are the only states in the region that although there are laws on the books that restrict marriage to one man and one woman, we haven't taken the extra step of doing it in the form of a constitutional amendment. A proposal for such an amendment in NC comes up each year, but so far has been suppressed in committee each time as

Religious Education

Those who braved the first heat of summer to attend the picnic at River Park North were rewarded with a beautiful day and plenty of food, fellowship and fun. The paddleboats were my favorite, but others enjoyed the walking paths, horseshoes or volleyball.

The UU Hogwarts School is just around the corner, July 13-17. The applications are available in the UUCG sanctuary and a printable version is on the UUCG website. Young wizards should sign-up early to reserve their spot for a really exciting week.

The Tweens will be doing fun activities and crafts for Sundays in the summer. Formal RE curriculum will resume in September. The teens will not meet for RE during the summer, but Teen Night will continue to be the second Saturday of the month.

being unnecessary. The real harm in the amendment being proposed yet again this year in NC (and ratified in 17 of the 26 states that have passed marriage amendments) is that not only does it restrict marriage, as already in the statutes, but it also denies recognition of any Domestic Partnerships, Civil Unions, or other contractual legal relationships meant to convey some or all of the rights given by marriage! We could go through all the trouble of establishing powers of attorney and wills to gain some of the 1000+ rights and responsibilities that are automatically granted through marriage, and they could all be invalidated as unconstitutional.

So back to my application for life insurance, what am I to put in the blank for relationship? For fear of some future legal development which could invalidate the designation of my beneficiary because I'm attempting to create a spousal relationship where one is not recognized legally, I regretfully and without recognition of actuality seem to have but one choice, to fill in the blank with "none."

—Rich Elkins

—Patty Gade



July 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01 8:30am Breakfast @ Swiss Chalet ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	02	03 ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts	04 ■ 7pm» Course in Miracles	05
06 ■ 9:30am» The Forum Service ■ 10:30am» Worship Service	07 ■ 6pm» Worship Committee Meeting	08 8:30am Breakfast @ Swiss Chalet ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	09	10 ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting	11 ■ 7pm» Course in Miracles	12 ■ 9am» Building & Grounds Workday ■ 1pm» EDS Support Group Meeting ■ 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
13 ■ 9:30am» The Forum Service ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 2pm» Membership Committee Meeting ■ 5:30pm» Harry Potter Week ■ 7pm» UU Meditation Group	14 ■ 5:30pm» Harry Potter Week	15 8:30am Breakfast @ Swiss Chalet ■ 5:30pm» Harry Potter Week ■ 6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	16 ■ 5:30pm» Harry Potter Week	17 ■ 5:30pm» Harry Potter Week ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts	18 ■ 7pm» Course in Miracles	19
20 ■ 9:30am» The Forum Service ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 12:30pm» Leadership Orientation ■ 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck	21 ■ 7pm» Board Meeting	22 8:30am Breakfast @ Swiss Chalet ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	23	24 ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting	25 ■ 7pm» Course in Miracles	26 ■ 9am» First Born
27 ■ 9:30am» The Forum Service ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 5:30pm» UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	28	29 8:30am Breakfast @ Swiss Chalet ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	30	31		

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

Notes From the Board 6/16/2008

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as amended. The Treasurer reported that the YTD difference between congregational income and expenses is -\$4,954.91. The Board voted not to renew the CD that is coming due at the end of June. The raffle drawing took place on Sunday, May 25th. The net profit from the sale of raffle tickets was over \$2,000 and Claudia was thanked for her work on the project. The Minister reported the hours of the volunteer Office Administer will be changing since Michelle has accepted a job at ECU. Several members and friends have volunteered to help with office, cleaning, and lawn maintenance duties as part of their contribution to the congregation. The Fifth Sunday collection will be one of our "Share the Plate" collections. The Board had a special meeting on June 5th to appoint the Committee Chairs for the upcoming year and to review the proposed updates to the UUCG Policy Manual. The Program Council, comprised of the Committee Chairs and chaired by the Vice-President, will meet with the incoming and current Board on July 20th, from 12:30 to 3:30 for orientation. Childcare and lunch will be provided. The Board reviewed a draft of a new UUCG brochure. The Hogwarts Harry Potter Camp will take place July 13-17th. In response to feedback from previous years, the camp will take place from Sunday through Thursday.

General Assembly will take place in Fort Lauderdale June 25-29th. The UUCG Board Retreat will take place September 12-13th. All congregational leaders are encouraged to attend. The UUA Thomas Jefferson District Fall Conferences will take place on October 17-18 in Chapel Hill, October 31-November 1 in Richmond, and January 16-17, 2008 in Charleston.

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be July 21st at 7:00pm.

July Birthdays

We have a lot of July birthday celebrators. Send them a card or sing them a song....

Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday dear...

Terry Shank	July 2nd
Joanie DeGroot	July 5th
April Weir	July 5th
Dave Nelson	July 6th
Ruel Tyer	July 7th
Mort Stine	July 10th
Diane MacKenroth	July 13th
Tim Kelley	July 15th
Eli Stone	July 15th
Ben Thomas	July 24th
Tom Long	July 27th
Bill Paulson	July 27th
Bee Behr	July 28th
Sylvia English	July 28th

Happy Birthday to yoooooou!

.....from the Membership Committee
— Jackie Wyman

Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society

From the Membership Committee

There haven't been any more new members since the June Beacon, but we're still having many visitors who are being made to feel welcomed. We have a number of weekly and monthly activities that everybody needs to know about (and put on their calendars!). Starting with Sundays, we have a discussion group that meets at 9:30 every week, and we have a lunch after church at O'Charley's. We have a new CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) group which meets on the second Sunday each month, as well as a young adults group that meets on the fourth Sunday evening each month. There is also a meditation group on the second Sunday evening each month. On Tuesday mornings, we have breakfast at 8:30 at Swiss Chalet. Wednesday evenings (except for summer) there is Soup and Sharing at the meeting house. On the second Saturday night of each month (except the summer), we have a Food and Friends Pot Luck Dinner to get to know each other a little better. In June, there was an intense game of dominoes going on after the dinner! Once a month, there is a men's meeting; time and place announced each month. Starting in the fall, there will also be a women's group. There is an unofficial women's group now meeting at Barnes and Noble on the same night as the men's meeting. Be sure and pay attention to the Beacon calendar and the calendar on the bulletin board or the calendar on the website. Unitarians love to get together!

Building & Grounds

Buildings and Grounds Committee members are invited to attend a planning meeting for the 2008-9 year on Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 9am. Any wonderful person wishing to be of even a very small help, and all persons who have taken part in B&G activities (inside and outside) in the past are expected to (begging you to) be there to help organize our meeting and activities schedule and to identify small responsibilities for each volunteer. There is a lot to do to maintain a happy and clean UU home.

A continental breakfast will be available!!! Should you by any chance not be able to attend and wish to be of help, please contact TerryShank, chair, by phone or email as listed in the jDirectory.

—Terry Shank

Leadership Orientation Sunday

Leadership Orientation: Sunday, July 20, 12:30 – 3:30 pm. All Board Members and Committee Chairs are invited to participate in a leadership orientation. Childcare will be provided.

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

Member Profile

Kathy Weigel was born in the little bitty town of Frederic, Wisconsin. It was a little Danish farming community where Kathy's great grandfather homesteaded and built a log home. Her father farmed and her mother cared for hearth and home and five children (Kathy was the middle child). The land has been in the family for 150 years, and the log home is still in use as a part of a larger family home. Kathy's family didn't have much money, had no indoor plumbing, and had wood stoves for heat. It sounds like a difficult life, but Kathy remembers only good times. Family was very important, and there was a large extended family in the area also.

Some of Kathy's favorite childhood memories were of yearly trips to pick blueberries near Duluth, and to go to Duluth to the zoo or to Lake Superior. There was tobogganing in the winter and yearly trips to the State Fair. There were adventures on the farm also. Five children can always find things to do on a farm. Kathy is glad they all survived to adulthood after some of the adventures they had!

Kathy attended the first three years of school in a one room schoolhouse. After that, she attended a school in the nearby big city of Luck, Wisconsin (population 800), which included grades one through twelve. It was in a beautiful setting, and the playground was by a lake. High school PE included ice skating on the lake.

Following high school, Kathy moved to Minneapolis with a girl friend and, among other miscellaneous jobs, got a good job with Control Data Corporation. After living the wild single

life for a few years, she moved to Madison with her husband, and got a job with the state of Wisconsin in health and social services, division of youth services. She worked with an outward bound program and got to go rock climbing and spelunking as part of her job. She also went through a career development program while working for social services. Then Kathy quit working fulltime, went to college to be a teacher, and got a divorce. When she finished college, she got a job here, sight unseen, following a telephone interview. She's been teaching here for ten years, most recently as a reading recovery teacher at Sadie Saulter Elementary.

Kathy has two daughters. Tammy is in education, and has taught English and Spanish, been a principal, and is now working with charter schools in Baltimore. Jenny (UUCG's nursery attendant) moved here with her mother, graduated from Rose High School, and is about to begin her sophomore year at ECU as an elementary education major. While still in Wisconsin, Jenny lived in university housing with her mom and had friends from all over the world. She attended an international school for grades one through five. It was wonderful experience for her. She started sixth grade when she and Kathy moved here.

Kathy was raised in the Lutheran church but was a self-thinker. When newly divorced, with two children, she felt the need for a church home and tried the Unitarian church. She liked it a lot, and the curriculum was great for Jenny. The church they attended was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

—Jackie Wyman

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, July 22nd at 8:00 pm

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

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Jackie Wyman
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Lora Hylton

