



The UUCG beacon

July 2009

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

July 5
This I Believe
Feryl Masters

July 12
Art and Spirituality
Rev. Ann Marie

July 19
The Geography of Faith
Rev. Ann Marie

July 26
This I believe
Joanie deGroot & Friends

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

This is my first opportunity to communicate with you in my new role as President of the UUCG Board of Trustees. As is true in most new situations and roles, I have mixed emotions as I contemplate the next twelve months. It is a role in which I hope to demonstrate my commitment and excitement about Unitarian Universalism, my support of our congregation's mission and vision, and my belief that our determinedly individual members and friends can accomplish much when we work together in community. Our situation is challenging since as a congregation we have been working through many changes over the past several years and changes, be they good or bad, are almost always stressful. While serving on the Board for the past three years I have had the opportunity to work with, and learn from, some special members of our congregation. A key learning: changes occur for a reason and because their time has come. The reason may not be obvious until long after the change has occurred, but given enough time and perspective we can usually figure it out. In the aftermath of change we can assess its cost and its benefits. The challenge is to use that knowledge constructively to shape our future.

As we start this new congregational year our perspective will be shaped by many of the changes that have occurred over the past several years. It has not been a calm time but there is much good in where we have ended up. We now have a full time minister who has been with us almost two years. Ann Marie has put down roots, established community and congregational relationships, and helped the Board focus on the fundamentals; not always the most fun but for UUCG vitally important. We now have a budget that is self supporting – if we do not bring it in, we do not spend it. As our membership has changed and the number of families with children has grown our Youth Religious Education program has been reshaped to better meet their needs. We are recruiting for a new Director for our Youth RE program.

In the midst of a challenging economic environment we had a successful pledge campaign based on small gatherings and quiet con

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Just a few days ago, my partner Karen and I visited the [Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park](#) in Scotland Neck. A short drive north of Tarboro, we were delighted to find a wonderful oasis full of ducks, geese, swans and birds of all kinds from all over the world. After we bought our entry tickets, we stopped in the foyer of the main building to look in an incubator that was set up to warm a few duck eggs that were expected to hatch that day. One duck had already emerged. She was busy fluffing and preening her downy feathers. With every fluff she grew bigger and bigger. It was hard to imagine that she had ever fit into the tiny cracked shell that was lying next to her. After touring the park, we came back to the incubator just as a second baby duck was beginning the process of coming out of her shell. Every few moments she would make just a little movement. There were long intervals in between when she was very, very still. Most of the other park visitors passed by and looked in for just a few seconds. Karen and I stood there for the whole process of hatching. The baby duck wiggled just a little, every minute or so, cracking the eggshell a tiny bit more each time. It took twenty minutes or so for her to come all the way out. I was awestruck by how much energy her hatching took, how much she rested in between every wiggle. Finally she emerged, coming all the way out of her shell. And, she did it all by herself! No duck mother was there to help her. Only once did a park volunteer open the incubator and

spray the cracked shell with water. (She said that would hurry the process!) We learned that the main purpose of this park is to help endangered waterfowl survive. We were told this baby duck was number 1,000! As we walked through all the areas open to park visitors seeing ducks and birds from all over the world we were amazed at the variety. I will remember all that. I will especially remember the birth of that one tiny duck! “Keep your eyes open—look deep and look close. Things are nearly always more complex than they appear at first glance, and the deepest truths may be invisible ones. If you have ever witnessed the birth of a human being or an animal, you know how breathtaking, alarming, and transformative the moment can be. But birth is often precarious and although we’re used to thinking that a newborn is a small, delicate thing, many baby animals are able to walk on their own within moments of entering the world. Birth is a kind of explosion, an incredible release of energy. The newborn may be frail, or it may be bursting with vitality and stamina, awaiting only time to come into its full strength. The birth may be a girl or a boy, a wild creature, a soul newly awakened, or an idea that will change the world. There are newborns every day. Honor their power.”

Earth Bound: Daily Meditations for All Seasons, July 18, by Brian Nelson, Skinner House Books, 2004

Please Note:

Rev. Ann Marie will be on vacation July 21- August 10th. She can be reached by e-mail amalderman@uuma.org or by phone 252-414-4076 for emergencies.

Deadline for next month’s **beacon** is Tuesday, **July 21st at 8:00 pm**



July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			01	02 ■ 6pm» Greenweaver's CUUPS monthly meeting ■ 7pm» Women's In Service Group	03	04 ■ 10am» Building Cleaning
05 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service	06 ■ 5pm» Worship committee meeting	07 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	08 ■ 7pm» Council Meeting	09 ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting	10	11 ■ 9am» Building & Grounds Work-day ■ 10am» Building Cleaning ■ 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
12 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service	13	14 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	15	16 ■ 10am» Long Range Planning ■ 7pm» Women's In Service Group	17	18 ■ 10am» Building Cleaning ■ 1pm» EDS Support Group in Library
19 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 12:15pm» Long Range Planning ■ 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck ■ 7pm» UU Meditation Group	20 ■ 6pm» Girl Scouts ■ 7pm» Board Meeting	21 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	22	23 ■ 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting ■ 7:30pm» UU Men's Group	24	25 ■ 9am» First Born Food Distribution ■ 10am» Building Cleaning
26 ■ 9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room ■ 10:30am» Worship Service ■ 5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle	27	28 ■ 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel ■ 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	29	30	31	

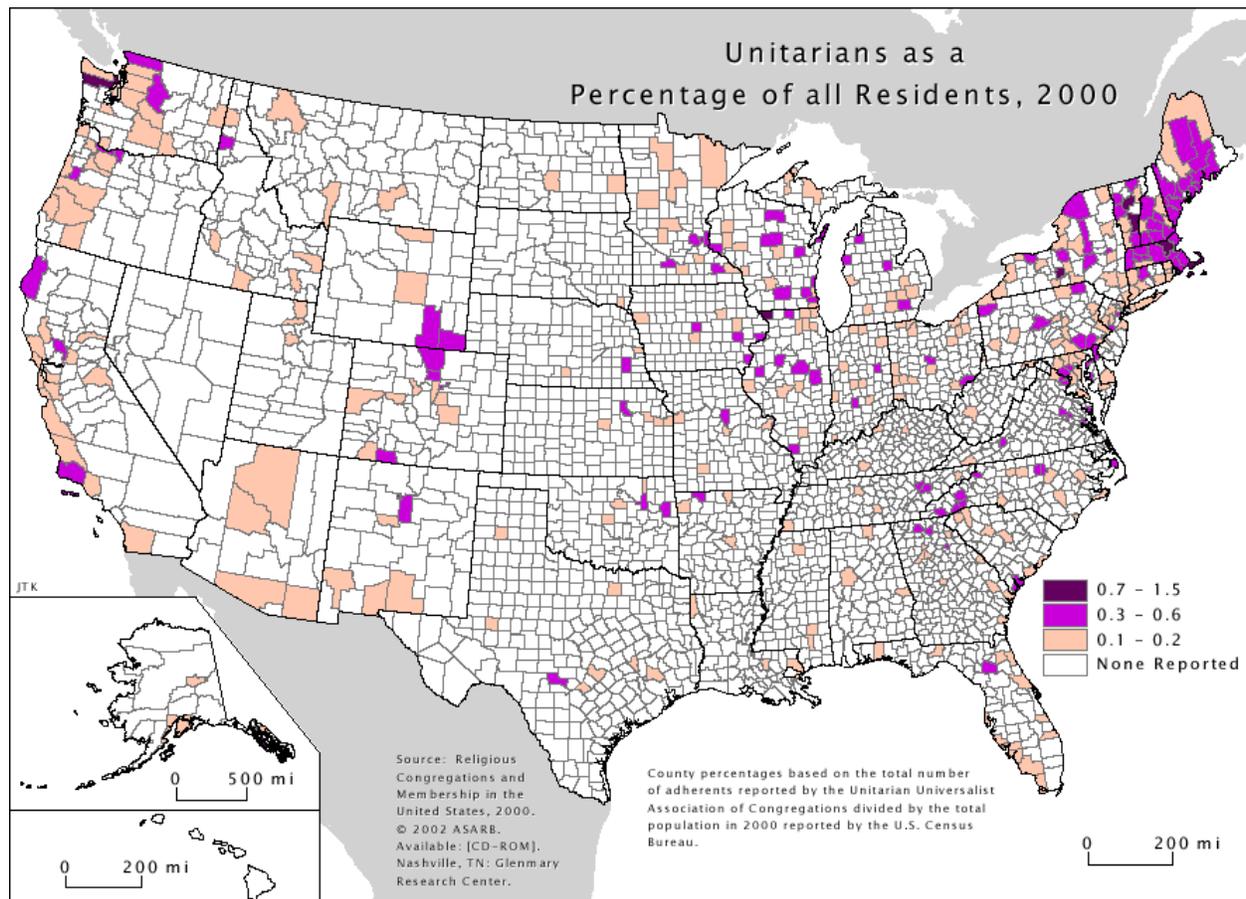
Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

Volunteers to the Rescue! Kudos to All!

Ruel Tyer and Hank Obremski have been replacing windows and siding along the left side of our building. Lee Wyman has volunteered to help them complete the project with the end of the month as a completion goal. Lisa Brenner, Pat Tesh and Terry Shank put on a coat of primer last week. On July 26 we hope to finish up the final coat of paint. People have already volunteered to help. To have this kind of expertise, know-how and commitment is indeed special for our congregation. Thanks to all for much needed help

As the official year comes to an end, appreciation must be shown to those who faithfully have given their time to keep our facilities clean and tidy. John Gustavson and Diane Mackenroth have done a great job every week for this past year. Please do thank them when you see them.

—Terry Shank



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

PREZ NOTES (Continued from page 1)

versations. We have members who voluntarily provide services that most congregations have to pay for and that we cannot afford on our “stretched thin” budget. We have Board members who, rather than breathing a big sigh of relief now that they are stepping down, are actually volunteering to take on other responsibilities – take a bow Feryl and Claudia. We are now officially what most of us have always thought we were: A Welcoming Congregation and while the debate was spirited it was conducted with respect. More and more potential members are finding us through the Internet and we are even on Facebook! We have folks who are excited about fundraising and who are already planning another carwash/plant sale/bake sale extravaganza and dinners at McAllisters. We have members who are passionate about Social Action and who would love to get everyone involved – it is the organizing that can be such a challenge. We have more members than credentials going to General Assembly this year because our members are excited about the choices that will be made at General Assembly, especially the election of the new UUA President. We have a Strategic Long Range Planning Committee (SLRP) that is working hard at that most difficult of communication techniques: listening, and whose task is to identify UUCG’s future needs and gain consen-

Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee has planned the following This I Believe Speakers for this summer. The speakers are Bob Franke June 28th, Feryl Masters on July 5th, Joanie DeGroot with a panel on July 26th, Susan Foreman on Aug 2nd and Tom Thielen on Aug. 9th. We are very thankful to these speakers for expending the time and energy to present their views and I know that we will all be enriched by hearing about their journeys in Unitarianism.

Next Worship Committee Meeting will be on July 6th at 5 pm.

—Bev Harju

sus on how those needs should be met. We have a Men’s Group, a Women’s Group, beautiful art on the walls, some new energy efficient windows and siding, a new heat pump, a truly accessible front entrance, and a new committee whose title is fellowship and whose focus will be fun and fostering relationships. We might even have a reorganized and reenergized choir in the fall! Our Order of Service has kept changing as the Worship Committee strives to give the Sunday service the “right” flow and feel based on feedback that is passionate, suggestive, and often contradictory..... Oh, that’s right - we are Unitarian Universalists and boredom and the status quo is our enemy!

In closing I want to express my thanks to the congregation for this opportunity to serve as your 2009-2010 Board of Trustees President. It is my opportunity to “give back” some of what I have been given over the years. I also want to thank each of you for your past, present, and future contributions to our congregational community. Please practice saying “yes” this year when you are called. Every member has something to contribute. Member’s contributions will change to reflect their life circumstances; it is our cumulative commitment to our UU principles, this congregation, and to each other that will sustain us.

—Patrice Alexander

July Birthdays

July 4 David Nelson
July 5 April Weir, Joanie DeGroot
July 7 Ruel Tyer
July 10 Mort Stine
July 13 Dianne MacEnroth
July 15 Tim Kelley
July 17 Daniel Sparrow
July 27 Bill Paulson, Lowell Berkowitz, Tom Long
July 28 Bea Behr, Sylvia English

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

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

Staff

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Interim Religious Education Dir, Gail Butler
President, Patrice Alexander
Vice President, Teresa Sparrow
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart
Music Director, Mort Stine
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Feryl Masters, Richard Weir, Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Kathy Weigel, Tracy Donohue
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Social Action: Pat Tesh, Tom Long
Worship: Bev Harju

