



The UUCG beacon

July 2010

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 4
*Yoga: Accessing the Spirit
Through the Body*
Don English

July 11
Belly Dancing & Drumming
Michelle Covi

July 18
Sufi Dances for Peace
Farrunnissa Lila Rosa

July 25
The Spirit's in the Wood
Judi Hickson

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

The end of our fiscal year is June 30th and I am happy to report that UUCG is in better financial shape that we were a year ago. We have been frugal in our spending this past year while raising more funds that we had anticipated. A big reason for our improved status is the hard work on multiple projects that was done by our Fundraising Committee and our UUCG members and friends. This past year we engaged in a couple of new endeavors – the McAllister's quarterly Community Days and holiday gift wrapping at Barnes and Nobles and they paid off. Our Stewardship Committee raised almost \$88,000 in promised pledges for our 2010-2011 budget. This is a slight increase over last year and wonderful considering the challenging economic environment. We have some very generous members including long time member Sondra Haynes who donated some of the proceeds of her "moving" yard sale to UUCG. I am very proud to announce that UUCG has recently raised almost \$1,000 for the UUA Nashville Relief Fund and almost \$500 for the Greenville Community Shelter.

We also have members who cannot make large financial contributions but they share their talents and hard working hands. Right now we are looking for some help with cleaning the church so that we can be a welcoming and clean spiritual home for our members, friends, and visitors. One suggestion that came up at the Board meeting was "clean teams" who can make a commitment to clean the church on a regular basis. If you are able and willing to be part of a "clean team" please contact Rich Elkins who has agreed to collect names and develop a preliminary cleaning calendar. The alternative is to pay for a cleaning service. Currently, the 2010-2011 does not have funds budgeted for cleaning services. The Board's choice for the past two years has been to focus on funding for Religious Education and Music services. However, our home must be maintained so I am appealing to all of our members for assistance and ideas on how we can accomplish this admittedly unglamorous but necessary task on an on-going basis.

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 4)

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

I am writing this from Minneapolis, where I am attending the annual UU Minister's meeting and then General Assembly. From my perspective, the primary reason to be here is to "re-charge" my spirit! Yesterday I felt so tired: an early morning long flight, and my feet hurt! I wanted to just stay in the hotel room and bemoan the aging process! Yet today I am finding that once again just being in the presence of so many other UU ministers fills me with gratitude! I know every step I took, yet I can't stop asking the question; "How did I get here!" And exclaiming, deep in my soul; "Wow, I really do belong to an amazingly diverse collection of talented, purposeful and dedicated folks!"

I am listening to and talking to my colleagues. Tonight and tomorrow I'll be listening to and talking with UU's from everywhere gathered here for one big UU fest. I'll be bringing this gratitude back with me, I know. Gratitude for you, for the big "us", for all that we are....I am no longer counting the steps it took to get here...or whatever steps it will take to get "there". Just stopping to stand still in the blessings of what is! May your summer bring you many, many places to just stand with gratitude and charge your spirit!

—Rev Ann Marie



Worship Notes

As I end two years as Chair of the Worship Committee, I would like to express my gratitude to our wonderful members. They include Ann Marie Alderman, Michelle Covi, Ed Day, Joanie deGroot, Gladie Hamilton, Ray Sobel, Jackie Wyman and Lee Canipe. The group has functioned in a warm, friendly and responsible manner with everyone sharing the load. We are an advisory committee to the minister, Ann Marie. She is not only highly authoritative about spirituality, Ann Marie has lightening speed wit and a good sensitivity to others. In these two years we have worked on the practical, nuts and bolts issues but always with the underlying goal, which is to create meaningful and spiritually moving worship services. Gladie and Lee will take over as Co-chairs and I am certain that our future is in great, highly creative hands.

--Bev Harju

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, July 20th at 8:00 pm



July 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|-----|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 27 10:30 Spirit on the Move 12:00 Lunch at O'Charlies | 28 | 29 8:30 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel | 30 | 01 | 02 | 03 |
| 04 10:30 Spirit on the Move 12:00 Lunch at O'Charlies | 05 6pm Worship Committee Meeting | 06 8:30 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel | 07 | 08 | 09 1:00 Women's Lunch | 10 |
| 11 10:30 Spirit on the Move 12:00 Lunch at O'Charlies | 12 7:30pm» Sierra Club | 13 8:30 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 10:30 Spirit on the Move 11:30 Fellowship | 19 7pm Board Meeting | 20 8:30 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel | 21 | 22 7:00 UU Men's Group | 23 1:00 Women's Lunch | 24 8:30 First Born |
| 25 10:30 Spirit on the Move 12:00 Lunch at O'Charlies | 26 7:00 Board of Trustees 7:00 Book Club | 27 8:30 Breakfast at Cracker Barrel | 28 | 29 | 30 7pm Course in Miracles | 31 |

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

PREZ NOTES (continued from page 1)

After our recent Outdoor Service at River Park North Alex and I ended up being towed to shore after going around in circles in a paddle boat that was missing its rudder. It was a hot day and a frustrating experience. It also made me realize how important a rudder is because without it the boat cannot control its direction...or make it back to shore. Our recently approved Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP) is UUCG's rudder and I am very excited about the direction in which we are headed. We had a Program Council Meeting recently where current and incoming Committee Chairs divided into Strategic Goal groups to talk about how the committees can work together to accomplish our Strategic Goals. It was an exciting meeting and there was passion and purpose in the air. We will be continuing those discussions during our Annual Leadership Retreat that will take place on September 17th and 18th. Pat Anderson, a member of the SLRP Committee and incoming Co-Chair of the Social Action Committee, has agreed to facilitate the Retreat. All UUCG members in leadership roles are asked to attend so please put these dates in your calendar now. The Board has approved the proposed list of Committee Chairs and Leaders presented by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.

We have a new Nursery Helper, Sarah McKenna, who is Junior at ECU majoring in Elementary Education. She is a teaching assistant at Children's Montessori School and a

swimming instructor at the Greenville Fitness and Aquatics Center. She will be taking care of our youngest members. Please take a moment to meet her and welcome her to UUCG.

Reverend Ann Marie and Claudia Sundman are attending the UUA General Assembly this month in Minneapolis. They will be taking lots of notes since next year's GA will be taking place in Charlotte and all District Congregations will be asked to assist.

We want all of our members and friend to find their niche at UUCG. Now is the time to think about your role as a member or friend of our congregational family. Please consider serving on one of the Committees or in another leadership role as our new congregational year begins in July. Volunteer to help teach youth RE or to sing in our dynamic choir. It is amazing the friendships that you will find as you work together with like minded folks on projects for which you all have a passion. If you have an idea for a new group or activity that you would like to explore please talk to any Board member, to Reverend Ann Marie, or to the Chair of the Committee that your idea may be related to. The Committee Chairs and their contact information are listed on the UUCG website.

In Gratitude and Covenant,
Patrice Alexander
Patrice Alexander, President

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

Pruning Shears and Mower Blades

This past fiscal year and many years prior, the Grounds Committee has kept our yard/garden looking proud. With his trusty mower, Bob Franke has kept the grass looking great and the weeds to a minimum week after week. Hank Foster and Helen Foster have pruned, edged, weeded, sawed, moved shrubs and killed fire ants, maintaining our property with at least twice a month working hours. Beyond that, Hank replaced and added to the landscape ties all along the walkway to the back door. What an improvement!! And what a great donation on the Foster's part.

Thank you, team - it's been fun keeping 131 Oakmont lookin' good.

—Terry Shank, chair

Art Exhibit Through June

The previous exhibit of paintings from the Diferen' Strokes artists beautified our walls through the month of June. Our opening reception was a huge success with about 55 folks in attendance. Of these over 25 were from our congregation. What a great show of support!!

The Ambience Committee has finally been able to persuade Ray Sobel to bring forth a one-man show for the summer months. Look for that celebration in July!!

The beginning of our fiscal year is a good time to thank the members of the Ambience Committee who have sponsored all the artists' receptions and have brought beauty to our church home and offered our hospitality to the community.

—Terry Shank, chair



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

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, July 20th at 8:00 pm

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

Staff

Minister: Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir: Kimberly Scholl
President: Patrice Alexander
Vice President: Bev Harju
Secretary: Susan Foreman
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Feryl Masters, Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Fellowship: Jackie Wyman
Finance: Paul Alston
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Grounds Maintenance: Bob Franke
Hospitality: Lynn Caverly & Pat Dix
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Feryl Masters
Social Action: Tom Long & Pat Anderson
Worship: Gladie Hamilton & Lee Canipe

