

# The UUcG Beacon

July 2012

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

**July 1**  
*Homeless Shelter*  
UUCG Social Action Committee

**July 8**  
*12 Steps to Compassion*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**July 15**  
*Eyes Wide Open*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**July 22**  
*Me, Myself and I*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**July 29**  
*Empathy, Do I Have Any?*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

*If you have accomplished all that you have planned for yourself, you have not planned enough.*

--Edward Everett Hale (Unitarian, minister, author, historian)

The past month has, at least in my mind, been marked by several examples of UU's working together to achieve inspiring successes.

The annual outdoor service and potluck, this year held on a new venue, was greeted with beautiful weather, delicious foods, and delightful fellowship. Thank you to all who participated and made this such a memorable experience.

As has often been the case, the youth religious education's summer program, Hogwarts, is off to an incredible start, with more children and families attending than in recent memory. Just seeing the excitement on the faces of the children is thrilling enough. Remembering that they are celebrating and exploring the UU principles through the metaphor of JK Rowling's Harry Potter universe is all the more inspiring. Many thanks to all involved in YRE for making this program a recurring success.

And speaking of recurring successes, how about the recent Car Wash? The decision to include a Yard Sale helped to make it one of the most well attended and beneficial fundraisers this congregation has seen. A huge debt of gratitude to all who volunteered their time, material goods, and labor, in this FUN-raising effort.

I am continually impressed with this congregation's ability to come together to accomplish great things. However, with Social Justice as the special focus of this year's Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly in Phoenix, I can't help but ask myself, how do we take the next step? How do we build upon our "intra-congregational" successes and increase our impact on the "extra-congregational" world around us.

My vision includes continuing to "water the lawn" of our long standing social action commitments to initiatives like First-Born and the Little Willie Center, while at the same "fertilizing" projects like Cancer Support Community and Greenville Community Shelter. Accomplishing all of this, while planning for the needs of a steadily growing congregation, is no small task; however, I remain convinced that our most inspirational accomplishments are yet to come.

*Tom Thielen*

President, Board of Trustees, UUCG

## Art on Our Walls

The Ambience Committee invites members and friends to share their favorite art work to hang on our walls for the months of July and August. We would like to have pieces that have the artist name as well as the name of the person who owns it, along with the title of the work and the medium. Have it left in the church library between June 25 and July 5. Also, please make sure it is ready to hang. If you have questions, please contact Kay Alston

# Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Can you remember what you expected the first time you walked into our sanctuary? Perhaps, you were looking forward to making some new friends, or hearing a message that would motivate or inspire you. Perhaps, you were looking for some help or companionship as you transitioned towards a new part of your life. If you came with children I imagine that you may have hoped they would learn and have fun, and really want to come back. Children in

town or not, I bet that you hoped the same for yourself, that you'd learn and have fun, and that you'd want to come back again, too.

I can't pretend to know what every visitor's expectations are when they first come through the door. Yet, I can say with some confidence, having heard from those who have become regulars that feeling safe, at home, and welcomed were important to you.

So many return again and again to this place that feels right. We hope that others will feel what we do, if not the first time, then soon, very soon. But sometimes, the things we do, and the way we do them, aren't always clear to our visitors and newer members. We get so used to a chalice lighting that we forget to say why we do it on a regular basis! We know the purpose and place for candles of community, but newcomers may not understand what we so easily understand as "the way we do things." And sometimes, like the fish in a bowl of water we have great trouble seeing the water we swim in!

One of our commitments and one of the great gifts of our community is the welcome we offer to each person who comes through our doors. As we grow and change and shift, it becomes important to reflect on the way we do things and communicate them to our newest members. Maybe the waters are murky. Maybe the waters have become too still. Maybe the waters aren't yet wide enough. Our visitors can help us see what we cannot.

One way of "seeing the water" is to invite our visitors and new members to share what needed to be explained, or what felt less than inviting...

It is true that a UU congregation is not right for everyone who might be shopping for a new church. But it could be "oh so right" for so many. So many visitors come through our doors. They come looking for a faithful, positive and hopeful way to be in the world. I hope we can listen and learn and have fun learning what we might do differently so they want to return again and again.

*Rev. Ann Marie*

## Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Ann Marie Alderman  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

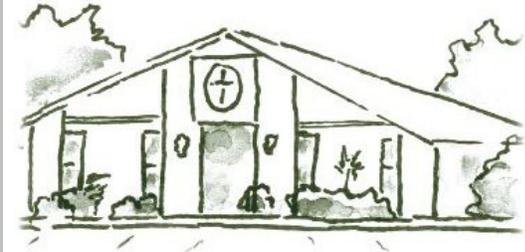
## Board of Trustees

**President:** [Tom Thielen](#)  
**Vice President:** [Susan Foreman](#)  
**Secretary:** [Tammy Atchison](#)  
**Treasurer:** [Brenda Stewart](#)  
**At-Large:** Shannon Terry  
**At-Large:** [Judi Hickson](#)  
**At-Large:** [Patrice Alexander](#)

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** [Terry Shank](#)  
**Building Maintenance:** [Pat Tesh](#)  
**Communication:** [Rich Elkins](#)  
**Endowment:** [Bill Paulson](#)  
**Fellowship:** Cam Scales  
**Finance:** [Bill Paulson](#)  
**Fundraising:** [Feryl Masters](#)  
**Hospitality:** [Louise Sharpless](#), [Judy Drum](#) & [Ann Eleanor](#)  
**Membership:** [Bud](#) & [Phyllis Hazel](#)  
**Youth Religious Education:** [Jennifer Thielen](#)  
**Stewardship:** [Patrice Alexander](#)  
**Social Action:** [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)  
**Worship:** [Lynn Caverly](#) & [Paul Kumas](#)

~ July 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Homeless in Greenville</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>1p-2p Women's Lunch Group</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a 12 Steps to Compassion, Rev. Ann Marie</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting</p> <p>7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Eyes Wide Open, Rev. Ann Marie</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p> <p>12p-1p Shelter Action Group meeting</p> <p>12:15p-1:45p Program Council Quarterly Meeting</p> <p>5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>7p-9p Coffee Party meeting</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>1p-2p Women's Lunch Group</p> <p>7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Me, Myself, I, Rev. Ann Marie</p> <p>12p-1p Lunch Group</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>7p-8:30p Book Club</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting</p> <p>6p-8p Democracy NC</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>3p-5p Minister's Office Hours</p> <p>7p-8p Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6:30p-8:30p Occupy Greenville GA</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution</p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group</p> <p>10:30a-11:30a Empathy, Do I Have Any? Rev. Ann Marie</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>8a-9a Breakfast Group</p> <p>7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation</p>				

**Greetings from Youth Religious Education!**

Summer is officially here, and that means that the UUCG Chapter of Hogwarts School is in session! Over the summer we offer a break from our standard curriculum with magical lessons that engage the imagination and embrace the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism\*. We will be discussing a variety of topics, including modes of transportation, calendars and holidays as well as lessons on spiders and candle making.

Because each lesson is filled with lots of information and activities, we ask that our students come straight to the "Common Room" (the Tween Room) upon arriving for services, as we will not have the Story for All Ages over the summer. Robes and other magical attire are appropriate to wear for classes. We encourage students to wear their own attire if they so choose, and we have some basic robes available for anyone who wishes to borrow one during class. For the safety of all our students the Hogwarts staff requests that students leave all wands, potions and magical animals at home. We will have owls available for messages between students.

After services we request parents come to the "Great Hall" (large RE room) in order to retrieve their students, as the Hogwarts staff can not be held responsible for students lost in the Dark Forest after the end of classes. We plan on having lots of fun this summer and would hate for one of our students to miss out because of an unfortunate run-in with the Whomping Willow (a very valuable, if somewhat violent, species of magical tree).

Magically Yours,

Jennifer Thielen

Chair, YRE Committee and Professor, UUCG Chapter of Hogwarts

**Happy Birthday to UUs this July**

- July 2 –Terry Shank
- July 4 –David Nelson
- July 5 – Joanie De Groot
- July 5 –April Weir
- July 6– Jennifer Schultz
- July 7 –Ruel Tyer
- July 10– Mort Stine
- July 13– Diane MacKenroth
- July 15– Tim Kelley
- July 27– Bill Paulson
- July 27– Tom Long
- July 27– Lowell Berkowitz
- July 28– Bee Behr



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, July 24 at 8:00 pm

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