



The UUCG Beacon

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

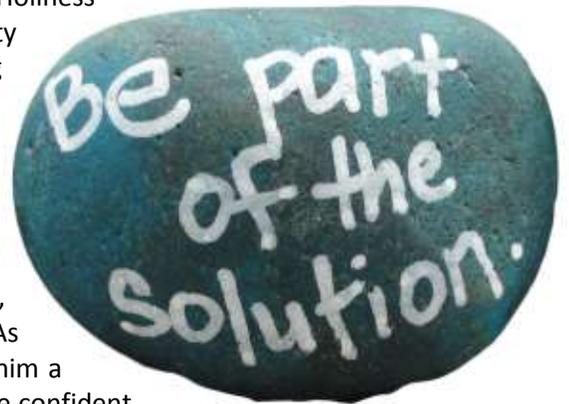


On June, 9 members of the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston were murdered in an attempt to "start a civil war". Instead, that congregation and others across our nation have shown an inspiring response of love and mutual support. The church refused to give in to hate and fear. That courage and commitment to their purpose shows the strength of their congregation. Our Congregation included a moving memorial to those who died in our Sunday service.

I remember when some members of our congregation expressed concern about being too visible out of fear of persecution for our beliefs. Fortunately, we have outgrown that fear. Our Congregation has consistently worked to bring people together. We supported and worked on the first day care center in eastern NC, which primarily served black families. We helped start the Little Willie center for poor children. We partnered with First Born Holiness Church in Grimesland to assist in their food distribution and community development center. Our Congregation was instrumental in starting and strengthening the interfaith group in Greenville. We were the first church in the area to become a Welcoming Congregation. We are now supporting the startup of a PFLAG chapter in Greenville. There isn't space to list all our congregation has done and is doing.

I'm proud that we have been so active in supporting and bringing together so many different groups. I believe that meeting, worshipping, and working together is the best way to oppose fear and hate. As Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend." Being open minded and questioning does not mean we can't be confident and strong in our beliefs. I challenge each of you to think about what our faith means to you. Try to state what we stand for and believe in a few sentences. Be ready so that the next time someone asks about our church you can clearly and confidently say who we are and what we believe. Maybe it will start a conversation and make a friend.

Feryl Masters, UUCG Board President

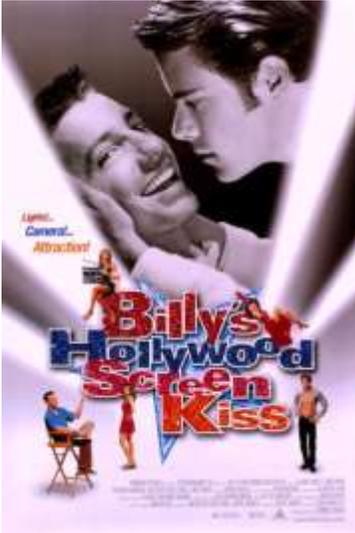


EDITORIAL – Supreme Court Marriage Equality Decision

Lindsey Fair

When I was younger, in the early 2000's, gay marriage was becoming a hot topic. It was an unspeakable subject that the majority of the United States believed would never come to pass. And now, many years later, the Supreme Court has finally decided that marriage is a right that all Americans should have and the issue has come to a close. I had grown from seeing gay marriage being a taboo subject to being fully legalized across all fifty states. To be able to see the United States go from having gay marriage banned in all state to it being fully legalized in my relatively short life span is one of the reasons that I am inspired to study our society--to study how far as a country we have grown and to study how far we have to go. I can only hope that this recent Court decision will lead the way to the USA becoming a truly equal place for all.

EVENTS



Classic GLBT Movie Night

Classic GLBT Movie Night returns to its regular schedule in July, on the 3rd Friday of the month. In August, we will take the month off as traditionally done to avoid conflicting with the NC Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. We will then resume on regular schedule in September.

July GLBT Movie Night will take place on Friday, July 17th at 7:00pm and the film of the month will be "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss" (1998 US) Rated R

Billy, a struggling young gay photographer (who likes Polaroids), tired of being the "other man", falls in love with Gabriel, a waiter and aspiring musician who is probably straight but possibly gay or at least curious. Billy tries to get Gabriel to model for his latest project, a series of remakes of famous Hollywood screen kisses, featuring male couples, while also trying to win his affections.

Moral Movies

Last Summer, UUCG was a host and participant in a statewide series of movies inspired by the Moral Monday Movement of protests at the NC General Assembly. Various progressive organizations such as the NC NAACP, the NC Association of Educators, Democracy NC (who meet locally at UUCG) and a labor organization joined together with a documentary group, Working Films to bring a series of topical documentaries about social issues of importance in Greenville and 6 other cities across the state. At the conclusion, interest was expressed at locally continuing the effort, but no one took up the effort.

Starting in July, the UUCG Social Action Committee will revive the effort, restarting it as a monthly film series, starting on July 11th and intending to continue holding it on the second Sunday of each month. Chris Lucas, a new member who had expressed an interest in doing such an event will lead the project with support from the rest of the committee. We also plan to reach out to other local organizations to promote the series to the community outside our congregation. Each month's showing will be followed by a discussion of the issues it addresses.

July's Moral Movie will be "Citizenfour" (2014 US) Rated R for language – July 11th at 6:30pm.

In January 2013, Laura Poitras started receiving anonymous encrypted e-mails from "CITIZENFOUR," who claimed to have evidence of illegal covert surveillance programs run by the NSA in collaboration with other intelligence agencies worldwide. Five months later, she and reporters Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill flew to Hong Kong for the first of many meetings with the man who turned out to be Edward Snowden. She brought her camera with her. The resulting film is history unfolding before our eyes.

This documentary will provide insight into issues of government surveillance and collection of information on American allies as well as American citizens. How much privacy should be expected by those not suspected of criminal activity? How can security concerns and privacy be balanced?

Suggestions for future months' showings are encouraged.



July 2014

Sunday 5 th	Celebrating Our Roots – Feryl Masters
Tuesday 9 th	PFLAG Meeting 7pm
Saturday 11 th	Moral Movie Night – 6:30pm
Sunday 12 th	Pathway to Meditation – Jake Melnyk
Monday 13 th	Board Meeting – 7pm
Friday 17 th	Classic GLBT Movie Night – 7pm
Sunday 19 th	TBA
Sunday 26 th	Music of the Heart – Mort Stine
Tuesday 28 th	Democracy NC – 6pm

View the entire calendar at <http://www.uugreenvillenc.org/calendar.html>

STAFF

Minister: Rev. Rod Debs
 Music Director: Mort Stine
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Feryl Master
 Vice President: Richard Baltaro
 Secretary: Shannon Sparrow
 Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
 At Large: Cam Scales
 At Large: Toni Broshears
 Past President: Rich Elkins

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:30AM Mindful Meditation
 10:30AM Worship
 12:00PM Lunch Groups

TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group
 7:30PM KTC Buddhist Meditation

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice
 7:00PM Team Trivia

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ambiance:

Brenda Stewart

Building and Grounds:

Bob Hudson

Caring:

Ruel Tyer & Ruth Abramson

Communications:

Toni Broshears

Endowment:

Feryl Masters

Fellowship:

Laura Schroeder & Michael Betteken

Finance:

Richard Baltaro

Fundraising:

Patrice Alexander & Jennifer Schultz

Hospitality:

Holly Brown & Jacki Vaughn-Heath

Membership:

Susan Foreman & Laura Neece-Baltaro

Social Action:

Rich Elkins & Sandy Shephard

Stewardship:

Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters

Worship:

Pat Dix & Jerry Gregory

Youth Religious Education:

Shannon Sparrow & Christy Hoppenthaler

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is **Monday, July 27 at 8:00 pm**

Email Beacon submissions to beacon@uugreenvillenc.org