



# The UUCG beacon

## August 2005

The **beacon** is published monthly  
by the Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Greenville  
131 Oakmont Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858 • 252.355.6658

## Sunday Services—10:30 am

### August 7

*Nature's Abundance*, Rev. Karen Day

### August 14

*Farmworkers' Lives*, Steve Davis

### August 21

*Universal Love*, Rev. Karen Day

### August 28

*Water Ceremony*, Rev. Karen Day &  
Congregation

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Sunday services begin at 10:30 am  
unless otherwise noted.  
Children's activities are available each  
Sunday unless otherwise noted.

## Celebrating our Differences

Recently, we have had much discussion about communication. There have been misunderstandings and hurt feelings. Each person has a different viewpoint or understanding of the issues. I find it interesting, though, that the one universal statement is a variation on, "I love this fellowship and want everything to be perfect."

We have a low tolerance for conflict and disagreement and go to great lengths to avoid it. Conflict makes us uneasy. Our UU heritage calls for us to do differently, though. We have agreed to disagree. We should do this, not to just get along, not just because we respect others' right to be different. We should do this because we rejoice in our differences.

Each different viewpoint is a chance to see the same thing in a new way. Each new philosophy is a chance to learn a new meaning for life. Each disagreement is an opportunity to examine new sides of an issue and perhaps find a better resolution than either viewpoint alone can offer.

Communication and conflict have two sides. They can be positive or negative. Last month Victoria Leo mentioned the need to think before speaking so you don't say something you regret for the rest of your life. I agree this is important.

Equal to this, I think, is the need to speak up when appropriate, so you don't leave a silence you'll regret. We need to keep communicating and disagreeing in positive ways. As I pondered this (and I don't ponder easily) I was reminded of the Desiderata. To paraphrase part of it:

*Grant me the patience to stay silent for the sake of unity and harmony, the courage to speak up for the sake of truth and justice, and the wisdom to know when to do each.*

~ Feryl Masters

# Reflections

. . . by Karen Day

Why join a covenant group? Are they any different from committees or adult religious education?

If you ask the people who were active in our first round of covenant groups you'll probably get varied answers.

But what we aim for in covenant groups is Intimacy—building community, and Ultimacy—going deeper. Whatever the topic, we train facilitators to follow a format that will encourage personal sharing and exploration of meaning.

You've seen some of the fruits of previous covenant groups—Just looking around our worship space you'll notice hangings, quilts, baskets and a tree. And in the backyard, our garden is flourishing thanks to the hard work of Mark Barnes and the rest of the group.

But the groups have also contributed many things that you haven't seen. If only we had pictures of the Women's Spirituality covenant group unloading the dozens of cases of water and flashlights they delivered by pickup truck to the local women's shelter. And the Earth Based Spirituality group renewed the seasonal celebrations by the oak

tree in Town Commons.

The Political Advocacy Group helped our Social Action Committee with farmworker projects, including building soccer goals.

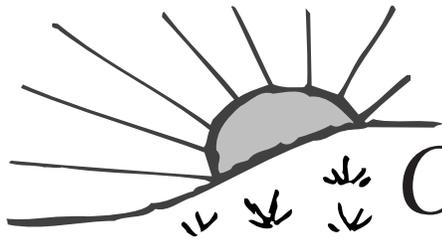
All the groups contributed service to our congregation and to the larger community, so they are expanding our social action work and our connections to the larger world.

All the groups talk about how these topics are meaningful to them, how their lives have been transformed by their commitments. All the groups share how their lives are going now, the ups and downs that make each journey.

You can be part of a group that is forming now—just sign up on the board in the back of the worship space and we'll be training leaders and contacting all of you by the end of this month. If you yearn for more connection or more meaning in your life, then join a covenant group and find out for yourself what a difference it makes.

*~Blessings, Karen*





# On the Horizon

## Sunday Morning Fare

**August 7** —*Nature's Abundance*, Rev. Karen Day

Many of us experience a link with the Divine through Nature. We'll explore how the natural world calls out from the voice of the Source of Life. (And maybe Nature Girl will return!)

**August 14**—*Farmworkers' Lives*, Steve Davis and guests.

Only a few of us have had the experience of working on farms in North Carolina. We'll hear more about what it's like to be in the fields today.

**August 21**—*Universal Love*, Rev. Karen Day.

From their beginnings Universalists believed God was too loving to send any soul to damnation. We will glimpse the past and feel the power of inclusive and abundant love in our present world.

**August 28**—*Water Ceremony*

Bring water from a place that has meaning to you. We'll hear about some of your experiences of water—too much, too little, too deep.... If you

## Interfaith Alliance Planning Session

An Interfaith Alliance planning meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on August 22 at UUCG. All are welcome. Bring your ideas to this first meeting; we'll be planning a fall potluck, Prayers for Peace and the Thanksgiving Interfaith Worship service.

## Dinners for Eight

This popular social event will return on Saturday, August 20 at 6:30 pm. Kay Alston will be posting the sign-up sheet for this.

Dinners for Eight is a social activity in which six, eight or even 10 of us dine together. Each guest brings a dish, and the host provides the location. It is a lot of fun and an excellent opportunity for all of us to get to know each other better.

## See you on the Internet

Have you visited the UUCG website recently? Check out [www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org) for up-to-date information about what's happening in our congregation.

If you have an event that didn't make it into the Beacon calendar this month, send it to [webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org) for inclusion on the website calendar. And don't forget, if you can read the Beacon online, you can save a tree — or at least a sapling.

## Hospitality for August

**Reminder:** We had hoped to offer cookies one week and fruit the next during refreshments after Sunday services during July and August. Let's see what happens in August

**August 7**—Reception leftovers

**August 14**—Cookies, Janet Doig

**August 21**—Fruit, Billie Mallison

**August 28**—Cookies, Kendall and

Roger Robbins

~Janet Doig

# News, Notes and Other Stuff

## Children's Religious Education

I have been selected to finish out the term as Religious Education chair.

My official term started on July 1, however the first meeting was held on Monday July 25, after the Committee Council meeting and Committee Chair orientation, which took place on Sunday, July 24. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the Beacon; anyone is welcome.

I am requesting that two RE Committee members accompany me to Raleigh on Saturday, August 20 from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. for a Religious Education Committee and Director of RE Team-Building Workshop. (See link: <http://www.tjd.uua.org/re/reteambuildingworkshopreg.pdf>)

If you are interested in coming to the workshop, committee meetings and/or joining or remaining on the RE Committee, please e-mail [shareen\\_berkowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:shareen_berkowitz@yahoo.com) or call 355-3121.

~Shareen Berkowitz



## Volunteers Needed at First Born Church:

On the fourth Saturday of every month, UUCG volunteers to help with the food distribution at First Born Church. The work consists of packing boxes with food, carrying boxes to cars and different types of paper work.

I have told the church they can expect around eight UU volunteers every fourth Saturday.

It's helpful for me if you can tell me you're volunteering so I can give First Born an accurate head count every month. But, if you wake up and decide you want to volunteer and you haven't told me, come on down anyway. They can always use an extra hand.

The food distribution starts at 10:00 am. You need to arrive between 9:00-10:00. It's over by noon (often earlier).

To get to First Born Church from Greenville: Go east on Route 33 to Grimesland. In Grimesland, turn right on Chicod Street. Go down Chicod for around a mile. First Born Church is on the right hand side of the road.

Questions? Call Tracy Donohue at 758-0693.

## Building & Grounds Update

The fence for playground is up and ready for the RE playground equipment. Lights on sign and resurfacing of parking lot should be done by the first of August.

The committee will hold its monthly workday on Saturday, August 13, beginning at 9:00 am.

~ Lisa Brenner

## Policy Manual Available Online

The Policy Manual as updated and adopted at the July board meeting is now uploaded and available on the website ([www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)). You can get to it by clicking Policies in the left-hand column.

Please keep in mind that the Policy Manual is a working document that can be easily changed and corrected as needed. We have asked for input from committee chairs at the Program Council Meeting.

Suggestions from all members are welcome and will be considered.

At this time, we are not soliciting minor stylistic suggestions (like, *Beacon is capitalized on page 5, but lower case and italic on page 10. . .*), as the focus is more on content at this time.

We realize there will be some formatting problems, but the idea was to try and address all content issues and have an officially adopted policy manual to work from. ~ Rich Elkins

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## Board Tidbits

Minutes were accepted with correction. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. The books will be reviewed as soon as an appropriate volunteer is named.

Don English is starting a yoga class for victims of Multiple Sclerosis and is asking for support. His proposal will be referred to the Social Action Committee.

The Board of Trustees received a letter from a group of concerned members asking to speak to the Board. They will be invited to the August 15 meeting, which will be facilitated. Each speaker will have three minutes to present his or her concerns.

Please remember that all of the board meetings are open. If you want to be on the agenda, talk to Feryl.

Because lack of communication is a major concern, the following actions will be taken starting now:

1. Draft board minutes will be posted by the following Sunday instead of waiting for their approval the following month. They will first be presented to the

board members for the correction of obvious errors.

2. The President will give a brief report of the monthly Board meeting at the beginning of the service on the following Sunday.
3. There will be twice-monthly presentations at the beginning of the Sunday services by committee representatives.

The Policy Manual was reviewed and approved.

Feryl presented six *Actions of Immediate Witness* for social action from the General Assembly. They are available at [uua.org](http://uua.org) for consideration.

~ Jackie Wyman

## Board Planning Activities

The board will hold a fall planning meeting with Ed Piper, a consultant from the T.J. District Consultant. On September 9, the board will meet from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Karen's house. Dinner will be provided. The board and council will meet on September 19, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the church. Lunch will be provided.

## On a Personal Note . . .

**Bert Brun** writes that the Philippines water project (which we contributed to) turned out to be a big success. He adds, “As I write, a film is being completed about it, to illustrate how the Partnership Church Council works for projects like that.” Other things that keep him occupied are travel writing (with some publication), his work as VP of the board and chair of the Social Action Committee of the Salisbury (MD) Fellowship and keeping up with his children and their families. Maybe he and Naomi will get down this way in the fall.

**Mike Edwards**, another busy ex-member of our group, visited Greenville last month. He recently delivered a service at the UU Fellowship in Wilmington called *Reconnecting to Nature*.

After taking up space in our driveway for months, **Jean Lowry’s** porch lift has been sold to **Leamon and Marilyn Hall**, who are delighted to have it to permit his sister, who can only get around by a motorized wheel chair, to visit them in their home. This is a real win-win situation. The rather sizeable financial return will help support the congregation, as Jean wanted, and the lift is a good buy for the Halls.

**Brenda Stewart** participated in Downtown Sundown Friday evening July 29—sidewalk vendors in Ayden’s Historic District (including her bookstore Random Samples) and a free outdoor concert by Fat Baby’s harmonies and acoustic guitars

We knew that **Ray Sobel’s** recent absences were caused by back pain. Now we can report that he was a scatback (I am informed that a scatback is what I know as a football runner and he gets tackled a lot) in high school. Ray blames his scoliosis (pain now controlled by injections) on his jock past.

We have to report another case of Back Trouble -- but this one without recovery—yet. It’s longtime UUCG supporter **Elaine Paul**, at this point not able to resume her whilom appearances at Tuesday breakfasts.

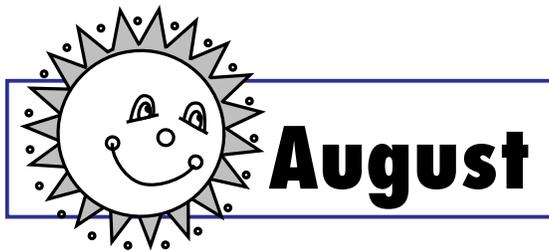
Our old visitor **Bill Dawson** died. We remember him as a physician who served the poor, lived in a tiny house and heated with wood.

Some yard guests are uninvited—a deer browsing in **Bob Franke’s**, a rabbit that looks up at **Edie Webber** and returns to munching her/its collards.

**Victoria Leo**, who gave an insightful presentation on stress management here, will be moving to Cary soon.

We heard that our first minister **Cynthia Edson** in Massachusetts suffered a ministroke but don’t know how she’s doing.

*(continued on page 8)*



## Church Calendar

- 3 6:00 pm—Dine out, Finelli's
- 7 10:30 am—Sunday Service,  
Karen Day
- 9 9:00 am—noon, Maintenance Day
- 10 6:00 pm—Dine out, China 10
- 14 10:30 am—Sunday Service,  
Karen Day
- 17 6:00 pm—Dine out, Daily Grind
- 20 6:30 pm —Dinners for Eight
- 21 10:30 am—Sunday Service,  
Rev. Karen Day
- 22 7:00 pm—Interfaith Alliance  
Planning Meeting
- 24 6:00 pm—Dine out, Dixie Queen
- 27 9:00 am-noon—Grimesland food  
distribution
- 28 10:30 am—Sunday Service,  
Water Ceremony, Rev. Karen Day
- 31 6:00 pm—Dine out, Fui Japan  
Board Retreat

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***The deadline for next  
month's Beacon is noon,  
August 16. Don will be back in  
the editor's chair.***

## RE Director Sought

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville NC (UUCG), a growing congregation of approximately 100 members in eastern North Carolina, is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time director of Religious Education for children and youth.

The DRE provides professional support and administration of the children and youth Religious Education program of the congregation. The successful candidate will

- Recruit, orient, train and support RE volunteers
- Promote the RE program through creation of printed publicity materials
- Work with the RE committee and chair to formulate goals and action plans
- Perform program administration and other related duties as needed.

The ideal candidate for this position will demonstrate skill in the following areas

- Organization
  - Written and oral communication
  - Working well in individual and group situations
- Education and or experience in the following areas

would be helpful

- Volunteer recruitment and training
- Education – curriculum and/or administration

Membership or affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association is not necessary, but an understanding of liberal religious ideas, willingness to promote UU principles and practices and a respect for diversity are essential.

The DRE is responsible to the Board of Directors, but receives direction and supervision from the minister.

The position is one-quarter time, (10 hours per week) with a flexible work schedule; some night and weekend work will be required. Starting pay is \$12.00/hour. The position also includes a budget for professional development expenses.

To apply, send your resume to:

UUCG DRE Search  
131 Oakmont Drive, Greenville NC 27858  
(252) 355-6658

## *On a Personal Note (continued)*

**Toni Britt** visited in Orlando.

**Chester Freeman** provided last minute help with the service on July 17.

**Rev. Alice Lane** has left UUF New Bern.

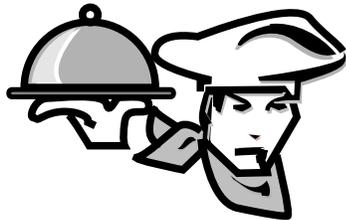
**Charles Knowlton's** wife has been in the hospital. At last report she was doing better.

**Katherine Jones'** surgery went better than anticipated.

**Carol Maxwell** won first place in her first art show.

*~Edie Webber*

## Dine Out Schedule\*



August 3	Finelli's
10	China 10
17	Daily Grind
24	Dixie Queen
31	Fuji Japan

*\*Wednesday evening dine-outs start at 6:00 pm and are Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day (355-0652) know if you plan to come so seating will be available at the restaurant.*

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

*Minister, Karen Day, 355-6658*

*President, Feryl Masters, 975-2020*

*Vice President, Rich Elkins, 258-0233*

*Secretary, Jackie Wyman, 439-8581*

*Treasurer, Brenda Stewart, 746-4714*

### ***Committee chairs***

*Building & Grounds, Lisa Brenner, 329-8130*

*Ministry, Jan Salstrom, 752-3991*

*Communications, Don English, 756-7010*

*Finance, Peter Satchjen, 353-5447*

*Hospitality, Janet Doig, 355-1822*

*Membership, Karen Hall, 328-1551*

*Religious Education, Shareen Berkowitz, 355-5447*

*Social Action, Joan Sachtjen, 353-5447*

*Worship, Roger Robbins, 551-9072*

