



The UUCG beacon

AUGUST 2006

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

August 6

Feryl Masters

*Secrets of the General
Assembly*

August 13

Ed Day

4 Ways of Looking at God

August 20

Ed Day

The Child in the Basement

August 27

To Be Announced

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

As I begin my second term as President, I am excited. We just completed a very successful Evening program. The Harry Potter Magic School was fun and brought in youth and adults from within and outside our congregation. We had sessions for all ages, and had tremendous fun while learning about some of the UU Principles. There was a call for another school next year, and even a suggestion of doing it more than once a year. Victoria, Marli, and Gail will have the final say on that though. They put in a tremendous amount of work to make this a success. We have more events planned, including a weekend for area Congregations at Shelter Neck in August.

Our Search Committees are proceeding. While Ed and our Worship committee have served us well, I'm sure we will all be glad when we once again have a minister. Many people have stepped up to help replace the minister's role. I want to thank everyone who has helped. When we get our minister, I hope we can continue this effort and expand our missions, rather than sit back in relief and relax.

I want to look at our governing structure. We have 19 elected positions, or enough for 20% of our members. We increased the number of leadership positions 2 years ago to allow increased participation and reduce the workload on each person. I feel we expanded our structure beyond what we can support. The Board voted to set up a committee to study our structure and recommend improvements. I also hope to offer some Leadership development programs to help those of us in leadership to be more effective and comfortable in leadership roles.

These are just a few of the things. I kept finding more activities and accomplishments in our congregation. It's great to be a part of an active and involved congregation.

Reflections

Reflections . . . of Ed Day

An unusual flower is blooming in our garden. It was identified as a Moon Flower, but since a moon flower has white blossoms that ID was incorrect. Instead it is an evening primrose, a flower that blooms only in the evening as its name implies. It has pods that show a little yellow in the late afternoon but it isn't until dark that the pod splits and the flower unfurls. It is all over in a few seconds and you have a beautiful yellow blossom. The plant is very prolific and shows a dozen or more blossoms every evening, but the blossom doesn't last out the night. Supposedly it is pollinated by night flying moths.

While on gardening topics, we visited our son Kevin who lives in Connecticut. He has an interesting garden called a Medicine Wheel. It is made to certain specifications that I don't know but it is made with an octagonal wooden framework. There are wooden cross pieces and two

circles of stones (smaller ones on the inside and larger ones on the outside.) Since Connecticut has very rocky soil the rocks are all too easy to come by. I would say it takes at least a hundred rocks to make each circle. It took 2 truckloads of dirt to fill in the wheel so it was quite a project.

It's summer and the weather's hot
You've probably noticed (like as not.)
The thermometer seems about to bubble
And you can heat up without much trouble
The temperature rises higher and higher
Like a good castrati choir
So we complain (what else is new?)
And all sit down and have a brew.
Ah that is better, now remember
We'll complain of cold by next December.

RE Director's Notes

We would like to invite the whole congregation to our **Sensational Intergenerational Weekend**. Mark your calendars for August 11-13 at Shelter Neck. We will have a lot of fun down there. There will be sessions on solar cooking, What's My Type, Canoeing and new information from the General Assembly. Please check the website at Shelter Neck www.shelterneckuucamp.org or contact Victoria 252-747-7785 for more details.

Our Harry Potter Magic School was a great success. Our building was transformed into Hogwarts -Greenville Branch. We had classes for both adults and children. Our student body reached a whopping 26 students. Every night before the classes began, we had a delicious dinner. There was music, learning, and fun for all. I wish to thank the teachers, people who cooked, and the one who wrote the curriculum. It could not have been done without everyone's help.

--Victoria Brown

Item of Note:

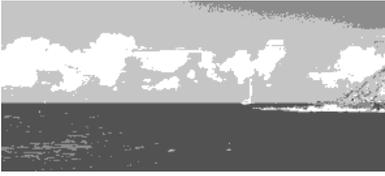
Our refrigerator is old and inefficient. It's leaking. If anyone can donate a replacement, it would be greatly appreciated.

-- Brenda Stewart

Choir Practice

Choir participants meet at 10:00 Sundays to go over the day's hymns All are welcome without obligation to stand up with the choir during services.

--Brenda Stewart



On The Horizon

Making Everything a Spiritual Experience

The big lesson in Buddhism, then, the sense of what we have been saying is, "Get away from your rational system and get into the wonderful experience that is moving through all things all the time."

It is through living
that we experience and communicate
the spirit.

It is through life
that we learn to live in the spirit.

One in full quest of the spirit
knows that the goal of life is death.

I recall a wonderful talk I had with Alan Watts, who was a marvelous man. One of my problems was that Jean was always late. I'd make an appointment to meet her somewhere or other, and there I'd sit waiting for half-an-hour. I found it's a normal thing for men to wait for women. They have so many things they have to do before they can walk out of the house that half an-hour or more goes by quickly.

Now, it's a basic rule in New York that it takes a half-hour to get anywhere, but Jean always thought that the time when she was supposed to be somewhere was the time to leave. So, I had this long wait problem, and I said to Alan, "What can I do about this? I get aggravated, and when she arrives, I'm a little bit nasty."

Alan said, "Well, your problem is that you want her to be there, and you're wishing for a situation that is not the one you are in. Just realize that you are ruining the experience that you could be having there while waiting by thinking it should be otherwise."

So then, waiting for Jean became a spiritual exercise. I said to myself, "You should not be thinking that Jean should be here. Look around you and see what is going on." And, you know, the place where I was became so goddamn interesting that I wasn't bored at all. Oftentimes, I hoped that Jean would make me wait a little longer. That would have seemed impossible to me, until Alan suggested shutting out any thought that my situation should have been otherwise.

That's an example of what fear and desire do. I desired the situation to be the one we planned, and that desire forbade me my immediate experience: "This is it! This is life! Look at it! Isn't it bubbling?" But now that I could love the situation I was in, the waiting was no longer a bore. The psychological transformation would be that whatever, was formerly endured is now known, loved, and served.

As long as you move
from a place of fear and desire,
you are self-excluded
from immortality.

From: *Reflections on the Art of Living*, by
Joseph Campbell

News, Notes and Other Stuff

The Forum Comes to UUCG

Beginning September 17, at 9:30 am, and during the hour before church each Sunday thereafter, members, friends, guests, and all other interested individuals are invited to gather in the church sanctuary for about fifty minutes of discussion. Visiting ministers and other speakers are welcome to attend The Forum.

Topics will vary, according to the interests of the group. In fact, the final activity each week will be to decide what the group is most interested in discussing the following week.

If you have a cup of coffee in your hand, feel free to bring it. If you have a bag of donuts--or grapes--in your hand, feel free to bring that, too. But no one is obligated to bring anything other than an inquiring mind, and a willingness to explore subjects of mutual interest in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship.

--Carol Maxwell

Happy August Birthday to . . .

Kathy Weigel	8/01
Jackie Wyman	8/05
Michelle Simko	8/06
Bruce Berberich	8/08
Linda Dodds	8/12
Brenda Stewart	8/22
Patrice Alexander	8/24
Karen Hall	8/26
Ron Moye	8/28
Victoria Brown	8/29

If you are a member, and your birthday was missed, please tell me so it can be added.

--Jackie Wyman

Membership

Your Membership Committee is working on several projects. We are in the process of getting "A Movie and Finger Food" night started on a rotating basis with "Dinners for Eight". The Movie Night will be at the Church with discussion on the movie afterwards. We are planning to have this scheduled, beginning this fall. We are also going to begin a "Forum Discussion" on national and international topics beginning in late September. This will be at 9:30 am prior to church. If you have an interest in taking part or "just listening", we hope you will attendNot that UU's are opinionated, of course.

The membership committee is also concerned about our church's members' pledges. A financial commitment to the church is strictly voluntary. All of us are aware of that. There have been times in my life that a pack of cigarettes per day was more important to me than being a part of those who kept the light bill paid at the church at which I was a member. I ask that you set aside a few moments in your day and think about your priorities to yourself. When I did that, it led me to this church and that has been a positive input in my life. I hope you will look at this church in that way in your life. You are an important part of this church, and, out of that, the world that we live in. Keeping the lights burning brightly in my church, has kept them burning in my being. I ask for your help in this area. Thank You.

--Ruel Tyer



AUGUST in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:00 Eat Out @ <i>Fuji Japan</i> 7:30 Program Council	3	4	5
6 10:30 <i>Secrets of GA</i> 12:00 RE Com 4:00 FLOC	7	8 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	9 6:00 Eat Out @ <i>Mi Cabana</i>	10	11 Shelter Neck Intergenerational Weekend	12 9:00 Bldg Cleanup Shelter Neck Intergenerational Weekend
13 9:30 Worship CM 10:30 <i>Four Ways of Knowing God</i> Shelter Neck Wknd 12:00 Membership Com	14	15 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	16 6:00 Eat Out @ <i>Logan's Roadhouse</i>	17	18	19
20 10:30 <i>The Child in the Basement</i>	21 7:30 Board Meeting	22 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel 12:00 Beacon items due to Editor	23 6:00 Eat Out @ <i>Ruby Tuesday's</i>	24	25	26 9:00 First Born 7:00 Pagan Coffee House
27 10:30 <i>To Be Announced</i>	28	29 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	30 6:00 Eat Out @ <i>Mongolian House</i>	31		

Fair Trade Coffee

The UUSC Coffee Project was launched at General Assembly in June of 2001, just as world coffee market prices were beginning to collapse. Years later, the coffee crisis continues as prices remain at their lowest point in decades, devastating farming communities across Latin America, Africa and Asia.

In 2003, Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country increasingly were making a difference in the lives of small coffee, tea and cocoa farmers. About 500 congregations - nearly 50 percent of all UU congregations - are now participating, offering hope to small farmers at a critical time.

The UUSC Coffee Project joins the UUSC with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade organization founded in 1986. Buying coffee, tea and cocoa directly from farmer cooperatives, Equal Exchange follows the standards and principles of fair trade on 100 percent of its products, ensuring that low-income farmers earn a fair price for their products.

Direct payment to farmers also eliminates the middlemen, giving farmers a much larger share of the profits. In 2001 alone, Equal Exchange paid farmers almost \$1 million above what they would have earned under conventional trade practices. This allows farmers to better meet their families' basic needs, such as food, education, and health care.

In partnership with these small farmer cooperatives from India and Tanzania to Guatemala and Mexico, Equal Exchange also provides essential pre-harvest credits, gives technical assistance to cooperatives, encourages environmentally sustainable practices and healthy and safe working conditions. UUSC's role in this partnership is to promote the project among our membership and Unitarian Universalist congregations, urging them to put their UU values into action by choosing this coffee, tea and cocoa for use in their churches and homes. Unitarian Universalists value the interdependent web of all existence, and acknowledge that the choices in our daily lives affect thousands of people across the United States and internationally. In our lives, our work and our congregations, we strive to make choices that help others and contribute to a better world. The benefits of this project are multifold: the proceeds of the coffee, tea and cocoa sales go directly to the farmers at above-market prices; UUSC receives a small percentage of the sale proceeds to provide grants to human rights initiatives in the coffee-growing regions like the current women's leadership training course at the Manos Campesinas cooperative in Guatemala; in addition, Unitarian Universalists are provided with a simple way to promote UU values in daily life and another connection to UUSC's human rights work.

-from the UU service committee website

Working Together to Build Community



Program Council to meet

The Program Council will hold its bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:30pm in the UUCG Library/Conference Room. The Program Council is composed of all of the elected and appointed committee and sub-committee chairs of the congregation for the purpose of sharing information and coordination the various programs and activities of the congregation. Many Board of Trustees members are generally in attendance as well. The group is chaired by the Vice President and meets the first Wednesday of each even-numbered month at 7:30 pm unless otherwise announced. Meetings are open to all UUCG members, and interested parties are encouraged to attend. Committee chairs who cannot attend are encouraged to send someone to represent their committees or at the least, to send a written report to the Vice President. For more information or questions, contact UUCG Vice-President Rich Elkins at webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org

First Born Saturday

Please mark your calendar and come join us at First Born on Saturday, August 26th at 9:00am. We'll be helping distribute food packages at the First Born Food Pantry.

We need helpers to do the administrative work, to pack and to carry the food boxes.

--Tracy Donohue-Stine

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee would like to thank our retiring Chair, Janet Doig, for her commitment to making coffee and refreshments an integral part of each Sunday's congregational life. Coffee, tea, and other refreshments have routinely appeared without fanfare, despite considerable "backstage" work by Janet, who pulled the rest of us along. As a parting gift to the new co-chairs, she even lined up people to bring the refreshments for our first month in charge. She'll be a hard act to follow! Thanks, Janet.

Starting probably in August, we will be offering fair trade coffee for a couple of months to see whether this is something the congregation is willing to support. Purchasing a bag of fair trade coffee from the Hospitality Committee display for home use or for gifts will help fund our use of fair trade coffee at coffee hour.

--Gail Butler and Marcia Sobel

From the Grounds...

Don't forget that we need your help to keep the building and grounds looking good. Come out and help us with the monthly clean up Saturday, Aug 12th at 9:00am

--B&G Committee

Board Notes

The Interim Search Committee has entered into negotiations with a ministerial candidate. Hopefully, she will begin in September. Lee Wyman has agreed to be the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Chair positions are still open for Social Action and Religious Education Committees.

--Sue Ferris

On a Personal Note . . .

Sue Daughtry, our Caring Committee Chairperson, has been feeling poorly, plus her mother has been very ill. Her mother is a bit better and is temporarily in a nursing home. Sue also seems to be feeling better. Let's hope it continues for a long time.

Ruth Leggett bravely set out to go on a bus tour to Lancaster, PA. However, her bus driver turned out to be a former classmate! Several fellow passengers were also former classmates; so Ruth had an exceptionally good trip to Amish country.

Bob Franke and the Sobels have both been dog-sitting. Terry Shank has been grandchild-sitting. Such adventures.

Terry Shank had part of her family here for her birthday in early July, and now the whole family is meeting up at the coast. What a fortunate person.

Susan Foreman's husband, Richard, almost ruined their recent vacation by having a kidney stone. The situation was resolved, and the vacation continued successfully.

Ray and Marcia Sobel belong to a UU group called UU're Home. They let traveling UU's stay in their home and they stay in UU's homes when they travel. They had their first guest recently and loved it. Ray also recently got a phone call from a high school friend he hadn't talked to in 60 years!

Marta Dominguez went to Ohio for a wedding. She saw old friends and had a wonderful time, but she was very happy to get back home to her church family. We are family!

Bob and Cynthia Jeffcott's son and his family are moving to Alabama from somewhere way up north. They rejoice in having their family closer.

Jeanne Stone has returned to church following a stay in the hospital. It's good to see her back out and around after her serious illness.

Bruce Baker couldn't resist buying a guitar and amp. Poor Marli!

Bee's children came from Montreal and Tennessee to see her early in July. She loves her children, but she certainly isn't used to having her house so full!

Pat Dix's daughter and son-in-law are trying to sell their house in New York and move to NC. How nice that will be for her.

Larry Spell and his wife, Cindy, celebrated their first wedding anniversary. They got married in our sanctuary last year.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AUGUST

Message to N.C. Farm Workers, from Ofelia Contreras Guerrero

February 12, 2006

Hello, I hope all of you have a pleasant afternoon. My name is Ofelia Contreras Guerrero. I am the woman who was the wife of Mr. Pablo Ordaz, who I believe some of you knew, since he was one of your companions who traveled to North Carolina for questions of work, and who died last July 20, 2005, precisely on his birthday. I wanted you to know this, because when I attended the last meeting [of FLOC] I learned about the proposals that Mr. Aaron [Jacobson, FLOC organizer] presented. They are very good, and all of you who are workers can take advantage of them, now that you have a union and you will have more support. And please, when you leave for work, if you happen to work for a negligent grower don't abandon your job, but to the contrary: make the most of the support you now have, so that union organizers can arrange for you to transfer to another job where you are treated well, and so what unfortunately befell my husband will not happen again. I wish you good luck.

--Ofelia Contreras

Support N.C. Farm Workers

My name is Marcelo Solís Gutiérrez. I am from the state of Hidalgo, Mexico. I have been traveling to North Carolina to work for six years. I currently work planting and harvesting tobacco [in northern North Carolina], though I have also worked in cucumbers, sweet potatoes, and Christmas trees. I arrive in North Carolina in April, and am here working in the fields until October.

I am recruited in Mexico by the North Carolina Grower's Association (NCGA), to work in agriculture in North Carolina with a temporary guest worker visa. In the past, many workers have experienced or witnessed abuses committed by employers or the NCGA, and had no means to defend themselves. Often, workers endured abuses silently, for fear of retaliation or firings.

Since we won a union with FLOC [Farm Labor Organizing Committee], we have seen many benefits and accomplishments. We have protection from abuses of employers, and problems which may arise, such as a contaminated water supply in our housing last year. This year we benefited from not having to pay recruitment and travel costs, from Mexico. I was named the chair of the Housing committee, a committee formed within FLOC.

Taken from a speech to a Newman Catholic Center Mass, on Sat., June 10.

Farmworker Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)

The first of the three FLOC meetings was held at the church on the evening of July 2nd. Approximately 50 migrant workers attended. They were from several different work camps, and seemed to have much to discuss (I don't understand Spanish!). Interns were here to talk to the volunteers while the meeting was going on. We were given much information about the migrant workers. It was a great evening; the workers really appreciated us opening our doors to them and having refreshments for them. They even made us get in a group picture with them! There will be at least two more meetings, one on August 6th and one on September 3rd. Maybe we could have a big pot luck dinner for them on the last night....just a thought.

--Jackie Wyman 9

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, August 22

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

August 2 -- **Fuji Japan** -- 204 S.W. Greenville Blvd -- 353- 4848
August 9 -- **Mi Cabana** -- 333 East Arlington Blvd -- 931-9555
August 16 - **Logan's** -- 603 SE Greenville Blvd -- 439-4313
August 23 - **Ruby Tuesday's** -- 3510 S. Memorial Dr -- 355-4060
August 30 - **Mongolian House** -- 300 S.E. Greenville Blvd., 321-6868

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

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

Minister(pro tem).Ed Day
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Sue Ferris
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman
Committee on Ministry: Sylvia English
Communications: Don English
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Ruel Tyer
Religious Education:
Social Action:
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

