



The UUCG beacon

AUGUST 2007

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

August 5

What's It All About?

Rev Frieda Gillespie

August 12

What I've Learned From You

Rev Frieda Gillespie

August 19

*Entering a White Profes-
sion: Black Physicians in the
Turn-of-the-Century South*

Dr. Todd Savitt

August 26

The Pathetic Fallacy

Ed Day

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Preparation, Preparation

Getting things to run smoothly at church takes a lot of preparation on the part of many people. Planning for services, RE Curricula, meetings, and special events are a few of the things that need to have proper planning occur well in advance to be truly successful.

In my head, I can generally keep a good recollection of the things that I will be doing in the next month's time, and a vague idea of major events for maybe a month or so thereafter. But if you ask me about some time in late October, it seems like an eternity from now, a yet un-contemplated, and non-existent time in my current reality. So much to do between now and then: meetings at church, ministerial transition, Harry Potter Magic School, tons of stuff for work, Fall startup for RE, NC Pride in Durham, just to name a few... Late July to early October is always a busy time for me. But my trusty calendar reassures me that once all those events have passed, there is a time thereafter, not yet clogged with things to remember, events to plan, or details to be finalized. I'm sure it won't stay that way for long, and that is a good thing. Being busy means there are things going on, which is far better than the reverse. It's just a game of balance to do as much as you can, while avoiding burnout.

Speaking of preparation and burnout reminds me of a thread (discussion) currently going on over one of the many UUA-Sponsored email lists to which I belong, namely one for Youth Group Advisors. The thread revolves around discussion of why so few youth who are raised as Unitarian Universalists remain active as UUs in adulthood. Does the preparation and programming they receive lack in some way? I think programming and preparation can always be improved, and it is possible to instill that there is a value in the group worship as a part of our faith. I feel that the primary goal of our youth programs is to make our youth the best people they can be, able to make their own choices and explore options, rather than insisting on one path. I think it is a good topic for discussion, and maybe even a service in the future. Think about it and let me know your thoughts.

-- Rich Elkins

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev Frieda Gillespie

Notes from the Interim

I.

What we call a beginning is often
the end
and to make an end is to make a
beginning.
The end is where we start from.

II.

We shall not cease from
exploration
and the end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first
time.

--T. S. Eliot

My dears, it is time to say goodbye. And as T. S. Eliot intimates, it seems so much like a beginning. I realized at the Leadership Orientation last June that I finally feel like I know enough about you now to begin to be of some real use! My momentum has all been in the direction of your fu-

ture. But alas, it's time to leave. We've done good work together and this congregation is poised for the year to come, I believe, with a greater sense of anticipation and energy than last year. That is the heart of our accomplishments this year. You have a great deal to look forward to as do I, but that won't change the fact that it is hard to part. Celebrations are the best way to say goodbye, which is why even our memorial services are celebrations of the deceased's life. So, on my last day, August 12th, we'll celebrate our time together and I invite you to come that Sunday with something you'd like to share about how this year has been for you. I will reflect that day on what I've learned in this year of transition. For those who won't be able to be there, please take the time to say goodbye between now and then. Firsts aren't often forgotten and so I doubt I will ever forget this, my *first* professional ministry, and what I've learned here. I expect that I haven't fully seen yet all that I've gained here. I leave full with gratitude for all that you have offered me.

Be well. Blessed Be.

--Frieda

Farewell Frieda

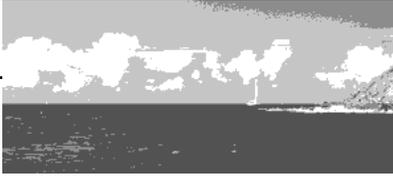
As you may know, during the month of August, we will be undergoing our Ministerial Transition. Frieda's last day, and last service at UUCG will be Sunday, August 12th. Please join us on that day for a Farewell Party with special treats during the coffee hour after the service.

Frieda has done a great job as our Interim Minister, fulfilling both the roles of minister and consultant during her time here, preparing us for welcoming our new settled minister, Rev. Ann Marie Alderman, who starts work on August 20th and will begin doing services in September.

We wish Frieda the best of luck with her new Interim appointment in the suburbs of Atlanta GA!

-- Rich Elkins

UUCG President



On The Horizon

Aesthetics and Ambience Ad Hoc Committee Report

The committee was charged with refreshing the meeting room and creating an atmosphere which was welcoming to the community as well as pleasing to the diverse interests of our congregation.

After several meetings with input from our creative artists, it was recommended that the walls be made available to the artists in the community to exhibit their works on a rotating schedule. Additional track lighting would be needed to light up the two side walls and the window wall. The hangings in the pulpit area would be replaced with Asian motif hangings, which would be changed periodically. Research is continuing regarding a chalice design for the pulpit center wall.

Of course, all the walls would receive fresh paint, the work being done by the gremlins who will sign up to do the deed starting in early August.

A Meditation Corner to the left of the riser will be defined by a small screen, a low bench and a water fountain.

The estimated cost for this face-lift is approximately \$449.95. Several items have already been donated. The committee hopes that the congregation will feel moved to contribute to a warm and happy, up-lifting and beautiful ambience – a welcoming place.

Committee members in attendance: Bee Behr, Jan Salstrom, Joanie deGroot, Lisa Brenner, Don English, Lora Hylton, Marcia Sobel, Claudia Sundman, Lorraine Obremski, Terry Shank

--Terry Shank

Note from the Incoming

After a long summer of goodbyes, sorting through and packing too much stuff, my family and I will arrive in Greenville the weekend of August 18th. I am looking forward to the unpacking and the hello's! Although I won't be leading the worship service until Labor Day weekend, I will be at the church office beginning Monday, August 20th...and I would love for you to drop by!

My UUCG office hours will be Mondays - Wednesdays, 2 - 5 pm. Other times can be arranged by calling me on my cell phone (607-725-0912), calling the UUCG office, or by e-mail (amalderman@uuma.org).

Let the hello's begin!

---Ann Marie
Incoming Minister

From the Front Office ...

The **young adults group** will meet on July 21st at 6:30 for a pot luck discussion. We will continue our discussion of the 7 principles. This month we will be discussing the second principle "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning." If you are in your 20's and 30's come and join the fun!

--Jess Patterson
Admin Asst

News, Notes and Other Stuff

RE Chair Reports

As the summer passes, the RE committee has been focusing on curriculum and teachers for the coming fall. We agreed to try a team teaching strategy this year. We are asking volunteers to teach in teams of three or four with each team committing to several months at a time. This strategy will allow continuity for the children and a smooth implementation of the curriculum while still allowing volunteers an occasional chance to catch the sermon. We have found the biggest drawback to snagging volunteers is missing the sermon.

We hope this will be an acceptable approach for everyone. We already have a core of volunteers, but we need more to keep from burning out the same volunteers. Our hope is for some level of commitment from a parent out of every family. So parents, you can contact me to volunteer or I will be contacting you soon (patgade@suddenlink.net or 757-0553).

Children are key to the growth of this church and the hope for the future of our liberal religion. The Religious Education department is a worthy place to give your time.

August 6 through 10 is the Harry Potter Magic School. Registration forms can be downloaded from the UUCG website or you can pick them up at the church.

--Patty Gade

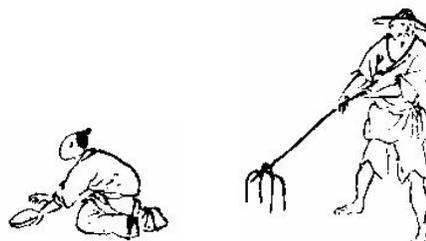


Membership Committee

As I start out in the Membership Committee, I see many possibilities. I welcome your suggestions, and hope for your assistance. One of my first priorities is to improve communication. We have improved a lot, but as we grow, it is still difficult to reach everyone consistently. If you are not on the UUCG Listserv, I encourage you to join it. Contact Rich Elkins or me for help joining. For those who do not want to use e-mail, please notify me of how you want to be notified of events and news. The Beacon will continue to be our main communication method, but some things just can't wait until it comes out.

I also want to break some of the Committee responsibilities into smaller tasks. If there is one role or task you would like to help with, no matter how small, please let me know. There are many important activities that don't necessarily require attending meetings and spending large amounts of time. I look forward to hearing from you.

--Feryl Masters
Membership Committee Chair





Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA.
 To contact her call: 252-367-0103 or email: minister@uugreenvillenc.org

AUGUST in PREVIEW

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | 1 6:00 Dine Out @ Texas Steakhouse | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What's It All About?</i> Rev Gillespie | 6 Harry Potter magic School 6:30 Articulating UU | 7 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel Harry Potter magic School 6:30 Articulating UU 7:00 Universal Health Care | 8 6:00 Dine Out @ Ruby Tuesday's Harry Potter magic School 6:30 Articulating UU | 9 Harry Potter magic School 6:30 Articulating UU | 10 Harry Potter magic School 6:30 Articulating UU | 11 9:00 Bldg & Grnds  7:00 Board Meeting |
| 12 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What I've Learned from You</i> Rev Gillespie 12:00 Farewell Pary for Frieda | 13 | 14 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel Multi-cultural Board Meeting | 15 6:00 Dine Out @ Fuji Japan Multi-cultural Board Meeting | 16 | 17 Multi-cultural Board Meeting | 18 Multi-cultural Board Meeting |
| 19 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Entering a White Profession</i> Dr Savitt | 20 | 21 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel 8:00 pm Beacon Deadline | 22 6:00 Dine Out @ Gilligan's Steamer & Raw Bar | 23 | 24 | 25 9:00 First Born |
| 26 Father's Day 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>The Pathetic Fallacy</i> - Ed Day | 27 7:00 Book Club | 28 8:30 Breakfast @ Cracker Barrel | 29 6:00 Dine Out @ University Chop House 7:00 Board Meeting | 30 | 31 | |

The Universal Health Care Task Force Report

The Task force is a sub committee of the Social Action Committee and Ray Sobel is its chairman.

The task force has already made presentations to the East Carolina UU cluster group and the Thomas Jefferson District annual meeting.

The next step is a breakfast meeting with State representative Marion Mc Lawhorn to discuss the status of health care reform in the legislature and to plan a strategy for implementing improvements in the health care system in the next legislative session.

Beyond this is a more expansive effort to arrange a city wide meeting to explore options and to provide information and education about single payer health care for North Carolina.

This effort will require participation by a wider range of UUCG members than are comprised in the task force itself. Without substantial support from the congregation this step cannot be taken successfully. Anyone interested in helping should contact Ray Sobel, Karen Hall or Mort Stine.

--Ed Day

More From the Front Office

"Articulating Your UU Faith" is a fun interactive five session course from the UUA that helps you answer the question: "What is Uni... Universatarian ..or whatever you said...What do you all believe anyway?" with something other than: "Well it's like...um...you know...I mean....you can kinda believe anything you want to!" Classes meet Monday August 6th through Friday August 10th from 6:30 - 8:00 PM at UUCG. You do not have to have a child in the camp program to attend. Please sign up with Frieda at minister@uugreenvillenc.org or Jess at office@uugreenvillenc.org or call the church at 355-6658.

A new **directory** will be printed in September. If you have any corrections to the current directory please contact Jess at (252) 355-6658 or office@uugreenvillemc.org. Additionally let Jess know if you would prefer a soft copy of the directory via excel spreadsheet e-mailed to you rather than the paper version.

--Jess Patterson
Admin Asst



Working Together to Build Community



Show Your Hospitality!

The Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) is sponsoring a multi-congregational facilitated retreat for congregational board members specifically targeting smaller congregations in the eastern half of North Carolina. UUCG has agreed to be the host congregation. With that arrangement, we avoid the expense of bringing in a paid facilitator, but agree to provide food for the event and host housing for participants who request that option.

Unfortunately, the weekend selected (August 17-18) is also move in weekend for the Residence Halls at ECU, so hotel rooms may be in short supply, so we need as many people as possible to volunteer to put house participants from out of town on the night of Friday, August 17th. You would need to meet your guest at the church that evening, and return them to the church on Saturday morning. You are not responsible for providing any meals, as they will be fed at the church. If you have space available, please email Office Administrator, Jess Patterson at office@uugreenvillenc.org or call/leave a message at the church office 355-6658. Please indicate what type of accommodation you can provide, how many you can house, whether or not you have any indoor pets, and whether your house is non-smoking or not. Based on the number of housing requests we receive, you may be matched with a guest and will be informed a few days in advance of who to expect.

We will be providing snacks on Friday evening, a continental breakfast on Saturday

morning, most likely a deli-style sandwich/salad/soup buffet for lunch, and snacks Saturday afternoon. Anyone wishing to donate food (snacks, desserts, soups, side dishes, any donations accepted) toward any of these events, please contact Rich Elkins, Board President, at webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org, by calling his number listed in the church directory, or leave a message at the church. Volunteers to help coordinate meals are also welcomed! All donations are appreciated and will help offset the cost to the church.

--Rich Elkins

Board Meetings in August and beyond

Due to the ministerial transition in August, we felt that it would be advantageous to have two meetings during the month: one early in the month with Frieda, and one later in the month with Ann Marie.

After much schedule consideration, we will hold an informal dinner meeting at a Board Member's house on August 11th in which only limited business will be conducted that cannot wait for the second meeting. The "regular" board meeting will be held at church on Wednesday, August 29th at 7pm with Ann Marie in attendance.

Beginning in September, we will resume meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7pm, returning to the schedule that was common for several years previous to the current one.

-- Rich Elkins
UUCG President

Items Of Note . . .

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday (August 25th) to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for each 4th Saturday distribution. Please arrive by 8:30 am to receive your assignments. The distribution begins at 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars.

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.
--Toni Britt Tyer



Operation InAsMuch (OIAM)

OIAM is a day devoted to helping people at their points of need. Participants reach out to strangers with love and understanding. They foster harmony through working together. OIAM is an opportunity to have a "surge" in spiritual growth. It is a way to discover how your personal gifts can be used in helping others.

The concept of Operation InAsMuch began with the Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC in 1996. OIAM has been in Greenville since 1999.

OIAM brings together churches, fellowships, local groups for a day of hands-on work. The work meets the needs of people and agencies in Pitt County.

Operation InAsMuch will be held in Greenville on Saturday, October 13, 2007. First Christian Church will be the host church and kickoff site.

To sign up for OIAM projects please contact Toni Britt Tyer. The official sign up is September 16-October 7. There is an organizational meeting on August 7th at 12 noon(Oakmont Baptist Church) if you would like to learn more.

Thank you.
--Tony Britt Tyer



Sunday Morning Fare . . . by Frieda Gillespie

Aug 5th -- What's It All About? -- Rev Frieda Gillespie

This will be a "Question and Answer" sermon where you ask the questions and I attempt to answer them. What questions about UUism, or theology or ethics, or UUCG have you been wondering about that you'd like to ask me?

Aug 12th -- What I've Learned From You -- Rev Frieda Gillespie

In this, my last sermon here, I will reflect on what I've learned during the year. There will also be a chance for you to speak about what this year has meant for you. In ritual, I will ask you to release me from my responsibilities as your minister and then we will celebrate!

Aug 19th -- Entering a White Profession: Black Physicians in the Turn-of-the-Century South -- Dr. Todd Savitt,

Dr Savitt is on the faculty at the ECU Brody School of Medicine and has been a regular presenter at UUCG when he has inspired us with the Brody School of Medicine's Reader's Theater.

Aug 26th -- The Pathetic Fallacy -- Ed Day

The Pathetic Fallacy is attributing human feelings and emotions to animals. Is there a UU position on this matter?

I took a trip to Washington DC the other day and after mingling with the president and his advisors I was inspired to write the following poem.

* * * * *

I'm in favor of World War III.
Dropping bombs sounds like fun to me.

If I could do it, I'd be so proud
Of every radioactive cloud.

We have to attack until they're dizzy.
And I'd go myself if I wasn't so busy.

--Ed Day



Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday , August 21, 2007 at 8:00 pm

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

Aug 1 -- Texas Steakhouse -- SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-2905
Aug 8 -- Ruby Tuesday's -- 3510 S. Memorial Dr -- 355-4060
Aug 15 -- Fuji Japan -- 204 S.W. Greenville Blvd -- 353- 4848
Aut 22 -- Gilligan's Steamer & Raw Bar -- 2903 E. 10th St -- 551-2244
Aug 29 -- University Chophouse -- 3130 S. Evans St -- 439-2467

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English 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, Rev Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Jess Patterson,

Committee Chairs
Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Feryl Masters (acting)
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Marta Dominquez
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

