



# The UUCG beacon

## August 2008

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

Aug 3 - *Volunteering at PCMH  
& Hospice*  
Tracie Alford

Aug 10 - *The Mediation Center -*  
Kathryn Lennox

Aug 17 - *Spiritual Types; What's  
Yours?*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Aug 24 - *Happy Birthday Lord  
Krishna!*  
*Exploring the connection between  
UU's and Hinduism.*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Aug 31 - *My Path through Life as  
a UU*  
Carroll Webber

Children's activities are  
available each Sunday.

## President's Notes

### All Aboard! But where to?

There has been some recent discussion by the Board for the development of a new long-range plan for the Congregation. Not having recently reviewed the previous plan, I pulled it out and reviewed over the contents to not only see what processes were involved, but also where we stand today in comparison to that vision.

The first thing that surprised me was that there is actually almost a year remaining in the previous plan (a five-year plan starting in 2004.) I'd really thought that the plan was older, but I'm most likely remembering the year-and-a-half or so process and congregational surveys and meetings that preceded its adoption. But what surprised me more was that I was in there. (Other than my name being listed as a participant in one of the focus group discussions) I was in there because one method the committee had chosen to express the eventual vision was through a President's report to the congregation in 2009. This report assumes all the goals were met, and describes what UUCG is like to those of us reading it in 2004. I am the President leaving office and making a report in 2009. Reading that report, in 2004, or even after, I really didn't see it being *me* giving that report.

I hadn't given much thought to the Long Range Plan in some time, knowing that the estimates of growth and progress were really best-case scenarios, and couldn't foresee that we'd be conducting a ministerial search through a good portion of the time period. Although the membership, attendance, and budgetary projections don't fit our reality, we have accomplished many of the goals that were set out to get us on our way. We do now have a full-time settled minister (our minister in 2004 was only ¾-time) and we have also hired a part-time Director of Religious Education. We don't have the paid office administrator or music director, but we are truly lucky to have volunteers filling those highly important roles.

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 6)

# Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Here's a reflection on taking time off from Maya Angelou (found in book *Wouldn't Take Nothing for my Journey Now*)

"Every person needs to take one day away. A day which consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, lovers, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us and if our egos permit us to confess, they could exist eternally in our absence.

"Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us. We need hours of aimless wandering or spates of time sitting on park benches, observing the mysterious world of ants and the canopy of treetops.

"If we step away for a time, we are not, as many may think and some will accuse, being irresponsible, but rather we are preparing ourselves to more ably perform our duties and discharge our obligations.

"When I return home, I am always surprised to find some questions I sought to evade had been answered and some entanglements I had hoped to flee had become unraveled in my absence.

"A day away acts as a spring tonic. It can dispel rancor, transform indecision and renew the spirit."

— Rev Ann Marie Alderman

## Membership Committee

We added three more new members in July. They are John Gustafson, Amanda Spyrison, and Rain Parker. John has been visiting with us for quite a while, and has been helping the Building and Grounds Committee keep the meeting house clean. Amanda and Rain are recent arrivals who were already UU's. The Membership Committee is taking a Summer hiatus, but there are still a few activities going on. There's the Forum every Sunday morning at 9:30, and there's lunch after church at O'Charley's every Sunday. There is also a meditation group on the second Sunday evening each month, a Vegetarian Pot Luck on the third Sunday evening, and a Young Adults Meeting and Pot Luck that meets on the fourth Sunday evening each month. On Tuesday mornings, we have breakfast at 8:30 at Finelli's on 5th Street. Join in where you can!

—Bette Nelson

## Hospitality Committee Call to Action

As always, the Hospitality Committee is asking members of the congregation to sign up to bring simple refreshments on ONE Sunday. If each person or family did this just once a year, we would have refreshments every week.

--Gail Butler

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, August 19th at 8:00



# August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					01 7pm» Course in Miracles	02
03 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service	04 6pm» Worship Committee Meeting	05 8:30am» Breakfast at Finelli's 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	06	07 6pm» UU Fund-raising Committee Meeting 6pm» Girl Scouts	08 7pm» Course in Miracles	09 9am» Building & Grounds Workday 1pm» EDS Support Group Meeting 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
10 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 4pm» Auditions for BIRTH 7pm» UU Meditation Group	11 7pm» Auditions for BIRTH	12 8:30am» Breakfast at Finelli's 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	13 7pm» Rehearsal for BIRTH	14 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7pm» Rehearsal for BIRTH	15 7pm» Course in Miracles	16 BIRTH Rehearsal
17 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck	18 7pm» Board Meeting	19 8:30am» Breakfast at Finelli's 6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	20 7pm» BIRTH Rehearsal	21 6pm» Girl Scouts	22 7pm» Course in Miracles	23 BIRTH Rehearsal 9am» First Born
24 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 5:30pm» UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	25 7pm» BIRTH Rehearsal	26 8:30am» Breakfast at Finelli's 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	27 7pm» BIRTH Rehearsal	28 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting 8pm» BIRTH Rehearsal	29 7pm» Course in Miracles	30 BIRTH Rehearsal
31 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service						

# Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

## **PRES NOTES** (continued from page 1)

Other accomplished recommendations include improving accessibility for the front entrance and becoming a Welcoming Congregation. All things considered, we've done a very decent job and will continue to do so!

The 2004 Long Range Plan culminates in 2009 with UUCG moving into a new facility with seating for 180, a 30-member choir, ample RE space, playgrounds, gardens, and even a koi pond. The fact that we won't be there is not a failure on our part, nor is it a failure of the plan to predict. That isn't the purpose of such a plan. A long-range plan is really a map to get you to a specified destination. If Mapquest or Google

say it will take approximately 3 hours to get from Greenville to Greensboro, but you get caught in traffic in Durham, a 4-hour trip is not a failure of the mapping service, nor is it a failure of you as a driver. The map still tells you where to go, which turns to take, but you might arrive a little later than anticipated.

I'd like to report that we've had a few detours along the way so far. We've had some passengers disembark, and others join in along the way. We've had to change drivers a few times, sometimes do without or take turns driving ourselves. Now it is time to figure out if we still have the same destination in mind and whatever the answer, draw a new map to get us there.

—Rich Elkins, UUCG Board President

## **Hogwart's Revisited**

The UU Hogwart's Magic school just let out, and if the quality of the mess to clean up every night was any indication, it was a huge success. A good crowd of Hufflepuff's, Ravenclaws, Gryffindors, and Slytherins attended classes every night; The Hufflepuffs were split into two classes to accommodate the large number of students. Our teachers were Victoria Brown, Kim Smith, Marli Baker, and Rich Elkins. Michelle Covi led an adult class on an Introduction to Earth-Centered Religions. The teens Mary Brown, Aaron Gade, Nick Brown, and Lalani Masters were absolutely indispensable in their roles as class prefects. We had music to open and close every night and as a special treat, Brenda Stewart and Sue Jefferson graciously donated their piano talents several times during the week. Feryl Masters (Dumbledore's cousin?) was the Hogwart's headmaster. He magically handled all of our last minute problems. A vegetarian meal was served every night with Gail Butler and me taking most of the kitchen duties. Several members volunteered supplies; Michelle Jenkins, Claudia Sundman, and Sylvia English made soup for one night's dinner.

The children had a blast. The first night set the stage with the making of wands, wizard hats, and owls (to receive messages throughout the week). The remaining days were filled learning about castles and mazes, dragons and reptiles, poetry and incantations, and finishing on the last day with rocks and minerals. For a long time to come, we will remember the frenzy over the castle cakes, the dragon races, and the knight helmets.

Even at the risk of embarrassing her, I must mention the time and energy Gail Butler put into Hogwarts. Everything, from the daily menu to the artwork and the curriculum, are her creation. Hogwarts would not happen without her

..--Patty Gade

# Affirming the goal of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all

## BIRTH comes to UUCG

Thank you UUCG for hosting this production of BIRTH!

Auditions for the Greenville September 2008 benefit production of Karen Brody's critically-acclaimed play *Birth*, directed by Tracy Donohue, will be held on Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00-6:00 and on Monday August 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-9:00 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville, 131 Oakmont Drive.

Roles are available for eight women. This will be a Reader's Theatre production. Auditions are open to all who are interested – no previous theatre experience necessary. This is an independently produced, fundraising and awareness-raising benefit production of *Birth*, not affiliated with a theatre company or with the Unitarian Universalist church. All roles are volunteer positions. No prepared scenes or monologues; materials will be provided at the auditions.

*Birth* will be performed at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville on Sept. 5, 6, and 7. There will be around 15 rehearsals from August 12 – Sept 4 (exact dates to be determined based on the various schedules of the cast).

*Birth* is a play based on over one hundred interviews playwright Karen Brody conducted with mothers across America who gave birth between 2000-2004. It tells the true stories of 8 women painting a portrait of how low-risk, educated women are giving birth in America today.

Greenville is one of many cities around the world organizing productions of *Birth* as part of BOLD 2008 (<http://www.birthonlaborday.com>). BOLD (Birth On Labor Day) is a global movement to make maternity care mother-friendly that raises awareness about maternity care issues, raises money for organizations working to make maternity care mother-friendly, and validates mothers' birth experiences in all communities worldwide.

The 2008 BOLD in Greenville proceeds will be donated to two organizations working towards mother-friendly maternity care – The Greenville Chapter of the International Cesarean Awareness Network (ICAN) and NC Friends of Midwives.

If you have any questions contact Tracy Donohue (Director) at [donohuet@ecu.edu](mailto:donohuet@ecu.edu) or Victoria Brown (Event Coordinator) [HemlocMoon@aol.com](mailto:HemlocMoon@aol.com)

--Tracey Donohue

## Fundraising Committee Meeting

The Fundraising Committee will hold a meeting on Thursday, August 7th at 6 p.m. in the library. The primary focus of the meeting will be on the annual service auction, but general goals for the year will also be discussed. Anyone with previous experience planning the auction is encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Jennifer Barr at 258-5679, or via e-mail to either [chamber@ayden.com](mailto:chamber@ayden.com) or [mrs\\_jenbarr152304@yahoo.com](mailto:mrs_jenbarr152304@yahoo.com).

--Jennifer Barr

# Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm  
**August Birthdays**

We have several August birthday celebrators.  
Send them a card or sing them a song....Happy  
Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you, Happy  
Birthday dear...

Jackie Wyman	August 5th
Bruce Berberich	August 8th
Brenda Stewart	August 22nd
Patrice Alexander	August 24th
Ron Moye	August 28th
Victoria Brown	August 29th
Nicholas Brown	August 30th

Happy Birthday to yooooou!

.....from the Membership Committee

--Jackie Wyman

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

**Minister**, Rev Ann Marie Alderman  
**Religious Education Dir**, Victoria Brown  
**President**, Rich Elkins  
**Vice President**, Patrice Alexander  
**Secretary**, Susan Foreman  
**Treasurer**, Claudia Sundman  
**Office Administrator**, Michele Covi

## **Committee Chairs**

Building and Grounds: Terry Shank  
Endowment: Bill Paulson  
Finance: Paul Alston  
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Alan Bailey  
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston  
Religious Education: Patty Gade  
Social Action: Pat Tesh  
Worship: Lora Hylton

