



# The UUCG beacon

August 2009

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 2  
*This I Believe*  
Susan Foreman

August 9 *This I Believe*  
Ton Thielen

August 16  
*Search for Truth: Growing in  
Knowledge*  
Rev. Ann Marie

August 23  
*Standing on the Side of Love*  
Rev. Ann Marie

August 30  
*Bringing It Home: What We  
Learned at GA*  
Bev, Gail, Feryl & Claudia

Children's activities are  
available each Sunday.

## President's Notes

### President's Notes August 2009

Summer is supposed to be a time of relaxation and replenishment but everyone I know seems busier than ever! Whether its trips to see family, reconnect with friends, present papers or get reacquainted with the sand and sea we all seem to be traveling and going in many directions. Ann Marie and her partner Karen will be taking a well deserved vacation for the next three weeks. Summer camps and trips for the kids means lots of juggling and new experiences. I am looking forward to hearing about the adventures when we are all together again.

Several of our members have just returned from General Assembly (GA), UUA's annual meeting, where the Reverend Peter Morales was elected President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. During the campaign Reverend Morales said that we must focus on three areas: Growing our Movement by Growing our Faith, Social Action and Public Witness, and Ministry for a New America that is Becoming Multicultural and Multiracial. He also stated that we must be willing to make some changes in order to revitalize Unitarian Universalism. On August 30<sup>th</sup> we will be hearing a report about this year's GA from our members who attended and represented us in Salt Lake City.

# Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Early in July, in the middle of the summer, normally a low energy time during congregational life, over 20 of UUCG's new and continuing leaders met. The enthusiasm for UUCG during this first Council meeting was absolutely impressive. As we went around the room describing what each of us were excited about, I heard expressions of appreciation for our warm and welcoming fellowship and the sense of community among us, for our diversity (both "the salty and the sweet"), for the many opportunities to understand and care for each other, for our visibility as a force for needed change in our wider community, and for our outreach to potential UU's in our part of Eastern Carolina. Almost half of these leaders have been members of UUCG for two years or less. They expressed their thankfulness for having found a congregation that reflects what they already value and believe, for a congregation

that is not boring, that has courage, that doesn't do guilt or ridicule or judgment; that promotes freedom and has fun. Together these leaders, including many who have been members for more than ten years, expressed that they were ready and eager to make UUCG the best it can be saying that they wanted more and better communications, a strengthened youth and children's program where the kids really know the adults, a place where all of us fully participate in collective good works, where we improve our giving because we are motivated by recognizing the value of what we receive, where we openly share our faith and spirituality with each other, where we sing, play and come together with commitment and enthusiasm. I am so excited to partner with leaders like this! It's going to be a great year!

—Rev. Ann Marie

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## UUers with Birthdays in August

Aug 1 Kathy Weigel  
Aug 5 Jackie Wyman  
Aug 8 Bruce Berberich  
Aug 11 Maddie Berkowitz  
Aug 22 Brenda Stewart

Aug 24 Patrice Alexander  
Aug 26 Nathan Jenkins  
Aug 29 Victoria Brown  
Aug 30 Nicholas Brown

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## Happy Birthday Everyone

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### Italian Pot Luck & Movie

An Italian Pot Luck & Movie is scheduled for August 22nd beginning at 6:30 pm. Bring an Italian dish and something that goes with Italian food. PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS! DON'T MISS THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

—Jackie Wyman  
Fellowship Committee

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, **August 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm**

## Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

**PREZ NOTES:** (continued from page 1)  
The first meeting of the 2009-10 UUCG Program Council, composed of the Committee Chairs and the leaders of our ad hoc groups, took place on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Led by Ann Marie, Patrice, and Theresa, it was an opportunity for orientation, introductions, explanations, and lots of information sharing. Our leaders this year range from long time members to members who have joined in the past year, from long time UUs to those who are new to UU and its concept of a responsible spiritual search. What they all share is their willingness to serve and their enthusiasm about getting involved in at least one aspect of our congregation. What they all need is our support and some members who are willing to serve on the committees and get involved! Included in this edition of the Beacon is a list of the 2009-2010 UUCG Leadership Team. Please feel free to contact them to share ideas and to volunteer your time and energy.

Special thanks are due to Alice Arnold who has agreed to provide child care for the four Program Council meetings this year. She could probably use some help at the next one, on September 12<sup>th</sup>, since she had a full house this last time and the next one will be part of our annual Leadership Retreat.

new directory is ready for email delivery in pdf or Publisher format. If you would like to receive a copy to read electronically or print yourself, please send Michelle, our Office Administrator, an email [www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org). Please also let her know if you need a printed version.

There will be lots going on at UUCG over the next couple of months. UUCG is hosting a Forum on Health Care Reform on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Forum is sponsored by the Greenville-Pitt County Health Care Coalition in conjunction with the N.C. Justice Health Access Coalition.

The Strategic Long Range Planning (SLRP) Committee will begin conducting focus group meetings, to discuss the results of the recent congregational survey, in the next couple of weeks. There will be about ten focus group meetings scheduled through August, September, and early October in an effort to ensure that every UUCG member and friend has an opportunity to participate. The locations of the meetings, as well as the time and days will be varied to accommodate the schedules and preferences of our members/friends. Please contact a SLRP Committee member to sign up to at

**PREZ NOTES:** (continued on page 4)

# Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

**PREZ NOTES:** (continued from page 3)  
tend or host a focus group meeting.

A repeat and expansion of our successful spring Car Wash/Bake Sale Fund-raiser is being planned for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, and we will need all hands on deck. Feryl, Claudia, and Joanie are planning to add plants, hot dogs, and books to the mix so there will be something for everyone. Please plan to bring your dirty cars and empty stomachs to UUCG that day and invite all your friends and neighbors too!

We hosted our first “Dinner for Eight” this past Saturday night. It was more like a Dinner for 15+ since our target group was families with kids. We had a blast and I would encourage everyone to participate the next time Jackie, our “Fellowship Queen”, asks for volunteers. The food was great, the fellowship was better, and we all felt that our families had grown. To be a spiritual home for our members means more than being a “church” on Sundays – it means supporting each other’s search for clarity on many levels including our own social well-being.

Some good news that the Board is eager

to share is that Stephen Brand has agreed to be our Choir Director. Throughout the responses to the SLRP survey there was a consistent request for more music, including more opportunities to participate. Stephen is a new member of UUCG, a graduate student in ECU’s School of Music, has experience as a church music director, and really wants to build both our adult and children’s choirs. So between his want and our members’ requests we think that we have found a great solution. He will be back in Greenville in a couple of weeks so let the singing begin.

The Board and the Program Council will be holding their annual Leadership Retreat on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This is when the Board Goals for 2009-2010 will be developed to give guidance to the Committees as they develop their plans of work for the year. We welcome the input of our members and friends. Please share your ideas and thoughts with us – it helps if they are in written form – so we can bring them to our discussions. As a reminder these were our goals for 2008-2009:

**PREZ NOTES:** (continued on page 7)



# August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<a href="#">01</a> ■ <a href="#">10am» Building Cleaning</a> ■ <a href="#">2pm» Long Range Planning</a>
<a href="#">02</a> ■ <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> ■ <a href="#">12pm» RE committee meeting</a>	<a href="#">03</a>	<a href="#">04</a> ■ <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">05</a>	<a href="#">06</a>	<a href="#">07</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» A Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">08</a> ■ <a href="#">9am» Building &amp; Grounds Workday</a> ■ <a href="#">10am» Building Cleaning</a>
<a href="#">09</a> ■ <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a>	<a href="#">10</a> ■ <a href="#">5pm» Long Range Planning</a>	<a href="#">11</a> ■ <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">12</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» NC2030 discussion</a>	<a href="#">13</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting</a>	<a href="#">14</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» A Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">15</a> ■ <a href="#">10am» Building Cleaning</a> ■ <a href="#">1pm» EDS Support Group in Library</a>
<a href="#">16</a> ■ <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> ■ <a href="#">4pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting</a> ■ <a href="#">5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» UU Meditation Group</a>	<a href="#">17</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scouts</a>	<a href="#">18</a> ■ <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	<a href="#">21</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» A Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">22</a> ■ <a href="#">9am» First Born Food Distribution</a> ■ <a href="#">10am» Building Cleaning</a> ■ <a href="#">6:30 Italian Pot Luck</a>
<a href="#">23</a> ■ <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> ■ <a href="#">5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle</a>	<a href="#">24</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» Interfaith Alliance</a>	<a href="#">25</a> ■ <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» Board Meeting</a> ■ <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">26</a>	<a href="#">27</a> ■ <a href="#">7:30pm» UU Men's Group</a>	<a href="#">28</a> ■ <a href="#">6pm» A Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">29</a> ■ <a href="#">Car Wash Fundraising Event</a> ■ <a href="#">10am» Building Cleaning</a>
<a href="#">30</a> ■ <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a>						



# Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

**PREZ NOTES:** (continued from page 4)

Achieve minimum membership of 100 by 6/30/2009

Increased Readiness for Newcomers

Develop plan to address space limitations of our current facility

Expand Child RE options to address age-specific needs

Make Adult and Child RE a priority for the entire congregation

Update the existing Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP)

Achieve a 15% increase in the monies raised through our 2008-2009 pledge campaign

We have made some process in all of these areas. We also have many opportunities to make things better. Together we can accomplish what we cannot accomplish on our own. If we covenant to listen with respect to each other and celebrate our differences we will be successful.

Patrice Alexander

UUCG Board President, 2009-2010

## 2009/2010 UUCG Leadership

### Board of Trustees:

President	Patrice Alexander
Vice President	Theresa Sparrow
Past President	Rich Elkins
Secretary	Susan Foreman
Treasurer	Brenda Stewart
Ass't Treasurer	Pat Anderson
At Large Member	Bev Harju
At Large Member	Judi Hickson

### Committee Chairs:

Grounds/Ambiance	Terry Shank
Building Maintenance	Feryl Masters

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 8)

## Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society

### PREZ NOTES: (continued from page 7)

Building Cleaning	Richard Weir
Caring	Ruth Leggett & Janet Doig
Campus Ministry	Lynn Caverly
Committee on Ministry	Jan Salstrom, Don English, Paul Alston
Communications/Webmaster	Rich Elkins
Endowment	Bill Paulson
Fellowship	Jackie Wyman
Finance	Paul Alston
Fundraising	Feryl Masters/Claudia Sundman
Greeters	Bill Paulson
Hospitality	Kathy Weigel/Tracy Donohue
Membership	Alan Bailey & Heidi Luchsinger
Newsletter	Don English
Nominating	Billie Mallison, Rich Elkins, Feryl Masters
Social Action	Pat Tesh and Tom Long
Strategic LRP	Patrice Alexander
Stewardship	Tom Thielen
Youth Religious Ed	Jennifer Thielen
Worship	Bev Harju

### Interest Groups:

CUUPS	Michelle Covi
Men's Group	Ray Sobel
Rodenberry Group/YA's	Rich Elkins
Women's Group	Volunteer needed
UU Book Club	Ray Sobel

### Staff:

Interim DRE	Gail Butler
Administrator	Michelle Covi
Music Director	Mort Stine
Choir Director	Stephen Brand

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

## A Message from the Inter-Faith Alliance

Dear All,

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. I have been traveling and am surprised by how quickly the summer is going. So, it is time to start planning our interfaith gatherings for this school year. As always your input is desired and needed to make sure that we are working for the whole community.

In the past few years we have held Prayers for Peace and Justice on the 4th Monday at 7 pm for August, September, October, January, February, March and April. The Prayers have been a community of different faith believers, coming together for a quiet meditative time. We share prayers, poems, and silence in our desire for peace. Following at 7:45 pm we have been having an educational learning and sharing time in varying formats. Our "Increased Awareness Discussions" have resulted in many positive comments, and increased attendance. Our big yearly event is a community Thanksgiving service, on the Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving. Last year we focused more on sharing our songs, poems and chants, and much less on telling about our individual faith. The response was Very positive. The service is followed by a time of fellowship and snacks. First Presbyterian Church has been our very generous hosts the past several years.

In the past, an individual or group, from one faith tradition has hosted the Prayers in their chosen location. Sometimes, but not always, they also choose the topic, format and participants for the "Discussion" time.

Before we begin again, let me open this up to ideas and comments for changes in both timing and structure. I would also like to hear from you, what you think is working and why. I think we will get a boarder response using email then trying to find a time to all meet face to face. In a couple of weeks I will post the results. I would also like you to be thinking about hosting a "Prayers" gathering and/or a "Discussion" and what month would be best.

We have found that having the whole year's schedule decide by August works best for getting the word out. So, it is my fervent desire to have everything set before we begin.

Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina is about all of us coming together, and needs everyones participation to be a success. We look forward to hearing from you. Blessings of Peace, Debi Habiba Niswander

PS - Please forward this to anyone that might be interested, especially those that are new to our area.

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

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, **August 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm**

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

## **Staff**

**Minister**, Rev Ann Marie Alderman  
**Interim Religious Education Dir**, Gail  
Butler  
**President**, Patrice Alexander  
**Vice President**, Teresa Sparrow  
**Secretary**, Susan Foreman  
**Treasurer**, Brenda Stewart  
**Music Director**, Mort Stine  
**Office Administrator**, Michele Covi

## **Committee Chairs**

**Building and Grounds**: Feryl Masters,  
Richard WeirTerry Shank  
**Endowment**: Bill Paulson  
**Finance**: Paul Alston  
**Hospitality**: Kathy Weigel, Tracy Donohue  
**Membership**: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston  
**Religious Education**: Jennifer Thielen  
**Social Action**: Pat Tesh, Tom Long  
**Worship**: Bev Harju

