



The UUCG Beacon

August 2012

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

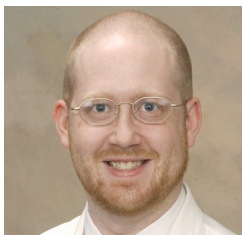
August 5
Guest Speaker
Rabbi Luna

August 12
Mindful of?
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

August 19
Do Something
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

August 26
Musical Service
Stephen Brand

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

Any committee that is the slightest use is composed of people who are too busy to want to sit on it for a second longer than they have to.

--Katharine Whitehorn, British journalist, writer, and columnist

I suspect many in the congregation will immediately see both the humor and the touch of wisdom in the above statement. Indeed, the most effective people often find themselves having to prioritize both their time and their interests, in order to maintain their effectiveness. And yet, only those committees that are composed of (and lead by) effective people stand any chance of succeeding. Committees are, after all, intended to serve as "working groups" tasked with decision making and implementation of those decisions. Obviously, a church committee serves several other functions (socialization, fellowship, even spiritual exploration and growth), but at the end of the day, the success or failure of a committee is often measured in terms of how well it functions in achieving the desired "product" or "task".

I have to admit, after the first Program Council meeting of the year, I am excited about our congregation's potential. Led by our Board VP, Susan Foreman, the meeting was attended by the chairs and co-chairs of each congregational committee, as well as several board members, and our minister. Each leader took turns discussing how their committee fits into overall congregational life, then provided an overview of their committee's tasks, goals, needs, and challenges. We truly have some inspirational leaders in our midst. We also have some exciting challenges ahead of us this year.

That's where you come in. If you have ever had an interest in getting involved with the church, now is the time to do something about it. Maybe you already have a personal interest to champion. Perhaps you have a particular skill set or talent to share. Or you wish to develop new skills. Or, maybe you are new to the church and want to meet others with shared interests. Perhaps you are looking for a non-financial way to contribute. You may even be thirsting for the opportunity to heighten your own spiritual development. Or perhaps you are just tired of how things have been in the past, and want to inject some fresh ideas. Whatever your reason for wanting to get involved, I urge you to find a committee (or several) that will benefit from your involvement, then get to work. Who knows, you may even deepen your connections to other members of the congregation, the community at large, or even your own spiritual understanding in the process.

Tom Thielen

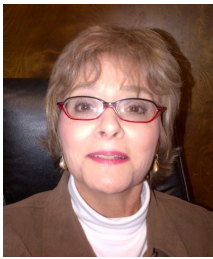
President, Board of Trustees, UUCG

Funraising

We're starting off our Funraising Year with our Semi-Annual Car Wash. After the success this Spring, we're again combining it with a yard sale. We'll need lots of helpers on September 22 to clean cars and sell items. We'll also need helpers a day or 2 before to help with organizing and pricing items for sale. Contact Feryl at oferyl@gmail.com to help out. Pickup of items to sell will be available.

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



A year ago, an element was added to the Sunday order of service that was called “Candles of Community”. Anyone attending a worship service who feels so moved is invited to come forward and silently light a candle. There have often been 10-15 persons who come forward. With the warmer weather, the ritual has changed to one of placing a rock, a seashell or a glass pebble in a bowl of water. I stand, or a member of the Caring Committee stands close by to silently witness to and acknowledge the concerns or joys that are brought forward. As the season changes to cooler weather again, we will return to the lighting of candles. I have heard from a number of members, friends and visitors who appreciate this centering element of our service, whether they come forward or not. Sometimes, this element is preceded or followed by prayer or silent meditation. Sometimes, I have told of a caring concern that I believe the entire gathering would want to know about.

The Caring Committee which consists of Ruth Abramson, Tammy Atchison, Gladie Hamilton, Dorothea Handron, Claudia Sundman, and I, would like to make this verbal sharing of a joys or a concern that the entire gathering might want to know about a more frequent part of the service. So, if you have something that fits what you might light a candle for, or put a rock in the water about, that you would like for me to share please tell me by sending an e-mail to minister@uugreenvillenc.org? Or, if you prefer, write it down and put in the Care Concern box that you will now find under the large bulletin board. Or, just hand me a written note before the service begins. I promise I will use discretion as far as respecting your privacy as well as respecting how this piece of our worship service has become central to our being in caring community together.

Rev. Ann Marie

Social Action

Shelter Action Report:

The Social Action Committee, Shelter Group recognizes Ruth Abramson, Ray Sobel, and Pat Tesh (co-chair) for their continued involvement at the shelter. Each of them volunteers 2 nights each month. We welcome additional people from the congregation to join us. We are particularly interested in finding somebody to join Ray and Ruth on their nights. Please contact Pat Tesh or Pat Dix if interested. We have changed our meeting day to the 4th Sunday, 12:00-1:00 after the service.

Pat Dix, Co-Chair, UUCG Social Action Committee

Staff

Minister: Rev. Ann Marie Alderman
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Board of Trustees

President: [Tom Thielen](#)
Vice President: [Susan Foreman](#)
Secretary: [Tammy Atchison](#)
Treasurer: [Brenda Stewart](#)
At-Large: Shannon Terry
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At-Large: [Patrice Alexander](#)

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: [Terry Shank](#)
Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)
Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)
Endowment: [Bill Paulson](#)
Fellowship : Cam Scales
Finance: [Bill Paulson](#)
Fundraising: [Feryl Masters](#)
Hospitality: [Louise Sharpless](#), [Judy Drum](#) & [Ann Eleanor](#)
Membership: [Bud](#) & [Phyllis Hazel](#)
Youth Religious Education: [Jennifer Thielen](#)
Stewardship: [Patrice Alexander](#)
Social Action: [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)
Worship: [Lynn Caverly](#) & [Paul Kumas](#)

~ August 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	2	3 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	4
5 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Rabbi Luna 12p-1p Lunch Group	6	7 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	8 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	9	10	11
12 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Mindful of ? Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	13 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	14 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	15 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	16	17 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	18
19 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Do Something, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	20 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave	21 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7p-9p Coffee Party meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	22 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave 7p-8p Choir Practice	23 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave	24 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave	25 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
26 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Stephen Brand leading a Musical Service 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group meeting	27 Rev. Ann Marie on Study Leave	28 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	29 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	30	31 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

Many people take for granted that their children will go to class when the family heads off to church on Sunday morning. They may take for granted there will be someone waiting to teach their children about their chosen faith. Of course, most people head to a church that embraces only one faith or spiritual tradition, and many congregations are larger than ours. The task of teaching religious education becomes a bit more complicated when teaching children from a variety of spiritual backgrounds within a smaller congregation. At any given time we, as Unitarian Universalists, may have children coming from Abrahamic faiths, pagan paths, eastern traditions or humanist/atheist backgrounds. Our differences offer us a unique opportunity to explore all these paths together while focusing on the common values.

The Youth Religious Education program at UUCG is as good as it is because the members of UUCG have made it a priority. We have decided to allocate space for these classes, as well as funds for supplies as well as for a paid Director of Religious Education. Of course, anyone who has ever worked with a religious education program knows creating such a program takes more than just space and funds. It takes involvement from the congregation. Our program has supportive parents and volunteers who have helped foster its growth. It is our volunteers that make Sunday morning classes possible, and we have some individuals who have been quite dedicated. In order to continue to offer inclusive programs, we need continued support from the parents and non-parents in our congregation. One of the best ways to support Youth Religious Education at UUCG is by volunteering your time. We have opportunities for nursery helpers and lead teachers as well as for second adults who lend an extra set of hands. Chances are, if you have an interest in helping guide the youth of UUCG on their spiritual journeys, there is some way in which you can help. Please contact me or Kimberly Scholl for more information.

Jennifer Thielen, Chair, YRE Committee

Happy Birthday to UUs this August

- Aug 5 – Jackie Wyman
- Aug 8– Bruce Berberich
- Aug 18– Guillermo Hidalgo
- Aug 22 –Brenda Stewart
- Aug 24- Patrice Alexander
- Aug 25– Amy Jones
- Aug 28– Ron Moye
- Aug 29– Victoria Brown



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

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