



The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org



President's Notes

[As I am vacationing with my family at the time of this deadline, I offer last year's president's notes, with a few edits, and the promise of an original piece next month. I hope all are enjoying the summer. -TET].

Developmental Minister Search

The DMTF - Developmental Minister Task Force has met twice with a third meeting scheduled for July 30. The purpose of DMTF is to define the KSA's (knowledge, skills, abilities) UUCG needs in a developmental minister to move the congregation forward while retaining our basic identity and philosophy.

A series of 5 Cottage Meetings are scheduled and will be announced to the congregation beginning July 21st. Each congregant is encouraged to sign up for one (1) of the Meetings to socialize with other members but more importantly to express their opinions and desires for UUCG's forward path.

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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, with the first Program Council meeting of the year later this month, I am excited about our congregation's potential. Led by our Board VP, Shannon Terry, the meeting will be attended by the chairs and co-chairs of each congregational committee, as well as several board members, and our minister, if possible. Each leader will take turns discussing how their committee fits into overall congregational life, and provide 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.

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Worship Services

August 4 **“Inspired by Art” Led by Ray Sobel**

We will wrap up our summer series by hearing from the artists in our midst and how art inspires their lives. Join your fellow UUCG members and friends to be inspired.

August 11 **“When the Pupil is Ready the Teacher Will Come”
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

I first heard this ancient Oriental saying many years ago and have struggled with it from time to time ever since. I don't want to imply that I am “The Teacher,” still there may be something for all of us to learn in this idea. See you in church.

August 18 **“The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person”
Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This is the first of the promised services focusing on our Unitarian Universalist Principles. As members of a congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association we are called to “affirm and promote” these principles. What does that mean? How difficult can that be? I'll share my thoughts and listen to yours. See you in church.

August 25 **“Pushed and Called”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

When I first heard these two words used together as a sermon title I was so intrigued, that I just had to borrow them as a title for my sermon that looks at how people interact, one on one; how people work within a congregation; how people reach out beyond their congregation; and how congregations make decisions about growth, governance, and everything else. I look forward to sharing these images with you. See you in church.

Surrounded by Art

Our Surround Gallery is featuring an exhibit of art from the collections of members and friends of the congregation. Please stop to enjoy the display which will be up through the month of August. A warm “thank you” to the art lovers for sharing their interesting possessions.

Staff

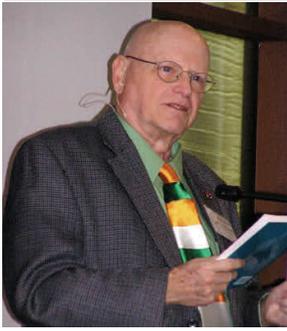
Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Board of Trustees

President: [Tom Thielen](#)
Vice President: [Shannon Terry](#)
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Communication: [Rich Elkins](#)
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Youth Religious Education: [Jennifer Thielen](#)
Stewardship: [Patrice Alexander](#)
Social Action: [Pat Tesh](#) & [Pat Dix](#)
Worship: [Michael Betteken](#) & [Michelle Covi](#)



Rod's Ruminations

As we begin this year of interim ministry together, I want to again tell you how pleased Mary and I are to be with you for this coming year. August is going to be an exciting month in the life of the congregation. In addition to the inspiring 10:30 services that the Worship committee and I will be offering, Hogwarts will be finishing, and plans for applying for a Developmental Ministry will be laid out for you. The 1st day of September will be our Ingathering - intergenerational mingling of the waters service. **If you wish, don't forget to bring to that service the water sample you gathered from your summer.** 2013-14 is going to be an exciting and productive year for all of us. See you soon!

Prez notes continued.....

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
UUCG Board of Trustees

Minimum Wage Statement

(from the UU Service Committee, www.uusc.org)

UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, and UUSC President, Rev. Bill Schulz, are asking UUs to sign the Minimum Wage Statement. Millions of low-wage workers in our country work hard day in and day out and still can't afford life's basic necessities. It is time to ask that everyone share in corporate success, not just a handful of executives. As people of faith, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and raising the minimum wage is vital in ensuring that dignity. This is more than a political issue — it is a moral imperative. Find out more at http://actnow.uusc.org/site/PageNavigator/UUA_UUSC_Minimum_Wage_Statement.html

Religious Education

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

We're enjoying our summer classes from a "magical" point of view with our UU Hogwarts Academy. Who wouldn't enjoy a Care of Magical Creatures class about snakes, or a Potions class where you get to make pudding? Some of our upcoming lessons are going to include Muggle Studies and learning about Merpeople. We'll wrap up our summer by transforming the large RE room into Hogsmead, where the children can "shop" for goodies and treats, on August 25th.

We're still having fun with our summer classes, but there is plenty going on behind the scenes to get ready for our classes this fall. We're tasked with choosing Religious Education curricula that are appropriate and engaging for the children in our congregation. In order to do that well, we need to know which children will be attending, and what their needs are. To that end, I would like to thank the parents who have already filled out RE registration forms. If you have children who are planning on attending RE classes this fall and have not yet filled out a registration form, please contact me or our Director of Religious Education, Kimberly Scholl, and we'll make sure you get a copy of the necessary forms.

Jennifer Thielen,
Chair, YRE Committee

Developmental Ministerial Search cont.

Each member is encouraged to sign up and attend one of the Cottage Meetings to ensure that the broadest base of opinions/wishes is captured by DMTF. This will enable us to be more precise in our communications with UUA to identify a developmental minister.

Thank you in advance for your participation.
Signed – DMTF (Cam, Brenda, Ruel, Teresa, Ann)

**Affirming the right of conscience
and the use of the
democratic process within our con-
gregation and in society at large**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				6 pm Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	1pm: UU Women's Lunch	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Art Inspires Me 12 pm Lunch Group		8am: Breakfast Group 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 7 pm: Board of Trustees		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: When the Pupil is Ready the Teacher Will Come 12 pm Lunch Group	5:30 Worship Committee Meeting	8am: Breakfast Group 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice		1pm: UU Women's Lunch Tentative Board Retreat	Tentative Leadership Retreat
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Person 12 pm Lunch Group 5 pm Vegetarians in Pitt County		8am: Breakfast Group 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice			8:30 am: First Born Food Pantry
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Pushed and Called 12 pm Lunch Group 12pm- Shelter Action Group Meeting	7 pm: Book Club	8am: Breakfast Group 4pm: Caring Committee 6pm Democracy Now 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice		1pm: UU Women's Lunch	

Social Action Committee Report

The “ ½ the Plate” Report. Every Sunday 1/2 of the money placed in the offering baskets, excluding pledge payments was donated to non-profit organizations doing work in line with our principles. Thank you for your generosity.

- January- Cancer Support Community \$215.40
- February-Neighbor to Neighbor fuel assistance program \$240.43
- March- Food Bank of NC, Greenville \$340.31
- April- Joy Soup Kitchen \$230.90
- May- Greenville Community Shelter \$141.93
- June- First Born Food Pantry \$253.00

Happy Birthday to UUs this August

- Aug. 2– Marcus Bailey
- Aug. 5– Jackie Wyman
- Aug. 8– Bruce Berberich
- Aug. 18– Guillermo Hildago
- Aug. 19– Jake Mehnyk
- Aug. 22– Brenda Stewart
- Aug. 24– Patirce Alexander
- Aug. 28– Ron Moye
- Aug. 29– Victoria Brown

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all



Deadline for next month’s **Beacon** is Tuesday, August 20 at 8:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation of Greenville
 131 Oakmont Drive
 Greenville, NC 27858
 252-355-6658

