



The UUCG beacon

September 2005

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
beacon Editor: Don English
Email: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

September 4
Peak Experiences
Carroll Webber

September 11
Leading & Following
Rev. Karen Day

September 18
*Universalism: Then &
Now*
Rev. Karen Day

September 25
*Autumn Season of
Transformation- Equinox
Celebration*
Worship Committee

Children's nursery and
religious education are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

This month, we received sad news. Karen will be leaving us in November. During the last 4 years, we've ordained Karen and helped her through the Fellowship process. Karen has helped us grow, comforted us when we needed it, and been our spiritual leader. We have provided support to Karen as she increased our involvement and visibility in the larger community. Karen has become an integral part of our Congregation, developing bonds of love and respect with all of us.

Parting is always painful, but parting is part of life. Work or family can require moving away. Death is a particularly painful separation. As a parent, watching a child leave home gives a mixture of pride and sorrow. As a youth, I remember fear and excitement also being part of that leaving. As Karen leaves us, pain and sorrow is present, but also pride at what we've accomplished, and a touch of fear for the future. During the next few months, we will have a chance to share with Karen what her time with us has meant to us. We will also be searching for both an interim and "permanent" replacement for Karen. In truth, no one can take Karen's place. I'm confident, though, that we will find someone who will help us go forward and continue to grow.

We will miss Karen and McCabe. I think Karen and McCabe will miss us. We wish Karen could stay with us forever, but life is not static. Change is the only universal constant. We wish Karen and McCabe the best as they follow their path through life. We will miss their contribution to our Congregation, but we can be grateful for what we've shared over the last 4 years. Parting is painful, but it is part of living. Our Congregation and Karen and McCabe will continue to live and grow, just not together.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

Reflections . . . of Rev. Karen Day

When I returned from my vacation I found a wonderful surprise. Someone had left a clock with a picture of a smiling cowgirl speeding along on a sturdy brown horse with her hat lifted and hair flying. The words stated: Wild West, daring and beautiful cowgirls! This person heard me mention the cowgirl museum I'd visited in Fort Worth and anonymously left their gift for me, thank you so much.

You have received the letter I wrote informing you of my resignation and some of you have asked, "If we had done something differently, something more, would you have stayed?" You have given me so much --- encouragement, support, confidences, questions. I could ask for nothing more from any of you. This decision was made based on what was calling me forward, not what was lacking here. While this congregation is rich with people I love and challenges that stretch me, our Virginia cabin is calling me to slow down and get back to the "streets," to community service.

While we have shared many gifts over the past four years, I'd like you to consider now what gifts you will offer to the congregation. This

sturdy body has thrived for over fifty years because so many people give so much, I trust you will continue. But maybe you haven't been called forth yet, maybe you have a secret talent or desire that is just waiting to burst out. Are you good at pulling weeds, tending finances, asking for money, greeting and caring for visitors? Now is the time to share that hidden talent and to let it blossom in the rich soil of this congregation. The amazing thing that I often hear you say is, when I give something I have fun, or I learn something, or I get to know someone interesting. When we build the community by giving we also enrich our own lives by receiving. It may be a cliché, but if it's one you haven't yet experienced here, now's the time to give it a try.

Until our Thanksgiving Bread Ceremony we will still be working together. I hope you will take this time to meet with me and let me know what is in your hearts, what is calling to you. I hope I can still serve you with a listening ear, or a new perspective. I hope we can say personal goodbyes so when the time comes to let go, we will let go.

--- Blessed be, Karen

Fellowship and Open Doors

I am so thankful I'm a member of this Unitarian Congregation. On Sundays, many fascinating, caring, wonderful people come together in fellowship. Our congregation is like a patchwork of unique threads strongly woven into a beautiful quilt that changes with time, but is always present.

Members of the caring and membership committee discussed how we can strengthen that quilt with ongoing and new initiatives. We will continue past efforts, such as the visitor log, notes to visitors, caring calls and notes to members, New Member ceremonies, Newcomer Orientation.

We challenge ourselves and all of you to take a leap next Sunday and talk with someone you don't know very well during refreshment time; the joy of strengthening our fellowship and providing open doors is yours for the taking.

Come talk with us! Sue Daughtry, Caring; Kendall Garing and Ruel Tyer, Membership.

- Kendall Garing



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare

. . . by Karen Day

Worship Services for September

September 4 *Peak Experiences* -- Carroll Webber.

I'll tell mine, and invite you to tell yours!

September 11 *Leading and Following* -- **Rev. Karen Day**

Our annual Leadership Retreat will be held on Sept. 9-10. Today we'll reflect on how Unitarian Universalists can lead and follow.

September 18 *Universalism-Then and Now* -- **Rev. Karen Day**

What lessons does Universalism hold for us today? Can we revitalize our Universalist roots in our lives together?

September 25 *Autumn-Season of Transformation-Equinox Celebration* -- **Roger Robbins & Others**

The turning of the season allows us this opportunity to consider the cycle of transformation in our own lives. We'll use story, chant and silence to mark this passage.

Earth-Based Covenant Group

Earth Based Spirituality Covenant Group
Facilitator: Fran Roebuck contact: farn75@gmail.com The first official meeting of the new covenant group season will be on Sunday, September 11th, at 7:00 PM in the small RE room at UUCG. Old and new members are welcome!

--Fran Roebuck

Report Of UUCG Board Meeting 8/15/05

The Board invited several members of the Congregation to its August Board meeting to discuss concerns raised in a letter they sent to the Board. Additional members attended and were included in the discussion. All attendees were asked to list concerns they wanted the Board to address.

First, the group expressed its appreciation for the work the Board and other volunteer leaders have done. They also discussed concerns for how decisions/progress/information was shared with the congregation and concerns for the retention of an RE staff person.

During the discussion, several members of the group expressed how they had been hurt with conflict that had come about through in-direct communication during the last year. They discussed the importance for members to be willing to discuss concerns openly and directly with one another. Members of the meeting agreed they want to move forward and expressed the need for each person to take responsibility for healing the hurts and working towards harmony in the church body.

Other issues discussed were:

- 1) There are concerns about the means of communication.
- 2) We need to communicate conflicts early. We need to find a respectful forum for communication. A monthly town hall style meeting will be considered.
- 3) Members are encouraged to inform the board of their concerns.
- 4) Specific actions to be taken are: Feryl Masters will contact previous RE leaders to get suggestions for improving the RE program and the RE Chair position. Rich Elkins will post the Board and Committee Structure on the bulletin Board Committee chairs will be asked to submit a monthly article to "the beacon" Committee meeting dates, times, and locations will be announced. The Board will ask for Congregational input on the current governing structure. A discussion will be set up on how to deal with conflicts.

--Feryl Masters

News, Notes and Other Stuff

Hospitality Committee

Your Hospitality Committee members include Kay Alston, Gail Butler, Tracy Donohue, Marcia Sobel, Carole Weil with Janet Doig as Chair. We plan to have Dinner and a Movie at the Congregation in October. Please call me if you have a good film to suggest.

Thanks to all who have brought in refreshments. Due to our interest in AVOIDING OBESITY and because many eat lunch out on Sundays, we plan to try COOKIES and FRUIT for one more month. The following have signed up for September.

Sept 4th-COOKIES, Ruel Tyer, Lora Hylton

Sept. 11th-FRUIT, Jeanne Stone, Marcia & Ray Sobel

Sept. 18th-COOKIES, Sue Daughtry, Alice Arnold

Sept. 25th-FRUIT, Randi Finley, Terry Shank
--Janet Doig

Assist Larry Spell

Larry Spell is running for City Council, in District 3. If anyone would like to assist in his campaign in any way, whether with a yard sign, to volunteer time or with a contribution, they can contact Alice Arnold at 328-6475, or Larry Spell at 321-3847. Any assistance is greatly appreciate.

--Alice Arnold

First Born

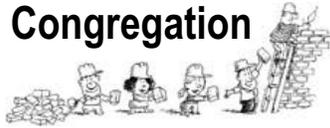
Sat. Sept. 24 is our day to volunteer at First Born this month. Anyone who wants to volunteer is welcome. You can pack boxes, carry boxes, or help fill out forms at the front desk. Arrive at First Born between 9:00-10:00 on Sat. morning. The Food distribution goes from 10:00 - 12:00. To get to First Born Church from Greenville: Take Rt. 33 East to Grimesland. In Grimesland, turn right on Chicod Street. Go around a mile. First Born is on the right hand side of the road.

Many thanks to the following people who have volunteered over the past few months: Rick Becker, Ed Bielecki, Skeeter Boyd, Toni Britt, Feryl, Luca & Michiah Masters, Karen Day, Rich Elkins, Sylvia English, Hank and Helen Foster, Bob Franke, Aaron & Rebekah Gade and their friend Megan, Kendall Garing, Karen Hall, Ruth Leggett, Hank Obremski, Michelle Probolus, & Roger Robbins. (If I've missed someone, please forgive me.) I told First Born to expect at least 8 people from our church every 4th Saturday. So far, we have always had 8 or more people come out to help. Thank you for your service.

If you have any questions re: First Born, feel free to call me.

--Tracy Donohue
First Born Coordinator (758-0693)

The Work of the Congregation



From the Worship Committee

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will be September 5th at 7 PM. We will be planning the worship schedule for the remainder of the year. During this transition time we will be needing all the help we can to keep our services going in the direction they have been.

We have completed our first year of seasonal celebrations and will be starting the cycle again on Sept. 25th as we celebrate the Autumnal Equinox and enter the Season of Transformation. Anyone who would like to participate or has ideas for this service please let me know. We particularly need people with either folktales about transformation or personal stories about a transforming experience in your life.

--Roger Robbins

Board Tid-Bits

At the August 22nd meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Trustees officially accepted, with deep regret, Karen's resignation. There will be a Congregational Meeting on 10/2/05 to elect a search committee to find a replacement for Karen. The Board will submit a slate of candidates who reflect the diversity of our Congregation. Brenda Stewart, Sue Farris, (and another Congregation member yet to be named) were appointed as the search committee for an interim minister. The Board will contact someone at UUA for advice about how to further deal with disruptive behavior in our congregation. The Trustees reviewed four applications for the Director of Religious Education position. Interviews will be conducted within the next two weeks by Toni Britt, Rich Elkins, two RE representatives, and Karen.

---Jackie Wyman

Social Action

The Social Action committee is seeking at least 10 volunteers for a Habitat for Humanity work day on Sept 10th. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

--Joan Sachtjen

Kids' Religious Education Plans

This Fall, the teens will continue to explore other religions, as they step back into the Neighboring Faiths curriculum and learn about other faiths. Our "tween" group will start with *In Our Hands: A Peace and Social Justice Program* where they will learn to treat people and the earth with respect.

September 4

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Valuing Self and Others" - Marli Baker, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, "What is Religious?" - Richard Weir, Teacher

September 11

Tweens

In Our Hands, "From Being Affirmed to Self Affirmation" - Fran Roebuck, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, Exploring Faiths - Richard Weir, Teacher

September 18

Yoga for All Ages - Don English, Teacher

September 25

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Fair and Unfair Experiences" - Fran Roebuck, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, Exploring Protestant Christianity - Richard Weir, Teacher

--Shareen Berkowitz

On a Personal Note . . .

Robert Schwemley played in a soccer game for players over 70. I can't remember who came out ahead, but the significant thing is playing after 70, right? Soccer is a really aerobic activity.

Fred Becker will be 93 by the time you read this. Happy birthday to him and to all the others who had birthdays this last month.

Sue Daughtry's mother was recognized as a legend in education. Congratulations to her and to her daughter.

Chester Freeman, after situating his parents happily here, is moving back to New York. He said his goodbyes August 14th.

Several UUCG members attended an interfaith service on August 9th at the Methodist Student Center, on the 60th anniversary of the dropping of atomic bombs on Japan

Kendall Garing and **Roger Robbins** are now husband and wife after a beautiful lakeside ceremony August 6th in River Park North. Lots of children and not so wild life (geese).

Treasurer **Brenda Stewart's** son Robert is off to St. John's College in Annapolis. Brenda's birthday was the 22nd, so the board started their meeting on the 22nd with vanilla ice cream and chocolate cake.

Mort Stine's mother in Texas died. And last month **Todd Finley's** father in Seattle died.

Bee Behr was in Bermuda for a family gathering, leaving in time to avoid a threatening hurricane.

How good it was to see **Sienie Postma** back August 21st!

Terry Shank's son Mark is now D.Ed. from NC State. He's president of Encore Communication near Raleigh and an international speaker focusing on communication, motivation, and work-balance skills.

Terry Shank, Carroll Webber, and Cindy Fanning joined a group of Democrats giving input to the state party platform. **Carroll, Pat Gade, Alice Arnold, and Lora Hylton** met to help **Ray Sobel** write a letter to draw interfaith support of Republican Rep. Walter Jones, Jr.'s resolution asking the start of phased withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq.

Leadership Retreat

On Friday evening, Sept. 9 the Board will gather for supper at Karen and McCabe's house to begin our annual Leadership Retreat. Saturday at the Congregation, the Board and Committee Chairs are invited to plan our goals for the year and getting to know each other better. This important work will be guided by district consultant, Rev. Ed Piper.

--Karen Day

Interfaith Gathering

Interfaith Alliance will hold Prayers for Peace on Monday Sept. 26 at 7pm in our congregation. Everyone is invited to attend this gathering of people of all faiths and bring a prayer or reading that reflects your tradition's search for peace..

JOY-If you want to share the joy by helping to serve sandwiches for the JOY Soup Kitchen on Wednesday, September 28 from 10:00 to noon, let Karen know.

--Karen Day



THE MONTH in PREVIEW

Children & Youth RE in Review

Church Calendar for September

- 4 10:30 *Peak Experiences* -- Carroll Webber
- 4 7:00 RE Committee Meeting
- 5 7:00 Worship Committee
- 7 6:00 Eat Out at O'Charley's
- 6 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 9 6:00 to 9:00 Leadership Retreat -- Board
- 10 9:00 Building Clean up & Beautification
- 10 9:00 to 4:00 Leadership Retreat -- Board & Chairs
- 10 9:00 to 1:00 Habitat Work Day
- 11 10:30 *Leading & Following* -- Rev. Karen Day
- 11 12:00 Sacred Text Covenant group
- 11 7:00 Earth-Based Covenant (small RE)
- 11 7:00 Meditation Covenant group
- 13 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 14 6:00 Eat Out at Mi Cabana
- 18 10:30 *Universalism Then & Now* -- Rev. Karen Day
- 19 7:30 Board Meeting
- 20 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 21 6:00 Eat Out at former Thai Spoon
- 22 7:00 Covenant Group Facilitators
- 24 9:00 First Born
- 25 10:30 *Autumn; Season of Transformation* -- Equinox Celebration
- 26 7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace
- 27 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 28 6:00 Eat Out at Red Lobster
- 28 10:00 to 12:00 -- JOY Soup Kitchen

The Religious Education program had a wonderful summer. Our teens worked diligently on their Mobile Mural project, a youth painting representing the principles of Unitarian Universalism. Our "tween" group engaged themselves in The Kids' Book of Awesome Stuff that represents the UU Seventh Principle which reminds us to "respect the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part."

On July 27, our teens made sandwiches for those in need at the Joy Soup Kitchen. On August 21, they put together a special presentation for a fundraiser to help the children of Cape Verde attend high school.

Thank you to all teens and their parents for their help and making both of these projects possible!

-- Shareen Berkowitz

Sacred Text Covenant Group

The Sacred Text Covenant Group will have an organizational meeting to discuss meeting times and to see what the interests of the group are on the 11th of September immediately after church.

For more information please contact Richard Weir by email or phone at Weir0376@yahoo.com or 902-9347.

--Richard Weir

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, Sept 20th

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Sept 7 -- **O'Charley's** -- 610 SE Greenville Blvd -- 756-8570
Sept 14 -- **Mi Cabana** -- 333 E. Arlington Blvd -- 931-9555
Sept 21 -- **Ros Thai** -- 3400 S. Memorial Drive -- 754-2244
Sept 28 -- **Red Lobster** -- 3501 S. Memorial Drive 756-4000

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day (355-0652) 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. Karen Day, 355-6658
President, Feryl Masters, 975-2020
Vice President, Rich Elkins, 258-0233
Secretary, Jackie Wyman, 439-8581
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart, 746-4714

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lisa Brenner, 329-8130
Committee on Ministry: To Be Announced
Communications: Don English, 756-7010
Finance: Mark Barnes, 321-2605
Hospitality: Janet Doig, 355-1822
Membership: Kendall Garing, 752-2133
Religious Education: Shareen Berkowitz, 355-3121
Social Action: Joan Sachtjen, 353-5447
Worship: Roger Robbins, 551-9072

