



The UUCG beacon

SEPTEMBER 2006

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

September 3

English Breakfast

Pot-Luck

September 10

Homecoming & Water

Ceremony

Rev Frieda Gillespe

September 17

Regular Service

Rev Frieda Gillespe

September 24

Regular Service

Rev Frieda Gillespe

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Our Interim Minister

Frieda Gillespie will be arriving in September to begin a year as our interim minister. While none of us have yet met her in person, all of us who have spoken with her by phone have been impressed, and eagerly await her arrival. I know I'm not the only one who feels a sense of relief at once again having a minister. Ed Day has done a great job of keeping our services varied and interesting. He deserves all our gratitude for that. However, it was understood from the beginning that he would not be fulfilling all the duties of a regular minister, and I for one, have felt the lack.

Frieda will be with us full time (normally 3 Sundays a month) and will be fulfilling all the duties of a minister. It should be understood, however, that an interim ministry is very different from a settled ministry. One of Frieda's major tasks will be to prepare us for our settled minister. This involves a number of activities which will be challenging, and sometimes uncomfortable.

She will of course, help us heal any hurts from Karen's departure. Counseling and consoling members after a loss is part of normal pastoral care. She will also be helping us to explore who we are and who we want to become. At times this may not be pleasant. We need to recognize and accept the parts of our selves and our Congregation that we prefer to ignore. We may be wonderful, but we are not perfect. Ignoring and hiding our imperfections will result in a flawed search process. I know we don't all agree completely on what we want to become, and the best way to get there. We don't have to (and shouldn't) all agree completely, but we have to find a path that we can all accept and support. Sometimes, Congregations cannot manage this, and members leave. I don't foresee that happening with us. There are many things we wish to accomplish; causes we want to add our strength to. We can't do everything we would like to. Some goals will have to be deferred or abandoned. I prefer to pursue more goals and stretch our resources. Others may prefer to be more realistic and focus our energies on fewer goals to be more certain we accomplish them.

Sometimes an interim minister feels a congregation has become too comfortable and settled. She may feel a need to "shake up" or perhaps wake up the congregation. A limited time span gives an interim minister more freedom to take unpopular steps. He can take the difficult and unpopular actions, so the congregation is forced to grow. We may have unhealthy habits we don't even realize we have. Changing those habits is never easy, and rarely popular.

I bring these issues up, not because I want to scare you, or worry you. It is important to recognize that an interim ministry is different from a settled ministry. A settled minister may do some of these same things, but usually less intensely. Most of our time with Frieda will be joyful and stimulating. We will emerge from this a stronger and more aware congregation. It may not always be pleasant, but then most worthwhile things aren't. And, I find that crossing the finish line – achieving a goal – is much more satisfying when I know I have pushed myself and tested my limits.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Frieda Gillespie

Notes from the Interim

“They say that time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.”

--Andy Warhol

“... while we flatter ourselves that things remain the same, they are changing under our very eyes from year to year, from day to day.”

--Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Greetings to all of you at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville! I am so looking forward to meeting you all in person, hearing your stories and learning what this church means to you. I will be with you for only one year, shuttling back and forth from my home in Framingham, MA to Greenville each month. I hope to spend a lot of time with all of you during the days I am in Greenville and to hear from you when I am in Framingham writing sermons.

This is a time of transition for UUCG. I don't know about you, but I find transitions scary, as well as exciting. Every change brings some sorrow even as it brings new life.

There has been and continues to be much change in my life. Just in this past spring my mother died, my teenage daughter moved from living at home to living in a residential treatment center due to mental illness, I graduated from seminary, and I was ordained as Unitarian Universalist

minister. Even the sorrowful events brought joys in their wake: closer ties to my remaining family and seeing my daughter make progress in a structured setting. But there has been much sadness and difficult adjustments to make. To take this position as Interim Minister, I've had to give up the family dog to the Humane Society. I miss her. But I also look forward with great anticipation to the joy of doing ministry with you. I know the sorrows and joys that change brings to a life.

UUCG has been through quite a bit of change in the history of this church. And not too long ago, you said goodbye to a beloved minister, Karen Day. During this Interim year, you have the opportunity to frame the future of this church, to make needed changes and affirm the aspects of this community that make it unique, strong and growing.

The two quotes above seem paradoxical but we all know they are both true. Change happens all the time – there are so many things outside of our control. But intentional change doesn't happen with time, it must be given attention, thought, and heart. It must be spoken about, dreamed, envisioned and accomplished. What do you dream for your beloved community? What sorrows do you hold from the past that need healing? We will talk about these things and much more this year.

See you in church!

Frieda

On a Personal Note . . .

Tracy Donohue announced that, because of a lack of United Way funding, our Saturdays at First Born have ended.

Bill Baker expressed concern about the dangerous situation in the Middle East. What we need is PEACE!

Bruce Berberich also expressed concern about the lack of peace in the world.

Ken Hilton's family is not going to have their reunion on our coast this year, but they let us know that they are thinking of us. Ken's special friend, Pecolia, recently had hip surgery and is in rehab.

Rich Elkins has a new niece named Alexandria Blair.

Bruce Berberich got a new cardiac pacemaker, and was happy to report no adverse effects to being off of his coumadin for a while.

Katherine Jones has returned from an in depth language trip to Costa Rico. It sure has been nice to have Katherine back at church more often.

We were recently visited by Tracy Donohue's niece, Zoie, who had been to camp at The Mountain with Eli. It sounds like they had a lot of fun.

Brenda Stewart went to Colorado to take part in a joyous family celebration of her step-father's 90th birthday. Now she's celebrating her birthday with the return of her son to college.

Jan Salstrom found her best friend from high school, and they will travel to their reunion together.

Sondra Haynes is happy to be back amongst us again, and we're happy to have her back. Let's hope she can be free of problems for a long, long time!

Sue Daughtry is worried about her mother, who wants to go home from the nursing home, but no one thinks she can take care of herself.

Fred Becker is now 94 years old and his doctors can't find anything wrong with him no matter how hard they try.

Ray Sobel had two paintings accepted into the juried art show at the Greenville Museum of Art.

Carol Maxwell expressed joy that her close friend has reached the light at the end of a long dark tunnel.

Hank and Lorraine Obremski are mourning the loss of a former UU friend.

Kim Smith has serious illnesses in her extended family. She has one aunt who had a stroke, and another aunt who has lung cancer.

Jean Thatcher's 17 year old cat, Stinky, was put to sleep recently. She and her husband replaced Stinky with a Russian hamster named Yuri Zhivago.

Fred Becker's daughter, Dusty, is coming for a visit, but Fred is confused about the date. Or maybe it's Dusty who is confused!

Michael Tahaney has moved into his newly built house and is joyous that all he has to be concerned about is whether his refrigerator will arrive on time.

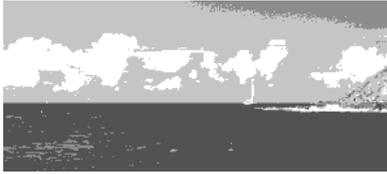
Lilani Masters has completed drivers' education! She will be getting her driving permit very soon. The family went to Baltimore for Feryl's mother's birthday. And...Miciah is going to Germany for a year.

Susan Foreman, Dicky, and Patrick were all supposed to go Colorado for a vacation. Dicky backed out because of work, Richard wouldn't take his place, so Susan and Patrick had a wonderful mother and son time hiking many miles and talking.

Janet Doig's granddaughter, Melissa, was married recently in Wilmington to a Korean dentist. All of Janet's children attended the traditional Korean wedding. Janet says it was wonderful.

Governor Easley appointed Patrice Alexander (M.A., ECU; Ph.D., NCSU) to the Board of Employee Assistance Professionals. The five-member board prescribes curricula and standards for training and licensing of EAPs.

Carroll Webber camped for a July week in Sequoia, Yosemite, and the Mammoth Lakes backcountry. His Sequoia hiking partner was internet pioneer Harv Galic of Stanford. Other high points were realizing his lifelong dream of reaching high cirque Lake Ediza, seeing Devils Post-pile, and meeting his grandnephew-in-law-to-be in Nevada.



On The Horizon

Membership

Your membership committee is moving forward with the plans to begin "The Forum" September 17th at 09:30am before church services. Carol Maxwell at the last meeting suggested that we lead off with the first segment of the current PBS series on religion and spirituality. If you like taking part in discussing interesting subjects, look at coming to this new event at the church. We are also moving ahead with the "Movies and Finger Foods" addition to events at the church. We have asked Rich Elkins to help us with this.

We are excited that soon we will have an interim minister in place [September 5th] The membership committee asks that you participate in keeping our church financially healthy by pledging a tithe to the church. And the amount that is put in the collection plate every Sunday helps also. Thank you for aiding us in keeping our church healthy by tithing, and giving every Sunday.
--Rue Tyer

Happy Birthday to you

September Birthdays are
Happy Birthday dear,

Kay Alston	Sept. 2nd
Kristen Kenyon	Sept. 5th
Susan Boutilier	Sept. 13th
Randi Finley	Sept. 15th
Bob Franke	Sept. 17th
Marcia Sobel	Sept. 26th
Carroll Webber	Sept. 26th
Marli Baker	Sept. 27th

--Jackie Wyman

Homecoming

You are invited to come together to celebrate the UUCG Annual Homecoming on September 10th. This year will be a special gathering to welcome our interim minister, Frieda Gillespie, and to participate in the Water Ceremony Service. The Service will begin as usual at 10:30 and will conclude with a scrumptious pot luck buffet for which our congregation is famous. Please come be a part of the celebration!

--Membership Committee

Covenant Group Reorganization

The Earth Based Spirituality Covenant Group is starting up again. There will be a meeting on September 2nd at 7:00 pm at which time the group will begin a study of Shamanism (led by Marta Dominguez). Interested people are invited to attend.

--Jackie Wyman

Farmworker Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC)

The second of the three FLOC meetings was held at the church on the evening of August 6th. There was a large turnout again and much discussion took place among the farmworkers. Their next (and final) meeting will be at 4:00 on September 3rd. If you would like to help prepare a meal for about 50 migrant farmworkers on September 3rd, please let me know.

--Jackie Wyman

Getting to Know Our Members

Marli Baker was born in Baltimore, Maryland where her father worked for Bethlehem Steel as a manager. They lived in a typical company town complete with a company store, a little main street with soda fountain, etc. You just went to the store and bought what you wanted and they put it on your account. Many of the families were big Catholic ones, and they all played all over the neighborhood. If your mother wasn't there, somebody's mother was there to keep you on the straight and narrow or help you if you had a problem.

They lived near the ship yard so there were sometimes foreigners who came into the neighborhood and played soccer with them or just said hello. At night, Marli watched the molten steel pouring out of the blast furnaces into the train cars. In the winter, they had orange or black snow because of the emissions from the blast furnaces. When it rained really hard, there was an alley that would get flooded and the children would play in the water. Now you wonder what all might have been in that water, but then it was just fun! No worries, just happy times. Marli had two older brothers who were only a year apart and about 7-8 years older than she. She was spoiled rotten - being the youngest, and the only girl.

Her family traveled a lot. As a child, she went to every State in the United States at

least once except Alaska as well as to Canada, Mexico, Caribbean, Europe, and North Africa. Wow, what a lucky child.

Marli went to a Quaker school, Baltimore Friends, from 1st grade to 11th. It was in Baltimore (they lived in Sparrow Point), and her mother had to drive her children about 30 minutes every day to get there. The classes were small and individualized. Marli learned a lot about other cultures and religions as well as community service and political activism. It sounds like she was being taught to be a UU! After high school, Marli attended the University of Georgia, and enjoyed many of the pranks of the day (streaking?). One day the track team taped her up like a mummy and left her in the quad!

In adulthood, Marli has lived in Baltimore, Johnstown, PA, Bethlehem, PA, Atlanta, and now Greenville. She has worked as a translator, a night watchperson, credit analyst, secretary, paralegal, bus driver, and a teacher assistant. She has worked as a teacher assistant at South Greenville Elementary for the past 12 years. She and Bruce have been married for 28 years, and are the parents of Cameron (17) and Bradley (9). She is currently trying to get back into a slower life and out of over commitment and work, work, work. She vows to exercise more, Zen more, get back into art and gardening, and spend time enjoying friends and family. That sounds wonderful!

--Jackie Wyman



SEPTEMBER in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00 Earth Based Covenant Group
3 10:30 English Breakfast Potluck 4:00 FLOC	4	5 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	6 6:00 Eat Out @	7 5:00-7:00 Meet Frieda	8	9 9:00 Bldg Cleanup 4:00 Welcoming Frieda Picnic
10 10:30 Homecoming & water Ceremony 7:00 Meditation Group at GYC	11	12 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	13 6:00 Eat Out @	14	15	16
17 9:30 UU Forum 10:30 Regular Service, Rev Gillespie	18 7:30 Board Meeting	19 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	20 6:00 Eat Out @	21	22	23 9:00 First Born
24 10:30 Regular Service, Rev Gillespie 7:00 UU Book club	25 7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace	26 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	27 6:00 Eat Out @	28	29	30



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

The UUCG Forum

The first UUCG Forum will take place in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM on September 17th. The first topic of discussion will be Bill Moyer's "Faith and Reason" series. Members, friends, guests, and any other interested persons are invited to gather every Sunday morning at 9:30. Topics will vary according to the interests of the group, and the next topic will be decided at the end of the Forum each week. If you have a cup of coffee in your hand, bring it. If you have a bag of donuts--or grapes--in your hand, bring that. But no one is obligated to bring anything other than an inquiring mind, and a willingness to explore subjects of mutual interest in an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship.

--Carol Maxwell

Religious Education

The RE department is gearing up for a fun and educational year. We will go back to our regular schedule for the Tweens and the Teens on September 10. The Teens will continue their studies on our Neighboring Faiths. The Tweens will start a new curriculum dealing with nature. We plan on offering a Sunday School program for younger children in October. We would love to have people join us in our new program. If you are interested in helping out please contact Victoria at 252-747-7785.

Our weekend at Shelter Neck was canceled due to low registrations. We are looking into rescheduling the weekend for sometime in the fall. Please feel free to join the RE committee. We meet after church on the first Sunday of each month.

--Victoria Brown

Meet and Greet Frieda

Please come to the church between 5:00 and 7:00 on Thursday, September 7th to meet and greet our new interim minister. Hors d'oeuvres** will be served.

--the Board of Trustees

Picnic Dinner for Frieda

Saturday, September 9th, there will be a welcoming picnic dinner for Frieda at Bruce and Carol Maxwell's home. It will start at 4:00 and last until....

Come enjoy the celebration! RSVP to the church (355-6658), but come even if you forget to RSVP! Maps will be available.

--the Board of Trustees

Universalist Homeschooling

Have you heard about Unitarian Universalist Homeschooling? Are you a UU who homeschools your child? UCONCI (Universalist Convention of NC, Inc) is exploring a UU Homeschool Network. How would this help? It would network UU parents and children and provide opportunities to plan workshops, retreats, field-trips, perhaps graduations and much more. Please come to the organizational session at our Annual UCONCI Meeting at the Red Hill Church near Clinton, North Carolina on Saturday, October 21. Call Carol Simmons at 252-523-1374 or email csimmons@eastlink.net if you are interested in learning more and sharing ideas.

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, September 19

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



September 6 -- **Chili's Bar & Grill** -- 3050 S. Evans Street -- 355-7449
September 13 -- **China 10** -- 2516 E. 5th Street -- 830-2238
September 20 -- **Basil's** -- Firetower Rd near Carmike Cinema
September 27 -- **Staccato Cafe & Grille** -- 511-G Red Banks Rd -- 321-0064

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day 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 Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Sue Ferris
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman
Committee on Ministry: Sylvia English
Communications: Don English
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Ruel Tyer
Religious Education:
Social Action:
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

