



# The UUCG beacon

September 2007

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 2nd**

*Ingathering Water Ceremony*  
**Rev Ann Marie Alderman**

**September 9th**

**Easter Sunday**  
*When to Call the Minister*  
**Rev. Ann Marie Alderman**

**September 16th**

*Forgiveness without Forgetting*  
**Rev. Ann Marie Alderman**

**September 23rd**

*What is an Athiest?*  
**Worship Committee**

**September 30th**

*Exploring Our UUCG Mission*  
**Worship Committee**

Children's activities are available  
each Sunday.

## President's Notes:

### "Rock" Star

The saying goes "many hands make light work"... All the numerous volunteers (I won't try to name everyone for fear of leaving someone out) who responded to Toni's plea for help unloading Ann Marie and Karen's belongings from the moving trucks might take issue with the "light" part of that statement, but wouldn't argue that many helpers did make the task less arduous. Volunteering is something at which I think that we as UUs in Greenville are good. A call goes out. A need is met. "Service is (our) prayer."

I think that another advantage of having many hands to do the work is that as a group, we can accomplish bigger and better things. There is a saying or a parable that goes along with this concept, but the visual you are supposed to get is first that of a pebble dropped in a pond, making a small ripple. A larger rock or stone will make a bigger ripple. Likewise, if you throw a handful of pebbles and rocks into the pond, they spread out and make a bunch of disjointed ripples of different sizes. However, if you take a whole lot of pebbles and rocks, put them into a sack, and toss it in the pond; it makes a big splash! (*Disclaimer: I am not advocating throwing bags into ponds, even if they are biodegradable. It is for visualization purposes only!*)

I would like to see us make a big splash in our community. This takes not only the pebbles and rocks, but people willing to gather those pebbles and rocks into a sack. Those people are leaders in this church. These leaders are not necessarily elected to positions in the church that make them leaders, but nonetheless they are leaders.

In the past week, Toni Britt Tyer has twice been both a rock herself and a pebble-gatherer in my eyes. Toni has retired from the Board and holds no elected office, yet when I asked her to help us host the district's Small Congregations Board Retreat by handling the food, she took the task on graciously, not only as the rock that she is, but also by gathering other rocks and pebbles. She solicited volunteers to make and bring food, and others to help prepare and set out food. Not only was I impressed, but so were all the participants, including the District Executive who facilitated the retreat! Only two days later, Toni was back at the gathering of pebbles again, to get people to help with the unloading referenced above! This upcoming weekend, she will be at it again with volunteers for First Born Food Pantry.

I appreciate all the rocks and pebbles and gatherers we have in our congregation, named and unnamed, because there are so many. Let us be known by our works and make a big splash, because in this heat, the water really feels good!

# Reflections

Reflections . . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Composing this article, I am sitting on a canvas camp chair in my mostly empty new Greenville home. It has been 3 days since my partner, Karen, and I arrived with our 3 cats and 3 dogs, after a very long drive from Northern Pennsylvania. Most of our “stuff” has not yet arrived. I am hopeful that by the time you read this, our things will have gotten here, and I will have met most of you and we will be doing great things together. I have been mentally and spiritually ready since the candidating week late last spring!

Yet, I am quite aware that transitions take time, lots of time! For months now, each day has been full of what feels like many tiny (and often, exhausting) steps towards the future. I have had my fantasies about being instantly transported from “what

was” to “what will be”, and just skipping all the “what is” steps in between. But I am mature enough to know that life doesn’t work like that...(most of the time!) And, I am experienced enough to know that congregational life, especially, doesn’t work like that!

My hopes have been refined! I hope not just to be settled with things here and in place, but to be patient with and enjoy what is! It seems like a lesson in spiritual discipline to me!

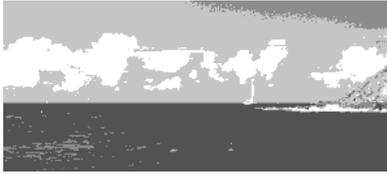
*Ann Marie*

Contacting Rev. Ann Marie Alderman:  
Cell phone: 607-725-0912, E-mail:  
[amalderman@uuma.org](mailto:amalderman@uuma.org). Office hours:  
Mon- Weds: 2 – 5 pm. Other times by  
appointment.

## Buildings & Grounds

I would like to thank all the members who worked with Terry Shank on repainting the inside of the sanctuary. It looks wonderful. The heat of this summer has made it very hard to keep the church at a comfortable level on hot Sundays That is something that will need addressing before we get into the next summer period. Building and Grounds needs volunteers to help with occasional cleaning inside of the church. If you can devote an hour once every week or even once every two weeks, let me know. Your time will be appreciated. We are looking at pouring a ramp at the front entrance to aid people with disabilities to enter the church. Let me know your input on that project. If anyone has an outside storage building that they want to donate to the church, let me know. We need more storage space for RE supplies and to help maintain Victoria's office with respect for her. Thank You,

--Ruel Tyer



# On The Horizon

---

## Universal Health Care

The Universal Health Care Task Force has not gone away, it has been tabled for the present but will be ready to take up the work again when enough members feel it is a relevant topic to pursue. It is still the number one domestic concern of voters when polls are reported.

The NYTimes recently gave it's editorial column over to health care entitling it "World's Best Medical Care?"

For those who haven't read it here are some of the highlights with my editing, additions, and comments.

Many Americans are under the delusion that we have the best health care system in the world, but the disturbing truth is that this country lags well behind other advanced nations in delivering timely and effective health care. Of 191 nations we rank 37th.

The US ranks dead last on all measures of equity, because we have the greatest disparity in the quality of care given to the richer and poorer citizens.

On infant mortality we rank last among 23 nations, our obesity epidemic is the worst in the world, but we out perform all other nations on reducing smoking.

Patient satisfaction places US 14th out of 17 countries. A third (30%) of our citizens call for a revamping of our health care system, while in Canada and Britain the negative feelings

are 13 and 14 percent.

On insurance coverage all other major industrialized nations provide Universal Health Care and most of them have comprehensive benefit packages with no cost-sharing by the patients. We, on the other hand, have millions without any insurance and millions with poor or inadequate coverage. The uninsured go to the ER when they are in advanced stages of illness and where the costs are the highest. And who pays for it? The taxpayers.

Access to care shows longer waits for specialists and elective surgery in other nations, but even Americans with above-average income find it more difficult than citizens in other nations to get care at night or weekends without going to the ER. And, many report having to wait six days or more for an appointment with their own doctor.

The Times ended the editorial with these words—The world's most powerful economy should be able to provide a health care system that really is the best.

Just an added note. Rep. Steve Kagen surprised congress when he declined their health insurance. I quote "Until every American has decent health care I won't take any for myself...I didn't run for congress to get health care benefits . I came to try to get health care for people back home in my district and across the rest of the country."

--Ray Sobel

# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS September

---

## Sunday Services Preview

**September 2nd – Annual Ingathering Water Ceremony --- Rev Ann Marie Alderman --** Bring a small container of water to share where you have been either physically or spiritually this summer, as we start a new congregational year together

**September 9th – When to Call the Minister – Rev. Ann Marie Alderman --**

**September 16th – Forgiveness without Forgetting – Rev. Ann Marie Alderman --**

**September 23rd-- What is an Athiest -- Worship Committee**

**September 30th -- Exploring our UUCG Mission -- Worship Committee --** On the back of the Order of Service every Sunday is printed the UUCG Mission Statement. How are we implementing our mission? We say we will seek out those who have been turned away, comfort the suffering, commit to a more just and compassionate society. What does that mean and with our busy lives, how what can we do to make a difference? This service will explore through small group sessions moderated by church members these statements and develop ideas to better implement our mission.

## Have A Favorite Movie?

Write up a short paragraph describing your favorite movie, submit it to the Beacon Editor at [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org) and we'll start a movie column, space permitting. Movies to be considered should be somewhat artistic, have a message, make you think. Tell us what it's about and why you like it.

--Beacon Editor

## Young Adult & Campus Ministry

UU YOUNG ADULT (20's and 30s group) UU CAMPUS MINISTRY POTLUCK PICNIC

WHEN: Sunday, SEPT. 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00

WHO: UU Young Adults (20's & 30's) and UU Students, Faculty and Staff at ECU or PCC

WHERE: Elm Street Park at Optimist Shelter #1 -It's the one on the Greenway by the Stream.

Kids are welcome. Soft Drinks will be supplied. Just bring something for the Potluck.

Don't forget your Frisbee!

--Tracy Donohue





# September in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						I
<p>2</p> <p><b>9:30 Forum</b>  <b>10:30 Water Ceremony</b>  <b>7:00 Meditation at GYC</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>7:30 Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>8:30 Breakfast@ K &amp; W</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>6:00 Eat Out @ Mongolian Empire</b></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p><b>9:00 Bldg Clean-up</b></p> <p>Teen Night</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b>9:30 Forum</b>  <b>10:30 When to Call the Minister</b></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>8:30 Breakfast@ K &amp; W</b></p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>6:00 Eat Out @ Applebee's</b></p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>9:30 Forum</b>  <b>10:30 Forgiveness without Forgetting</b>  <b>7:00 Meditation UUCG</b></p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>7:00 Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>8:30 Breakfast@ K &amp; W</b>  <b>6:30 Young Adult Pot-Luck</b></p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>6:00 Eat Out @ Outback</b></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p><b>9:00 First Born</b></p> <p>T'weens movie &amp; game night</p>
<p>23</p> <p><b>9:30 Forum</b>  <b>10:30 What Is an Athiest?</b>            5:00 Young Adults            30  <b>9:00 Forum</b>  <b>10:30 Exploring Our UU Mission</b></p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>7:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace to be announced</b></p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>8:30 Breakfast@ K &amp; W</b>  <b>8:00 pm Beacon Deadline</b></p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>6:00 Eat Out @ Mayflower</b></p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

---

## Working Together to Build Community



### SUUSI 2007

Mort and I attended the Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute (SUUSI) this July. We had a great time and thought that folks at the UUCG might enjoy it, too. It's scheduled next year at Radford University in the Virginia Mountains for July 20-26, 2008.

It's fairly affordable. Basic costs for SUUSI this year were \$465 per adult for room, registration, and meals. Children under 17 can sleep on the floor to reduce costs. Financial assistance grants are also available, too.

There were around 900 people of all ages at SUUSI this year. You can stay up all night

dancing or making music. You can spend the day on nature trips in the mountains or on the New River.

You can take workshops to explore your personal growth or to challenge your intellect. There are special programs for youth, teens, and young adults, too.

--Tracy Donohue

PS: We went to some workshops about improving our congregation, And two things we seem to do better than most UU congregations are (a) we're really pretty diverse as to level of income and education, and (b) we do sorrow better than most, with Day of the Dead, and also sharing real feelings of sorrow and loss at Joys, Concerns, and Milestones.

--Mort Stine

### A Great Big "Thank you"!!

Our meeting room is glowing with light, bright wall color thanks to the creative crew that took-down, spackled, sanded, and put things back in place (well, almost) during three days of frenetic activity. We thought three gallons of paint would do the job, but it took 7 gallons for two coats to make it shine.

Those folks who deserve a big pat on the back include Claudia Sundman, Hank Obremski, Lorraine Obremski, and Jess Patterson who executed all phases of the job; Luca Masters who spent two days straight painting without a break; Sean Stayton, the man with the "flexible brush"; Brenda Shepherd and Dawn Stancil who brought their expertise to bear, also coming back later to repaint the slatted windows and Hank Foster, whom we can always count on.

Ruel Tyer painted and attached the picture molding as well as the lighting tracts, while Feryl Masters will "electrify" the ceiling lights. Joanie de Groot has donated the two beautiful Asian-design wall hangings. Joanie has not been well lately, yet designed, sewed and quilted the hangings even before the end of the month "deadline." The Meditation Corner is complete, all items having been donated to the church by Don English, Kay Alston, Claudia Sundman and Terry Shank

The Ambience Committee responsible for planning these improvements included Marcia Sobel, Jan Salstrom, Joanie deGroot, Claudia Sundman, Bee Behr, Lorraine Obremski, Don English, Lora Hylton, Lisa Brenner, and Terry Shank, chair. Please offer your thanks to these people.

--Terry Shank



## News, Notes and Other Stuff

### Religious Education

The summer is fading which means it is time to restart the RE curriculum. The tweens will be continuing the "Travel in Time" unit and the teens will be starting a new unit, "Heresy Apparent". We are also anxious to start our new team-teaching strategy in the fall. I have one more spot to fill in the schedule and we should be able to carry the new strategy through next May, hopefully to the benefit of all. Children will get consistency and volunteers will have some time to enjoy the sermons or take a Sunday off.

The upcoming calendar holds lots of activities. The September Teen night is scheduled for Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Since the teen night has been such a success, we decided the tweens should have their own special night for games or movies. The first one is planned for September 22<sup>nd</sup>

August's Harry Potter Magic School was a great experience for all who participated. On the first night, the sorting hat sorted a full house of Hufflepuffs, Ravenclaws, Gryffindors, and Slytherins. We enjoyed a vegetarian meal every night, sang songs and separated into classes for the activities. Frieda led the Slytherins (adults) and they kept to themselves most of the time, but everyone else participated in the Harry Potter activities. On the first night, we made wands, wizard hats, and owls. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we learned about insects, bones, and constellations. On the last night, everyone learned about using money and then took a field trip to Gringott's bank and the Hogsmeade stores to buy candy, wizardry things and creatures. Of course, everything was tied into the UU principles. Graduation was the last event on Friday. Everyone seemed to have a good time and our volunteers were exceptional.

--Pattie Gade

### Your Beacon Editor Needs a Volunteer

Job Opening: Beacon Cub Reporter: Duties are to collect the comings and goings of our congregational lives -- those tidbits from Sunday's Joys & Concerns, and all of those miscellaneous details of our collective lives that would slip by without notice. Of course, discretion is advised and common sense rules. If interested, contact the Beacon Editor at [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org).

Deadline for next September's **beacon** is Tuesday , **September 24<sup>th</sup>** at 8:00am

## UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu\*



September 5 --**Mongolian Empire**— 300 S.E. Greenville Blvd., 321-6868  
September 12 -- **Applebee's Grill** -- 202 SW Greenville Blvd -- 355-2421  
September 19 -- **Outback** -- 606 SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-8444  
September 26 --**Mayflower Seafood** -- 136 Davenport Farm Road,  
Winterville -- 321-6188

### Let's Eat!

\* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Sylvia English 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 Ann Marie Alderman  
**Religious Education Dir**, Victoria Brown  
**President**, Rich Elkins  
**Vice President**, Feryl Masters  
**Secretary**, Patrice Alexander  
**Treasurer**, Claudia Sundman  
**Office Administrator**, Jess Patterson

#### **Committee Chairs**

Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer  
Endowment: Bill Paulson  
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel  
Membership: Feryl Masters (acting)  
Religious Education: Patty Gade  
Social Action: Marta Dominquez  
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

