



The UUCG beacon

September 2008

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

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

September 7
Annual Ingathering/Water Ceremony
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

September 14
Openness to the Forces. A Reflection on the 1st Source
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

September 21
Harvest Cekebratuib
UUCG's Green Weavers
CUUPS

September 28
From "girl power" to "power surges"; how does a "controller" learn to have "power with" rather than "power over"?
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

President's Notes

It's tough coming up with something to write for the newsletter each month. (And my apologies to Don, because it's almost always late.) This month will I be serious, funny, insightful, or totally random? What has been on my mind? Am I going to stand up on my soapbox about some issue or ramble on about nothing? What might you actually care about reading? It really makes me appreciate the effort that Ann Marie must go through to prepare sermons several times a month compared to my one article.

After the serious concerns surrounding the Knoxville shootings and all the hard work that the Board did preparing a service and candlelight vigil in response, I really think that I want to keep it light this month, and maybe even shorter (because I often get long-winded when I type.) No promises though... all I know for sure is:

I need a vacation!

I'm not sure why, but I've never actually taken a whole week's vacation from work. Closest I've come was to take five consecutive days, but falling in two different weeks, plus the weekend in-between. But that really wasn't much of a vacation. We had just bought a house and were moving the whole time! Most of the time, I take a vacation day here and there, most often to extend a weekend or occasionally in the middle of the week to run errands or deal with a car repair.

I am fortunate that I do get out of the office for at least part, if not a whole week, a couple of times a year when I attend schools or conferences. Although I really enjoy these, they really don't qualify as a vacation, because I'm taking a class, teaching a class, or in the case of a conference, I'm probably on the conference committee with various responsibilities and stresses to encounter.

So not to break the trend, I'm going to the mountains of NC on Labor Day weekend for a family reunion. I already get a 3-day weekend, to which I've added a day before and a day after. The first day is really preparation and travel. I need to get 2 new tires, have my brakes checked, and possibly replace a belt. Will I pack before Friday? Knowing me, I probably will not, although I may start some laundry on Thursday. All I know is that sometime Friday, I'll hit the road for the 4 hour drive (maybe 5 depending on traffic).

Reflections

I

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

On Sunday September 7th, as a ritual of re-gathering, we will be, once again, be using the water ceremony, just as many UU congregations do year after year. So don't forget to bring the water you collected during your individual journeys over the summer. (Or bring "symbolic" water and the story of either your actual or your metaphorical summer travels!)

Many of us assume that this particular UU ritual, along with chalice lightings, joys and concerns, or sitting in circles for small group discussions, are all practices that have been around forever. Actually, all these now common UU practices originated in the early 1980's under the influence of feminist spirituality! The first time the water ceremony was used was during the first UU Women and Religion conference in 1980.

Women who had registered for this conference where asked to bring water from their home towns. Once gathered they poured their waters together to signify their unity and their commitment to work towards the time when women would be equal to men.

The W&R Conference had been convened as a follow up to the Women and Religion Resolution which passed unanimously during the 1977 UU General Assembly, three years before. This historic Resolution had urged UU's to "examine... their...religious beliefs and the extent to which these beliefs influence sex-role stereotypes." It acknowledged that "some models of human relationships arising from religious myths, historical materials, and other teachings still create and perpetuate attitudes that cause women everywhere to be overlooked and undervalued..." The attendees at the W&R Conference gathered themselves to change the world, starting with the UU world.

Another product of the attention to feminist spirituality was a curriculum called, "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" which was published by the UUA in 1986. For a several decades, scholars had been uncovering growing evidence that god-

esses may have been revered in ancient times. The study guide took its title from previously ignored passages in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah. Because Yahweh was jealous, the ancient inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem were told to stop baking cakes for the Queen of Heaven. The "Cakes" curriculum sought to uncover the forgotten goddesses, so that women could begin to reflect on what all this meant for their spiritual growth.

"Cakes" was initially met with criticism by mainstream UU's because it was for women only, because it dared to talk about "theology" and "herstory", because it included a discussion of paganism and witchcraft, and it urged participants to explore their body images and mother/daughter connections. Addressing the roots of patriarchalism in Judaism and Christianity, the curriculum called forth and lifted up the value of personal emotional responses, far removed from the usual detached rationality common to most Unitarian educational efforts in the past.

Despite the initial criticism, UU women who gathered in UU congregations to go through the course over and over overwhelmingly proclaimed that it "changed their lives!" After a long wait, an updated, revised "Cakes" has just been released. It still includes all those aspects that caused some to be concerned the first time around (it is still for women only)and it still has the power to change lives.

On Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 10th, from 7-9 pm, women and older female youth are invited to five continuous weeks of study where together we will examine the pre-patriarchal Goddesses of prehistoric and early historic times, their early power, and their ultimate loss of power as patriarchy became the established social structure, and what we can do about it! As always childcare will be available upon request!

--Ann Marie

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, Sept 23rd at 8:00 pm

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

A Big Special Thanks from B&G

Our home is being mopped,scrubbed and vacuumed every Friday morning for our benefit by John Gustafson with help from Diane Mackenroth. When waste baskets are empty and the bathrooms are shining clean these are the folks responsible. We thank them profusely.

Once a month, every second Saturday the Grounds committee takes choppers, hoes, edgers and fire ant repellent and goes to work. Thanks to loyal volunteers Helen Foster, Hank Foster, and Bob Franke with Nicholas Brown at the lawn mower. The place looks inviting to all.

Help in any of these areas would be a great blessing. Please contact Terry Shank at 756-3108 if you have an hour to spare.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

--Terry Shank

Membership Committee Monthly Meeting

The Membership Committee will hold their monthly meeting on Sunday, Sept. 7th at 12:15 in the library right after our church service and social hour. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee, please contact: Kay Alston - 252-756-1702 or Bette Nelson - 252-946-9885. We would love to have you join us with your ideas!

The Dining Out Group will meet at various local restaurants on Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m. This information will be in the Order of Service on Sundays or contact Jackie Wyman - 252-439-8581. Plan to join the group for an evening of fun and good conversation!

--Bette Nelson

Harvest Home

Green Weavers CUUPS will be hosting the fall equinox service on Sunday, September 21 at 10:30 am. Fall equinox is one of the four astronomical quarter days in the Pagan "wheel of the year". It represents a day of balance as the light part of the day equals the dark and is a traditional harvest festival, sometimes called Harvest Home.

We invite you to celebrate Harvest Home with us by bringing non-perishable food items (canned or dry boxed food) for our central harvest display. All our food donations must be unopened and will go to First Born Food Pantry.

Everything in nature gives to and receives from something else. We will be recognizing our interdependent web of life and the balance of nature by giving in gratitude for all we have harvested in our lives this year.

--Michelle Covi

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Let's all wish our fellow UUs a most happy birthday.

September 2 - Kay Alston
September 5 - Kristen Kenyon
September 10 - Alan Bailey
September 17 - Bob Franke
September 26 - Marcia Sobel
September 27 - Marli Baker
September 28 - Ann Marie Alderman
September 30 - Jacki Carraway

--David & Bette Nelson
Membership

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

New ways to learn at Meadville Lombard, a Unitarian Universalist Seminary

Weekend and Week-long formats allow flexibility for Ministers and Lay Leaders

Meadville Lombard is now offering courses in formats that make it easier for working religious professionals and lay leaders to broaden or deepen their theological and congregational understanding. Below is a sampling of some of these opportunities. Visit our website for a full listing and course syllabi: http://www.meadville.edu/Ac_CourseOfferings.htm or contact Erika Chavez, Director of Admissions, at 773.256.3000 x 250 for more information.

Weekend Courses

Lay Leadership Development with Rev. Brian Covell; October 3-4 and 24-25, and November 14-15, 2008

Designed to help ministers, lay leaders and post-internship seminarians become acquainted with the paradigms, problem-solving and relational skills necessary for effective lay leadership development. Because of the nature of this course, we offer this incentive for congregational teams: **Pay for two team members from your congregations, and register a third for free.**

Real Peace/Real Security: UU Perspectives on Peace and War with Dr. Sharon Welch; January 17-18, 2009

In this half-credit course, address the issues posed by the UUA CSAI study/action issue on peacemaking. Examine options for enhancing peace and security in our contemporary world and explore perspectives held by Unitarian Universalists on: strategic peacebuilding, just peace, just war, preventive defense, nonviolence and pacifism. Then discuss the concrete ways in

which congregations best foster open dialogue and informed engagement on these crucial issues of peacemaking and conflict transformation at all levels: interpersonal, congregational, national and international.

Problems in Public Ethics with Rev. Dr. William Schulz and Dr. Sharon Welch; January 23-25, 2009

Learn to clarify the theological and ethical underpinnings of your approaches to public problems; consider five of the most pressing such problems on the national and world stage today: torture, military intervention, abortion, death penalty, and poverty and learn how to articulate your perspective and navigate the complexities of dealing with such issues in an institutional context.

Week-long Courses

Fling Wide the Doors: Children and Church Growth with Rev. Greg Stewart; January 12-16, 2009

How well do we welcome children into the church family and what impact does that have on church growth?

Afro-Americans and the Universalists, Unitarians, and Unitarian Universalists with Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed; January 26-30, 2009

Become familiar with both the Afro-American experience within the liberal religious community and the community's attitudes toward Afro-Americans. Who were these Afro-American women and men and when and how did they become part of this religious movement? What were the attitudes they met among Anglo-Americans and what was the institutional response to them? One objective of the course is for students to create a historical record of their home congregation with regard to race.



September 2008

n	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	01	02 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm BIRTH Rehearsal 7pm KTC Buddhist Group	03 7pm BIRTH Rehearsal	04 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Dinner Texas Roadhouse 7pm BIRTH Rehearsal	05 7pm BIRTH Performance 7pm Course in Miracles	06 7pm BIRTH Performance
07 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 12pm Worship Committee Meeting 12:15 Membership 2pm Birth Performance	08 7:30pm Sierra Club Meeting	09 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm Choir Practice 7pm KTC Buddhist Group	10 7pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	11 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm Dinner Boli's	12 7pm Course in Miracles	13 9am Building & Grounds Workday 11pm EDS Support Group Meeting 7pm Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms) 6pm Dinner for 8
14 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 12:15pm New Member Orientation 7pm UU Meditation Group	15 7pm Board Meeting	16 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 6:30pm Social Action Committee Mtg 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	17 7pm» Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	18 6pm» Girl Scouts 6:pm Dinner Dragon Fly	19 5:30pm» Art Reception 7pm» Course in Miracles	20
21 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 5pm Vegetarian Pot Luck	22 7pm Interfaith Alliance- Prayers for Peace and Justice @ Hindu Temple	23 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	24 7pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	25 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm Dinner Fenilli's 5th St.	26 6pm Board Retreat 7pm» Course in Miracles	27 8:30am Board Retreat 9am First Born
28 9:30am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 11:45am» Adopt a Street Clean Up 5:30pm» UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	29	30 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice				

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

(PREZ NOTES continued from page 1)

specific time I need to be somewhere, then I'll probably wait to leave until the time that would get me there just in time, if something doesn't come up (and it seems to always come up) where I'm pushed behind schedule and have to rush. This is not a conducive atmosphere for my still-not-a-whole-week vacation. To tell the truth, I really have very little idea as to what is going to occur. Someone (probably my Grandpa) has most likely scheduled a weekend of various events where we go canoeing on Lake James, hiking through the woods, or maybe trip to a nearby mountain or state park. These details, however, if they exist, haven't trickled down to me. I do know that we're supposed to have a big meal on Sunday, but beyond that, I'm flying by the seat of my pants, and I probably wouldn't want to

have it any other way.

I might even visit one of the closer UU Churches up there on Sunday morning... no promises though! There may be something else going on during that time, or more likely than that, I may just not feel like getting up in time. I really don't even know when I'm coming home, other than the need to be at work Wednesday morning, and even that may be flexible, since I so rarely use my vacation, I have enough available.

I do promise, however, barring some unforeseeable and/or tragic event to see you all the next Sunday, hopefully more rested, with a rekindled spirit, ready to take on new challenges and write something a little less random next month.

--Rich Elkins

UUCG Book Sale

Important information regarding the UUCG BOOK SALE The book sale at UUCG is continuing. There is a book case at the back of the sanctuary where books are available for purchase. We are asking for a minimum donation per book of 1.00, and more if you feel the book is worth it to you. I will continue to rotate the books, and donate those that have been there for some time to the Humane Society book sale and to the Greenville Library book sale.

Your donations are greatly appreciated, however, I ask that you please call or email me before bringing in more than a few books at a time. Since our storage is limited, if you have several books, I would appreciate knowing in advance so that I may store boxes of books outside of the church, and keep the book case area in a neat and orderly state. In gratitude, Karen Silinsky

--Karen Silinsky

Dinners for 8

On Saturday, September 13th at 6:30 pm, Congregation members will have wonderful opportunity to socialize on a more informal basis when they sign up for **Dinners for 8**. **Dinners for 8** is an opportunity to enjoy a potluck dinner with seven other delightful people from the congregation.

For each cluster of 8 dinners we look for a volunteer to host the event. Please sign up as a host or hostess by signing up on the **Dinners for 8** roster in the back of the church.

--Joanie deGroot

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

Notes from Religious Education

High attendance in RE has kept us on our toes this summer. If the trend continues with the number of children and wide age range, we should have quite a challenge when we resume our formal curriculum in September. Victoria Brown, Patrice Alexander, and Rosa Griffin will be leading the Tweens for the first three months of the school year. They will be starting a new curriculum called *Moral Tales* which uses stories to teach the children UU values and how to use their own moral compass.

The Teens will also start a new curriculum called *Paradigms Lost*. This curriculum uses a unique and fun approach to help Teens explore themselves and their relationships with others. Rich Elkins will continue as Teen leader. You may have noticed the Teens gave their room a new look. They spent a recent afternoon, under Terri Shank's direction, paint-

ing their room purple and rearranging the furniture.

September is going to be our registration month in RE. We have had a hard time getting these filled out in the past, so we will be setting up a table during coffee times on two different Sundays. Parents, please fill out a registration form for your children. Having birth dates, health information, and parent contact information, helps us to plan and advertise family events and meet your children's needs on Sundays. So, please help us to do these things well.

We have a number of events coming up in the fall, like the crop walk, the corn maze and the Halloween Carnival. Look for the announcements—you won't want to miss out on the fun. --Pattie Gade

September Brings New Art Exhibit

A wonderful new art exhibit is in the works for our congregation and the community. Our walls will be filled in time for the opening reception on September 19 from 5-7 pm. Two outstanding Afro-American artists, Richard Wilson and Pearless Speller, who just six months ago exhibited their works at the Greenville Museum of Art, will be featured. We are most fortunate to house such a fine art display. Richard Brown has just returned from showing his art in New Orleans, while Pearless Speller will be mounting a show in Morehead City shortly.

Please help to announce this event to neighbors, colleagues and friends. It will be memorable!

Ambience Committee

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Dutch-treat Dining Out is back

Join a contingent of your fellow UUCGers at one or all of the following local restaurants at 6:00 pm. Because we never know who plans to attend, please try and arrive by 6:00 pm so we can all be seated together.

Sept 4 -- **Texas Roadhouse** -- 720 SW Greenville Blvd -- 353-7427

Sept 11 -- **Boli's** -- 703 SE Greenville Blvd -- (K-Mart Plaza where Courtyard Tavern used to be)

Sept 18 -- **Dragon Fly** -- 3150 Evans Street -- 215-8893

Sept 25 -- **Finelli's Cafe** -- 2905 E. Fifth Street -- 695-0020

—Jackie Wyman

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**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
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355-6658**

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Patrice Alexander
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Alan Bailey
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Bev Harju

