



The UUCG Beacon

September 2012

The beacon is published
monthly by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

September 2
Annual Water Ceremony
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

September 9
Hindu U
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

September 16
When to Call the Pastor
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

September 23
*World Religion Guest
Speaker*

September 30
*Community Service
Sunday*

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.



President's Notes

If you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.

--Benjamin Franklin (although often attributed to Lucille Ball)

If you have read my President's Notes column in the past, you have surely noticed that I start out each one with a relevant quotation. Sometimes I get an idea to write about, and then search for a particularly poignant quotation to serve as both an introduction to the topic and a "sound bite" to reflect upon later. This month, however, the process reverses itself, as I was inspired by the quotation first, having encountered the same quotation three times in the same week. While ironic and seemingly oxymoronic, the more I reflect upon it, the more the above text makes sense to me. On one hand, it seems that if you have something that needs to be done, you should give it to someone who is less busy and has more time to devote to the task. On the other hand, busy people often have a track record of effectiveness, have established efficiency, know how to prioritize tasks, and have a broad skill set (all likely a result of their being busy people). I suspect the busiest people are the most motivated, have the most to prove, or perhaps get the most personal satisfaction from being and staying busy. Perhaps they just have a more difficult time saying NO. Whatever the explanation, there is likely to be a reason busy people are busy, and people with time to waste have the time to waste.

That having been said, heaping additional tasks on the shoulders of an overburdened busy person seems cruel. I suspect that there has to be some limit to how much we ask of individual busy people. Do we count on busy people to know their limits, or do we ask them to test those limits a little, and see if they can rise to the occasion. I think that often depends on the specific person and the specific task. Additionally it probably takes some honest communication and perhaps a little finesse. And it certainly requires more than a modicum of gratitude. I discuss my reflections on this topic in this forum, as I see a congregation of busy people, and worry about what happens when busy people become overburdened. Especially since the list of things we want done seems to be one that is perpetually longer than the list of people interested in taking on those tasks. We have to make sure that everything doesn't fall on the shoulders of the same people in our congregation, but at the same time there may be a reason it happens that way.

((continued on pg. 6)

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



I am writing this reflection as I am sitting in the upstairs bedroom of an elder hostel in the small town of Santiago in Guatemala. It is in a beautiful, tropical mountainous area still mostly populated by people of mayan descent. It appears they grow coffee, avocado and sugar cane here. The women make wonderfully colorful cloth and create beautiful beadwork, even though the living conditions are very primitive. I am here with 2 other UU's who have a connection to an organization called Sharing the Dream which is trying to help the women, girls and boys in all sorts of ways to improve their lives. They provide an elder center for the aged. They provide scholarships for children so they can attend school and they underwrite many other worthy projects. All of what they are able to do to improve the conditions here comes from creating and selling beadwork. I will be bringing some of these crafts home to show you and am hoping the stories I am also bringing home will inspire to care about this place and these people.

Rev. Ann Marie

Community Service Sunday

On Sunday, September 30 there will be Community Service Sunday. During the service, representatives from our community service initiatives (internal and external) will be able to talk briefly about the accomplishments/challenges they have faced this year, and provide some awareness about their future plans. After the service, during Fellowship, there will be opportunities for all the congregational committees to set-up a small information table so the rest of the congregation can find out how to become a part of the important spiritual work UUCG provides through our community service programs. Lynn Caverly will be the service leader for this worship service. Please let her know (caverlyl@ecu.edu) by September 16th if you would like to participate in either the presentation and/or Fellowship portion on the 30th.

Staff

Minister: Rev. Ann Marie Alderman
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

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Vice President: [Susan Foreman](#)
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Building Maintenance: [Pat Tesh](#)
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Fellowship : Cam Scales
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Membership: [Bud](#) & [Phyllis Hazel](#)
Youth Religious Education: [Jennifer Thielen](#)
Stewardship: [Patrice Alexander](#)
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Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Summer is almost over, and our youth have just finished the summer session at Hogwarts Academy, UUCG Chapter. We wrapped up our summer of fun, magic and UU Principles with a special "visit to Hogsmead". Each child was given "money" that they could "spend" on a range of items, including Self-Lighting Wands (glow sticks), Broomstick Pens and Weasly Wizarding Joke Books. Of course, no trip to Hogsmead would be complete without a stop at the Honeydukes treat shop for an after-shopping snack. The Hogsmead trip was an exciting and enjoyable way to wrap up our summer of fun and learning.

This, of course, means that we will be starting our new curriculum in just a few short weeks. This year our focus is on world religions in both our Elementary and Tween classes. As Unitarian Universalists we draw from a variety of spiritual and religious sources. We look to the "wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life" as part of our Principles and Sources of faith. What better way for our youth to continue exploring their own spiritual paths than to explore the variety of religions which our world has to offer?

The Elementary class will be working on lessons from Holidays and Holydays for Spirit Play. This is a Montessori based adaptation of the Holidays and Holydays curriculum by Charlene Brotman and Barbara Marshman that will allow our students to explore the beliefs, meanings and rituals associated with celebrations from a variety of traditions.

Our Tweens will be working from Neighboring Faiths: Exploring Religions with Junior High Youth by Christine Reed and Pat Hoertdoerfer. Through the year they will have the chance to probe the history and development of a variety of faith traditions. This is a curriculum that has been successfully used here at UUCG in the past, and we look forward to exploring a sampling of our world's different faiths along with our youth.

The Youth Religious Education program at UUCG is offered to assist and support the children and youth of our congregation as they explore their own spirituality and seek their own truths. We strive to provide a safe haven where any question can be asked and where every answer can be questioned. Offering this kind of program requires the commitment and support from not only the congregation as a whole, but from individual members as well. As we enter the new school year we are looking for volunteers who are willing to be second adults in our classrooms and in the nursery as well as volunteers to lead lessons in our classrooms. We need YOUR help to keep the Religious Education program thriving and active. Please contact me or our Director of Religious Education, Kimberly Scholl, to find out what you can do to help.

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, Youth Religious Education



Art on Our Walls

The Ambience Committee invites you and your friends and neighbors to the opening reception of the exhibit by the artist, Dewey Funkhouser. His paintings have been on display in many venues and have had much acclaim. The reception will take place on September 14 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. You will be most welcome to attend and greet others from our community at this public gathering.

Terry Shank and Kay Alston, co-chairs

Help Needed

We are having another workday for the church on Saturday 9/15. We have a list of jobs we need to do for all skill levels. Please contact Feryl Masters oferyl@gmail.com if you are available to help.

**Affirming
justice,
equity and
compassion
towards all**

FunRaising



Get ready for our Second Car Wash and Yard Sale September 22. Have something you don't need, that's too good to throw away? We want it. Free pick up in the Washington Greenville area on September 21. We need washers (maybe your last chance to work on your winter tan!), and people to sort and price items Friday evening. Of course, we can always use help selling Saturday morning. You might just find the item you need at the sale.

We have our McAlister's nights. The first one is September 19th. We get 5% of all proceeds for that evening. If their business shows an increase that night, we may get more. If you want to have dinner, a snack, or just coffee and talk that Wednesday evening, McAlister's Deli is the place to go.

~ September 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 The Humane Society share half offering 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a Annual Water Ceremony 12p-1p Lunch Group	3	4 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	5 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	6 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	7	8 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
9 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a- Hindu U, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	10 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	11 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8:30p Gilda's Gang 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	12 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4:30p CSC ENC board 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	13	14 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group 7p-8p Artist's Reception	15
16 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a When to Call the Pastor , Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	17	18 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 6p-9p Pamlico Tar River Foundation Annual Meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	19 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5p-8p McAlister's night 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	20 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	21 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	22 Funraising Car Wash and Yard Sale 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
23 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a World Religions Guest Speaker 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	24 7p-8:30p Book Club	25 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	26 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	27 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	28 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	29 9a-1p Annual Council "retreat" 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
30 Greenville Crop Walk 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a Community Service Sunday 12p-1p Lunch Group						

Prez notes cont. from front...

I would also like to take the time to highlight a few upcoming events, and express my gratitude for all of those involved in making them happen. Half of each collection plate this month will be going to the Humane Society, thanks to the our congregation's ongoing experiment in generosity and charitable giving, lead by the social action committee. The annual ingathering/water ceremony service will be Sept 2nd, so bring your actual or symbolic water to add that of the rest of the congregation. The semi-annual funraising car wash and yard sale is scheduled for Sept 22nd. With the fun and success of the last one, this will surely be a "don't miss this" event. We on the board are getting excited about the annual Program Council retreat Sept 29th. This year's facilitator will be our own Terry Shank. And to end out the month, the CROP walk against hunger this year will be on Sept 30th. Everyone feel busy enough?

Tom Thielen

President, Board of Trustees, UUCG

Happy Birthday to UUs this September

Sept. 2 –Kay Alston
 Sept. 10 –Alan Bailey
 Sept. 11 – Gladie Hamilton
 Sept. 12 –Leigh Harrison
 Sept. 13– Megan Kohtz
 Sept. 14 –Lynda Lane
 Sept. 16– Phyllis Hazel
 Sept. 17– Bob Franke
 Sept. 18– Stephanie Authement
 Sept. 19– Ruth Abramson
 Sept. 26– Marcia Sobel
 Sept. 27– Marli Baker



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, **September 25 at 8:00 pm**

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