



# The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)



## President's Notes

As many of you know, the congregation's annual Board and Program Council Retreats were held on August 16-17. For those of you who don't know, the retreats are a series of church leadership meetings in which the Board of Trustees establish the congregational goals for the year, communicate them to the various committee chairs (collectively called the Program Council), and then facilitate the discussion of how those committees can work individually and collectively toward those goals. The retreats are traditionally held in July or August, and kick off the new church year. In addition to the opportunity for fellowship amongst the church leaders, the retreats serve as a "changing of the guard" from year to year and provide a chance to organize, focus, and direct the various church functions, tasks, and initiatives.

This year the Board of Trustees established the following congregational goals:

- Establish the congregational developmental ministry goals and install a developmental minister
- Improve leadership identification and development
- Improve and strengthen the stewardship program
- Identify, manage, and hopefully resolve the grief and conflict still present in the congregation
- Address the physical space needs of the congregation

In a word, we are intentionally planning for, and striving toward, **GROWTH**.

This may not seem immediately obvious when looking at those goals, as we may have very different ideas of what the word growth means. For me, it helps to visualize the growth of a forest. One can describe the GROWTH of a forest in terms of the number of trees, the height or depth of trunks or roots, the lushness of the vegetation, the diversity of the organisms it supports, the size of its geographic footprint, or its ability to weather fire, wind, rain, and other environmental pressures. While many of us think of GROWTH in terms of numbers, there is also concepts of maturity, richness, and stability associated with the word.

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) describes five categories of church/religious GROWTH:

- 1) NUMERICAL GROWTH refers to the number of members or the numbers attending and participating in church functions like Sunday service.

## SIGN UP NOW FOR THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERIES

A shorter, local version of the respected Unitarian Universalist Leadership School Training is coming to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville. The Rev. Rod Thompson, an experienced Leadership School teacher and facilitator, will present five sessions beginning Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, and continuing almost every other week through November. Sign up for this exciting opportunity to become a better leader – whether at church, at work, or in another volunteer role.

Come and learn about your leadership style and personality; how church size affects all aspects of church dynamics; how group process evolves; how best to treat volunteers; how to manage the conflicts that change brings; and many

*[continued on pg. 6]*

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## Worship Services

September 1 **“Ingathering intergenerational mingling of the waters- Beginnings, Endings, and Transitions”**  
**Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This intergenerational service will celebrate community and mark the beginning of the program year. Labor Day Weekend is a great time for this. It marks both an ending and a beginning. And it is definitely part of a transition. But there are many such events in our lives and our church. Join us as we celebrate all three. Remember to bring your water sample from your summer activities. Bring the family and we'll make it an Intergenerational happening. See you in church.

September 8 **“May You be Inscribed for a Good Year”**  
**Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

There is much to be learned from the wisdom of the Jewish High Holy Days – Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. On this Sunday at the middle of these special days, we'll try to tap into this wisdom.

September 15 **“Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations”**  
**Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This is the second of the promised services focusing on our Unitarian Universalist Principles. As members of a congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association we are called to “affirm and promote” these principles. What does that mean? How difficult can that be? I'll share my thoughts and hope to listen to yours. See you in church.

September 22 **Fall Equinox– Persephone’s Journey**  
**Michelle Covi and CUUPS**

September 29 **Demographics**  
**Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

Who are you? What are you? Where did you come from? We talk a lot about diversity but do we really know how diverse we are right now? This Sunday I'm going to ask you to move around the room in response to a lot of demographic questions. This is going to be a lot of fun!

## Staff

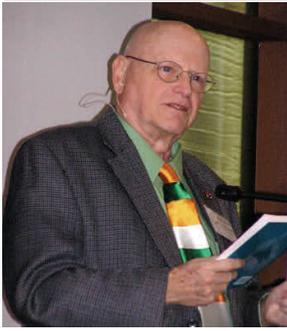
**Interim Minister:** Rev. Rod Thompson  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## Board of Trustees

**President:** Tom Thielen  
**Vice President:** Shannon Terry  
**Secretary:** Tammy Atchison  
**Treasurer:** Feryl Masters  
**At-Large:** Terry Shank  
**At-Large:** Rich Elkins  
**At-Large:** Patrice Alexander

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** Terry Shank & Kay Alston  
**Building & Grounds:** Feryl Masters  
**Caring:** Dorothea Handron  
**Communication:** Rich Elkins  
**Endowment:** Feryl Masters  
**Fellowship :** Cam Scales  
**Finance:** Brenda Stewart  
**Fundraising:** Feryl Masters & Claudia Sundman  
**Hospitality:** open  
**Membership:** Sue Foreman  
**Youth Religious Education:** Jennifer Thielen  
**Stewardship:** Patrice Alexander  
**Social Action:** Pat Dix  
**Worship:** Michael Betteken & Michelle Covi



## Rod's Ruminations

As August comes to an end and September rushes in upon us I have two items I'd like to make sure you are aware of and participate in. **First**, as you know the congregation has agreed to seek a Developmental Minister for the next 3-5 years. The idea of a Developmental Minister is that he or she would come to work with the congregation as you fulfill several specific GOALS. That's what these "Cottage" Meetings

are for. The Board has appointed a Task Force to begin the process of discovering what you, the members and friends of UUCG, would like those GOALS to be. After we have heard from as many folks as possible the Task Force will try to synthesize your wishes into some working GOALS, get the Board's input, and then bring the proposed GOALS to the congregation at a special Workshop and Congregational Meeting. Please plan on participating in ONE of these remaining Cottage Meetings and share your thoughts and wishes. Call the office (355-6658) or sign-up on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.

Sign Up, Show Up, Speak Up

The schedule for the final two Cottage Meetings is as follows:

Thurs 9/5 Fingerfood & Our Future, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at 627 W. 2nd St. Washington, NC

Host: Judi Hickson

Sun 9/29 Last Scoop Ice Cream Social at UUCG, after the service at about noon

Host: Theresa Sparrow

Please sign up for One (1) of these very important events. **Sign Up, Show Up, Speak Up**

**Second**, a shorter, local version of the respected Unitarian Universalist Leadership School Training is coming to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville. The Rev. Rod, an experienced Leadership School teacher and facilitator, will present five sessions beginning Tuesday, October 1st, and continuing almost every other week through November. Sign up now for this exciting opportunity to become a better leader – whether at church, at work, or in another volunteer role.

Come and learn about your leadership style and personality; how church size affects all aspects of church dynamics; how group process evolves; how best to treat volunteers; how to manage the conflicts that change brings; and many other critical leadership characteristics and strategies. Registration for all five sessions is recommended, though, you may register for one or more that fit your schedule and needs.

To register call the church office at 252-355-6658 or e-mail [revrod@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:revrod@uugreenvillenc.org). Sign up right away so we'll know if we have enough to begin. Also let us know if you'll need Childcare.

## Religious Education

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

The school year is getting started, and as all parents know, that means it is time to get back into our school year routines, look over the curriculum for the year, the class rules and regulations and of course, paperwork! The good news is we got a head-start on our paperwork for this year, so I hope to keep the filling out of forms to a minimum. That still leaves us with this year's curricula, expected behaviors and routines. Over the summer the children have been coming straight to the back rooms, but last day of our Summer session is August 25th. September 8th is the beginning of our Fall session and it is time to get back into our "school year" routine. Children who do not attend the Nursery will remain in the front Sanctuary until after the children's story has been read.

Our Nursery is for children from birth to age four and is available starting at 10:15 am. This room has no set curriculum as the children are allowed to explore and play in a safe and supportive environment. For this room needs a Second Adult if there are more than three children in attendance. This often means that we need parents or other volunteers to stay and assist in the Nursery. For the sake of fairness we ask that ALL families who use the Nursery take a turn in volunteering as a Second Adult so that no one family shoulders that responsibility alone.

The Elementary class is for ages four to eight and will meet in the big RE room. We will be using World of Wonder for this classroom. This curriculum explores our 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Many of the lessons focus on direct experiences in nature, so there will be a lot of outside time for this class, weather permitting. This is a UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum and you can read more about this curriculum online at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/wonder/index.shtml>. Because this class will require a good bit of time outside the building it will be imperative to have a Teacher and Second Adult in this room each week.

The Upper Elementary class is our most physically active group. This class will meet in the smaller "Tween" room in the back of the building and will be comprised of children approximately nine to eleven years old. This group will be using Traditions with a Wink, a curriculum designed to teach the children more about our identity and traditions as Unitarian Universalists with a healthy dosage of humor and activity. You can read more about this curriculum at <http://www.uure.com/traditionswithawink.html>, and can even download a sample lesson. Rich has agreed to take the lead with this classroom, but will need strong Second Adults who can be firm and respectful when enforcing boundaries.

Our Tweens and Teens will not be using a formal curriculum this year but will continue to explore other faith traditions. This class, which is largely discussion based, will meet in the Library and will include children twelve and up. In addition to the discussions there will be speakers who talk to the class about their particular faith and "field trips" to visit other places of worship. Regular participation from all of the students will be vital to making this class a success. Cam will be organizing the activities for this group and will need a Second Adult.

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## Membership News

We are happy to welcome Chris and Cheryl Federica as new members to our congregation. Chris and Cheryl have recently moved to Greenville from Vermont. Cheryl was a UU before moving to Greenville.

The membership committee is hosting a New UU Welcome Luncheon after the service and coffee time on September 15. New members and those who are considering joining our congregation are invited to come and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and how they can become a part of our congregation. Please RSVP to Susan Foreman, [sfore31000@aol.com](mailto:sfore31000@aol.com)



## YRE continued.....

Each year the children come up with behavioral covenants with the guidance of the classroom teachers. Like the adults of our congregation, they have to think about how they would like to be treated and how they are expected to treat others. These lists often include items such as "keep hands to yourself", "no loud voices" and "speak respectfully". One of the roles of our volunteer Teachers and Second Adults is to help guide the children back to these agreements as necessary and to model "good behavior". However, if there is a child that is particularly disruptive, a parent may be called to come to the back to help with the situation or remove the child from the classroom if necessary. This has not been a huge issue for us as most of the children are respectful participants and respond well to gentle reminders.

By now you may have noticed that "Second Adult" is a recurrent theme. In order to hold classes each Sunday we must have each room appropriately staffed, both for safety and liability. The Teacher typically leads all portions of the lesson with the Second Adult nearby to help as needed to make sure that good behavior is being used by the children and to assist with craft activities, bathroom breaks or any other situation where a child needs individual attention. If each family has one adult that volunteers in one room just once a month we should be fully staffed each week. As important as it is for parents to be active participants in the development of a vibrant religious education program, it is also essential to have the support of the entire congregation. I would like to see participation from members even if they do not have children currently in our program. If we have a week where a classroom is not fully staffed the children who would normally participate in that class will have to remain in the service with their parents. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the classrooms please contact our Director of Religious Education, Kimberly Scholl. You can reach her via email at [dregreenvillenc@gmail.com](mailto:dregreenvillenc@gmail.com) or find her after the services most Sundays.

We have the makings for a great year. Let's get started!

Jennifer Thielen  
Chair, Youth Religious Education Committee

## Secret Pals Are Coming to UUCG

Would you like to bring nice surprises to another person at UUCG throughout this next winter without their knowing who is doing it? Would you like the fun of keeping this secret for the whole year and having your identity finally to become known to that person only at the "Reveal" social next May?

This is the way "Secret Pals" will operate. If you choose to participate, you will sign-up by putting your information on a special "Secret Pal" form and put it in the Secret Pal box on the Sundays of September 8, 15, and/or 22. At the end of September/first of October Secret Pals will be assigned to everyone who has signed-up. Each name in the Secret Pal box will be given to one other person in the box. Everyone who signs up will receive one name and each name will be given to one other person. So, if you choose to participate, you will receive one name and your name will be given to one other person. You will not know who the person is that receives your name. If you are a child, discuss it with your parents before signing up to be sure it is OK with them that you participate.

Throughout the winter, you will do nice, fun, thoughtful surprises for the person whose name you have been given. You will learn as much as you can about this person and their interests so you will know what surprises they will like. Then, you do all of this without letting that person know who their "Secret Pal" is, or without having them guess/figure out who you are. What fun it will be when finally they learn who you are, who their Secret Pal has been all winter. You will also learn who your Secret Pal has been.

Check for the Secret Pal box, fill out a form and put it in the box on one of the Sundays, September 8, 15, or 22. Secret Pals is for everyone at UUCG. If you have questions about Secret Pals, discuss them with any member of the Fellowship Committee or Cam Scales [252-565-5611] its Chair.

### Leadership training cont.....

other critical leadership characteristics and strategies. Registration for all five sessions is recommended, though, you may register for one or more that fit your schedule and needs.

To register call the church office at 252-355-6658 or e-mail [revrod@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:revrod@uugreenvillenc.org). Sign up right away so we'll know if we have enough to begin. Also let us know if you'll need Childcare.

### Schedule and Programs

All sessions are from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held in the sanctuary.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <b>Oct 1</b> <u>An overview of all 5 sessions</u><br/>Explore the difference between Leadership and Management<br/>Look at Congregational Size Characteristics and Dynamics</p> | <p>4. <b>Nov 5</b> <u>Working with Volunteers and having Effective Meetings</u><br/>Leading Effective Meetings<br/>The Participants role in making meetings effective<br/>Goal Setting<br/>The Care and Feeding of Volunteers</p> |
| <p>2. <b>Oct 15</b> <u>What's your Leadership Style?</u><br/>Using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator<br/>Hershey-Blanchard's Leadership Effectiveness instrument</p>                    | <p>5. <b>Nov 19</b> <u>Recognizing and Managing Conflict</u><br/>Types of Conflict<br/>Levels of Conflict<br/>Managing Conflicts</p>  |
| <p>3. <b>Oct 29</b> <u>Understanding Group Process</u><br/>Barry Tuckman's "Lifecycle of a Group"<br/>A Guide for New Groups</p>  |   |

## Prez notes continued.....

- 2) MATURATIONAL GROWTH refers to the deepening of each individual's spiritual understanding
- 3) ORGANIC GROWTH refers to an increased ability of a congregation to maintain its own health and to engage the world
- 4) INCARNATIONAL GROWTH refers to an increased ability to make real and live our values in the world
- 5) ASSOCIATIONAL GROWTH refers to improved relations with other congregations and the larger community

**I encourage you to think about, and remain encouraged by, these types of GROWTH, as we experience the associated and expected growing pains.**

Tom Thielen  
President, UUCG board of Trustees

### Joys and Sorrows Changes Coming

With your cooperation I am going to try some changes to our current Candles of Community/Stones and Water, which doesn't seem to satisfy some. There will be candles available in their usual place prior to the service if you would like to light one in personal devotion or memory.

So, here is my plan, starting with the September 8th service:

Call to Meditation as we have done  
Introduction/Call to Silence  
A period of Silence  
Chime

Invitation to Call into Care – with something like this: “Each time we gather for worship we set aside time to widen the caring ministry of this congregation. We take time to memorialize those who have died, to celebrate with those who are joyous, and to call those who need our love and support into this community of care by calling their names into the silence.”

If I have things to share I will speak them here. Please give me the names and situations of those who I need to mention – which could be you or someone who has given you permission to share. Then I will say something like: “And now I invite you to speak aloud the names of those folks who come on your hearts and mind this morning, to call them into this community of care.”

When it seems that everyone is finished I will say something like: “For all the names which have been spoken aloud and those whispered only in the sanctuary of our hearts, we give our grateful thanks.”

Some words to close – maybe a prayer or reading

Then on to the Offering

As I say I'm going to need your help and cooperation. This may seem like a step backwards to some, who think of the possible abuses like long speeches or political statements; but if we all approach this time together in the spirit of a community of care this should enhance our time together. Let's give it a fair trial. Thanks, Rev Rod

## Social Action Committee Report

Every Sunday 1/2 of the money placed in the offering baskets, excluding pledge payments was donated to non-profit organizations doing work in line with our principles. The following charities were approved by the Board:

July-	Center for Family Violence Prevention
August-	Boys and Girls Club of Pitt County
September-	Police Athletic League
October-	Policeman's Angel Cops
November-	Humane Society
December-	Little Willie Center

## 108th Annual Meeting of the Universalist Convention of NC Inc. (UCONCI)

"Growing Our Spirits, Growing Our Faith"

Keynote speaker Rev. John Saxon UUF-Raleigh  
Workshops and Community Time for All Ages

Please consider being a delegate to the UCONCI annual Convention on October 12th and 13th to be held at beautiful [Shelter Neck UU Camp](#) near Burgaw, NC. Food and lodging are included and there are no registration fees, IF you preregister by September 13, 2013. We strongly encourage [pre-registration](#), as it helps us plan meals and activities.

\*We will have more program information [here](#) as it becomes available

\*Members who are not delegates are encouraged to attend the meeting and weekend events as well.

\*There will be music, food, bonfire, and good fellowship for those who attend. We will worship in the historic Chapel on Sunday morning.

\* Breakfast Saturday morning and Saturday lunch are included. Sat. dinner, Sunday breakfast and Sat over night accommodations are available on request (or if you prefer bring a tent or RV). This event is completely subsidized by UCONCI and completely free to pre-registered attendees.

\* If you have special needs or special dietary needs please note when you preregister

\* Any registrations received between Sept. 13 and Oct. 4 are subject to a \$10 fee. Registrations received after Oct. 4 or on the day of the meeting are subject to a \$20 fee.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service Water Ceremony 12 pm Lunch Group	Labor Day	8am: Breakfast Group 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice	Yard Sale Prep 5:30 pm Cottage Meeting	Yard Sale Prep	7am: Yard Sale and Car Wash
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Jewish High Holy Days 12 pm Lunch Group	7:30pm Sierra Club	8am: Breakfast Group 5:30pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice	7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	1pm: UU Women's Lunch 5:30 pm: Art Reception	6:30 pm: Cottage Meeting
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Justice, equality and compassion 12 pm Lunch Group 5pm: Vegetarians dinner		8am: Breakfast Group 10am Brand Music and Wellness 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice	6pm Brand Music and Wellness	7pm: Classic GLBT movie night	10am Brand Music and Wellness
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Fall Equinox 12 pm Lunch Group 12pm: Shelter Action Group	6pm Interfaith Prayers for Peace 7pm: Book Club	8am: Breakfast Group 10am Brand Music and Wellness 6pm: Democracy NC 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice	10am Brand Music and Wellness	1pm: UU Women's Lunch	8:30 am First Born Food Pantry 10am Brand Music and Wellness
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Demographics 12 pm Lunch Group 12pm: Cottage Meeting						

## Yard Sale and Car Wash Fundraiser

Saturday September 7 is our Fall Yard Sale and Car Wash. Save your useful items that you don't need. We will accept items from Wednesday 9/4 through Friday evening 9/6. **No Saturday deliveries**



**please.** Pickup of items is available Thursday and Friday. We need people to help Friday night and Saturday at the Yard Sale, and Saturday for the Car Wash. Contact Feryl Masters at 944-7608 or [oferyl@gmail.com](mailto:oferyl@gmail.com) to volunteer or schedule item pickup. We also need dirty cars to wash. Come on by Saturday to get your car cleaned and see the great sales available. This is one of our biggest fundraisers and always lots of fun .

### Happy Birthday to UUs this September

- Sep. 2– Kay Alston
- Sep. 10– Alan Bailey
- Sep. 11– Gladie Hamilton
- Sep. 13- Megan Kohtz
- Sep. 14– Lynda Lane
- Sep. 16– Phyllis Hazel
- Sep. 17– Bob Franke
- Sep. 19- Ruth Abramson
- Sep. 26– Marcia Sobel



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, **September 24 at 8:00 pm**

Unitarian Universalist  
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