



The UUCG Beacon



President's Notes

On Change

I.

*What we call a beginning is often the end
and to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.*

II.

*We shall not cease from exploration
and the end of all our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first time.*

--T. S. Elliot

I was looking for readings in the hymnal for the upcoming service I'm leading, and thought this one spoke to the situation in which our congregation finds itself right now. Change is constant, comprised of many beginnings and ends, both large and small.

Leadership changes each year. We elect new officers, appoint new committee chairs, while others step down, taking a new role or just a needed rest. Their contributions, seen and unseen, have contributed to our success as a group and permit us to build further upon that to the betterment of our community.

An Interim Minister leaves and new Minister replaces him. Appreciated or unappreciated, though usually some of both, the role of the Interim is to bring separation between the past and the future, to facilitate change, and to prepare us to better accept that future. Our readiness is the fulfillment of his mission and the premise upon which we write our next chapter.

Those who comprise our number also come and go. We have so recently gathered to remember and to celebrate the life of Terry Shank, a leader and member of some 50-plus years who was so important and dear to us and to so many in the wider Greenville community. We will also soon bid farewell to Sergio and Crystal Ybarra as they return to San Antonio. Their time with us was short, shorter than even they expected, yet they have made a lasting impression on us, helping us to foster a greater sense of community and fellowship, despite holding no official office or position. Others may leave us soon, expected or unexpected, but with the endings, there are also new beginnings. August and September are probably some of the busiest months for new visitors. Let us be sure to do what we can to welcome them in so their potential, large or small, seen or unseen, appreciated or unappreciated, long or short, official or unofficial, expected or unexpected enrich us all for knowing and including them.

--Rich Elkins, Board President

Worship

9/7 "Developing a Wonderful Life"

There are many ways to name the directions our lives take as we grow in community. I say it differently from one day to the next. Together we live it. Led by Rev. Rod

9/14 "What's Your Story?"

We promise to be a safe place for one another's integrity; we promise to listen, and, to engage one another's sacred stories. We can become strong together as we listen to others' stories and risk our own stories in return. Led by Rev. Rod

9/21 "Fall Equinox"

In celebration of the end of summer and the start of fall we will be celebrating the Fall Equinox along with the Water Communion ceremony. Please remember to bring some water or water that represents the spirit of your travels and journeys from this summer. Lay led service

9/28 "Reader's Theater"

Reader's theater will be returning to UUCG to present another thought provoking performance. Led by Rev Rod.

Staff

Minister: Rev. Rod Debs
 Music Director: Mort Stine
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

Board of Trustees

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 Treasurer: Feryl Masters
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 At Large: Laura Schroeder
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Social Action:
 Ray Sobel & Ann Eleanor
Stewardship:
 Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters
Worship:
 Michael Bettekin
Youth Religious Education:
 Shannon Terry &
 Christy Hoppenthaler

Minister's Reflections



The books are boxed, three file cabinets reduced to one, and the garage mostly packed. Jeannette and I have been sorting and tossing outdated resources for weeks, preparing for our move to Greenville on September 1. Soon I will begin serving as Developmental Minister with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation -- that's you!

While sorting through papers, I came across one written in 1990 by a colleague serving a sister congregation in North Carolina. She died just weeks ago: the Reverend Jennifer Slade.

As I sort through papers written in seminary and remember the Chili Cook -Offs with UUs in Iowa and kayaking with UUs in Florida, I am again reminded that our time together is limited. What are we doing together? What are we called to do in Greenville in the coming days?

At the 2014 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly in Providence this summer, I had a few seconds with Keith Kron, Ministerial Transition Director for the UUA. I thanked him for his work in facilitating our ministry "match." In a few words, Rev. Keith spoke to the questions I yearn to have answered.

Keith said, "Just love them."

May this be the answer we bring toward ourselves, to Greenville, to our planet.

See you soon!

Rod Debs, pastor

SAVE THE DATE

Yes, our new minister will start with us on September 1st, but we will have a "Start-Up Weekend" scheduled for October 10-11. This weekend is when Kathy McGowan, Congregational Life Staff responsible for our area will visit us and do workshops and activities devised to help the Minister and Congregation at the beginning of a Developmental Ministry.



Friday evening, October 10th is a congregation-wide event, so we need everyone to attend if possible. We will start at 6pm with dinner, and transition into a group exercise. This event will conclude by 9pm.

Saturday, October 11th from 9am to 3pm will be workshops designed for the leadership of the church (including, but not limited to Board, Committee Chairs, and Staff).

Childcare will be available for this event. All events will include vegetarian options. Volunteers to bring or help coordinate meals are needed. More information will be published as the date approaches.

Social Action

Social Action "102" – CROP WALK

This article provides some explanation of the next major Social Action activity--the annual **CROP WALK**.

On October 19th UUCG will join with other local churches to raise funds to promote awareness of local, national, and global hunger issues. Again this year, the walk will begin at Third Street School on 600 W. 3rd St. The walking route will pass several community gardens that Third Street has supported with funds from the CROP Walk. As the event center, Third Street will receive 25% of all donations.

On Sunday, August 17th, I went to the "Kick Off and Orientation" for this year's walk. I was very impressed as I talked with Walter Strathy, Director of Third Street, and learned how last years' walk funds were spent. They used some of the funds to install a water line and build more growing boxes to raise vegetables for the community. He estimated they harvested 350-375 pounds this spring/summer and said they were able to distribute to the community directly and also support the Little Willie Center and the Joy Soup Kitchen. He had purchased seeds earlier in the day which they will plant for fall/winter production; the seeds cost \$15. Just think what \$15 of seeds will return in value with the expected 400 pounds of produce. With funds generated this year, they will expand their growing area and work within the community to support existing community gardens as well as put growing boxes at individual homes of residents who support the program.

To support the CROP Walk, you can walk and get sponsors for your walk; you can donate directly; you can sponsor someone else. Remember, Thanksgiving will be right around the corner and walking might make room for an additional slice of pie.



On September 21st we will be celebrating both the Fall Equinox as well as the Water Communion ceremony. The worship committee requests that you bring a sample of water from your journeys this summer to contribute to this service. If you forgot to get some water from your travels then water that represents the "spirit" of your journeys will be a wonderful addition as well. This will be fun service and a way for us all to come together and share our stories from this summer.

~ September 2014 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY 6:00pm Science of Mind	2 8:00am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	3	4	5 6:30pm Games Night	6
7 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch Groups	8 6:00pm Science of Mind 7:00 Board Mtg	9 8:00am Breakfast Group 5:30pm Worship Comm. 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	10 7:00pm Choir Practice	11	12 1:00pm Women's Lunch 4:00pm Art Reception Setup 5:30pm Art Reception	13
14 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch Groups	15 6:00pm Science of Mind	16 8:00am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	17 7:00pm Choir Practice	18	19 7:00pm Classic GLBT Movie Night	20
21 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch Groups 5:00pm Vegetarians in Pitt Co.	22 6:00pm Science of Mind 7:00pm Book Club	23 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX 8:00am Breakfast Group 6:00pm Democracy NC 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation	24 ROSH HANAH 7:00pm Choir Practice	25 ROSH HANAH	26 ROSH HANAH 1:00pm Women's Lunch	27 8:30am First Born Food Dist.
28 9:30am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Lunch Groups 12:00pm Shelter Action Mtg	29 6:00pm Science of Mind	30 8:00am Breakfast Group 7:30pm KTC Buddhist Meditation				

The UUCG Beacon is published every month, on or before the last Sunday of the month. It is posted electronically to both the church website and the church Facebook page. It is also emailed with the weekly NUUS following publication.

If you are receiving this copy by mail, please consider using one of the methods above. If you must receive a paper copy (and we are glad to do so) please contact the church office OR email the beacon at the email address below OR contact Toni Broshears directly. Thank you.

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, **September 23 at 8:00 pm**

Send articles to beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

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