



# The UUCG Beacon

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES



September is traditionally when our congregation changes from our relaxed summer schedule to our regular schedule. This month, RE will start a new curriculum. Rev. Rod will be back on a regular basis to lead our services. Committees will start planning their year, if they haven't already done so. Our leadership retreat at the end of August will help us work as a team. This month we will have our first major fundraiser of the year - our semi-annual Yard Sale and Car Wash. Some groups don't get a summer off. Worship may actually be able to relax a little, now that Rev. Rod is back.

Life seems to be very busy these days. School is starting. Holidays are approaching. College sports are heating up. It can be easy to feel overwhelmed by all the things we need to do. It is important to take care of one's self. Don English's talk on meditation

may help some cope. I like to make lists and check things off. Music can help some relax. I enjoy choir. It helps me focus, and - for a little while - ignore all those things I have to do (and should already have done).

Find what helps you cope, and make sure you set aside some time for it. I like to think our Sunday services help people get better prepared for all the things life presents to us. I like to help others and work to make our world better, but I occasionally have to remind myself that I can't do that if I don't take care of myself. Also, as the song says, when you need help, ask. Lean on others. I like to think I can handle things by myself, but sometimes I need a helping hand. One skill I am still working on is knowing when, and how, to ask for help. It's not always easy, but it is very useful. Don't be afraid to ask for help, if you need it. That is part of our community purpose.

**Feryl Masters, UUCG Board President**

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### Yard Sale/Car Wash

The Fall Yard Sale and Car Wash will be September 12th. Contact Feryl Masters if you need help delivering items. Contact Jennifer Thielen to help with the Yard Sale or Feryl Masters to help with the Car Wash.

# MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



## Announcing Chalice Circles: Fall, 2015

- As a kid, my cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents lived far away. I didn't have any white-haired folks around, except for church.
- As a teen and college young adult, everyone I knew was my age, or a sibling, parent, or teacher, except for church.
- As a working adult with family far away, the only people I knew were adult co-workers, except for church.
- Sick folks were tucked away in hospitals. Children in schools. Old folks in retirement villages. Most of my life, I've lived cocooned with people a lot like me, except for church. Church is an intergenerational community where I get to rub shoulders with people who aren't just like me.

If only I didn't have to wait until memorial services to hear the stories of people different from me: those stories of different locations and historical events, different challenges and choices. What life has taught us differs with place, time and generation: child, adult and senior. If only we could sit down together and hear one another's stories around the circle.

We could light a chalice, symbol of our affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. We could read our agreement to listen without interruption, with confidentiality and without judgment. We could meet monthly for about 90 minutes with the same six or eight congregants. Each circle could have a facilitator who would present a topic and questions at each session, focusing on life experience. We could really get connected to people we rub shoulders with at church! We can do this.

This past spring, thirty-five of us participated in Chalice Circles, February through May. This fall, Chalice Circle facilitators will be providing different meeting times and days of the month for October through January Chalice Circles. Watch for sign-up sheets in September. Newcomers, youth and long-timers, everyone is invited to sign up for Chalice Circles and for childcare if you need it.

Religion (from religare, Latin for "to bind together") at its best, connects us as a thoughtful, joyful, nurturing, deepening, caring community. You are welcome to grow in religious community with us through Chalice Circles.

"Community. Somewhere, there are people to whom we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats. Somewhere a circle of hands will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power. Community means strength that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done. Arms to hold us when we falter. A circle of healing. A circle of friends. Someplace where we can be free."

--Starhawk, in "Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life" by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, 1996

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, pastor



# NEWS & EVENTS



## Religious Education

The Religious Education (RE) classes wrapped up their summer themes last week. The 5-11 year olds culminated the summer at Hogwarts (of Harry Potter fame) with a feast at Hogsmeade. The teen class also marked the end of "The Hero's Journey" by attending the feast at Hogsmeade, where Elliot Schultz amazed us all with his awesome magic act!

Both RE classes will begin new topics on **Sunday, September 6**: the 5-11 year-olds will be using a program entitled "Moral Tales," while the teens will begin exploring World Religions. Please join us!



## Water Ceremony



Every year as we return from our summer travels we come together to celebrate our return through a water ceremony. Over the summer, some of you may have collected water from your travels while others will have formed long lasting memories of the time with family and friends and your new experiences. As a way to celebrate we will be holding the water ceremony during the service on **September 20th**. If you have collected water for this ceremony please remember to bring it. Symbolic water will be provided so all may participate in this ceremony and share our experiences from this summer.

## Worship Associates Program

In an effort to better serve our congregation during worship services we will be starting a worship associates program at UUCG. Worship associates are trained in the art of leading services and conducting the various ceremonies throughout our worship services. These individuals will be responsible for leading the service with the exception of the sermon. Worship associates will be expected to lead a service at most once a month. Training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a worship associate or would like more information please contact Michael Betteken. ([ike4587@gmail.com](mailto:ike4587@gmail.com))

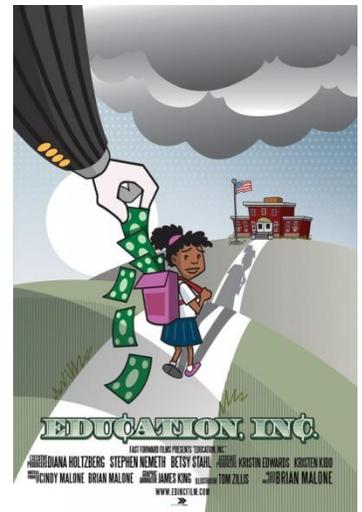


### Moral Movies--*Education, Inc.*

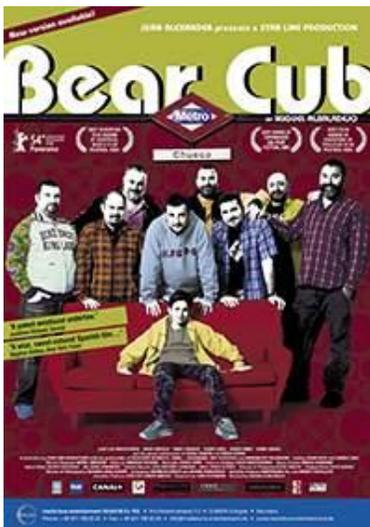
Moral Movies continues on Saturday, September 12th beginning at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. The film is "**Education Inc.**" This month's showing is being co-hosted with the nonprofit group Aim Higher Now, whose aim is to bring attention to issues relating to support for and policies about public education.

Moral Movies occurs monthly on the second Saturday of the month and features documentaries and other thought-provoking films relating to the myriad social justice issues that are an expression of our principles. Each film is followed with a facilitated audience discussion with all participants who choose to stay. This is a social action project intended to reach out and connect us with our allies in the community who are working to address these issues, and them with us.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.



### Classic GLBT Movie Night--*Chachorro*



Classic GLBT Movie Night returns from its August hiatus on Friday, September 18th beginning at 7pm in the Sanctuary with the movie "**Chachorro**" (English title: "**Bear Cub**") 2004-Spain (In Spanish with English subtitles.)

Film plot: Pedro, a gay man with an active social life and big circle of friends, takes in his nephew Bernardo for a couple weeks. When it appears as though it might become a permanent arrangement, however, Pedro turns to his friends for guidance as he and 9-year-old Bernardo begin to forge a household together.

Classic GLBT Movie Night is held on the 3rd Friday of each month, except for August and is approaching its fourth anniversary in October. An extension of our program as a Welcoming Congregation, it seeks to outreach into the LGBTQ and Allies community to make people aware of our welcome if they are seeking a spiritual community as well as exposing participants to a broad range of LGBT-themed films exploring the diversity of these communities and forms of film from comedy to documentary.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

## September 2015

Sunday August 6	10:30am	Guest Speaker, Dorothy Borden
Thursday August 10	7:00pm	PFLAG/LGBTQ Support Group
Saturday August 12	6:30pm	Moral Movie - "Education Inc."
Sunday August 13	10:30pm	"Good Work"--Reverend Debs
Sunday August 20	10:30am	Water Ceremony--Lay led service
Sunday August 27	10:30pm	TBA--Reverend Debs

View the entire calendar at <http://www.uugreenvillenc.org/calendar.html>

### STAFF

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

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Feryl Master  
 Vice President: Richard Baltaro  
 Secretary: Shannon Sparrow  
 Treasurer: Brenda Stewart  
 At Large: Cam Scales  
 At Large: Toni Broshears  
 Past President: Rich Elkins

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAYS

9:30AM Mindful Meditation  
 10:30AM Worship  
 12:00PM Lunch Groups

#### TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group  
 7:30PM KTC Buddhist Meditation  
 8:00PM Team Trivia

#### WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Ambiance:

Brenda Stewart

#### Building and Grounds:

Bob Hudson

#### Caring:

Ruel Tyer & Ruth Abramson

#### Communications:

Toni Broshears

#### Endowment:

Feryl Masters

#### Fellowship:

Laura Schroeder & Michael Betteken

#### Finance:

Richard Baltaro

#### Fundraising:

Patrice Alexander & Jennifer Schultz

#### Hospitality:

Holly Brown & Jacki Vaughn-Heath

#### Membership:

Susan Foreman & Laura Neece-Baltaro

#### Social Action:

Rich Elkins & Sandy Shephard

#### Stewardship:

Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters

#### Worship:

Pat Dix & Jerry Gregory

#### Youth Religious Education:

Shannon Sparrow & Christy Hoppenthaler

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

Email Beacon submissions to [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org)