



The UUCG beacon

October 2005

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

October 2
Hungry Souls
Rev. Karen Day

October 9
Coming Out Day
Rev. Karen Day

October 16
*Transforming the World One Baby
at a Time*
Jan Salstrom

October 23
UN Sunday
To Be Announced

October 30
Day of the Dead Celebration
Rev. Karen Day & Roger Robbins

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Challenges Ahead

Our Congregation faces a number of challenges in the months ahead. The greatest of these is Karen's departure. We will be looking for both interim and settled replacements. At the same time we are looking for a place for future expansion to be ready when we outgrow our present facility. While these challenges have been forced upon us. We have chosen the challenges of beginning a UU campus ministry at ECU and Pitt Community College and of starting a choir (Yay!)

We are also working to implement the exciting improvements started last year in our Youth RE Program, continue strong Social Action and Worship Programs, and continue to publish great Beacon and keep our web site vibrant. At our recent Leadership Retreat we determined that we want to better include visitors and new members in our congregation and increase social opportunities for young members.

All of this might be daunting, but I'm confident we can accomplish our goals. We have a talented and committed Congregation. Members step up to help when asked, and some even volunteer. This is not just the work of a select few. We have the courage and flexibility to meet our challenges. Our finances are sound, our facility is in great shape, and our hospitality team never fails.

I find encouragement in the fact that we have already successfully been through the process of replacing a minister and finding a new location. When I joined, we were about 20 people meeting in the basement of a bank. Our RE facility was the small kitchen next to the meeting room. We are a long way from our ideals and dreams, but also a long way from when I joined. Five or ten years from now, we will look back and say "When I joined we only had....."

I believe it is a healthy sign that we have so many challenges. It shows we haven't stopped imagining and dreaming. The day we sit back and say there's nothing we want to improve, we will stop growing and begin to decline.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev. Karen Day

At the same time I search the Web for news of Katrina's UU survivors we wait to see where Rita will hit and what damage will be done. Sunday you asked about Unitarian Universalist congregations on the Gulf Coast so I wanted to offer more news. If you want updates, look online at www.uua.org then click on Southwest District and Mid-South District for news.

Rev. Jacqueline Luck was a classmate of mine at Starr King Theological School. She now serves in Jackson and Ellisville, Mississippi. She spent the first few days at the Coliseum as it received evacuees. The church had no power and she was unable to reach many of the congregants. Her latest update describes their struggle, they now have three people living in their RE space, plumbing problems and one couple had their car (their last possession) stolen at gunpoint in the church parking lot!

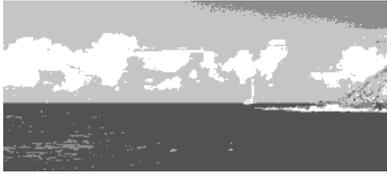
In New Orleans all three congregations have been severely damaged and possibly destroyed, UU families, like everyone in that area, are scattered. There is a letter from a district officer who still doesn't know where her brother is. One minister in LaCombe rode out the storm in the parish house and watched trees fall and the roof come off. He is afraid the damage has ruined the building and warns anyone who comes to help please bring fuel for their chainsaws because there is still no fuel in the area. Another minister works by email from Dallas. The Baton Rouge congregation has doubled in size. The Pine Bluff congregation is helping hundreds of evacuees.

I am determined not to let the scope of this disaster overwhelm me, but to also continue to listen to the stories. Jacqueline Luck writes that their worship services are extended Joys and Sorrows times. People need to tell their stories, and I need to keep listening. Yes, there is too much to attend to - people continue to be killed in Iraq, protestors continue to call for peace, there are floods in Transylvania and India affecting Unitarians there. I listen and offer my prayers to the Universe. I also want to keep listening so I can call for the changes needed to create more justice and equity as lives are rebuilt.

Our transitions here seem overwhelming on some days so I try to get perspective by listening to these heart wrenching stories of loss, sacrifice and compassion. When I see the barber volunteering his time at a large shelter, his hands gentle, his patter soothing, I see things more clearly. I can be grateful for all the resources we have as we move into the unknown.

Yes, I don't know what my work will be, but I do know where my home will be and I can move there with my beloved. Yes, you don't know who your next minister will be, but you do have familiar walls surrounding you, familiar companions walking into the future together. While things may feel a bit shapeless right now the foundations we all rest on remain strong. We know we will continue to serve our communities and work for good and sense the underlying woven threads of the sacred.

Blessed be, Karen



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare

... by Karen Day

Worship Services for October

October 2 -- *Hungry Souls* -- Rev. Karen Day

Both Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah begin this week AND today is our CROP Walk. Let us consider how these significant holidays and event all address the hungers in our hearts and our stomachs!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - noon
CROP WALK - 2:00 pm

October 9 - *Coming Out Day* --

Rev. Karen Day

National Coming Out Day is this week and it's not only for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people! We'll talk about secrets and sex and how the divine moves in mysterious ways.

October 16 - *Transforming the World One Baby at a Time* - Jan Salstrom

Jan's work as a midwife has led her to find passion and purpose one baby and one woman at a time. Come hear her stories of how the birth process makes a difference.

October 23 - *UN Sunday* - To Be Announced

October 30 - *Day of the Dead Celebration*--

Rev. Karen Day and Roger Robbins

Our annual day of remembrance for all who have gone before us. Bring pictures of loved ones who have died this year and hear stories of grief and joy and memory.

Hospitality: Refreshments for October

October 2nd --Due to the Congregational Meeting, we will again enjoy POT LUCK LUNCH. Please read the following, for your part in the meal. If your last name begins with:

A- K Meat, chicken, or casserole

L- S Salad or vegetable

T- Z Dessert or bread

October 9th -- Fruit -- Marcia Fletcher

October 16th -- Cookies -- Fred Becker

October 23th -- Fruit -- Kay Alston, Jeanne Stone

October 30th -- Cookies -- The Berkowitzs

Dinner & Movie will be on Oct 15th at 6:00pm. Several movies are being considered and the winner will be announced.

Next Dinner for Eight will be November 19th, so put this on your calendar.

--Janet Doig

Covenant Group Meeting Times

Social/Political Covenant Group meets the 1st Saturday of the month 9:30 to 10:30am at UUCG.

--Rita Gonsalves

Meditation Covenant Group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month 7:00 to 8:00 pm at UUCG

--Don English

Sacred Texts Covenant Group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month 7:00 to 8:00pm at UUCG.

--Richard Weir

Earth-based Covenant Group meets the 2nd Sunday of each month 7:00 to 8:00pm at UUCG

--Fran Roebuck

Covenant Groups are always open to new participants. If you are interested in joining one of the above groups, please contact the appropriate facilitator.

News, Notes and Other Stuff

Fellowship and Open Doors

I am so thankful I'm a member of this Unitarian Universalist Congregation. On Sundays, many fascinating, caring, wonderful people come together in fellowship. Our congregation is like a patchwork of unique threads strongly woven into a beautiful quilt that changes with time, but is always present.

Members of the caring and membership committee discussed how we can strengthen that quilt with ongoing and new initiatives. We will continue past efforts, such as the visitor log, notes to visitors, caring calls and notes to members, New Member ceremonies, Newcomer Orientation.

We challenge ourselves and all of you to take a leap next Sunday and talk with someone you don't know very well during refreshment time; the joy of strengthening our fellowship and providing open doors is yours for the taking.

Come talk with us! Sue Daughtry, Caring; Kendall Garing and Ruel Tyer, Membership.

--Kendal Garing

UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund Tops \$1 Million in Donations

Dear Friends:

(September 16, 2005)

I am humbled and grateful to announce that the UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Relief Fund has received gifts in excess of one million dollars. The pride and awe I feel at reaching this milestone is an experience that I know you all will share. This outpouring of generosity from Unitarian Universalists and friends has both moved and heartened me. As we struggle to make sense of the profound natural destruction and the crushing social failures we have witnessed, it is important that we shine a light on inspiring acts of faith such as these. Please know that each of your gifts matter and that your continued generosity will help to restore many lives. And know that we are healing ourselves as we do our small part to help to heal others.

Thank you, friends, for your ongoing acts of faith and generosity.

In faith,

The Rev. William G. Sinkford

President, Unitarian Universalist Association

From Religious Education

The fall is kicking off to a great start for the RE Program. Congratulations to our teens who have reached their goal of \$357 for the Cape Verde fundraiser which will enable one child to attend high school. Their goal for next year is to be able to raise enough money to send another Cape Verdian child to high school.

On October 16, RE is planning a field trip for the teens to attend another church as they continue to explore Protestant Christianity.

October 30 is the Day of the Dead service and will be Intergenerational. Bring your Halloween costumes, as families, old and new will come together, after the service, to celebrate this fun-filled holiday!

Many Thanks to our amazing committee members for their dedication and hard work: Marli Baker, Gail Butler, Don English, Fran Roebuck, April Weir and Richard Weir.

--Shareen Berkowitz



October in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 10:30 Hungry Souls -- Rev Day 12:00 UUCG meeting 2:00 Crop Walk	3	4 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	5 6:00 Eat Out @ Mongolian House	6	7	8 9:00 Bldg Cleanup 9:30-10:30 Soc/Political Covenant Group
9 9:00 Newcomers 10:30 Coming Out -- Rev Day 7:00 Earth-Based Covenant 7:00 Meditation Covenant	10	11 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel 7:00pm Committee on Ministry	12 6:00 Eat Out @ Lone Star	13	14	15 6:00 Dinner & a Movie
16 10:30 Transforming the world -- Jan Salstrom 7:00 Sacred Text Covenant	17 7:30 Board Meeting	18 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	19 6:00 Eat Out @ Carolina Pasta Works	20	21	22
23 10:30 UN Sunday - TBA	24 7:00 Prayers for Peace @ PCMH	25 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	26 6:00 Eat Out @ Ham's Restaurant	27	28	29 9:00 First Born
30 10:30 Day of Dead-Rev Day & R. Robbins	31					

We Can't Step into the Same River Twice

I.

My daughter's worried that the Live Oaks in City Park
can't breathe underwater,
and the ducks who bit her small hands full of bread,
"Who will feed them?"
She imagines the Aquarium fish swimming away
quick as the silver flashes
of our pond's minnows, only freer. The elephants, large as memory,
will wade out
like ships from the zoo, rescuing smaller animals.

II.

A poem's not
a life line, and the poet, not a boat.
These places burning,
flooding at the same time; these buildings where I've said
to my daughter,
"This is where you were born, and your father and his father.
Your great grandparents
were married at St. Louis Cathedral.
Grandma Cherry
used to say the gardenias in New Orleans bloomed so much
the bees flew
drunkenly into her kitchen windows all afternoon.
And here,
here's where your father and I met. Because this is there,
we are here."

III.

We aren't there anymore. Nobody predicts when it will stop,
and no one
when anything will begin again. My friend's daughter
kneels, thanks God
for her house that has a tree on it.
She'll start
kindergarten elsewhere in borrowed plaid uniforms.
On TV the city's
sounds are hundreds of dogs calling across filthy
slow moving water.
A man and a woman paddle an air mattress with brooms
to anyplace else. "The city
is a bowl." An anchor says again, "The city is a bowl." until I too
am too full.

--Malaika King-Albright

RE Calendar

At a Glance...

October 2 – CROP WALK DAY!

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Listening, Talking,
Sharing" - Marli Baker, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, "Exploring Protes-
tant Christianity" – Richard Weir,
Teacher

October 9

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Fair and Unfair Expe-
riences" – Fran Roebuck, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, "Exploring Protes-
tant Christianity" – Richard Weir,
Teacher

October 16

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Peaceful and Hurtful
Experiences" – Rick Taylor, Teacher

Teens

FIELD TRIP

Visit to a Neighboring Faith!

Richard and April Weir, Teachers

October 23

Tweens

In Our Hands, "Caring and Uncaring
for Others" – Roger Robbins, Teacher

Teens

Neighboring Faiths, "Islam" – Shareen
Berkowitz, Teacher

October 30 – HALLOWEEN PARTY!

INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE

Day of the Dead

--Shareen Berkowitz

The Work of the Congregation



Membership

Do you remember that Girl Scout song, "Make new friends, but keep the old?" That's what the membership committee is working toward.

On Sunday, October 9, 2005 at 9am at the UUCG, we will hold a newcomer's gathering; all folks who are relatively new to the congregation are welcome to attend. We will be getting to know each other while getting to know more about Unitarian Universalism. Please RSVP to Kendall Garing at 252-752-2133.

Also on the horizon is the New Member Sunday on November 20, 2005. Please contact Karen Day or someone on the membership committee if you are interested in becoming a member.

Another initiative we plan to revive is the Member Interviews, in which the name of a member is drawn at random and the member is interviewed for the Beacon -- it's a chance to get to know more about the wonderful people around us. If you are interested in interviewing and writing up your findings, give us a call.

-- Kendall Garing



Board Tid-Bits

At the September meeting, The Board of Trustees accepted the contract for our Director of Religious Education, Victoria Brown! She will begin her job on October 3rd.

The Board learned that there are recommended steps to be taken with the Thomas Jefferson District office before we can actually start a ministerial search.

We must meet with the Ministerial Settlement Representative and the District Compensation Consultant. Those meetings will happen as soon as possible.

The Board discussed the recent Leadership Retreat, which was very good. There are goals to achieve. Various committees will be asked to help fulfill these goals. Join a committee!

The first Town Hall meeting was discussed. The Board is grateful for the input received, and will be looking into Sunday reflection topics (Worship Committee), choir progress (Larry Spell offered to lead), and advertising (Communication Committee).

The October 2nd Congregational Meeting is almost here. Issues to cover include selecting a Ministerial Search Committee, what we want in our next minister (full-time?), and any new developments in the new facility search. The congregation will elect a Search Committee from a slate of candidates presented by the Board.

Don't forget the Pot Luck lunch followed by the Crop Walk.

--Jackie Wyman

On a Personal Note . . .

Jackie Wyman passed her exam with flying colors and is now a certificated Nuclear Medicine Technologist.

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's abyss biologist **Dr. Timothy Shank**, **Terry's** youngest son, discovered a strange new octopus. He reports that Russian scientists are also in the running for the honor of being first to see the creature.

Bob Franke reports that for years he's been trying to catch up with **Fred Becker** in the age race, but as soon as he adds a year..... He passed 80 last month. I forget how many years Fred has, but his lead's holding at ten or so.

Ray and Marcia Sobel, Patty Gade, Ed Day, and Carroll and Edie Webber, carried in the Sobel van, joined a march in Durham on September 17th behind a giant white bus organized by supporters of Cindy Sheehan's push to either find a good reason for spending more and more lives in Iraq -- or bring the troops home. A rally followed. Meanwhile, Mark Barnes was at the meeting house working on more handsome things made of weed stalks. Notice the one in front of the sanctuary.

Gail Butler has had back surgery and is feeling better in spite of back corseting that makes sitting in church less comfortable than would be desired.

Mary Fowler has been having eye trouble that keeps her from driving; thank goodness for Bee and her Mercedes.

Randall Garing and **Roger Robbins** shared pictures on a back table from their wedding and honeymoon -- likely available for later viewing if you missed them.

Karen's subject for the September 18th service was the Universalist part of our heritage, especially in eastern North Carolina. **Erleen Sparbel** and **Bob and Cynthia Jeffcott**; from the former Universalist Church of Kinston, helped with that history. Be sure to check out the picture, by the door to the kitchen, of the (until the 1920s) Universalist Church of Greenville. I think we owe that snapshot to friends in Kinston.

We've raised enough money to send a Cape Verde student to high school, a project of **Duncan Masters** in the Peace Corps there. (The contribution can for that project may still be open on the Social Action table.).

Ray Sobel joined the ranks of the shoppers on bicycles.; **Marcia** needed an ingredient for a special recipe and he whisked over to Krogers to get it. Ah, the joys of living close!

Sienie Postma isn't just our poster person. She's featured on a leaflet for the Geriatric Center.

Alice Arnold's nephew was scheduled to go to New Orleans with an EMT unit, A little reflected glory for us to bask in.

--Edith and Carroll Webber



WHO WE ARE

A Taoist UU's View

There are many ways to see a mountain.

One man may see the mountain as a beautiful act of nature and choose to sit and contemplate it.

One young man may see the mountain as a challenge and quickly go forward trying to scale its peak no matter how steep.

One woman may see the mountain as a problem and exclaim, "We must move this mountain!" and rally others to say the same who join in the shouting "This Mountain must be moved!"

One young woman may see the mountain as a threat but look at all the available paths and choose one to try anyway; not knowing what is around the corner.

One grandfather may see the mountain as an obstacle and recruit others to see it the same way and devise a plan to build a road. Moving the rock one by one.

One grandmother may see the mountain as a part of a larger range of mountains and choose to walk alone on the path having faith if she falls; another will come by to assist.

One may see the mountain and hike part way, change their mind and decide they really don't need to see what is on the other side.

One child may not even see the mountain for looking at the stars.

There are many ways to see a mountain.

There is no right or wrong way to see a mountain.

There is beauty in knowing there are many ways to see a mountain with time.

The only permanence through time is change.

Change gives one hope, knowing that if a mistake is made today that there will be another chance to make a better decision.

Not getting frustrated with the slowness of getting it right is a practice.

Everyone will eventually change places.

This way we are connected.

All views are respected though not seen today.

Today I move one rock at a time, take one step at a time.

Tomorrow I may sit and rest with the mountain looking at the stars.

Knowing in this way can teach compassion.

Some communities say, "You can not live here unless you see the Mountain the way we do."

Others may say, "Come, let me tell you the right way to see the Mountain."

The UU community says, "Welcome, how do you see the Mountain?"

--Jan Salstrom

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, October 18th

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



October 5 -- **Mongolian House** -- 300 SE Greenville Blvd -- 321-6868
October 12 -- **Lone Star** -- 500 SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-4900
October 19 -- **Carolina Pasta Works** -- 2422 Stanton Squ -- 757-7756
October 26 -- **Ham's Restaurant & Brew House** -- 701 Evans St -- 830-2739

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day (355-0652) know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

**The Unitarian Universalist
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131 Oakmont Drive
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