



The UUCG beacon

October 2007

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
beacon Editor: Don English
Email: beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

October 7

Who has Worth and Dignity?

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman.

October 14

Association Sunday: Risking Visibility

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman.

October 21

Yoga: It's Not About the Postures

Don English

October 28

Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Let it Fall!

When I got up the other morning to let the dogs and the cat out, I opened the door to be greeted by air that was cool... even chilly. I turned to the weather channel and it was 55 degrees outside. The long anticipated cool front had brought us over an inch of much needed rain and some finally bearable temperatures. 55 degrees is really too cool for my taste, but the morning chill meant the afternoon would be a perfect 75 degrees, which for me is the ideal.

Some people like the summer with trips to the beach or to a pool, while others prefer the winter, wondering if we'll get any snow. But me, I prefer the in-between times of the spring and the fall, or at least those all too short periods of the spring and fall when it is not too hot, and not too cold. They are just right. If I only had a thermostat on the outside of the house and could keep the temperature at that constant perfect setting, everything would be just perfect! Or so I'd wish...

Without variations in pressure and temperature, there would be no wind. My perfect day doesn't feel as good without a nice gentle breeze to make the air move. And without that movement of air to bring the rain, everything would dry up (even worse than it is). As water evaporates from the oceans and condenses into rain, it would just stay where it is and keep the oceans wet as the land grew drier and drier until it became a desert: a dry, barren desert, even if it is still at my perfect temperature. The weather is the same every day... boring, predictable, and dry.

I've never been to a desert, but I'm pretty sure I wouldn't want to live in one. I actually like rain, and love to watch a good show from a thunderstorm. That is probably my favorite part of the summer. So I guess I'll cancel that order for the outdoor thermostat and just be happy that I don't live much further north where the winters are even colder, or much further south with even longer summers and no frost to put a stop to the mosquitoes. Maybe here is about as good in terms of weather as I could hope for. It could definitely be worse!

So the earth continues to spin its way around the Sun. The change in the length of the day, along with the directness or indirectness of the Sun's rays keep the pendulum of the weather swinging as cold fronts overtake high pressure systems and warm fronts swing in from behind. It's probably too hot or too cold for my liking, but I can look forward with anticipation to the beautiful warm spell we get in the middle of the winter, or to that brief, uncharacteristic cool week in the middle of the summer, or to times in spring or fall while in the midst of transitioning from one extreme to the other, I get that period of perfect weather when it is not too hot, and not too cool, but just right.

Reflections

REFLECTIONS . . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

In 2005, the Unitarian Universalist Commission on Appraisal published Engaging Our Theological Diversity. Their goal was to describe what they believe holds us together as UU's. Here's a summary of what they had to say;

We are a grounded faith. We are a faith with roots, however lightly held, that go back two thousand years and more. Unlike more recently evolving nontraditional faiths, ours is solidly grounded in both the realm of history and the realm of ideas.

We are an ecological faith. The "interdependent web" concept of our seventh Principle is not new. Now, squarely at the center of our shared worldview, it has been around in Eastern religious thought for several thousand years.

We are a profoundly human faith. Whether we see our charge as loving our neighbor or ending the suffering of all beings, whether a transcendent dimension is part of our worldview or not, our primary focus for religious action is the well-being of this world. We wrestle with our ideas about human limitation and human power and acknowledge that our understandings are imperfect.

We are a responsible faith. At our best, we are able to respond to our deep sense of interconnectedness with both the natural

and human worlds. Whatever our source of religious inspiration, we understand that humanity must take its responsibility for the state of the world seriously. We humans have created many of the ills from which we and all creatures on this planet suffer. We have the ability to ameliorate suffering, if only we find the will to do so. Our diverse sources of religious inspiration power our will to act.

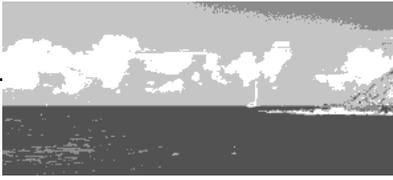
We are an experiential faith. We are focused more on experience (our own and trusted others, past and present) than beliefs. We do not hold with beliefs that contradict our experience, although we recognize that there are realities that can draw us beyond the present limits of our knowledge.

We are a free faith. We are free both as individuals and congregations. We recognize the authenticity and integrity of each individual's life journey, and concepts such as "building your own theology" or "composing a faith" resonate with us. We are a faith of heretics (from the Greek *haireisis*, "to choose").

We are an imaginative faith. We engage with image and story, garnering wisdom from many traditions and building bridges between them, making a place where creativity can flourish.

We are a relational faith. While we support the individual journey, we ground it in caring community. Relational language occurs more frequently than any other in core-of-faith

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On The Horizon

MEMBERSHIP...

What Is The Program Council?

We have two Governing Bodies in our Congregation. The Board of Trustees focuses primarily on vision and policy. The Program Council focuses on implementing our vision and goals. Some Congregations have a Board composed of Committee Chairs. We had this system years ago. The problem is that the Board gets focused on details. The Board shouldn't be deciding what color to paint the building or what the next service should be. The committees make those decisions. Each committee is led by a Chair elected by the Congregation. Committee Chairs are given broad discretion and authority in their area of responsibility. The goal is to allow each committee to operate autonomously, without the need to ask the Board or Minister for approval. The committees still need to coordinate and communicate with each other, the Board, and Minister.

The Program Council provides the mechanism for the Committee Chairs to meet and discuss things. It also provides an efficient way for the Board, Minister, and Committee Chairs to exchange information and ideas. It is composed of all the elected committee chairs, the Vice-President, and the Minister. The Vice-President is the Program Council Chair, and the Minister is an ex-officio member. Congregation members are welcome to attend. The Program Council currently meets every other month. They also participate in the annual leadership orientations and retreats. The next meeting is October 11.

--Feryl Masters

Secret Visitors Wanted

We have initiated a secret visitor program with some of the nearby Congregations. One Congregation has already sent visitors to us. We got some very positive preliminary comments, and some areas we can improve. I will report more when we receive the full report. Now, it's our turn. Who would like to visit another UU Congregation? You can't tell them why you are visiting, and have to report on your experience. You also can't be well known to UUs outside our Congregation. Otherwise, just go and find out about fellow UUs and enjoy their service and refreshments. You can choose the date. Please contact Feryl Masters if you are interested.

--Feryl Masters

Crop Hunger Walk

WHEN & WHERE: Oct. 7, 2:00pm, Registration at First Presbyterian Church, corner of Elm and 14th St.

WHY: To join in Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. We had 30 walkers last year and hope for 40 in 2007. We had 13 who signed up the 1st week. If you cannot walk, Please Support a Walker.

One fourth of raised funds help local food and shelter groups with remainder for world wide disasters.

Questions: Contact Janet Doig

--Janet Doig

News, Notes and Other Stuff

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday (October 27th) to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for each 4th Saturday distribution. Please arrive by 8:30am to receive your assignments. The distribution begins at 9:00am until 12:00pm. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars.

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.

--Toni Britt Tyer

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

A heart felt Thank You!, to all the individuals who gave, and helped paint and redo the interior of the sanctuary with the ad hoc ambience committee. It has really turned out well. With the temperatures moderating, we hope to get in the attic and connect the flood lights up for the painting displays.

On another note, until we have a robust budget, cleaning of the inside of the building has been taken over completely by volunteers. We need more who wish to contribute an hour once a week or once every two or three weeks to help with that. If you wish to contribute in that way, talk to me any Sunday It will be appreciated. There are always maintenance/clean-up items that be a one time contribution on your part, that will greatly help all of us. When you are in the church, cleaning up after yourself will be greatly appreciated. And give me your opinion on what needs "attending to". That is part of the way that we stay on top of things.

Planning is on going on making the front entrance of the church more accessible to all

members and visitors. That project is planned to be completed by the end of October. A announcement of the details of the change in the concrete levels approaching the front door, once finalized, will be posted on the bulletin board. Please give us your input on the proposed modifications to the entrance once they are posted.

Work on a new Chalice symbol for the front of the church, above the entrance is still a work in progress. We are having trouble finding someone to "form" circles out of copper tubing (or any tubing for that matter), around a Chalice. Bee Bher, Bruce Wilhelmsen and Lisa Brenner have been aiding in this project...

Particles from the universe, that do indeed, exist around us, mix with the air that coats our planet, and gives us life through our breathing. That mix of air and energy is brought by all of us to our joint space, our building, each time we enter it. You are a part of what is felt by all others that enter that space. Think of what you are bring.

--Ruel Tyer



October 2007 in PREVIEW

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 8:30 Breakfast @ S&K Cafeteria	3 6:00 Dine Out @ Ledo's	4	5	6
7 9:30 Forum 10:30 Who has Worth & Dignity? 2:00 Crop Walk	8 Columbus Day	9 8:30 Breakfast @ S&K Cafeteria 7:00 Universal Health Care	10 6:00 Dine Out @ Lone Star	11 7:00 Program Council	12	13 9:00 Bldg & Grnds 
14 9:30 Forum 10:30 Risking Visi- bility 7:00 UU Medita- tion	15 7:00 Board Mtg	16 8:30 Breakfast @ S&K Cafeteria 6:30 Young Adults Potluck	17 6:00 Dine Out @ Los Charros	18	19	20 OIAM
21 9:30 Forum 10:30 Yoga: It's Not About the Pos- tures	22	23 8:30 Breakfast @ S&K Cafeteria	24 6:00 Dine Out @ Dragon Fly	25	26	27 9:00 First Born Corn Maze
28 9:30 Forum 10:30 Day of the Dead	29 7:00 Book Club	30 8:30 Breakfast @ S&K Cafeteria	31 6:00 Dine Out @ Finelli's Halloween	Contacting Rev. Ann Marie Alderman: NEW cell phone: 252-414-4076, NEW e-mail: minister@uugreenvillenc.org . NEW Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1:30 and Wednesdays 5-7 pm. Other times by appointment.		

Dinners for 8

The purpose of Dinners for 8 is to get to better know our fellow members and especially the newer ones. We have hosts who open their homes to 6 or 7 other members who each bring a dish to share. The hosts supply the home setting and the beverage. They are not required to fix a dish since they do all the work of setting the dinners up and the clean up afterwards. Each person who attends will be phoned by the host to determine what kind of dish you wish to bring. It doesn't need to be home made but does need to serve eight people. Couples who come together will often be asked to bring one dish and perhaps pick up rolls or something easy for the partner's contribution.

This is a social occasion that has been held several times a year for longer than I have been a member. I always get very positive comments from those who host as well as those who attend. This year the goal is to have the dinners approximately every other month. They are scheduled around church activities as well as local performances. A list of the dates for the remainder of the year is being considered. If anyone knows of events that need to be worked around, I would appreciate you informing me of them.

Our last dinner was Sept. 22 and the next one is tentatively set for Nov. The date of the next dinner will be in the church bulletin several weeks beforehand. For those who would like a good meal and interesting conversation, join us for the next Dinners for 8.

Kay Alston

What Do You Believe?

It has been said that UUs will talk about any subject except the 3 Fs – Finances, Faith, and Feelings. When visitors come to see us, they may not want to discuss finances or feelings, but they certainly want to discuss our faith. During the Harry Potter School, some of us attended the “Articulating Your Faith” course. It was valuable in first clarifying what we believe individually, what UUs believe as a religion, and how to state our beliefs. I encourage you to think about how you will explain your religion to visitors. No need to force the discussion, but when the subject comes up, be ready to explain Unitarian Universalism and your personal beliefs. It can be difficult. Too often we define ourselves by what we don't believe, not what we do believe. The next time someone asks what UUs believe, be prepared.

--Feryl Masters

Children's Story

On Sunday September 9th, April Brown SANG the story for the children...John Denver's Sunshine on My Shoulders. It may have been our best story teller's circle choice ever. Usually, I choose the story, but this one was suggested by Charles Gunther, who also provided the book. I had been looking for a story for April to sing ever since she did The Friendly Beasts last Christmas Eve, so it was perfect timing and a perfect fit. We are always looking for short stories (usually picture books) that fit in with the topic of the sermon, so if you have one to suggest, let me know. You may also volunteer to read your chosen story (as Charles has in the past) or to lend or donate a book for one of our regular storytellers to read, as the Obremskis did earlier this year. You can also volunteer as a story reader, for one Sunday or for multiple times, which is how April got her start.

--Gail Butler

Reflections: continued from page 2
statements shared with the Commission.

We are a covenantal faith. We are held together, from our Reformation roots, by our chosen commitment to each other rather than by creed, ecclesiastical authority, or revealed truth. We began to reclaim that heritage with the language of our Principles. More recently, we have come to recognize ourselves as a dialogical faith; the explosion of covenant groups in our midst reflects this. We are reminded of Francis David's admonition over four centuries ago: "We need not think alike to love alike."

We are a curious faith. Freedom and tolerance have been central to our tradition at least since the Reformation. The psychological characteristics and values of people drawn to our ranks suggest openness is a compelling characteristic, even if we do not always live our values of tolerance, acceptance, and respect as well as we might. We acknowledge that our perspective is limited, that we could be wrong, that we live in the midst of uncertainties, yet we are ever open to new insights.

We are a reasonable faith. We do not ask people to check their rationality at the door, and we encourage the practice of disciplined inquiry toward personal and societal assumptions. We

challenge idolatries, especially our own. We are positive towards the finding of science, while questioning the values that at times motivate choices that area as in every other.

We are a hopeful faith. We are a faith of possibilities, aspiring to be (though we often fall short) a transformative faith, a justice-seeking faith. We would create a space for the realization of possibility, whether we call it the "commonwealth of God" or the "Beloved Community".

We are growing into being *an embodied faith*, respecting the power of ritual and the importance of beauty, living more fully in our individual and corporate bodies. We may be growing into being a more *mindful faith*, willing to be disciplined, fully present in the moment, aware of the depths and drama of being, with compassionate connection to all living being. And finally, that we are growing to be a more *prophetic faith*, a more risk-taking faith, daring to name what is broken, to challenge assumptions and to take actions requiring discomfort and sacrifice, that that we might contribute more effectively to the repair and transformation of our world...

Do these "we's" sound like you?, like us?

--Ann Marie



Universal Health Care Update

A number of important changes have accrued this year that impact on health care. I'd like to mention a few.

The AARP finally stated in their Sept. Bulletin, that "Our health care system is failing us, failing our friends and families." It goes on to say that US health and hospital care the highest in the world and that Americans spend more on medical care than on food!!! Recent research by the McKinsey Global Institute shows that comparing US to 13 industrial nations the costs at US hospitals are nearly doubled that of other countries.

In the present negotiations between the auto workers and General Motors, the associated press points out the central issue in this year's talks has been the skyrocketing health care costs. The estimated cost for the big three motor companies is \$90 billion. Wow!!!

Health insurance almost doubled the rise of wages in the first half of 2007. Wages went up 3.7% while health care costs went up 6.3 percent. Inflation rose only 2.6% while overall health care rose 6.1 percent.

The American Cancer Society is putting all of its \$15 billion advertising budget into discussing the need to provide universal health care for all. Families without insurance do not come in for early check ups, so that when they do somehow see a health care provider it is too late to prevent or cure the problem. This is unacceptable Kaiser executive states "that over the past six years the amount families pay out of pocket for their share of premiums has increased by about \$1500."

Folks, like it or not we have a serious problem here and we should be giving some serious thought as to what we can do about it.

Stay well and join the Social Action Committee
Ray Sobel

English Teacher and Program Coordinator for Transylvania

Entering its eleventh year, the English instruction program in Transylvania supports English language teaching for Unitarian ministry students at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj/Kolozsvár, Romania. The program is sponsored and administered by Meadville Lombard Theological School and is partially funded by the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council.

Meadville Lombard is seeking a half-time, permanent English Teacher/Coordinator to ensure English language proficiency among Unitarian ministerial students. S/he will also work with ministerial interns from North America who will assist in the work.

An ideal candidate will either be a native speaker of English or a non-native speaker who has studied the language at the highest level possible. This candidate should have several years' experience teaching, have excellent communication skills and be able to delegate responsibilities effectively.

The position opens January 2008. Review of applications will begin immediately and will be considered until October 31, 2007. For more information or to apply, please send a letter of interest and a CV to Steven Mitchell. More information is available at our website: www.meadville.edu.



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Sunday Morning Fare . . . by Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

October 7 -- *Who has Worth and Dignity?* -- Rev. Ann Marie Alderman.
The first in a series of sermons on the seven principles.

October 14 -- *Association Sunday: Risking Visibility* -- Rev. Ann Marie Alderman.
The UUA is beginning a major national advertising campaign; are we ready to grow?

October 21 -- *Yoga: It's Not About the Postures* -- Don English
When we think of yoga we think of poses, but did you know that Yoga is the world's oldest extant spiritual tradition?

October 28 -- *Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead*, -- Rev. Ann Marie Alderman,
A joyful intergenerational celebration for remembering our ancestors. Come in costume.
Come with a story to tell!

Crop Hunger Walk

WHEN & WHERE: Oct. 7, 2:00pm, Registration
at First Presbyterian Church, corner
of Elm and 14th St.

WHY: To join in Communities Respond-
ing to Overcome Poverty.

We had 30 walkers last year and hope for 40 in
2007. We had 13 who signed up the 1st week. If
you cannot walk, Please Support a Walker.

One fourth of raised funds help local food and
shelter groups with remainder for world wide
disasters.

Questions: Contact Janet Doig.

--Janet Doig

UU MEDITATION

As many of our members know,
UUCG is home to a small group of
people who meditate together. The
group meets on the second Sunday of
each month from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.

We usually spend a few minutes
checking in with each other about our
lives, both meditatively and non-med-
itative. If someone new to meditation
is present, we spend a few minutes on
instructions and suggestions for medi-
tating. After checking in and medita-
tion instruction, we meditate for a few
minutes. Sometimes only once, but
often enough, twice in the evening.

All are welcome, so please join us Sun-
day, October 14th from 7:00 to 8:00.

--Don English

RE Schedule for October . . .

	Teens	Tweens	Adult
Friday, Oct 5			Course in Miracles 7:00 pm
Sunday, Oct 7	Teen RE Noon	Time Travelers During Service	Forum 9:30 am-10:15 pm
	CROP WALK Intergenerational after church		
Friday, Oct 12			Course in Miracles 7:00
Saturday, Oct 13	Teen Night 7:00 pm		
Sunday, Oct 14	Yoga During the Service		Forum 9:30 am - 10:15 am
Friday, Oct 19			Course in Miracles 7:00 pm
Saturday, Oct 20	CORN MAZE Intergenerational		
Sunday Oct 21	Teen RE Noon	Time Travelers During Service	Forum 9:30 am - 10:15 am
Friday, Oct 26	Halloween Carnival		
Sunday Oct 28	Teen RE Noon	Time Travelers During Service	Forum 9:30 am – 10:15 am

Operation InAsMuch (OIAM)

OIAM is a day devoted to helping people at their points of need. The concept of Operation InAsMuch began with the Snyder Memorial Baptist Church in Fayetteville, NC in 1996. OIAM has been in Greenville since 1999.

OIAM brings together churches, fellowships, local groups for a day of hands-on work. The work meets the needs of people and agencies in Pitt County.

Operation InAsMuch will be held in Greenville on Saturday, October 13, 2007.

To sign up for OIAM projects please contact Toni Britt Tyer. The official sign up is September 16-October 7. You can sign up for projects on line at www.oakmontchurch.com. T-Shirts are available for \$5 each. If you are interested let me know your size.

--Tony Britt Tyer

Notes From the Board 9/18/2007

The Treasurer reported that pledge contributions are ahead of expectations, although current cash flow is tight due to one time expenditures having to do with settling our new minister. As anticipated in planning for this church year, some monies will have to be transferred out of savings. The office computer failed and has been replaced. Office Depot will provide a gift certificate to cover the cost of the original computer. Congregational insurance coverage was reviewed and a decision on additional insurance coverage that may be needed will be made after quotes are received.

The Minister will be responsible for monitoring and controlling all expenditures from the Administrative Section of the Budget except for the Administrative Assistant reimbursement.

We will have a Ministerial Start Up Retreat November 16th and 17th with a Pot Luck Friday night. A Stewardship District Meeting is scheduled in January in Savannah. We hope that several members can attend. The focus is on personal finance.

An event calendar has been developed for the year through August 2008. The Annual meeting will be held May 18, 2008.

We will be starting the Welcoming Congregation program as an Adult Religious Education program in the next few months.



Notes from the Front Office

Young Adult

The young adults pot luck dinner will be on October 16th at 6:30 pm. If you are in your 20's or 30's please join us for the fun and fellowship as we discuss the 7 UU principles and our everyday lives.

Fall Directories

I'd like to thank the congregation for their patience with the directory delay. Between the computer breaking down, recovering lost data and waiting for new phone numbers it's has been quite a few weeks. That said, if there are any changes or errors for the new Fall 2007 directory. Please let me know so that I can update not only the directory but our church records as well. Feel free to call me at 252-355-6658 or e-mail office@uugreenvillenc.org

Scheduling Building Usage

Please give Jess a call or e-mail her with any room reservations or changes in dates or rooms. As the fall gets busier it becomes more important to keep a handle on the calendar to avoid any potential conflicts. Both the calendar on line at the uugreenvillenc.org and on the announcement board are kept as current as possible. If you have a standing church meeting or a newly planned event that is not listed on the on these calendars please let me know so I can add them. Thank you for all you help.

New Office Hours

Here are the new church Office hours for Ann Marie: Tuesdays from 11:30-1:30 pm and on Wednesdays from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Jess: Tuesday 9-noon, Wednesday 9-noon and Thursday 9-1pm.

Favorite Movie

There is a time in everyone's life when the whole world seems very large and extremely scary. For some it might be when they enter college, or move to a new city, or when they retire. *The Legend of 1900* is that movie that I watch during those times when life seems to big and complex to comprehend.

It's really fable about a child born aboard a steamer heading to America from Europe. Abandoned my immigrate parents he is raised by the ship's crew who named the boy 1900 (after the year of his birth). Raised on the cruise ship as it travel between the two continents 1900 never steps foot onto dry land. As he ages he finds he has a rare talent as a jazz pianist, improvising to the ocean swells and entertaining the first class passengers. He gets a big opportunity as a recording producer hears of him and offers him a contract. As WWII looms 1900 must then face the choice to leave the only world he has ever known and enter the wide open unknown.

It's a great movie but hard to find. I'll loan my copy to anyone that is interested.

--Jess Patterson

Introducing... Me!

As a new member, Rev. Ann Marie asked me if I would be willing to submit a column about myself for this month's Beacon. Of course, I said YES! I thought, "Hey, I'm a reporter and I write a column every week. This'll be a piece of cake."

WRONG!

I thought about going with something corny like: Name: Jennifer Barr; Sign: Taurus; Hobbies: Reading, volunteering and party planning.

Then it occurred to me that this would be a lame way out of really discussing myself. So instead I've written this short and hopefully interesting narrative so you could each get to know me a bit better.

Here goes:

I'm a twenty four year old journalist for The Times-Leader, a weekly newspaper covering southern Pitt County. My husband of six years, Christopher, and I have one beautiful daughter, Avalon, who has made me understand life in ways I never could have dreamed of.

I grew up in southwest Florida the fourth child of six. In a constant struggle for attention with my other siblings I learned early on that there was an escape to be found in books. Thus, I read voraciously from the age of four onward.

My father became born-again during a brief prison stay when I was just three years old. Our always chaotic household became peaceful when he got out of jail and I latched on to that serenity with every fiber of my being. I associated God and religion with sanity, so while my father left the church a short year later, I retained a great deal of zest for my religion.

We moved to Ohio when I was eleven and about a year later I entered foster care, an event that changed me deeply and eternally. While in the state's care, I demanded to have access to the religion of my choice — Seventh Day Adventism. I went to church each Sabbath, became a leader in my youth group and desired to go the Adventist boarding high school after I was placed back at home.

With the help of a wonderful church family, this became possible. At school, I continued to cling to the

religion that had brought me such peace. I also met and fell in love with my husband.

I got pregnant half way through my senior year, which meant I could no longer attend school. I still kept my religious values for a long time.

After moving to North Carolina in 2003, I began attending college. Through one of my history classes, I discovered facts that made me begin to question some things that I had always taken for granted about Christianity and Judaism.

When I learned about the different writers of the Bible and the glaring inconsistencies contained in this book that I had always held fast to, I had to ask myself whether I could continue living a faith that I knew couldn't be fool proof, or if I was brave enough to walk away from the safety of my religion.

I chose the later, and have been on a journey of self-discovery for a little over two years. I identified myself with the agnostic theology and since learned about the power of doing things for myself.

It was early this year that a friend of mine, Brenda Stewart, whom I knew through volunteering in Ayden told me about her church. I was intrigued by the idea of a church where all ideas and theologies were tolerated and where children were encouraged to discover all religious traditions. (What really made me excited, though, was when she told me about Hogwarts!)

Thinking it was too good to be true, my daughter and I were first able to attend services in March.

By the end of the service, I knew I'd found my spiritual home.

Since attending, I have learned to open myself up more to a changing theology. I no longer box myself in by saying, "I'm agnostic." Instead, I joyfully say, "I'm a UU!"

I am grateful to the members of the UUCG for their acceptance of my family and I feel honored to be able to join a church family with such integrity, commitment and a healthy understanding of food's ability to bring people together!

I look forward to getting to know each of you more as time goes on.

With thanks, Your newest member Jennifer Barr

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

Wed -- Oct 3 -- **Ledo Pizza & Pasta** -- 3150-P Evans St -- 830-5336
Wed -- Oct 10 -- **Lone Star** -- 500 SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-4900
Wed -- Oct 17 -- **Los Charros** -- 206 S. Greenville Blvd -- 355-0253
Wed -- Oct 24 -- **Dragon Fly** -- 3150 Evans Street -- 215-8893
Wed -- Oct 31 -- **Finelli's** -- 511-G Red Banks Rd -- 695-0020

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

**The Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville, NC 27858
355-6658**

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Jess Patterson,

Committee Chairs
Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Fletcher
Membership: Feryl Masters (acting)
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Marta Dominquez
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

