



The UUCG
beacon

October 2008

The *beacon* is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville 252-355-6658 www.uugreenvillenc.org
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President's Notes

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

October 5
Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

October 12
Growing Our Spirit Association Sunday
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

October 19
Hope or Fear, What's Your Choice?
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

October 26
Hospice in Our Community To Be Announced

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

Unity of Oppression

I recently attended the talk by Judy Shepard (mother of slain gay college student Matthew Shepard) that was a part of ECU's "Hate Out" Week, sponsored by ECU's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, Student Union Cultural Awareness, and the ECU Student Government Association. Her talk not only focused on issues of violence based on Affectional Orientation, but also on violence and discrimination against people of a different race or religion.

You may be aware that I helped start B-GLAD (Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies for Diversity) the student group on ECU's campus way back in 1994. I served as co-chair for two years, and then another two years as its treasurer. The next year, my partner, John served as President for the 1998-99 school year. This was the year that Matthew Shepard was killed. The tenth anniversary of his death will be this month, on October 12th. B-GLAD was one of many groups across the country that organized Candlelight Vigils in response to the brutal event, receiving very comprehensive local news coverage both on TV and in local print media.

Back in the 90's when I was involved on campus, we made numerous attempts to outreach and cooperate with other minority groups on campus, but with little success. When an event on campus referred to diversity, more often than not, the diversity that was being promoted was racial, and generally referred to African American inclusion. With the exception of Housing and Residence Life, little attention was paid to diversity beyond that of the areas of race, or maybe religion. The concept of "unity of oppression," that discrimination against any class of people, no matter the category, has similar roots and characteristics, was not widely espoused or promoted.

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Twenty five new folks have signed UUCG's Membership Book in the past year. A few of these new members have already moved on to other locations because of employment or family obligations. A few who joined, and have only returned a time or two, may have moved on in terms of their spiritual journeys. As the 25 new member number was adjusted downward by these circumstances, so was the number of those who had joined in years past also reduced because of movement in terms of geography or in level of participation. The net result of all this movement is that UUCG's total membership count is currently just above 90, which isn't a big net gain over the last several years...HOWEVER, it is very significant that over 20% of UUCG's current members have been involved for a year or less. (The Membership Committee and the Board will be hosting a New Member dinner later this

month to celebrate these new folks, all of whom are bringing a wonderful level of energy and vitality to this congregation.) Look around on Sunday, there's very likely to be someone you don't know. There's likely to be someone who doesn't know you. Whether or not you've been a UUCG member or friend a long time or a short time, you can make a move to start a conversation with someone you don't yet know by sharing what you have in common. I bet you'll find that you have the same set of general reasons for being involved at UUCG whether you are new or well "established"! After you share what you have in common, keep going! Continue the process of getting to know someone new by sharing what's unique about you and inquiring the same of the other person. Life is short, keep moving!

-Rev Ann Marie

Used Shoe Drive

The American Business Women's Association (ABWA) is working with Destined4Success to collect used shoes for recycling. The shoes are being recycled and given to people in need as far away as third world countries. **Please donate your used shoes.** Bring your unwanted shoes to UUCG and leave them in the library. If the shoes have strings, please tie them together. If no strings, please put a rubber band around them so they will stay together. All shoes are recycled except flip flops and steel toed shoes/boots. I have already received some flip flops so I took them to Good Will. Again, thank you for your contributions for this project. At this time there is no deadline. ABWA plans to do this indefinitely. If you have any questions concerning the used shoe drive, contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.
— Toni Tyer

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, **October 28th at 8:00 pm**

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

From the RE Committee

It is time for my periodic plea for volunteers. RE is on the brink of being able to meet the needs of a growing congregation, or not. We have decided to open a new class and split the ages in the Tween class. Right now, we have children four to twelve years old in the same room, with the same teachers and using the same curriculum. It is a difficult arrangement for the teachers and the children and if we don't make this change, I am sure we will lose families. The future of our church, not to mention the future of our liberal denomination, rests with being able to attract and keep families. That is why two years ago, I took the position of RE chair—not because I am so wonderful with children, but because I care about this church. I knew if I made tending the religious education of children and families a serious intention, I could make a difference. I don't have much time left in my tenure, and the one goal I would like to accomplish before I step down is to have more participation in children's religious education. More participation would mean keeping the teachers we have from burning out and quitting. It would allow the children to interact and learn from more members of the congregation,

while giving the children the feeling that they are an important and valued part of this church. It would also free the RE committee to take better care of the organizational aspects of this department—we would like to have an RE brochure, we need to work towards becoming a "safe congregation", and we need to host more family-centered activities. Right now, we spend most of our time shuffling volunteers and trying to decide on which age range to focus our teaching. It would be really wonderful if this whole church, not just the RE committee and not just the parents, would fully embrace children and families.

If you volunteer in RE, I promise I will not take advantage of you. You will still have plenty of Sundays free to attend sermons. I think you will find that working with children can be a different kind of worship and you will be unexpectedly moved just as I have been at how much you can receive from children. It's just when you have patted yourself on the back for giving time and attention to the children, that one of them will run up to you, wrap his arm around yours and say, "I haven't said 'Hello' to you today!" It will melt your heart and you will be so glad you gave your time. So, please, volunteer and make a difference.

--Patty Gade

First Born Food Distribution

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, October 25th, to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for this distribution. 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. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

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 Tyer

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

Kudos to the Ambience Committee

On Friday evening, September 19, the sanctuary was transformed into a lovely setting for the Celebrating African American Art reception for an outstanding art exhibit by local painters Pearlless Speller and Richard Brown. Ambience Committee members Kay Alston and Claudia Sundman worked with the artists to hang the art works. The food, drinks and flowers were presented by committee members Marcia Sobel, Lorraine Obremski, Sylvia English, Claudia Sundman, Janie deGroot, Kay Alston, and Terry Shank. Bill Paulson and Hank Obremski served the drinks, while Don English and Kay Alston greeted guests. Mary Mattheis assisted with the preparations. This was the third art reception offered by the committee as outreach to the community by and for our congregation.

--Terry Shank

Worship Committee Report 9/23/08

The WC members would like to publicly thank Lora Hylton, who resigned as chair of the committee so that she could attend to pressing matters at home. Bev Harju was appointed as chair by the Board. Four areas were covered during the meeting. One visitor to the committee, Charles Gunther brought up the topic of having more **Traditional Ceremony Services**. We agreed to have three to four traditional ceremonies each year. The water, in-gathering ceremony occurs in early September and the celebration of life with flowers occurs in the spring, around May. After consulting with the Membership Committee, we agreed that the New Membership ceremonies should remain more formal and will include roses and introduc-

tions for each new member. Finally, we may have a bread ceremony to symbolize our annual Guest at Your Table special collection. Ann Marie presented her **Minister's Agenda and Report** for our second area. She noted that only two to three Sundays remain to be filled in our Fall Services Schedule. These are Nov 2nd and Dec 28th. The members agreed to modify the order of service so that various areas flowed more naturally into each other. Finally, we discussed modifying a few of our **Service Procedures**. This included asking the Board Representative who opens the service to refurbish the candle supply before each service. We worked on small modifications of the Lay Leader Guide including a note to submit the Order of Service to the UU Office at least six day prior to the Sunday service.

--Bev Harju

First Born Collections

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 have food items, **non-perishable**, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this Social Action project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

— Toni Tyer



October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<u>01</u> <u>7pm Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</u>	<u>02</u> <u>6pm Girl Scouts</u> <u>6pm Dining Out @ Basil's</u>	<u>03</u> <u>7pm Course in Miracles</u>	<u>04</u>
<u>05</u> <u>9:30am The Forum</u> <u>10:30am Worship Service</u> <u>2pm Greenville CROP walk</u>	<u>06</u> <u>6pm Worship Committee Meeting</u>	<u>07</u> <u>8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th</u> <u>7pm KTC Buddhist Group</u> <u>7pm Choir Practice</u>	<u>08</u> <u>7pm»Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</u>	<u>09</u> <u>6pm»Girl Scout Leader Meeting</u> <u>6pm Dining Out @ Ming Dynasty</u>	<u>10</u> <u>7pm Course in Miracles</u>	<u>11</u> <u>Corn Maze Trip</u> <u>9am Building & Grounds Workday</u>
<u>12</u> <u>9:30am The Forum</u> <u>10:30am Worship Service</u> <u>7pm UU Meditation Group</u>	<u>13</u> <u>7:30pm Sierra Club Meeting</u>	<u>14</u> <u>8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th</u> <u>6:30pm Social Action Committee Mtg</u> <u>7pm KTC Buddhist Group</u> <u>7pm Choir Practice</u>	<u>15</u> <u>7pm Program Council</u>	<u>16</u> <u>6pm Girl Scouts</u> <u>6pm Dining Out @ K&W Cafeteria</u>	<u>17</u> <u>7pm Course in Miracles</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> <u>9:30am The Forum</u> <u>10:30am Worship Service</u> <u>5pm Vegetarian Pot Luck</u>	<u>20</u> <u>7pm Board Meeting</u>	<u>21</u> <u>8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th</u> <u>7pm KTC Buddhist Group</u> <u>7pm Choir Practice</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> <u>6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting</u> <u>6pm Dining Out @ Boli's</u>	<u>24</u> <u>6:30pm New Member Dinner</u> <u>7pm Course in Miracles</u>	<u>25</u> <u>9am First Born Food Distribution</u>
<u>26</u> <u>9:30am The Forum</u> <u>10:30am Worship Service</u> <u>4pm Halloween Festival</u> <u>5:30pm U Young Adults Meeting and Potluck</u>	<u>27</u> <u>7pm Interfaith Alliance/St. Paul's</u>	<u>28</u> <u>8am A+ Schools Program/UNCG</u> <u>8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th</u> <u>7pm KTC Buddhist Group</u> <u>7pm Choir Practice</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> <u>6pm Dining Out @ Logan's Roadhouse</u>	<u>31</u> <u>7pm Course in Miracles</u>	

Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

NEW MEMBER DINNER FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH 6:30 P.M.

The Board and Membership Committee invite all new members who have joined in the past year to join us for a dinner at the church on Friday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m.. This will be a social evening of friendship and getting to know one another better. Please save the date and we look forward to seeing you that evening.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Patty Gade 10/16
Sue Jefferson 10/29

If you would like to add your birth date to the church list, please leave a message at the church office.

The Membership Committee
--Bette Nelson

WANTED AND NEEDED

Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for a dolly to move several chairs at one time and for a grass edger. Anyone who can obtain any which one for us, please contact Terry Shank- 756-3108

Dining Out is back

Join a contingent of your fellow UUCGers at one or all of the local restaurants (listed on the back) on Thursdays at 6:00 pm (Dutch treat). Because we never know who plans to attend, please try and arrive by 6:00 pm so we can all be seated together, or call or e-mail Jackie Wyman.

—Jackie Wyman



Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

Prez Notes: continued from page 1

That is why it was so heart-warming to me now to not only have the opportunity to see Judy Shepard speak to a very large crowd assembled in Hendrix Theater, but also the fact that the event was not one that was put on by the GLBT Student Union (B-GLAD changed its name to specifically include Transgender students) but instead was initiated by the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center and other diversity-engaged groups as a part of a whole week of anti-discrimination targeted events.

The LWCC was named for Dr. Ledonia Wright, “a popular and respected university professor who advised the university’s first African-American student organization.” (quoted from the LWCC website) When it first opened in 1995, the focus of the center was on the African-American campus community. Now, groups such as the GLBT Student Union meet in the LWCC facility and it was also the host for the reception for Judy Shepard.

UUCG’s recent series of Welcoming Congregation workshops also recognized the “unity of oppression” concept, devoting a whole session to it. As a Congregation, we need to recognize all of the various forms of oppression that exist in our culture and do what we can to eliminate them. February 20-22, the Thomas Jefferson District will hold its 2009 Anti-Racism Conference “Understanding and Addressing White Privilege” in Raleigh. I hope to attend and encourage you all to take this opportunity to educate ourselves and join in anti-oppression activities to help make this world a place where our principles are lived and not only discussed.

Rich Elkins

Meditation: How to Get Started

Meditation is about choosing where you direct your attention. If you focus on something that is simple and sensual, you relax. If you focus on something stressful and complicated, such as your habitual thoughts, you remain tense. The basic instructions are: focus on the sensation of the present — sight, sound, smell, taste or touch — and let your thoughts pass by in the background.

Because the principles are so versatile, you can apply them in all kinds of circumstances.

Once you find a suitable meditation, it’s almost essential to do it routinely for a few days at least — you need to do a meditation at least four times over four days for it to go into your long-term memory. This means that every time you walk to your car, or stand in a line (for example, the thought arises: “I can mediate now! I did it here yesterday and I can do it here again today.” This is how you develop your own repertoire of exercises.

You may find it hard to believe that these simple, opportunistic meditations can do much good. In fact, they can change you from a stressed, harassed and miserable individual into someone who copes beautifully and finds peace and pleasure in the most unexpected places.

Meditation is very simple, which is why it works. It’s all about being in the present and focusing on the world of the senses. When you do something simple and sensual, the body automatically relaxes and the mind calms down. It’s just a matter of making this happen much more deliberately than you usually would.

from “Flip the Switch”
by Eric Hazrison

Respecting the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Dining Out — Dutch Treat

Please arrive by 6:00pm or contact Jackie Wyman if you'll be late.

Oct. 2 -- **Basil's** -- 1675 E. Fire Tower Road -- 353-5800

Oct. 9 -- **Ming Dynasty** -- 3103 E. 10th St. -- 752-7111

Oct. 16--**K&W Cafeteria** -- 1916 W. Arlington Blvd. -- 355-3684

Oct. 23--**Boli's** -- 703 SE Greenville Blvd -- (K-Mart Plaza formerly Courtyard Tavern)

Oct. 30--**Logan's Roadhouse** — 603 SE. Greenville Blvd. -- 439-4313

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**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, Patrice Alexander
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Alan Bailey
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Bev Harju

