



# The UUCG Beacon

October 2012

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
 252-355-6658  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)  
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

**October 7**

*Taoism*  
 Paul Kurmas

**October 14**

*Evil Comes Creeping*  
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**October 21**

*Does Membership Matter?*  
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**October 28**

*Is Atheism a Faith?*  
 Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

*Only in the agony of parting do we look into the depths of love.*

-George Eliot

By now, most of you will have received the news of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman's announcement that she will be leaving our congregation at the end of this year, to start the next chapter in her life. To say that we owe her a debt of gratitude, and that she will be missed, would be the understatement of the year! I'm sure we all wish Ann Marie nothing but the best in the years to come, and will cherish the few remaining months this congregation has to share with her.

While it may in some ways feel premature to discuss "replacing" her, I felt that this may be the right time and forum to outline the process for obtaining an interim minister and initiating a call for long term ministerial placement. Rest assured that I am already in contact with the UUA's Office of Transitional Ministry and it is our plan to have an interim minister ready to start in January, to assist with our congregational needs during this transition between called ministers, keeping in mind that calling a minister is typically a one to two year process.

While many of us may be tempted to think of an interim minister as a temporary fix or "band-aid" until we find a more permanent replacement, we should keep in mind that interim ministry gives us the opportunity to heal old wounds, take stock of our unique strengths and weaknesses, and reinvigorate our congregation for the tasks ahead. It has the potential to serve as a revival of sorts, if we choose to make the most of our interim ministry.

As you can imagine, the mechanism behind selecting and hiring the right interim minister and ultimately a called minister, will have many moving parts. If you have a desire to be involved in the process, let a board member know, as I'm sure we can find a way to get you involved.

And speaking of getting involved, have you noticed the recent changes to the front of the building? Thanks to the generous donation of a congregant, the building is getting a much needed face-lift. If you have the time or skill-set to lend a hand, please feel free to contact Feryl or another member of the Building and Grounds committee. I'm also pleased to announce that the recent semi-annual Yard Sale and Car Wash was another huge success, with the preliminary total of just under \$1000 in funds raised. Thank you to all who helped make this another wonderful opportunity for fun, fellowship, and fundraising.

Tom Thielen  
 President, UUCG Board of Trustees

# Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



It was with a deep sense of gratitude for the ministry we have shared that I recently gave my notice to all the friends and members of UUCG. The Sunday before Christmas will be my final time leading the worship service as your minister.

I want you to be assured that my reason for leaving now has to do with my sense that we have accomplished what we were meant to do together. I am very clear that it is time for me to go. It is time for me to move on to a new place of service; time for you to move forward to new depths of spiritual engagement and into a period of new growth.

In the next two and a half months, I hope we take the time we need to look back at all that we have accomplished together, to say our goodbyes and to end our relationship as minister and congregation in the best possible way so that you can welcome whomever might become your next minister. I have been assured that an interim, one who specializes in the "in-between" time is ready and available to be with you in January.

It has been a great privilege and a joy to serve you, to care for you, to bring you the good news of Unitarian Universalism again and again, to have been so wonderfully received by you... to have been on a journey both challenging and deeply transformative together. I will miss you.

With love and faith,

*Rev. Ann Marie*

**Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large**

## Staff

**Minister:** Rev. Ann Marie Alderman  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## Board of Trustees

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**Worship:** [Lynn Caverly](#) & [Paul Kurmas](#)

# Religious Education

## Youth Religious Education Report

Greetings!

We've had an exciting start to our "school year" curriculum, including some big changes to our classrooms. Did your mother ever tell you to be "careful what you wish for"? The YRE committee has been wishing for quite some time to have enough children who attend consistently so that we could better tailor our program to more narrow age ranges. In other words, we wanted to have a separate Teens group once again rather than grouping the Teens and Tweens together. With our first day of the new curriculum it became quite clear that the time we were waiting for was NOW!

We now have three classroom groups in addition to the Nursery care. The Elementary children will continue to meet in the large classroom and will be working on the Holidays and Holydays curriculum. So far the children seem to enjoy the hands on exploration, and Kimberly has been doing lots of work to make the physical space more attractive and conducive to working on the lessons.

The Tweens will continue to meet in the smaller room with the couches, but instead of Neighboring Faiths, they will be working from the UUA curriculum, Toolbox of Faith. We haven't used this curriculum in a few years, but we feel it will better meet the needs of the Tweens to have a more active class that will also discuss more about the Unitarian Universalist faith, which was a request from one of our children.

We will still be using Neighboring Faiths, but it will be with the newly formed Teens class. For now the Teens will be meeting in the Library during services, although as the year goes on they will be traveling to other places of worship and may also hold their discussions offsite.

I am very impressed with how well our volunteers and parents pulled together to make these changes when it became clear that we needed to address different needs within the different age groups. We were able to make the transition very quickly, and I credit at least part of that to the effort Kimberly has put in to researching different curricula. I'm very proud of our team and of their dedication to doing what is best for the children in our congregation.

With the increase in the number of classrooms we also have a need for an increase in the number of people who can volunteer to assist with YRE. We have some very good, dedicated lead teachers on board, but we are in need of second adults and of helpers in the nursery. A vibrant Youth Religious Education program is important to the vitality of our congregation, and it needs support from everyone in the congregation. If you think you have an interest in working with our youth, please speak with Kimberly, myself or one of the classroom teachers.

Namaste,

Jennifer Thielen  
Chair, Youth Religious Education



## AIDS Quilt Panel Workshop

October 6th there will be an AIDS Quilt Panel Workshop held at First Christian Church on 14th Street in Greenville. (If you are not familiar with The NAMES Project and the AIDS Memorial Quilt please see: [www.aidsquilt.org/](http://www.aidsquilt.org/) It is an inspiring project). The workshop is designed to be "floating" meaning that you can drop by at any time to create a panel yourself, help others, or just observe beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing until 4:00 p.m.

Gert McMullin will be the workshop instructor. She lives in Atlanta and has been working on the AIDS Quilt for 25 years. This event is free and open to the public, though donations will be accepted to help offset the cost of bringing Gert to Greenville and to provide an honorarium to the NAMES Project.

If you want to design a panel, please let Brad know. They have purchased some fabric but are in need of materials such as thread, needles, scissors, etc. If you have any type of decorative fabric, buttons, sequins, etc. that you would like to donate to the workshop they would LOVE to have them. All panels that are made will be blessed in the Interfaith AIDS Service on November 30 (more information about this service to follow) and will be sent to Atlanta to join the AIDS Quilt. We look forward to seeing you on October 6. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brad Collier at [bradcollier82@yahoo.com](mailto:bradcollier82@yahoo.com).

## Building and Grounds

Many of you have noticed the change to the front of the building. We are changing it to make our building more visible. We are also replacing the rotting siding and leaky windows. Most of the work is being done by volunteers, although the signage and special painting is being contracted out.

Thanks to the following for their help:

Kay Alston	Terry Shank
Pat Tesh	Miciah Masters
Shelley Duncan	Tom Thielen

In the next few months, we plan to have the large pine tree removed by the city and plant two more appropriate trees in its place, add an area light to the parking lot for security, and resurface the parking lot. More improvements will be happening as time and funds permit.

## UU Wine Country Holiday

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce the eighth season of our Wine Country Excursions. Again, we offer several options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas..

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads. Napa is an hour from San Francisco.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are well below market rate for comparable services and all proceeds go to our small fellowship.

For complete details contact: Iris Barrie at 707.363.7552 or [barrie001@comcast.net](mailto:barrie001@comcast.net)

~ October 2012 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>3</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>4</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>7</b> First Born share half offering for October 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Taoism, Paul Kumas 12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>8</b> 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	<b>9</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>10</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 3p-4:30p CSC ENC board 5:30p-6:45p Building Your Own Theology 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>11</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>12</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>13</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>14</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Evil Comes Creeping 12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>15</b> 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting 7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting	<b>16</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>17</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>18</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 12p-6p CSCENC Strategic Plannine 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>19</b> 9a-1p CSCENC Strategic Planning 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	<b>20</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>21</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Does Membership Matter?, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-2p New Member Orientation 12p-1p Lunch Group 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	<b>22</b> 6p-9p FROGGS 21st Celebration 7p-8:30p Book Club	<b>23</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 4p-5p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>24</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>25</b> 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	<b>26</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>27</b> 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness
<b>28</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Is Atheism a Faith?, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>31</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice			

### FunRaising

Our recent Car Wash and Yard Sale raised almost \$1,000. Thanks to all those who donated items and worked hard to make it successful. The results from our September McAlisters night aren't known, yet. The place looked crowded, though.

Don't miss our next McAlisters night on Wednesday October 17. Bring all your friends for some good food and conversation. We get at least 5% of all their sales from 5:00 PM until 9:00 that night.

Also, keep Friday evening, November 9 open. That's our first dinner/Bingo/Family Fun night. More details will be forthcoming. We promise good food, fun prizes, and great company for all ages.

### Happy Birthday to UUs this October

Oct. 16– Patty Gade

Oct. 29– Sue Jefferson



**Affirming the goal of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all**

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

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