

# The UUCCG Beacon

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



## President's Notes

*A true religious hospitality reaches out to those we do not yet know. This can be as simple as greeting those seated near you on Sunday morning and working up the courage to talk to a stranger during coffee hour. It means warmly welcoming those who come looking for a religious home. As Unitarian Universalists, we*

*respect each person's search for truth and meaning. And as stewards of hospitality, we can stand ready to look at each other face-to-face, to see the divine in each person.*

-Reverend Peter S. Morales, President Unitarian Universalist Association

## THE CARING COMMITTEE

The Caring Committee is here for anyone needing a little extra caring.

The Caring Committee is available to evaluate requests for assistance with various life challenges. The committee members offer unbiased support while respecting the confidentiality and privacy of congregation members and friends. Feel free to contact a committee member if you need assistance, if you know of someone needing assistance, if you can help another member in need.

The caring committee does not take the place of pastoral care but can lend a helping hand, listen to a concern, or rally support for congregation members when needed. Just call Rev Rod or the church office at 252-355-6658.

The Caring Committee is also seeking more volunteers to give extra care to members with needs. Just call Rev Rod or see us in church.

Many within this congregation think of hospitality as simply providing coffee and snacks after the service. While this is indeed a task assigned to the hospitality committee, it is not the extent of a hospitality committee's function, nor is it the extent of functional religious hospitality within the congregation. In some ways, we have taken an opportunity to be warmly welcoming of newcomers, guests, wanderers, and seekers and boiled it down to the task of offering food and drink. And it is a task of great value to this congregation, as evidenced by the fact that coffee and snacks continue to be provided, despite the collapse of our hospitality committee, and our failed attempts to implement a volunteer sign-up system. Let me state that again for emphasis: in spite of the fact that no one is coordinating or overseeing the effort, and no one is signing up in advance, **coffee and snacks are still being provided.** Every Sunday.

First of all, let me thank all who have contributed to the effort to maintain coffee hour. It has only continued through the volunteer efforts of people who see the value in the coffee hour and want to preserve that tradition. These are the very same people we want to be involved in congregational hospitality, because regardless of their thoughts and feelings about committees, they feel passionately about hospitality, or at least, about brewing coffee.

*continued on page 3*

## Worship Services

October 6 **“Our UU Forebears that we DON’T talk about”  
Intergenerational Service**

**Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

In this sermon I’ll look at some of our religious predecessors that we don’t like to claim. We readily claim many of our country’s founding fathers and mothers and other famous persons as Unitarians and or Universalists, but there are some equally famous persons that we don’t talk about. Why? Is it that we don’t know about them? Or are we ashamed of them? Join us for the Intergenerational Service and find out. See you in church.

October 13 **“Peace Inspires Us” Lay Led**

October 20 **“Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations”**

**Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This is the third of the promised services focusing on our Unitarian Universalist Principles. As members of a congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association we are called to “affirm and promote” these principles. What does that mean? How difficult can that be? I’ll share my thoughts and listen to yours. See you in church.

October 27 **“Amazing Grace” Led by Rev. Rod Thompson  
With guest pianist, Marc Brandeis, from Cary, NC**

The hymn “Amazing Grace” has almost become a national hymn, known and recognized by almost everyone. Although I refuse to think of myself as a “wretch,” once I learned about its author, John Newton, I don’t want us to lose this wonderful old song. Join us as we celebrate “Amazing Grace.”

## Membership Committee News

The Membership Committee hosted a new member luncheon for 18 new and potential members to our congregation. Reverend Rod Thompson led the presentation and discussion. We are happy to welcome five new members - Bill and Kim Fleming, Toni Broshier, Sterling Field, and Bob Hudson. Our congregation is growing! *-Susan Foreman, chair of membership*

## Staff

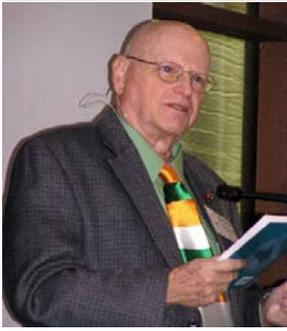
**Interim Minister:** Rev. Rod Thompson  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## Board of Trustees

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## Committee Chairs

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## Rod's Ruminations

Do you know how strong and dynamic this congregation really is?

That may be a strange question for your Interim Minister to ask, especially since a lot of what I've heard has been a recitation of your problems. Sure, there are challenges that need to be faced but don't let that cloud your minds to your achievements.

You are well known for your children's Religious Education Program, with a respected Director and a well trained cadre of teachers; and you are known for the quality of your Music Program, with your many talented musicians. That is something to be proud of and celebrate.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville is well known in this part of Eastern Carolina as a Caring Community. You are known and respected for your involvement in social justice work. Sure, there is more to do in both areas but that, too, is something to be proud of and celebrate.

Several folks, both long-term and newcomers have told me how warmly they have felt welcomed by you. In spite of having outgrown your building, you're still attracting visitors and new members, especially young families. That is surely the sign of a strong and dynamic church.

This church is made up of a wonderful group of talented, committed folks; with a strong and competent leadership. Please recognize that and celebrate it. It will help you pull together for the work ahead. We are all in the work together!

### Prez notes continued.....

But hospitality is about more than making coffee. How do we get back on the right track, healing the hospitality committee and helping it resume its function of loving inclusivity and welcoming, of helping guests feel less like outsiders at an exclusive, members only club? Reverend Morales offers additional insights there as well:

*Hospitality is not something to be proclaimed; it must be lived. Hospitality is both a spiritual discipline and an expression of spiritual health. If I feel angry, hurt, unloved, or alienated I cannot offer a warm welcome. Conversely, if I am at peace, filled with joy at being alive, aware of those around me with compassion in my heart, then hospitality flows naturally and inevitably from the depths of my being.*

Perhaps we as a congregation need to look at WHY hospitality has become such a struggle. I suspect there is still healing that needs to occur, perhaps in each of us, and perhaps collectively as a congregation as well.

Tom Thielen, President UUCG Board of Trustees

**FRANKLY**  
SPEAKING  
ABOUT CANCER

## Colorectal Cancer



**This free educational program provides** support, education and hope to people affected by colorectal cancer and their loved ones. In the workshop, you will learn about the most current colorectal cancer treatments, side-effect management strategies, social and emotional challenges of the diagnosis and survivorship issues specific to people with colorectal cancer. All attendees will receive a free copy of the informational booklet, *Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Colorectal Cancer*.

### Dr. Prashanti Atluri, ECU Brody School of Medicine

**Date:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Cypress Glen Retirement Community Auditorium 100 Hickory Street,  
 Greenville, NC 27858  
 (See parking directions on back of flyer)

For more details and registration, call 252-493-6493 and leave a message or please **email us at [cancerworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:cancerworkshop@yahoo.com)** or visit [www.cancersupportcommunity.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunity.org)

### THE LEADERSHIP TRAINING SERIES

Rev. Rod, an experienced Leadership School teacher and facilitator, will present five sessions beginning NEXT Tuesday, October 1st, and continuing almost every other week through November. Sign up now for this exciting opportunity to become a better leader – whether at church, at work, or in another volunteer role.

Come and learn about your leadership style and personality; how church size affects all aspects of church dynamics; how group process evolves; how best to treat volunteers; how to manage the conflicts that change brings; and many other critical leadership characteristics and strategies. Registration for all five sessions is recommended, though, you may register for one or more that fit your schedule and needs.

To register sign up on the bulletin board, call the church office at 252-355-6658 or e-mail [revrod@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:revrod@uugreenvillenc.org). Sign up right away so we'll know if we have enough to begin. Also let us know if you'll need Childcare.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Leadership Training 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness		10am Brand Music and Wellness
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: UU Forebears 12 pm Lunch Group		8am: Breakfast Group 5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Board of Trustees meeting	1pm: UU Women's Lunch	10am Brand Music and Wellness
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Peace Inspires Us 12 pm Lunch Group 1pm: Frankly Speaking	7:30pm Sierra Club Meeting	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Leadership Training 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness	7pm: Classic GLBT Movie Night	10am Brand Music and Wellness
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Acceptance 12 pm Lunch Group 5pm: Vegetarians in Pitt County		8am: Breakfast Group 6pm: Democracy NC 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Frankly Speaking	1pm: UU Women's Lunch	8:30am First Born 10am Brand Music and Wellness
27	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Amazing Grace 12 pm Lunch Group	7pm:Book Club	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Leadership Training 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	Halloween 6 pm Brand Music and Wellness		



## 2013 Greater Greenville CROP Hunger Walk

With your support and participation, we can make a significant difference in the lives of the nearly 1 billion worldwide living in poverty. Funds raised by the 2013 Greater Greenville CROP Hunger Walk will be used in partnership with Church World Service to fight hunger and malnutrition in both our local community and around the world.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds collected directly benefit our local community, this year assisting Third Street Community Center and Greenville Harvest in establishing and maintaining community gardens. These gardens provide a sustainable model for alleviating hunger and increasing nutrition by educating residents on agricultural techniques and providing a resource for fresh produce that encourages healthy eating.

- © Walk date: October 20, 2013
  - © Walk time: 3:00 p.m.; registration starting at 2:00 p.m.
  - © Walk location: St. James UMC, 2000 East Sixth Street
- Register on line at [www.crophungerwalk.org/greenvillenc](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/greenvillenc)

Happy Birthday to UUs this October

- Oct. 13– Chris Frederico
- Oct. 16– Patty Gade
- Oct. 29– Sue Jefferson



*Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person*

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, **October 22 at 8:00 pm**

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