



The UUCG Beacon

PRESIDENT'S NOTES



As I watched the Presidential debates this month, I was struck by the lack of civility and the personal attacks on each other. Politics, and even our general society, has become too accepting of insults, rudeness, and dehumanization of other people. I don't think we should all agree. I don't insist that we all like each other. I do believe we must treat each other civilly. Our congregation should be a place where everyone is treated with respect and courtesy.

I often think people learn the wrong lessons from history. People like to think the Nazis, or the KKK, or the Japanese, or the European settlers were horrible people. I don't believe this. People want to think that fundamentalist religious people are evil people. I don't think that is true, either. Most of those "horrible" people are or were ordinary people trying to defend their country, or life style or beliefs. What we need to learn is how easily good, caring people can commit horrible acts once they start thinking of a group of people as "others". Once we remove people's humanity, it becomes possible to do horrible things to them. Military leaders do it to the enemy so soldiers can justify killing them. I see it in the way some police respond to "Perps". Police are called "Pigs" or "the man" to dehumanize them and justify attacks.

The great healers of our time refused to allow themselves to make their enemies "not people". Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Gandhi, and Nelson Mandela all remembered their opponents were human beings. They recognized them as people with feelings. Yes, they spoke out. They did not accept or ignore injustice. They led peaceful protests. But, regardless of how they were treated, they treated their foes with respect and civility. That attitude, along with courage and perseverance, allowed them to ultimately triumph over the hate and fear they faced. They recognized the inherent worth and dignity of all people, including their persecutors. I don't expect us to always match their strength of love, but it is a worthy goal. Our first principle is a great one, and one I believe we should always strive to live up to.

Feryl Masters, UUCG Board President

UUCG Board Notes September 2015

This month, the Board:

- Approved the Share The Plate recommendations from the Social Action Committee: Pet Food Pantry for October, Little Willie for November, and GUC Warm in Winter for December
- Reviewed alcohol policies from other churches and asked Toni and Feryl to research legal and insurance requirements. The intent is to develop a written policy that meets our needs and protects members, visitors, and the church.
- Referred the idea of a "Wish List" for donations to the church or other worthy causes to the Fundraising committee
- Expressed support for the the Caring and Finance Committees to proceed with developing an end of life educational program with a possible document repository service

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



Celebration of Life: Our hearts go out to Marcia and Ruth on the passing of Ray and of Aydrian. They were two very different men, and we love them both. They have influenced our lives in their own ways. We are better because of Ray's passion for social justice and because of Aydrian's quiet gentleness. The Celebration of Life for Aydrian Richardson will be 11:00 AM, Saturday, October 17, at the church. Anyone wishing to bring food for the social luncheon following the celebration, please coordinate with Ruel Tyer of the Caring Committee: caring@uugreenvillenc.com or (252) 215-9125.

Shared Ministry: The Board and the Program Council (committee chairs plus the Board) explored the boundaries and expectations of our "shared ministries" at the September Leadership Retreat. Committees are now reviewing their committee Purpose and Expectations and discussing their specific Goals for the year. This coming spring we will all do Self-Assessments for Review by the Board, looking for what resources we might provide one another so as to be more successful in the future. The support received from one another in Shared Ministry, determines how successful groups and individual efforts can be.

Occupied Territory: Some of us have lost jobs because of our beliefs, we have lost friends and family, and our children have lost playmates. Although those of other faiths may not really wish to hear about what we individually believe, it is really painful to be tongue-tied when they ask. "Building Your Own Theology" might be a great group for us to clarify our individual beliefs and to share insights on how to survive in "occupied territory" without losing dignity or sacrificing our integrity! Please contact me with your interest and availability in participating in the 10-session group: minister@uugreenvillenc.org or 850-225-3826. Childcare will be provided. Teens are welcome!

Chalice Circles: The best way to connect with one another is not to share opinions (which divide us), but to share stories and experiences. Chalice Circles are small groups of six to eight congregants who gather for an hour and a half monthly, at a home or at church, to listen around the circle to one another's reflections on life experience: fear, meaning, change, healing. Facilitators keep us moving and keep us sharing the air-space! Newcomers and long-timers alike have wonderful stories and insights to share. Laura will have a sign-up sheet at church. For more information speak to Laura, Pat, Mort, Judi or me. Connections are the secret to wholeness!!

Blessing the Animals: Well-behaved pets, pictures of your animal companions, and plush animal toys are welcome to attend accompanied by their human companions, Sunday, October 18! What have you learned from your animal companions? Come celebrate the gift critters are to our shared life, so fragile and fleeting!

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, pastor



Oct. 25 "Candide's Dilemma: Beyond Good and Evil"

Rev. Dave Johnson, guest minister

Rev. Dave Johnson, is currently serving as Interim Minister with the Williamsburg (VA) Unitarian Universalists. He is beginning his 29th year as a UU minister. His previous career was in marine geology at Scripps (CA), Woods Hole (MA), and the National Science Foundation.



NEWS-----

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee will meet on a monthly basis on the first Sunday of each month at noon in the church library unless otherwise announced. Please join us and bring your ideas and enthusiasm! At our September meeting, we discussed the status of various ongoing projects in which the congregation has participated in past years and we selected recipients for the Board to consider for the congregational Share the Plate through the end of the year. These were approved, so we can announce the following recipients:

October -- Pet Food Pantry of Eastern NC -- helps families facing financial hardships to be able to keep their pets, rather than turning them over to already overburdened shelters. They also provide free spay/neuter clinics and other forms of assistance. <http://www.petfoodpantryenc.org>

November -- Little Willie Center -- founded in 1990 as an organization to address the needs of latchkey children, whose parents work, seek employment, or attend school and as a result, must leave their children home alone. Despite adversity, the center has successfully operated for the past 24 years. The center is located in the heart of West Greenville, and despite the area's reputation, the center provides a safe alternative to being home alone. With this in mind, parents are granted peace of mind knowing their children are loved and encouraged to strive for excellence in not only their school lives, but their personal lives as well. <http://www.littlewilliecenter.org>

December - Greenville Utilities Neighbor to Neighbor (aka Warm In Winter) Program -- The Neighbor to Neighbor program meets local needs by providing funds to assist low income families in Pitt County with their heating bills. It's a voluntary program, supported through GUC customers' tax-deductible contributions. GUC matches contributions, up to \$20,000 each year. <http://www.guc.com/neighbor-to-neighbor>

PFLAG News



PFLAG Greenville was featured in an article on the front page of the Daily Reflector on Saturday, September 12th and then in a story focused on the challenges of transgender students in Pitt County Schools on WNCT-9 News Monday, September 14th. They also braved storms to represent the chapter as a marching contingent in the NC Pride parade in Durham on Saturday, September 26th. PFLAG meets at UUCG on the second Thursday of each month. 7-8pm as a support group, followed by general meeting and programming from 8-9. The October meeting will be on the 8th. <http://greenvillepflag.wordpress.com>

Hospitality Committee

Over the course of the last year several changes have been implemented, some have worked and others haven't. The online sign up was great in theory, but was difficult to update and use consistently. Asking people every week in person was problematic because it interrupted time to visit and could make some, especially new comers, uncomfortable. There was a period of time that scaling back in frequency or volume was seriously considered. At this time we have implemented an email list of volunteers willing to help with hospitality occasionally. This allows Holly Brown and Jackie Vaughn Heath to send emails monthly to recruit when help is needed. So far this seems to be working well.

We have also worked to update and clarify how hospitality works by posting updated directions, where things are, and adding labels. This is a process open to change and we welcome any suggestions of how to make improvements or changes.

We would like to thank everyone that helps make it possible to continue this tradition of sharing coffee, food, and conversation after service every Sunday. If you have questions, suggestions, or want to learn how you can help contact Holly Brown at docialadove@hotmail.com or 252-571-8319 or Jackie Vaughn Heath at jav0930@gmail.com.



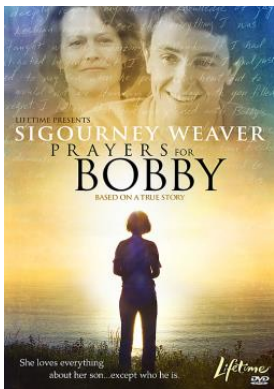
Caring Committee

Your UUCG Caring Committee is co-chaired by Ruth Abramson and Ruel Tyer with Rev. Rod Debs. Our purpose is to inform and support you, the members. Carroll Webber and Alice Arnold add strength to us by supporting Bill Baker and visits, e-mails and calls to UUCG members. The Caring Committee has a list of members who have agreed to help as needed, with food, when needed for a member. The Caring Committee greatly appreciates the lateral support that we receive from members of other members work with other UUCG committees. We welcome calls and e-mails alerting us to a way that we can support our fellow members and keep us all connected in the connected web of caring that is important in our lives. We invite you to become a part of that web.

Worship Associates Program

In an effort to better serve our congregation during worship services we will be starting a worship associates program at UUCG. Worship associates are trained in the art of leading services and conducting the various ceremonies throughout our worship services. These individuals will be responsible for leading the service with the exception of the sermon. Worship associates will be expected to lead a service at most once a month. Training will be provided. If you are interested in becoming a worship associate or would like more information please contact Michael Betteken. (ike4587@gmail.com)

EVENTS



Moral Movies

In honor of LGBT History Month (October) and National Coming Out Day (October 11th), the Social Action Committee will be partnering with PFLAG Greenville for October's Moral Movie on Saturday, October 10th starting at 6:30pm.

We will be watching "Prayers for Bobby" (2009) starring Sigourney Weaver, adapted from the book with the same title by Leroy Aarons, based on the true story of a mother who cannot accept her son for being gay.

As always, refreshments will be served and there will be discussion following the film.

Classic GLBT Movie Night

October 2015 marks the 4th anniversary of the event, started at UUCG in October 2011. This month's Classic GLBT Movie Night will be held starting at 7pm on Friday, October 16th. The film has not yet been chosen, and will be selected by responses to a poll on the Movie Night Facebook page. Also in recognition of LGBT History Month, the October films have been documentaries or period dramas based on key events or periods of LGBT History.

Game Nights

Join us at the church between 6:00--9:00pm for fun and games and refreshments. Games will be provided, or you can bring your favorite board or card game and teach it to us!

- Saturday, October 24th
- Saturday, November 7th
- Saturday, December 5th



October 2015

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| Sunday October 4 | 10:30am | "Holy Capitalism" Rev. Rod Debs, pastor |
| Thursday October 8 | 7:00pm | PFLAG meeting |
| Saturday October 10 | 6:30pm | Moral Movie Night "Prayers for Bobby" |
| Sunday October 11 | 10:30pm | "Honor Your Limits" Rev. Rod Debs, pastor |
| Friday October 16 | 7:00pm | LGBT Movie Night |
| Saturday October 17 | 11:00am | Celebration of Life for Aydrian Richardson |
| Sunday October 18 | 10:30am | "Blessing the Animals" |
| Saturday October 24 | 6:00pm | Games Night |
| Sunday October 25 | 10:30pm | "Candide's Dilemma: Beyond Good and Evil" guest UU minister, Rev. David Johnson |

View the entire calendar at <http://www.uugreenvillenc.org/calendar.html>

STAFF

Minister: Rev. Rod Debs
 Music Director: Mort Stine
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Feryl Master
 Vice President: Richard Baltaro
 Secretary: Shannon Sparrow
 Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
 At Large: Cam Scales
 At Large: Toni Broshears
 Past President: Rich Elkins

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:30AM Mindful Meditation
 10:30AM Worship
 12:00PM Lunch Groups

TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group
 7:30PM KTC Buddhist Meditation
 8:00PM Team Trivia

WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ambiance:

Brenda Stewart

Building and Grounds:

Bob Hudson

Caring:

Ruel Tyer & Ruth Abramson

Communications:

Toni Broshears

Endowment:

Feryl Masters

Fellowship:

Laura Schroeder & Michael Betteken

Finance:

Richard Baltaro

Fundraising:

Patrice Alexander & Jennifer Schultz

Hospitality:

Holly Brown & Jacki Vaughn-Heath

Membership:

Susan Foreman & Laura Neece-Baltaro

Social Action:

Rich Elkins & Sandy Shephard

Stewardship:

Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters

Worship:

Pat Dix & Jerry Gregory

Youth Religious Education:

Shannon Sparrow & Christy Hoppenthaler

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is **Tuesday, October 26 at 8:00 pm**

Email Beacon submissions to beacon@uugreenvillenc.org