



The UUCG beacon

November 2006

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

Nov 5th - *Who Are You?*

Rev Frieda Gillespie

We will look at and discuss the congregational survey results. Who are you theologically? What is important to you about your church life? And, what are you wanting for this church in the future and from a settled minister?

Nov 12th - *Who Are the Terrorists?*

Rev Frieda Gillespie

What are the implications of our sanctioned violations of the Geneva Convention? What other measures taken to support the war in Iraq might come back to haunt us? Are we breeding terrorism too?

Nov 19th - *All That Is Left is Gratitude*

Rev Frieda Gillespie

Are we caught up in futile endeavors in our lives that mask the real well-being that is available to us every day?

**Nov 26th - *Remembering Thanksgiving-
What it means to be a UU Thanksgiving"***

Worship Committee

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

While thinking what to write this month. I opened a fortune cookie and read: "You are capable, competent, creative, and careful. Prove it."

For our Congregation, I would add caring, compassionate, concerned, and committed. I believe we prove it. We prove it through our actions. This is one of the basic beliefs of our faith. It is important to act on our beliefs, not just to contemplate and talk about them. Contemplation and discussion can help us clarify and deepen our beliefs, but putting those beliefs into action in this world is essential.

Last month, we got a very nice e-mail from the organizer of CROP Walk commending us for having the most participants of any church in Greenville. It is gratifying to be recognized. It's important to remember our purpose, though. We collected money to feed the hungry and raised awareness of the problem in our Congregation and Greenville. In the process, we got exercise, met people, and got recognition for our church.

We said our youth were important to us. We hired a part time RE Director, put together a regular but varied program, and found teachers (although we could still use more). We put together a Harry Potter school this summer that was excellent. Both members and guests were impressed by what we accomplished.

I could fill this Beacon with examples of how we have proved ourselves. I could also cite examples of where we have failed to live up to our ideals and abilities. Failure is not necessarily a sign of weakness. We could be safe and only try things we felt sure to succeed at. We would have accomplished so much less, though, if we hadn't taken chances and pushed our limits. Setting high goals and optimistic targets helps us grow and strengthen ourselves and our community. Having said this, being careful is also important. We don't help when we attempt things certain to fail. We have done well at focusing on areas where we can make a difference.

Occasionally, principle will require that we take a stand regardless of the consequences. One of our challenges is to find ways to serve our principles where success is at least possible, and hopefully probable. We have a lot more to do to continue proving our abilities. We need to keep faith in our ability to keep proving who we are and what we can do.

--Feryl Masters

Reflections

Reflections . . . of Frieda Gillespie

It is a crisp, chilly, beautiful morning in Framingham, MA and I am working to meet the deadline for this article and thinking of all of you down south. Many people up here fear the south seeing it as a hotbed of bigotry and violence. I've held a different view of the south ever since I saw the changes that went on in my cousins who grew up in Birmingham, Alabama through the sixties and seventies. Raised in the segregated, white supremacist south, they had all of the attitudes of racial hatred that they were taught by their culture, until the courts ordered busing to integrate their schools. By the time they were out of high school they had treasured friendships with black people and shook their heads in shame about their former beliefs.

I've been reading Morris Dees' autobiography, *A Lawyer's Journey* lately. Morris Dees is the founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center a group of attorneys and investigators that file *pro bono* lawsuits against the Klan and other hate groups mostly in the south, but whenever they have a chance to shut them down. You may have heard a lot about him since some of his biggest cases were in North Carolina. His book is full of stories of wins. The leaders of the Klan movements, hardened cases all of them, swept many poor and alienated young white men into the fold that later were able to repent of their actions and often begin working against them. What seemed to make a difference for them is being able to actually meet and talk to the people they claimed to hate. You can hate an

abstraction; it's much harder to hate a real person that you are in communication with. I hope to share some of Dees' stories with you on some Sunday.

Frank Benedetti and Gary Trowbridge are a UU gay couple who have been together for 24 years living in the Winston-Salem area. They make it their ministry to speak to people about what it means to be gay in our society. They do not shy away from speaking with homophobic people and they have some wonderful stories to tell about how people's attitudes can be changed by an encounter with a real person. I met them at the TJ District Conf. and the story they told about holding a neighborhood block party at their home was hilarious. The neighbors opened up Frank and Gary's closets and looked in the cupboards. "Look! You have dishes that match and everything; this is like a real home!" the curious neighbors said.

I guess the lesson for us is not to be afraid to be who we are with people. Even someone who appears to be the 'enemy' may be just waiting for one of us to have his or her heart opened. And conversely, don't be afraid to ask questions of someone that puzzles us or that we might have an irrational fear of talking to. We might find our fears relieved – enlightenment.

Wishing you sunny days.

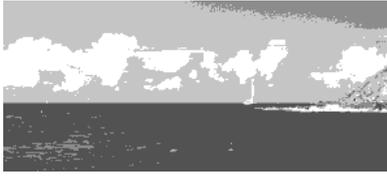
Frieda

HOSPITALITY

It has been suggested that each program council committee might like to choose a Sunday to host refreshments during our coffee time. For this, the committee of the week would bring the refreshments (as usual, something simple) and set up a display area where committee members would be on hand to talk to congregants about what their Committee does...and, it is hoped, sign up a few new members.

If your committee is interested in doing this, please sign up on the November refreshment sign-up sheet with your committee name. If you would like the Hospitality Committee to provide a separate table for your display, let us know...this can be arranged!

--Gail and Marcia



On The Horizon

First Born Food Distribution

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday (Nov. 16, 2006). Please arrive between 8:00am-8:30am for assignments. The distribution is 9:00am-12:00pm. This is the 3rd Saturday rather than the 4th Saturday. The change was made due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The December distribution will be on December 16th at 9:00am-12:00pm due to the Christmas holidays. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes.

Please deliver plastic grocery bags you're saving to First Born or UUCG (use the large blue plastic container in the library). Bags must be clean, dry and odor free.

For directions please call me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

--Toni Britt

UUCG Book Club

The next UUCG Book Club meeting will be on the fourth Monday of November, the 27th. The book is *END OF FAITH*, by Harris. If this book doesn't shake you up then nothing will. The time of the meeting is 7:00 pm sharp!! We are supposed to meet at different members homes, so that has not yet been decided. An announcement to that effect will be mentioned one Sunday beforehand during announcements

Anyone may join the group at any time if they wish to read the book and join the intelligent, articulate, insightful, thought provoking discussion by the intelligentsia of the Congregation. Oh, you do not believe me?? Then come join us. We have nine members, but there is room for more.

--Ray Sobel

Upcoming Social Action Activities

Guest at Your Table boxes will be available Nov 19, 2006. Everyone is invited to collect your change (coins) at the end of each day in the boxes. The money collected is used to dig wells for clean water, help people grow crops and assist in providing food and water to poor people in countries suffering due to drought, war, disease and famine.

The children at The Little Willie Center have been a focus of UUCG for a number of years. Several members of UUCG volunteer their time and efforts to help the children by tutoring and helping them with their homework after school. UUCG will have an Angel Tree with the names, ages and sex of the children at the Little Willie Center. UUCG members are invited to purchase holiday gifts for the children. Pick an "Angel" from the tree and bring your gifts to UUCG by 12/09/06 or 12/16/06. I will deliver the gifts to the Center. All UUCG members are invited to join me when I deliver the gifts.

The Little Willie Center also needs paper supplies, which includes dinner napkins, paper bowls, paper plates, paper towels, paper cups, bathroom tissue, Kleenex tissue and plastic forks/spoons (no knives please). Please bring your donations to UUCG and I will deliver them to the Center. We will collect these items during November and December.

A calendar of annual events is being developed. I have not learned about some of the events so I need help from UUCG members. Please contact me to provide a list of the usual/annual events we have historically participated in through the Social Action Committee.

--Toni Britt and Ray Sobel 3

News, Notes and Other Stuff

UUCG Board Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:30 pm. The agenda was presented and accepted.

Members Present:

Feryl Masters (President)
Frieda Gillespie (Minister)
Rich Elkins (President Elect)
Jackie Wyman (At Large)
Sue Farris (Secretary)

Toni Brit (At Large)

Approval of Minutes:

Rich Elkins made a motion to approve the minutes. Jackie Wyman seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Rich Elkins made the motion to accept. Sue Farris seconded. Motion passed.

Minister's Report:

Frieda Gillespie presented her monthly Minister's Report to the Board. Frieda suggested that solving the need for a larger minister's office, space for an administrative assistant, increased storage space, and other related improvements be solved as a whole, rather than as separate issues, so that more satisfactory results are achieved.

Frieda will be evaluated by the Board and the Congregation twice this year as part of the interim process, the first by 2/15 and the second by 6/15. Frieda also needs to be evaluated separately. Frieda and the Board decided that a Ministerial Evaluation ad hoc committee will be created for this purpose. Frieda will get further details on how the members should be selected.

TJ District Meeting Report:

Frieda and Feryl attended and both felt they benefited from the presentations and sessions.

Program Council Report:

Rich will be meeting with other members of the Program Council on 10/19.

Committees:

Social Action Committee – Toni Britt is preparing a list of events that the committee typically is involved in throughout the year. Customary events for the near future are Guest at your Table and the Angel Tree for the Little Willie Center.

Religious Education – Pattie Gade was appointed RE Committee Chair. Motion made by Jackie Wyman. Seconded by Rich Elkins. Motion passed.

Stewardship – Feryl plans to head up this sub-committee.

Finance – Feryl has attempted to contact Mark Barnes concerning his position as Finance Chair, as Mark has not been active in this role and has removed himself from the Program Council listserv. The Board is considering appointing Brenda Stewart as Acting Chair.

Nominating – Need to confirm that Larry Spell is the chair and to see if this committee is starting their selection process for candidates for the next election.

At Large Board Member:

Scott Gade was appointed to fill the At Large Board Member position until July, to begin Nov. 19. Motion made by Jackie Wyman. Seconded by Rich Elkins. Motion passed.

Administrative Assistant:

A search committee is needed for the process of hiring an administrative assistant. Frieda agreed to be on the committee. Betty Nelson and Patrice Alexander were suggested to serve on the committee, and they have accepted. The first task of the committee would be to develop a job description, determine the number of hours/week, and propose the recommended salary. Jackie Wyman has written a list of the duties of this position. The Board and Frieda agree that any potential candidates for the position not serve on this search committee and that the administrative assistant hired could not be a member of the Board, to prevent conflicts of interest.

Review of goals:

The Board has been making progress on finding leaders and proposing By-Law changes.

Proposed By-Laws Revision:

Feryl presented proposed changes. These changes will be further discussed at the Board meeting in November.

New Building Status:

Terry Shank will be setting up getting an appraisal on The Music Academy building.

UCONCI Meeting:

Frieda and Feryl plan to attend 10/21.

Other issues:

Rik Barnes – The Board will meet on Nov. 5th at 7 pm concerning this issue.

DRE – Sue Farris presented a letter re: transfer of supervision of Victoria Brown to the minister, Frieda Gillespie.

Fundraising – Bruce Berberich will be asked to suggest a fundraising idea and plan.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm. Rich Elkins made the motion. Sue Farris seconded. Motion passed.

--Sue Farris



NOVEMBER in Preview

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>Dates in gray indicate days that Frieda is in Framingham, MA. To contact her call: 508-207-7566 or email: minister@uugreenvillenc.org</p>			1 6:00 Eat Out @ Ruby Tuesday	2	3	4 Dinners for 8
			5 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Ways We Worship</i> Membership	6	7 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	8 6:00 Eat Out @ Fuji Japan
12 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Initiations & Expectations</i> 7:00 Meditation Covenant	13 7:15 Search Committee	14 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	15 6:00 Eat Out @ Ragazzi 7:00 Cottage-Focus Mtg	16 7:00 Cottage-Focus Mtg	17 Teen movie night & lock-in	18 9:00 First Born 9:00 Cottage-Focus Mtg 3:00 Cottage-Focus Mtg
19 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>What Rights Do We Have?</i> 12:00 Worship Committee 3:00 Interfaith Prayers for Peace @ 1st Presbyterian	20 7:30 Board Meeting	21 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel 12:00 Beacon Deadline	22 6:00 Eat Out Cancelled	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24	25
26 9:30 Forum 10:30 <i>Day of the Dead</i>	27 7:00 UU Book Club	28 8:30 Breakfast@ Cracker Barrel	29 6:00 Eat Out @ Texas Steakhouse	30	1	2

Getting to Know Our Members

Don English began life in Minneapolis , but moved to South Dakota at the age of two. His family acquired the home of Laura Ingalls Wilder in a town of only about 1000 residents. It was a good place in which to spend childhood. Don's father was the manager of the local JC Penney store. Don had two older brothers (8 to 10 years older) and one younger sister. An older sister died at the age of five. Don and his younger sister were close, but the older brothers were annoyances.

Don was brought up in a strict Catholic environment, and attended high school and two years of college at a Catholic seminary. He was planning to become a priest, but he decided against a celibate life. He left the seminary, and completed his education in history and geography at St. Louis University.

The summer following graduation was spent on Lake Superior helping to salvage an ore barge with a friend's company. After the price of scrap iron plummeted, and his friend went out of business, Don went to live with his brother in South Dakota. There he worked hanging wallpaper and painting. He joined the Navy in 1960 and got married for the first

time. Don stayed in the Navy for about seven years, got out, and moved to Schenectady , NY. Don taught high school history while there. He and his wife had two children. Don's wife's job took them to Buffalo where Don worked for the Better Business Bureau. There was a divorce and unemployment, and Don started hanging wallpaper.

Don met Sylvia four years after moving to Buffalo , and they merged their families (her three plus his two). After the youngest daughter finished high school, Sylvia looked for a job away from Buffalo. PCMH happened to be looking for a diabetes educator at the time, and Don and Sylvia moved to Greenville. Don continued to hang wallpaper.

Don's passion is Yoga. He happened upon Yoga about ten years ago, and began teaching it five years ago. Another of Don's favorite things is photography of flowers and bugs (artsy photography). He recently joined a bike club and rides long distances (up to 50 miles) with the group.

Unitarian Universalism entered Don's life in Schenectady when he and his first wife attended a coping group for couples. They met some very interesting people there and became UU's in 1971. Don is the chairperson of the Ministerial Search Committee and the editor of the Beacon

Dinners for Eight

Dinners for Eight was discontinued for the summer, but now that vacations are over, we are ready to schedule the first one on Nov.4th. The purpose of the event is to get to know other UUs that perhaps you only see on Sunday mornings.

The host or host couple, will provide the place for the dinner and the beverage. The other 6 or 7 people assigned to that host will each bring a dish. It isn't meant to be a gourmet meal – but one where everyone shares a dish and gets to better know other members.

I'll put a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board 2 to 3 weeks before the date. The Sunday before the dinner, I'll take the list and assign people to each host. The list of names and phone numbers are given to the hosts by Monday so that they will have all week to get their group called and a meal coordinated.

I encourage everyone to sign up and see what fun it is to socialize with your congregation.

--Kay Alston

Working Together to Build Community

Your Responses to Worship Elements

- 4 Announcements
- 7 Chalice Lighting
- 4 Responsive Reading
- 2 Invocation
- 9 Unison Affirmation (Love is the doctrine of this church...)
- 8 Joys, Concerns, and Milestones
- 1 Candle lighting
- 11 Welcoming Visitors (having them stand)
- 7 Storytelling with the children
- 2 Storytelling with or without the children
- 3 Offertory words
- 2 Offertory response (From All that dwell...)
- 2 Blessing the offering
- 5 Reading – short text or a poem that is read
- 2 Singing Hymns
 - 2 variety
 - 8 consistency (well-known hymns)
 - 5 beauty
- Musical performances
 - 8 Instrumental
 - 3 Choir
- Sermons
 - 3 Intellectual
 - 2 Emotional
 - 7 Spiritual
 - 17 All of the above
- 1 Prayer

Membership

The membership committee hopes that you enjoyed the return of “movie night” on Oct. 27th.

We are thinking about having it every month. Tell us what you think of that idea. Our next meeting is the second Sunday in November, right after church. We need your help on this vital committee. Every member is encouraged to join us. We also encourage you to participate in the Hospitality committee’s , “Dinners for Eight” coming up on Nov 4th.

The membership committee. is structuring a phone tree to be used on a regular basis to remind members of events on the church. There will be a e-mail tree and a phone tree. If you do not want to be on one or the other let one of the committee. members know.

--Toni Britt

- 12 Meditation
- 3 Moments of silence
- 8 Closing words/benediction/blessing
- 3 Rituals (repeated parts of the service)
- 0 Minister’s robe or stole (formal church attire)
- 3 Aesthetic beauty of the chancel (area in front)
- 4 Intergenerational services
- 7 Pagan services

Additions/Comments:

- Invite more music, i.e. students from ECU – choir?
- More spiritual focus and response to local/national/world events, e.g. making meaning of it.
- Relevance to current events
- Lively music
- Individual’s responses to the sermon (4 dots)
- I enjoy sermons that have clear connections to relative events we share

Happy November Birthday to:

Jeanne Stone	11/1	Bruce Baker	11/9
Bill Baker	11/7	Teresa Sparrow	11/12
Don English	11/7	Carroll Webber	11/13
Katherine Jones	11/7	Lora Hylton	11/16

On a Personal Note . . .

Personals

Joanie DeGroot's brother in California had open heart surgery, and is not doing well.

Jean Thatcher's husband just underwent surgery for melanoma.

Michelle Jenkins has recently returned to work (part-time) after being a full-time mother for several years.

Sondra Haynes has had her knee surgery and the doctor reports that all went well. She is supposed to be home on Friday and would welcome cards.

Sylvia English is very proud of her blooming orchids that her daughter could not get to bloom.

Toni Britt will be having surgery November 11th.

Alice Arnold's mother passed away following a long illness.

Don English had a grand time reminiscing with old Navy buddies at his ship's reunion in Tucson .

Seinie Postma is always very happy to see members of her church family. She is in room 109 at Red Oak Manor. She speaks mostly Dutch these days, but understands whatever people say to her.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Your Ministerial Search Committee is working to clarify what kind of a person we want to lead us for the next dozen or so years. We also need to understand who we are and where we as a congregation are going. Knowing this will help us connect with the best person to lead us. To this end we will begin holding small group discussion meetings with light refreshments to facilitate dialogue.

Below is the schedule of meetings at the church:

November 9th -- Thursday -- 8:30 AM

November 9th -- Thursday -- 7:00 PM

November 15th - Wednesday -- 7:00 PM

November 16th - Thursday -- 7:00 PM

November 18th - Saturday -- 9:00 AM

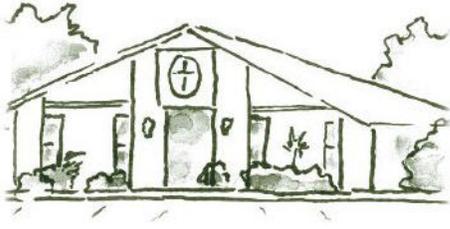
November 18th - Saturday -- 3:00 PM

Frieda and a member of the Search Committee will attend each meeting. We will post sign up sheets on November 5th asking you to commit to and attend one of these meetings.

You may respond by listing your name on the sign-up sheet at church, or by contacting me at don@consciousyoga.com. We'd like to have 100% participation.

Thanks for your cooperation. Working together we will find that special person who will lead us for the next dozen years or more. With that kind of continuity, we're bound toward accomplishing great things within our larger community.

--Don English



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH

RE Report

First, we would like to welcome and thank Patty Gade for accepting the position of Religious Education Chair. We are excited and pleased to have her on board. The RE Department took part in promoting the CROP Walk. We want to thank the Teens for their skit concerning the CROP Walk. Several of the Youth participated. Mary Brown raised the most within the RE with \$101.25. We also enjoyed a great turn out for the Briley's Corn Maze. It was quite a trek but fun. The Tweens will start a new curriculum in November. It is called **We Believe – Learning and Living Our Unitarian Universalists Principles**. The sessions are based on the seven principles as stated in the UUA Bylaws. It includes stories, discussions, activities and worship experiences.

--Victoria Brown

Here's the Board tidbits

One of the goals set at the Board Retreat in September was to find and develop leaders. We've made progress by appointing Patty Gade as Religious Education Chair and Scott Gade as At Large Board Member. Thank you Patty and Scott for ministering to our congregation.

The Board and many others in the congregation remain interested in the possibility of purchasing The Music Academy should that organization be interested in selling their building at an affordable price. Terry Shank is working on getting us an appraisal. In the meantime, the Board, Frieda Gillespie, and the Building and Grounds Committee will be considering ways to make our current home more functional to our needs.

--Sue Farris

Thanksgiving Service

November 26 - *"Remembering Thanksgiving - What it means to be a UU during Thanksgiving"*--**Worship Committee**--Members are asked to submit to the Worship Committee (c/o Bruce Maxwell at bmaxw99820@yahoo.com) poems, short writings/stories, favorite quotes, or personal anecdotes on the meaning of Thanksgiving to them. We will then have members of the congregation present these offering to the membership.

KIDS RE SCHEDULE

Nov. 5 We Believe Lesson 1
(Tweens) Exploring Hinduism (Teens)

Nov 5 Religious Education Committee Meeting after the Service

Nov. 12 We Believe Lesson 2
(Tweens) Exploring Hinduism (Teens)

Nov. 17 Teen Movie Night and Lock In

Nov. 19 Yoga for All

Nov.19 Interfaith Alliance Service 3:00 for Teens

--Victoria Brown

Nov.26 Craft for Thanksgiving (Tweens) Exploring Buddhism (Teens)

ADULT RE SCHEDULE

Nov 5 9:30-10:20 Faith and Reason Forum--
Teen Room

Nov 12 9:30-10:20 Faith and Reason Forum--
Teen Room

Nov. 19 9:30 – 10:20 Faith and Reason Forum--
Teen Room

Nov. 26 Faith and Reason Canceled for Thanksgiving weekend and will resume in December.

--Victoria Brown

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, November 21st

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



Let's Eat!

November 1 -- **Ruby Tuesday's** -- 3510 S. Memorial Dr -- 355-4060

November 8 -- **Fuji Japan** -- 204 S.W. Greenville Blvd -- 353- 4848.

November 15 -- **Ragazzi's** -- 109 SE Greenville Blvd -- 321-1976

November 22 -- **No Dining Out the Day before Thanksgiving**

November 29 -- **Texas Steakhouse** -- SW Greenville Blvd -- 321-2905

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day 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 Frieda Gillespie
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Feryl Masters
Vice President, Rich Elkins
Secretary, Sue Farris
Treasurer, Brenda Stewart

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Lee Wyman
Committee on Ministry: Sylvia English
Communications: Don English
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Sobel
Membership: Ruel Tyer
Religious Education:
Social Action:
Worship: Bruce Maxwell

