



The UUCG beacon

November 2008

The *beacon* is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville 252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

November 2

Prayer for Atheists
Sean Stayton

November 16

Who is the Guest at Your Table? A UU version of the Loaves and Fishes story
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

November 23

Health Dimensions of the Forgiving Person
Dr. Kathleen Row

November 30

World Aids Day, 2008
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Advances in Technology

I've been using the Internet since 1993 when I transferred to ECU. It was still a pretty new technology and not widely available outside of the university, at least in this area. I had to apply for an account on the ECU Academic Mainframe computer, which gave me access to email and live chat, just text, using terminal emulation software, mainly to keep up with old friends from my days at NCSU. It wasn't until at least a year later that I became aware of the World Wide Web (WWW) and could access it. I could use a text browser (LYNX) to view the web without pictures, but in a few locations on campus, they had a program called Mosaic (a predecessor to today's Internet Explorer) which showed the web in a new way, with color and pictures. I was in awe.

The amount of information available on the web was very limited, and not nearly as easy to find as today's search engines make it, but I saw the great potential that it had. I immediately started teaching myself to program in HTML, the original language of the web. ECU's VAX computer system served as the school's web server, and individual users could create websites hosted there. I created my own personal page, and then soon after, I created a site for B-GLAD (the campus GLBT group), which along with the Computer Club were the first two student organizations to have websites. My department chair heard of my knowledge of web design, and I was hired as a work study employee to create a site for the Geography Department.

It is amazing how much has changed in the years since I was first introduced to the web. People with no knowledge of programming can create websites using programs to do create all the code. I've played with a few of these, but haven't really taken to using them as they didn't provide for the type of control to which I was accustomed. I still create pages from scratch using a simple text editing program to write the code, but have found that some tasks are better accomplished using other tools. My first surrender to these new technological advances was the use of a Web Calendar database system, which allowed multiple users to add events which would be automatically displayed in a flexible interface. This reduced the amount of time it took to update the church website monthly by a couple of hours compared to the manual way I'd done it previously!

I've recently become a fan of the social networking site Facebook, and a

Reflections

... of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

There are so many opportunities to express one's gratitude this time of the year!

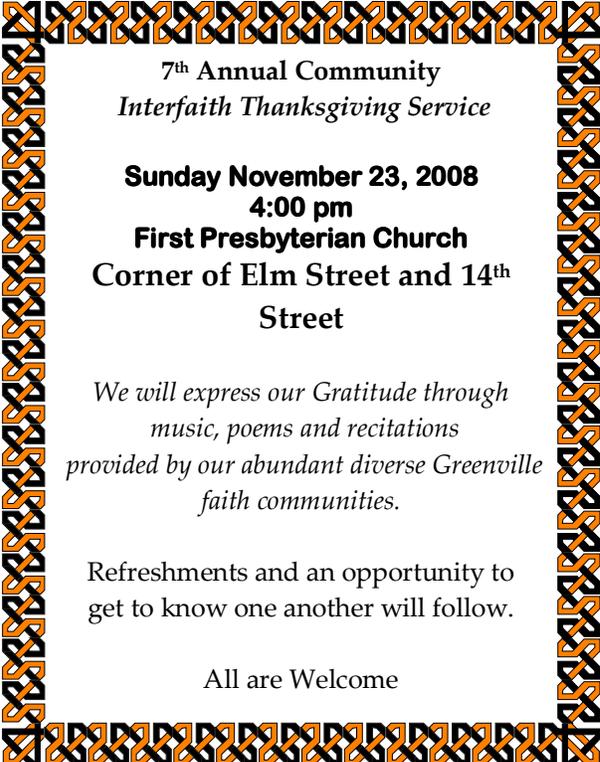
This month we will join with many other UU's as we gather our coins to help support the efforts of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Every year near Thanksgiving *Guest at Your Table* boxes are distributed. This year we will be giving out little collection boxes on Sunday, November 16th. The boxes are for you to take home and put near where you prepare or eat your meals. Every time you prepare a meal, put the amount you think it might cost to feed one more person! Bring what you've collected back to UUCG in your *Guest at Your Table* box on December 14th. You will have had by then more than 75 opportunities to be generous, sharing what you have with families all over the world.

This is also the time of the year when many ministers ask for contributions to what has traditionally been called the "minister's discretionary fund". This is special fund held by congregations, distributed in confidence by ministers to those members or friends of a congregation who express a need for emergency help with such things as housing, food, or medicine. Usually, monies from this fund are distributed only when local social agencies resources have been exhausted. Usually, an arrangement is made for the recipient to return the "loan" over time. Yet, in reality this fund is more commonly replenished by means of contributions from those who remember only much, much later how important it was to have a church to turn to, when an unexpected emergency arose. If you remember those times and wish to make a gift to get someone else through a tough period, all you need to do is write a check to UUCG with "minister's discretionary fund" on the memo line. Any amount will help!

Other ways to express your gratitude this time of the year for all that you've been given... have nothing to do with money! There are many, many small tasks that need to be done around the church or in the social agencies that UUCG supports. All these take are a little time. Your help will put you in the circle of gratitude, offering to help because you are thankful for what you have received and getting thanked because of what you've given. Call me! I am always eager to find a way to match your time and talents with a task!

November, the month of Thankfulness, is a great time to find a new way to express your gratitude!

—Ann Marie



**7th Annual Community
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

**Sunday November 23, 2008
4:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Elm Street and 14th
Street**

*We will express our Gratitude through
music, poems and recitations
provided by our abundant diverse Greenville
faith communities.*

Refreshments and an opportunity to
get to know one another will follow.

All are Welcome

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, November 18th at 8:00

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

Educating Our Future

October is always a fun month for RE. We started the month with the Crop Walk for which RE had a lot of participation. Rebecca Brown gets recognized for enthusiastically walking the entire three miles without complaint. The trip to the Corn Maze was next and timed perfectly with the change in the weather. Although it was not as well attended as last year, those who did go had a great time. A few teens were brave enough to attend the haunted corn maze--the cold drizzle only added to the spooky atmosphere. The last event of October was the Halloween carnival. The children had a great time painting miniature pumpkins, coloring Halloween pages, making spooky scenes, and throwing darts.

RE has a handful of new volunteers. Thanks to this extra help we will be expanding the RE classes. The current Tween class will be split between 5 to 9 year olds and 10 to 12 year olds. The classes will be small, but the smaller age ranges should ease some of the teaching challenges and the children will get more out of the lessons. On the horizon, we hope to start another new class for 3 to 4 year olds. The committee is currently planning curriculum and teaching rotations for all the new classes. Hopefully by the end of the year we will be ready to offer the first phase of age appropriate religious education.

Teen Night for November is Saturday, November 15th.

--Patty Gade

Reader's Theater Returns to UUCG

On Sunday, November 2, 2008, at 7:00 P.M., medical and nursing students from the Brody School of Medicine and the College of Nursing at East Carolina University will present a Readers' Theater presentation and discussion of Jay Baruch's short story "Breathing."

Jay Baruch is an Emergency Medicine physician who teaches at Brown University. "Breathing" appears in Baruch's 2007 book of short stories, *Fourteen Stories: Doctors, Patients, and Other Strangers*. It tells the story of an elderly father who cannot live on his own but resents having to move in with his son's family. We see the impact of this forced living arrangement on family relations in general and on the individuals involved. It is a timely story that explores a situation more and more common in modern American society.

The 30-minute reading will be followed by a discussion of the story moderated by a member of the medical school's Department of Medical Humanities.

In Readers' Theater, the performers sit before the audience and read from scripts. Like radio dramas, much is left to the listener's imagination. The program, part of an on-going Readers' Theater program sponsored by the Department of Medical Humanities at ECU's Brody School of Medicine and the ECU College of Nursing, allows students and the general public (future physicians and nurses and their potential future patients) to discuss together social and ethical medical issues of common concern.

--Ann Marie Alderman

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

Upcoming Adult Religious Education Class:

Following what should prove to be a very exciting lecture at ECU in the Wright Auditorium on November 18th at 7 pm, by Marcus Borg, a distinguished professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University and a leading historical Jesus scholar, I will lead a class studying his book, Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but not Literally. This class will begin on Wednesday evening, November 19, at 7 pm. If there is enough interest, the class will be repeated on Sunday afternoons. Please let me know if you are interested in taking this class, so I can order enough copies of this book for you!

This will be an introduction to the Bible and what modern Biblical scholarship has to say about what the Bible “really” says! When we finish with this book, we will move on to Borg’s book entitled, Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith. Both of these easy to read books will give you an enlightened understanding of what liberal Jews and liberal Christians believe!

--Ann Marie Alderman

Dining Out Suspended

A long standing UUCG tradition, the Thursday night Dining Out, has been suspended because of low participation. If interest revives,, we will, of course, reinstitute the tradition. We expect that participation will remain low, at least until after the holidays.

Please contact Jackie Wyman concerning your feelings on the subject.

--Jackie Wyman

ENDOWMENT FUND

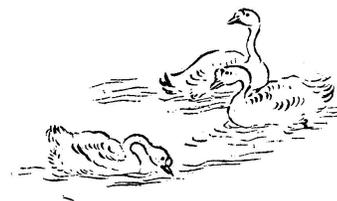
The Endowment fund for the UUCG was started in 1998. People make outright gifts of money to the fund, include the fund in their wills, assign UUCG as an insurance beneficiary, and make other donations of this nature. The fund supports UUCG and its needs. The Board can allocate the income from the fund to various uses such as maintenance and capital improvements, scholarships, and community outreach. The principal can only be used if approved by a 2/3 vote of members present at a congregational meeting. See the By-Laws and Policy Manual for more information about the fund and its operation. If you would like to make a gift to the endowment fund, contact Bill Paulson at 975-2173 or at mheart @ embarqmail.com

--Bill Paulson

News From Membership Committee

The Membership Committee along with the help of the Board Members and our Minister, had a New Member Dinner on Friday night Oct. 23rd. We had ten new members who attended and enjoyed a delicious dinner with fun entertainment afterwards. We enjoyed getting to know these members better and everyone seemed to have a great time.

--Kay Alston





November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						01
02 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 7pm Readers Theatre	03 6pm Girl Scouts 6pm Worship Committee Meeting	04 8:30am Breakfast at Bruger's Bagles 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	05	06	07 5:30pm Art Reception 7pm Course in Miracles	08 9am Building & Grounds Workday 7pm Teen night
09 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 7pm» UU Meditation Group	10 7:30pm Sierra Club Meeting	11 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 6:30pm Social Action Committee Mtg 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	12 7pm CUUPS meeting	13 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting	14 7pm Course in Miracles	15
16 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 5pm Vegetarian Pot Luck	17 6pm Girl Scouts 7pm Board Meeting	18 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	19	20	21 7pm Course in Miracles	22 9am First Born Food Distribution 6:30pm UU Men's Group
23 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service 4pm Interfaith Alliance Thanksgiving 5:30pm UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	24	25 8:30am Breakfast at Finelli's on 5th 7pm KTC Buddhist Group 7pm Choir Practice	26	27 6pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting	28 7pm Course in Miracles	29
30 9:30am The Forum 10:30am Worship Service						

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

“Bee Behr...Over the Years” Presenting the Art of Beatrice Van der Pool Behr

The creations of 95-year-old working artist, Bee Behr, will be presented in an exclusive exhibit, “Bee Behr...Over the Years”, from November 2 – 21, 2008 at The Art Gallery & Studio of Nelle Lee Hayes, in Greenville, NC. A direct quote from Bee Behr, “I don’t think in the same direction as most people”, gives perhaps the best insight into the unique talent of this artist... over the years; 95 years, to be exact. Her multi-media work in water-color, oil, pottery and wood reflect the richness and variety in ability, vision and life experience.



Bee Behr Creating Multi-Media Art

Greenville, NC October 27, 2008 – As a young girl, she was nicknamed Bee; not as a shortened version of Beatrice, but because her father called her a busy bee. Throughout life, she has continued to be busy. Her college education was interrupted for financial reasons and marriage and to accommodate the raising of three children. Later, however, her talent and drive

provided the impetus to complete her BA and Masters degrees at Eastern Carolina University. Along with the creation of her works, she taught Art History as a Continuing Education course at ECU. She has also taught courses in pottery at Cypress Glen. Her art has been shown in Greenville, Raleigh and Belhaven.

Bee Behr is not simply an interesting person. She has always been an interested person. And, art was not her only interest. She worked diligently for the ECU Friends of Joyner Library, helped start and maintained the first African pre-school and kindergarten in Pitt County, and was a founding member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville, in which she remains very active. For many years, she was a member of Literacy Volunteers and has taught many adults to read.

In 2007, she was honored by the Girl Scouts as a Woman of Distinction. As such, she was chosen as a role model who inspires girls to have courage, confidence and character, thus making the world a better place. At the age of 94, this was quite an accolade.

Travel has always been an important part of life for Bee. She has spent time in 22 different countries. Each trip has had its own special impact, including international friendships and the rich experiences which inspire creativity. She has always carried a sketch pad and pencil to record subjects and memories from these experiences. Often, the sketches would, later, dictate the focus of a wonderful picture or piece of pottery.

At the age of 95, she attributes her ongoing good health, creativity and vitality to an ele
(BEHR continued on pg 7)

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

(BEHR continued from Pg 6)
ment of good fortune; but, also, to having always been busy with one thing or another---her art, the practicalities of life and intense involvement with the world around her.



Little Fishing Creek Bridge by Bee Behr

The art of Beatrice Van der Pool Behr speaks for itself. Her home and the homes of her family and friends are a showcase for her work. Bee still carries her sketch pad—her memory book. Over the years, it has served her well and we are all the richer for it.

A public opening reception will be held Sunday, November 2nd 2008, from 2PM to 4PM at The Art Room at The Gallery & Studio of Nelle Lee Hayes, 403 Evans St. Uptown, Greenville, NC. Phone: 252-341-4119.

—Terry Shank



Thanksgiving Comes Early to UCCG

On Sunday, November 23rd, the Membership Committee will have a pre-Thanksgiving pot luck dinner, after the morning service. We would like for everyone to join in this and celebrate the Thanksgiving season by bringing a dish to share with 6 to 8 people. The beverage will be provided by the committee.

Rather than have a coffee time after the service, we will all join together and enjoy a meal of Thanksgiving. We hope that everyone will plan to attend that day as we come together in thanks.

--Kay Alston

GREETERS & GREETING

Every Sunday we like to have two people signed up to greet the congregation as they enter the building, hand out the Orders of Service, and direct newcomers to the sign in book. In addition the greeters make a special effort to make the newcomers (and everyone else for that matter) feel welcome.

Other duties include putting out hymnals, taking up the collection, and counting the number of persons present. There is an instruction sheet and a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. If you would like to assist in performing this valuable service, please sign up on the sign up sheet or, contact Bill Paulson (252/975-2173) for more information.

--Bill Paulson

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

Prez Notes (continued from pg 1)
good number of you are already my friends there. This is one example of what is frequently referred to as Web 2.0, the web where people can create content without any knowledge of the programming previously required. UUCG has a page on Facebook, and users can become “fans,” enabling that as another way to communicate with them. Our minister, Ann Marie, has recently started using another Web 2.0 application called a “Blog” (short for Web

Log) to post her sermons, rather than having to send them to me to post. You can visit our Facebook page or Ann Marie’s Blog from our current website.

I am also currently exploring a redesign of our website, and hope to incorporate much more in terms of Web 2.0 interactivity. Hopefully this will give us a more inviting and attractive site which is often the first view of our church (a virtual front door) that people get before they decide to visit us in person.

—Rich Elkins

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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 Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Bev Harju

