



# The UUCG Beacon

November 2011

The beacon is published  
monthly by the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)  
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi  
[office@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:office@uugreenvillenc.org)

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

**November 6**

*Occupy Your Life*

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**November 13**

*Who is Jesus? Part 3*

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

**November 20**

*Travel through India*

Don English

**November 27**

*Guest at Your Table*

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are  
available each Sunday.



## President's Notes

The Board Meeting was fairly short this month so here is the brief news. According to the Treasurer's report our income to date is about \$3,000 behind due to unpaid pledges. We encourage anyone who may be behind and able to catch up to do so. Rev. Ann Marie reported that Church Mutual Insurance had paid \$10,524 for flood damages from the hurricane. These monies will be used to cover necessary repair costs. We are most fortunate that the efforts of several volunteers have significantly reduced the repair costs. Many thanks once again to Pat Tesh and Ruel Tyer for their finalizing efforts along with Kimberly Scholl, Jennifer Thielen and Rev. Ann Marie. I have two spinoff ideas here. First, we are pleased that Saturday, Oct 29th is a scheduled Volunteer Work Day. Do come and help.

The second spinoff idea is the Youth Religious Education [YER] program, which is now leaping forward! We had 16 kids plus three babies attending late in October. YRE is returning strong despite the shut down due to storm damage repairs. We are all enormously grateful to RE Director Kimberly Scholl and YRE Chair Jennifer Thielen for their extensive efforts to keep the program alive! They have repaired the physical setting, rearranged many supplies and gone forward with their work! YEAH! I can testify that I found Unitarian Universalism in my search for an appropriate place for my soon-to-be-born first son. Parents seek a spiritual home for their children, which is in harmony with their own beliefs.

The Giggles for Gilda, was a very playful and entertaining program, which drew in a host of newcomers to our program. We are very thankful to Tammy Atchison for organizing this event and always thankful to Pat Anderson for countless hours devoted to Developing the Cancer Support Community of Eastern NC. Someday it will be up and running.

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman has been giving very inspiring sermons this fall and I am grateful to her. I have been particularly impressed by the two "Who Is Jesus" talks. I found these important since our country has a strong base of Christian theology. Many of us had past struggles reconciling our own spiritual beliefs with those of traditional Christian churches. This struggle with beliefs must be true for UU's of other faiths such as Judaism as well. We should tell Ann Marie when her sermons are helpful to us. (continued on pg.6)

# Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Ah Fall! The melancholy season...

Just after removing three individuals from the UUCG member's list who had drifted away, I was thrilled to welcome three new adults who came forward and signed up! Last week I officiated a

happy, romantic wedding in Green Springs Park. The day after tomorrow I will be leading a memorial service. Both ceremonies are part of what I think of as my wider ministry in Eastern Carolina to reach out and bring a liberal pastoral presence to lives that are not normally led within a UU congregation. Both families found me by means of what felt to me like little strands of connections that weaved their way through our lives, barely noticed until there was a need for each other.

At home, last week on the first night that it really felt like fall, our oldest cat stayed out the whole evening. Usually the most perennially present housecat, she had been acting unusual for a week or two, wanting to be out of doors again and again. The next cool morning, we found her in the back yard where she was when her soul left her body. She was here for well over a decade and now she's gone. Just a few minutes ago, I got news from my sister who lives in the town where we both grew up, that a friend from high school and from church where we were all in youth group together, had died. He was the one who could play and sing anything he'd ever heard on the radio, even if he had only heard it once. It was throat cancer that took him away. I will sing for him today. I will write a ceremony of grief for someone I only know from their relatives stories and with my own feelings of sadness, and I will cherish all the celebrations of new life and new relationships that I have been privileged to be a part of, and especially all the weavings of all the strands that make our lives for a time ... "connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe, to this community and to each other."

The REVEREND Ann Marie

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

## Staff

**Minister:** [Rev. Ann Marie Alderman](#)

**Youth Religious Education**

**Director:** [Kimberly Scholl](#)

**Music Director:** Mort Stine

**Choir Director:** Sue Jefferson

**Office Administrator:**

[Michelle Covi](#)

## Board of Trustees

**President:** [Bev Harju](#)

**Vice President:** [Tom Thielen](#)

**Secretary:** [Susan Foreman](#)

**Treasurer:** [Brenda Stewart](#)

**At-Large:** [Alan Bailey](#)

**At-Large:** [Judi Hickson](#)

**Past President:**

[Patrice Alexander](#)

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** [Terry Shank](#)

**Building Maintenance:** [Pat Tesh](#)

**Communication:** [Rich Elkins](#)

**Endowment:** [Bill Paulson](#)

**Finance:** [Paul Alston](#)

**Fundraising:** [Feryl Masters](#)

**Hospitality:** [Alice Arnold &](#)

[Ann Eleanor](#)

**Membership:** [Bud & Phyllis Hazel](#)

**Youth Religious Education:**

[Jennifer Thielen](#)

**Stewardship:** [Feryl Masters](#)

**Social Action:** [Tom Long &](#)

[Pat Anderson](#)

**Worship:** [Lynn Caverly](#)

## Social Action

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

#### FIRST BORN REPORT

The First Born Food Distribution Program had two UUCG volunteers for the September 24 fourth Saturday: We thank Hank Foster and Helen Foster for their participation. And the fourth Saturday of October was covered by the efforts of Hank Foster, Helen Foster and Bette Nelson which we appreciate. The fourth Saturdays of November and December will not require volunteers, so our next responsibility for First Born will be on the fourth Saturday of January, 2012.

#### UUCG SHELTER ACTION GROUP

Our participation in the Greenville Community Shelter Check In process continues at a moderate pace. For October the following certified volunteers were actively involved at least one evening from 5:30 to approximately 8:30 in the evening Check In program: Ruth Abramson, Tom Long, Marcia Sobel, Ray Sobel and Pat Tesh. We still are need of active volunteers to cover the evenings that remain open and are managed by the single staff member present. Contact Tom Long for information.

#### THE GREATER GREENVILLE ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK

The Annual Crop Walk occurred Sunday, October 2. We had an excellent participation level with one count indicating 29 UUCG walkers. We don't have a count of the amount of donations supporting our efforts at the present time.

Tom Long  
Co-Chair, UUCG Social Action Committee

### Lay Service Leader training

Are you interested in your spiritual growth and development individually and that of the UUCG congregation as a whole? Well, you can have a positive influence on both by becoming a Lay Service Leader. A Lay Service Leader leads the Sunday worship services when our minister Rev. Ann Marie Alderman is not here, usually once a month and for a couple of weeks in the summer. It is a great way to participate in the spiritual life of our congregation in an up close and personal manner. A Lay Service Leader helps to select the music and readings for the Sunday services and special worship events, and has input into the themes and topics of Sunday sermons, among other duties.

All UUCG adult members are eligible to be a Lay Service Leader once they have completed the formal training session. The next training session is scheduled for Monday, November 7 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Worship Committee Chair, Lynn Caverly, at 252-702-3007, [caverlyl@ecu.edu](mailto:caverlyl@ecu.edu) for more information.

# Religious Education

## Youth Religious Education Report

It has been a long two months, but I am thrilled to announce that we are officially back in our YRE space! The new floors in the nursery brighten the entire room. Of course, all of our rooms will continue to receive extra attention as we work on getting items back in place, but it is nice to be back in our "normal" space. Thank you to everyone who helped with long list of clean up and repair work. We could not have gotten everything done without your help.

Third Sunday yoga has returned successfully, and we are very grateful to Don English for offering his expertise. Those of us who "work" in YRE often hear from parents that their children can hardly wait to come into church, and having this kind of activity goes a long way into creating an environment that fully engages and energizes those who attend.

The Tweens are continuing with their lessons from Jesus and His Kingdom of Equals. Living in the "bible belt" means that we are frequently presented with Christian ideology from friends, schoolmates and family members and this curriculum offers a detailed and more tolerant education about Jesus than may otherwise be presented.

The Elementary and Kindergarten students have been enjoying their lessons from Love Will Guide Us, which are rich in detail and we are taking our time to go through them. We want the children to internalize the concept of drawing upon the many sources of wisdom that we use as Unitarian Universalists, with an emphasis on love. The beautiful analogy in the work is that these sources guide us like the stars in the sky.

Inside each raindrop swims the sun.  
Inside each flower breathes the moon.  
Inside me dwell ten million stars,  
One for each of my ancestors:  
The elk, the raven, the mouse, the man,  
The flower, the coyote, the lion, the fish.  
Ten million different stars am I,  
But only one spirit, connecting all.

— Nancy Wood, "Ten Million Stars," used as the opening words in our elementary class

If you would like to experience the joy that is working with Unitarian Universalists children and youth, please contact Kimberly or me, or join us for our next YRE committee meeting, November 20th after services and coffee.

Namaste,  
Jennifer Thielen  
Chair, YRE

~ November 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  1p-3p Minister's Office Hours  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>2</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30p-7:30p Art Reception	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Occupy Your Life! Rev. Ann Marie  10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>7</b> 5:30p-7p Service Leader Training	<b>8</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  1p-3p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>9</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>12</b> 9:30a-11:30a Cluster planning  6:30p-8p Annual Service Auction
<b>13</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Who is Jesus? part 3 Rev. Ann Marie  12p-2p Council quarterly meeting  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>14</b> 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	<b>15</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  7p-9p Coffee Party meeting  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>16</b> 7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>17</b> 7p-8:30p Shelter Action Group meeting	<b>18</b> 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Travel through India., Don English  12p-1p Lunch Group  12p-1p YRE committee meeting  3p-4p Interfaith Thanksgiving Service  5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County	<b>21</b> 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>22</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  1p-3p Minister's Office Hours  3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>23</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group  10:30a-11:30a Guest at Your Table Sunday  12p-1p Lunch Group	<b>28</b> 7p-8:30p Book Club	<b>29</b> 8a-9a Breakfast Group  1p-3p Minister's Office Hours  7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	<b>30</b> 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours  7p-8p Choir Practice			

## Prez notes cont. from front...

I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving, however you decide to celebrate. Please know that I highly value all of you as congregants of the UU Congregation of Greenville. I encourage you to be involved. We clearly need a United Nations Envoy and the job is not time consuming, but it is important! The UN is one of our best opportunities for world-wide dialogue. I have attended a session and was inspiring. Check it out at [www.uu-uno.org/envoy](http://www.uu-uno.org/envoy) or [envoycoordinator@uu-uno.org](mailto:envoycoordinator@uu-uno.org). We need a Fellowship Chair and this is just as important! This job entails developing a few social events each year. Ask a Board or Committee Chair Member how you can be more active.

## Happy Birthday to UUs this November

Nov. 1– Jeanne Stone  
 Nov. 7– Bill Baker  
 Nov. 9– Bruce Baker  
 Nov. 12– Teresa Sparrow  
 Nov. 25– Brian Hill

## FUN RAISING FOR UUCG

Our Service Auction on November 12. We have lots of talent in our congregation, and this is a chance to share yours while raising money for our Congregation. We also sell some items, but the services (meals and food are always hits) are the main items.

Gift wrapping at Barnes and Nobles just before Christmas. B&N customers are always interesting people, and we make sure you have another gift wrapper with you to allow for breaks and conversation. See Claudia when she gets back from her pilgrimage in Spain to reserve your wrapping time. Contact Feryl Masters ([oferyl@gmail.com](mailto:oferyl@gmail.com)) if you would like to help with any of these, or have a Funraising idea you would like to help with.

Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, **November 29 at 8:00 pm**

Unitarian Universalist  
 Congregation of Greenville  
 131 Oakmont Drive  
 Greenville, NC 27858  
 252-355-6658

