



The UUCG Beacon

November 2012

The beacon is published
monthly by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658

www.uugreenvillenc.org
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi
beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

November 4
Reader's Theater
ECU Brody School of
Medicine

November 11
*Is there a liberal side of
Islam?*
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

November 18
Oh, We Give Thanks
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

November 25
*Pitt County Aids
Organization*

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.



President's Notes

Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts. —Henri Frederic Amiel (Swiss poet, philosopher, and critic)

As the days become shorter and the temperatures cool, I am reminded of my favorite trappings of autumn. The changing colors, textures, and altitudes of the transitioning leaves; the coziness of sweaters, jackets, and bonfires; the organic appeal of corn mazes, pumpkin patches and hayrides; the gleeful squeals of costumed children in search of sugary delights--each of these things reminds me of the abundance of the harvest season. And let's not forget the food!

Autumn, at least in the northern hemisphere, is traditionally a time of sharing the bountiful harvest with family, friends, neighbors, and those with less than they need. It's a time for celebrating the literal reaping of rewards while preparing for the long, dark winter. It is often a time to take stock of, and give thanks for, the treasures and gifts in one's life. For many, mid-autumn is also a time for ancestor veneration, or honoring, remembering, and occasionally communicating with (even seeking assistance from) those who are no longer living.

This Fall, I would like to encourage each and every one of us to take stock of the treasures and gifts the UUCG has helped bring into our lives. Let's make this autumn a time to celebrate the UUCG's bountiful harvest. Let us invite family, friends, neighbors, and those with less than they need to our table to share in our abundance. Let us also take the time to honor, remember, and seek assistance (or at least inspiration) from those of our members who are no longer living.

On the heels of a new member orientation and an impressive participation in the CROP walk, let's take that gift of enthusiasm and passion about UU, and translate it into congregational participation, fellowship, social justice, and community outreach. As we prepare to launch the Guest at Your Table and the annual stewardship/pledge campaigns, as well as several fundraising efforts (Bingo night, gift wrapping, McCalister's night, Service Auction, etc), let us be courageously generous with our abundant treasures and gifts. As we prepare for "the long, dark winter" of saying good-bye to Rev. Ann Marie, let us reap the rewards of her time with us, bringing our best selves, as we prepare to invite an interim minister to our harvest table.

This Thanksgiving season, let's be more than thankful. Let us be full of gratitude, and let our gratitude be shown in acts.

Tom Thielen
President
UUCG Board of Trustees

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Is it time yet? Is it time to discontinue this monthly publication we call The Beacon? Maybe it has served its purpose. I hear many of our elected leaders and the most loyal of our participants say that they don't read it. I know that less and less infor-

mation seems to be included and it is harder and harder to get contributors. And I know that although some calendar events are stable and predictable, others get added or changed or moved around or they are just not firmed up enough so that those who do rely on a paper calendar which was printed even a week previous are very likely looking at something very out of date. Perhaps there is a better way to communicate, a better way to know what is going on? Perhaps there are enough of us now that are able to negotiate the internet and/or the UUCG website, that a newsletter that originated as a monthly mailing has served its purpose and ought to now be retired?

Rev. Ann Marie

Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

Staff

Minister: Rev. Ann Marie Alderman
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Stephen Brand
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

Board of Trustees

President: Tom Thielen
Vice President: Susan Foreman
Secretary: Tammy Atchison
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
At-Large: Shannon Terry
At-Large: Judi Hickson
At-Large: Patrice Alexander

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Fellowship : Cam Scales
Finance: Bill Paulson
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Hospitality: Louise Sharpless, Judy Drum & Ann Eleanor
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Youth Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Patrice Alexander
Social Action: Pat Tesh & Pat Dix
Worship: Lynn Caverly & Paul Kurmas

Youth Religious Education Report

Each Sunday we speak the following words of affirmation:

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
the search for truth its sacrament
and service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
So that all shall grow into harmony
Thus do we covenant with one another.*

We speak these words in unison each week before the Story for All Ages and before the children head to their classrooms. I'd like to speak to two parts of this affirmation as it relates to our Youth Religious Education program.

The first thing I'd like to address is the idea of a covenant, which is something our Tweens class was discussing recently. Unlike rules that are imposed on us by an outside authority, a covenant is an agreement that we have reached together. Our Tweens were discussing this in the context of the behavioral covenant that they came together to create in order to outline how they aspired to interact as a group. The process of bringing together the many diverse world views that may be held by UUs can be quiet a task, but it generally means that when we reach an agreement it is on an idea or value that we hold dear. Having reached this mutual agreement, it is important to honor it to the best of our abilities. One of the things on which our congregation has agreed is that we need a strong Youth Religious Education program in order to support the families and children of our congregation, as well as to help our congregation grow in depth and breadth.

We have a lot of the elements needed to host just such a program. We have some great age appropriate Unitarian Universalist curricula. We have a Director of Religious Education who is motivated to find what inspires the children in the classroom and we have a small group of dedicated volunteers who are taking on the task of leading these classes. What the Youth Religious Education program needs is more prayer, as in "and service is its prayer". We know that things don't happen just because we hope for them, that there is work needed on our part. Our YRE programs don't just happen because we have decided that we need them. Volunteers are what make our programs possible. We have between five and seven adults to volunteer every Sunday so that we have a teacher and second adult in each of our three classrooms and a helper in the nursery if we have four or more children in the room.

This is where YOU, the members and friends of our congregation, come in. We have some members who have committed to be primary teachers, but they can't do this alone. Everyone has the occasional Sunday that they can't attend and need someone to take over. And we always need second adults to lend a hand in each of the classrooms and in the Nursery. From playing in the Nursery, exploring holidays and celebrations in the Elementary class, learning more about the UU faith and how our beliefs can be "tools" that we use in our life in the Tweens class or learning more about the beliefs of other faiths in the Teen class... we have something to appeal to most everyone. Let's serve together to fulfill the full promise of what our program can become. Please contact me or our DRE, Kimberly Scholl, to find out more about how you can help our youth, and by extension our congregation, grow and bloom

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, Youth Religious Education

~ November 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	2	3
4 Picaso share half offering 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Readers Theatre1 12p-1p Lunch Group	5	6 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	7 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	8 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	9 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	10
11 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Is there a liberal side of Islam? Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	12 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting 7:30p-10p Sierra Club Meeting	13 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	14 3p-4:30p CSCENC board meeting 7p-8p Choir Practice	15 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	16 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	17
18 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Oh, We Give Thanks, Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group 4p-5p Annual Inter-faith Thanksgiving Service 5p-7p Vegetarians in Pitt County potluck	19 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	20 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	21 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	22 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	23 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	24 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
25 9:45a-10:25a Mindfulness Group 10:30a-11:30a Pitt County Aids Organization, PICASO 12p-1p Lunch Group 12p-1p Shelter Action Group Meeting	26 7p-8:30p Book Club	27 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 4p-5p Caring Committee Meeting 6p-8p Democracy NC 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	28 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	29 10a-11a Brand Helvig Music and Wellness 6:30p-7:30p Brand Helvig Music and Wellness	30	

The first UUCG Bingo night will be November 9th after the Art Auction. Come to the UUCG at 7:00, or stay after the Art Show Opening that evening for an evening of fun and prizes. Activities for the entire family



Affirming the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large

Happy Birthday to UUs this November

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



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, November 27 at 8:00 pm

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

