

# The UUCG Beacon

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)



## President's Notes

Instead of my usual blog, this month I offer an inspiring excerpt from a writing I hope all will read. It is from *Giving--the Sacred Art: A Unitarian Universalist Study Guide for Small Groups*, written by Lauren Tyler

Wright, and available for your reading pleasure at: [www.uua.org/documents/stew-dev/study\\_guide\\_giving.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/stew-dev/study_guide_giving.pdf)

As we enter the traditional season of charitable giving, please consider the following:

Lauren Tyler Wright shares her story:

In grade school I had a box of sixty-four Crayola crayons. It drove me crazy when kids would borrow them because, inevitable, they would blunt the sharp point of the crayon, put them back in the wrong color order, or, heaven forbid, break one. Truth be told, it took me at least a month after I got the box to actually use one of the crayons because I wanted to keep them perfect for as long as possible. That's how much I valued the little bit of control I had over those sixty-four uniquely colored objects, they were mine.

When I eventually came around to the idea that my crayon box was not really mine in the first place but was rather on loan to me for a while, I discovered a surprising sense of freedom—of relief, almost. I was freed from fretting over the inevitable demise of each perfectly sharpened crayon tip. I still had a momentary anxiety attack when I heard snap and saw a classmate with a piece of crayon in either hand. But I released the worry in my heart about messing them up and was freed simply to enjoy what had been loaned to me and to share it with others.

When you are able to see every component of your life—your money, your home, your car, your bank account—in this way, you

*continued on page 4*

## NEW DISCOVERIES

This free workshop will cover the latest information on cancer treatment, side-effect management and the psychosocial aspects of living with cancer.

Highlights include:

- The Rise of Personalized Cancer Care
- Cancer Prevention Innovation
- Targeted Therapies

Featured speakers include:

Dr. Rachel Raab, Assistant Professor, ECU Brody School of Medicine

Date: Wed., November 6, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Edwin W. Monroe AHEC Conference Center  
2000 Venture Tower Drive  
Greenville, NC 27834

Free parking available. Light refreshments provided.

For more details and registration, call 252-493-6493 and leave a message or please email us at [cancerworkshop@yahoo.com](mailto:cancerworkshop@yahoo.com)

## Worship Services

November 3 **“Jazz as an Ecclesiastical Model”**

**Mort Stine, Brenda Stewart, Bob Jeffcott, and Rod Thompson**

In the Psalms we are urged to “make a joyful noise” with singing and dance and with various musical instruments or varying types and sounds. People, too, like musical instruments, come in various sizes and types and pitches and volumes and voices. When we come together in community we join in a unique kind of Jazz. See you in church.

November 10 **“Readers’ Theater performance and discussion of the short story “He” By Katherine Anne Porter, adapted for Readers’ Theater by Greg Watkins**

The performance and discussion is about the difficulties of dealing with chronic illness and long-term care. This performance is part of an on-going Readers’ Theater program sponsored by the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies at ECU’s Brody School of Medicine, the ECU College of Nursing, and ECU Department of Student Involvement & Leadership.

November 17 **“A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning” Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister**

This is a sermon focused on the 4th of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. As members of a congregation in the Unitarian Universalist Association we are called to “affirm and promote” these principles. What does that mean? How difficult can that be? I’ll share my thoughts and listen to yours in a Community Response time after the sermon. See you in church.

November 24 **“A Family Thanksgiving Service” Led by Rev. Rod Thompson and DRE Kimberly Scholl**

This will be an Intergenerational Service including the sharing of traditional Thanksgiving trappings, a Thanksgiving Ritual, a Ceremony Welcoming New Members to the congregation, and the introduction of the Guest at Your Table Program. Come celebrate the beginning of the holiday season with us as we prepare to help change the world for the better.

## Staff

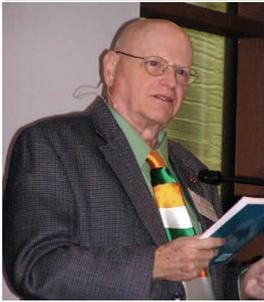
**Interim Minister:** Rev. Rod Thompson  
**Youth Religious Education Director:** Kimberly Scholl  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Sue Jefferson  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## Board of Trustees

**President:** Tom Thielen  
**Vice President:** Shannon Terry  
**Secretary:** Tammy Atchison  
**Treasurer:** Feryl Masters  
**At-Large:** Terry Shank  
**At-Large:** Rich Elkins  
**At-Large:** Patrice Alexander

## Committee Chairs

**Ambiance:** Terry Shank & Kay Alston  
**Building & Grounds:** Feryl Masters  
**Caring:** Dorothea Handron  
**Communication:** Rich Elkins  
**Endowment:** Feryl Masters  
**Fellowship :** Cam Scales  
**Finance:** Brenda Stewart  
**Fundraising:** Feryl Masters & Claudia Sundman  
**Hospitality:** open  
**Membership:** Sue Foreman & Judi Hickson  
**Youth Religious Education:** Jennifer Thielen  
**Stewardship:** Patrice Alexander  
**Social Action:** Pat Tesh & Pat Dix  
**Worship:** Michael Betteken & Michelle Covi



## Rod's Ruminations

Who are you? What are you? Where did you come from? That's how I began the Demographic Exercise during the service on September 29th. Almost 50 of you participated and I told you then that I'd share the results and my impressions, so here you are. We talk a lot about diversity, but do we really know how diverse we are right now? That's what this was all about. I thought it was very interesting and a lot of fun!

I first asked folks to form a line from the oldest to the youngest. The line stretched from door to door. I was pleased to see that we have folks of all ages. That's not true in many of our churches.

Next I asked folks to gather in different parts of the room according to the birth order. We had a large group of First Born/Oldest folks and smaller groups of Middle and Last Born/Youngests. There were only a few who are Only Children. I have had a theory for some time that there is a larger percentage of folks who are First Born in UU churches that in the general population. I believe my theory was confirmed by you.

For the fun of it I asked folks if, when they were driving, they preferred to Lead (speeding up to stay ahead) or to Follow (slowing down to let others pass). I was surprised to see the group divided fairly evenly. As a Follower myself I experience Greenville drivers to all be Leaders. I was glad to see I have company in letting them go ahead and Lead.

I then asked people to say what their personal preferences were as posed by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. We have far more Extroverts than in most UU churches (where 75% are Introverts), more Intuitive types than Sensing types (as in most UU churches), about equal numbers of Thinking and Feeling people and a lot more Judging than Perceiving people. It is important to know that others don't always think, feel, or act the way we do, and that that is OK.

We then designated the Main Room as a map of the US and asked people to stand where they were born. It looked to me like more than half of these folks were born in or near East Carolina. What's remarkable in this mobile society is that so many of you stayed in or came back here. That certainly influences the culture of the congregation. When I asked people to stand where they grew up even more folks moved to the East Carolina cluster

As time was running out I asked a couple of questions to compare with the 2006 Survey done in preparation for your last ministerial search. In that survey 59% had been involved in UUCG for 5 years or less, 20% for 5-10 years, 8% for 10-20 years, and 12% for more than 20 years. By today's count there was the same percentage - 59% - that have been here 5 years or less, 15% for 5-10 years, a larger 22% for 10-20 years, and a much smaller 4% for more than 20 years. I think this reflects that this congregation has retained a good number of members for the long haul, yet you're attracting substantial numbers of new folks.

*continued on page 4*

## Rod's Ruminations *continued....*

With the next question I wanted to see if the number of Members and Friends here had changed. The only real difference was in the number Regular Visitors and Newcomers who were here that day, 10%. There were none in 2006.

According to my question about how far folks travel to get from home to church, I found it interesting that considerable more of you live within 15 minutes (grown from 60 to 74%) and a larger number (7% to 13%) drive more than 30 minutes.

And finally I told folks that some years ago Unitarian Universalists could be divided evenly into three broad categories according to their theological perspective: Humanist (including Atheists and Agnostics), Liberal Christians (broadly defined), and Theists (Pagans, Deists, and other earth centered perspectives). By our count among those who participated in our service, 15 folks identified as Humanists, 14 as Liberal Christians, and 7 as Theists. Another 8 said that they didn't fit in any of these categories. What this showed me and I hope others is that we are diverse in our religious perspectives, as well as in other ways, which adds to our diverse culture.

It is my hope that this exercise – though certainly not complete or scientific – gave us some felling for the diversity here at UUCG. I also hope that this exercise strengthens our respect for folks who think or believe differently than you do.

### Prez notes continued.....

find that you worry less and that giving generously is no longer threatening or a chore. Instead it becomes a life-enriching experience that underscores the abundance of what you do have. The secret is learning to hold your possessions more loosely. It's a strange paradox, but it's true: when you loosen your grip of control on your stuff, you find that you actually appreciate it more than you did when you clutched it for dear life. You also discover a freedom with (and from) your possessions that leads to joy in the act of giving.

I look forward to your feedback.

Tom Thielen, President UUCG Board of Trustees

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

# Religious Education

## Youth Religious Education Report

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

I hope everyone is enjoying the changing weather. I always enjoy the fall, with the relief from the summer heat and the preparations for the upcoming holiday season. By now most of us are past the flurry of activity of "Back to School" and have settled into a routine. The same goes for our Youth Religious Education classes - we're past the initial flurry and have settled into a routine, which means we can focus on really enjoying our learning activities! I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone of what we are focusing on in each classroom.

The Elementary class is for ages four to eight and meets in the big RE room. We are using World of Wonder for this classroom. This curriculum explores our 7th Principle, "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part". Many of the lessons focus on direct experiences in nature, so there is a lot of outside time for this class, weather permitting. This is a UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum and you can read more about this curriculum online at <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/wonder/index.shtml>. Because this class requires a good bit of time outside the building it is imperative to have a Teacher and Second Adult in this room each week.

The Upper Elementary class is our most physically active group. This class meets in the smaller "Tween" room in the back of the building and is comprised of children approximately nine to eleven years old. This group is using Traditions with a Wink, a curriculum designed to teach the children more about our identity and traditions as Unitarian Universalists with a healthy dosage of humor and activity. You can read more about this curriculum at <http://www.uure.com/traditionswithawink.html>, and can even download a sample lesson. Rich has taken the lead with this classroom, but we still need strong Second Adults who can be firm and respectful when enforcing boundaries.

Our Tweens and Teens are not using a formal curriculum this year but have been continuing their exploration of other faith traditions. This class, which is largely discussion based, meets in the Library and includes children twelve and up. In addition to the discussions there may be speakers who talk to the class about their particular faith and "field trips" to visit other places of worship. Regular participation from all of the students will be vital to making this class a success, particularly since the children play a large role in deciding what directions the discussions and explorations will take. Cam is facilitating the discussion and will assist with organizing any activities and may need a Second Adult.

*continued on page 6*

## Religious Education continued

By now you may have noticed that having a Teacher and a Second Adult is a recurrent theme. In order to hold classes each Sunday we must have each room appropriately staffed, both for safety and liability. The Teacher typically leads all portions of the lesson with the Second Adult nearby to help as needed to make sure that good behavior is being used by the children and to assist with craft activities, bathroom breaks or any other situation where a child needs individual attention. If each family has one adult that volunteers in one room just once a month we should be fully staffed each week. As important as it is for parents to be active participants in the development of a vibrant religious education program, it is also essential to have the support of the entire congregation. I would like to see participation from members even if they do not have children currently in our program.

There have been a couple of weeks recently where we were not sure if the classroom would be staffed prior to the beginning of services. While we have been lucky enough to find those last minute volunteers, having the volunteers ahead of time is preferred as it allows for better planning and much less stress. If we have a week where a classroom is not fully staffed, the children who would normally participate in that class will have to remain in the service with their parents. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the classrooms please contact our Director of Religious Education, Kimberly Scholl. You can reach her via email at [dregreenvillenc@gmail.com](mailto:dregreenvillenc@gmail.com) or find her after the services most Sundays.

Jennifer Thielen  
Chair, YRE

### **Illuminations: A Unitarian Universalist App (from UUA.org)**

Illuminations, the Unitarian Universalist Association's (UUA's) first app is now available for free in the [iTunes App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Illuminations has over 350 Inspirational Words, a Chalice Lighter with several chalice options, and a Seven Principles Guide in English and Spanish, along with examples of the Principles in action.

The Chalice Lighter comes with five chalice designs. Tap the screen to light it and tap it again to extinguish the flame. Alternatively you can blow, near the microphone, to extinguish the flame. The 'blow' feature can be disabled if you are using the chalice lighter in noisy environments and are having trouble keeping it lit.

All of the Inspirational Words and the Seven Principles can be shared via Facebook, Twitter, and email allowing you to inspire your friends.

By default the app will deliver Timely Words to your notification bar each day. You can disable this feature or change the frequency in the settings menu.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						10am Brand Music and Wellness
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am <b>Worship Service: Jazz Service</b> 12 pm Lunch Group 12:15:pm Stewardship Meeting	6pm: Science of the Mind	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm Leadership Training 6:30 pm: PProvide Greenville 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice 7pm: Frankly Speaking	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness	1pm: UU Women's Lunch 530 pm: Art Reception	10am Brand Music and Wellness
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am <b>Worship Service: Reader's Theater</b> 12 pm Lunch Group	6pm: Science of the Mind 7:30pm Sierra Club Meeting	8am: Breakfast Group 5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Board of Trustees meeting	7pm: Classic GLBT Movie Night	10am Brand Music and Wellness
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am <b>Worship Service: A Free and Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning</b> 12 pm Lunch Group 5pm: Vegetarians in Pitt County	6pm: Science of the Mind	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm: PProvide 6:30 pm Leadership Training Greenville 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	6 pm Brand Music and Wellness	1pm: UU Women's Lunch	8:30am First Born 10am Brand Music and Wellness
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am <b>Worship Service: A Family Thanksgiving</b> 12 pm Lunch Group 12pm: Shelter Action Group 3pm: Interfaith Thanksgiving	6pm: Science of the Mind 7pm:Book Club	8am: Breakfast Group 6pm: Democracy NC 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	10am Brand Music and Wellness 7pm: Choir Practice	Thanksgiving		

### Stewardship Needs You

We are looking for assistance in planning the 2014 pledge campaign. Please bring your ideas, suggestions, and feedback regarding past campaigns to a meeting on Sunday, November 3rd, at 12:15 pm in the Library. Thanks.

### Art Reception

Join us on November 8 at 5:30 pm for a reception for Dawna Banks, whose art will grace our walls in November and December. Bring your friends and neighbors.

### Happy Birthday to UUs this November

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



### Interfaith Thanksgiving

The 12th Annual Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 24 @ 3:00 p.m. in 1st Presbyterian Church, located at the corner of Elm and 14th Streets. This annual event is a celebration of our areas spiritual inclusiveness and is a great way to start your holiday season. Canned food will be collected. All are encouraged to bring a nosh to share at the reception that is held afterwards. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Caverly @ [caverlyl@ecu.edu](mailto:caverlyl@ecu.edu).

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, November 19 at 8:00 pm

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

