

# The UUCG Beacon

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES



November is the month when we set the clocks back an hour (on the 1st). It's a frustrating ritual that serves no useful purpose. It is not clear why it was started. One explanation is that it was started for farmers. This is obviously not a reason. Farmers run their lives by their livestock's schedules and the sun - neither of which are good at reading clocks. Another theory is that it was started to save energy for the war. Studies have shown that it actually increases energy use, so that is not a valid reason. A third theory is that it was implemented to give suburbanites more time after work to grill and work in the yard, and therefore buy more things. That may be accurate, but is it a good reason to continue a ritual that causes so many problems? It does serve as a useful reminder to change the batteries in one's smoke detectors, but I'm sure another reminder could be found.

How many of the rituals and routines that we follow serve no purpose? Rituals have a purpose. A morning routine can help us get up and ready for work or school without having to think too hard before we are fully functional. Ritual can be soothing or calming in a service or meditation. Routines can help groups function better by letting everyone know what to do when without constant instructions or discussion. Routines and ritual have many beneficial functions.

How many of our rituals or routines serve no useful purpose, though? Like daylight saving time, are some of them actually counterproductive? Over the years, our services have changed to meet changing needs of our congregation. As our lives change, we must be ready to examine our rituals and change them as needed. We are a creedless faith, because creeds constrain one. With a creed, it is hard to grow and change as our understanding increases. Because we are not bound by creeds or old beliefs, we can more easily adapt and grow spiritually. I believe this is why we so often find ourselves in the forefront of those fighting for social justice. I believe it is important to take this intentional re-examination of our beliefs beyond our church and apply it throughout our lives. People tend to resist change. Change can be uncomfortable. But if we don't change, we don't grow. A free and responsible search for truth does not mean we abandon meaningful and useful routines or rituals. It does mean we must be ready to change when the old routines and rituals are no longer helpful.

**Feryl Masters, UUCG Board President**

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### UUCG Board Notes October 2015

This month, the Board:

- Reviewed legal and insurance company requirements for alcohol use. Toni agreed to develop a proposal for an alcohol policy.
- Received an update on the status of the Church Audit
- Discussed ways to develop leadership resources and opportunities in our church. After much discussion, the Board asked Cam Scales to work with the Nominating and Membership Committees to develop ways to integrate new members into church activities and identify potential leaders.

## MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS



November brings the first of winter's frost when I'm grateful for house and furnace. It brings the last of harvest as tomatoes and beans tucker out to almost bare vines.

I don't need Thanksgiving (but it helps) to be aware of how fragile and precious are parents and partner and children (including "relatives by choice"). All Hallow's Eve and All Souls Day, just past, remind me of the impermanence of lives, no matter how dear. And now I am grateful for so many companions with whom I work and share life's fruitfulness.

Religious community seems to me to be different than any other fruitful endeavor.

- Where else do I regularly enjoy multigenerational companionship, with my own loved ones so many miles and opinions away?

- Where else do I find such a great diversity of life perspectives where we still join our energies in practicing universal compassion, respect, integrity, and collaboration?

- Where else do we pass down these values from hand to hand and to the next generations?

I am thankful to Lilani, Christi, Gail and Shannon for their constant collaboration to provide our youth creative, fun and value-rich Religious Education month after month, year after year: from Hogwarts to Heroes' Journey to Our Neighboring Faiths. Did you see the freshly painted the classrooms?

I am thankful for Susan and Laura, with help from Bonnie and Alice, who are stretched between work and family, and still provide Membership services of greeting, welcoming new members, tracking contact info, publishing a directory, integrating newcomers (via luncheon), and distributing orientation materials.

I am especially grateful to wonderful volunteers because I know that they, above all others, are working without sufficient hands. Our Developmental Goals Group, the Board and I, are working to find new ways of matching willing helpers with opportunities to bring your experience, insight and energies into these two areas of good work. Engaging adults and embracing our children with worthy values is *great* work!

Each among us, every one of us, have gifts in different measure. This Thanksgiving month, I am ever so grateful for the magnificent and persistent services members share. I am mindful of wonderful opportunities... precious opportunities to serve both children and fellow adults, transmitting our values as a faith community. Please make known your gifts and energies for service.

Whether we see, in our lifetime, that our Unitarian Universalist values are changing our families for the better, changing Greenville and North Carolina and the United States, changing the world and our planet for the better, it is our living/active faith that our shared values are worth working for in religious community. This work is our heritage and hope for the future.

We are grateful for so many gifts. We are also grateful for shared work of religious community!

Blessings!

Rev. Rod Debs, Pastor

# NEWS

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## Social Action Committee

Share the Plate reminders through the end of the year.

**November** -- Little Willie Center -- founded in 1990 as an organization to address the needs of latchkey children, whose parents work, seek employment, or attend school and as a result, must leave their children home alone. Despite adversity, the center has successfully operated for the past 24 years. The center is located in the heart of West Greenville, and despite the area's reputation, the center provides a safe alternative to being home alone.

With this in mind, parents are granted peace of mind knowing their children are loved and encouraged to strive for excellence in not only their school lives, but their personal lives as well. <http://www.littlewilliecenter.org>

**December** - Greenville Utilities Neighbor to Neighbor (aka Warm In Winter) Program -- The Neighbor to Neighbor program meets local needs by providing funds to assist low income families in Pitt County with their heating bills. It's a voluntary program, supported through GUC customers' tax-deductible contributions. GUC matches contributions, up to \$20,000 each year. <http://www.guc.com/neighbor-to-neighbor>



## Program Council

Sunday November 8th at 12:30pm

Program Council will meet after service on November 8th The UUCG Program Council (comprised of the Committee Chairs and other important leaders and volunteers of the Congregation) will meet after the service, starting at approximately 12:30pm on Sunday, Nov 8th. Please make any possible effort to join us for this (roughly) quarterly event where we coordinate the programs of the Congregation.

Lunch will be provided. A suggested donation of \$5 to help defray the cost is appreciated. We usually do subs and/or wraps, chips, etc.

Please RSVP to Richard Baltaro, UUCG Vice President (who chairs the Program Council) to let him know if you will be attending, and if so, what type of sub you would like, as well please inform her if you need childcare (and food for children) during the meeting which will last until about 2pm. Some members choose to bring their own lunch if desired, which is perfectly fine as well, just let us know.

Richard's direct email is [baltaro@aol.com](mailto:baltaro@aol.com)

## Team Trivia

The *UU Can't Touch This* team trivia group participates in Trivia Night 7:00 pm every Wednesday at The Coffee Shack in Winterville.

The Team was honored recently for having the highest cumulative point total over the first 6 weeks since the event restarted at the Coffee Shack. The prize was a wood carving of a face, which is now our patron Trivia God. Whether this is a totem, a tiki, or some other cultural representation of a deity is yet to be decided (looks more Celtic-inspired than Pacific Northwest or Pacific Islander), as well as what to name it. What is your suggestion? What activities should be involved in a naming ceremony? Suggestions are invited. Email to [webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:webmaster@uugreenvillenc.org) and the team trivia group will vote on their favorite, and this will be announced in next month's Beacon.



# EVENTS



## Games Night

Saturday, November 7th at 6:00pm-9:00pm

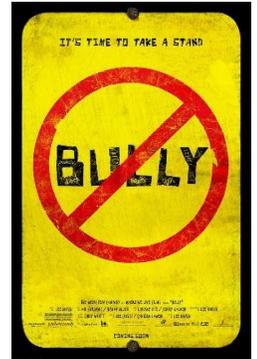


Join us at the church between for fun and games and refreshments. Games will be provided, or you can bring your favorite board or card game and teach it to us! The December Game night will be Saturday, December 5th

## Moral Movies

Saturday November 14th at 6:30pm. This month's move is **Bully**.

Over 13 million American kids will be bullied this year, making it the most common form of violence experienced by young people in the nation. The documentary film BULLY, directed by award winning filmmaker Lee Hirsch, brings human scale to this startling statistic, offering an intimate, unflinching look at how bullying has touched five kids and their families.



BULLY is a beautifully cinematic, character-driven documentary. At its heart are those with huge stakes in this issue whose stories each represent a different facet of America's bullying crisis. Filmed over the course of the 2009/2010 school year, BULLY opens a window onto the pained and often endangered lives of bullied kids, revealing a problem that transcends geographic, racial, ethnic and economic borders. It documents the responses of teachers and administrators to aggressive behaviors that defy "kids will be kids" clichés, and it captures a growing movement among parents and youths to change how bullying is handled in schools, in communities and in society as a whole. Parents play a vital role in supporting their kids, promoting upstander rather than bystander behavior, and teaching and modeling empathy in the home.

As always, refreshments will be served and there will be discussion following the film.

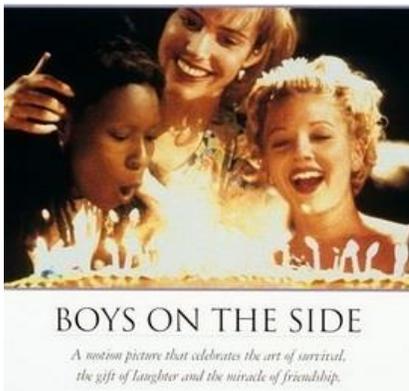
## Pasta Dinner

Saturday November 21st at 6:00pm



*Pasta Dinner*

Dinner with a Pasta Sauce Competition on November 21. Sauces can be veggie or meat. If you don't want to compete, you can bring salads, breads, desserts, or other sides. Definitely bring your appetite for good food! If you want to compete please sign up in advance with Laura (nanalaura518@gmail.com) or Michael (ike4587@gmail.com). It's \$5 to compete--prizes will be awarded. Donations accepted at the dinner.



## Classic GLBT Movie Night

Friday November 20th at 7:00pm. This month the movie is **Boys on the Side**.

Jane is a night club singer, out of work. Robin is a quirky real estate agent looking for a ride-share to accompany her to California. Her advertisement is answered by Jane, who at first was uncertain about her. A stop in Pittsburgh picks up a third, Holly, escaping a violent and drug-dealing partner. Girls on the road, reaching understanding, respect, and care for each other. But this trio is different - Jane a lesbian, Robin suffering with AIDS, Holly running from her past, seeking one-night stands and a good man.



# FUNDRAISING NIGHT



**Help support**

## **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville**

**Thursday, November 5, 2015**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

**at the Panera Bread bakery-cafe at  
516 Greenville Boulevard**

Bring this flyer when you dine with us on **Thursday, November 5, 2015**, and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to **Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville**. It's a handcrafted, delicious meal, all for a great cause!

Learn more about Fundraising Nights at Panera Bread at:  
**[www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser](http://www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser)**

Panera Bread® Gift Card, Panera Catering and online purchases are excluded from this event.

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## November 2015

Sunday November 1	10:30am	All Soul's Day - Michael Betteken and Jake Melnyk
Thursday November 4	4-8pm	Panera Fundraiser. Must present our flyer at checkout.
Sunday November 8	10:30am 12:30pm	"Track Record of the United Nations at 70" - Carroll Webber Program Council Meeting
Thursday November 12	7:00pm	PFLAG meeting
Friday November 13	5:30pm	Art Reception
Saturday November 14	6:30pm	Moral Movies – "Bully"
Sunday November 15	10:30am	Reader's Theater -- "A Face of Stone"
Friday November 20	7:00pm	Classic LGBT Movie Night -- "Boys on the Side"
Saturday November 21	6:00pm	Fellowship Pasta Dinner
Sunday November 22	10:30am 3:00pm	"How Piglet Saved Thanksgiving" - Holly Brown Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ St. Paul's Episcopal
Sunder November 29	10:30am	"Beyond Solutions"--Rev. Debs

View the entire calendar at <http://www.uugreenvillenc.org/calendar.html>

### STAFF

Minister: Rev. Rod Debs  
 Music Director: Mort Stine  
 Choir Director: Sue Jefferson  
 RE Director: Lilani Butler Masters

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Feryl Masters  
 Vice President: Richard Baltaro  
 Secretary: Shannon Sparrow  
 Treasurer: Brenda Stewart  
 At Large: Cam Scales  
 At Large: Toni Broshears  
 Past President: Rich Elkins

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### SUNDAYS

9:30AM Mindful Meditation  
 10:30AM Worship  
 12:00PM Lunch Groups

#### TUESDAYS

8:00AM Breakfast Group  
 7:30PM KTC Buddhist Meditation

#### WEDNESDAYS

7:00PM Choir Practice  
 7:00PM Team Trivia @ Coffee Shack

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Ambiance:

Brenda Stewart

#### Building and Grounds:

Bob Hudson

#### Caring:

Ruel Tyer & Ruth Abramson

#### Communications:

Toni Broshears

#### Endowment:

Feryl Masters

#### Fellowship:

Laura Schroeder & Michael Betteken

#### Finance:

Richard Baltaro

#### Fundraising:

Patrice Alexander & Jennifer Schultz

#### Hospitality:

Holly Brown & Jacki Vaughn-Heath

#### Membership:

Susan Foreman & Laura Neece-Baltaro

#### Social Action:

Rich Elkins & Sandy Shephard

#### Stewardship:

Patrice Alexander & Feryl Masters

#### Worship:

Pat Dix & Jerry Gregory

#### Youth Religious Education:

Shannon Sparrow & Christy Hoppenthaler

Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is **Tuesday, November 24 at 8:00 pm**

Email Beacon submissions to [beacon@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:beacon@uugreenvillenc.org)