



# The UUCG beacon

December 2009

The *beacon* is published monthly  
by the  
Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation of Greenville  
252-355-6658  
www.uugreenvillenc.org  
*beacon* Editor: Don English  
beacon@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

Dec 6

*Patience: The Gift of Ex-  
pectant Waiting*  
Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Dec 13

*What's Your Bliss?*  
Rev. Ann Marie

Dec 20

*The Season of Hope*  
Rev. Ann Marie

Dec 27

*Tong Len Community  
Building Project*  
Dr Derek Maher

Children's activities are  
available each Sunday.

## President's Notes

Last time I sat down to write this letter I was thinking about the upcoming trick or treating and wondering if I had both enough candy – turns out that I did, and more...! However, after getting caught one Halloween several years ago with an empty candy basket and some disappointed witches and power rangers, I wanted to make absolutely sure that I was prepared this year. It is a good thing that all the folks at work love chocolate! In a way, my long ago Halloween lesson and subsequent preparations are similar to some of the challenges the UUCG Board face. We try to make reasonable and realistic plans based on past experiences and future projections. However, sometimes we encounter surprises, like heat pumps that finally give up the ghost and rotting siding, that make us wish we were better prepared. Then there are the times when we had figured out how to squeak by and then surprise! The choir director and youth RE director that we had been wishing for showed up and we took leaps of “faith” because they were what our members had been asking for. This past Sunday, when I heard the choir and the congregation enthusiastically trying out some new songs and saw all the kids rushing to get back to RE I saw that our leap has really paid off in increased participation and fellowship among our members and friends and my heart sang! (Relax, I promise to keep humming in real life) I am really looking forward to hearing much happy music at the UUCG Hymnphony on December 5<sup>th</sup>!

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 6)

# Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

I have three holiday wishes for you in this season of good cheer. First, I wish you happy times with your families and friends. I hope you find many ways to celebrate who you are, where you come from, and what you are connected to. May joy fill your spirit! Secondly, I hope for you a sense of peace. Times are hard for so many. Loss of income, loss of health and vitality, troubling stories of greed, violence and hatred stand in stark contrast to all our hopes for a better world. I wish for you the anchor of liberating faith, peace in your soul that comes from confidence in a soaring dream for a better tomorrow. And finally, I wish for you the gift of courage. Take the risk to become who and what you want to be. Know and celebrate your roots, let your dreams for the best you can be pull you to tomorrow, and risk a fuller, deeper commitment to the gift of your life.

Happy Holidays,  
Ann Marie

## May the Peace of the Season Be with You

### We have lots of UUCG birthdays in December!

Arick Grootveld	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Charlene Young	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Norman Monaco	December 4 <sup>th</sup>
Liota Weinbaum	December 8 <sup>th</sup>
Alice Arnold	December 15 <sup>th</sup>
Lutia Stayton	December 21 <sup>st</sup>
Kimberly Smith	December 24 <sup>th</sup>
Elizabeth Nelson	December 27 <sup>th</sup>
Alex Pridgen	December 27 <sup>th</sup>
Heidi Luchsinger	December 30 <sup>th</sup>

**Health, happiness, and peace for the  
coming year.  
Happy Birthday Everyone!!**

### McAlister's Deli Nite Returns

Please come to McAlister's again for dinner on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> anytime between 5 - 9 pm. Join other UU's sitting around or create your own table. From the proceeds of all sales that night, 5% to 10% will be given to the church as a donation! Join us!

—UUCG Board, Bev Harju.

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, **December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 pm**

# Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

## Worship Committee

We will have our usual Sunday services through December. On Sunday, December 27th, Dr. Derek Maher will return with both an update and a video of the Tong Len Community Building Project in northern India. On Sunday, January 3, the ever popular Ed Day will provide the services.

—Bev Harju

## Buildings and Grounds

Special thank yous are due to Feryl Masters and Pat Tesh for sprucing up a wall or two with paint and for tending to a leak in the roof. The Faithful Grounds Committee has groomed the grass and bushes and trees to look the best they can be through another Summer/Fall season. We share our appreciation for Bob Franke, Hank Foster and Helen Foster.

—Terry Shank

## Kids Yoga Sunday

As usual, December 20th, the 3rd Sunday of the month is Kids Yoga Sunday. If your boy or girl will be participating, please be sure that they dress that morning in comfortable, loose fitting clothing. Skirts may be comfortable, but are not appropriate for yoga.

— Don English

## The Ambiance Committee & the Rotating Art Exhibits

A reception was held on Friday, November 6, to introduce three artists whose works will adorn the walls of the sanctuary through 2009. The artists, Holly Cook, Beverly Lasher and Judy Murphy, who are from Cypress Landing in Chocowinity have exhibited their paintings in various venues. We are fortunate to be able to live with their beautiful art for these next few weeks.

The Ambiance Committee sponsored the reception and Lorraine Obremski coordinated the event as well as acted as liaison to the artists. Kay Alston, Lorraine Obremski and Terry Shank arranged the exhibit art. Other members of the committee include Joanie deGroot, Claudia Sundman, Bill Paulson, Judi Hickson, Hank Obremski, Brenda Stewart and Don English.

If anyone from the public would like to view the exhibit, please contact Terry Shank for an appointment.



# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</li> <li>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</li> </ul>	<p>02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Choir Practice</li> <li>8pm» Teen Group</li> </ul>	<p>03</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm» Social Action Committee</li> </ul>	<p>04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm» KTC Buddhist Public Talk</li> <li>6pm» A Course in Miracles</li> </ul>	<p>05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am» KTC Buddhist Public Talk</li> <li>4:30pm» Rehearsal</li> <li>7pm» Hymnphony</li> </ul>
<p>06</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15am» The Forum</li> <li>10:30am» Worship Service</li> <li>12pm» RE committee meeting</li> <li>2pm» KTC Buddhist public talk</li> </ul>	<p>07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</li> <li>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</li> </ul>	<p>09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5pm» Fundraiser: Please Eat at McAllister's</li> <li>7pm» Choir Practice</li> <li>8pm» Teen Group</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm» A Course in Miracles</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am» Building &amp; Grounds Workday</li> <li>10am» Building Cleaning</li> <li>1pm» Arbonne Event/Fundraiser and Open house</li> <li>7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)</li> </ul>
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15am» The Forum</li> <li>10:30am» Worship Service</li> <li>7pm» UU Meditation Group</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Board Meeting</li> <li>7:30pm» Sierra Club</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</li> <li>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Choir Practice</li> <li>8pm» Teen Group</li> </ul>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm» A Course in Miracles</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am» Building Cleaning</li> </ul>
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15am» The Forum</li> <li>10:30am» Worship Service</li> <li>4pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting</li> <li>5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop meeting</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</li> <li>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Choir Practice</li> <li>8pm» Teen Group</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7:30pm» UU Men's Group</li> </ul>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm» A Course in Miracles</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am» Building Cleaning</li> </ul>
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15am» The Forum</li> <li>10:30am» Worship Service</li> <li>5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle</li> </ul>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</li> <li>7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm» Choir Practice</li> <li>8pm» Teen Group</li> </ul>	<p>31</p>		

Acceptance of one  
and encouragement



another  
of spiritual



2010 Eastern Carolina Cluster Gathering

**UU CONGREGATIONS & MULTI-CULTURALISM:**

**IN BETWEEN**

**8:30 am (Registration) - 3:30 pm Closing**

**Saturday, March 20**

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville, NC**



**Keynote**

***The Perversity of Diversity*  
The Reverend Mark Morrison-Reed**

Behind Unitarian Universalist efforts to become more diverse, there lies a surprising and painful truth. To change, we must start by accepting this truth with an honest look at who we are and why we are who we are. This ends in a conundrum, but not without hope. Torn between our reality and our aspiration, what are we to do?

*Raised UU, Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed co-ministered with his wife, Donna for 26 years, serving in Rochester, NY, and Toronto, Ont. Now focused on writing and other projects, his Black Pioneers in a White Denomination is an invaluable chronicle. In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby is his most recent work.*

**KEYNOTE \* WORSHIP \* WORKSHOPS \* ALL AGES WELCOME**

Gather with other Thomas Jefferson District Eastern Carolina Cluster congregations (generally those on or East of I-95). Go to [www.uugreenvillenc.org/cluster](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org/cluster) for updates regarding offerings, schedule, and registration or contact Rev. Ann Marie Alderman (252-355-6658; [minister@uugreenvillenc.org](mailto:minister@uugreenvillenc.org))

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of  
Greenville  
131 Oakmont Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858  
[www.uugreenvillenc.org](http://www.uugreenvillenc.org)



## Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

**PREZ NOTES** (continued from page 1)

Of course, in these times of economic challenges no one is immune. We have members and friends who are struggling and may not be able to fulfill the pledges they made when times were better. A lesson that I have relearned recently is that it is easy to be kind and gracious and positive when times are good. It is when times are tough that you can see who folks really are and what they are made of. We have some really good folks at UUCG. I am also thinking of PICASO. It is an organization that provides services that are desperately needed to AIDS patients; often those who have no other options or resources. Now PICASO is in danger of shutting down because it has lost much of its funding. Our Fifth Sunday Collection, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, will be going to PICASO so please be generous on that Thanksgiving Sunday. The following week will be AIDS Awareness Week.

So, there are lots of reasons that it is important that we achieve more than our planned fundraising goal this year. Our recent Service Auction raised almost \$2,000, even with a smaller audience than usual because there was so much going on that weekend. We have some very generous members and friends. They donated food, vacations, and services that will be appreci-

ated throughout the year and will remind us of their generosity. I am really looking forward to Brenda Stewart's Brunswick Stew. We are hoping that our second McAllister's Community Day, on December 9<sup>th</sup>, will be even more successful than the first.... I am envisioning tired hungry bargain hunters who do not want to go home and cook.

Our new fundraiser with lots of financial and community outreach potential is the Barnes and Nobles gift wrapping. We have six days earmarked that we need to have coverage for, from opening to closing. Feryl has the day after Thanksgiving pretty much covered. Our challenge will be providing the volunteers to cover the five days before Christmas which are projected to be the busiest, and also the most lucrative, days. Even if your wrapping skills are limited please consider signing up as a helper or greeter. We will also be asking for donations of holiday "to/from" labels, ribbon, and bows. Claudia is the one to check with regarding the supplies and what is needed.

The planning is starting now for our Annual Pledge Campaign and everyone will be asked to help make it a success. Some will have time, some will have money, and some will have tal-

**PREZ NOTES** (continued on page 7)

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

**PREZ NOTES** (continued from page 6)

ents – all of it will be needed. You will start to hear more about the Campaign in the upcoming weeks so please start thinking now of creative ways to ask people to pledge...It might also be time for each of us to do some soul searching about our priorities as the holiday gift giving frenzy begins – to ask ourselves why we pledge and what UUCG means to us, our families, and our communities.

In the spirit of giving - the SLRP Committee is currently working on a first draft of our Congregation's Strategic Long Range Plan. The committee is hoping to present it to the congregation before the end of the year. As we reviewed the information from the survey and the 15+ focus groups it became clear that our members and friends have lots of energy and passion around our congregational connections, our community connections, our formal and informal worship and spiritual exploration opportunities - especially our Sunday Services, and social justice is-

sues. It is challenging and inspiring work and there will be opportunities for everyone in the congregation to be involved. Every member and friend of UUCG has something to share that we will need in order for the SLRP to succeed.

As we plan our upcoming Thanksgiving celebrations and give thanks for all the good things in our lives I would like say thanks to each of you for all that you give to UUCG. I also want us all to celebrate that, with the recent joining of Sandra Morris, Kurt Powers, Norman Monaco and Tabitha Monaco we are now 101 members strong. Our goal last year was to reach 100 and we've achieved it. It is an exciting time here at UUCG and I am confident that we will keep moving beyond that goal this year as more folks are touched by the energy and passion that is UUCG!

In Gratitude and Covenant,  
*Patrice Alexander*  
Patrice Alexander, President  
UUCG Board of Trustees 2009-2010

**Merry Christmas**  
and  
**Season's Greetings**

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

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00 pm

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

## **Staff**

**Minister:** Rev Ann Marie Alderman  
**Religious Education Dir:** Kimberly Scholl  
**President:** Patrice Alexander  
**Vice President:** Theresa Sparrow  
**Secretary:** Susan Foreman  
**Treasurer:** Brenda Stewart  
**Music Director:** Mort Stine  
**Choir Director:** Stephen Brand  
**Office Administrator:** Michelle Covi

## **Committee Chairs**

**Building and Grounds:** Feryl Masters,  
Richard Weir & Terry Shank  
**Endowment:** Bill Paulson  
**Finance:** Paul Alston  
**Hospitality:** Kathy Weigel & Tracy  
Donohue  
**Membership:** Alan Bailey & Heidi  
Luchsinger  
**Religious Education:** Jennifer Thielen  
**Social Action:** Pat Tesh & Tom Long  
**Worship:** Bev Harju

