

The UUCG Beacon

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



President's Notes

"From you I receive, to you I give. Together we share, from this we live."

In this month's column, you'll notice I am taking a much more practical approach than in previous columns. This month's column is a plea for help. It is a call for action. It is a reminder of the church's needs and of the commitment you have made to this congregation. Let it be the spark that inspires positive growth and change: in you, in the congregation, in the greater community.

First let me stress the importance of keeping your pledge current. Your generous pledges provide the most substantial portion of the church's operating budget. It is through your giving that the church finances the things that are important this congregation. Whether funding a professional minister, supporting our social action initiatives, or keeping the bathrooms in working order and stocked with toilet paper, the church is dependent upon the financial support that you have committed to. So please don't miss this last chance to make your tax deductible pledge contribution for 2013.

Important Announcements

We have been informed by the current owner of the building next door to the east (toward Charles) that we are NOT to PARK in that parking lot at any time! So, please, let's try to regain his trust by not parking in his lot. OK? OK! Thanks!

Next, I would like to address our ongoing issues with hospitality, with specific attention to the Hospitality Committee, and the difference between the two. I feel like our congregation does a good job welcoming visitors and members alike. We are wonderfully welcoming and accepting, as evidenced by the beautiful diversity among those in attendance at our services, and the liveliness of conversation afterwards. I wish to thank each of you for building and maintaining that environment. I find it ironic then, that we have gone nearly 6 months without a hospitality committee. That needs to change. Many among us equate the Hospitality Committee with providing coffee and snacks after the service. This also needs to change. Providing coffee after the service is not the goal of a Hospitality Committee. It is merely one tool or task that helps achieve the Committee's goals. A Hospitality Committee is a group of people, led by a Hospitality Committee Chair, who meet regularly, develop the annual hospitality goals for the year, and develop and organize the tools and tasks needed to achieve those goals. They then implement those tools and tasks, and measure their success or troubleshoot their failure. I will happily make coffee on several Sunday mornings a year, and I can easily help you find half-a-dozen other people willing to make a similar commitment. What the board needs, is someone who can steer the ship. We'll help you recruit the volunteers.

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Worship Services

Dec 1 **“Social Action a Call to Service” a Lay Led Service**
Michelle Baker will be presenting her sermon entitled “I Am Nobody” which will focus on the “Inherent worth and dignity of every person” beginning with yourself. This will include a call to service and social action with a focus on why she was/is called to service. An inspiring sermon about social action and the joy and satisfaction that helping others can bring. We will see you in church.

Dec 8 **“Christmas, Bah, Humbug”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

I know it is still early in December, but the stores have had their Christmas decorations and merchandise out since Labor Day, that radio and TV have long since starting their “holiday” programming, and that Santa arrived on Thanksgiving; so with 17 shopping days left many of us are already quoting Mr. Scrooge. Still, as Unitarian Universalists, we might find a satisfying way through the holidays. Come catch the spirit! See you in church.

Dec 15 **“Home for the Holidays”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

It seems like every time I turn on the radio or TV or go anywhere in December that they are playing music about going home for the holidays. But, where is home? Where you grew up? Where your children are? Where your heart is? Here at Greenville? The answer is not as simple as they make it seem.

Dec 22 **“Celebrate the Holidays, but Which One?”**

Led by Rev. Rod Thompson, Interim Minister

December is the month of Holidays and we Unitarian Universalists like to celebrate holidays, so which December holiday should we celebrate? Hanukkah? Solstice? Christmas? Kwanzaa? Or all four? Join us this Sunday and we will try to decide. Lots of thoughts, ideas and music. See you in church.

Dec 24 **Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebrations
at 5:30** Led by Rev. Rod Thompson and DRE Kimberly Scholl

To my mind there is no more delightful time to be with family and friends, listening to the old, familiar stories, singing

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Staff

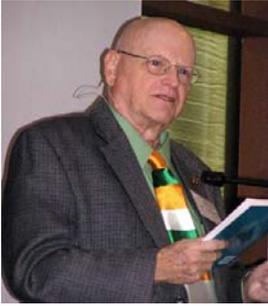
Interim Minister: Rev. Rod Thompson
Youth Religious Education Director: Kimberly Scholl
Music Director: Mort Stine
Choir Director: Sue Jefferson
Office Administrator: Michelle Covi

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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

As we enter into this Holiday Season I thought I might share with you this "card" sent to me by a former parishioner. She got it from a member of the National Coalition Building Institute. Enjoy! And, Happy Holidays.

This
 holiday
 end a quarrel.
 Seek out a forgotten
 friend. Dismiss suspicion,
 and replace it with trust
 Write a love letter. Share some
 treasure. Give a soft answer. En-
 courage youth. Manifest your loyalty in
 word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the
 time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen.
 Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand.
 Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think
 first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle.
 Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidences.
 Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your
 gratitude. Come to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart
 of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
 Speak your love.
 Speak it again.
 Speak it still
 once again.
 Stand on the side of love

Worship Services Continued

familiar carols, and lighting candles than Christmas Eve; so, at 5:30 we will offer a Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with lots of stories and carols, ending with the traditional candle lighting and "Silent Night." Bring your family, including your extended family if they are with you, a plate of cookies to share and join your church family and celebrate with us.

Dec 29 **A UUCG Holiday Celebration, a Lay Led Service**

The Holidays are a very special time in the hearts of the members of this congregation. To continue the celebration we will present songs, stories, and poems picked by and presented by members of this congregation that hold a special place in our hearts during this time of year. This will truly be an exciting service where we will share what makes this time of year so magical. Let's share this time together.

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

Greetings from Youth Religious Education!

Our Fall classes are continuing to go well, due in no small part to some consistent volunteers! We've had more regular participants, yet we still find ourselves making multiple requests for volunteers each week. I cannot stress enough how important it is to have volunteers, as our classes could not be held without the giving of time from those in our congregation. Thanks to the individuals who sign up in advance, as well as those who check in on Sunday mornings, we have managed to keep the classrooms fully staffed. I would like to extend a hearty "THANK YOU" to those who have volunteered, as every bit of help matters and is appreciated.

In addition to the thanks for our volunteers, I would like to thank the parents who bring their children with them on Sunday, as Youth Religious Education would be rather pointless otherwise. I would like to thank everyone who has loaned items for classroom work, or donated supplies. Thank you to everyone who has pledged fund to the congregation, and who has kept those pledges current. There are many ways to contribute to the religious education of our youth, directly and indirectly. Our successes are based on the efforts put forth by our members and friends. Let's continue to be successful together!

Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE Committee

Prez notes continued.....

Lastly, the board would like to find someone interested in becoming the UUCG historian. Our congregation has a rich history that we would like to see pass forward through the generations. We have accumulated several written pieces of our history. We have many longtime members with a multitude of stories to tell. It is often said that you cannot see where you are going until you know where you have been. We are looking for someone to record our story, and perhaps even share it with us, so that we may all better appreciate our congregational heritage.

During this season of giving, please consider how you can help UUCG and the wider community by giving of your treasures, time, and talents. And if you are in need of giving, please also share your needs, so that others are not robbed of the opportunity to give.

Tom Thielen,
President, UUCG Board of Trustees

IMPORTANT REQUEST FROM THE UU Service Committee

The loss of life and devastation in the Philippines from Typhoon Haiyan are truly staggering. UUSC has close ties to the Philippines and has activated emergency response efforts. We are launching a joint special appeal for Philippine relief efforts with the UUA, and will distribute funds where they can do the most good. The blue links take you to the secure website of the UUSC, where you can make donations with your credit card.

[We need your immediate support to help our friends in the Philippines and address this humanitarian disaster. Your donation will immediately be directed to our Philippine relief efforts.](#)

UUSC has a distinctive role to play even as other organizations spring into action. Our focus will be on those survivors most likely to fall through the cracks of traditional rescue and relief efforts. Thousands of families are at acute risk because of geography, ethnicity, religion, or other factors that create barriers to accessing help. UUSC has a long history of work and solidarity with the Philippines. We will work directly with our established partners on the ground in the areas most affected by the typhoon. Please be assured that your emergency donations will make a critical difference, especially for those most in need in devastated communities.

[Please help today. The sooner we can act, the more lives we will save.](#)

We will brief you in the coming days on UUSC's work in the region. And please keep the stricken people in the Philippines in your thoughts and prayers.

Our deepest thanks, Bill Schulz
President and CEO Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Building and Grounds

Start the New Year out right! New Years' afternoon, we will be having a work day at the UUCG. We have jobs including cleaning, painting, electrical work, and plumbing. All skill levels are welcome. You can sleep late and still help out. Contact Feryl Masters oferyl@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer. If the weather permits, we will have outside jobs available too.

**Affirming justice, equity and
compassion towards all**



Holiday Cheer/Cheers

On December 22 UUs will gather for food, drink, and caroling.

We'll meet at the church at 3:30 pm for cocoa, cider, and light snacks. All ages are welcomed.

Afterwards, we'll stroll down and carol* through the neighborhood. Participants are encouraged to wear red or other Christmas colors and bring bell(s) if you have any.

Then back to UU and perhaps dinner at McAlisters. Put us on your calendar and share the fun. For more info, contact Cam Scales at camrme@aol.com This activity is brought to you by the Fellowship Committee, the letters N O E L and the numbers 2 and 5.

Bad weather? No problem, we'll stay warm and dry at UUCG and enjoy more refreshments plus games.

*A carol is in modern parlance a festive song, generally religious but not necessarily connected with church worship, and often with a dance-like or popular character. The carol is represented almost exclusively by the Christmas carol, the Advent carol, and to a much lesser extent by the Easter carol. BTW, we're not doing the dance thing.

Save the date, February 23, 2014, for the Pledge Drive kick-off luncheon that will be provided by the Board! Fun, fellowship, and entertainment will also be provided!



Celebrating Chalica

(from <http://www.uua.org/worship/holidays/174566.shtml>)

Chalica is a week-long celebration of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. The holiday first emerged in 2005 out of a wish to have a holiday organized around Unitarian Universalist values.

Chalica begins on the first Monday in December and lasts seven days. Each day, a chalice is lit and the day is spent reflecting on the meaning of that day's principle and doing a good deed that honors that principle. Not all Unitarian Universalists celebrate Chalica, but it has a growing following. There is a Chalica [Facebook page](#), [blog](#), and many Chalica-themed [videos on YouTube](#).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Social Action a Call to Service a Lay Led Service 12 pm Lunch Group	6pm: Science of the Mind	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm: PProvide Greenville 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice		1pm: UU Women's Lunch Consign-ment Sale	Consign-ment Sale
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service, Christmas, Bah Humbug	6pm: Science of the Mind 7:30 pm: Sierra Club	8am: Breakfast Group 5:30 Worship Committee meeting 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	6pm: staff meeting 7pm: Choir Practice	7pm: Board of Trustees meeting		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service Home for the Holidays 12 pm Lunch Group 5pm: Vegetarians in Pitt County	6pm: Science of the Mind	8am: Breakfast Group 6:30 pm: PProvide Greenville 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists	7pm: Choir Practice		1pm: UU Women's Lunch 7pm: Classic GLBT Movie Night	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Celebrate the Holidays 12 pm Lunch Group 3:30pm: Caroling and Cocoa Fellowship event	6pm: Science of the Mind 7pm: Book Club	8am: Breakfast Group 5:30 pm: Worship Service: A Family Christmas	Christmas			
29	30	31				
9:30 am Mindfulness Meditation 10:30 am Worship Service: Lay-led service 12 pm Lunch Group	6pm: Science of the Mind	8am: Breakfast Group 7:30 pm: KTC Buddhists				

Treasurer's Message

Don't forget, this month is your last chance to make a tax deductible contribution for 2013. We love our church, and the many hours of volunteer time contributed are greatly appreciated. We couldn't succeed without the many wonderful volunteers, many of whom you never hear about. The work just magically gets done. Unfortunately, some things require cash. We have a very tight budget this year, and any extra contributions will allow us to do more to maintain our building, provide child care, and do all the other important things we love about the congregation. Please keep the UUCG in mind when making your donations.

Funraising

Make sure you come to our first ever consignment/craft/bake sale Friday December 6 and Saturday December 7. You may find that perfect Christmas gift at a great price. If you have something you would like to turn into cash, this is a great way to do that while helping the church. Contact Feryl Masters or Jennifer Thielen for more information.

Happy Birthday to UUs this December

- Dec. 1– Ann Eleanor
- Dec. 4– Norman Monaco
- Dec. 9– Michelle Baker
- Dec. 10– Betty Greer
- De. 15– Alice Arnold
- Dec. 22– Crystal Ybarra
- Dec. 25– Bob Hudson
- De. 27– Betty Nelson



Deadline for next month's **Beacon** is Tuesday, December 17 at 8:00 pm

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