



The UUCG Beacon

August 2011

The beacon is published
monthly by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

August 7
Generational Perspectives
UUCG Members and
Friends

August 14
Generational Perspectives
UUCG Members and
Friends

August 21
Generational Perspectives
UUCG Members and
Friends

August 28
Worship Service
Rev. Ann Marie

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.



President's Notes

Thank you for the honor of being elected as President of the Board of Trustees. I look forward to developing UUCG this year and I don't yet know what will emerge. A case in point. Tom and I planted some Colorado wildflower seeds in our front garden box. Since we can't identify which plants will grow more flowers and

which are weeds, we are caring for all of the plants. This is more comfortable than how I felt when I accidentally pulled up flowers. Speaking of caring, let me offer my/our sincere thanks to Patrice Alexander for her responsible and caring two-term service as President. Patrice is a very intelligent woman who stands up for the causes which she values. Thanks to the entire Board of Trustees and Rev. Ann Marie for continuing to serve in a wise and compassionate manner. Also, a huge thanks to Don English for years of past work as Beacon Editor and also Michelle Covi for continued work. So much happened this month and I would like to highlight some of the General Assembly activities as well as the Board Meeting.

The Board welcomed and was grateful to have input from three visitors to the meeting. Feryl introduced the FORTH project, which came from the GA and we plan to adopt. FORTH, Forward Through the Ages, emphasizes stewardship over fundraising. Stewardship becomes more comprehensively expressed by spanning across all ages, financial as well as service activities, by being promoted throughout the year. Stewardship is ongoing and all inclusive. Resources and model church links are available online for us to use with this model. We are pleased to see that we are already enacting about half the practices in our approach to fundraising and management. A second visitor, Pat Anderson, President of our Cancer Support Community, asked us to consider sharing the building space by renting to Gilda's Clubhouse on Thursday, Friday and half of Saturday. While these two and a half days would restrict our access, our church would gain resources such as rental income, new furniture for the teen room and probably extra office space in our neighbor's space. More than this, we could be more clearly linked to a vital cancer support group in the Eastern area community. The Board encouraged Pat to provide a plan, which we can consider next month. Our third visitor, Ann Eleanor, described ways to improve the Hospitality committee's work and she also asked how she might promote congregational use of the Hunger Site. Beyond covering the usual reports, a President's Initiative was to re-instate the UU Equal Exchange project at UUCG. A group of individuals will monitor the selling of coffees, teas and chocolates. Guiding principles for the Equal Exchange include supporting environmentally sound, sustainable, democratically run, small farm cooperatives and their practices. By the way, we added committee leader and board designations to the Name tags in hopes to increase communication about our workings.

(continued on back)

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



This August marks the beginning of my fifth year with UUCG. This fall, on October 28th, I will also be celebrating ten years of having been ordained. It has been such a privilege to be a UU minister, to be your UU minister. I am so looking forward to more of this greatly rewarding work!

I clearly remember the day 15 years ago now, when I was given the huge packet of materials that a friend had ordered for herself from the UUA's Department of Ministry. It hadn't taken her very long after seeing the sheer volume of those materials to decide it would be better for her to pursue a PhD! The next time she saw me at the small bookstore I was managing back then in downtown Savannah, she handed me that packet. She knew I had earned a Master of Divinity degree nearly twenty years before. She also knew I had done a lot of different things, but had never formally gone into the ministry. That night when I opened those materials, I was overwhelmed with all that it would take to pursue my long neglected dream. Could I do all that was required to make my first calling a reality? Would it be worth it? Many questions and major doubts flooded my thoughts. You know the results. It took a while, but I did what was required and have been a fully fellowshipped UU minister for five years now. People sometimes comment they don't envy me or my job. I say this is the best job ever. I feel extremely privileged to be your Unitarian Universalist minister.

The REVEREND Ann Marie

Unitarian Universalist Quotes

<http://uuquotes.tumblr.com/>

“Compassion is not an action but a recognition, a knowing, a way of being with another. It is not my work to fix you; it is my work to nurture you.”

Ken Collier (Unitarian Universalist, educator, minister, theologian)

“Love isn't an emotion or even an intention, but a policy, a vow, a behavior. It must be embodied to become real. Love exists only in action.”

Tom Owen-Towle, Theology Ablaze (2011) Flaming Chalice Press (Unitarian Universalist, minister)

Staff

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

Board of Trustees

President: Bev Harju
Vice President: Tom Thielen
Secretary: Susan Foreman
Treasurer: Brenda Stewart
At-Large: Alan Bailey
At-Large: Judi Hickson
At-Large: Patrice Alexander

Committee Chairs

Ambiance: Terry Shank
Building Maintenance: Pat Tesh
Communication: Rich Elkins
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Fundraising: Feryl Masters
Hospitality: Alice Arnold & Ann Eleanor
Membership: Bud & Phyllis Hazel
Youth Religious Education: Jennifer Thielen
Stewardship: Feryl Masters
Social Action: Tom Long & Pat Anderson
Worship: Lynn Caverly

Social Action

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

UUC GREENVILLE COMMUNITY SHELTERS ACTION GROUP:

Our participation in the UUCGreenville Community Shelter evening Check In process is now in operation. To date, two teams (Pat Dix-Ray Sobel and Ruth Abramson-Tom Long) have each worked two evenings from 5:30 until approximately 8:00 pm helping residents enter the Shelter. This is a much needed and appreciated effort since only one staff member is on duty, and our volunteers provide valuable support for that person. All four of us who have participated so far feel genuinely pleased at the experience. The residents are friendly and like us being there. This is the first time I have had the opportunity and privilege, after two years on the Social Action Committee, to connect in a face to face way, meeting residents, talking with them and providing an important service. It's been a truly satisfying experience. It is also helpful to be there with a UUCG co-worker, working as a team alongside the staff member.

There are more evening openings for anyone interested in participating. Last Sunday, Ruth Abramson gave an excellent and informative update to the Congregation about this program. After the Service, three people wanted to get involved. Still more are needed. See Tom Long about starting out with the Volunteer Application Form. The next meeting of the Shelter Action Group is scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 7:00pm in the UUCG Teen Room.

FIRST BORN:

On the fourth Saturday of June we had two volunteers from our Congregation who provided service to the First Born Program. Our thanks and appreciation to Hank Foster and Helen Foster.

Our next scheduled First Born volunteer date is Saturday, August 27, 2011

Tom Long, SAC Co-Chair

Friends of Gilda

Come to a Bon Voyage celebration for Claudia Sundman at 6:30 pm Tuesday, August 9th, just before the Gilda's Gang meeting.

Claudia Sundman is going to walk an impressive 500 miles across Spain to raise money for the Friends of Gilda. "I'm doing it in honor of my husband, Roger, who died of cancer," she said. "The money will be given to help open the Cancer Support Community Eastern NC, where people of all ages gather to learn more about cancer, share their experiences with others, and find opportunities to laugh along the way. The program will be free." To make a tax-free donation or pledge of support contact Friends of Gilda at (252) 414- 9986 or info@cancersupportenc.org.

After arriving in Spain on Aug. 17th, Claudia will start walking with many other pilgrims along the ancient Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route from St Jean Pied de Port in the French Pyrenees and finish where tradition has it that the remains of the apostle Saint James are buried in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. The route will take her over two mountain ranges. Messages from Claudia along the route will be posted on www.cancersupportenc.org.

Claudia says that in many ways the challenging trip will be like facing the challenge of cancer. There will be ups and downs, setbacks and rewards, but ultimately the goal will be reached by putting one foot in front of the other. She notes that while each pilgrim makes their own journey, no one makes it alone. She invites you to come along with her.

Religious Education

Youth Religious Education Report

We have been having a great time with our Youth Religious Education this summer! Hogwarts Academy, UUCG Chapter has been well attended and the kids have been having a great time learning about Unitarian Universalists principles and history in a magical way. It's hard to believe that we only have a few more weeks before transitioning to our fall curriculum as the school year starts back. Our next few classes promise to be fun, and we'll be ending our time in Hogwarts with a special shopping event with many of the Hogsmead shops. Don't miss out on this chance to pick up some special magical items!

August Hogwarts Lessons:

7th: Prophecy and Divination

14th: Transfiguration/Acting Games

21st: Shopping in Hogsmeade

We have had a wonderful group of volunteers who have been working to make RE fun and educational. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped, in ways large and small, because you are what makes our program special. The RE committee is working on finalizing the curriculum for our fall classes. We always love to have input from our parents and teachers, so please feel free to contact Kimberly or me for more details.

In Service,
Jennifer Thielen
Chair, YRE

Flaming Chalice: Symbol of Our Faith from www.uua.org

A flame within a chalice (a cup with a stem and foot), represents the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is a symbol of the Unitarian Universalist faith.

Hans Deutsch, an Austrian artist, first brought together the chalice and the flame as a Unitarian symbol during his work with the Unitarian Service Committee during World War II. To Deutsch, the image had connotations of sacrifice and love. Unitarian Universalists today have many different interpretations of the image.

The flaming chalice image has changed many times over the past 65 years. Modern chalice designs often incorporate two overlapping circles which, for many people, represent our Unitarian and Universalist heritages. Other images include additional elements, some of which are merely decorative and others which are very meaningful.

Our current official UUA logo was designed to offer a visual representation of a modern and dynamic faith. Unitarian Universalist congregations are free to use the UUA's logo in their congregational work, but they are not required to do so. Because of this, you may see many different styles of flaming chalices and other images used by Unitarian Universalist congregations.



~ August 2011 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	2 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	3 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 7p-8p Choir Practice	4 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	5 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	6 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation
7 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 10:30a-11:30a Generational Perspectives 10:30a-11:30a YRE/Hogwarts 12p-1p Lunch Group	8 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	9 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 8a-9a Breakfast Group 6:30p-7:30p Claudia Send off 7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	10 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 7p-8p Choir Practice	11 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	12 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	13 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation
14 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 10:30a-11:30a Generational Perspectives 10:30a-11:30a YRE/Hogwarts 12p-1p Lunch Group	15 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	16 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7p-9p The Coffee Party 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	17 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 7p-8p Choir Practice	18 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting 7p-8:30p Social Action Committee meeting	19 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	20 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation
21 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation 10:30a-11:30a Generational Perspectives 10:30a-11:30a YRE/Hogwarts 12p-1p Lunch Group	22 Rev. Ann Marie - Vacation	23 8a-9a Breakfast Group 3p-4p Caring Committee Meeting 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation 8p-9p Newsletter Deadline	24 7p-8p Choir Practice	25 7p-8p UU Men's Group	26	27 8:30a-10:30a First Born Food Distribution
28 10:30a-11:30a Rev. Ann Marie 10:30a-11:30a YRE/Hogwarts 12p-1p Lunch Group	29	30 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	31 7p-8p Choir Practice			

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The General Assembly had at least 16 UUCG's in attendance and their feelings of excitement and inspiration were clearly evident! A few highlights of the conference include the unforgettable Saturday night Ware Lecture speaker and prolific author, Karen Armstrong who spoke on the Challenge of Compassion. She describes compassion as the key component of the Golden Rule and the fundamental belief of most or all major religions. Her new 12 steps book lays out how to personally create more compassion in one's life. We were also inspired by the outstanding ministers, speakers and music found in the evening and morning worship services as well as in the workshops. The Plenary Sessions were led for the last time by the unforgettable and superbly competent Gini Courter. Social action activities abounded. We were inspired by the Public Witness March, Standing on the Side of Love in support of GLBT people everywhere and pleased by the Charlotte newspaper's front page coverage with pictures. This was really reinforcing!

Bev Harju
 Bev Harju, President
 UUCG Board of Trustees

Happy Birthday to UUs this August

- Aug 5– Jackie Wyman
- Aug 6– Michelle Simko
- Aug 8– Bruce Berberich
- Aug 22– Brenda Stewart
- Aug 24– Patrice Alexander
- Aug 25– Amy Jones
- Aug 28– Ron Moyer
- Aug 29– Victoria Brown



Deadline for next month's *beacon* is Tuesday, August 23 at 8:00 pm

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