



The UUCG
beacon

October 2009

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

October 4
Carolina Donor Services
Dwain Cooper

October 11
The Latino Community
Project
John Pierpont

October 18
Loving Yourself: The Greeting of Peace
Rev. Ann Marie

June 28
Roots Hold Me Close
Rev. Ann Marie

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

Now that folks are back from summer vacations, UUCG has been a bustling place and our members have been talking and walking the UU message hither and yon! Attendance at our services has increased and this past Sunday we formally welcomed five new members during the Sunday service (Mary Schatz-Grootveld, Mike Koetje, Stephen Brand, Megan Kohtz and Gladie Hamilton), and two more (Lee Canipe and Margie Shalita) became new members after the service. We now have 98 members and a growing number of contributing friends! We are getting very close to our goal of 100 members. Please reach out to these new members when you see them – remember how it felt when you were new? They all have talents and energy that they are eager to share with us. Special thanks to Alan Bailey and Heidi Luchsinger, Membership Co-Chairs, who coordinated the New Member Orientation and Lunch after the service.

The last weekend of August was especially busy with several of our members and friends participating in the Health Care Can't Wait Rally on Saturday, August 29th at the intersection of Charles and Greenville Blvds and then coming over to help out with our Car Wash/Bake, Book, & Plant Sale. We had lots of volunteers and fun! The hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers, courtesy of Chef Claudia, were a big hit. We made a profit of \$725. The Fifth Sunday collection the next day raised \$182 for the Greenville Community Shelter.

Our Annual Leadership Retreat was held September 11th and 12th. Nancy Proctor, from the Outer Banks UU Congregation, was an excellent facilitator. We worked through a series of exercises and discussions around covenants. Strong covenants, built on trust, communication, and respect, are the very foundation of growing and healthy congregations who are committed to doing the work of UU. Patrice Alexander and Theresa Sparrow attended the TJD District Leadership Training on September 19th. The focus was on Governance and Religious Education. It was an exciting opportunity to learn and share with representatives of twenty two other

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 3)

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

OK, I am warning you that I am going out on a limb here!

I have been receiving a lot of forwarded e-mails lately, trying to convince me to “buy USA” or to advocate for a health care public option that covers US citizens (but no “aliens”), or in some other way put Americans first. I admit that I am not free of tribal loyalty. For example, I prefer the company of UU’s, over almost any other grouping, most of the time! BUT, I have to say that I am appalled and saddened when I am exposed to tribal “nation-speak”, especially the USA only variety. Yes, I am a privileged American, but I am also, and most importantly, a citizen of the world! I want every human being on this planet to be able to make a decent wage. I want every human being to be cared for when medical needs arise. I am not interested in defending the borders, when it means that hungry, desperate children and adults trying to better themselves crossing the desert or the ocean die or are turned back.

Hasn’t there been enough of the “there’s not enough for everybody” kind of thinking?

Call me a communist or a socialist, or

better yet a person who is conscious of the interdependent web of all beings. My neighbor is the person living next to me, and the person on the other side of the world. There is plenty for everyone if we just shared...

Here are the contents of a forwarded message that I did appreciate: “If you could fit the entire population of the world into a village of 100, maintaining the proportions of all people living on earth that village would consist of: 57 Asians, 21 Europeans, 14 Americans (North, Central and South), 8 Africans. There would be 52 women and 48 men, 30 Caucasians, 70 non-Caucasians, 30 Christians, 70 non-Christians, 89 heterosexuals, 11 homosexuals. Six people would possess 59% of the wealth and all come from the USA, 80 would live in poverty, 70 would be illiterate, 50 would suffer from hunger and malnutrition, 1 would be dying, 1 would be being born, 1 would own a computer, 1 would have a university degree.”

Maybe, just maybe the 100 could all get what they needed, if each one of them said, “you first”!

— *Ann Marie*

Deadline for next month’s **beacon** is Tuesday, **October 20th at 8:00 pm**

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

PREZ NOTES: Continued from page 1 congregations and our TJD leaders. “Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for UUs”, the nine week Adult Religious Education (ARE) program led by Reverend Ann Marie started on September 9th and the reviews have been fabulous. She is offering it Wednesday evenings at 5:30-6:30 and Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15. All are welcome and those who love to make music are encouraged to stay for Choir Practice on Wednesday at 7:00. Our new Choir Director, Stephen Brand, is positive that everyone can find their voice and a place in our choir.

We are very excited to welcome our new Director of Youth Religious Education, Kimberly Scholl. She and her family have just moved to Greenville. She has a degree in voice performance from UNC Greensboro and is a trained Montessori teacher. While she is a North Carolina native her first involvement with a UU Congregation took place in New York City. She has tons of enthusiasm and ideas and will be looking for YRE teachers who want to share. If you want to get involved in YRE or any other UUCG activities please - do not be shy. VOLUNTEER to serve on a committee. On the back page of this edition of the Beacon is a list of the 2009-2010 UUCG Leadership Team. Contact them to share your ideas, time, and energy. Last month we learned about the new UUA initiative: “Standing on the Side of Love.” It is a UUA public advocacy campaign promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. On the UUA website Standing on the Side of Love is defined as a core statement of the UU belief in the power of love and our commitment to living our values. The slogan has been used effectively in describing our challenges to exclusive marriage policies. The Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) of UUA, of which we are a member congregation, is en-

couraging all members to attend the Standing on the Side of Love National Equality March in Washington, DC, on October 11th. Annette Marquis’, TJD’s Executive Director, goal is to have 10% of the TJD members in attendance. The Chapel Hill UU is coordinating buses and offering home hospitality to make it easier for TJD members in the east to attend. The buses will start in Chapel Hill and pick up passengers in Raleigh. Please talk to Reverend Ann Marie if you are interested in attending the March.

The Strategic Long Range Planning (SLRP) Committee is finishing up the first set of focus group meetings, to discuss the results of the recent congregational survey. We want to make sure that every member has an opportunity to participate. There will be about three more focus group meetings scheduled. Please sign up either through the posting at UUCG or by contacting Brenda Stewart or Patrice Alexander.

The Fundraising Committee is making plans for our Annual Service Auction which is scheduled for Saturday, November 7th. Please be generous when you are asked to donate a service or auction item. We also have a couple of new fundraising opportunities that are easy and on-going. One is participating in quarterly McAllisters’ Community Days. UUCG will get a percentage of all the food sales between 5:00 and 9:00 pm on those days, which will be advertised to encourage all of our members, friends, and their friends and family to participate. The first one will be October 7th. Another opportunity was identified by Theresa Sparrow, when she was coordinating the lunch for the Leadership Retreat. We are set to receive a 10% refund of the total cost of the lunch

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 5)



October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 7pm» UU Women's Group at Barnes and Noble	02 6pm» A Course in Miracles	03 10am» Building Cleaning
04 9:15am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 12pm» RE com- mittee meeting 2pm» Crop Walk	05 5pm» Worship Committee Meet- ing 6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop Meet- ing	06 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Bud- dhist Group	07 5pm» Dinner at McAlisters 5:30pm» UU Spiritu- ality 7pm» Choir Practice	08	09 6pm» A Course in Miracles	10 9am» Building & Grounds Work- day 10am» Building Cleaning 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
11 9:15am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 7pm» UU Medita- tion Group	12 7pm» Board Meeting 7:30pm» Sierra Club	13 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Bud- dhist Group	14 5:30pm» UU Spiritu- ality 7pm» Choir Practice	15	16 6pm» A Course in Miracles	17 10am» Building Cleaning
18 9:15am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 4pm» Greenweaver s CUUPS monthly meeting 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck	19 6:30pm» Girl Scout Troop meet- ing	20 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Bud- dhist Group	21 5:30pm» UU Spiritu- ality 7pm» Choir Practice	22 7:30pm» UU Men's Group	23 6pm» A Course in Miracles	24 9am» First Born Food Distri- bution 10am» Building Cleaning 6pm» Mexican Themed Potluck
25 9:15am» The Forum 10:30am» Worship Service 5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle	26	27 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Bud- dhist Group	28 5:30pm» UU Spiritu- ality 7pm» Choir Practice	29	30 6pm» A Course in Miracles	31 10am» Building Cleaning

Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 3)

that was provided by Honeybaked Ham during the retreat. And, if any of one brings a UUCG Sunday order of service to Honeybaked Ham, on Red Banks Road, on any Sunday, UUCG will receive a check for 10% of whatever the person purchases. It could all really add up - and it's not like any of us do not like to eat.....

We have made significant infrastructure process by updating our committee descriptions, building use processes and fees, and some of our forms and policies. Once they have been approved by the Board they will be posted on the member section of the UUCG website. Each of us has many opportunities to make things better. Together we can accomplish what we cannot accomplish on our own.

In Covenant,
Patrice Alexander
Patrice Alexander, President

UU Community Night

McAlister's Deli UU Community night is coming to our neighborhood corner of Charles and Greenville Blvds. on Wednesday, October 7th from 5-9 pm. They are generously offering to give our church a check for 5% of all sales below \$1,000 and 10% for all sales over this. Plan to dine there and bring along family, neighbors, UU's and friends. Come before choir practice or after our Adult Ed Spirituality class or whenever you are free. For questions, contact Bev Harju or other UU Board Members.

--Bev Harju

WC Sept 09 Minutes

Service [or Lay] Leader Training is coming up next month! On Monday, October fifth from 5:15- 6:30, Rev. Ann Marie Alderman will offer training for members and friends of the congregation who think they might be interested in serving. Service Leaders select readings and hymns and lead the service when our minister is away. While we have several experienced leaders, this position is very important and we welcome adding new people who are interested in this service.

Here's what we discussed in our last meeting, which was on Tuesday, September 08. We were pleased to welcome two new members to the WC, Gladie Hamilton and Jackie Wyman. We discussed the very positive feedback for the summer "This I Believe" series from the perspective of both the five speakers and the congregation. It was a very meaningful summer series. There will be guest speakers on the first two Sundays in October. Dwain Cooper will talk on October 4th about the Carolina Donor Services and John Pierpont will talk about ENC farm workers and his grant to work in this area. On October 11th, three of us will go to DC for the March for Equality. I hope other UUCG folks will join us.

--Bev Harju

October Birthdays

Liz Thielen,	October 14
Eleanore Stayton,	October 14
Patty Gade,	October 16
Sue Jefferson,	October 29

--Alan Bailey

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

Membership Committee

A New Member Welcome Ceremony was held during the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, September 20, 2009. In addition to receiving love and support from Rev. Ann Marie and the congregation, each new member was presented a certificate and yellow long stemmed rose. Immediately following service, a New Member Orientation was held. Led by Rev. Ann Marie, both new members and prospective members learned more about UUism and the history of UUCG. The orientation gave new members, perspective members, membership committee co-chairs, and our minister a chance to fellowship and build relationships.

If you are interested in being a member of the Membership Committee, please contact committee co-chairs Alan Bailey (baileya@ecu.edu or 252-746-6777) or Heidi Luchsinger (luchsingerh@ecu.edu or 252-412-9012).

— Alan Bailey

Funraising Opportunities

Everyone mark November 7th on your calendar. We want you and your friends to come to the annual Service Auction to buy items and services that your fellow UUs have to offer.

Even if you don't manage to make the winning bid on anything, we promise a fun and entertaining evening. If you have a skill, service, or item you want to donate, forms are available on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary, or contact Feryl Masters at oferyl@gmail.com, 975-2020.

Also, we will be gift wrapping at Barnes and Nobles November 27th (Friday after Thanksgiving) all day. Come and help a fellow member wrap gifts to raise funds for our church. Contact Feryl Masters to reserve a time slot. We want at least 2 people present at any time, to allow for breaks and conversation.

Tell all your friends about Hymnphony on December 5th. Bring them to enjoy an evening of musical talent. Refreshments and fun guaranteed.

Donations from the audience will be welcomed. If you have a musical talent, contact Louise Pleasant or Feryl Masters about joining the program.

--Feryl Masters

Affirming the goal of world community & peace, liberty and justice for all

A UU Presence in the Interfaith Chapel

I was delighted to be able to participate, along with Debi, and others from the interfaith community, in the ground breaking ceremony for the Interfaith Chapel that will be constructed near the entrance to Pitt County Memorial Hospital last week. This is truly a progressive statement for Greenville! Many of us in the interfaith community see it as a dream come true!

The PCMH Foundation has raised an awesome amount to make this chapel happen. They continue to seek donors! There are a few “naming” opportunities left for those who can give large amounts. For example, one could sponsor (name) a chair for \$1,000. For those of us who would love to see either your names or the name of your faith community named in a more affordable manner, there is the opportunity to “purchase” a copper plaque that will be on a wall within the chapel for \$100 each.

You can easily make a gift of \$100 by clicking on <https://www.pmfh.org/donation> and filling out the form with your credit card information.

May I suggest that if you are motivated to contribute that you fill in the section on the form asking for your gift designation by clicking on “other” and type in “Interfaith Chapel” and where the form asks if you would like to make a donation in someone else’s name, you type in your faith community’s name, or your own name.

I wanted you to know about this opportunity so that when this chapel is completed and this community starts using it, many interfaith groups are represented somewhere along with the many other generous donors...so that everyone can see that there is wide support for a space where every person is free to express their spirituality as they see fit.

Thank you!

Ann Marie

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

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

Staff

Minister: Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Interim Religious Education Dir: Gail Butler
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

