



The UUCG beacon

January 2005

The **beacon** is published monthly
by the Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville

252-355-5568

www.uugreenvillenc.org

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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

January 2

I Resolve to Be Simple

Roger Robbins

January 9

Simple Sabbath

Rev. Karen Day

January 16

Investing in Dreams

Rev. Karen Day

January 23

The Congregation is the

Curriculum

Cindy Fanning & RE

Committee Congregation

Meeting on Vision to follow

January 30

Dying Gracefully & Simply

Workshop on Advanced Care

Directives

Dr John Moskop

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Randi and I are trading months for the President's Message.

January is traditionally a time of new beginnings. It is also a time when people decide to start self improvement plans. The UUCG has been working on our self improvement all year long, and will be continuing this in January. The best part is we aren't cutting out any of the good stuff. No need to start a "UU Diet". We're adding things.

We have 3 adult religious education programs (one on each of the first 3 Sundays of the month), 5 Covenant Groups, and all kinds of Social events. I encourage you to add one or more of these to your UU experience.

We are starting something "new", however. We are getting ready to expand our Youth Religious Education program. The Weirs have started working with our Teens, and Cindy Fanning and her Committee have been working hard to set up a program.

But, where do we want to go? What direction should we be heading? As UUs, we are committed to the principle of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. I don't think "free" means "aimless". On January 23rd, we will hold our next Congregational Meeting and Potluck to decide which direction(s) we want to move in the Religious Education area. Please think about this in the next few weeks, and come ready to contribute to our meeting.

--Feryl Masters
Vice President

Reflections

Reflections . . . of Rev. Karen Day

“Simple living isn’t about ridding oneself of things, as much as recognizing what is important and vital to your life.” Reverend Ken Brown

During the winter season simplicity will be our theme. This is a popular preoccupation and I hear many saying, “I want to simplify my life,” in the same way they might wish to be more organized but know this will never happen. Ken Brown is a Unitarian Universalist minister near Seattle who decided to simplify his life and then did it. He emphasizes that each person must come to his/her own definition of simplicity.

These individual definitions will have *intentionality* in common. While it’s not necessarily about giving things up, it’s about considering our priorities and being sure we are living in accord with them. Our lives can then become simpler because we are choosing to follow a path that fits with our values. The process of getting there may be more complex than simple, but the result will be something simpler to live than the present.

The process might begin by considering, “Where in my life am I living my values right now?” It might be that you’ve found a job that reflects your values. Or that you are rais-

ing your family or pursuing hobbies that show what’s important to you. Or that you are recycling or volunteering some time. When a part of life is in tune with what’s important there will be some ease, some feeling of simplicity to it.

The next step, then, is to expand that area by asking, “Where else can I apply my values to make life simpler?” If you have it worked out on your job then look at home. If your shopping habits already reflect your values then look at your food. We want a simple life to be a sustainable life, not just for ourselves but for the planet. We can all make adjustments that bring us closer into line with that goal.

Maybe you feel satisfied that most of your life is already as simple as you’d like. Or maybe you feel it can never be so. To find simplicity we go against the grain of a culture that expects more and more stuff creating more and more complexity. But we Unitarian Universalists don’t mind going against the grain. We can support each other in taking small, simple steps so that we “be the change we want to see.” The reward will be a life that feels richer and fuller but takes less to sustain. One more step.

--Karen

Editor’s Note

Submissions for February 2005’s Beacon are due on Tuesday, January 18th at noon. These submissions should be made to Marcia Fletcher at marciafletch@earthlink.net. Submissions for the March Beacon will be Tuesday, February 22nd at noon to beacon@uugreenvillenc.org.



On The Horizon

Sunday Morning Fare

. . . by Karen Day

Worship Services for January

Jan 2 - *I Resolve to be Simple* Roger Robbins

Jan 9 - *Keep it Simple, Sabbath* Rev. Karen Day
Sabbath can be a day to rest, renew and reflect, not a day of following rules and restrictions. We'll consider whether it's necessary or possible to carve out time for something different each week.

Jan 16 - *Investing in Dreams* Rev. Karen Day

What does money have to do with dreams? Did Martin Luther King, Jr. have something to teach us about that connection? Consider what investments you make in your own dreams.

Jan 23 - *The Congregation is the Curriculum* Cindy Fanning and RE Committee

Religious education is a lifelong process that includes much more than just the classes taught. We'll keep learning and growing today. Congregational Meeting after the service.

Jan 30 - *What If?-Advance Planning Directives* Dr. John Moskop

Susan Redding and other end of life specialists will offer information about questions we all need to consider now (not later). After the service volunteers will be available to help individuals draw up their own planning document.

Editor's Note

You can access the Beacon on line at <http://www.uugreenvillenc.org>. Click The Beacon in the left column and follow the directions. If you would like to save us printing and mailing costs by regularly accessing Beacon online, please send an email to beacon@uugreenvillenc.org.

Prayers for Peace-

The Interfaith Alliance of Eastern Carolina will again sponsor Prayers for Peace on Monday, January 24 at 7pm. This is a monthly gathering of people of all faiths who desire to come together to offer words of peace. In about thirty minutes there are short readings, some silence and the lighting of candles. This month Bonnie Snyder, leader of the Buddhist KTC group, will facilitate the group meeting here at our congregation. Everyone is invited and you may also stay for the planning meeting afterward if you'd like to get more involved.

--Karen Day

Hospitality

For Sunday morning refreshments, Carol Weil will be making coffee and in charge of setting things out for January. Those who signed up to bring in goodies are the following:

Jan 2 - Liz Brooks & Bee Behr;

Jan 9 - Tracy Donohue & Diana Coble;

Jan 16 - Lorraine Obremski & Marcia Fletcher;

Jan 23 - Janet Doig & Joanie DeGroot;

Jan 30 - Alice Arnold & Edith Webber.

If there are any questions, please call Janet at 355-1822

All contributions are appreciated. We would like to remind everyone that all donors are expected to help clean up.

Kay Alston will be coordinating Dinners for Eight scheduled for January 22nd. Be sure you sign up for this fun event!

--Janet Doig

News, Notes and Other Stuff

Welcome New Members-

Our Bread Ceremony welcomed several members who have joined since last spring. Although *Cindy Fanning* and *Ed Bielecki* had become members previously, they had not participated in the Bread Ceremony until this time. Since their arrival from Rhode Island they have actively participated in the life of the Congregation. *Katherine Jones* is a long time friend who works with volunteers at the Food Bank. *Lezah Pagels* is a medical student who has committed to our congregation despite her overloaded schedule. *Richard* and *April Weir* have already jumped into being our teen advisors and both are involved in our new covenant groups. *Mark Barnes* has introduced us to the joys of kudzu baskets. You'll see his work up in front. He also has agreed to facilitate the arts and crafts covenant group. *Carole Weil* has moved here recently and works at Belks. She has done a great job helping with hospitality and the soup kitchen. *Ron Moye* finally decided to join after being a visitor and friend for at least ten years! *Joanie DeGroot Miller* moved here from California and promptly became a member of the congregation and the breakfast group. *Karen Hall* has shared her beautiful voice with us. She teaches at ECU and has recently released a CD. We are very pleased to welcome such an interesting group of newcomers and hope we can make this feel like home.

Covenant Groups Have Begun!

Five covenant groups have formed and have either had a first meeting or will have one in January. The groups and facilitators are: Arts and Crafts-Mark Barnes, Earth Based Spirituality-Richard Weir, Political Advocacy-Ray Sobel and Ruth Leggett, Sacred Texts-Roger Robbins, and Women-Sylvia English. The groups are a way to get to know each other better, explore a topic, and offer service to the congregation and community. If you haven't joined one yet and are still interested talk to the facilitator or to Karen Day.

Signs of Life: Eastern Carolina UU Cluster Meeting

On Saturday, Jan 29 from 9-4 in New Bern Unitarian Universalists from across the region will gather. This is YOUR opportunity to meet folks from congregations in Wilmington, Morehead City, Kitty Hawk, Seven Springs and Red Hill. If you've wondered how it's done elsewhere plan to come to this day of sharing information. Our Board will be presenting the "Growth Fashion Show" in the morning. Then interest groups will gather to share ideas.

Everyone is invited and committee chairs are especially encouraged to attend. We'll meet at the congregation to car pool. If you are interested in registering talk to Randi Finley.

Room for Rent

Billie Mallison is looking for the right person to rent a room in her house, located in the historic district of Washington on the River. Email: billiejean@gotricounty.com

Social Action

Because of the wonderful generosity of this congregation, we were able to give every child at Little Willie's two books for Christmas. A total of 58 books were donated. Thank you so much.

--Joan Sachtjen

Positive Results of Social Action

My very great thanks to your Social Action Committee for their recent contribution to what I believe is a very worthy cause. Since my trip to the Philippines last Feb., I've become deeply immersed in this cause. In fact (Continued page 5 -- **POSITIVE**)

Director of Religious Education Sought

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville NC (UUCG), a growing congregation of approximately 100 members in Eastern North Carolina, is seeking qualified applicants for a Part-Time Director of Religious Education (DRE) for children and youth.

The DRE provides professional support and administration of the children and youth Religious Education (RE) program of the congregation. Duties include: Recruit, orient, train and support RE volunteers, promote the RE program through creation of printed publicity materials, work with the RE committee and RE chair to formulate goals and action plans, RE program administration and other related duties as needed.

The ideal candidate for this position will demonstrate skill in the following areas: Organization, written and Oral Communication, working well in individual and group situations. Education and or experience in the following areas would be helpful: Volunteer Recruitment and Training, Education – Curriculum and/or Administration.

Membership or affiliation with the Unitarian Universalist Association is acceptable but not necessary. An understanding of liberal religious ideas, willingness to promote UU principles and practices, and a respect for diversity are essential.

The DRE is responsible to the Board of Directors, but receives direction and supervision from the minister. The position is ¼ time, (10 hrs/wk) with a flexible work schedule, but some night and weekend work will be required. Starting pay is \$12.00/hr. The position also includes a budget for professional development expenses.

Résumés must be received by 5pm, Monday January 27th, 2005 and should be sent to:

UUCG DRE Search Committee
131 Oakmont Drive
Greenville NC 27858

(POSITIVE -- continued from page 4)

I've become a sort of champion for a certain village there called Nagbinlod, on Negros Island. On this island, there's a UU Church of the Philippines (mostly Universalist in outlook). It's a smallish organization which has churches in several villages, one of which -- "my" village, has a crying need for a downhill, gravity feed water delivery system, to spare the [mostly] women a long trek each day, up a rough path, to the crude, unsafe and unsanitary well, to fetch water and to do laundry there. So, working thru the UUA/ Partnership Church Council, I've been working to have the installation of two kilometers of piping purchased, then laid down by the villagers

and maintained by them. The latter have already talked their local gov't into putting in a new well and the electrical leads to the pump, but can't afford to buy the piping. But now, thanks to Greenville and several other UU churches (including my small fellowship here in Salisbury, MD) and entities, the cost of the piping has now been reached, and in fact the pipes are currently being installed. Aside from my personal satisfaction, all the other contributors can now feel gratified at having been instrumental in "making a difference" to others less fortunate than us. Thanks again for your help. Burt Brun, your friend from the Greenville church from 1993 to 2001. . .

On a Personal Note . . .

Ben Thomas has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and is doing better with medication. He sends his greetings to all and hopes to be back soon. Greetings back atcha, Ben, and we focus on "better" and "back soon" -- very soon, please.

Skeeter Boyd is recovering from recent surgery -- at home!

Karen Hall went to New York for surgery and expects to come back here on Christmas Day to recuperate. Good time to travel in the holidays, and being home is the best gift.

Judy Hepler is getting over her infection and feeling a bit stronger. Please keep her in your thoughts...

We rejoice in having Shirley Day back regularly after a long and painful illness.

Fred Becker remembers how his wife used to make a cheese cake ONCE a year, on his birthday.

Janet Doig is very happy with her recent move to 103-B Sara Lane. Feryl, Lucca, and Miciah Butler Masters helped with the move, and other UUs helped furnish her apartment.. Janet is grateful Her telephone number remains the same, 355-1822.

Sienie Postma was in the hospital for seven days recently, while the staff tried to stabilize her heart. She's home now and what makes her feel lousy is the usual winter ills, like coughing. The heart is still a problem, though -- maybe the cause of those warnings NOT to fall.

Carroll Webber's mother, Mabel Webber, died on December 11 at 106 years of age (and more). Carroll and Edie will be in Spokane for a memorial service and family get together during the last week of December..

RE Update

The RE Committee is pleased to announce that we have a new teacher starting in January, Fran Roebuck. We are grateful that she has joined us. We are awaiting the Search Committee's decision on the new Director Of Religious Education and look forward to being a full team. Congratulations to the congregation on meeting another goal!! We are looking forward to gearing up for another year. Happy New Year everyone!!!

--Cindy Fanning

Hello First Born Volunteers!

They really need us on Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Each food recipient needs re-certification at the beginning of the year. People need to be interviewed and forms need to be filled out. It's not hard to do - just time consuming. Let me know if you can come on Jan. 22nd. They like to get a rough idea of how many volunteers to expect. I'll leave a sign-up sheet in church. Or, you can e-mail me at mortstine@geeksn.net.

If you do want to help, the distribution starts at 9:00. You can get there between 8:00 - 8:30 am. Meet in our parking lot to carpool, or go individually directly to First Born just outside of Grimesland.

--Tracy Donohue



THE MONTH in PREVIEW

Church Calendar for January

- 2 9:30am UU World Discussion -- Ed Day
10:30am *I Resolve to be Simple* -- Roger Robbins
- 3 7:00pm Worship Committee
- 4 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 5 6:00pm Eat out at **Ruby Tuesday**
- 9 9:30am Political Discussion -- Larry Spell
10:30am *Simple Sabbath* -- Rev Karen Day
- 11 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
10:00am Women's Covenant Group -- RE Room
7:00pm Committee on Ministry
- 12 6:00pm Eat out at **A Tavola**
- 15 9:00am Saturday Workday
- 16 9:30am **Spiritual Book Club** -- Paul Alston
10:30am *Investing in Dreams* --Rev Karen Day
- 17 7:00pm Board Meeting
- 18 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 19 6:00pm Eat out at **el Tapatio**
- 22 9:00am At First Born (8:30am leave from UUCG)
- 23 10:30am *The Congregation is the Curriculum* --
Cindy Fanning & RE Committee
12:00 noon Congregational Meeting & Pot Luck
- 24 7:00pm Interfaith Prayers for Peace @ UUCG
- 25 8:30am Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- 26 6:00pm Eat out at **Dragon Fly**
- 29 9:00am to 4:00pm Eastern Carolina Cluster Meet
ing in New Bern
- 30 10:30am *Dying Gracefully & Simply: A Work
shop on Advanced Care Directives* -- Dr Moskop

UUCG Youth Group

The Youth Group will meet at the Church on Friday, January 7th at 6:00pm. All teens between the ages of 12 and 18 are invited to join us. Please call Richard and April Weir with any questions. (252) 902-9347. Email: Weir0376@yahoo.com.

--Richard Weir

The Spiritual Book Club

The Spiritual Book Club meets January 16th (the third Sunday) at 9:30am. The book to be discussed this month is "Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings" by Marcus Borg. It should be available at Amazon.Com or Barnes & Noble in paperback. Remember; you don't have to read the book to enjoy the discussions.

--Paul Alston & Tina Baldrige

Tuesday Breakfast Group...

will meet at 8:30am at the Cracker Barrel on the corner of Greenville Blvd & Memorial Drive.

OOPS CONTEST

ongratulations on the absence of any real OOPSes worth bothering with that I could see (unless you'd count misspellings of people's names and an Italian word -- two Robins for Robbins, one Diane for Di-
anne, and guisto for giusto which was Cindy's not yours, and I wrote her about it).

--Carroll Webber

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday 12 noon, January 18th

UU Wednesday Dining Out Menu*



January 5	Ruby Tuesday	(3510 S. Memorial Drive)
January 12	A Tavola	(620 Red Banks Road)
January 19	El Tapatio	(333 East Arlington Blvd)
January 26	Dragon Fly	(3150 Evans Street)

Let's Eat!

* Wednesday dining out starts at 6:00 pm & is Dutch treat. Please let Ed Day (355-0652) know if you plan to come so that an appropriate number of places can be made available at the restaurant.

**The Unitarian Universalist
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Hospitality: Janet Doig, 355-1822
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