



The UUCG
beacon

January 2008

The *beacon* is published monthly
by the
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Greenville
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Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

Jan 4

What a UU Believes
Ed Day

Jan 11

The Who, How and What of
UU "Worship"
Rev. Ann Marie

Jan 18

Are We There Yet?
Rev. Ann Marie

Jan 25

Money Matters
Rev. Ann Marie

Children's activities are
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

I resolve...

Traditionally, New Year's resolutions are made in December to start on January 1st, and we see how long we can go in the new year without breaking them. The goal may be to eat better, to exercise more, or to be more responsible with our money. Very much in the same concept, the Board comes up with goals for each year, but these goals run with the church's fiscal year and the term of the current Board, beginning on July 1st and running through June 30th. We also set our church budget for that period, and try to be as responsible with the church budget as possible.

During my first term as President, we didn't have a Board retreat to make goals for the year, but I saw my own goals as President and chair of the Board to be twofold: to have a smooth transition bringing in our new settled Minister, and for the Congregation to become an official Welcoming Congregation.

For this year, we did have a Board retreat for the purpose of setting goals for the year, which was a good thing, since both of my goals from the previous year had been accomplished, I didn't feel like I had a good direction for my second term. The goals set by the Board for 2008-09 were three-fold and primarily focused on growth issues.

- Achieve membership of at least 100 by the end of the fiscal year
- Update the Strategic Long Range Plan (now becoming out-of-date)
- Increase income from pledge drive by 15%.

As a Board, we recognize that the Congregation is growing, and that we are starting to outgrow our space in its current configuration. How can we be ready for this growth? We identified 4 focuses to help achieve our first goal:

- Increase readiness for newcomers;
- Develop a plan to address space limitations of our current facility;
- Expand Children's RE options to address age-specific needs; and
- Make Adult and Child RE a priority for the entire Congregation.

Many of these efforts are already underway or accomplished. The Membership Committee has already created and now updated the materials that are given to new visitors, and in December, we added an additional age-group class to RE which has been very successful and relieves teachers from having such a wide age range to accommodate.

Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

Another year, another January...

Maybe it is just another year, rolling through as every year does with all the usual ingredients that every year brings, like babies being born and children growing up, and all the rest of us getting older. Life keeps marching on. Memories keep piling up and playing out over and over. Familiar faces, familiar stories, age-old themes on every stage...no matter where we turn, the human drama keeps repeating and repeating.

Or, maybe, just maybe... this year will be the turning point, the sea change, the culmination of things hoped for... finally arriving...a world at peace, evil and greed abated, harmony and cooperation and ease... long wished for and worked for ...appearing..... our eyes wide open to the wonder of it all, tears streaming down our faces, no longer in waiting, witnesses to the future we had longed for as it comes to be.

Perhaps, this year will bring neither of those extremes, but rather the lesson we probably most we need to learn and that is to live more fully in the precious presence of each moment, neither pulled too hard by the past, or jerked too rapidly into the future. Fully in the now, at peace and grateful for what is, all that is and ever will be in each moment...

May you know a New Year full of thousands and thousands of precious moments!

— Ann Marie

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, January 24th, to assist with the food distribution. The distribution begins at 8:30am until 12:00pm. This is the "Diabetic" distribution. We distribute food packages, help with administrative work, pack food boxes and carry food boxes to cars. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

If you can provide a ride for other UUCG members please let me know. If you need directions, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your help.
Toni Tyer

FIRST BORN COLLECTIONS

UUCG collects plastic grocery bags for First Born. There is a large plastic, blue container in the library for the bags. I deliver the bags to First Born each month. The bags must be clean, dry and odor free. Please do not bring plastic bags with RED letters. If you have food items, **non-perishable**, you can leave them in the library as well. I will deliver the food to First Born when I deliver the bags. If you have any questions concerning this Social Action project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

Toni Tyer, the "Bag Lady"

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

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

PREZ NOTES (continued from page 1)

The big issue left to be resolved to accommodate growth is the limited worship space. Soon, we'll be having a survey of the Congregation to collect information on this topic. Are there ways that our space could be used to greater advantage through rearrangement or should we consider having two services? If we have two services, would they both be on Sunday mornings or possibly at other times? What times would work better for people? Should the services be identical, or should each have a unique character to satisfy variations in how we like to worship? When would we hold RE?

Our second goal of updating the Strategic Long Range plan is also underway, with most of the committee already having agreed to serve. We are very fortunate to have an extremely good existing Long Range Plan which can still serve us for several years to come, but it needs to be updated and extended to meet our current situations.

The third goal of increased income will hopefully come largely from growth in membership, but also through an increased sense of ownership and value of investment in our existing membership.

But in this period of forming our personal resolutions for the New Year, be thinking of how you may be able to become more involved. How can your time, talents, and yes, your financial contributions as well, help us to achieve our goals? And what about goals for future years? What types of activities do you see us doing as a Congregation? What type of facility should we be looking to purchase or build when we get to that point? These are the kind of things that the Strategic Long Range Planning Committee is going to be looking for.

Upcoming Thomas Jefferson District Events

The **TJD Growth Summit** for mid-sized and small/emerging congregations will be hosted by **The Unitarian Church of Charleston (SC)** on **January 16 and 17, 2009**. Visit www.tjd.uua.org for more information about the event, including housing. You can register online now at: [Charleston Growth Summit registration](#). The registration fee is \$25, supported by our Association Sunday 2007 contributions. The Summit begins on Friday at 6 pm and ends by 6 pm on Saturday, January 17. Several UUCG board members are going if you would like to join in let Rev. Ann Marie know!

The **2009 TJD Anti-Racism Conference** will be held in the **UU Fellowship of Raleigh** on **February 20 and 21, 2009**. Mark those dates now in your calendar. More information will be available soon. You may register online now at [Anti-Racism Conf registration](#). The fee is \$55. You may also pay for a discounted ticket to "*Blood Done Sign My Name*," a play that will be presented at UUFRR on February 21.

December Birthdays

Charlene Young	12/03
Audrey Dunphy	12/13
Alice Arnold	12/15
Kimberley Smith	12/24
Bette Nelson	12/27

January Birthdays

Rich Elkins	1/11
Kelly Kurz	1/16
Brenda Shepard	1/18
Victoria (Tori) Vest	1/23
Sue Daughtry	1/24
Amanda Spyrison	1/29



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				01 7pm» Course in Miracles	02	03 6pm» UU Men's Group
04 10:30am» Worship Service	05 6pm» Girl Scouts	06 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	07 7pm» Adult Bible Study	08 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7pm» Stewardship Committee Meeting 7pm» Course in Miracles	09	10 9am» Building & Grounds Workday 7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)
11 10:30am» Worship Service 11:45am» Membership Committee Meeting 7pm» UU Meditation Group	12 5pm» Worship Committee Meeting 7:30pm» Sierra Club Meeting	13 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	14 7pm» Adult Bible Study	15 7pm» Course in Miracles	16	17 1pm» EDS Support Group in Library
18 10:30am» Worship Service 5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck 7pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting	19 6pm» Girl Scouts 7pm» Board Meeting	20 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	21 7pm» Adult Bible Study	22 6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting 7pm» Course in Miracles	23	24 9am» First Born Food Distribution
25 10:30am» Worship Service 5:30pm» UU Young Adults Meeting and Potluck	26 7pm» Interfaith Alliance/Bay't Shalom	27 8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel 7pm» KTC Buddhist Group	28 7pm» Adult Bible Study	29 7pm» Program Council 7pm» Course in Miracles	30	31 6pm» Murder Mystery Dinner

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

Children's RE

Children's RE introduced a new class in December and we have plans to add a nursery age class in January. Our progress is possible only because of the commitment of our volunteers.

The class we are adding in January will be lead by Victoria Brown and it is for children 2 to 4 years old. The curriculum is called *Friendship Finders* and the children will hear stories, sing songs and do simple crafts, all with UU themes.

The Primary Class for children in kindergarten through grade 4 is being led by Kim Smith. They are working on a curriculum called *Timeless Themes*. The children listen to Bible Stories and discuss the historical and cultural implications of these stories in our society. They do crafts that help reinforce the lessons.

The Tween Class for children in grades 5 through 8 is being led by Rain Parker and Toni Britt and the curriculum they are using is called *Toolbox of Faith*. The children are discovering which qualities of our UU faith help them in living their lives and in building their own faith.

The Teens, grades 9 through 12, will continue to meet after the service. Rich Elkins and Jennifer Barr are leading the teens and the curriculum is *Paradigms Lost and Regained*, which focuses on building sacred life skills for today's society. It encourages teens to expand their intellectual horizons and build sound minds.

The teens are planning a lock-in at the church for New Year's Eve. They will be bringing in 2009 with games, movies, refreshments and lots of camaraderie. The regular Teen night in January will be cancelled. A few of the teens are planning to attend another UU Con in Charlotte February 6-8th.

—Patty Gade

Worship Committee

The worship committee met on December 8th. We discussed ways to make the Sunday morning worship service a little more formally structured as a religious service. Announcements will continue to be written in the bulletin but starting in January we plan to have all oral announcements read by the minister or lay leader rather than by a variety of speakers. These will be made at the end of the service. If you wish to have an announcement made orally, please send an email note to Rev. Ann Marie or give it to her in person 10 minutes before the service.

We hope this change will make the services run more smoothly. Another item we discussed in our committee and also at the Board meeting was an upcoming survey to address our continued growth needs. This survey will be sent out later in the spring. Finally, we do want to invite people to consider volunteering to be a speaker for the Sunday services. Only three services per month are given by our minister and we have no budget to pay outside speakers. Contact Bev Harju or Ann Marie Alderman. Our next meeting will be on January 12, Monday at 5 pm. The committee voted to meet earlier.

—Bev Harju

Membership Committee

There will be a short meeting after the service on Sunday, January 11th. Please plan to attend.

—Bette Nelson & Kay Alston

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

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2009

Announcement

Orientation for Active Visitors and
New Members will be Sunday, January
18th following the Sunday Service!

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

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

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Patrice Alexander
Secretary, Susan Foreman
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman
Office Administrator, Michele Covi

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Terry Shank
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler
Membership: Bette Nelson & Kay Alston
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Pat Tesh
Worship: Bev Harju

PCMH Interfaith Chapel

As announced during the service on Dec.21st,
PCMH is seeking support for the construction
of an Interfaith Chapel to serve the growing
needs of patients, families, visitors and
staff. Any donation is welcome but \$100 can
"buy" a brick that can have a name on it – your
name, in memory of someone or our congrega-
tion's name. If you are interested in joining
this effort, there are donation folders available
at UUCG, the web site is

www.pittmemorialfoundation.org or you can
call the PCM Foundation office at 252 847 5626.

—Sylvia English

