



The UUCG beacon

FEBRUARY 2008

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

Sunday, February 3

Poetry: Words of the Soul. Bring the
words of a favorite poem or song to share.

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Sunday, February 10

Dreamers Who Do.

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Sunday, February 17

Will and the Skill: a pathway to
better communications

Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Sunday, February 24

The social action committee will lead
this service.

Children's activities are available
each Sunday.

President's Notes:

Keeping Connected

Ann Marie, Claudia, Patrice, and I just got back from Savannah, where we attended a District Leadership Conference. Events such as these help us as leaders to keep connected with our counterparts from other congregations, and serve as a valuable resource for ideas for new things to try, new ways of doing things, and to learn from the experiences of others who face many of the same challenges in their congregations that we face.

To be a leader does not require one to be elected or appointed to a position, but instead can be any one of us with a vision for our congregation that he or she is willing to accomplish. I'd like to challenge all of our leaders and potential leaders to consider attending some of the events put on by the District or by the UUA, and see how you can likewise be inspired to become leaders or to reinvigorate that calling within you that led you to a leadership role originally.

Just a few of the upcoming opportunities are:

- TJD Annual Anti-Racism Conference – Feb. 29 to Mar. 1 – Winston Salem NC
- TJD Annual Meeting (lots of great workshops) – Apr. 25-26 – Asheville NC
- UU University (just proceeding GA) – Jun. 24-25 – Ft. Lauderdale FL
- UUA General Assembly (GA) – Jun. 25-29 – Ft. Lauderdale FL

But you don't necessarily have to travel to learn and share with other leaders! The UUA sponsors over 250 different email discussion lists on a wide variety of topics of interest from Anti-Racism to Youth Social Action and a lot in-between. A complete list and interface to subscribe to any of the open lists (some are for specific committees or members of groups, and not open to everyone) can be

(NOTES continued on page 7)

Reflections

REFLECTIONS

... of Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

What an incredible time in our nation's history! A woman and a black man running for President at the same time! Whatever the results of the election may be, something new is happening.

Have you noticed how the word "green" is everywhere? Concern for the environment is finally popular! You can't buy a car, an appliance, a house, or thousands of other products without being made aware of how environmentally sound what you are purchasing claims to be.

I keep hearing the phrase that this is "our time", a time ripe for liberals and progressives to come out of the closet and be vocal and visible, to take advantage of the changing political and social context.

Our UU Association of Congregations recognized that it may be "our time" by putting national ads in Time Magazine. New, young UUCG members boldly raised our message right here in the greater Greenville community with a Holiday float for all to see.

Even with so much hope that it may be our time, there is anxiety and fear. Many of us remember what can happen when you get too far out in front. Many know that bold change can bring violent reactions. Many don't want to sacrifice the sanctuary that has been created that has sheltered us when the outside world was not our friend.

As we continue to discern together what it might mean for this to be "our time", let us remember to hold on to one another, to listen to each other with respect and love, to recognize both our roots and our dreams, as we live out our days in the present time.

Rev. Ann Marie

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS — —

for February 15

Our congregation will host a reception for the community to meet the artists whose pictures soon will be on display on the walls of our meeting room. We are delighted that Pitt County artists Robert Pittman, Lou Everett and Doris Ward have agreed to exhibit their works. This will be a great time to invite colleagues, friends and neighbors to visit our church.

The pictures will be in place before Rev. Ann Marie's installation on February 3 and will continue on display through March.

You are happily invited to attend the Artists' Reception on Friday, February 15, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Ambience Committee Report

sub-committee of Buildings and Grounds)

NOTES FROM BLDG/GROUNDS

Building and Grounds is working with Feryl Masters to apply for a Chalice Lighters grant for some improvements on our building. The handicap ramp for the front is one of the things we are applying for in the grant application. An upgrade in our air conditioning is another. We are always looking for volunteers who can aid in church clean. See me if you can give an hour or two on occasion. We are accumulating a lot of miscellaneous boxes of items in the library. If you leave something, please tape a note to the box or bag and say what it is for. We are going to have to give items to goodwill soon to clear up the library.

Ruel Tyer, Building
and Grounds Chair person

News, Notes and Other Stuff

NOTES FROM RE

I have been the RE chair for a little more than a year now. Admittedly, in the beginning I had reservations about taking on this role. I doubted my own ability to find a rapport with young, young children and since my own children are in their late teens, I thought I was too far removed from kiddy activities to be of any help during the RE classes. I also feared that missing the sermons would take too much of a toll on my own spiritual needs. With a year under my belt, I naturally reflected on my time in RE, especially as it concerned my original fears. All my worries, I can happily report, were unfounded. Spending time with our youngest UU's is a joy, a pleasure, and so easy. The only thing that can hold me back is my own insecurities.

The children open themselves up to everyone who comes to their classes and activities, me included. They like to interact with adults from the congregation. They like the attention. Personally, I have learned so much about each of them and I treasure all of their interests and talents. Since April Brown's singing debut, everyone in the congregation knows that she is a great singer, but I bet you didn't know that she likes to write poetry and she's very good at that too. Bradley Baker is a science fiction and fantasy nut and he always has a book that he is reading and he loves to talk about it. Taylor Sparrow is a swimmer and he collects Pokemon cards. Avalon Barr has a keen imagination and she makes me tea and toast every time I help in the Nursery. Blaise Smith loves playing soccer and being a Girl Scout. Of course it's no secret that all the youth love Harry Potter. I guess what I'm trying to say is that I have learned that spending time with our youngest UU's is not just another duty in the church that has to be performed, it's a spiritual experience too and one that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world.

Our teens are gearing up for another UU Conn. It will be the second one attended by the UUCG teens. Our teens' interaction with youth from other UU congregations is something to congratulate and celebrate. The next teen night for movies or games is February 9th at the church.

Patty Gade

NOTES FROM 1ST BORN

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, February 23rd, to assist with the food distribution. Our congregation has promised to have at least 9 workers for this distribution. Please arrive by 8:30/9:00am to receive your assignments. The distribution begins at 9:00am until 12:00pm. 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.

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 project, please contact me at 252-916-5069 or email toniebritt@clis.com.

Thank you for your contributions.

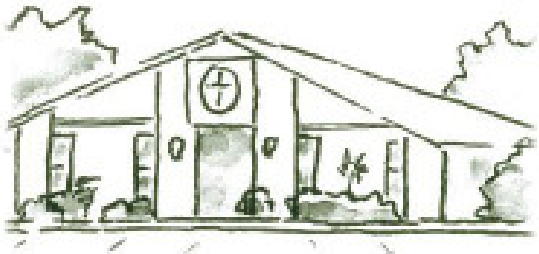
Welcoming Congregation topics for Wednesday nights at 7 pm:

Feb 6: Introduction and Expectations

Feb 13: What we know and how we learned it

Feb 20 The common elements of oppression

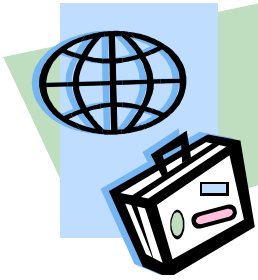
Feb 27 Gender socialization and homophobia



Contacting Rev. Ann Marie Alderman Cell Phone: 252-414-4076
 E-mail: minister@uugreenvillenc.org. Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1:30 and Wednesdays 5-7 pm. Other times by appointment.

February 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 6:00pm Games Night for all Ages
3 9:30 Forum 10:30 Poetry: Words of the Soul 5:00 Installation Service	4	5 8:30 Breakfast @ K & W Cafeteria 7:00pm Choir Practice	6 6:00pm Soup And Sharing 7:00pm Lifespan Adult RE	7	8	9 9:00am Building & Grounds Workday 7:00pm Teen Night (Kitchen and RE Rooms)
10 9:30 Forum 10:30 Dreamers Who Do. 12:00 Worship Committee 7:00 UU Meditation	11	12 8:30 Breakfast @ K & W Cafeteria	13 6:00pm Soup And Sharing 7:00pm Lifespan Adult RE	14	15 5:30pm Art Reception	16
17 9:30 Forum 10:30 Will and The Skill: 5:00 Vegetarian Pot Luck	18 7:00pm Board Meeting	19 8:30 Breakfast @ K & W Cafeteria 7:00pm Choir Practice	20 6:00pm Soup And Sharing 7:00pm Lifespan Adult RE	21 6:00pm Soup And Sharing	22	23 9:00am First Born
24 9:30 Forum 10:30 Social Committee	25	26 8:30 Breakfast @ K & W Cafeteria 7:00pm Choir Practice	27 6:00pm Soup And Sharing 7:00pm Lifespan Adult RE	28		



Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 28 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at info@uurehome.com, or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the UU're Home website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has some listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to:

**UU're Home
43 Vermont Court
Asheville, NC 28806.**



Dinners for 8

On Saturday, January 26, 2008 we had two tables for Dinner for 8. For those of you who have not joined us in the past for this event, then you have missed a chance to get to know other UU members and also enjoy interesting conversation around a meal to which all the participants have contributed. The dates of the next Dinners for 8 are as follows:

March 15, May 3, and July 19. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for some fun and good discussions at these dinners.

Kay Alston

(NOTES continued from page 1)

accessed by going to the UUA.org website and type "listserv" in the search box. "UUA: Email Lists" will be your first result.

Speaking of email lists, I hope you all are aware that our congregation has several email lists maintained on Yahoo Groups. In addition to smaller lists for specific committees, the Board, or the Program Council, there are 2 all-congregation lists:

- The UUCG Announcements List is a great way to keep informed of events going on in the Congregation and in the community, providing more up-to-date info than can be provided by a monthly newsletter. Announcements when the newsletter is available on the website are posted here as well. You can help save the environment by opting to not receive a printed newsletter, and reading it online instead!
- The UUCG Discussion List is an open forum for members and friends to have a digital discussion on topics of interest (and you know we love to discuss things!) This forum is member-driven, so join up and start a discussion or join in one already going on.

To join either of these email lists, go to the UUCG website: www.uugreenvillenc.org. At the bottom right of the page (in yellow boxes) you'll find the place to sign up for either or both lists, or send me an email to president@uugreenvillenc.org and I can send you an invitation.

Rich Elkins

UUCG Board President

Town Hall Meeting – Feb. 17th

During the Ministerial Start-Up Weekend, some potential problems with our structure of electing Standing Committee Chairs came to light. To address this issue, the Board is proposing an amendment to the church bylaws to make all committee chairs (except for the nominating committee, of which all members are elected) to be appointed by the Board. Doing so would eliminate an inconsistency in ultimate responsibility for the congregation's functioning, while at the same time adding a greater degree of flexibility in what committees are needed and the functions they fulfill.

This Town Hall Meeting has been called for the purpose of presenting the proposed amendments and addressing any questions, concerns, or issues related to them from the congregation. **No vote will be taken at this meeting.** The vote to approve or reject the final version of the amendment (which may be altered in the interim, based on the input received) will be done at a separate Congregational Meeting to be held most likely in March. (The amendment would need to be passed prior to the Annual Meeting in May, as it would affect what positions would need to be elected at that meeting.)

The proposed amendment will be posted to the UUCG Announcements email list and on the church bulleting board. Individual printed copies will be available upon request. Input, especially from those who would be unavailable to attend the Town Hall Meeting, is welcomed, and may be emailed to the President or placed in the President's mailbox in the office.

The Town Hall Meeting will begin 15 minutes after the end of the service on the 17th to assure that there is time to greet visitors and for people to get refreshments. This meeting will not be accompanied by a potluck, as it is intended mainly for those people who may have questions or concerns. The later Congregational Meeting may include a potluck, but the date and details will be announced in next month's newsletter.

- A GENTLE REMINDER -



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION
OF GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE THE INSTALLATION
OF OUR NEW MINISTER

THE REVEREND ANN MARIE ALDERMAN

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2008
AT 5:00 P.M.

131 OAKMONT DRIVE
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

RECEPTION FOLLOWS

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

CLERGY, RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS AND SEMINARIANS ARE INVITED TO ROBE AND PROCESS

Please RSVP call 252-355-6658, or email: office@uugreenvillenc.org

Upcoming Installation

On the first Sunday in February at 5 pm, UUCG will “install” the Rev. Ann Marie Alderman. Whenever a UU congregation calls a full-time minister by means of a congregational vote and with an open-ended agreement, it is customary to celebrate the new relationship between congregation and minister with an “Installation” ceremony. It is kind of like a marriage ceremony! We’ve been living together for a while now, getting to know one another, after agreeing to be formally engaged. We’ve even bought the house and started making payments! Now it is time to get married and invite the all our friends to the party! We will speak our “vows” to each other. We will hear beautiful music and moving words. We will be with all those folks we care about and those who care about us!

Minister, Rev Ann Marie Alderman
Religious Education Dir, Victoria Brown
President, Rich Elkins
Vice President, Feryl Masters
Secretary, Patrice Alexander
Treasurer, Claudia Sundman

Committee Chairs

Building and Grounds: Ruel Tyer
Endowment: Bill Paulson
Finance: Paul Alston
Hospitality: Gail Butler & Marcia Fletcher
Membership: Jackie Wyman
Religious Education: Patty Gade
Social Action: Marta Dominguez
Worship:

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