



*The UUCG*  
**beacon**

April 2009

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

Apr 5  
*Holy, Holy, Holy: How Art  
Thou Holy?*  
Rev Ann Marie Alderman

April 12  
*UU & Christian: Rolling  
Away the stones*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 19  
*Back to Life, Back to Reality*  
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

April 26  
*To Be Announced*  
Prof Derek Mahre

Children's activities are  
available each Sunday.

President's Notes

**I've got some Good News for you!**

For those of us who came from Christian churches to Unitarian Universalism, I don't know if there's another word with as much negative baggage as the word "evangelism." It brings to mind ideas that one group has the answer for everyone, that all other groups are wrong in their thinking, and that it is our duty to get others to understand this and believe as your group does. I won't go so far as to say that there aren't UUs who believe this about our faith, but if they exist, they are surely a minority. The vast majority would believe that each person should seek their own path, and for some, that path may bring them to walk with us. For others, while they are welcome, their path may be better served through some other faith tradition.

As UUs, we frequently take some elements of Christian traditions and adapt them to our tastes and uses, while others we reject in their entirety. Evangelism tends to fall into the second category. We so reject the idea of trying to "convert" others that we almost hide our faith. I say that the first method of adapting practices to our tastes and uses is the more appropriate way to go.

To my fellow UU converts, I'd ask "how did you learn about UUism?" For some, the answer may be a UU they met, some came through the doors of their first UU Church for some other meeting of an organization using the facility, a few learn about us by seeing us in Social Justice work, and still others may have found us by doing research online or taking the quiz on Beliefnet. For me, my search predated the Internet, and I found Unitarianism in a book at the public library, in a town with no UU Church. All these are forms of evangelism, but without the pressure of there being only one correct answer.

As UUs, we do have "good news." The "good news" is that there is more than "one way," and we walk many different paths, but do so together. There are so many out there who reject religion in its en

PREZ NOTES (continued on page 7)

# Reflections

. . . of Rev Ann Marie Alderman

## Poetry And Religion by Les Murray

Religions are poems. They concert  
our daylight and dreaming mind, our  
emotions, instinct, breath and native gesture

into the only whole thinking: poetry.  
Nothing's said till it's dreamed out in words  
and nothing's true that figures in words only.

A poem, compared with an arrayed religion,  
may be like a soldier's one short marriage night  
to die and live by. But that is a small religion.

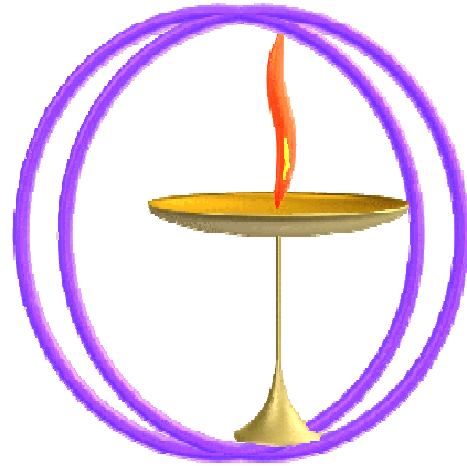
Full religion is the large poem in loving repetition;  
like any poem, it must be inexhaustible and complete  
with turns where we ask Now why did the poet do that?

You can't pray a lie, said Huckleberry Finn;  
you can't poem one either. It is the same mirror:  
mobile, glancing, we call it poetry,

fixed centrally, we call it a religion,  
and God is the poetry caught in any religion,  
caught, not imprisoned. Caught as in a mirror

that he attracted, being in the world as poetry  
is in the poem, a law against its closure.  
There'll always be religion around while there is poetry

or a lack of it. Both are given, and intermittent,  
as the action of those birds - crested pigeon, rosella parrot -  
who fly with wings shut, then beating, and again shut.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- April 1 Pat Dix
- April 4 Mary Schatz
- April 5 Tracy Donohue-Stine
- April 6 Sean Stayton
- April 8 Joan Sachtjen
- April 23 Ray Sobel
- April 23 Pat Tesh
- April 24 Billie Mallison
- April 25 Mona Lang
- April 27 Pat Anderson
- April 29 Paul Alston
- April 29 Rain Parker
- April 29 Mary Yahnker

—Bette Nelson

## Worship Committee Announcement

I would like to call your attention to a great volunteer opportunity. This summer's services will follow the theme, "This I Believe". Members of the congregation are encouraged to share their spiritual development and beliefs using a talk, panel discussion, artistic performance or other creative vehicles. While five people have already expressed an interest in participating in the series more slots are open. Please contact Bev Harju, 756-2856 or Rev. Ann Marie, 414-4076 soon if you may be interested.

—Bev Harju

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 pm

# Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of every person

## UUCG STRATEGIC LONG RANGE PLAN COMMITTEE (SLRP)

The first meeting of the UUCG Strategic Long Range Plan Committee (SLRP) was held on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at Patrice Alexander's home. Present were Patrice Alexander (Chair), Pat Anderson, Feryl Masters, Brenda Stewart. Laura Schroeder and Alan Bailey were unable to attend. The committee is planning to meet at least monthly.

Patrice had met previously with Rev. Ann Marie Alderman and the UUCG Board of Trustees to discuss their expectations and hopes for the Committee and its work. She shared this information with the members present. At this time the plan is to bring the draft SLRP to the congregation for approval at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The process of developing the SLRP will be designed to be inclusive, deliberate, and thoughtful. We plan to use small focus groups to gather information in addition to surveys and other types of meetings. We want the plan to have a healthy internal and external system focus. We want it to define our commitment to each other and to the congregation: what is our promise and what are our expectations? One role of the SLRP is to clarify UUCG's identity and purpose and to help define our current and future place in our immediate and larger community. We plan to have it be reflective of our current membership and environment; both have changed a great deal in the past five years since the current SLRP was developed.

The expectation is that the SLRP will contain implementation options with projections and plans for five and ten years out. Our long range goals and the process by which they are attained are both important. The goal is to develop a plan that will meet the needs of UUCG's current and future internal and external customers: our members and our communities. The SLRP will define UUCG's "reason for being" and therefore may address the following areas: facility/location, staffing, governance structure, Religious Education (RE), our Mission/Vision, congregational outreach efforts, membership growth and retention, small group ministries, and UUCG "branding."

The group agreed that the information helpful and thought provoking. Brenda and Feryl were able to give a historical context of the current plan to Pat and Patrice and we discussed why some of its "goals" have not yet been achieved. The basic timeline was approved by the group.

Congregational involvement and buy-in will be critical to the ultimate acceptance and success of the plan. We want the entire congregation to have input into the SLRP so we will be asking for assistance and volunteers. When we call on you we hope that you will say "yes" and will be willing to share your thoughts, hopes, and energy. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

Patrice Alexander  
UUCG Vice President, 2008-2009

## Beaufort County Art's Festival

On April 4th the Beaufort County Arts Council is sponsoring a festival with live music downtown. The festival will have a green theme, hoping to raise consciousness about all things environmental. For more info go to [www.beaufortcountyartscouncil.com](http://www.beaufortcountyartscouncil.com)

—Billie Mallison

# Affirming justice, equity and compassion towards all

## UUCG on Facebook

Is everyone aware that the UUCG has two pages on Facebook? One is a “fan” page and the other is a “group” page. Many people are doing their initial search for a spiritual home on line these days. Our webpage is one place they may find us, but Facebook may be another.

On Facebook, prospective UU’s can get to “meet” us and see what kind of people we are before taking the big step of actually walking through our front door. I’ve written a little “blurb” online about what I like about our church. I would encourage everyone who can to sign up to Facebook, link to our pages and write a little about YOURself. It is a really good way to reach out to our neighbors... who may be looking for us!

If you do a search on Facebook for “Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville” you will find us. I’ll see you there!

—Claudia Sundman

## News from RE

The Tween and Primary RE classes will be working on a new social action project together. They chose to help the Pitt County Humane Society by collecting needed items for a donation. After the project is completed the group will celebrate their work by gathering at the church for refreshments and to view the movie, “Hotel for Dogs”. The RE children will be sharing more information about how the congregation can help them with this social action project.

The Easter Egg Hunt is April 12<sup>th</sup> after the service.

The next Teen Night is May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church.

—Pattie Gade

## April birthdays in RE:

Robin Brown will be 13 years on April 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Cameron Baker will be 20 years on April 4<sup>th</sup>  
April Brown will be 11 years old on April 11<sup>th</sup>  
Rebecca Gade will be 20 years old on April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Erin Lockamy will be 12 years old on April 15<sup>th</sup>

—Pattie Gade

## UU Kid’s Yoga

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, will be yoga for the kids in RE. If your child will be attending, please be sure that they wear clothes that they can move comfortably in. If they will be wearing jeans, they should be able to sit comfortably with their legs crossed without the fabric binding them.

—Don English

## Let’s Talk Money

Money Matters: Join Claudia Sundman and Rev. Ann Marie on Wednesday evening, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm to discuss beginning a new interest group to discuss financial matters! —Ann Marie Alderman



# April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<a href="#">01</a> <a href="#">7pm» Magnolia Art Center Rehersal</a>	<a href="#">02</a> <a href="#">7pm» Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">03</a> <a href="#">10am» Building cleaning</a>	<a href="#">04</a>
<a href="#">05</a> <a href="#">9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room</a> <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a>	<a href="#">06</a> <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scouts</a>	<a href="#">07</a> <a href="#">MagnoliaArt Center Rehearsal</a> <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">08</a> <a href="#">7pm» Magnolia Art Center Rehersal</a>	<a href="#">09</a> <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting</a> <a href="#">7pm» Course in Miracles</a>	<a href="#">10</a> <a href="#">10am» Building cleaning</a>	<a href="#">11</a> <a href="#">9am» Building &amp; Grounds Workday</a> <a href="#">7pm» Teen Night (Kitchen and RE rooms)</a>
<a href="#">12</a> <a href="#">9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room</a> <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> <a href="#">11:45am» Membership Committee Meeting</a> <a href="#">7pm» UU Meditation Group</a>	<a href="#">13</a> <a href="#">7:30pm» Sierra Club Meeting</a>	<a href="#">14</a> <a href="#">MagnoliaArt Center Rehearsal</a> <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> <a href="#">6:30pm» Social Action Committee Mtg</a> <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">15</a> <a href="#">7pm» Magnolia Art Center Rehersal</a>	<a href="#">16</a> <a href="#">7pm» Course in Miracles</a> <a href="#">7:30pm» Women's Interest and Service Group</a>	<a href="#">17</a> <a href="#">10am» Building cleaning</a>	<a href="#">18</a> <a href="#">1pm» EDS Support Group in Library</a>
<a href="#">19</a> <a href="#">9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room</a> <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> <a href="#">5pm» Vegetarian Pot Luck</a> <a href="#">6pm» Greenweavers CUUPS monthly meeting</a>	<a href="#">20</a> <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scouts</a> <a href="#">7pm» Board Meeting</a>	<a href="#">21</a> <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">23</a> <a href="#">6pm» Girl Scout Leader Meeting</a> <a href="#">7pm» Course in Miracles</a> <a href="#">7:30pm» UU Men's Group</a>	<a href="#">24</a> <a href="#">10am» Building cleaning</a>	<a href="#">25</a> <a href="#">9am» First Born Food Distribution</a>
<a href="#">26</a> <a href="#">9:30am» The Forum meets in the teen room</a> <a href="#">10:30am» Worship Service</a> <a href="#">11:45am» Adopt a Street project</a> <a href="#">5:30pm» UU Roddenberry Circle</a>	<a href="#">27</a> <a href="#">7pm» Interfaith Alliance/UUCG</a>	<a href="#">28</a> <a href="#">8:30am» Breakfast at Cracker Barrel</a> <a href="#">7pm» KTC Buddhist Group</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	<a href="#">30</a> <a href="#">7pm» Course in Miracles</a>		

# Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregation

## FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Please join us at First Born Holy Church on Saturday, April 25th, 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](mailto:toniebritt@clis.com).

—Toni Tyer

## Shoe Collection

The American Business Woman's Association (ABWA) has resumed collecting shoes. If you have shoes you want to donate, please leave them in the library at UUCG or give them to me. I will collect the shoes and deliver them to the ABWA. The shoes are donated to third world countries through the Destined4Success program.

## 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](mailto:toniebritt@clis.com).

—Toni Tyer, The Bag Lady

## Report on the Cluster Meeting

About 50 or 60 UUs met at New Bern for the 2009 Cluster Meeting on March 14th. Anna Olsen, our UUA Trustee from the Thomas Jefferson District gave the keynote address. She described the work the UUA Board has been doing to develop its Mission Statement and "Nested Ends" to implement our Mission Statement. They are given below. The UUA Board welcomes feedback. We had 8 breakout sessions to discuss Improving our Cluster organization, Social Action, Communications, Worship Facilities, Financial Health, Lay Led Worship, Managing Growth, and Religious Education.

The new New Bern Church is beautiful, and the company was excellent. Everyone enjoyed the meeting, and a lot of good ideas were shared. We came away with several ideas for improving our UU experience, particularly for youth. Next year, Greenville will host the Cluster meeting on March 20. Mark Morrison-Reed has agreed to be our keynote speaker. Mark your calendars.

### UUA Mission Statement

Grounded in our covenantal tradition, the Unitarian Universalist Association will inspire people to lead lives of humility and purpose, connection and service, thereby transforming themselves and the world.

More information on the proposed Mission Statement can be found at the following website: [http://www.uua.org/documents/dpa/090115\\_board\\_observer.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/dpa/090115_board_observer.pdf) — Feryl Masters

# Promoting a free and responsible search for truth & meaning

**Prez Notes** continued from page 1  
tirety, because the entirety of their understanding of religion is comprised of ideas they do not accept. If we avoid efforts to let people know who we are and that we are here, we're really being selfish. It is like our "good news" is something which is of a limited quantity which diminishes as it is shared, where the opposite is actually true. The more it is shared and the more there are who share it with us, it becomes instead richer for each of us.

My challenge to you is to think about how you learned about UUism, and how others may be looking for us, even if they aren't aware of it. How can we improve those methods of evangelism, UU-style? What can you personally do to enhance that?

*"Hide it under a bush, oh no! I'm gonna let it shine!"*

—Rich Elkins

## **Worship Committee Discussion of Future Directions**

Please join us at noon on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> for a Town Hall Meeting to discuss Accommodating Growth. The purpose of this meeting is to invite your ideas for how we might create opportunities for more involvement in our congregation over the next several years. Perhaps we should restructure our space to accommodate more adults and youth, add another similar Sunday Worship Service just before or after the current one, offer an alternate Worship Service on a evening or late afternoon, focus on a Capital Campaign to raise funds for a new building...We want to hear your ideas for how we can make room for more UU's in Greenville! We'll begin as a large group and then break out into smaller discussion groups led by congrega-

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gational leaders. A summary of the ideas we generate will appear shortly thereafter and will be used to create a Growth Survey so that every member, friend and active visitor can have a voice in Accommodating Growth.

—Bev Harju

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

1. The Membership committee is delighted to report that we welcomed seven new members into our congregation at the Feb. New Member Ceremony. Thanks to these new members, our congregation is getting bigger and better. They are: Lynn Caverly, Derek Carmichael, Judi Hickson, Lynda Lane, Heidi Luchsinger, Batya Weinbaum, and Liota Weinbaum. WELCOME!

2. The Sunday pot luck dinners have received a great deal of support from our congregation. We have had lots of food to share and it has given us a chance to socialize and get better acquainted. Mark you calendars for another occasion coming in the next few months. On Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm we are planning a Spring Fling family pot luck and game night to be held at the church. We hope everyone will sign up to bring their favorite dish and bring a game to play. We plan for this to be a night of fun for the whole family.

3. The Membership committee has an opening for a new chairperson. Our current co-chairs have plans to spend some time traveling and feel like we need someone who can be present on most Sundays. If anyone is interested in this position, please let us know.

—Bette Nelson

—Kay Alston, co-chairs

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

Deadline for next month's **beacon** is Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 pm

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

## Staff

**Minister**, Rev Ann Marie Alderman  
**Religious Education Dir**, Victoria Brown  
**President**, Rich Elkins  
**Vice President**, Patrice Alexander  
**Secretary**, Susan Foreman  
**Treasurer**, Claudia Sundman  
**Music Director**, Mort Stine  
**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

