

The UUCG Beacon

December 2011

The beacon is published monthly by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greenville
252-355-6658
www.uugreenvillenc.org
Beacon Editor: Michelle Covi
office@uugreenvillenc.org

Sunday Services -- 10:30 am

December 4

Holiday Music Service
Choir and Musician Members

December 11

Chalica
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

December 18

The Season of Hope
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

December 25

They Say This is Christmas!
Rev. Ann Marie Alderman

Children's activities are available each Sunday.



President's Notes

Our Board of Trustees meeting began with a playful and enlivening warm up. Using the yoga laughter practice presented in Ann Marie's recent sermon, we began with a minute of laughter followed by the sharing of news in each others' lives. Then we began the business and visionary work. We discussed ways to implement our first congregational goal, which is to strengthen and expand the worship and religious education opportunities for people of all ages. In recognition of the growing numbers of families with children, we explored ways that might be used to support our growth. Given the Board's oversight role in fiscal affairs, a Board Member volunteered to identify various ways to expand within our neighborhood. We will share ideas with the YRE [Youth Religious Education] Director and Committee in the next month or two. However, we did not address the critical issue of how to increase our volunteer teacher pool. Before enacting any major commitments, we will want to consult with our members through a congregational meeting. Examining our growth potential is an exciting and creative prospect.

One very important, practical issue needs answers. We are still about \$3,000 behind in pledges and we need people to help us catch up. In addition to your financial help, we need more volunteers in a variety of areas. I hope you spot them in this column but I will list them again at the end.

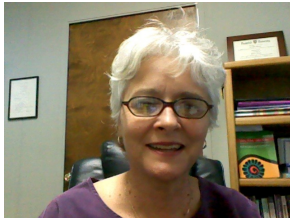
Inspiring issues also include Building and Grounds. Pat Tesh, Ruel Tyer and Feryl Masters have contributed their labor and expertise to many repairs of our valuable asset, our building. They also gave us a detailed list of further repairs. Fortunately our reimbursement from our insurance will help pay for some repairs but they/we will do others ourselves. I am certain there are men and women who would like to enhance our UUCG living space. Please help!

Annette Marquis led teleconference calls to exchange information with presidents from four differently sized congregations. We are in the third largest out of four groups with 75-174 members. Our congregations range from less than 75 to over 500. I was surprised to learn that, due to our large geographic size, we are third largest in number of congregations and fifth largest in terms of members in the UUA. Our district should have a strong voice in the maintenance and growth of Unitarian Universalism!

(continued on pg.4)

Reflections

... of Reverend Ann Marie Alderman



Last Sunday I didn't so much deliver a sermon as offer an extended ad. Maybe I have come under the influence of too much media! Many of you were traveling, or at home with company, or just in recovery from thanksgiving, so I am going to repeat my message. I want you to make a contribution to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee! We just launched our annual Guest at Your Table fund drive for the UUSC. Taking home the little GAYT boxes and filling them with change or dollars every day as if we'd hosted one more person for a meal, like many of you have done for years, is still an option. There are plenty of boxes on the stage at UUCG left for you to pick up. If you prefer, there are envelopes on the table near the bulletin board. Or just go on line and use your credit card. However you do it, with a box, bringing a check to church, or contributing online, I want more of you to make a contribution. In past years we have contributed at a number equaling about 25% of our membership. We can do better!

Think of your gift to the UUSC as our way of planting acts of justice per our UU principles all over the globe. The UUSC uses our funds to reach out to those with needs that are being ignored by other charitable organizations...for food, water, shelter, living wages.... For the affordable amount of \$20 or \$40, you will be doing our international UU work, planting justice and harvesting peace. We have been doing so much good work right here in our local community. Let's do the same internationally!

During the service the Sunday after Thanksgiving, I showed a short video about the Service Committee and the work we do through them. In that video we heard that there are 40,000 member/contributors who fund the UUSC. That sounds like a lot but it is less than 40% of UU members. We can do better! We can make a difference...

Rev. Ann Marie

Staff
<p>Minister: <u>Rev. Ann Marie Alderman</u></p> <p>Youth Religious Education Director: <u>Kimberly Scholl</u></p> <p>Music Director: Mort Stine</p> <p>Choir Director: Sue Jefferson</p> <p>Office Administrator: <u>Michelle Covi</u></p>
Board of Trustees
<p>President: <u>Bev Harju</u></p> <p>Vice President: <u>Tom Thielen</u></p> <p>Secretary: <u>Susan Foreman</u></p> <p>Treasurer: <u>Brenda Stewart</u></p> <p>At-Large: <u>Alan Bailey</u></p> <p>At-Large: <u>Judi Hickson</u></p> <p>Past President: <u>Patrice Alexander</u></p>
Committee Chairs
<p>Ambiance: <u>Terry Shank</u></p> <p>Building Maintenance: <u>Pat Tesh</u></p> <p>Communication: <u>Rich Elkins</u></p> <p>Endowment: <u>Bill Paulson</u></p> <p>Finance: <u>Paul Alston</u></p> <p>Fundraising: <u>Feryl Masters</u></p> <p>Hospitality: <u>Alice Arnold & Ann Eleanor</u></p> <p>Membership: <u>Bud & Phyllis Hazel</u></p> <p>Youth Religious Education: <u>Jennifer Thielen</u></p> <p>Stewardship: <u>Feryl Masters</u></p> <p>Social Action: <u>Tom Long & Pat Anderson</u></p> <p>Worship: <u>Lynn Caverly</u></p>

Social Action

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

UUCG SHELTER ACTION REPORT:

We now have eleven volunteers certified to work for the Greenville Community Shelter evening resident Check In process. Our volunteers work in pairs normally from 5:45 PM until 8:00 to 8:30 PM. Since beginning on July 7, 8 of our workers have put in a total of 31 evenings of service at the Check In process. Nicole Brown, volunteer coordinator for the Shelter, praised our volunteers as being very dependable as well as helpful for the Shelter program.

The fifth basket overflowing with Shelter Daily Needs items was delivered to the Shelter last week. We want to thank all of you who have been steady in your donations to this program. The Shelter is like a large family that needs all the day to day items that keeps a family going, so your generous donations are special and critical to the ongoing operation of the Shelter.

FIRST BORN FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM:

The First Born Program does not need our volunteer support for the fourth Saturday in December. Our next responsibility for providing volunteers for the Program will be Saturday, January 28, 2012.

Our October Fifth Sunday collection was intended for the First Born Program. As usual you saw the need and acted accordingly. We were able to send that Program \$456 to help in their continuing efforts to reduce hunger in Eastern Pitt County. First Born is extremely pleased to have benefited from our congregation's willingness to support their work.

Tom Long
Co-Chair, UUCG Social Action Committee

Need Kitchen Help

We need volunteers for kitchen duty and refreshments. You can do one or both. Bring refreshments and note that you don't have to bring enough to feed the multitudes; just a modest amount which can be supplemented with 'The Stash' in the kitchen. Alice and Ann would really appreciate several folks stepping up to be kitchen coordinators for 1 or more Sundays. It's really not hard just need to arrive around 9:45am before service to set things up and stay to clean up after the social hour (actually about 20-25 minutes). There will always be someone to help you the first time and usually several pairs of helping hands to clean up. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the library. We will bless you and your kitchen skills greatly. Thanks from Alice and Ann.

GLUT OF PLASTIC CUPS (DISPOSABLE TYPE)

For anyone planning a UUCG event at the church with drink, there is a LARGE supply of disposable cups. DO NOT BUY PLASTIC CUPS, I repeat, do not buy plastic cups. Yes, I know we use them at the picnic but we have enough for 5 years of picnics and the supply seems to multiply. I assume the cups are androgynous and can't reproduce so someone is slipping them in under cover of darkness. Thanks, Ann Eleanor.

Prez notes cont. from front...

I'd like to mention an interesting program from the UUA. "Gathered here" is described as an appreciative inquiry program wherein the goal is for interviewers and interviewees to discover what is important to them about congregational life. This knowledge will inform the UUA leadership about who we are as Unitarian Universalists and what we envision for our future. Ann Marie is the Congregational Coordinator for our area and she presented this program last summer in a sermon. I encourage you to ask her or to go online at the UUA to learn more about this interesting program. Those who attended the General Assembly in Charlotte know that a lot of images of who we are were presented throughout the conference.

Doesn't this sound interesting? You could be involved!

In other news, I'd like to endorse Carroll Webber's suggestion that 10% of our holiday gifts benefit a social action cause whether it is for UUCG, our Cancer Support Community or any other cause. Check out online catalog of stores at uusc.org/cccholidayshopping. Your time is a great gift as well. Volunteers are needed to work as YRE teachers, kitchen coordinators, building and grounds work. Isn't it a joy to support our spiritually and socially vital community!

Warmest Holiday hugs to all.

Bev Harju

WHAT IS CHALICA?

(from <http://www.uidentity.com/chalica>)

Chalica is seven days long and runs from the first Monday in December through to Sunday. Each day represents a different Unitarian Principle, a chalice is lit each day and gifts are given and received. Gifts can be made, bought, verbal, written, acts, shared/personal celebrations. One can have seven different chalices or one common chalice.

Monday: We light our chalice for the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Give gifts to honor those you do not understand / agree with / like.

Tuesday: We light our chalice for justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

Give gifts to honor those in your local community that are less fortunate.

Wednesday: We light our chalice for acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations. **Give gifts to honor fellow Unitarians and their spiritual journey.**

Thursday: We light our chalice for a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Give gifts to honor another tradition, to honor education

Friday: We light our chalice for the right of conscious and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. **Give gifts to honor democracy**

Saturday: We light our chalice for the goal of world peace, liberty and justice for all.

Give gifts to honor our global community

Sunday: We light our chalice for respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Give gifts to our earth and/or its creatures

~ December 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:30p-8p Occupy Greenville GA	2	3
4 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a Holi- day Music Service 12p-1p Lunch Group	5 5:30p-6:30p Worship Committee Meeting	6 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	7 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	8 6:30p-8p Occupy Greenville GA	9 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	10
11 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a Chalica! Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	12 7:30p-9:30p Sierra Club meeting	13 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8:30p Gilda's Organizers/All Teams 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	14 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	15 6:30p-8p Occupy Greenville GA 7p-8:30p Shelter Action Group meeting	16 7p-10p Classic GLBT Movie Night	17
18 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a The Season of Hope, Rev. Ann Marie 10:45a-11:30a Youth Yoga 12p-1p Lunch Group	19 7p-8:30p Board of Trustees Meeting	20 8a-9a Breakfast Group 1p-3p Minister's Office Hours 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	21 3p-5p Minister's Office Hours 7p-8p Choir Practice	22	23 1p-2p Women's Lunch Group	24
25 9:45a-10:25a Mindful- ness Group 10:30a-11:30a They Say This is Christ- mas! Rev. Ann Marie 12p-1p Lunch Group	26 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation 7p-8:30p Book Club	27 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation 8a-9a Breakfast Group 7:30p-8:45p KTC Buddhist Meditation	28 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation 7p-8p Choir Practice	29 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation	30 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation	31 Rev. Ann Marie on vacation 6:30p-9:30p New Year's Eve Potluck

WhaleCoast Alaska

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Are you curious about the lifestyles of Alaskan UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2012 is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bear, whales, bald eagles, seals, and caribou. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Programs led by Dave Frey, member of the farthest north UU congregation. To find out more about your Alaskan trip of a lifetime, visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, or call 907-322-4966.

Happy Birthday to UUs this December

- Dec. 1– Ann Eleanor
- Dec. 3– Charlene Young
- Dec. 4– Norman Monaco
- Dec. 10– Betty Greer
- Dec. 15– Alice Arnold
- Dec. 27– Betty Nelson

NEW YEARS EVE POTLUCUK

Join your UUCG friends for a New Year’s Eve potluck. Claudia is organizing a Chinese themed event. Please bring an Asian Cuisine dish or a regular dish, salad or desert. Potluck will start at 6:30 pm December 31. Contact Claudia Sundman if you have any questions.

Important Announcement

Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day- There *WILL BE* a Sunday Service at 10:30 am

Rev. Ann Marie will lead, followed by Christmas cookies for all... bring your family, bring a friend...



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

Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation of Greenville
 131 Oakmont Drive
 Greenville, NC 27858
 252-355-6658

