

THE BRIDGE

January 2010

Sunday Services

January 3 – “Welcome to the New Year”

January 10 – Rev. Claudia Frost: “Hard Hats and Hand Grenades” - *Is church a place of risk and new birth....a place of challenge and courageous growth? What are you doing with your faith? What is in store for us at Outlaw's Bridge Universalist in 2010?*

January 17 – Jimmy Merritt

January 24 – Rev. Claudia Frost: “Living in the Divine Image” - *Amos, spoke of God and called for us to do justice: “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream.” (Amos 5:21-24) What does living in the Divine image have to do with justice, equity and compassion in human relations? What does this image mean for Unitarian Universalists?*

January 31 – TBA

ANNOUNCEMENT

December was Shelle Baker's last month as our Communications Consultant. This spring will be her last semester at James Sprunt Community College and she will be extra busy with an internship at Guildford Mills. For the past two years, Shelle has worked hard to move us into the 21st Century. Among other things, she has built and maintained the website making us so much more visible to the world. Now Shelle gets to just a wonderful, active member at OBUC. Thank you, Shelle, and good luck with the internship!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD MEETING

DATE – JANUARY 9

TIME – 12 NOON

Covered dish lunch followed by the January Board Meeting.

AUW MEETING

DATE – JANUARY 17

TIME – 2:30 PM

Everyone is invited to attend!

Religious Education

Children: After a fun month of Christmas stories and crafts, we will renew our study of our ancestors and the ways they showed us how to better live our lives.

Adults: Last Sunday the class voted on the various topics that would be the most interest to those who participate or may participate when we begin a new topic.

At last count the first choice votes were: 7 people in favor of Bart Erhamn's Books and/or Videos on Biblical History as first priority. 4 people for the NPR programs on Speaking of Faith or the book Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters--and How to Talk About It. 2 votes for UU Topics and 1 vote for Environmental Issues.

Eight people signed that they would like to either lead the class or help facilitate the adult class.

The Worship Task Force with the guidance of Rev. Claudia Frost will work with the ones who will lead or assist in facilitating in making the decision about the specific books/videos or discussions that will be used.

Claudia's Notes



Happy New Year!

As you can see the minister's column has a new name. Thank you to those who submitted suggestions. Carol Simmons suggestion of *Claudia's Notes* is the winning entry.

I hope your Holidays have been a joyful experience. I enjoyed celebrating my first "Love Feast" evening. *Thank you* to all who made this annual Christmas event, special. The church looked very festive and the large feast was delicious. It was fun to meet new people who came to share the evening with us and I am grateful to those who helped clean up. Thanks also to the Board members who served the cookies and cider during the "Love Feast" ritual.....your thoughtful service made things go smoothly.

Thank You is also in order to Shelle Baker, who has been our Communications Coordinator for the past two years. Due to a very busy school and internship schedule, Shelle has asked not to renew her contract. Besides the newsletter and church website, there are a number of things she has been doing that are less visible. I hope you will volunteer to pick up some of these jobs when the list is posted. We need your service for things to get done in a timely manner.

As I look ahead at the New Year, reflection on our short time together claims my attention. Since I was called to be your minister just over two months ago, I have been learning your names, the locations of the various communities our members live in, how to find my way around, and listening to all I meet as I learn more about life in eastern NC. I've visited several of our members in their homes, provided pastoral counseling, attended business meetings and participated in the Mt. Olive Clergy Association and the Eastern North Carolina UU clergy group. During this time, I hope you have grown in Faith, Gratitude,

and Hope as these were preaching / learning themes I've used for October, November and December. January theme will be Justice.

In October, I spoke about gratitude for the wisdom of our elders or otherwise friends in our lives. I promised I would print these for all to read. Below is the wisdom that you shared (names omitted) on the leaves of the fall wreath we had on display:

"I have everything that I really need to live."

"God is love."

"Love what you do – and always find new things to love."

"Be kind"

"Treat the stranger as you would like to be treated when you are the stranger."

"Why do you have to be so different. This turned out to be a good thing. It allowed me to follow my own religious beliefs and leave the Lutheran church to become a UU!"

From my Mom – "You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

"Understand suffering."

"Remember who you are"...the Lion King

"An empty mind is an open mind." Lao Tzu

Start out like you can hold out.

Everybody's life is way more difficult than my life.

"Prayer Works!"

My mother – "Remember who you are – A spirit of God - of Love."

I look forward to our continued growth in spirit and service during 2010.

With love, hope, and joy,
Claudia