



The Bridge

JANUARY, 2012

JANUARY SERVICES & HAPPENINGS

January 1: **“Janus”**-Jimmy Merritt-Janus is the Roman God of beginnings and transitions

Religious Education:
*9:45 Intergenerational
Devotional
*10:00 Adult Religious
Education: January 1: a
look at winter celebrations
and holidays
Beginning January 8:
Learning about “Welcoming
Congregations”

*Youth RE: 2nd and 4th
Sunday “Gather the
Spirit” : Water With
Reverend Claudia Frost and
Lisa Stolar

*Children's RE: Story time
with Linda Jones

January 8: **“Who’s in Charge”**-Reverend Claudia M. Frost-The theological theme this month is religious authority. *What does authority have to do with a way of being religious that offers hope, meaning and a process of developing and affirming moral values in a way that meets the intellectual, spiritual and community needs of many who might otherwise have no church home? What is our faith’s history with authority?*

January 15: **Services with Kitty Bass**

January 22: **“The Middle Way”**-Reverend Claudia M. Frost-Buddhism is the religion we will explore in our continuing series on world religions. What do attachment, ego, suffering and craving have to do with Buddhism? Are you familiar with Unitarian Universalist Buddhism? How can a person find the *Middle Way* and the *Eight Fold Path*?

On January 16, 2012, Jim Scott will be visiting Outlaw’s Bridge to hold a Martin Luther King Day Concert. Jim has brought his contemporary and multicultural music to more than 500 UU Churches over 27 years. His much loved “*Gather the Spirit*” and a number of others are included in the UU hymnbooks. Former Co-chair of the UU Ministry for the Earth, Jim was involved in creating the “Green Sanctuary” Program. A covered dish supper will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by the concert.

We continue to participate in the Food Lion Community Rewards program. If you want to help, just sign up your MVP card at www.foodlion.com and select Outlaw’s Bridge Universalist Church, organization code #250798, as the organization you want to support. Then, whenever you shop at Food Lion, purchase their name brand products and use your MVP card, we receive the rewards. If you shop on the 10th day of the month, we receive double rewards. If you want us to sign you up, please email Peggy Jones at pjays2009@gmail.com. Include your name as it appears on your MVP card, your 12 digit MVP card number and your telephone number. Thank you for your support.

Outlaw's Bridge

Universalist Church

Presents

**AN EVENING WITH JIM
SCOTT: UU COMPOSER,
POET, PERFORMER &
ACTIVIST**

JANUARY 16, 2012

**Covered-dish supper
6:00 p.m.**

**Followed by a Martin
Luther King concert
presented by Jim Scott**



Outlaw’s Bridge Universalist Church

4408 N NC Highway 111, Seven Springs, NC 28578

www.outlawsbridgechurch.org

newsletter@outlawsbridgechurch.org

Affiliated with the Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI) The Universalist Convocations, the Southeast District of the UUA, and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

CLAUDIA'S COMMENTS

Happy New Year! 2011 was a good year at Outlaw's Bridge. After much discussion, we created a new mission statement that will guide us in our ministry and outreach. *Our Mission is to welcome all to grow with us in love, spirit and wisdom – enriching lives through compassion, service, and fellowship.*

We completed our first year of 5th Sunday Special Offerings. This outreach initiative has increased our understanding of the needs in Duplin and the surrounding counties. The Kitty Askins Hospice Chapel building fund, the Duplin County Habitat for Humanity, Alzheimer's Association, ADLA, Inc. – (A lot of Direction, Love, and Attention,) at risk youth program, and the World War II Honor Flights program were some of the groups we benefitted.

We organized our church into four *Ministry Teams* that plan and implement the ministries that keep our religious community functioning smoothly. If you have not joined one of the teams please do so *ASAP*. The teams include: Hospitality and Membership, Outreach & Service, Worship & Religious Education, and Building & Grounds. Please sign up on the office door if you have not joined a team. Several of the teams need more members.

Another special milestone reached in 2011 is our *Green Sanctuary* designation. Appreciation goes to Barbara Grady who chaired the application effort as well as all those who contributed to the lengthy and detailed application process. After celebrating this milestone we are continuing to find ways to encourage *Green Sanctuary* practices in the wider community.

Also, with the help of all of you and the members of the Ministerial Fellowship Support Committee, in December I received my *Final Fellowship* designation with the UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Thank You.

For the New Year, I'm including a reading for your reflection by Taylor Addison:

This is a time for reflection as well as celebration.

As you look back on the past year and all that has taken place in your life,

Remember each experience for the good that has come of it

And for the knowledge you have gained.

Remember the efforts you have made and the goals you have reached.

Remember the love you have shared and the happiness you have brought.

Remember the laughter, the joy, the hard work, and the tears.

And as you reflect on the past year, also be thinking of the new one to come

Because most importantly, this is a time of new beginnings, and the celebration of life.

Happy New Year!

With Love, Hope, and Joy

Claudia

