

THE BRIDGE

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Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church

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MAY 2010



Sunday Services

May 2 - Rev. Justin Lapoint. Justin and his wife, Rachel, recently attended a "Jesus Seminar on the Road" in Brevard, North Carolina. He will share some of the things they learned about communicating the teachings of the historic Jesus to 21st century audiences.

May 9 - Homecoming: Love, Hope, & Memories on Mother's Day" – Rev. Claudia Frost - We gather in celebration of our families, our church, and our mothers. Let us celebrate those who have come before us and those who are creating our future at OBUC.

May 16 - Service with Jimmy Merritt

May 23 - "Transcendence and Expectations"- Rev. Claudia Frost – Transcendence is the theological topic this month. May is also the Bicentennial of Margaret Fuller's birthday. I hope a UU perspective on transcendence will help us understand why Margaret Fuller has been called the Transcendentalists' Transcendentalist.

May 30 - Service TBA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1 ~ Thomas Jefferson District Meeting in Beaufort, SC

May 9 Please plan to attend Homecoming Service with Rev. Claudia Frost. Covered dish lunch and great fellowship to follow the service. This is always a special time of sharing at Outlaw's Bridge.

May 14-16 The Universalist Convocations will meet in Rochester, NY

No meeting of the Association of Universalist Women (AUW) in May.

Every Sunday

9:45am - INTERGENERATIONAL
DEVOTIONAL

10:00am - ADULT AND YOUTH
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

11:00am - CHURCH SERVICE

Religious Education

Adult Classes - Bart Ehrman's
"Misquoting Jesus" with Joseph Reilly
and Monica LaMastus

Children's Classes - UU Kids
with Lisa Stolar

Teen Classes - Being UU
with Robert Stolar

AUW

No AUW meeting in May.



Claudia's Notes

MAY 2010



Recently I attended the Southeast UU Ministers Association (SEUUMA) spring meeting at The Mountain near Highlands, NC. Although I attended lectures most of each day, when walking to and from the dining hall or sitting on the porch in the early evening, it was a delightful time to experience the beautiful mountain weather with clear Carolina blue skies and see much of the mountain in full bloom. The lectures provided many new things to consider and I value the opportunities to learn from my colleagues. An “Ah-Ha” moment on the way home was an added bonus.

On leaving The Mountain, I consulted with a member of the Mountain staff concerning my Mapquest directions on the best way out of the mountains and down into South Carolina so I could meet my husband in Charleston for the weekend. I exited Highlands, NC on the correct state road, but it wasn't long before I noted that the sign said I was going south, not east. There was no place to turn around and return to my starting point. All I could do was continue to wind my way down and trust I would finally come out somewhere in NC, SC or Georgia. Then hopefully I would be able to find someplace to ask directions. Calming myself with the fact that the rays of the sun told me I was headed southeast and it was a glorious day with no other traffic, I decided to enjoy the beautiful drive despite the fact that I was going quite a way off route. Although I had to concentrate a bit on the steep winding mountain road, I began to delight at the beautiful mountain scenery and the silence. I'd turned off the radio earlier due to poor reception.

After spending four days visiting with close ministry friends (full days of valuable information and sharing), it was quite a gift to experience silence paired with beautiful scenery. Although I manage to include a mediation time on most days, the extended silence I experienced plus the tranquil views calmed me and invigorated my spirit. I knew I was lost, but with each mile of beauty and silence, I felt renewed. I couldn't do anything differently. I had to trust that I would eventually come out of the mountains and find someone to point me in the correct direction.

My directions dilemma did indeed become an extra treat of calmness and beauty. Finally I entered a small town and stopped for directions. People were very helpful and showed me a shortcut to intersect my original route to Charleston. I was pleased to find that although I had taken the longer, more narrow road down the mountains, I wasn't too far off course and I had benefitted from the serene views and calming silence on my drive.

So why am I telling you about my map reading mishap? It was an “ah-ha” moment concerning the gift of relaxing into the awareness of the present when things don't go as planned. Despite my best efforts to take the shortest route, a beautiful morning of silence and awesome scenery became my reality because I opened myself to this gift instead of fretting and worrying all the way. Silence is accessible to each of us and costs nothing. As Henry David Thoreau observed at Walden Pond, solitude allows us to “be completely true to ourselves.” I hope each of you will be able to receive the gift of silence, a bit of solitude, and some picturesque scenery during this beautiful month of May.

With love, hope, and joy,
Claudia

