

NOVEMBER 2011

4408 N NC Hwy 111
Seven Springs, NC

THE BRIDGE

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Sunday Services

November 6: **“Comforting Words”**- Jimmy Merritt Whether it’s prose, poem or song, humans often look to word and sounds for comfort in times of joy and sorrow. I will share some of mine and I encourage members to bring some of theirs.

November 13: **“Democracy: An Expression of Faith”**- Reverend Claudia M. Frost We believe in the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations at large. What makes Democracy a theological concept? What are the spiritual tasks of the democratic process in both church and civic life?

November 20: **“When the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary”**- presented by Peggy Jones; a sermon by Reverend Telos Whitfield. Please join us for the beginning of our Guest at Your Table season, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. We welcome unseen guests to our dinner tables during the Holidays, human rights leaders around the world who are working in partnership with the UUSC. We make contributions to support their ongoing work, advance human rights, live our mutual social-justice values, and sustain our Unitarian Universalist principles.

November 27: **“The Blessings of Gratitude and Generosity”**- Reverend Claudia M. Frost. Thanksgiving is historically a time for generosity, sharing and expressions of gratitude. Let us explore the art of blessing in relationship to these traditional virtues and how they enhance our spiritual growth in today’s world.

Upcoming Events and Other News

November 5: Green Grass Cloggers **“Celebrating 40 Years”** 8:00 p.m. Wright Auditorium, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC Adults-\$10.00; Youth/Students-\$5.00. Buy tickets www.ecu.edu/cs-cfac/SRAPAS. Rodney Sutton, OBUC member who lives in Asheville, is part of the original Green Grass Cloggers. For more information, see poster at church.

Tentative Date: Sunday, November 27: Decorating the Church for Christmas!



THANKSGIVING



SAVE THE DATE:
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 11
LOVE FEAST &
CANDLELIGHTING
SERVICE
BEGINS WITH
COVERED DISH
SUPPER AT 5:30 PM

Religious Education

- 9:45: Intergenerational Devotional
- 10:00: Adult Religious Education: Articulating your UU Faith by Barbara Wells and Jaco B. ten Hove with Ann Malpass
- Youth Re: 2nd and 4th Sunday: “Gather the Spirit”: our Water Resources with Claudia Frost and Lisa Stolar
- Children’s RE: Story time with Linda Jones

Claudia's Notes

As we revel in these beautiful crisp days of autumn with low humidity and sunny blue skies, everyday more leaves are changing to brilliant shades of red and gold. We are accustomed to the transformation of the landscape with the changing seasons, but changes in our church community often bring forth emotions of loss and discomfort even when change is part of growth.

It has come to my attention that concern has been expressed about a change that may feel like a loss due to a change in location for the artwork relief of Jesus. Last month's newsletter mentioned "the congregation adapted a proposal to use a variety of artwork in the pulpit area with approval of the Board. The artistic relief of Jesus would be relocated to an appropriate area of the church." In concern for our members and friends who were not present for the discussions at the congregational meeting, I feel I should address the decision to use other art work in addition to the relief of Jesus.

The space in our sanctuary is important for all our members and friends. Symbols take on meaning for our religious community and that meaning is often different for each of us. Negotiating change is not easy. Often there is a sense of loss when something familiar is not in its regular place. Understanding the history of the relief of Jesus might be helpful in relation to it's becoming the focus of a meditation center in another part of the church.

In the discussions, I learned the artwork probably came to Outlaw's Bridge during the time Reverend Gus Ulrich was our minister and it has not always hung in the center of the chancel area. At times it has been on a sidewall and the mosaic art piece has been in the center. Sometimes the artwork didn't hang at all, however it has been in it's present position for quite some time. Our beloved church has continued to thrive and change over the last one hundred seven years, yet we are still the same beloved community who believes in the spiritual leadership exemplified in the teachings of Jesus and that God is manifest through loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Our new mission statement recognizes our core values. *We welcome all to grow with us in love, spirit and wisdom—enriching lives through spirit, service and fellowship.* We believe we do not have to think alike to love alike as we hold a variety of theological viewpoints among our membership. I hope this alteration in the placement of artwork will not cause you sadness and loss, for our relationships and care for one another and with the Divine are more important than where we hang our artwork.

Change is challenging. If you would like to talk with me about this change or other things, please call or send an e-mail. I would like to hear from you.

With love, hope, and joy,

Claudia

