

# THE BRIDGE

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## *Outlaw's Bridge Universalist Church*



# October 2011



### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

October 2 Water Service with Jimmy Merritt - Sharing our memories of the past year.

October 9 "Images of Ultimate Reality" – Rev. Claudia M. Frost – Hinduism is the fourth sermon in our World Religions series. With it's many images of the Divine, varied religious practices, and multiple sacred texts, what is the underlying unity of the Hindu religion? Do Unitarian Universalists share any beliefs in common with this ancient religion?

October 16 Service with Rev. Dr. Terry Robinson - Topic: "Dry Bones and ECO"

October 23 "The Mystery of the Visible" – Rev. Claudia M. Frost – Who or what creates the day? What does it mean to be co-creators with God? asked the wise man. Deist, theist, agnostic, atheist, and traditional Unitarian Universalists wonder about the unknown but what about the place of creation in a religious life?

October 30 Lay Service with Lisa Stolar

### **EVERY SUNDAY**

9:45am - INTERGENERATIONAL DEVOTIONAL

10:00am - ADULT AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

11:00am - CHURCH SERVICE

#### **Religious Education**

**9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Devotional with Ann Malpass**

**10:00 a.m. Adult Religious Education: Continuing Articulating Your UU Faith by Barbara Wells and Jacob B. ten Hove with Robert Stolar.**

**Youth RE: Rev. Claudia Frost and Lisa Stolar**

**Children's RE: Story Time with Ann Malpass**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS**

- October 1 Harvest Sale/Supper/Entertainment. Sale begins at 3:00 p.m. Bring your craft items for auction by Joseph Parker and Joe Price. 6:00 p.m. Barbecue Pork and Turkey Supper with all the fixings. 7:00 p.m. NEW This Year!! Evening Musical Entertainment with Jimmy Merritt and Friends. Come and Enjoy this FUN-Filled afternoon and evening!
- October 8 Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. Annual Meeting at Shelter Neck Delegates: Gerald Simmons, Lisa and Robert Stolar Free weekend at Shelter Neck/registration is required

#### **Annual Meeting Highlights**

Adopted Missions Statement: Our Mission is to welcome all to grow with us in love, spirit, and wisdom - enriching lives through compassion, service and fellowship.

Adopted Formation of four Ministry Teams - Ideally, each member/friend would volunteer to serve on a Ministry Team - the one that most interest him/her.

- Worship and Religious Education (Worship and Lifespan Faith Development)
- Hospitality and Membership (Practical hospitality of greeting, welcoming and membership activities)
- Finance, Building and Grounds (Stewardship of our resources - financial, church and parsonage buildings, grounds, and cemetery)
- Outreach and Service (Communication with wider community, denominational affairs, social action and service)

Adopted proposal to use a variety of Art Work to hang in the pulpit area of the church. Such work would require the approval of the Board. The artistic relief of Jesus would be relocated to an appropriate area of the church.

OBUC is affiliated with: The Universalist Convention of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI), The Universalist Convocations, UUA Thomas Jefferson District (TJD), and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)

## *Claudia's Notes*



I rarely wade into government matters in this column but I'm very concerned that our NC Legislature recently endorsed discrimination in the form of a proposed amendment to our state constitution. We need to wake up and learn about the proposed constitutional amendment in order to respond as people of faith who believe in civil rights for all NC citizens.

The specific ballot language will look like this: "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST Constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State." It sounds similar to an existing state law, which prohibits marriages between individuals of the same gender. Do not be fooled! This amendment proposal directly discriminates against lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgendered persons (LGBT) and anyone involved in a civil union or a domestic partnership. We need to inform ourselves so we can speak with our family and friends about the harm this amendment will do not only to same sex couples but all persons who choose to enter into domestic partnerships.

Our state economy is acutely strained and we are in a period of recovery from natural disasters such as tornados last spring and the recent Hurricane. Why is the General Assembly focusing on writing discriminatory amendments when they should be working on job creation, economic recovery, budget matters and other important work vital to the safety of all North Carolinians? The work of the General Assembly is to solve the state's problems not create division and discrimination. If this constitutional amendment is passed, it will be bad for business. Domestic partner benefits, which are offered by many large corporations and municipalities, would be prohibited in NC. LGBT employees will know our state as unwelcoming and negative national media attention could also affect the travel, tourism, hospitality and real estate industries.

On May 8, 2012 the amendment will be placed on the ballot during the primary election. We need to learn about the proposed amendment and partner with other religious denominations that are already working to defeat this amendment. During a recent conference call with UU ministers from across NC, I learned that some Episcopal and Presbyterian churches are partnering with UU congregations and other interfaith groups to speak out against this amendment. Are there others in Eastern NC to work with us?

The Standing on the Side of Love campaign and Equality NC will be working with UU congregations to defeat the amendment. A conference call with Dan Furmanky (Standing on the Side of Love) is planned for all interested NC UUs. The call information will be posted in our weekly announcements. Donna Sequeira, our District Social Justice Consultant will also convene calls for interested members. Let me know if you are interested in representing our congregation on the calls. I urge all of you to go to Equality NC <http://equalitync.org/amendment> to read about this proposed amendment. A copy of The Truth About the Marriage Amendment will be available at church.

Please join me in Standing on the Side of Love for North Carolina.

With Love, Hope, and Joy,

Claudia

