Joan Hawthorne, 2018

Joan Hawthorne has been a Unitarian Universalist for 57 years, beginning in 1961. She became a member of the UU Fellowship of Franklin, NC in 1996. Since joining Fellowship, she has served on the Board as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Trustee.

She has been a key member and co-chair of our Sunday Service Committee, where she schedules the musicians and plays frequently, often filling in on short notice. Although living an hour away, she has been quite willing to come in for meetings, work parties, and more.

She is a great organizer of people, rooms, events and data. She is equally comfortable at a gathering registration table, at the piano, in a nursery rocking chair, at an auction cash register, writing handwritten welcome letters to visitors, composing a newsletter, or at the kitchen sink.

She is generous to a fault. She is always good for at least one, usually more, tickets to any fundraiser. This in addition to bringing a covered dish to share and helping with the production workload. She has been known to literally give her last lunch dime to a needy mother who showed up on our doorstep.

We are not the only beneficiaries of Joan's talents and benevolence. In her home county, she volunteers with: Mountain Lakes Medical Center Auxiliary, Celebrate Clayton and other worthy groups.

She honors her long-term pledges without flourish and donated generously to new building by buying multiple windows to honor her children. If this is not enough, for several years she knit an afghan and other items which she donates to be raffled as a fundraiser. Her knitting has also benefitted the homeless and has graced our arts sales.

Joan is a charming lady known for her candor and humor who has knit us together over these 22 years. She has helped us when we've wobbled and dropped a stitch or had to rip out a row, guiding us back on track. Because of her, we are better. She reminds us we're Unitarian Universalists who "roll with the punches" and are at our best in beloved community.