



The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda

R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
(followed by refreshments)
Rev. Christine Hillman

Sunday Services October 2008

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|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Oct. 5 | Our Jewish and Christian Heritage
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis |
| Oct. 12 | The Order of Thanks Giving
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Oct. 19 | Straight Talk on Queer Issues
Art Brewer | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Oct. 26 | You Too Can Find a Church If You're Spiritual but Not Religious
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis |

Sunday, Oct. 19, after church service: Special Congregational Meeting to consider copier purchase

Copy Machine Notice of Motion

In accordance with our By Laws there will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday October 19th, immediately after the Service, to consider the following Motion:

The Congregation approve the purchase of a new copying machine at a cost of not more than \$2900.

RE Committee Report

This year the Religious Education committee is pleased to announce that two programs will be offered to our young people.

The preteens will be offered the "Stepping Stones" program where they will explore such diverse subjects as Beginning Myths, What Science tells Us, The Miracle of Birth, Questions about Dying, and Decision making. This program will be presented by Sheron Campbell the last Sunday of every month and will last 1 full hour from 10:30 to 11:30. Subject matter will be covered over a 2 year period. So far we have 5 preteens registered and committed to attend. The younger children (K-gr3) will learn a new curriculum offered and downloaded from the UUA website. The focus will be on "Creating Home" covering different concepts such as Animal Homes, Our Faith Home, etc. A fuller list of subjects may be found at uua.org/tapestry of faith. This program will be presented every Sunday



From the Hillparson

Instead of my usual column, this month I'm choosing to step aside to provide space for the highlights from the most recent CUC board meeting. The work that is to hand for us all across the country marks a significant turning point, seven years beyond separating from the UU Association of Congregations. I hope that you will read the highlights with two sets of eyes, the set that learns more about the work of the CUC (which is all of us led by board and staff) and the other set that drills for reflections that have meaning for Olinda. In faith, Rev. Christine

The CUC Board met at the YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre near Orillia, Ontario from September 18th to the 21st, 2008. The CUC is currently facing some significant challenges in terms of staffing (in light of recent staff departures), volunteering (we haven't identified enough volunteers to follow those who have completed several years' service) and revenue (given poor current and anticipated returns on our investments in what appears to be a faltering market). Our September meeting addressed all three of these challenges, and moved forward in several areas. The summary below reflects the highlights of those undertakings. We will be sending an expanded update to presidents and ministers shortly, and we will make this available on the CUC website.

1. **Sustainability.** The Board is committed to a CUC that operates with a sustainable staffing model, by which we mean that our paid staff are clear about what work they are being asked to do, that the amount of work being requested is reasonable, and that we treat our staff in accordance with our principles. In addition, we have to be realistic about the amount and kinds of work we can expect to accomplish through volunteer efforts. We are developing a budget proposal for 2009 that is part of a long-term commitment to balanced budgets. We do anticipate that this year's budget will need to carry a deficit, but we are striving to make sure that the amount of the deficit will be less than it had to be last year. We are particularly pleased that Linda Thomson has agreed to serve as our Acting Executive Director at least to the end of this calendar year, and perhaps beyond, to assist us in developing a model that takes into account the current realities. (While she serves in this capacity, we will contract for an assistant who will temporarily take on much of her work as DRS-East. A two-year interim Director of Lifespan Learning position is also currently being advertised, and we anticipate that it will be filled by the end of October. That job description also includes assisting in the development of our sustainable model.)

We will provide information along the way and offer opportunities for regular dialogue, so that our membership becomes an integral part of the directions we choose to follow. We recognize, of course, that any final decisions will have to be made at the annual meeting.

2. **Staying Oriented Towards our Mission.** It is this board's perception that we are in a necessary and predictable transition, not a crisis. For many months we have had a team working on reviewing our board policies to more directly relate them to the CUC's mission ("Growing vital religious communities in Canada"). In doing so, we can develop adequate monitoring systems to ensure we meet our goals on an on-going basis.

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3. **Going-4-ward.** The Board continues to move forward with the short-term plan presented at the Annual Meeting in Ottawa. We will be offering opportunities for input through workshops at each of the regional fall gatherings. Highlights of where these initiatives stand are attached.

4. **Covenantal Relationships.** Within our CUC, we create religious communities wherever individual UUs come together to be nurtured, to grow, and to act. We are a "community of communities", and our communities include not only our congregations, but also our Youth, our Ministers, our Lay Chaplains, our Social Responsibility Groups, and other groups of UUs who gather for common purpose and shared values. By developing formal covenants between our communities we can have a clearer understanding of our relationships, how we work together towards our shared goals and our responsibilities to each other. For example, we are already well on the way to establishing a formal covenant with ministers through their professional organization, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC). We are also delighted to report that, at our meeting, the Board committed to create a covenant with the Canadian youth community (struggling in the wake of major changes in continental programming by the UUA) through a revitalized and re-mandated Canadian Advisory Youth/Adult Committee ("CAYAC").

The Board re-affirms that there is no implied hierarchy in the relationship between the CUC and the member congregations. We are all in service together. The CUC is the creation of its member congregations, conceived as a way to act in concert to accomplish things that can't be accomplished alone. We understand our role as trustees to be that we ensure that the communities within our midst coordinate, connect, and build coalitions.

The CUC Board is committed to dealing fairly and decisively with the current challenges facing the CUC. By acknowledging the covenantal relationships between the communities that make up the CUC, we see its continued success will hinge upon a sense of shared ministry that must pervade our movement. The Board came away from this meeting electrified by the possibilities.

From the Board

I should have known. As I set out for the Board Meeting on Thursday September 18th, I felt confident that we would have a nice quick meeting, as there was a short Agenda and no New Business on it. After all the previous meeting had a long agenda and we were out of there by 8:45. No such luck!! We didn't finish until 9:45. It speaks well for your Board that it stuck to its task and we had really good discussions on the topics at hand, and came to what we hope are sensible decisions.

The first long discussion was on the implications of recent Privacy legislation. We concluded that the legislation as written was not particularly germane to the Church. However we agreed we needed to look at our own practices and I agreed to present a draft of a Privacy Policy for the Church at our next meeting.

We received reports, including a written report from Rev. Christine who was away at the CUC Board of which she is a member. The Trustee reports brought us all up-to-date on what it happening at the Church. Joyse reported on a successful Lunch and Learn for the R.E. program. Stuart was commended on the improvements to the ramp and he commented that there are a number of tasks still to be completed. Helen indicated that our finances are still in good shape and Bobbye reminded us that the budget cycle will be starting soon. Bill reported for Sunday Services on a successful beginning to the new Church Year. The Membership and Publicity report by John Haynes led in to a discussion about the need for a new Church Directory, something that we do every two years. John and Helen and I undertook to look in to how best to proceed on the matter.

Then, under New Business, Helen raised the issue of the possible need for a new copier. The fact of the matter is that the current copier is old, the manufacturer is no longer producing necessary spare parts, and modern copiers are much more efficient and have features we could well use. The last time the serviceman was in he offered the opinion that our copier could cease to function at any time, although he allowed that it could limp along for a few more years. Helen has already acquired some information and a cost estimate for a new machine from our current supplier. Pat Haynes supported Helen's suggestion that we explore the idea and a long and fruitful discussion took place. We discussed leasing versus buying, the possibility of cost savings over the long haul, and the probability that there would less down time and unexpected interruptions in service with a new copier. It was decided that Bill, with his technical expertise, and Helen as Treasurer, should explore the possibilities, seek at least two more estimates, and bring a proposal back to the Board. There is some urgency to the matter as the estimate we have has a time limitation attached to it, so we agreed that we would communicate by e-mail; and phone in order to reach a decision. With all that in mind a Motion to approve in principle the purchase of a new copier, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the investigations by Bill and Helen, was approved. The Motion will need to be approved by the Congregation at a Special Meeting as it will involve the expenditure of more than \$2000. The date for the Meeting and the exact wording of the Motion appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. A lot more information will be forthcoming well in advance of the Meeting.

So there we were, our 'short' meeting was over and our business was concluded.

See you in Church

Wilf.

ACTIVITIES

POT LUCK

October 5th
After service

Bring something to share and your appetite. The food is always great!!

MEETINGS

RE Committee Meeting
October 5, 2008

Board Meeting
October 9, 2008
7 p.m.

Special Congregational Meeting to consider copier purchase
October 19, after church service.

Finance Committee Meeting
October 19, 2008

Sunday Service Committee Meeting
November 2, 2008
9:15 am

Caring Committee Report

A sunny and bright October "hello" to everyone. Hopefully October will be as delightful as September has been.

We send thinking of you wishes to Walter and Harriette Sinclair, Albertina Bell and Ruth Whaley. It is so nice to have Joan Meuser out and about. We extend sincere sympathy thoughts to Dan and Jane Blackshaw on the passing of Janes' father. Hello greetings are sent to Cathy Thompson, Alberta, and to Jean Upcott Wallis in London.

If I have missed anyone or you have a joy or concern you wish to share please let our Caring Committee contacts know.

Happy Halloween
Carabel

" Do right always. It will give you satisfaction in life.."
Native American Saying

Finance Trustee Report

Given the summer weather we continue to have, it is hard to start thinking about fall issues such as Church budgets, but here we go, anyway. What follows is an outline of the finance issues and no-

tice of upcoming meetings and activities:

- Development of the Budget (committee chairs, take note, your budgets are due before the Nov. 9 Finance Committee meeting.)
- Collection of funds for purchase of Children's Aid Family Christmas present will again precede Christmas in order to give the Elves a known amount of money to spend on the family.
- The 2009 Letter of Appeal will be reviewed at the Oct. 19 Finance Committee meeting.
- The 2009 Auction will no doubt be even more fun than the one in 2008, although that is pretty hard to imagine!
- Ditto the Yard and Bake Sale.

Other fundraising events? Please let the Finance Trustee (Bobbie Baylis) know if you think of some other ideas. These events are meant to be celebrations as well as fundraisers, and if you are willing to help or have fresh suggestions, please speak to the Finance Trustee.

Members of the Finance Committee, please take note of the two Sunday meetings, Oct. 19 and Nov. 9, probably following the service. All who were members last year are assumed to still be members; please let the Trustee know whether you will continue to serve in this capacity and also whether you can meet at those times.

Bobbie Baylis

Sunday Services Committee

The church season began as usual with Rev. Christine Hillman leading an in-gathering service featuring a water communion that all

present could actively participate in. This was followed by a service by Rev. Christine touching on the evolution of Unitarian and Universalist thought on Sept. 14 and an interactive talk on Prejudice by psychology Prof. Shelagh Towson on Sept. 21, when Rev. Christine was attending the CUC Board Meeting, and another service by Rev. Christine on Sept. 28. Our minister

will also give three of the four sermons in October. The other service, on October 19, will be by Art Brewer from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. He will discuss the formation of a welcoming congregation.

The first potluck dinner of the year was postponed to after Fall equinox in order to avoid the effects in our un-air-conditioned basement of the high temperatures and humidity of summer. The proposal, which has been approved by the Board and seems acceptable to most everyone involved, is to hold it following the service on October 5.

The Olinda Singers are working on a piece "Circle of Song" by Tony Turner of Ottawa. We were sent a copy of the arrangement used as the theme song for the CUC Annual Conference in 2008.

Bill Baylis

Sunday Services Trustee

The Olinda Outpost is published monthly (except July and August) by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda

Editor: Colette Annetts
Deadline for submissions:
The second last Sunday of the month.
June's Deadline: May 25th

The Unitarian Universalist Church of
Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Rd, R.R. #2, Ruthven,
Ontario N0P 2G0 (519) 326-4352