



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 September 2008

Sept. 7	Ingathering Sunday Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Lorie Lyons
Sept. 14	A Religion Worth Muddling Through Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Toni Janik
Sept. 21	Prejudice Professor Shelagh Towson	Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis
Sept. 28	I am standing in My Own Shadow Professor Howard Pawley	Music: Carabel Ringrose

Sunday Services Committee

After concluding the regular season with guest speakers Howard Pawley and Bonnie Showers-Malanowski, the church held two summer services this year. Professor Emeritus of Political Science and former NDP Manitoba premier, Howard Pawley, together with his wife Adele, has graced the church with humour and political wisdom for several seasons. On June 22, his topic was "Canada at the Crossroads" about the directions taken by our Conservative Government. On the following Sunday, Bonnie, the Vice-President of our Board, presented her personal religious philosophy in a stimulating talk "Religious Eclecticism as a Personal Theology." After a couple of weeks of quiet, our Treasurer Helen Moore brought the sanctuary back to life with her "Readings from Stewart Moore", her late husband and former UU Minister here. The second service of the summer was given on August 3rd by John Haynes, our Membership trustee. In a service led by his wife and UUOlinda's Secretary Pat Haynes, he spoke of his passion "On Art" and illustrated his presentation with descriptions of some artworks of his personal collection. His talk, which preceded the annual Civic-Day barbecue at Sheron Campbell's Indian Ridge Farm, was as well attended as many of our services during the regular season.

The September services will welcome Rev. Christine Hillman back to the pulpit with the Ingathering Sunday and Water Communion on September 7. If you remember, please bring in some water relating to any summer experiences that you are willing to share. While Rev. Hillman is attending a Board meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on Sept. 21, Prof. Shelagh Towson will come to Olinda to speak on "Prejudice", the topic of one of her psychology courses at the University of Windsor, in a service led by President Wilf Innerd.

Bill Baylis
Sunday Services Trustee



From the Hillparson

It seems that just a few blinks ago it was the end of June and summer just begun. Before I was into it or anywhere near finished with it, the summer is almost over. I believe I've said this before but this was a fast one by any measure in my life. A summer of grieving my son's death as best as I could, with counsel, within myself and with family. In his memory I planted a tree Phil Roberts recommended when he spoke here in the spring. It is a tree indigenous to this area and part of what would/should be a thriving Carolinian forest. It's called a cucumber magnolia and it is to be found in my backyard trying to live with my somewhat sketchy watering schedule. This summer once again found me officiating the wedding of one of my younger daughter's friends, real joy and recently being part of a baby shower for another of her friends, a young woman who had a big part in our family life while she was in high school a decade and a bit more ago. These, reminders that life is resilient and determined to go forward and thrive with new roots and branches.

The summer has been hard in other ways as numbers of you know of the horror which took place the last Sunday in July at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee church during their service. Much has been said but singer, poet and downright amazing UU minister Meg Barnhouse says some powerful words in a UUA of Congregations web column. She closes her piece with these words: "We love to think of ourselves as open-minded, but it's hard for us to be open-minded toward certain people and their views. Maybe it's just me that has a hard time, but I think I'm not alone in this. I argued with him, too. I do affirm the worth and dignity of every person, but I never promised to affirm the worth and dignity of every idea. Some ideas are oppressive and not well thought out. They lead to violence and injustice and really bad behavior. I try to argue with respect and kindness, but it's hard when the person you're talking to acts like a jerk. If I were the Dalai Lama or a UU saint, I would be able to, and I hope that will come in the future, but I am sure not there yet." To read the entire column you can find it at: <http://www.uuworld.org/spirit/articles/118660.shtml?n> For congregants who do not have computers a reminder that most of our Essex County Libraries have them, as well as librarians who can get you to the website you want to read. In that way we all have access to the new world coming and already here that is computer-bound and bounded.

Some of you know that I serve as a board member for the CUC Board of Trustees and that the CUC Executive Director Mary Bennett has resigned after eight years. She was a bulwark and visionary in the early years of the separation of the CUC from the UUA and it is now time for her to seek new directions and for the CUC to be directed by a new personality with different skill sets. It is hard work to pass through such a bumpy time but it is also a moment for new visions and directions to take hold and carry the CUC into its future. A significant note for every individual congregation, like Olinda, to take on board for their own vision and direction.

Almost four months ago two of my long time friends joined the American Peace Corps and are both stationed in eastern Europe. Pan Godchaux (my state legislator the last near twelve years I lived in Michigan) is in Moldova and Susan Safford (my co-interim DRE at the Birmingham church in 1986, and whose son's wedding I officiated) in more southerly Romania. I'm getting weekly updates from them both and Pan has asked for some of my sermons as she gets through her Church of the Larger Fellowship newsletter faster than she is filled with Unitarian Universalist community. They are both doing well and also working hard to learn the language as they also teach English and develop, present and assess programming with children. Now the school year will begin and they'll be part of that work, adding to the richness of already standing school programs, and more I am sure. If you'd like to hear directly from Pan you can go to her blogspot on line. Both Pan and Susie visited Olinda more than once, though it had been awhile. It will now be a much longer while! I know that they both have chosen this direction at this time in their lives (both in their late fifties) to throw a broader net of their mutual commitment to community service, to test their own mettle in a new way, and to express their Unitarian Universalist values in a most active and powerful way.

Pan Godchaux
In Moldova!!
www.pangodchaux.blogspot.com

May we now begin the 2008-2009 Olinda church year with our own vigor and mettle intact to build on long-standing vitality as the congregation and board craft new directions to meet the truth and requirements of new times.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine

From the Board

An energised Board met on Thursday evening August 28th. It was an opportunity to see where we all are just before the beginning of a new Church Year and to look ahead to see what that Year might bring.

A number of initiatives from the 2007-2008 year are still underway and need to be brought to completion. All are ongoing and do not necessarily fit neatly in to the Church Calendar. You may recall that a possible change to Article VI of the Bylaws is being considered, which would change the Annual Congregational Meeting from February to June. This was discussed by a previous Board in 2002 but no action was taken. I shall be canvassing members of that Board and other Church members to find out if there is any support for the idea at this time. I shall also be bringing some recommendations to the Board in regard to possible changes in our procedures in light of current Privacy Legislation.

Several committees are about to get in to their strides, including the new Social Action Committee, to be chaired by Bonnie, the Committee on Ministry, whose members are Pat Haynes as Chair, John Upcott and Jane Innerd, and the Lay Chaplaincy Committee, which I will Chair and which will include Rev. Christine and Evelyn and at least one other member.

One issue that did come up for discussion concerned the Lay Chaplaincies at the Windsor Region and at London. London is presently without a settled Minister and the Windsor Region is still an emerging congregation. Rev. Christine indicated that she was willing to act in a pastoral capacity to each of them, but no more than that. The Board supported her decision.

Rev. Christine, as a CUC Board member, will be attending their Retreat from September 17th to 20th. She commented on the recent resignation of Mary Bennett as Executive Director of the CUC, effective September 17th. The CUC is about to move in a different strategic direction and requires a person with a different skill set as Executive Director. Rev. Christine paid tribute to Mary's work over the past eight years, covering the period immediately before and after the separation from the UUA.

Trustee Reports were received. Joyse is moving ahead with plans for Religious Education for the year. There will be a new curriculum for the 8-10 year olds. Her Committee will meet after church on September 7th and will host a Lunch and Learn session at the Church on September 13th. You should mark your calendars. Stuart reported on the work done on the exterior of the Church over the summer, including the re-surfacing of the ramp, a task which is not yet quite complete due to the need for several coats of the material to be applied. He was ably helped by John Upcott in the preparatory work. There has been a delay in some minor electrical work, but that will occur quite soon. There was discussion about the paint work on the Church exterior and there will more information about that quite soon. Bill reported that Sunday Services are set until the end of the year. The efficiency and effectiveness of that Committee is quite remarkable. The Treasurer delivered her Report in her usual inimitable style. Helen indicated that we are doing quite well financially. Bobbye gave an oral Finance Report which led to an extensive discussion on the uses of the Auction money. The key issues are whether and when we should install new windows in the sanctuary, and, subsequently, a new furnace (or furnaces) and air conditioning. We may also need to consider insulating the walls. We all love the present sanctuary and we need to consider how to preserve it for another 127 years. Stuart has undertaken to get some preliminary quotations so that we will have some idea as to how much everything will cost.

The Board also decided to look in to the possibility of buying or leasing a new copying machine. It is getting increasingly difficult to get parts for our current model and it is probably time to bite the bullet on this one.

ACTIVITIES

RE Lunch and Learn

September 13, 2008
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For all parents, teachers, assistants and others interested in Religious Education. You are urged to attend our annual Lunch and Learn session on Sept 13th from 10 am to 1pm. This is to familiarise you with our new curriculum and policies. Please attend as this is an important part of our UU Community!

MEETINGS

RE Committee Meeting

Sept 7, 2008
After service

Board Meeting

Sept 18, 2008
7 p.m.

Caring Committee Report

Here it is September - where has our summer gone?

I hope all had a good summer health wise and are looking forward to another church year.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Dan, Toni, Lisa and Douglas Janik on the passing of a much loved father and grandfather Jerry Janik. Greetings and Best of Health Wishes to Harriette and Walter Sinclair. I hear you both have been very busy "farming". Good Health wishes to Joan Meuser who is back home and doing nicely. Congratulations to Kimberely Lyons on her recent August marriage. Many thanks to the Whittle- Campbell family for hosting a lovely August church get together at their "Indian Ridge Farm". It was most enjoyable and relaxing.

I would like to thank all who visited or sent cards to those of our congregation who were shut-in or ill or celebrating a special time in their lives - it is much appreciated.

A big " Hello" to Jean Upcott Wallis in London , Cathie Thompson, Alberta.

If I have missed anyone or if there is some news you would like included in the Caring Committee report please let me know.

Our Caring Committee contacts are Rev. Christine Hillman (519- 733 - 3905) June Blacker (519 - 735 -5154) Eunice Goyette (519 - 967 - 7627) and Carabel Ringrose (519 - 733 - 5207).

Carabel

" If you tickle the earth with a hoe she laughs with a harvest" Douglas William Jerrold

Board Report cont'd...

The Board discussed the shootings at the UU Knoxville Church in late July. We have sent messages of condolences to both churches and would like to follow up by contributing to the Relief Funds that have been established. To that end we will be asking the congregation to make contributions to the Funds throughout the month of September. I will have more to say about this during the September 7th Service.

The last item on the Agenda was a discussion of what kind of new initiatives we might undertake during the coming Year. We might be overly ambitious but we decided on three. They will probably occur in this order. First, the Board will engage in an extended discussion of Peter Steinke's book Healthy Congregations: a Systems Approach. The systems approach asks us to consider the life of a church (in our case) as a whole and not just a set of pieces. I anticipate numerous benefits to the Board and, therefore, the Church by undertaking this work. Secondly, we will begin the process of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. I believe we are one of only two UU Churches in Canada which have not engaged in this process. We will use Art Brewer's visit in October to kick-start the work. The entire congregation needs to be involved in this activity, not just the Board. Thirdly, the Board will continue with and complete the Visioning Process. It might seem that we should do this first, and in fact we may do so. However, we need a facilitator to assist us work through the process and we had intended that facilitator to be Linda Thomson. However, Linda is now filling Mary Bennett's shoes on a temporary basis, and is unlikely to be available. We do have some leads to other people who could help us and if we can identify some one soon we will proceed forthwith, as the lawyers say.

Surprisingly, perhaps, we were done by 8:45 and scooted off home to watch whatever it was that was going on in Denver.

See you in Church,

Wilf Innerd.

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

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