



# 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 December 2008

<b>Dec 7</b>	<b>Our Six Sources: Part 2</b> Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis
<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Family Holiday Service</b> R.E. Committee	Music: Toni Janik
<b>Dec 21</b>	<b>When Darkness Turns to Light: 2 Births</b> Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Lorie Lyons
<b>Dec 24</b> <b>5 P.M.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Service</b> Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis
<b>Dec 28</b>	<b>Gifts</b> Helen Moore	Music: Carabel Ringrose



**Dec 14**  
**Turkey and Potluck**  
**After Service and Meeting**

**Enjoy the season's spirit and bring something  
to share!!!!**



## From the Hillparson

They all laughed when Abramsky's father pointed out that the ornaments were stamped "Made in India." But the laughter subsided when they saw that the rabbi was quietly crying. Concerned, Abramsky's father asked the rabbi if he was offended because he'd been given a gift for a Christian holiday. He smiled, shook his head and said, "Nyet. I was shedding tears of joy to be in a wonderful country in which a Buddhist gives a Jew a

For most of us our attentions will be drawn to the Christmas part of December's holiday season. If not by choice, at any rate by the music playing in most any store or elevator we enter! Others of us will focus more on the Winter Solstice and the turning of the season to official winter – though unofficially it's clearly here. The Earth will have tilted to its full 23 degrees so that on the day of the Solstice we will experience the shortest number of hours of daylight. It is a day that calls our attention to the power of the universe and the earth that is our particular neighbourhood. The *Reader's Digest* story, a magazine I was practically weaned from the bottle to! Is a lovely and poignant expression of the increasing smallness of our earth's neighbourhood. Indeed, a "Buddhist gives a Jew a Christmas gift made by a Hindu". May we remember all these interdependent seasons and meanings, peoples and each of their own holidays, if not at this time of year, as each of us celebrates as we are accustomed. There are tears of joy in such truth.

See you soon AND next year!

*In faith and all the blessings of the season,*

*Rev. Christine*



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## Caring Committee Report

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A jolly ho,ho,ho, Christmas "Hello" to all.

Warm "Thinking of You" thoughts to June Gilbertson and to Harriette Sinclair. It is good to know Allan McCallum is recovering nicely. To all who cannot be with us each Sunday we miss you and do hope all is well with you.

A "Cheery" Hello to Jean Upcott Wallis, London and to Cathie Thompson , Calgary.

If you have a joy or concern for the Caring Committee please let any one of our contacts know. Caring Committee contacts are Rev. Christine Hillman ,June Blacker ,Eunice Goyette and Carabel Ringrose .

May Love and Joy fill your hearts and home this Christmas.

Carabel

"Close the door of hate and open the door of Love all over the world."

R.L. Stevenson

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## From the Board

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The Board had a long meeting on November 20 and what follows is only a sketch of what happened. Reports were received and discussed and a number of decisions were made. In addition, some activities and initiatives with long term implications for the Church were set in train.

The most important short term decision was in regard to the proposed Operating Fund Budget for 2009. The Board approved the Budget and it will now be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Budget Meeting on December 14 immediately after the morning service. That is the day of the Family Holiday Service and the Pot Luck, so it will be a very busy Sunday.

Arrangements for the Holiday Service are well under way in the very competent hands of Joyse, Sheron and Rev Christine. Joyse reported that the division of our Sunday School in to programs for younger and older children is going very well.

The Board voted to begin the Welcoming Church process. A small Task Force is being formed to explore the nature of the process and what it entails. This is a congregational endeavour and the Board will be looking for two non-Board members to join the Task Force. The Board wishes to avoid giving the impression that becoming a Welcoming Church is a top-down, Board-mandated project. It has to be a communal activity which will take place over the course of several months. There will be more information coming once the Task Force is formed and begins its work,

Stuart gave a detailed presentation on his research into the replacement of windows in the Church. He indicated that there are two components to be considered: the windows in the Sanctuary, and all the others. Board members expressed their support for the work already accomplished and gave enthusiastic support to his continuing efforts.

Bonnie reported on the progress of the newly formed Social Responsibility Committee. The Committee has determined its Terms of Reference and is now proceeding to settle on a list of tasks it wishes to undertake. General approval was voiced on this initiative.

It was agreed that the Board would resume its work on the Visioning Process and would devote time to this important work during the January Board Meeting and plan how to continue and complete it.

Phil Strapp, the Financial Administrator of the CUC, sent an e-mail to all Board Presidents containing material on Risk Management for Congregations. This fits in with our consideration of a Privacy Policy for the Church. I will present a Report to the Board in January on these related issues,

It remains for me to wish you all a Happy and safe Holiday.

See you in Church. Wilf

## ACTIVITIES

Turkey and Pot Luck  
Dinner  
December 14  
After Budget  
Meeting  
Following Service

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## MEETINGS

### Social Responsibility

December 7, 2008  
7 pm

### Board Meeting

December 18, 2008  
7 p.m.

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## Sunday Services Committee

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*We welcomed guest speakers at two services in November: Rev. Doug Gallager and Rev. Celia Thurston from the Birmingham Unitarian Church speaking on "It's Our Religion" on Nov. 16, and Dr. Joe Leach, talking about "Invaders of the Great Lakes" on Nov. 30. Thanks to Gypsy Carroll and Pat Haynes for acting as service leaders on the two Sundays!*

*There are five services in December, and our minister Rev. Christine Hillman leads them all except for the final one, on December 28, when Helen Moore will give a service entitled simply "Gifts." The family service on December 14, with impromptu participation by many in the congregation who probably didn't even know that they were part of the Olinda players, will be followed by a congregational meeting to preview the budget for 2009 and a turkey and potluck dinner. The Christmas eve service begins at 5 p.m. and will focus on seasonal music. Rev. Hillman's other services during the month are the second in her series on Our Six Sources on Dec. 7, and the sermon "When Darkness Turns to Light: 2 Births" on Dec. 21.*

*Bill Baylis*

*Sunday Services Trustee*

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### News from the Finance Trustee:

The December Finance Schedule actually starts on Nov. 30, when the 2009 Budget will be available for everyone to look over. The Budget Meeting will be Dec. 14, right after the Family Service and just before the Christmas Potluck. Hopefully the wonderful smells wafting up from the basement will allow for an efficient decision-making process.

Pledge Cards are also due at that time. Which reminds me: all donations to the church that are submitted by the Dec. 28 service will be eligible for a 2008 tax deduction.

Lastly, due also on Dec. 14 are Teen Gifts. We all remember how much easier it is to find cute things for the younger ones, but teenagers are often left out. If we can be more imaginative than most folks, some teenagers will be that much happier! Speaking of gifts, two Families will be very happy this Christmas due to your kind donations to the Children's Aid family programme.

I can't wait to see what the Elves bought. Many thanks to them and to all of you for your generous donations.

Bobbye