



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 February 2009

Feb 1	Dust to Dust Bill Baylis	Music: Carabel Ringrose
Feb 8	To Live in Blessed Unrest Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Lorie Lyons
Feb 15	OOUr Loose-Leaf Bible Rev. Christine Hillman	Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis
Feb 22	Olinda, a Forgotten Community Chris Carter	Music: Toni Janik

Finance Trustee Report

Our congregation has come through in 2008 with as close to a balanced budget as we have come in several years. Congratulations to all and many thanks for your support of our voice for liberal religion in this corner of Southwest Ontario. Hopefully we will continue to grow and prosper.

Speaking of matters financial, we now have \$12,000 in the bank for use in improving the infrastructure in the church. Even as a political statement, perhaps the time is coming that we should spend some of that money. Many projects have been suggested, including a furnace, air conditioning, windows, etc., and we need to have a meeting in the weeks after our Annual Meeting to discuss how best to improve our building. This meeting of the Finance Committee and the Property Committee will be open to anyone who wants to have input into this important decision. Please let the Finance Trustee or the Property Trustee know if you are interested.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee



**Annual General
Meeting**

**February 15
After church**



From the Hillparson

So, what does it mean to be a member of a religious congregation? Covenantal relationship, being deeply, officially a part of the beloved community, being able to join in the leadership to guide the future of the congregation. Membership means being able to shape that future in congregational meetings, as well. Never doubt the power of a vote. The year is new yet, not dewy as some new things, since all the dew available is frozen pretty solid. Yet new and hopeful and looking for each one's dedication. Prayerfully and respectfully, I invite non-members to consider membership and members to "step up to the plate" (It may be mid winter but baseball will start in Florida very soon.)

In the midst of a developing recession, some of our members are, or will be, facing financial challenges. If you are concerned about your personal situation, or about that of loved ones or friends please make contact with the minister. Besides a listening ear the minister has a Discretionary Fund for financial assistance.

This money comes almost exclusively from the blue Birthday Bank, and when I have outside weddings (none in 2008, none yet scheduled for 2009), I have used that money to supplement. If you are not among those facing financial challenges I invite you to stuff paper more than coins into that bank to give the minister a fighting chance at assisting both members and non-members alike in this difficult year. May we be one with each other, giving as we can, feeling held and respected when we can not. This is also what it means to be a member of a religious congregation.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine



Caring Committee Report

A warm February "Hello" to everyone.

We send Warm and Caring Thinking of you Thoughts to Walter and Harriette Sinclair, Albertina Bell, Ruth Whaley and Arn Thompson also to Gypsey Carroll.

A big "Hello" to our Texas snowbirds Carol and Laurie and Romell and James.

We send Greetings to Cathy Thompson , Alberta and Jean Upcott Wallis in London.

If you have any news or needs for the Caring Committee please let our contacts know. Our contacts are - Rev. Christine Hillman, June Blacker, Eunice Goyette ,and Carabel Ringrose.

Happy Valentines Day to All
Carabel

"At the touch of Love, everyone becomes a poet."
Plato

From the Board

It was not a typical Agenda at the January 22 Board Meeting, although we did carry out our normal Board functions as the evening progressed. What was different is that we re-started the Visioning Process with a discussion of Peter Steinke's book Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach. The workshop format we adopted enabled every member of the Board to contribute to a lively debate. We discussed the concept of loops, which may be open or closed, and did a couple of exercises which explored examples of loops in our congregation. Out of the discussion which followed the exercises, we decided that one of the issues we need to address more directly is that of Transparency. The Board operates in some ways as a closed loop, which loops, by definition, are not transparent. Although the Board meetings are open to any member of the congregation, very few ever attend, so that is why I can say that the board is only "in some ways", a closed loop. However it behoves the Board to go beyond that technical detail and reach out, break out, if you like, from its semi-closed loop. Therefore we are taking two actions, with more to come in all likelihood. First we will publish the Minutes of each Board Meeting on the Bulletin Board after they have been approved. This means that they will always be a month behind. The president, whoever he or she may be, will continue to report in the From the Board columns, which are written immediately after each Meeting, so members of the congregation will be kept up-to-date as to what the Board is doing. Then they will have the full Minutes available to them in due course. Both Helen and I think that this is a custom that used to be the case, but that it lapsed some time ago. The second action is to institute, on an occasional basis, after church Town Hall Meetings, or Open Mike Meetings, as Bonnie likes to call them, in which any congregant who wishes to can quiz the Board about its activities, deliberations and decisions. The first of these will take place on March 8, I believe, and will have as its focus our Finances. There will be more detail about this event in the coming weeks.

After the workshop portion of the evening we proceeded to our regular business activities. Bonnie reported on development of the blog. We discussed the AGM and the preliminary Report of the Nominating Committee. We are still in need of a Trustee for Lifespan Religious Education, as Joyse has completed her term of office. I know that the Nominating Committee has worked very hard on this and contacted many people, so far. If you have any interest at all in this very important role in our religious community, please contact any member of the Committee, Toni Janik, Mireya Campbell, and Mariette Preyde, or myself. Bonnie gave a detailed report on the fast-developing Social Responsibility Committee and Christine brought us up-to-date on her activities.

Trustee Reports were received and acted upon. The highlight of the Reports, and probably of the evening, was that of the Treasurer, when Helen announced that the deficit for the 2008 Church Year, projected in the Budget to be \$13,181, was in fact **\$290**. That is not a misprint. The deficit was **\$290**. The entire congregation deserves hearty congratulations for this wonderful result!!!

It was a long evening which required us to postpone until our next meeting work on operationalizing the Mission Statement, but we will get to it. We got the first notice about CUUL School in July. If you don't know what that is, ask me. In any event there will be much more information about it in the coming months.

A Motion of Thanks and Appreciation for all her hard work and enthusiasm to Joyse Gilbert, on her retirement from her position as Trustee for Lifelong Religious Education, was passed unanimously. She will be greatly missed at Board Meetings.

See you in Church.

Wilf.

Activities And Meetings

**Feb 1—noon
Social Responsibility Committee**

**Feb 15—after church
Annual General Meeting**

**Feb 19th—7 p.m.
Board Meeting**

Sunday Services Committee

Cold and snowy weather in January forced the cancellation of at least one service and was responsible for rather low attendance at another. The month began well enough, with Reverend Christine Hillman leading the annual reflection on life's milestones, but snow claimed Reverend Hillman's talk on the last two of "OUUr Six Sources". We hope she will be able to resurrect this talk later in the season in order to conclude this interesting series. Those of us who braved the bad weather on January 18 enjoyed the sermon "Love Makes Room" and reflections on the hope and joyous anticipation surrounding the historical inauguration of Barack Obama in Washington, D.C. On January 20. Weather predictions look better for the celebration on January 25 of the 250th birthday of Scotland's famous and much-loved bard Robert Burns, led by Sheron Campbell and with contributions from Andy and Margaret Connelly and Ann Seigel-Robertson.

February services begin on Feb. 1 with a phrase "Dust to Dust" from Genesis that may have a more factual basis than the authors could have imagined. The dust that coalesced to form Earth came from stars, and as I will illustrate, the continuing role of dust here exemplifies the interconnected web of life. Reverend Hillman returns to the pulpit on Feb. 8 and 15 with sermons "To Live in Blessed Unrest" and "OUUr Loose-Leaf Bible", and on Feb. 22, author and historian Chris Carter will tell us about the community that Olinda once was.

Bill Baylis
Sunday Services Trustee

UU News



Zoya Craig

The UU-UNO is looking for a few new members for their Board of Directors! To members of Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

We are seeking energetic and dedicated UUs as candidates for our UU-UNO Board of Directors. Nominations will be elected at the UU-UNO Annual Membership Meeting during our Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar (16-18 April, 2009) in New York City.

We welcome persons committed to our UU principles, enthusiastic about the United Nations and our global community, and with expertise in a variety of areas, especially program planning, finance, and fundraising. We seek persons willing to promote the UU-UNO locally in their home districts by speaking to groups and congregations about the UN and the UU-UNO, to support the programs in New York, and to carry on the work of the Board in decision making for the UU-UN office. We ask Board Members to attend four meetings a year, serve on at least one committee, contribute financially to the organization, and recommend others who might be willing to serve.

We hold two Board Meetings in New York and two elsewhere. In early September we meet on the Saturday following the annual United Nations Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations (DPI/NGO) Conference, and in April we meet on the Saturday following our annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar. Our January meeting, mid-month Friday evening to Sunday noon, is held in a mutually-chosen city and hosted by a lively UU congregation. Our fourth meeting is scheduled during UUA General Assembly in June, which for 2009 will be Salt Lake City, UT. Though we come together to do very important work, we also make sure to include time for socializing, celebrating, building friendships, and deepening our spirituality.

Resumes/letter of application should be emailed by February 15, 2009 to Mary Overton, Nominating Committee Chair at MOver100@aol.com