



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 January 2009

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| Jan 4 | The Wheel of Life
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Jan 11 | OOUr Six Sources: Part 3
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Jan 18 | Love Makes Room
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Bill and Bobbye Baylis |
| Jan 25 | Remembering Robert Burns
Sheron Campbell | Music: Toni Janik |



Activities and Meetings

Jan. 4	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Committee
Jan. 4	12 noon	Social Responsibility Committee
Jan. 22	7 PM	Board Meeting

Kindness is like snow; it beautifies everything it covers."
Samuel Taylor Coleridge



From the Hillparson

My sister in Indiana has lost hydro due to the storms, has been a week now and still not for a couple of days. I wrote to her:

Put up a manger and strew some straw and such around and remember the family in Jerusalem with NO place to stay. Remember the people across the world these days who have NO place to stay, to eat, to be safe. This powerless holiday has within it the energy to power up your connections with millions across the globe. I'm right now watching the film on the current status of Darfur and think daily of the folks suffering in Zimbabwe. As I reported Blythe's paycheck situation in her new job, the poor are always taken advantage of for the benefit of others already in the lap of wealth, basking in gifts and food every holiday. [And it is as true in the new year as it was in the last one just ended.] To be a little lighter, [I then sent my sisters] something from the sermon I wrote for Dec. 21 that no one got to hear because of our own weather problems....

"Now I think this story of that waiting could be realized more densely with the electricity that comes with real waiting. Not to focus on the birth of the child but if we focused on the last month of Mary's pregnancy, a whole lot of us could get real and familiar with the pain and frustration of waiting. Can't sit or stand or lie down for long or in one place. Can't go anywhere without knowing there is a bathroom not more than thirty seconds away. The waiting woman says, 'My doctor said I'm due such and such a date and if s/he is not born ON that day or BEFORE I will be mad and I mean mad with capital 'H' hormones.' It is in this last bit that we get to the real heart of how intense the waiting must have been for Mary's waiting for her baby to come: Mary's or any other mama's baby – for everyone around her.

Let's go briefly back in time and imagine Joseph leading the donkey Mary's riding on. The farther they are from home (Bethlehem, Nazareth – here again, take your choice) the closer Mary is to term the more uncomfortable she is and you KNOW there's no bathroom even thirty minutes from where they are, let alone thirty seconds. (Everybody had to go to Jerusalem to register why weren't there any porta potties) You know that donkey's back is getting bonier by the day and you know Joseph and Mary are both getting tired and cranky. Joseph almost nods off putting one foot in front of the other and the donkey ends up putting one foot in a pothole. 'Joseph, what are you doing up there? Pay attention to where you're going, my back and my backside are killing me to no end and don't you know I just said that to you not fifteen minutes ago. If you go and make this baby come out here on the road, I will just have to kill you right here and now, just you wait.'

Joseph, equally cranky, besides being tired of the donkey's attempts to bite him in the backside so Joseph will stop and the donkey can stop – and, of course, never start up again, Joseph mumbles under his breath, but not low enough: 'To the moon, Mary, to the moon!' And if her name was Alice and his was Ralph Cramden you know where it would go from there. In the end Mary would win, as she surely should, carrying that baby around for almost nine months and here she is traipsing all over Palestine on a donkey and Joseph didn't even have the sense to make a hotel reservation on line before they left the house. Mary remembers this as she hears his mumble and yells again: 'Might as well have the baby by the side of the road, at least it would be better than getting stuck pushing this baby out in some stable somewhere. You know that's what's going to happen!'" "

Mary and Joseph were Jewish, their son was Jewish, as were the other children they may have had, depending upon the gospel of your own choosing, that all of them were born Jewish and died Jewish and all the people of the Jewish faith did not see that Jesus was the Christ – Christos, Greek for Messiah, the Hebrew term for redeemer. That religious community who inscribed the term Messiah in the Torah is still waiting. Maybe the Messiah will come as the big gift at the end of this year's eight days of Chanukah although I don't advise us to hold our breath. The Jewish community does not; some Jews will may be praying for the Messiah but all will be rowing for shore.

If you're waiting for a leader, look in the mirror and then jump into the first boat you find and row to the shore, knowing you may not find it in your lifetime, but also knowing you'll leave the boat to your descendants worn and well rowed. There will always be waiting going on but our faith teaches to look for the waiting that is arced toward something concrete and achievable and human, not waiting for something enigmatic and, for many of us, largely unbelievable and too often inhumane. The leader is all of us and the sun shines inside each of us even if it doesn't shine outside! Happy Chanukah, Blessed Solstice, Merry Christmas, and the new year. Since I'm getting older I'm beginning to learn that waiting, and the passage of time itself, are a lot faster than they used to be. So—as not to miss it -- , Happy 2010!

In faith and all the blessings of the season,

Rev. Christine

From the Board

I am writing this in St. Louis. Jane and I drove here on Saturday, December 20th because our second grandson decided to arrive at 5:00 a.m. Both he and Jane Eleanor are doing very well.

The Board Meeting on Thursday December 18 was as busy as usual. Probably the most important piece of business we transacted was to decide on the date for the Annual General Meeting. It will be after the service on Sunday, February 15, 2009. So all those who have reports to submit should be writing them now in order to get them to Pat as soon as possible for the Annual Report.

It was also decided that we should maintain the current web-site for at least one more year. Toni had e-mailed me her thoughts on the matter, and Bonnie agreed with her views. The blog is not quite ready as yet but a link has been established between the two sites. Many people and organizations know the address of the current site, so that will remain the normal entry point for some time.

Reports were received and approved. Bonnie told us about the new Committee on Social Responsibility which reported officially for the first time. This Committee has taken up its duties with a lot of energy and commitment. It has organized itself developed terms of reference, and is now deciding which tasks it should undertake, locally, nationally and internationally. All committee members are to be congratulated on their efforts.

Joyse, Sheron and Rev, Christine were congratulated on the success of the Family Service, which included a visit from Santa. Joyse indicated that there will be a new curriculum for the younger children in the new year. Pat reported that the Committee on Ministry is close to finalizing its Terms of Reference. Treasurer Helen reported on our financial Health and Bill indicated that Sunday Services are set well in to 2009.

I indicated that I was continuing my reading of the Risk Management materials. So far we seem to come out pretty well. The only major issue that we might need to address is the absence of a sprinkler system.

We finished just after 9:00 and headed home before the storm hit.

I trust that 2009 will be happy and prosperous for us all.

Wilf.



Caring Committee

Well here we are January 2009. My how the time does flies!!

We send Get Well and Thinking of You Wishes to Gypsy Carroll as she recuperates from thyroid surgery and soon will start cancer treatments. We also send Get Well and Thinking of you Wishes to Allan McCallum as he recuperates from surgery. Hello Greetings to Harriette and Walter Sinclair also Ruth Whaley and Albertina Bell.

Congratulations to Jane Eleanor (Innerd) and her husband Sebastian on the safe arrival of Aleksander Eduard Muir Rueckert on Saturday Nov.20 a new little brother for Ahren. Congratulations to the proud grandparents Jane and Wilf Innerd.

We send a big "Hello" to Cathy Thompson- Alberta , Jean Upcott Wallis - London and James and Romell Read our Texas snowbirds. We do hope everyone is well.

If you have anything you would like the Caring Committee to know please call the following Caring Committee contacts - Rev. Christine Hillman , June Blacker, Eunice Goyette and Carabel Ringrose.

Wishing everyone a very good and healthy 2009!

Carabel

Sunday Services Committee

December brought us a holiday mix of services, including an educational and entertaining Family Service lead by Sheron Campbell and featuring the fully unrehearsed Olinda Players, followed by a turkey and potluck dinner, a snowed-out service on December 21, and—weather permitting—a Christmas Eve service full of music and a talk on Gifts by Helen Moore on December 28.

January brings three services by Reverend Christine Hillman and a 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. During the month, we will also be honouring Helen Moore's generous purchase of the new Ricoh copier for the church with a plaque.

Warm wishes for the New Year! May milder weather prevail.

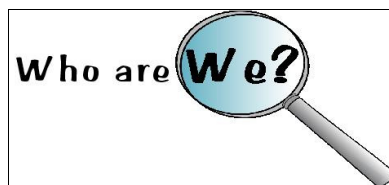
Bill Baylis

News From the CUC

Creating Balance in our Lives Friday February 6 to Sunday February 8, 2009 Cedar Glen Conference Centre

A Slow Movement is taking place around the world and the Slow philosophy can be summed up in a single word - balance. People are discovering energy and efficiency where they may have least expected it - in slowing down. It's a cultural revolution against the notion that faster is always better. Slow movements are making their way into the mainstream - in offices, factories, neighbourhoods, kitchens, hospitals, bedrooms, gyms and schools. It's a way of life that allows us to savour time - doing everything as well as possible, instead of as fast as possible. It's about quality over quantity.

For more information go to <http://www.cuc.ca/calendar.htm>



Our National Identity - Go Out! Initiative

At the 2008 ACM in Ottawa, delegates endorsed an initiative to examine the utility and feasibility of articulating and promoting a national UU identity. Look for events, create your own, tell your story!!

For more information see the taskforce website

<http://canadian-unitarian-council.pbwiki.com/Our-National-Identity>