



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 2009

Sept 13 Ingathering: Water Communion

Rev. Christine Hillman

Sept 20 Why I am not in Jail: Tribute to Aung San Suu Kyi

Rev. Christine Hillman

Sept 27 Politics in a Just Society

Joe Comartin, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh

Sunday Services: Take Part!

We return to regular Sunday services in September after successful summer services in July and August. The first summer service, on July 19, was presented by Gypsy Carroll and Pat Haynes as reviews of books on India. The second, led by Wilf Innerd on August 2, featured an inspiring talk by Arthur Hillman: "We Can be the Religion for Our Time".

Reverend Christine Hillman starts us off on September 13 with the traditional Water Communion. If you remember, bring a small jar of water to mix in a common bowl as you share some of your summer experiences with the congregation. On September 20, Rev. Hillman's sermon is about the jailed Nobel Peace-Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi. The final Sunday of the month features a talk on politics and a just society by Joe Comartin, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh, who has been named the "most knowledgeable MP in the House of Commons" for the past couple of sessions.

If you would like to participate in a Sunday service in some way, such as acting as service leader, or if you have any suggestions for speakers or topics or the way services are run, or if you would like to join the Sunday Services Committee, please speak to me or any of the current members:

Gypsy Carroll, Pat Haynes, Christine Hillman, Jane Innerd, Helen Moore, Mariette Preyde, Carabel Ringrose.

If you can contribute to the incidental music of our services, please talk to Carabel Ringrose, Chair of the Music Committee.

Bill Baylis, Sunday Services Trustee



From the Hillparson

All of the seasons of the year hold change in them, some dramatic and others hardly noticeable. In a church year such as Olinda's the season of summer often feels like it holds the most change, though my take on that is that many of us do not see one another much or at all through summer. When we begin to meet and plan and then services begin again, we learn of and see changes in quick succession. And so the summer of 2009 begins to come to a close with all its paces and changes.

One of the experiences I am having as the summer closes is the sudden onset of BEES. By the window, in the door, and always in the car. Bees that hadn't made themselves known particularly all summer seem, suddenly, to be everywhere; that is everywhere I go Kingsville, Ruthven, Leamington. While I know how critically important bees are to plant life and their own creation of honey, I don't particularly like them. Twice in my life (and yes, I could wear shoes) I've been stung on the bottom of my foot. It's been more than twenty five years since the last occurrence but my memory of bee stings is long! I'm glad I don't experience an anaphylactic reaction to bee stings but that doesn't make me much less nervous around bees, whether I am barefoot or shoefoot. Wherever they sting they hurt. The other thing I know about bees, first taught (with moderate success) by my parents is that getting all wound up about the presence of a bee will only agitate the poor thing whose only looking to go to the hive or to a bright flower full of nectar and make it more likely I get stung. So I breathe my Buddhist breath and just look for something to wave behind the bee toward the closest open window. When the bee is gone I can continue to breathe calmly, or now the risk of agitation and sting are gone, I can squeal and fling my arms around. I tend to do a little of both

There are bees in church life, in every church's life, and these church bees can be forces for positive change or they can be, as church members agitate and react, are sometimes forces for reaction and retraction that leaves the church and its congregation in a mess of bad feelings and broken relationships. So this year, as we have been, may we continue to look for honey, sweet new changes and lettings go, calling on the breath of our values and our love of one another and all.

Welcome to Olinda 2009-2010. Remember to bring a bit of the water you gathered from a place and event of meaning this summer for our September 13 Ingathering service. I'll see you there!

Olinda Choir

Join the Olinda Choir!

One fun way to participate in services on occasion is to join the Olinda Choir. We need singers of all voice ranges, as well as a pianist to accompany us. Of course it's nice if you can read music, but it is not required (except for the pianist!). We plan to spend a bit of each rehearsal on basic music theory, tricky rhythms, and pitch intervals, so you can learn as we go along. In addition to singing for an occasional church service in Olinda, we would like to join the combined choir of South-East Michigan (and South-West Ontario) for a performance in February or March 2010. Those of us who sang in the last two combined-choir concerts had a great time and found it an exciting and moving experience. We like to gather for practice after church services whenever event scheduling allows, and as the combined-choir concert approaches we will try to find additional time for rehearsals.

Bill Baylis

From the Board

The Board held its Summer Board meeting on August 2nd following the second Summer Service a feature of which was an excellent talk by Arthur Hillman. The meeting was well attended with only Bonnie and Joyse being unable to attend. We trust that they are now both well recovered from their ailments.

The first decision we made was to complete the Visioning Process, which began with the development of the Mission Statement. It was agreed that we should ask Linda Thomson to help us facilitate the process. I contacted her and she has readily agreed to work with us. At the time of writing we have a tentative date of Saturday October 31 for a Board Workshop. However, most of the details are yet to be worked out. Stay tuned for further information.

The second decision was to develop a protocol for the handling of e-mails and phone messages during the summer months, especially July. The current procedure needs improvement.

Our third decision was to purchase a "Standing on the Side of Love" banner. This is an initiative of the UUA and it is one that the Board heartily endorses. The banner will be displayed on the outside of the Church. It is hoped that this will get us attention in the community and enquiries as to what the message means.

There were only a few reports. Helen presented the budget and indicated that we are reasonably healthy from a financial point of view. Bill is confident that Sunday Services are well in hand with only a few adjustments that need to be made. Stuart reported that he is still seeking an expert to examine the Church structure. Concerns have been expressed about gas leaks from the range in the kitchen. He will look in to the options for dealing with the problem, including the possibility of purchasing a new range. In the meantime he turned off the gas leading to the range.

The only other important item was a decision to begin Board meetings at 7:30 for the next Church Year on a trial basis. At least four board members indicated that this is a better start time for them.

See you in Church,

Wilf

Social Responsibility Committee

Social Responsibility Committee: consists of Mariette Preyde, Trudy Ware, Bill Baylis, Zachary Showers, Stuart Miller, Karen Miller, Gord Taylor, Sue Markham, Bobbye Baylis (secretary), Rev. Christine Hillman (ex officio), Wilf Innerd (ex officio) and Bonnie Showers-Malanoski (chair.)

Activities & Meetings

Financial Trustee Report

There has been a lot of interest in the financial affairs of the church, and it is important that we make these decisions with as much input as possible. During the second financial meeting in May, I said I would publish the fall financial meeting schedule in order after church

Open meeting to discuss items needing to be in the budget and the process for arriving at the amount to be budgeted for that item. Anyone wanting to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member.

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| Early Oct. | | Committee on Ministry meeting to determine a suggested salary |
| 18 Oct. | | All budget details must have been submitted to the trustee (or the treasurer) who will prepare the budget:
Suggested ministerial salary (part of Cost of Ministry)
Committee Chairs' budget requests |
| 8 Nov. | after church | Meeting of Finance Committee to approve Budget and Letter of Agreement. Also Letters of Appeal will be distributed. |
| 12 Nov. 7:30 | | Board Meeting at which Budget and Letter of Agreement will be presented. Note that this would be the second Thursday in November instead of the usual third Thursday. This is to give the Finance Trustee time to incorporate any requested changes and prepare copies of the Budget for the congregation. |
| 22 Nov. | at church | Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation. |
| 6 Dec. | after church | Budget meeting. (Note that the Christmas potluck is scheduled for the following Sunday, Dec. 13.) |

Please let me know if you see any obvious conflicts in this schedule. Also I encourage anyone interested in finances to consider joining the Finance Committee. This might allow those who have served for years the opportunity to move to a different committee! Anyone interested can attend. What follows is a first draft of such a schedule; as conflicts arise, this schedule may well change.

Bobbye Baylis
Trustee for Finance

Caring Committee Report

A big "September" Hello to everyone. I do hope you all had a good summer.

We send " Sympathy " and " Thinking of You" thoughts to Michael , Megan, Helen and Mary Gilbertson on the loss of their beloved " June". who passed away this past August. June was a past moderator of our church and she and Mike were very active members while here.

A big "Hello" to our friends who are unable to be with us each Sunday - we hold you close in our thoughts.

A special " Hello" to our dear friends Cathy Thompson - Alberta, Jean Upcott Wallis, London also Ruth Whaley and Albertina Bell..Hope you are all well. If you have a joy or concern you wish to share or would like the Caring Committee to know please contact the Rev. Christine Hillman , June Blacker , Eunice Goyette and Carabel Ringrose . Have a good September
Carabel

" Take rest, a field that has rested gives a beautiful crop."
Ovid