



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 2009

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|----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Dec. 6 | Psalms, Proverbs, Facebook, and Twitter
Rev. Christine Hillman
Congregational Budget Meeting after service | Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis |
| Dec. 13 | Holiday Spirit in Music and Readings
Rev. Christine Hillman
Turkey Potluck Dinner after service | Music: Toni Janik |
| Dec. 20 | "Believing in Big Mysteries"
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service (starting at 5 pm)
Rev. Christine Hillman | Music: Bobbye and Bill Baylis |
| Dec. 27 | Music, Time and Transition
Bill Baylis | Music: Carabel Ringrose |

Dec 13, After Service Turkey Potluck



Join in the fun, bring a dish to share!!

ANNOUNCEMENT

New or Newish at Olinda and looking to learn more? Thinking of joining the church and want to know how?

Join the minister Sunday, December 21, after refreshments for conversation, Q&A.....

Great granddaughter of John and Evelyn Dresser, Granddaughter of Trudy Ware and Daughter of Dean Ware and Pamela Cole, Allison Ware's oil painting of a swallow tail butterfly won one of the categories in a national Robert Bateman Get to Know Contest. Her butterfly painting will be in 2010 TDBanks' get to know calendar. She spent Sunday, November 22, at the TDB in Leamington, signing calendar's.

We have a budding young artist in our midst! I understand she is a real budding swimmer also.



From the Hillparson

Top Ten Reasons to Celebrate the December Holidays

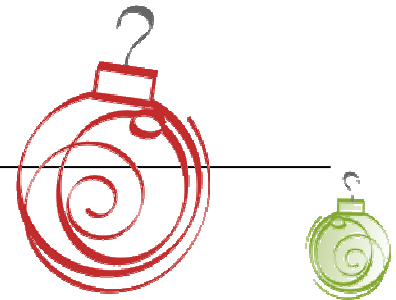
10. Calories eaten in December do not count!
9. It's the only time of the year when wearing red and green together is not looked at askance.
8. Giving gifts becomes an almost daily affair, gifts to loved ones as well as gifts to those whose finances are suffering. Means many smiles.
7. Unlike finding yourself singing "Jingle Bells in June", in December you can sing it all day long and even out loud without embarrassment.
6. We find ourselves reminded that "Every night a child is born is a holy night". (Sophia Lyon Fahs)
5. If you're young you might actually stay up to see the new year arrive.
4. If you're old you might actually stay up to see the new year arrive.
3. You have the opportunity to go to church at night and sing the darkness into light.
2. For the eight days of Chanukah you can be reminded of what is so often required of us to believe in freedom and strive for it.
1. _____

Only you can know the reason you want to see here!

It was always a special birthday when one of our children turned "double digits", i.e. 10 years old. My granddaughter will do that in February. We in the west will do that at midnight of December 31st as this century turns double digits. Much has happened in the world and in each of our lives during just the first decade of this century. May we wish for its second decade more peace, increased loved and many blessings for all.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine



Caring Committee

A lovely December "Hello" to one and all. I do hope you have been well since last newsletter.

Sincerest Sympathy thoughts are sent to Dan Thompson on the passing of his mother Cathy Thompson at the age of 97 years. Cathy is the widow of the late Rev. Leonard Thompson minister emeritus of the UU Church of Olinda. Thinking of you thoughts to Sylvia Dotzerts. We do hope Don that you are well too. A big "Hello" to Albertina Bell and Ruth Whaley also Jean Upcott Wallis in London. I do hope you all are keeping well.

If there is a need or joy you wish the Caring committee to know please contact Rev. Christine Hillman at (519-326-4352) June Blacker (519-735-5154) Eunice Goyette (519-967-7627) Carabel Ringrose (519-733-5207).

The Christmas Season is upon us and I wish for you a most Joyeous and Peaceful Christmas.

Carabel

" For everything that lives is holy, life delights in life."

William Blake

From the Board

The November Board Meeting was held on Thursday the 12th, a week earlier than usual, in order that the Board could approve the Budget, which needed to be available on Sunday the 22nd, two weeks before December 6th, the date of the Budget Meeting, as required by our By-laws. Got that? Rev. Christine was not present. She was at the UUMA Conference in Ottawa.

The Meeting began, after the usual preliminaries, with a lucid and detailed report by Doug Whaley on the status of the Lloyd Fund and also on the state of the economy and what it might mean for the Fund and the Church over the next year or so and beyond. Perhaps the most salient piece of information is that the fund has recovered a great deal of the capital lost during the economic melt-down and now stands at around \$400,000. Disbursements will remain low for a while, as dividends have not returned to previous levels, but we are entitled to feel some optimism for the future. We should probably consider including a portion of the capital gains, but not the capital, in our revenue stream when circumstances warrant. Doug stayed for a while to answer questions from Trustees and a lively debate ensued.

After Doug left Bobbye took centre stage to present the proposed Budget. This was done in masterly (mistressly?) fashion. Bobbye explained the process and the product, explained all the spread sheets and moved acceptance of the Budget. Her Motion was approved unanimously. Bobbye gave a lot of credit to the Finance Committee, both the continuing and the new members. She gave especial thanks to Helen for her able assistance. The Board thanked Bobbye for all her hard and careful work. She indicated that retirement enabled her to spend the amount of time necessary to do the job properly.

Trustee Reports were received. Joyse said that she was preparing about 50 goodie bags of traditional treats for the Family Service. (I expect mine will include a piece of coal). Any children present can help her distribute the bags. Helen reminded us all about the collection for the Children's Aid Society Christmas family. She promised to make an announcement in Church. John suggested that a meeting for new members (of which there seem to be more than a few) to introduce them to the Church and UUism would be good idea. Rev. Christine, who I believe is in favour of such an initiative, will be consulted on her return. Bonnie moved that a Fund Raising Committee be established and the Board approved the Motion. Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice has asked congregations to support their publication. Consideration was deferred until the next meeting. It was noted that the Nominating Committee needs to start its work. Committee members are Mireya Campbell, Mariette Preyde and JohnUpcott. If you are interested in being a member of the Board or a Committee member, let one of them know. If they approach you, please give serious consideration to serving the Church in any way you believe you can.

One thing that did not occur last month was the Visioning Workshop that I discussed in the last Newsletter. A combination of illness and scheduling difficulties forced its postponement until the New Year and probably the new Board. This is an important activity and it is critical that it be done properly and with a full Board complement.

See you in Church, Wilf.

Social Responsibility Committee

The Social Responsibilities Committee has so far loaned \$300 USD through KIVA: \$100 each to small enterprises in Bolivia, Togo, and Mongolia. Here is a summary of the state of the loans as of Nov. 25 made by the UU Church of Olinda Field partners were sought out who charge relatively low interest/fee rates.

Name	Purpose	Total Loan	interest	You Loaned	Paid Back	Loan Status
Willma Villca	general store stock	\$400.00	19%	\$100.00	\$8.33	Paying Back
Afi Dodovi	tailoring supplies	\$1,025.00	13%	\$100.00	\$0.00	Paying Back
Tsendsuren Otgon	grocery store stock	\$2,825.00	25%	\$100.00	\$5.00	Paying Back

Financial Trustee Report

The 2010 Budget was available to the Congregation on Sunday, Nov. 22, and everyone who did not pick up a copy then should do so before the Congregational Budget Meeting on Dec. 6, after church. Please bring your copy to that meeting so that we do not

have to print out any more copies than absolutely necessary.

During the Open Finance Meetings last spring, two issues came up. 1) The request for more transparency in the budget development process, and 2) the observation that the predicted deficits have been very different from the actual deficits at the end of the year. In response to the first issue, a formal Budget Procedure has been approved by the Board, the finance meetings this fall have been open, and new members have been actively recruited. In response to the second issue, the assumptions used in predicting income have been carefully compared to the actual income. As can be seen on the published 2010 Budget, for 2007 and 2008, the assumed income was about \$7000 less than the amount received in total offerings. About twice as much was donated per month in November and December than for the other months of the year. In the interest of increased accuracy, the total offerings in 2010 was calculated using this ratio. This resulted in a value about \$7000 higher than it would have been using the earlier assumption that the rate of giving was the same throughout the year.

Note that the total offerings have been lower by about \$3000 this year, and it is assumed that this trend may well continue into next year, given the economic climate. The Lloyd Fund transfer is also budgeted to be lower by \$3000, due to decreased pay-outs this past year from Energy Trust Funds, a situation that may not be fully resolved during 2010.

Given the tight financial situation expected to continue for at least part of the coming year, every line item on the budget was carefully scrutinized for possible reduction. For instance, the Members' Conference Expenses line was cut from \$3000 to \$1000, with the expectation that few if any members were planning to attend the CUC meeting in Vancouver next year. Since CUC will meet in Toronto next year, we hope to be able to increase this line item back to \$3000 for 2011 so anyone who would like to could go. In general, we hope very much that the financial situation faced by our church will be eased by then and that the 2009 and 2010 period will only be a temporary set-back.

When we look at the 2010 budget deficit of about \$8000, we need to realize that, what with the change in estimating income and cutting of various expenses, this number will probably be close to the deficit we will actually see at the end of 2010. The Finance Committee will be meeting next spring to discuss possible fundraising efforts, especially ones that do not involve asking for more money from the same people, as has been the case in the past. These events should also have the positive effect of spreading the word about Universalism and Unitarianism in our wider community. Anyone with any ideas about this should join us at those meetings.

Pledge cards are also due on Dec. 6. I would ask anyone who is in a financial position to do so to consider pledging an additional 20% to help us though this coming year. We are all committed to assuring that our deficits will not cause us to have to draw more from the Lloyd Fund than can be sustained. But it is also important that we continue to maintain our profile and enjoy the good fortune we have our beloved community.

Oh yes, don't forget that all donations to the church that are submitted by the Dec. 27 service will be eligible for a 2008 tax donation.

Calling on contributors! Bring your own favorite reading or musical performance to the Sunday service on December 27. The service will be informal with readings or other contributions from those assembled. The theme is "Music, Time, and Transition" and any reading or music vaguely touching on thoughts of the change in calendars, the winter solstice, reflections on the meaning of time and its importance in music, or the music itself to celebrate end-of-the-year events, or whatever, will be most welcome. Readings or music should be relatively short, not more than a few minutes each, and if you can let me know your plans before the service, I may be able to arrange them in semi-coherent fashion.

Thanks!

Bill Baylis, Sunday Services Trustee
