



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 2011

December 4	Luck is When Preparation Meets Opportunity Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis
December 11	The Courage to Be Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Carabel Ringrose
December 18	A Social Gospel for Our Time Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Toni Janik
December 24 (5:00 P.M.)	Christmas Eve Reverend Christine Hillman	Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis and Family!
December 25	No Church Service	

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 11, 2011
following the church service
for the purpose of voting on two motions.

- 1) To approve the 2012 operating budget of the church.
- 2) To approve the expenditure of a maximum of \$4,000 (four thousand) to replace the carpet runners and the carpet surrounding the pulpit in the sanctuary. The expenditures are to be paid for from the Memorial Fund.

Important Dates in December

Dec. 2,	7PM	Tree decorating and carols
Dec. 4,	Noon	Christmas Pot-luck
Dec. 7,	7 PM	Book Club, Alice Munro
Dec. 11,	after service	Congregational Budget Meeting
Dec. 14,	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Dec. 15,	7 PM	Board Meeting
Dec. 18,	Noon	Social Responsibility Meeting
Dec. 24,	5 PM	Special Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25		No Church Service

OLINDA CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER PLEASE JOIN US - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH AT NOON

Our traditional Xmas dinner will be held after our Church service. Two of our dedicated ladies will be providing the turkey. The remainder of our menu is pot luck style - so please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.

You are welcome with or without bringing a dish.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.



From the Hillparson

Olinda now has a working committee to organize and present sessions from *The Welcoming Congregation*. This text is designed, in case you do not remember, to assist a congregation in exploring, in depth, each one's and the whole congregation's, fully realized understanding to the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender) communities. Learning to shift one's understanding, as is helpful and possible. Dr. Roberta Harro, co-creator of the text's series of workshops says:

"[P]eople are most open to new insight and understanding when the program is engaged with a spirit of respect, civility, none-judgmental listening, and caring. Many people, regardless of sexual [and affectional] orientation, experience intense feelings when grappling with the substance of this program...Dr. Harro writes, further: Our intention is to create a climate of growth and learning, to have the program be a laboratory for talking openly in a setting that is respectful, forgiving, truthful, and understanding. This means helping participants feel comfortable with their own experience and knowledge levels, acknowledging their discomfort if it exists, taking time to establish trust in working groups, avoiding 'right' and 'wrong' responses to comments and questions, refraining from judging people or their views regardless of how homophobic they may be, creating and enforcing 'discussions safety guidelines' and welcoming all questions."

Probably the most important insight Dr. Harro offers is that sometimes our hearts lag behind our heads on issues. She gives examples that many of us have confronted in some way, including a white civil rights activist comes up against his own "heart lag" when his daughter announces she is marrying a man of colour. And speaks of the "heart lag" in an individual, a long time feminist, felt a gulp of unsureness when the pilot's voice for her flight was a female voice. It may be that Olinda participates in all of the sessions we, the committee (Bobbie Baylis, Bonnie Showers and Rev. Hillman) chooses as best/most significant for this congregation and we find we are open and welcoming to the max already. That would be great. Yet the GLBT community and their straight allies, from across the continent, indicate that most of us have some kind of unrecognized "heart lag" at least. Let's work on finding any of that and healing ourselves. And a reminder, such feelings on one or more of the categories addressed in the text, (GLBT) isn't just for heterosexuals any more.

Nearly every Canadian UU congregation has worked with this programme and the Northwest (Toronto) congregation is the Canadian congregation most recently certified as a Welcoming Congregation. It is designed to work with the whole of the community and it is just the way we want it. And note that, as is most usual for congregations, this process may last eighteen months and there is no assumed force behind a vote on whether to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation even at the end. The process and outcome are up to us. Look for more announcements on this programme in 2012 as the committee moves forward.

The holidays are nearing and so I wish you warm and the best of celebrations.

Faithfully and in faith, Rev. Christine

Flower Calendar

These days some of us are ever more appreciative of Sheron Campbell as we look to the front of the sanctuary and remember the beautiful flower arrangements that Sheron brought for so many years from her diverse garden. Thank you, Sheron. It was always surprising that she hadn't studied floral arranging since she created such works of art with flowers and plant material from her garden and orchard. She placed the flower arrangements in such varied containers, baskets and vases. Annually, Sheron Campbell and Joan Meuser joined forces in taking poinsettia orders, collecting money, arranging for the purchase of a multitude of poinsettias which bedecked our sanctuary in the weeks approaching Christmas. With the excess of money collected they then purchased food for the Salvation Army, later canned hams and peanut butter and eventually the Salvation Army expressed preference for cash.

Karen Miller has suggested that we have a flower calendar which she will purchase and place under the cup shelf in the coffee room, also known as the board room or dining room. If you wish to bring flowers or a plant to church to place at the front of the sanctuary, please indicate your intention on the flower calendar. It is, of course, not necessary to note your intention but to bring a plant or flowers to church.

Thank you. Helen Moore

From the Board

Transition and change is all around us. It is at times exciting, even overwhelming, and sometimes we need an opportunity to pause and catch our breath. Our service and celebratory meal on November 13 gave us a chance to reflect on the 131 years of church history, the ten years of our development under the ministry of Reverend Christine Hillman, and the completion of window replacement and most of the stucco work, preparing our church sanctuary for the next few decades if not centuries.

One of my goals in chairing Board meetings is to finish them in well under two hours! But alas, we faced so many important issues at the meeting on Nov. 17, we were kept there for over two and a half hours before adjournment. Karen Miller was welcomed in her new role as secretary, and she quickly proved herself indispensable by volunteering to help with setting up an attractive volunteer list for providing our Sunday services with flowers, and in arranging to obtain and help erect a Christmas tree for the church.

Approval of the budget for the congregational meeting on December 11 was a major item. The Board decided that more money was needed to encourage participation and Olinda representation at national and regional meetings of the CUC, and it also approved the proposed Cost of Ministry. Carol Hylton described excellent savings the Christmas elves had achieved in early shopping for the church's Christmas family recommended by the Children's Aid Society. Helen Moore updated us on the success of the Capital Campaign and the plans for memorial plaques to recognize contributions.

Much of the evening was spent discussing property improvements. Stuart Miller described urgent work needed to complete the new stucco face of the sanctuary. Flashing and eaves troughs must be added and secured to prevent possible water damage. Stuart also expanded on possible renovations to the basement: new moisture seals, insulation, walls with wainscoting to match existing walls on the first floor, new windows and flooring, perhaps with imbedded heating wires, as well as improvements to the kitchen and bathroom areas. While it makes sense to undertake all the work together in a coordinated fashion, and the Board is grateful to Stuart for all his work on the various options, there are so many choices to be made and so much money involved that the Board thought it should review priorities before proceeding. Another area that needs quick attention is the carpeting in the sanctuary.

John Upcott attended the meeting to report for the Caring Committee. Christine reported on her visits with Sheron Campbell, Ruth Whaley, and Joan Meuser, three remarkable women who have given invaluable service to our church. The Board's thoughts are with them, and we hope that they can share in some of the peace, joy, and love that comes with the approaching Christmas season.

The next meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, December 15. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Olinda Celebrations

Sunday, November 13th was a day of celebration. We had great reason for such a celebration.....the 130th anniversary of our Church building and the 10th anniversary of our Minister,

Rev. Christine Hillman. As well, we are all enjoying the newly refurbished exterior of the Church - those new windows and the stucco look great and we have the bonus of some much needed insulation. This was a once in a life-time major event. The Church Board decided a special celebration luncheon would be held to thank everyone for their efforts. The luncheon was made possible from our Church Operating Fund and was attended by 63 church family and friends.

I thank Joyce Gilbert for ordering the special cake as well as her help in personally contacting many members and friends about the event. It was a wonderful opportunity and experience for Joyce and myself to have conversation with so many people who live at a distance or who we haven't seen for a period.

It was truly a special event and enjoyed by all.

Carol Hylton, VP

Caring Committee Report

I hope everyone has a very happy and healthy Christmas. This time can be hard for some of us. But we can reflect on good times of the past if this one is not all we want it to be. For Joan Meuser, Sheron Campbell and Ruth Whaley and their family and loved ones, may they know that they are always in our mind and hearts. Also to our special people, Jean Wallis in London and Albertina Bell in Erie Glen, we hope for them health and happiness.

Please let someone on the Caring Committee know if we can help in any way.

Financial Committee Report

The 2012 Budget was approved by the Finance Committee meeting on Nov. 6. Doug Whaley explained the situation with respect to the Lloyd Fund, and he expected that the pay-out from interest from the fund would continue to be \$33,000. At the Board Meeting on Nov. 17, the decision was made to increase the amount set aside for Members' Conference Expenses back to \$3000 from the temporary \$1000 figure used last year.

The 2012 Budget will be available to the Congregation on Nov. 27, and the Budget Meeting will be on Dec. 11. At that meeting a motion will be placed before the Congregation about replacing the carpet in the Sanctuary, using money from the Memorial Fund.

Congratulations to Joyse Gilbert and Carol Hylton on the Celebration Dinner and on the beautiful cake topped by the picture of the Mosaic. I sent Gord Taylor's photo of the cake to Paulette DeAngelis, the wife of the artist, Joseph De Angelis, and she was delighted to hear how important that image has become to our Congregation. Anyone interested in seeing other works by Joe can visit the Sculpture Park on the Detroit River, the Windsor Public Library, Canada South Science City, the University of Windsor or the Essex Civic Centre. We are in good company.

Finance Committee: Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

Social Responsibility Committee

The committee meeting on November 20 was very well attended, with welcome new faces, Linda Goyette and Jack Moore. This great turn-out is auspicious for our chances of doing Great Things!

Short notes on our latest activities:

- Rev. Christine Hillman, Bobbye Baylis, and Bonnie Showers-Malanoski are compiling a list of Adult RE courses. If you have a particular course in mind, please let one of them know.
- The list of local ethical food-related businesses may wind up being a list of web sites and some flyers, there are so many. Fortunately for us, there is a lot of interest now in publicizing healthy and local food.
- Bill Baylis and Gord Taylor are looking into the possibility of solar panels for our roof. You will be kept informed.
- We have made another KIVA loan, to a farming family; they need a Sugar Cane Squeezer.
- Plans are under way for our next International Dinner, to take place on April 29.
- Bobbye Baylis reported on CUC activities to try to prevent the passage of the federal Omnibus Crime Bill, which many feel will cost a lot of money and have only negative effects on our safety in the long run.
- Gord Taylor reported on the positive atmosphere at the super-clean Occupy Windsor site.

Social Responsibility Committee: Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

Capital Campaign

Thank you for your generous donations. It is so rewarding to see the new windows and stucco on the church exterior each Sunday so soon after the Capital Campaign was begun. The Board of Directors is continuing to work through the results of our congregational visioning meeting to decide the next priorities to maintain and enhance our church.

The Capital Campaign continues to December 31, 2011 so there is still time to make a contribution if you choose to do so. Following the end of the Capital Campaign there will be plaques placed on the windowsills to recognize the window donors and Ron Hicks has agreed to design and finish a stained walnut wood plaque holder so that the names of donors printed on gold-toned metal can be placed on it. The walnut plaque holder will be hung on the north wall where it meets the east wall. Donors names will be placed only once: on the windowsill or on the plaque holder.

Thank you for your generosity.

Helen Moore

NEW YEAR'S DAY

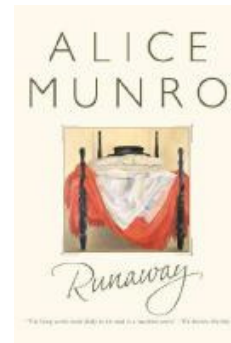
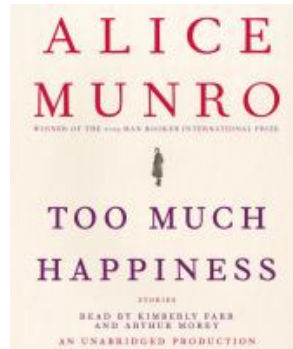
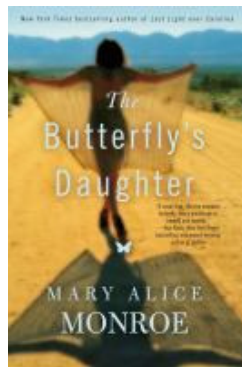
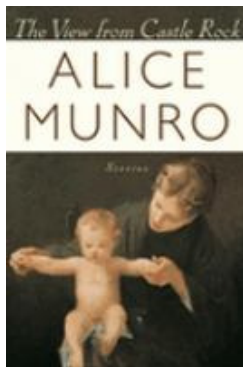
Our New Year`s Day service will be entitled Endings and Beginnings. If you wish to bring a reading or poem on that topic, please do so. Also, please let me know ahead of time so that we can coordinate the order of the readings. Contact me in person, by email or telephone.

Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gather once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The 'fun-loving' group is in their fourth year of reading, learning and socializing. Everyone is welcome – *Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller*

Book for Month - December 2011:



The View from Castle Rock : Stories (c2006) or:

The Butterfly's Daughter (2011)

Too Much Happiness : Stories (2009)

Last Light Over Carolina (2009)

Time Is A River (2008)

Swimming Lessons (2007)

Skyward (2003)

Girl In The Mirror (1998)

Author: Alice Munro,

Summary:

Alice Munro's magical stories are so engrained with truths about life that readers often want to know where they come from, where are her sources. She has received several awards including the Governor General's Award for "Who Do You Think You Are?" and the Man Booker International Prize in 2009 for her lifetime body of work.

In the cover flyleaf and foreword of 'The View from Castle Rock: Stories', Alice Munro confesses: these stories "pay more attention to the truth of a life than fiction usually does, but not enough to swear on!"

So is this a memoir? No. She drew on personal experiences, "but then did anything I wanted to do with material. Because the chief thing I was doing was making a story."

This month, book club members can select any of Alice Munro's books. Discussion will focus on her success in, and the techniques she utilizes to "make a story".

Location of Meeting: The Church – Tranquility Lounge, Olinda: **Stuart Miller- Leader**

Date: 07 December, 2011; 7 pm