



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 April 2012

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| April 1 | Cluelessness Is a Theological State
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| April 8 | Suffering and Surviving Easter
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis
with Ray Stone |
| April 15 | Don't Be Afraid to Say Revolution!
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |
| April 22 | Fifth Smooth Stone: Meaningful change directs us toward an outlook of ultimate optimism.
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| April 29 | South Sudan: Realization of a Dream or New Humanitarian Disaster
Dr. Walter Soderlund | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
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SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 15, 2012, at 12 Noon

1. A proposal from the Board will be considered to invest up to about 15% of the Lloyd fund in the solar panel project at a guaranteed 20-year return of about 10% per annum. The initial investment is \$5000 with the rest due in stages after approvals from the Local Distribution Company (LDC) and Ontario Power Authority (OPA), expected about 2 months after the application is made.
2. After-the-fact approval is sought for a payment of \$4004.78 for repairs to gutters, flashing, and Caps required after the completion of the new stucco work.



Unitarian Universalist congregations are not well known for “high church” rituals. Neither are we like the Friends who have no sacraments. Unitarian Universalists do have sacraments including Infant and Child Dedications as well as Flower Celebration and Water Communion. Our sacraments just don’t have the weight of the divine heavily weighed on them even as they have strong meaning for many of us.

One of our rituals is the chalice lighting common among our congregations across the continent. The chalice which symbolizes the container of the cosmos and the love we are all held in and the fire of the chalice, like Jason Shelton’s hymn in the teal hymnal “Fire of Commitment”. At Olinda we have the tradition of reading the same words each week at the same time, early in the service, when we light the candle in the chalice. It is a powerful responsive reading. Now comes the point. I grew up in a church with lots of words the congregation read together, or, one might say, in common. What I remember of those shared words was that it came across so often as a droning mantra where it was unclear if the speaking congregation was even listening to their own words. So, I am offering a proposal for our own reading of any words we read in common, especially the words we say for the chalice lighting, that we don’t read them by heart and that we don’t try to all use the same rhythm having each word, phrase or sentence come in for a landing at the same time. My personal practice when saying these words is to not recite them but to say them as if (and I really am) talking to myself, looking for new meanings and trying to embrace and take in the depth of meaning of the words. Sometimes I will find myself striking a sense of depth in a particular word or phrase that I hadn’t before. It is this kind of reading, where we don’t all necessarily end each word or phrase or sentence all at the same time in a monotone but reading the words to and for ourselves each week, focusing on meaning and each of us coming into Olinda as a true home of our common worship. (Worship meaning, as always, recognizing in beloved community that we hold all that which is of deep worth).

One can read the same words every week or different words every week and either find or miss meaning. I more than “like” that Olinda’s chalice lighting reading is one of the elements of our Sunday Service, one that seldom changes from service to service. My desire, as your minister, is to remind you of what you likely already know, that the more deeply we take in these words, the more deeply we each will be taken into the meaning of life itself during the service and beyond the walls of the sanctuary. (Another word I regard deeply)

Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine



Membership

I welcome and thank Gypsy Carroll & Kathy Brennan for being on my committee.

A new Olinda Phone Tree is ready and we hope by next month the new phone directory will be ready for you. If anyone has any ideas or concerns, we want to hear from you. Please bring them to our attention.



From the Board

We tried various dates for the third Board meeting of 2012, trying to find a date when most members could attend, but in the end, at least two trustees would miss any date we set, and we decided to continue for the time being on our old schedule of the third Thursday of the month. Our meeting was thus held on March 15, and we welcomed Walter Sinclair back to the Board to represent the Property Committee. Walt had resumed his watch over the church, monitoring its status and its heating and hydro use, as soon as he was released from the Leamington Hospital. He had also arranged a pre-spring cleanup on March 17 and gotten a quotation from Jacobo Roofing for replacing shingles on the south and west sides of the roof, where the solar panels would be installed. Jacobo had shingled the entire roof in Spring 2004, but since then a few shingles have come off. Because the solar panels should be in place for over 20 years, it might be worthwhile to replace the roof under them now so as to delay any future replacement, requiring the removal and reinstallation of the panels, by several years. The Board will be seeking a couple of more quotations and opinions before bringing the issue to the congregation.

A couple of related matters will be brought to a special congregational meeting on April 15 after the service. At the previous congregational meeting on March 11, it was decided to move ahead with the solar panel project as proposed by Green Sun Rising of Windsor. An outstanding question was the best way to fund the approximately \$60,000 (plus tax) projection. After considering a couple of possibilities including the sale of debentures, the Board decided to bring forward a proposal to invest approximately 15% of the current Lloyd fund in the panels. The investment would be secure and guarantee roughly a 10% return on investment per year over the contract period of twenty years. The exact return should be known before the end of March once the Ontario government sets its new feed-in tariff rates. All payments would be added to the Lloyd fund. After 20 years, the payments would decrease, but not below the going cost for hydroelectricity at that time, a cost that is expected to be a few times higher than at present. An initial outlay of \$5000 is needed to start the application process for permits. The other matter to be brought to the congregational meeting on April 15 is payment of an invoice for emergency repairs to gutters, flashing, and caps on the roof that was required after the stucco work. While the work was needed to prevent rain damage to the church and its new stucco exterior, its cost was not explicitly included in the appropriation approved for the stucco work last fall.

Sue Markham, our trustee for Lifespan Religious Education (LRE), has a complicated schedule that often keeps her from church services and meetings. Furthermore, her foot surgery, scheduled before the end of March, will impact her ability to drive. Please consider joining the LRE committee to give Sue a much needed hand! A sign-up sheet will be available in the coffee room.

Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is holding its Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 18, 2012, in Ottawa, and the Board looking for a delegate or two. Funds have been set aside to defray expenses. Please see me if you are interested in representing our Olinda congregation there.

Other items covered at the Board meeting include plan for the pasta dinner and aUuction on April 14 and a Yard & Bake Sale on May 26. Also, Carol Hylton presented a new phone tree, for emergency notification within the congregation, which should be available together with this newsletter. In response to concern that the valuable history of the church might fade from memory now that Sheron Campbell is no longer around to maintain our archives, a new section of the newsletter is being instituted under the heading Olinda Connections, recounting historical and hysterical trivia and events, past and present. Please send in your contributions to Carol Hylton or add records to the new church history notebook, kept in a drawer next to the membership record in the library. A transition of historic proportions will occur at the end of June when Dorothy Brown retires from her coffee hour and dinner duties. The Board is looking for a committee to continue her fabulous work.

The next Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, April 19, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Important Dates in April

Apr. 4	7 PM	Book Club, <u>A Tale of Two Cities</u>
Apr. 11	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 14	5:30 PM	Pasta Dinner
Apr. 14	7 PM	aUUction
Apr. 15	12 noon	Congregational Meeting: Solar Panels and Caps & Eaves troughs Repair
Apr. 15	12:30 PM	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Apr. 18	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Apr. 19	7 PM	Board Meeting
Apr. 22	12 noon	First Class, Welcoming Congregations
Apr. 29	12 noon	International Dinner, supporting Stephen Lewis Foundation

Social Responsibility Committee Report

In conjunction with the Sunday Services Committee, we have organized a special treat for Sunday, April 29. The speaker that Sunday will be Jake Soderlund, who is speaking on "South Sudan: Realization of a Dream or New Humanitarian Disaster?"

After the service the Social Responsibility Committee is hosting an International Dinner, featuring dishes from Africa. Given the range of cuisine over the Continent, from Moroccan dishes in the northwest to South African dishes, there should be something for everyone. The donations given at the dinner will be sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.



Other Business

Historical Record

In a recent email Trudy Ware wrote, 'Have we ever documented (in an actual record book) how/where things come from that we use for church services? I have always felt that we do not do a good job of perpetual record keeping. We depend mostly on memories.'

There is now a green notebook in the library, near the mail slots, where you can enter any information which will be helpful now and in the future. There is a paragraph written about the pewter chalice which was given to our church in 1982. Please feel free to add information to the notebook. Thanks.

Helen Moore

Property Committee Report

Walter Sinclair, our new Property Trustee, is asking for help in spring yard clean-up for the next five or six Saturdays if it is dry. If you have a lawn roller which can be used to roll the church lawn, please notify Walter at (519) 326-5565. If you are able to help on a Saturday, call Walter.

John Haynes has and is caring for the front gardens and Helen Moore is tending the back garden.

Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gathers 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 into another year of reading, learning and socializing.

Everyone is welcome – *Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller*

Book for Month – April 2012:

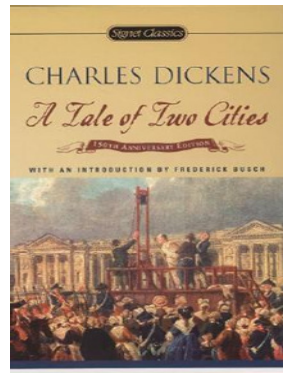
Title: *A Tale of Two Cities*

Author: Charles Dickens

Summary:

Dickens's classic tale of the French Revolution brings to life a time of terror and treason, and chronicles a starving people who rise in frenzy and hate to overthrow a corrupt and decadent regime.

Charles Dickens, perhaps the best British novelist of the Victorian era, was born in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England in 1812. His happy early childhood was interrupted when his father was sent to debtors' prison, and young Dickens had to go to work in a factory at age twelve. Later, he took jobs as an office boy and journalist before publishing essays and stories in the 1830s. His first novel, The Pickwick Papers, made him a famous and popular author at the age of twenty-five.



Location of Meeting: The Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Leader: Pat Haynes

Date: 04 April, 2012; 7 pm

Caring Committee Report

First let me say Happy Easter to everyone and I hope all have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

It was so nice to see so many church members out to help Hector and Carabel Ringrose celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. It was a great day for a wonderful couple and we all hope they have many more.

Nice to see Evelyn and John Dresser back at church, we missed you. We hope that Romell Reid is feeling better and wish Sue Markham a speedy recovery. Please let someone know if we can help in any way.

John

Olinda Connections'

In addition to the membership report in the newsletter, I am going to include a piece of trivia or a story. I hope you will enjoy learning a bit of history and some happenings here at Olinda. This may be a chance to get to know each other a bit better and really feel included in each other's lives. I want all of you to participate, give me your story, it doesn't have to be long ago, it can be recent and how you found the church or your first experiences here. Thinking of doing this is one more sad reminder that our dear Sheron is not here to contribute her stories; I am sure she would have many and they would be most entertaining. Everyone, get your thinking caps on.

In 1955 the Leamington Radio Station, first called CJSP, 710AM was founded. The founder later planted the seed of his vision that became Global TV, founded in 1974. He was also a singer with Wayne King Orchestra who had a television show in Chicago 1949-52. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in the radio category. This person was Al Bruner, 1923-87. George Whaley was one of the original investors for the radio station. Al's parents were very much a part of this church and their picture is above the photo copier in our Church Library. They are Albert & Nora Bruner and there will be more about them in the future. There is a lot more to Al's life story, it was printed in the Leamington Post this past summer and I have turned that article over to our Archives Committee.

Carol Hylton

Financial Committee Report

Our Annual aUuction is coming up quickly, at 7 PM on April 14, preceded at 5:30 with the ever-popular Pasta Dinner, hosted by

Linda and John Upcott. The Millers have again volunteered as auctioneers, John & Pat Haynes will be compiling the lists, and Helen Moore, Mireya Campbell & Bill Baylis will handle bookkeeping duties. Linda Goyette is organizing some intermission treats, should you become peckish during aUuction, particularly with all of the tantalizing food items on offer. Please let Linda know if you can help her out by supplying a plate of goodies for the intermission.

The sign-up list has been available for about a month in the Coffee Room, and the following items have already appeared:

- Jams, Jellies, Marmalade
- Paintings
- Tourtieres, Lasagna, Cabbage Rolls
- Antique Brass Spittoon
- Knitted & Crocheted Crafts
- Bird Houses
- Wine, Olive Oil
- Gum Ball Machine, Floor Lamp, Lazy Susan, Serving Tray, Spirtles
- Pies, Cakes
- Tea Chest, Basket
- Pickles, Salsa
- And lots more

There will also be a new treat, organized by Laurie & Carol Hylton and Joyse Gilbert and Peter LeClair, entitled Spin for a Prize. Sounds like fun!

There is only room for 36 people at the Pasta Dinner, and 20 names are already on the sign-up sheet. Be sure and add your name right away if you plan to eat at the church before the aUuction.