



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 2012

- Sept. 9** **Ingathering Sunday with Water Communion**
Bring a water sample from your travels or stay-at-home summer
Reverend Christine Hillman Music: Lorie Lyons
- Sept. 16** **John Dietrich: 19th Century Religious Humanist**
Reverend Christine Hillman Music: Toni Janik
- Sept 23.** **Mindful Reconciliation**
Reverend Christine Hillman Music: Carabel Ringrose
- Sept. 30** **"Atheism is a religion like abstinence is a sex position"**
from Bill Maher
Reverend Christine Hillman Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis with Ray Stone



Welcoming Congregation News

In April, we started a series of workshops in which we learned more about issues concerning gender and sexuality. The Welcoming Congregation Committee chose 8 of the possible 14 sessions presented in [The Welcoming Congregation Handbook](#), and by May 6 we had completed three of them. The next two sessions will be offered on Sept. 23, after church. This time we will hold the sessions upstairs, either in the Tranquility Room or in the Sanctuary, depending on space requirements.

The two sessions will be #4: Gender Socialization and Homophobia and #8: Religion and Homosexuality.

Please plan to attend if you can. It is not necessary for you to have attended the earlier sessions. We had a lot of fun during the previous sessions and came away with new insights. These workshops are well worth attending.



From the Hillparson

My summer has been of consequence this year, meaning that it was not casual or carefree like one on vacation might be looking for, although there were those moments, too. Most significantly July flew by. And here it is deep in August, and I'm writing my column early for a reason. I had a dream in my last sleep and it marks a personal and deep turning point toward the beginning of the church year.

The dream was, indeed, the first Sunday of Olinda's church year and I knew I was in the pulpit in Olinda even though the pulpit was not in the middle as it ought to be. Remember, it's a dream, things get to be what they want to be, a little "Alice in Wonderland" kind of landscaping is to be expected. The sanctuary was full and boisterous. There many children although they were soon marched off the dream landscape for other activities. I stood in the pulpit, as the service around me seemed to happily begin without me and I watched the doings and checked my sermon manuscript. I was mildly alarmed (I mean really mildly) that the sermon was in a tiny script like this one and I wasn't sure how I would navigate it but my mind told me something like, "Don't worry; be happy!" and so I was.

And then all of a sudden (or "immediately" as the book of Mark in the Christian testament says about 13 times) nursery-age children were back in the sanctuary and one toddled from the front left over to me (somehow no railing to traverse in evidence) and I picked her up and started the sermon. It seemed so perfectly normal, and, indeed, joyful, to be holding a young child while I went about my preaching business. And then everybody from R.E. showed up from some unknown door behind the platform, including not only the children but the teachers who were Mireya Campbell and the full time religious educator at the First Unitarian Church of Milwaukee, Beryl Aschenberg, for whom I had served as interim DRE just before I started here and she started there, twelve amazing years ago. It was one of those wonderful synchronous moments, in the dream, as their appearance coincided serendipitously with a point I was making in a sermon of some sort that I have no memory of. I remember the children and the teachers and that their presence made me feel absolutely affirmed in my thought at the moment. And then it happened another couple of times, me feeling more flushed and joyful with every occurrence. Many more details in this dream but I'll leave it that after the first time the children came in to "prove a point", or maybe it was to illustrate/illuminate a point), I asked who was in charge of the youngster I was holding and we met in the middle of the space for the hand off, me graciously thanking the parent for my opportunity to hold their precious child. There is no benediction in this dream because I woke up before the service was over but felt fulfilled, and isn't that benediction enough!?

In essence the dream, my dream so my interpretation!, had me waking up feeling anticipatory for our first Sunday of the 2012-2013 year. Ready to go and happy for it. And why not?! Olinda is a graciously warm place to be, filled with happy, smiling faces that I get to look at each Sunday I am in the pulpit. While I will miss five months of that during my January to June sabbatical this year, I'm going to treasure every Sunday before that period and the Sundays after it. More about the sabbatical to come.

I hope you are as ready as I am for this coming year and have your small bottles of water prepared (I do and it's already in the car!) for our sharing of the waters on our first gathering. Mine is water from a family funeral so please take to heart that the water you share is not in any way expected to be from distant lands and exotic vacations. If you watered flowers you adore in your back yard, or drank the best water ever (from your own faucet, maybe sticking your face right into the stream of cold water) after long work in an orchard or bike-riding on the parkway... bring it, knowing it is holy water and share its meaning with us.

Much more joy to you all as summer comes to its inevitable close and marks the start-up of a wonderful church year., Thinking of you always!

Faithfully and in Faith, Rev. Christine



From the Board

Welcome back to our regular church year! It will be great to see everyone again, but where did the summer go? Thanks to accommodating weather, our new sanctuary windows, and the blinds, we were able to enjoy a couple of summer services. Now it's time for our ingathering "water communion", a chance to catch up on each other's adventures, and time to prepare for Reverend Hillman's five month sabbatical starting on January 7, 2013.

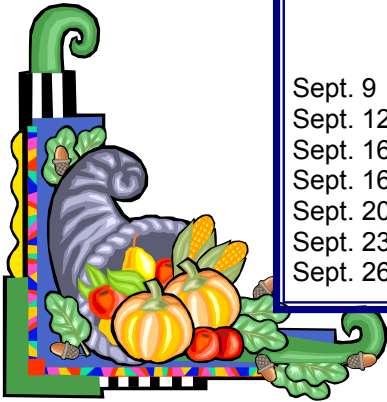
Your Board has not met since its two meetings in June, and the results of those meetings were reported in the Summer Newsletter. Nevertheless, the Board did communicate by email and witnessed several significant improvements being made to the church. Here are some of the changes that we can all appreciate and admire:

- Walter Sinclair managed to locate a source for parts in order to restore our basement toilet to working order at minimal cost to the church, and he also freed up the exit to the outside from the back of the basement and spruced up the church grounds.
- A library committee organized by the Book Club took on the major task of cleaning, sorting, and rearranging the Louise Foulds library to make it more attractive, welcoming, and usable. A new bookshelf was also added. Many thanks to all involved. The project was lead by Pat Haynes, with help from Gypsy Carroll, Joyse Gilbert and Leona Crowder. Gypsy has worked on organizing the file cabinet and transferred many things to Archives. In the future Gypsy will be working on the Archives where there is now much work to be done. John Haynes assisted Pat, and Carol and Laurie Hylton helped as well.
- The front of the church was washed and parts repainted, the notice board cleaned and lacquered, and a new railing installed on the south side of the porch, thanks to John Upcott, Logan Schmidt, Walter, and the Hyltons. A park bench has also been purchased. John Haynes has worked diligently on the gardens in front, winning accolades of our neighbours.
- Thanks to Carol, the kitchens have been reorganized with plenty of labels to help us find and replace items needed for our weekly coffees now that Dorothy Brown, Marion Thompson, and Donna Upcott have retired. Mariette Preyde is the Chair person for Refreshments with Leona Crowder & Carol helping her. The Kitchen Procedure has been listed and posted along with other information so that the duties can be carried out in the future. Some volunteers have already signed up to offer their services each Sunday.

Your Board approved as high priority the reconstruction of flashing and siding around the spire in order to stop water leaks into the sanctuary. The work is being undertaken by Unique Roofing of Windsor, who is also removing the crumbling and now superfluous cinder-block chimney, as the gas furnaces require only smaller vents. After rugs were removed and floors cleaned in the manse, another leak was revealed, this one in the entry from the tranquility parlour into the coffee room. Inspection in the archive storage area suggests that the leak is around the south window of the dormer and the old chimney. The problem can probably be addressed together with the work by Unique Roofing.

The microFIT solar-panel project is moving ahead, and Green Sun Rising has applied for a permit from the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) on our behalf. The OPA was not accepting new applications until mid August after it had cleared up outstanding ones from last fall. If the OPA gives initial approval, as expected, the next step is to ascertain power grid capacity from our local distribution company, Hydro-One. This is the critical step at which a number of earlier applications from the area failed, but the addition of new capacity in the Kingsville area makes us optimistic that our project can be licensed. Only then will the solar project be seriously launched by ordering panels, inverters, racks, and other parts, and by replacing shingles on parts of the roof that will be under the panels. The new microFIT rules finally released in July slightly reduced the overall project from 10 KW of AC power (after inverters) to 10 KW of DC generation by the panels (before inverters). The result is 6 fewer solar panels with a corresponding reduction in total cost. The return on investment, however, is slightly increased because the least efficient segment, on the west-facing roof, has been eliminated.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, September 20, 2012. All church members are welcome to attend.



Important Dates in September

Sept. 9	10:30 AM	Ingathering Service. Bring water!
Sept. 12	7 PM	Book Club: <u>A Prayer for Owen Meany</u>
Sept. 16	9:15 AM	Sunday Services Committee Meeting
Sept. 16	12:30 PM	Social Responsibility Committee Meeting
Sept. 20	7 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sept. 23	12 noon	Welcoming Congregation Workshop
Sept. 26	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry is now helping Rev Christine with her sabbatical leave. Her plan to renew and reenergize was presented to the Board in February. The Board agreed that there are no impediments to the schedule recommended by the Minister and Committee on Ministry. Her Letter of Agreement allows for one month of sabbatical leave for every year of service since her last sabbatical. Christine will begin her 5 month leave in January 2013 and return in June. She has arranged with another minister to be available when needed while she is away. The Sunday Services Committee has been working hard and is already planning the services for the time when Christine will be away. It is also an opportunity for the Congregation to experience a variety of speakers in the pulpit. If you would like to help in any way with the planning of activities during her sabbatical, please contact Helen Moore, chair of the Sunday Services Committee, or a member of the Committee on Ministry.

Joyse Gilbert, Carol Hylton, Rev Christine Hillman, Jane Innerd, Chair.

Finance Committee

Every Fall we put our collective heads together to create an Operating Budget for the coming year. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in helping keep our church financially solid.

Date	Time	Description
7 Oct.	after church	Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member.
28 Oct.		By this date, all budget details must have been submitted to the finance trustee or the treasurer so that they can prepare the budget. Items needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested ministerial salary (part of the total cost to the Congregation) • Committee Chairs' budget requests
11 Nov.	after church	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget and the Letter of Agreement.
15 Nov.	7 pm	Board Meeting at which Budget and Letter of Agreement will be presented for approval.
25 Nov.	before church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation.
9 Dec.	after church	Congregational Budget meeting.

Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (usually 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 – September 2012: (July Book Selection Postponed thru Summer)

***Title:* A PRAYER FOR OWEN MEANY**

***Author:* John Irving**

Summary: In the summer of 1953, two 11-year-old boys--best friends--are playing in a Little League baseball game in New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. Owen Meany believes he didn't hit the ball by accident. He believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after 1953 is extraordinary and terrifying. He is Irving's most heartbreaking hero.

Time and Location of Meeting: 7 PM on September 12 at the Haynes Residence, Kingsville

Leader: John Haynes



The Louise Foulds Library

The UU Book Club is working to restore the library and the library holdings to a more user-friendly place. Therefore, we have made some changes: purchased a larger bookcase and re-catalogued our holdings. On the whole it has been a busy summer as we involved ourselves in this task.

We hope that this leads to more frequent borrowing of books by everyone. In the library, there is a list of the current books arranged alphabetically and by subject with a brief annotation. There is also a sign-out sheet which we hope borrowers will use. The books (mostly non-fiction) are arranged alphabetically by first author. With a little effort on everyone's part we can have them returned to the shelves in this way.

In the old (smaller) bookcase, we have a section of reference books which can be used by anyone involved in leading or taking part in services, fulfilling leadership positions and learning about other faiths. General reference books are located here. In addition, there is a section of poetry publications, most of which are in slim volumes which were lost among the larger books in the collection...

On the dining room bulletin board is a list of books that appear in the original inventory which we could not find – if you know where they are please arrange for their return.

Caring Committee

Welcome back after a short hot summer. It is good to be back and \i look forward to a wonderful year.

Happy Belated Birthday to John Dresser on his 90th in August, and to Albertina Bell congratulations and best wishes on her 96th on September 4th. Speedy recovery to Jean Wallace in London who had some serious health problems this summer and at last report is in hospital in London. A "Hope you're felling well" to Louise Foulds in Toronto who has also had some health problems. All of the congregations thoughts go to both of you and you will always be with us and an important part of this church.

As always, if anyone knows of someone who is in need, please let someone on the Caring Committee know.

John

Caring Committee:

Eunice Goyette, June Blacker

Rev. Christine Hillman, John Upcott

Olinda Connections'

OLINDA CONNECTIONS - Jane Innerd

When my Grandmother died my Father found newspaper articles about Unitarianism in her personal papers. (She was raised a Lutheran.) On the basis of this information I consider myself a third generation UU. My Mother was raised in a Catholic family but around the age of 17 she decided not to attend Catholic Church any more. When I was very young as a family we attended a Presbyterian Church in New Jersey but when we moved to Connecticut we began attending a nearby Universalist Church and all of us found a religious home there.

That Church was called the Church of the Redeemer, Universalist. I was in the Youth Fellowship which meant that I spent from 5 to 8pm every Sunday evening at the Church. The first hour was choir rehearsal because the Youth Fellowship sang every Sunday at the first service at 9:30am. After rehearsal at 6 we then had a casserole dinner prepared in rotation by our Mothers and then an activity of some kind. In my senior year of High School I was President of the Youth Fellowship which meant that I was responsible for the activity. I had help from the Church's full time Director of Religious Education, Mary Mauzey. She was wonderful to me and I used to walk to the Church early in the afternoon in order to talk to her about what was going on in my life. Mary and I are still friends and exchange long letters every year at Christmas. She now lives in Seattle, Washington and is still active at her advanced age!

After High School, I had a long hiatus from attending Church until moving to Windsor. My neighbour, Dr. Hakam Abu-Zahra, had been invited to speak at Olinda in June of 1980. He and his wife, Maureen, invited me to go with them that Sunday because they knew that I was a UU. I remember the day well. Louise Foulds was the Service Leader. She announced that her book, Universalism in Ontario, was going to be ready for the 100th anniversary celebration in November. On the wall behind the pulpit was the plaque which is now on the side wall by the organ. I remember reading it and knowing exactly what it meant in the life of the Olinda Church. I had found a religious home.

So the following September I started attending the Services and brought my children with me. The three of them doubled the size of the Sunday School! I think that the other children were Matthew and Kelly Upcott and Rebecca Sorrel but I am not positive that they were the three. Tammy Dresser was one of the people who taught RE as was Dorothy Brown of coffee hour fame. The School grew and for several years we had lots of children for elaborate performances at Christmas which necessitated the use of the old curtain to hide the "stage" before the performance began. Also memorable was the wonderful song which Lori Lyons taught the children, "Christmas Cookies and Holiday Tarts," which we used to sing in the car on our way to and from Church. There were enough children at that time for two classes. For a while Louise Foulds took my daughter, Jane, and Kelly Upcott in a senior class of two. She did a fantastic job because whenever I mention some story or other in the Bible Jane will always say "I did that with Louise."

When I first started attending Olinda it seems to me that we frequently had pot luck dinners. I used to tell Wilf that if he wanted a meal he would have to come to Church. He enjoyed Conrad's sermons and also liked the friendly congregation and so became a regular attendee. After Conrad left, the Church continued with guest speakers. Quite a number of times Wilf would help out by speaking.

It is always a pleasure to welcome a visitor to the Church and hope that he/she finds a religious home with us and a friendly congregation to join.



Membership Committee

A warm welcome to our new member Cathy Dewhurst.

I wish to thank John & Linda Upcott for doing the barbeque at the church on the day of the Yard & Bake Sale. That was missed from my June message. In addition, a second thank you from all of us to John & Linda Upcott for hosting the Church picnic at their house and thank your family for helping out. It was a wonderful day and we could not have had better weather.

Dorothy, Marion & Donna will be retired from all their kitchen services by the time this newsletter is distributed. A warm thank you for all you have done over the many years. I wish to announce that Mariette Preyde has taken the position of the Chair of these services (we haven't yet come up with a title for this position & committee). I will be on Mariette's committee and we are hoping to recruit one more person. Mariette & her committee will see that all supplies are in place and organize the volunteers to be responsible for the Sunday refreshments. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for people to sign up to offer services to be responsible for the Sunday refreshments and if you haven't already signed up, please do so if you are able. If you have signed up, thank you very much.

If I don't see you over the summer, I will see you in September. I bid you all a very Happy Summer and all enjoy good health.
Carol Hylton

Important Notice re future Bake Sale and Ruthven Apple Festival

During this last Yard and Bake Sale, we noticed that most of our success was due to the baked goods and barbecue and much less due to the yard sale. Based on this experience, as a one-year experiment, the Board has decided to devote all our energy to next May's bake/other food items sale and to drop the yard sale. Items like jellies and preserves were mentioned. If anyone is interested in preserving any summer fruits or baking pies involving them, they would be very welcome additions to the Bake Sale. It is nice if we can provide local contents in our sale.

So that being the case, we are giving you a heads up so you can think about it and do something this summer if you would like. If we wait until fall to let you know this, it will be past the time in most cases.

The Board also thought that, since there will be such an emphasis on food items during the May Bake Sale, we should not be asking the same folks to be baking and preserving for the Ruthven Apple Festival booth. Hence we decided not to participate in the Ruthven Apple Festival in 2012.

OLINDA CONNECTIONS

A short piece of trivia – What do these people have in common? Helen Moore, Nancy Burgess, Sheron Campbell & Carol Hylton. They went to Sunday School together and as teen agers sat around the dining room table for Sunday School with Stewart Moore as teacher. (In those days Sunday School was before church) In addition to them were Winston Upcott, Linda Bruner & Wayne Reive.

Olinda 2012 Directory Update

[Here are some changes & additions to your information. Please note same.](#)

Websites: Add - www.mnsi.net/~janik/

Church Email correction: uuchurchofolinda@cogeco.ca

Church Street No. should be 2953 Olinda Side Rd.

Phone No. Change: Rosalind Mariconda – 519-997-4151, also on phone tree.