

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda

Sunday Services October 2013



Oct. 6 A Hand Up Versus A Hand Out

Ron Dunn

Music: Toni Janik

Oct. 13 As Geese Fly, So Can We

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Carabel Ringrose

Oct. 20 Threading the Needle Between Loss and Hope

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis

Oct. 27 Threading the Needle Between Violence and Peace

Rev. Christine Hillman

Music: Lorie Lyons

Middle Path Yoga



A UU Yoga Sharing

Our first gathering is on Tuesday, September 24th from 5-6 p.m. At UU Olinda. This is a weekly church affinity group and is a free class that I am facilitating. It is part of my yogic practice to share this with Olinda members and friends. We will be doing Vinyasa yoga or flow yoga in combination with some Tai Chi movements (mindful movement, meditation in motion), breath work, & learning yoga terms (Sanskrit). Once a month we will be sharing yogic philosophy over a simple vegetarian potluck (bring your own salad or a veggie dish to share) after class at 6 p.m. On the 1st Tuesday of the month. Please come and enjoy. Namasté, Karen

Please bring to class:

- A yoga mat
- A small blanket for an extra cushion for your knees, or as a cushion to put under the base of your spine.
- A picture or name of whom you are devoting your practice to this week.

From the Hillparson



The life of every congregation has its own unique aspects, and meaningful ways that can be of value to other congregations. True also, is that it is a good idea to be aware of what is unique about a given congregation and what is similar to others.

The following piece is from the weekly newsletter of a D.C.-area organization called The Alban Institute. Designed to teach ministers and congregations it provides assistance in many ways: by the newsletter, by books authored by their consultants and others, consultants who hold workshops, and also, those consultants sometimes go out to congregations or ministerial groups.

The following is a piece by a premier thinker and author in the work of congregations of whatever denomination. He is a remarkable man. Steinke notes Edwin Friedman in the piece. He also left organized religion a tremendous work called "Generation to Generation" that uses family systems theory to talk about congregations.

Where to Touch the Elephant

by Peter Steinke

The well-known story of the elephant and the blind men has several versions. One version goes like this: a group of blind men touch an elephant to learn what it is like. Each one, though, touches a different part of the animal, and, based on that part, infer a larger truth about what the entire elephant must be like. In one account, the elephant is like a wicker basket to the one who touched the ear, a pot to the blind man who touched the head, and a brush to the one who touched the tip of the tail. When they compare their experiences, they discover their disagreement. Each one has his own view of reality, depending upon where he touched the elephant. Someone once said that truth is like an elephant surrounded by blind men.

Picking up on this story, Edwin Friedman states, "I touch the elephant wherever the elephant appears." His remark is based on the idea that the enormity of the elephant precludes anyone comprehending the whole. One can only observe what is there in front of him or her. In life, Friedman is suggesting, prodigious complexity can be understood only from the perspective of what is at hand. The elephant is too monstrous to handle in its entirety.

Let's probe the elephant-touch dilemma as it affects the life of today's church: If we think of the elephant as representing the congregation's mission, do all touches have the same value? Is there a place we all must touch? Finally, can we touch the mission in different places, disagree, and still work together?

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine

From the Board

The Board held a rather long regular meeting on September 19, then returned for a special session on Sunday evening, September 22. We first had to formally agree to pay for the bit of extra work needed in the basement in order to nicely finish the installation of new windows and interior walls after some mold was discovered on the paneling. More work is needed to seal the exterior walls and ensure proper drainage, and quotations for that work is being sought. We also want to lay down new flooring, but that can probably wait until next spring or summer. Now that the mold has been removed and the carpet fully cleaned, the basement is much improved: brighter, cleaner, with new electrical outlets, and an appearance of more space. We will all be able to enjoy the fresh environment at our first pot-luck dinner, which--after considerable debate--the Board has scheduled after the service on October 6.

Our meeting on Sunday evening was with CUC representative for Eastern Canada, Linda Thomson, in order to initiate a review of the ministry and the minister as called for in the Minister's Letter of Agreement. A first step considers the operation of the Committee on Ministry, which is charged with leading the review and must select, in consultation with the Board, the Minister, and the Congregation, appropriate tools for the assessment. The purpose of the review is to improve the Ministry of the Church, with more open, transparent communication that allows us to more effectively act on the Church's mission. I expect that it will lead to a refinement of our expectations and perhaps modifications in how these are reflected in the Letter of Agreement.

Jaws dropped when Board members viewed a donation cheque from Philip Foulds, Louise Foulds's husband. It arrived in the regular mail with a note to our minister. Philip will not be able to attend the memorial service for Louise on October 19 but wanted to convey the donation on behalf of Louise. We are deeply grateful, as the card that many of you signed, expressed.

The Church has a new friend, Vince Spicer, to thank for discovering why our uuolinda.org website has been ignored by Google and other search engines. Imbedded in the source code for the main page was an instruction for search engines to not list it. This was evidently left over from the initial setup of the site, but it should have been removed. Now, thanks to help from Zach Showers, it has been removed, but it may still take some time for the website to be properly listed.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled at 7 PM on Thursday, October 17, 2013. All church members are welcome to attend.

Bill Baylis, President

Important Dates

Oct 1 5PM

A UU Yoga Sharing, lead by Karen Miller (this and every Tuesday)

Oct. 2 7 PM

Book Club: *The Holy Bible*, favourite verses

Oct. 6 Noon

Pot Luck Lunch

Oct. 8 7 PM

Four Directions Drum Circle

Oct. 9 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal

Oct. 13 10:30 AM

Bring canned goods to celebrate Thanksgiving and World Food Day on Oct 16.

Oct 13 Noon

Open Finance Committee Meeting on Budget*

Oct. 17 7 PM

Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 19 1 PM

Louise Foulds Memorial Service

Oct. 20 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Oct. 23 7 PM

Choir Rehearsal*

*Meeting date changed to accommodate Pot Luck Lunch

Membership Report

On behalf of all the congregation, I would like to express a **big thank you** to all the people who pitched in on Sept 7th and gave their time to clean up our newly renovated basement. They did a great job, washed all the cupboards, dishes, furniture and surfaces as well as cleaned all the carpets in the basement and on the main floor.

Your Membership Committee is working on some ideas that might be useful in attracting new people to Olinda so more people may have the benefit of what we have to offer. I might also add that Christine is participating in this process.

Dinners for Eight – There were 3 dinners held last season and they were most enjoyable. The dinners are a wonderful way to get to know and enjoy a visit with your Olinda UU Friends in a home setting. The dinners can be for six-twelve people, doesn't have to be eight. It just depends on how much room you have. So if you would like to host a dinner this fall or sometime next winter; please let me know.

Your Membership Committee: Kathy Brennan, Gypsy Carroll, Rev. Christine Hillman and Carol Hylton, Trustee

Finance Committee Report

The main Finance Activity in the Fall is preparation of the next year's budget. That process starts after church on Sunday, Oct. 13, with the Finance Committee Meeting. Anyone interested in having input into the financial affairs of the church is welcome to join the committee or simply to attend the meeting.

Many thanks to those trustees who have already submitted their 2013 budget requests. The due date for that is Oct. 27.

Social Responsibility Committee

The Social Responsibility Committee is actively pursuing several new activities. The first item is our taking over the Pulpit on November 3 with our presentation on the Welcoming Congregation workshops. We all learned a lot and want to convey our experience to the congregation.

The second event is a film on Harry Belafonte's social activist life. This will take place after Coffee Hour after church on Nov. 17. Mariette will organize sandwiches, supplied

by the Committee and anyone else who volunteers, to stave off hunger pangs during the film.

We are also looking into a Canning Workshop as well as a workshop to be held in Windsor, possibly in conjunction with a group such as Pathway to Potential, on Income Inequality. Such concepts as Minimum Wage, Minimum Income, and a Negative Income Tax could be debated. This probably will not happen until after New Year's.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary

Olinda 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 – October 2013:

***Title:* The Holy Bible**

Author: Bible. English. Authorized.

Summary: The direction for this meeting is to select one or several passages or quotations from any part of any Bible, to share with the group.

Caring Committee Report

Caring committee

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman

Fall has come and the leaves have started to turn, the birds have started to gather on the power lines, and the apples are ripe on the trees.

Carabel is recovering from a fall at church on Sunday Sept. 15th. She is far too mature to be trying to leap over the pews so please, Carabel, be careful and get well fast.

The sympathies of all of us go to Peter Lyons and family on the loss of his mother and to Leona Crowder and family on the loss of their brother-in-law. We would like all of them to know that the congregation is thinking of them.

I truly hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. I have been reminded by my grandchildren that sweetest day is on the 19th and of course the big one for them is Halloween on the 31st. Important dates to remember.

A special HELLO to Tina Bell in Leamington and to Jean Wallace in Brantford. I hope all is well with them.