

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)



Sunday Services December 2013

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| Dec. 1 | The Power of Capacity
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Bobbye & Bill Baylis and Ray Stone |
| Dec. 8 | At the End of the Road: Dying and Death
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Bill Baylis with Ray Stone Quartet |
| Dec. 15 | Oscar Hammerstein 11, a Man of Just Words
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Lorie Lyons |
| Dec. 22 | The Holy Drama of Life Itself
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Toni Janik |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m.
Reverend Christine Hillman | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Dec. 29 | Endings and Beginnings
Congregational Contributions : Please bring your short readings or writings for this service if you wish to contribute. | Music: Carabel Ringrose |
| Jan. 5 | Service in the Living Tradition | Music: TBA |



Congregational Budget Meeting December 8, 2013

Vote on the 2014 Budget
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of tea)

Congregational Meeting December 15, 2013

Right after the Service (with time for a cup of tea first)

Vote on the Motion: "The Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda would like to become a Welcoming Congregation."

OLINDA CHRISTMAS POT LUCK DINNER

**PLEASE JOIN US -
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, AT NOON**

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

You are welcome with or without bringing a dish

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.



From the Hillparson



Rev. Paul H. Beattie, deceased, was minister in Indianapolis and in Pittsburgh. He was a stalwart presence and thinker among Unitarian Universalist Humanists. I dedicate this month's column to his words which speak to us even today.

Religion is the way a person lives his or her life.

Religion is the way a person thinks, aspires, and acts.

Religion is the way a man or a woman treats fellow human beings.

Religion is grounded in the present,

it is what we do now;

Religion has high hopes for the future,

hopes that we can continue throughout our lives

to improve ourselves and our behavior and also

to make this world a better place in which to live.

While religion is a striving in the present and for the future,

it also involves cherishing the good, the true, and the

beautiful times past.

Religion helps us to lovingly cherish the exemplars of all times

and places, of all races and religions.

Religion helps a person to define himself or herself.

Religion helps one to measure oneself by high standards:

in part set by the saints and exemplars from the past

(especially those in our own religious tradition),

but one can also measure oneself by the most creative and

achieving co-religionists and others in the present

who help us to be aware of what is possible for us, now, in our time.

Religion also helps to lift our vision beyond ourselves,

enables us to see ourselves in the broader terms of

service to life and to humankind;

we owe service and we have a commitment to serve

something bigger than ourselves in the present

and on behalf of the unborn future.

Faithfully and in faith,

Rev. Christine





From the Board

As usual at Board meetings, the first item after opening words, approval of the agenda, and any declarations of conflict of interest, is to approve minutes from the previous meeting. After approval, the minutes are to be posted for all members to read on the wall in the coffee room. These may not deliver gripping reading, but they are an important way—in addition to highlights mentioned in these columns—that the Board uses to clearly communicate its business to the congregation. Please remember, too, that members of the church are always welcome to attend meetings. But if possible, let us know ahead of the meeting if you wish to make a presentation.

At its November meeting, the Board approved the addition of the Louise Foulds bequest to the church's investment fund, known as the Lloyd Fund. Other donations made in honour of Louise are going to the Memorial Fund. To recognize the bequest and Louise's significant influence in the history of our church, the Board voted to name the photo-voltaic cells (PVCs) on our roof the Louise Foulds Solar Panels. Income from the panels, over \$4000 since March this year, will continue to be treated as investment income from the Lloyd Fund.

The Board heard its first report from the newly reconstituted Committee on Ministry (CoM). As Jane Innerd mentioned in her report, at its first meeting with new committee member Steve Brennan, it also welcomed its first visit in years by a congregant, namely Stuart Miller. Stuart, of course, is also our Religious Education Trustee. In addition to issues about RE, Stuart raised concerns and made suggestions involving the operation of the CoM, the evaluation procedure for the Ministry and the Minister, the health of the church, and communication issues. There was not enough time to discuss details, but the CoM will respond to Stuart's issues. At the same time, other members of the congregation are encouraged to ask for a meeting with the committee. You do not need to bring as many issues to the table as Stuart did, but your input is important. Write or talk to any member of the CoM. The CoM is committed to being open and responsive while maintaining confidentiality. An evaluation tool being developed to assess and advance the Ministry of the Church is being refined to facilitate our growth toward a healthy and prosperous future. It should be available by the end of the calendar year.

In support of Leamington and its Heinz workers, Karen Miller is organizing a vigil following the Santa Claus parade on Saturday evening, November 30. While its charitable status deters the Church itself from taking an official stand, many members obviously support the effort. Rev. Christine Hillman and others will participate as concerned individuals, and the Board was happy to have the "Standing on the Side of Love" banner used, as expressing an appropriate message for the vigil. The Social Responsibility Committee is also supporting the effort.

Other items being worked on by the Board include privacy and abuse-prevention policies and an engraved granite stone for the Memorial Garden. Please join our potluck meal after service on December 1, organized by Jane Innerd, and help us decide what sort of tree to install and decorate, tentatively on December 7. Note congregational meetings to vote on whether we are recognized as a Welcoming Congregation (Dec. 15) and on the 2014 budget (Dec. 8). Special thanks to elves John and Linda Upcott for their shopping expertise in providing for the Children's Aid Society family! Our next Board meeting is scheduled on December 19.

Happy Solstice Season!!

Bill Baylis, President

Important Dates

Dec. 1 Noon
Christmas Turkey Pot Luck

Dec.4 7 PM
Book Club: *The Fifth Business* by Robertson Davies

Dec. 8 Noon
Congregational Meeting on the Budget

Dec. 11 7 PM
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 15 9:15 AM
Sunday Services Committee Meeting

Dec. 15 Noon
Congregational Meeting on Welcoming Congregation

Dec. 15 12:15 PM
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Dec. 18 7 PM
Board of Trustees Meeting

Dec. 24 5 PM
Christmas Eve Celebration



Membership Report

Membership Committee held a very productive meeting in November and discussed ways we might stimulate interest in Olinda.

I will be away throughout December. If you have any ideas or concerns you wish to bring to Membership, please contact Kathy Brennan or Gypsy Carroll.

Your Membership Committee joins together in *Wishing You All a Happy Holiday Season and the Very Best in the New Year.*

Kathy, Gypsy, Christine & Carol

Committee on Ministry

There is a new pamphlet available in the Church hallway which outlines the revised focus for the Committee on Ministry. The Committee has worked very hard to prepare this pamphlet and we would like everyone to take a copy. The next task for the Committee will be to work on a form for looking at the total Ministry of the Church. We hope that this will be ready early in the New Year. Joyce Gilbert has left the Committee and we will miss her wise counsel. Steve Brennan has joined and we welcomed him at the November Committee meeting. Also welcomed at the November meeting was Stuart Miller who made a presentation to the Committee.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Jane Innerd, Chair, Steve Brennan, Carol Hylton, Bill Baylis (ex officio) and Rev. Christine Hillman (ex officio)

Finance Committee Report

The 2014 Budget, developed with input from Board members and the Committee on Ministry, was passed at the meeting on Nov. 10, 2013. This was approved by the Board at its regular meeting on Nov. 21 and copies have been prepared for the Congregation to read over before the vote on Dec. 8.

Social Responsibility Committee

As explained in "From the Board," there will be a protest, expressing a "Public Statement of Compassionate Support for Heinz Workers and Farmers" on Nov. 30 at about 9:30 PM. It will take place following the Leamington Santa Claus Parade, with the planned location the intersection of

Oak and Erie, near the Heinz plant. If this issue is important to you and you feel up to doing so, please come out. Your presence will give support to those many Leamington families who feel bereft at this time at the thought of losing their jobs this summer. More details will be emailed later.



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 – December 2013:

Title: **The Fifth Business**

Author: Robertson Davies.

Summary: Ramsay is a man twice born, a man who has returned from the hell of the battle-grave at Passchendaele in World War I decorated with the Victoria Cross and destined to be caught in a no man's land where memory, history, and myth collide.

As Ramsay tells his story, it begins to seem that from boyhood, he has exerted a perhaps mystical, perhaps pernicious, influence on those around him.

Fifth Business stands alone as a remarkable story told by a rational man who discovers that the marvelous is only another aspect of the real. Book One in the "Deptford Trilogy "

Location of Meeting: Miller Residence, Leamington

Leader: Stuart Miller

Date: Wednesday, 04 December, 2013; 7 pm

Caring Committee Report

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our congregation and friends.

Another year is about to end and thankfully all my news is about people getting better. It is so good to see Linda Goyette back in church and to hear Allan is finally on the mend after a long ride. It will still take some time but to hear he is improving is very encouraging. Leona Crowder's husband is also doing better and we all hope for a complete recovery.

This time of year can be very hard for some people with all the attention to celebrating with the ideal family, but not all of us have that. The holidays, I think, should be about love and peace to everyone and while the news is not all good we need to strive to make the part that we can control better.

Best wishes to Albertina Bell in Leamington and Jean Wallis in Brantford, may they both have the greatest Christmas and get all they want from Santa.



Caring committee

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman