

From the Board

The new Board met for the first time on Saint Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17. Spirits were good, but in spite of the date, they weren't spirits for drinking: instead of green beer, treasurer and Sunday Services Trustee Helen Moore served us tea to keep us sober! To be sure, not everyone could attend this meeting: our secretary Mireya was in Europe with her class, our vice-president John van Abbema was still enjoying the relative warmth of Myrtle Beach with wife Sharon, and the switch of the meeting from Thursday to Tuesday caught our minister off guard. Our new Trustee for Membership & Publicity, Bonnie Showers-Malanoski was there, however, and together with the rest of us seasoned trustees and John Upcott representing the Caring Committee, we covered the important items of our agenda.

Minutes of the February meeting were posted for all to view in the tea room right after they were approved by the Board. Business arising from those minutes included planning for the installation of the new toilet that John van Abbema contributed for the first-floor bathroom and reinstalling the loud speaker whose mounting on the wall by the historic sign and near the Clavinova failed. The bracket had been secured using lead anchors, but those came out, perhaps loosened by the wide temperature fluctuations experienced this winter. We were extremely fortunate that the speaker seems to have withstood the fall and avoided injury to any person or pew or the Clavinova during its descent. On Saturday after the Board meeting, John Upcott managed to secure the bracket using long cement screws, and we hope that will be sufficient, but both speaker mountings should be closely monitored until we're sure. In other property business, John mentioned the roof leak occasioned by the heavy snow and freezing rain. The gutters had become completely clogged with ice, and water evidently backed up under the roof shingles. John worked to clear the dam and also shoveled snow away from the south foundations. P&S Construction still has work to finish along the exterior south wall, and now that Spring has arrived, Stuart Miller will contact them to remind them of their remaining obligations.

Stuart, as RE Trustee, is pleased with the help several members are providing for children during Sunday services. The extra work required by our insurance for regularly updated police clearances is a nuisance but well worth the effort for the future health of our church. Bonnie has plans for an enlarged committee on membership and publicity, including dinners for 8 and other events to welcome new families to our church community. The International Dinner on March 15 was such an event; it was well attended, bountiful in delicious food contributions, and it managed to raise \$270 for the Welcome Centre for Women. The bake & book sale has been set for May 23 and the picnic (at the church) moved to June 14.

Helen reported that church finances were on track and reminded the Board of its fiduciary responsibilities with respect to the Lloyd fund. She expressed concern about disappointing investment returns last year, probably aggravated by the drop in oil revenues and our heavy investments in the energy sector. The Board agreed that a periodic review should be held together with the help of members of the Lloyd fund committee. I offered to update my spreadsheet on fund returns for the April meeting. Helen also reported that the Memorial Fund of the church received an impressive boost from generous donations made in memory of John Dresser.

Bill mentioned the audit by the Canada Revenue Agency of Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) finances. The government is looking for any funding of political activity, and if it is deemed to be more than 10% of total expenditures, the charitable status of the CUC could be revoked. The support of the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) demands special attention; it is openly political but is designed to be at arms length from the CUC. The collection of fees by the CUSJ may need modification, and the UU Church of Olinda must exercise caution in its support of any political activity. On a happier note, Bill reported on the success of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First UU Church of Ann Arbor. It was all about song, and the four members of the Olinda Choir who participated were inspired to bring some of the joyous enthusiasm displayed back to our church. Be prepared to swing and sing!

Our next Board meeting is scheduled on April 21, 2015, and members are invited to attend.
Bill Baylis, President



From the Hillparson

And so Easter is arriving, a Christian holiday common in our part of the world. The weekend which begins with death and darkness, and ends with joy and multi-colour wonder. "He is risen."

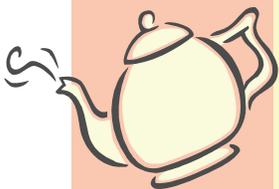
"Chaste women remain fresher." Michelangelo on the Pieta, explaining why Mary looks barely older than her dead son lying across her lap. I rather wish I had known that in the mid sixties when I could have looked for that specifically as my family and I slowly passed by the real deal on a curving moving walkway at the NY World's Fair.

We are also approaching Passover/Pesach when the Jewish community around the world, and here, remember the time of the people's enslavement and the moment of freedom, which came when the Red Sea closed behind the people as they crossed over, Egyptian soldiers chasing close behind. The people led by Moses, Miriam, Aaron and God, beginning forty years of wandering the deserts.

It is Spring and yet not in regard to our dreams for warmth, flowers and flowing water. And coats put away for months – we all hope! Would like to think this is the last week for wearing that darn coat until late Autumn.

A lovely dozen Olindans have done a most wonderful job of being participants in a class on aging – something we humans begin as soon as we are born. Those of us in the class are just noticing the speed with which aging progresses as we get to the final third or fourth of our lives, compared to our youth and young adulthood. The late Shelley Jackson Denham, singer/song and hymn writer composed and wrote the lyrics for one of the great hymns, "We Laugh, We Cry" the third verse beginning: "Our lives are full of wonder and our time is very brief..." Indeed. Brief as it is, I have learned from this wonderful group of people that the wonder is embedded in the brevity. I thank them all for their making the class the joy it has been for me.

*Faithfully and in faith,
Rev. Christine*



Tea with the Minister

will only be on the first Wednesday of this month, from 3-4:30 pm. Join her and whomever else show up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on April 1.

Important Dates

Apr. 1 3 pm
Tea with the Minister

Apr. 7 10 am
Adult Programming with the Minister

Apr. 8 7 pm
Book Club: Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

Apr. 9 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Apr. 12 9 am
Meditation with Bonnie Showers-Malanoski

Apr. 18 7 pm
Goods & Services aUuction

Apr. 19 noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Apr. 21 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Apr. 23 3 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Apr. 26 9 am
Meditation with Bonnie Showers-Malanoski

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 of the Month: April 2015

Title: Station Eleven

Author: Emily St. John Mandel

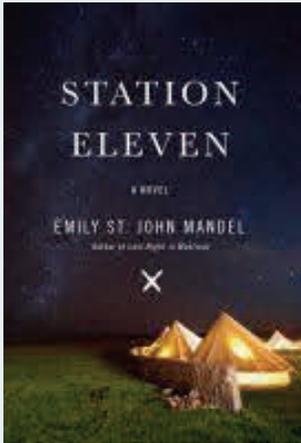
Summary

"An audacious, darkly glittering novel about art, fame, and ambition set in the eerie days of civilization's collapse, from the author of three highly acclaimed previous novels. One snowy night a famous Hollywood actor slumps over and dies onstage during a production of King Lear. Hours later, the world as we know it begins to dissolve.

Location of Meeting: Haynes Residence

Leader: Pat Haynes

Date: Wed., 08 April, 2015; 7 pm



Finance Committee Report

The annual Olinda aUuction is almost here! On April 18 at 7 PM the aUuctioneer's gavel will fall and you will have a chance to bid on wonderful products of the talents of our congregation. Already on the list:

Crafts: Towels, necklace, clock, quilt, handbag, wood lighthouse

Art: paintings donated by Bonnie, Leona, Kim, & a portrait sitting

Food: preserves, Bailey's Cream, pies, cabbage rolls, granola, vanilla, wine, soups, salsa, pickles, cherry jelly, jam, blueberry cheesecake, lasagnas

Other items such as gift certificates, a CD of Carolyn McDade's music, computer chair, bowl, candy dish

You can also sign up for various breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and the summer Bar-B-Q

For a special treat, the Hyltons and Haynes families are preparing a wheel-spin raffle!

If you want to start off the aUuction in the right mood, sign up for the 5:30 Lasagna Supper that precedes the aUuction. There is a sign-up sheet for this luncheon (there is only room for 30 people) with the sheets for aUuction items, in the Tranquility room. If you can bring a dish, please let Mariette Preyde know soon.

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Our annual International Dinner was held on March 15 and was part of our Women's History Month celebrations. The food was delicious and bountiful, as usual, but we have to admit that there was nothing particularly "International" about it. Maybe we have to think of a different name? The money collected at the dinner, \$270, was donated to the Welcome Centre for Women, a shelter for homeless suggested by the speaker, Evelyn Pigott-Washington.

Evelyn, who gave an excellent talk "Bringing Back the F Word, A Discussion on Feminism in 2015," is well known to the congregation. She and her family attended our church for several years, and she served as our Chaplain for some of that time. Her talk was a real treat and much appreciated. She can be contacted at the Windsor office of Lisa Gretzky, MPP for Windsor West, where she is a Constituency Assistant.

Membership and Publicity Report

I am very excited to be writing as the new trustee for Membership and Publicity at Olinda. I have some ideas of my own but I would really like to hear from all of you. We want to attract new members, and especially families with children and teens. If you have ideas toward this end please feel free to email me at bmalanoski@gmail.com. I would love to hear from all of you. A church is only as good as the people in it and we need to look toward the future. A focus on the young will ensure the future of this beautiful vibrant community. Anyone interested in becoming a member of this committee is most welcome to participate and you can email me about that as well. I look forward to the coming year and the challenging work ahead. It is a mission I take very seriously and have great passion for. Thank you for this opportunity to serve you in this position.

Bonnie Showers-Malanoski,
Trustee Membership and Publicity

Caring Committee Report

The snow has all but disappeared and we are hoping that the last blast of winter is over. The snow melted with very little problem with water so we all feel very fortunate.

This report is being written early this time and will thankfully be a short report.

Walt Sinclair seems to be feeling better and I have not heard that anyone else is not well. It was so nice to receive a call from Marion Thompson saying that she and Arn are doing ok, and although she still has pain they have settled into their new place at Erie Glen.

I want to wish all the congregation a Happy Easter with a special wish for Jean Wallace and Albertina Bell. I hope all can spend time with family and friends and maybe visit someone you have not seen for awhile and brighten their day as well as yours.
SEE YOU IN CHURCH.

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
John Upcott
Rev. Christine Hillman